

# Brodhead Independent Register

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021

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## Veterans Park ready to bloom with creativity during Wildflower Art Festival

The Wildflower Art Festival will return to Brodhead on Saturday, Aug. 14, during Covered Bridge Days. The event is set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Veterans Park.

The artwork for sale will include fine jewelry, paintings, ceramics, yard and garden art, fiber pieces, glass pieces and more. The festival will also include food from Steve's Deli Dog House, music by Breakaway Fiddle and music by local singers and musicians.

"We are glad that so many artists choose to return to the Wildflower Art Festival year after year," a news release said. "They clearly like Brodhead and it is obvious that Brodhead likes them."

Festival organizers also are welcoming several new artists this year:

- Darren Frale of Los Angeles will present his fused and blown glass pieces.
- West Bend's Laurie Prestby will exhibit her hand-drawn

pen and ink mandalas.

- Jessica Curning-Kuenzi of Blue Mounds will be offering her nature photography of Wisconsin and Minnesota, presented as prints on metal and canvas, matted unframed prints and greeting cards. She also crafts chainmaille jewelry using stainless steel rings woven together with natural stones.

- Laura Guetzkow of Delavan creates hand-braided wool rugs made from recycled wool garments, hand-made primitive dolls and a mix of seasonal items.

- Gloria and Henry Horstmann of Oregon, Wisconsin, will bring their fused glassware as well as hand-made wooden wind spinners and birdhouses.

For more information about new artists and photos of their work, go online to [brodheadchamber.com](http://brodheadchamber.com), click on "tourism" and then click on "annual events."



Nature photography by Jessica Curning-Kuenzi of Blue Mounds will be among the artwork for sale at the annual Wildflower Art Festival on Saturday, Aug. 14. The festival, part of Covered Bridge Days, will be held in Veterans Park.

## Club honors Garden of the Month

Summer is in full bloom in the garden of Sandy Lyden, whose greenery has earned her July Garden of the Month honors from the Brodhead Garden Club. Lyden has done all of the work herself over the last three years, including buying supplies, laying the brick and putting in the fence. Lyden's garden can be seen at the corner of 21st Street and Fourth Avenue in Brodhead.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Brodhead Independent-Register



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The delicate glasswork of Los Angeles artist Darren Frale will be among the new offerings at this year's Wildflower Art Festival next month.

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# FFA foundation establishes memorial fund to benefit members

Officials at the Wisconsin FFA Foundation recently established the Jeff Hicken Memorial Fund in honor of the state adviser who died June 18.

A former member of the Lomira FFA and former Wisconsin FFA state sentinel, Hicken was a University of Wisconsin-River Falls graduate who began his career at Sauk Prairie High School as the agricultural education instructor in 1998. In 2006, Jeff began his service at the state level as the agriculture, food and natural resources education consultant and state FFA adviser with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, a position he held until his passing.

Thanks to pledges from the

FFA community, the Jeff Hicken Memorial Fund was fully endowed at the \$15,000 level when established and will continue to grow from future contributions, according to a news release.

"Jeff's legacy includes his family, his impact on agricultural education and FFA, and his service to numerous coalitions, committees and boards — including the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Board of Directors, National FFA Foundation Board of Trustees, National Association of State Supervisors of Agriculture Education Board of Directors, AgrAbility of Wisconsin Advisory Council and School for Agricultural & Environmental

Studies Foundation Board," the release said.

A matching gift has also been pledged, doubling the impact of new gifts given to the fund, up to \$5,000.

Those who wish to contribute may send donations to the Wisconsin FFA Foundation at 1241 John Q. Hammons Drive, Madison, WI 53717 or may give online at wisconsinaged.org.

All contributions given to the Jeff Hicken Memorial Fund will support Wisconsin FFA members and programs in perpetuity through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation endowment program.

For more information, call John Hromyak at 608-831-5058, extension 3.

# Rock County readies to open human services center

A ribbon cutting is set for 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, 1717 Center Ave., Janesville. Following the ribbon cutting, there will be guest speakers, light refreshments and building tours.

The event is open to the public.

The Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center will consolidate a variety of human service and related programs including:

- The Rock County Human Services Department currently housed at the Rock County Health Care Center, Job Center and other facilities in the county
- Council on Aging
- Treatment court programs

• Agencies currently housed at the Job Center

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams (1858-1931) was a renowned African American surgeon who founded several nursing and physician teaching institutions that served the Black community and trained Black physicians and nurses, most notably Provident Hospital in Chicago. Williams is also renowned for performing one of the first successful open-heart surgeries in the nation.

Williams was a resident of Edgerton and Janesville and received his initial medical training from Dr. Henry Palmer in Janesville. For more information, contact the Rock County administrator's office at 608-757-5510 or countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us.

## Obituaries

### BARBARA J. MILLER

Barbara Jean Miller, daughter of Leslie and Beatrice (Krenz) Woodford, was born Aug. 8, 1940, in Eau Claire. She was raised with her brother in the Cleghorn area, where she attended grade school. Barb graduated from Memorial High School and attended the office business machine course at the Eau Claire Vocational School. This training led to her job in payroll with Northern States Power Company in Eau Claire. In 1960 Barbara was united in marriage to Duane Pippenger in Eau Claire, and to this union their five sons were born. After this marriage ended, she later married Richard Orlinkoski in 1981 in Las Vegas. The couple lived in Hemet, California, where at this time in her life she was employed at the Hemet Bank. After Richard passed away, she married James Miller in 2012. Since then the couple had lived in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and spent their summer months in Wisconsin with her family nearby.

All throughout her life Barbara had enjoyed riding horses, with fond memories of riding in local parades during



her childhood. Barbara also was a member of the Lake Havasu Elks and London Bridge RV Club. Barbara loved to travel and spend time with her family.

Barbara is survived by five sons, Michael Pippenger of Monroe, Richard Pippenger of Florida, Donald Pippenger of Eau Claire, Randy and Cindy Pippenger of Janesville and Terry Pippenger of Cottage Grove; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, John Woodford.

Services will be held at Anderson Funeral Home, located at 312 S. Stone St., Augusta, Wisconsin, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, July 30, with burial to follow at Rest Haven Cemetery.

The DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead is assisting the family locally. For more information, go online to [www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com](http://www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com) or call 608-897-2484.

### MARY ELLEN SEIFERT

Mary Ellen Seifert, age 88, passed away July 20, 2021, while at Agrace HospiceCare in Janesville.

Mary Ellen was born Sept. 6, 1932, in West Allis, Wisconsin, the daughter of Edward and Isabelle (Risch) Widish. She married Robert F. Seifert on June 26, 1954, in Sullivan Wisconsin. Mary Ellen and Robert spent more than 55 years together prior to Robert's passing on Dec. 1, 2009.

Mary Ellen was a former member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Brodhead for many years, where she assisted with many Lenten luncheons and was a past president of the Ladies Altar Society. Mary Ellen was a prayer warrior and was always updating her prayer list. Mary Ellen was also known for her baking, as some believed she used her cupcakes as a form of currency for oil changes and dental work.

Mary Ellen is survived by her seven children, Tim (Patricia) Seifert, Roberta (David) Keller, Valerie (Robert) Wei-



gelt, Theresa (Larry) Hackman, Steve (Dawn) Seifert, Rick (Peggy) Seifert and Holly (Jerry)

Ryan; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a dear friend, Ruth Strand; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Mary Ellen was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Robert, in 2009; her oldest son, Michael Anthony Seifert, in 1955; and eight siblings.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to the family in her memory.

A visitation and funeral services were held at the DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead on Saturday, July 24. Burial was at the Greenwood Cemetery.

For more information, go online to [www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com](http://www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com) or call 608-897-2484.

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# Governor, health officials urge vaccinations for students

Governor Tony Evers and officials at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services are encouraging anyone attending school in the upcoming year to get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. The directive includes children ages 12 and up as well as anyone planning to attend in-person classes at a college or university, a news release said.

"Getting vaccinated now means we can help make sure our students are back in the classroom and won't have to miss out on in-person classes or extra-curricular activities," Evers said in the release. "The COVID-19 vaccines are the best protection we have against the virus and make it possible for our kids to get back to learning safely and without disruption."

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and DHS guidance, adults and adolescents who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

"That means that parents and guardians do not need to worry about their fully vaccinated children having to miss out on in-person school, after school activities such as sports, and other extracurricular activities after being exposed to COVID-19," the release said. "In addition, many places across the state, and some schools, will not be requiring people who are fully vaccinated to wear masks indoors."

Confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 have been increasing over the past several weeks after a period of regular decline. The seven-day average of new confirmed cases stood at 242 recently, which represents a 303% increase since the seven-day average



FILE PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

**State officials are encouraging all students of vaccine-eligible age to get vaccinated for COVID-19 before the new school year starts.**

reached a recent low of 60 cases per day two and a half weeks ago.

"This comes amidst reports from states across the nation experiencing surges in newly reported cases, most commonly attributed to the more-transmissible Delta variant," the release said. "All three COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use in the United States show promising results at preventing severe illness from COVID-19."

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is the only vaccine currently available for children ages 12 and up. The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses, spaced 21 days apart.

Adults ages 18 and up are eligible for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine,

which also requires two doses, spaced 28 days apart. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is also authorized for those ages 18 and up, but only requires one dose.

For all three currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines, an additional two weeks is needed after receiving the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or the one dose of Johnson & Johnson to build full protection against the virus.

"It is important that we continue to vaccinate everyone who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccines, especially as students, faculty and teachers, and other staff make plans to return to school in the fall," DHS Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake said in the release. "With the recent increase in new cases, and the very real threat of the Delta variant, vaccination remains our best tool for preventing further disruption in our schools and universities throughout the state."

To find a COVID-19 vaccine location in your community, go online to vaccines.gov or call 211 or 877-947-2211.

Select day cares are offering free child care during your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, and select CVS and Walgreens pharmacies are offering extended hours on Fridays. To learn more, go online to dhs.wisconsin.gov and click on "learn about getting the COVID-19 vaccine near the top left."

"The COVID-19 vaccines can also be administered at the same time as other routine immunizations," the release said. "Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is a great opportunity to make sure you and your student are up-to-date on other recommended vaccinations."



PHOTO COURTESY MONROE ARTS CENTER Brodhead Independent-Register

**The Honey Pies, a group of Madison-area musicians, will entertain at the Aug. 4 Sounds of Summer event at the Monroe Arts Center.**

## Outdoor concert features The Honey Pies

The Monroe Arts Center Sounds of Summer outdoor concert series continues Wednesday, Aug. 4, with The Honey Pies. The free concert will start at 6:30 p.m. on the south porch of the arts center campus, 1315 11th St., Monroe.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket and a picnic. Concerts are held rain or shine.

The Honey Pies is a new collaboration of Madison-based music veterans.

"Displaying a formidable range of musical backgrounds and notable depth of experience, The Honey Pies apply crystal vocal harmonies and virtuoso instrumental skills to the best of traditional, contemporary and original Americana music," according to a news release.

Go online to monroeartscenter.com for more information.

# Housing projects may be eligible for tax credits

Developers with innovative affordable housing projects designed to spark community revitalization and promote resident well-being are urged to apply for a new round of federal 9% housing tax credits allocated by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority.

The application period for this special round of housing tax credits is open until Sept. 3. The Innovation Housing Tax Credit application can be found on WHEDA's website at wheda.com.

"Housing tax credits are a critical tool in financing affordable housing and the launch of the innovation round this year demonstrates WHEDA's commitment to new approaches," WHEDA CEO Joaquín Altoro said in a news release. "As housing needs contin-

ue to evolve, WHEDA is adapting its programs to drive equity and economic opportunity throughout Wisconsin."

WHEDA anticipates awarding \$1.6 million of federal 9% housing tax credits to two projects, with award requests capped at \$800,000. Based on current values, the \$800,000 tax credit awards would be expected to generate a total of \$14 million in equity for the projects.

Earlier this year, WHEDA announced the award of \$35.1 million in federal and state housing tax credits to advance the creation of 2,200 affordable housing units statewide. A portion of the federal 9% housing tax credits allocated to Wisconsin were reserved to focus on leading-edge projects that center on the health and well-being of residents

and the surrounding community.

WHEDA has been the sole administrator for federal affordable housing tax credits in Wisconsin since the program began in 1986 and since the state program began in 2018. The programs do not subsidize renters; instead, they provide tax incentives through the Internal Revenue Code and the Wisconsin tax code that encourage developers to create qualified affordable housing.

In exchange for receiving the tax credits, developers agree to reserve all or a portion of their housing units for low- and moderate-income households for at least 30 years. Any remaining units are rented at market rates.

The developers then sell the tax credits to private investors to obtain funding.

Once the housing project is available to tenants, investors can claim the tax credit as a dollar-for-dollar reduction of federal or Wisconsin income taxes owed over a 10-year period.

Developments that receive affordable housing tax credits go through a competitive application process administered by WHEDA. Tax credit developments must meet high design and operating standards. The scoring system for the awards is referred to as WHEDA's Qualified Allocation Plan; it includes points for strong management, excellent development quality, demonstrated market need, provision of supportive services and amenities, proximity to economic opportunities and proper local zoning.

For more information, go online to wheda.com or call 800-334-6873.

## In brief

### School registration underway in Albany

Online student registration began July 26 and will be available for three weeks in the Albany School District. All forms are available on the district website at Albany.k12.wi.us.

If an in-person registration appointment is necessary, call Robin Seavert at 608-862-3135, extension 2422.

### Albany church sets Aug. 4 ice cream social

Albany United Methodist Church will hold its annual ice cream social from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, at the church, 500 Park St.

The menu includes bar-

becue beef, hot dogs, potato salad, chips, baked beans, a drink, ice cream sundaes and homemade desserts. Prices are a la carte.

Take-out orders will be available.

Call the church at 608-862-3206 for more information.

### Relay for Life seeks teams for Aug. 14 event

The American Cancer Society is recruiting teams from businesses, schools, families and churches to participate in the Relay For Life of Green County event from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, at Jaycee Park in Brodhead.

Teams and individuals can sign up by going online to

relayforlife.org/greencountywi or by calling Jo Ann at 608-728-2980.

"The Relay For Life movement unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and take action to finish the fight once and for all," Evelyn Crooks, a Green County Relay For Life volunteer, said in a news release. "Many participants are our family, friends and neighbors who have faced cancer themselves. Each new team that registers brings us one step closer to saving more lives."

The goal is to raise \$20,000 through the Green County event.

### Juda student earns education degree

Aurora Elizabeth Daniels of Juda recently graduated cum laude from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois.

Daniels earned a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education with a minor in Spanish.

### Solar company ready to serve county

Effortless Solar LLC is a new company serving all of Green County.

Established in April, the new Monroe-based company provides solar energy systems for residential, agricultural and commercial customers. For more information, go online to effortless-solar.com.

## Albany Comet News

### THURSDAY, JULY 29

-Albertson Memorial Library open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JULY 30

-Albertson Memorial Library open 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JULY 31

-Albertson Memorial Library open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### SUNDAY, AUG. 1

-Albertson Memorial Library closed

### MONDAY, AUG. 2

-Albertson Memorial Library open 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

-FFA meeting, 7 p.m., Albany school ag room

### TUESDAY, AUG. 3

-Albertson Memorial Library open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4

-Albertson Memorial Library open 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

- Denotes a community event.

\* Denotes Albany School event. For more information, please call 608-862-3225.

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# Raising state's minimum wage would help out thousands, especially Wisconsin residents of color



WILL CIOCI WISCONSIN WATCH *Brodhead Independent-Register*

**James Rudd, a janitorial worker and member of SEIU Local 1 in Milwaukee, speaks at a June 17 press conference at the Wisconsin State Capitol held by state Sen. Melissa Agard, D-Madison, and Rep. Lisa Subeck, D-Madison (left), to introduce legislation that would raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour. "The pandemic made it clear that society works because we do," says Rudd, who has worked cleaning industry jobs for 16 years.**

By Molly Davis and Gretchen Gerlach  
WISCONSIN WATCH

For 26-year-old Olivia McKnight, raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour would transform her life.

As a full-time Popeyes employee in Milwaukee, McKnight makes \$10 an hour. This isn't nearly enough to support herself and her three children. She also works a second job. The long work hours have forced her to miss out on time spent with her children, including holidays and key life moments.

For 29-year-old James Rudd, who earns more than \$15 an hour now, he is finally able to afford the things he needs. And he now fights for all workers in Wisconsin to reach at least \$15 an hour.

In contrast with McKnight, Rudd's maintenance job at AT&T's Milwaukee office cleaning floors and changing light bulbs has made his life easier. He can afford health insurance, bus fare and to keep current on his bills — all of which were out of reach when he earned \$7.25 or \$8 an hour.

The long-standing barriers to a higher standard of living for McKnight and her family got worse with COVID-19. Before the pandemic, McKnight made decent money working at a car wash, but when it shut down, she was forced to go back to her lower-paying fast-food job.

"I try to provide for my family day to day, month to month, paying rent, paying electric, lights, and trying to find babysitters," McKnight said. "It's definitely hard, it takes the majority of my time away, and it's like I'm almost working for pennies."

Roughly 1 million hourly workers nationwide earn the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour or less. Like others fed up with low earnings, McKnight recently joined the Fight for \$15, a global political movement working to increase the minimum wage for all underpaid workers.

In Wisconsin, where the racial wealth and income gaps are some of the greatest in the nation, many feel raising the minimum is long overdue. According to a 2019 Marquette Law School Poll, 55% of Wisconsinites support raising the minimum wage, while 39% oppose it. And Black women like McKnight are among those who would benefit the most from it.

Black and Hispanic women

are more than twice as likely as white men to make less than \$15 per hour, according to calculations by The Washington Post using federal jobs data. About 46% of Hispanic women and 39% of Black women earn less than \$15 an hour, while only 18% of white and Asian men earn less than \$15 per hour. In Wisconsin, an estimated 43.7% of residents earn less than \$15 an hour.

Because of grassroots movements like the Fight for \$15 and growing political support, eight states and the District of Columbia have already passed legislation to raise the wage to \$15 an hour, most recently Florida, according to the UC Berkeley Labor Center.

But not Wisconsin. It is among 21 states whose minimum wage matches the federal level of \$7.25 an hour. In 10 other states, the minimum is higher but still under \$10, the UC Berkeley Labor Center reports.

Legislators, activists and community members have organized, lobbied and proposed changes to the federal and state-level wages for years, well before Democrats tried unsuccessfully to include a federal \$15 minimum wage in the pandemic relief package passed in February 2021.

In February, Democrats reintroduced the Raise the Wage Act, which would gradually increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2025 and end pay below-the-minimum wage for tipped workers. Under the bill, the minimum wage would increase immediately to \$9.50 an hour, then to \$11 per hour next year, \$12.50 in 2023, \$14 in 2024 and then \$15 in 2025. A similar bill was introduced in 2019 but never cleared the GOP-controlled Senate.

The main reason minimum wage bills have stalled: Opponents argue that raising it would force many businesses to close or cut their workforces, resulting in fewer jobs.

A recent Congressional Budget Office report estimated that implementing a nationwide minimum of \$15 an hour would lift nearly 1 million people out of poverty — but employment would be reduced by 1.4 million workers. Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, a powerful business lobby, argues raising the minimum wage would reduce opportunities for entry-level workers by making it more expensive for companies to hire them.

## Economic disparities huge

Low wages have long been a problem for workers of color in Wisconsin. Black median household income in Milwaukee has fallen by almost 30% since 1979. In fact, the Black median household income of \$29,655 is the lowest among the top 50 U.S. metropolitan areas, and it is only 42% of white median household income, which in 2018 was \$70,561. That's according to a 2020 study by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Economic Development, which controlled for cost of living while comparing metropolitan areas.

"I think that's a profound finding," said Marc Levine, co-founder of the center who led the study. "It tells us a lot about not only our history but about what's happening today in Milwaukee and how little progress it has made."

Levine's recent research focuses on Black communities and how they fare in the nation's 50 largest metropolitan areas on issues including housing segregation, incarceration, poverty and income. On nearly every measure, Milwaukee comes out at or near the bottom. Wisconsin's largest city, he said, "represents the archetype of modern-day metropolitan racial apartheid and inequality."

Differences in educational achievement do not account for the disparities in income. According to Levine's report, a white high school dropout is over twice as likely to be employed in Milwaukee than a Black high school dropout. In fact, white high school dropouts have a higher employment rate than Black workers who have graduated from high school.

When breaking down the impact of an increased minimum wage by congressional district in Wisconsin, 38% of all workers in Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District — which includes the Milwaukee metropolitan area — would see higher wages with a higher federal minimum wage, while 27% of workers in Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District — which includes Madison — would also see a boost in pay.

"So when we talk about raising the minimum wage and the Fight for 15, you can see how important that is for Black Milwaukee given the very low wages that are earned by Black

See **WAGES**, Page 6

## Indian villages once dotted area

By Polly Weeden

BRODHEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Blackhawk War ended in 1836.

Until that war there had been many Indian villages in the area where Brodhead is now. Along the Sugar River were nine lodges (villages) and 167 Indians — Pottawatomie and Winnebago (Ho-Chunk) tribes. There were many others in the fertile valleys where Lake Koshkonong and the Rock, Sugar and Pecatonica rivers flow.

The white settlers had come to buy furs, leather and corn, but after the war, they also wanted the Indians to move west of the Mississippi River.

As the settlers moved in, they took the Indians' cornfields, furs and burial blankets.

Some resisted eviction until forcibly removed. Others, in roving bands, returned from their new homes west each year to revisit the home of their ancestors.

Early white settlers as late as 1865 saw pitiful bands travel the old trails their forefathers had known along the rivers, and making camps. The tribal elders would point out to the young ancient settlements, cornfields and burial places using "marker trees," possibly including the Half Way Tree south of Brodhead.

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▼ **Please do NOT crop your photos.**

▼ Tell us who took the photo and we will give them a photo credit.

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**BY NOON ON FRIDAY**

PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEBSITE, [indreg.com](http://indreg.com)

# Alliant Energy offers tips for staying cool while saving energy

With the temperatures on the rise, officials at Alliant Energy are offering tips to help customers stay cool and reduce their energy usage.

- Turn up the thermostat up a few degrees. Setting the thermostat as high as possible while staying comfortable will save energy.
- Close the shades. Keep unused rooms cooler by keeping the shades closed.
- Use ceiling fans when possible. Remember to turn off fans when leaving a room.
- Unplug unused electronics. Electronics and small appliances that are off but plugged in are still using power.
- Don't use the TV for background noise. Instead, use a radio or a white noise app on a phone to use less energy.

More tips and information about saving energy at home are available at [alliantenergy.com/energyefficiency](http://alliantenergy.com/energyefficiency).

Customers also are encouraged to enroll in Alliant Energy's My Account, available online at [myaccount.alliantenergy.com](http://myaccount.alliantenergy.com), to track their energy usage and set up high-usage alerts.

# State launches vaccine effort

Multimedia campaign encourages people to seek answers from their doctors

Gov. Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services recently announced the launch of Our Doctors, a statewide multimedia campaign that brings together health care professionals across the state of Wisconsin, from different health systems and specialties, to share their confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines. This campaign encourages Wisconsinites who may be hesitant about vaccines to start a conversation with their own family doctor about the COVID-19 vaccines.

"From the beginning of this pandemic, we've trusted science and health care professionals to guide our state's response, and now our state and our economy are bouncing back as we get more vaccine shots in arms," Evers said in a news release. "Our doctors have played a critical role all along, and I'm grateful for their work making sure Wisconsinites know the COVID-19 vaccine is safe

and effective so we can continue our economic recovery and put this pandemic behind us."

"As health care professionals it is important that we create a safe and welcoming space to answer any questions our patients may have and help them work through any of their lingering concerns," Dr. Jasmine Zapata, chief medical officer for Community Health, said in the release. "We understand that there are valid reasons why some may still be hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccine, but one thing you should never be hesitant about is having an open conversation with your doctor."

Our Doctors is part of the larger You Stop the Spread campaign, which in recent weeks has primarily focused on COVID-19 vaccine education and the importance of becoming fully vaccinated. The Our Doctors campaign seeks to spark a conversation between Wisconsinites who may

be hesitant to get vaccinated and their own family doctor. Our Doctors began rolling out in late June, and residents of Wisconsin will be able to see the messaging on television, radio and billboards as well as in local newspapers. The campaign will also utilize social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

"People have busy lives and sometimes what they need before deciding to get vaccinated is to have a conversation with their health care provider," Dr. Ryan Westergaard, chief medical officer for the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, said in the release. "As with any new vaccine or treatment, it is understandable that people have questions. But as health care professionals, we need to be patient and continue to work, and ask and answer questions, and we will continue to make progress."

For help with finding or choosing a primary care pro-

vider, or locating a free or reduced cost medical clinic, visit the DHS Find a Health Care Facility or Care Provider page at [dhs.wisconsin.gov](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov).

To find a vaccine location in your community, visit [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov), or call 211 or 877-947-2211. Select daycares are offering free childcare during your COVID-19 vaccine appointment and select CVS and Walgreen pharmacies are offering extended hours on Fridays. Learn about these resources at the DHS Find a Vaccine Appointment webpage.

Residents are encouraged to share why they chose to get the COVID-19 vaccine on social media.

"Help spread the word by taking a picture of yourself (feel free to include friends) doing your part by getting vaccinated and post on social media accounts using the hashtag #YouStoptheSpread," the release suggests. "Be sure to include why you chose to get the COVID-19 vaccine."

# Home repair help available for selected Rock County residents

Homeowners in need of help with home repairs, improvements related to medical needs, or who have critical home performance issues can now access zero percent interest loans to help them complete the work that needs to be done. Certain households who have residents 55 or older can also access repair grants, according to a news release from the Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development.

The funding, provided

by Rock County, allows income-eligible homeowners to complete necessary repairs and repay the funds when the house is sold or transferred. Grant funds do not need to be repaid.

In order to qualify, homeowners complete a home rehab application, available online at [www.wphd.org/rehab](http://www.wphd.org/rehab). Homeowners must be income qualified and have a qualifying house. Federal rules guide what types of work can be done and what work must be

prioritized.

Homes must be located in Rock County but cannot be in the city of Janesville or in the city of Beloit. Residents of those communities should contact their municipality to find out about available programs.

Rock County contracts with the Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development to administer the program.

Completed applications can be submitted via email or U.S. mail. Once applications

are reviewed, program staffers contact the applicant to discuss eligibility and review the process. Work must be completed by a licensed contractor. Recipients cannot be paid for working on their own homes.

Assistance funds are limited, so households are encouraged to apply early in order to secure help.

For more information, contact Heather Boggs at [heatherboggs@wphd.org](mailto:heatherboggs@wphd.org) or 608-258-5560, extension 32.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Paula Vestin and Kelsey Hood-Christenson of the Sexual Assault Recovery Program display a grant donation from the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin. The funding will be used to buy children's books to help them learn about healthy physical boundaries and to help promote healing for children who have experienced sexual assault.

# Grant provides children's books to educate, heal

Hundreds of children's books will be distributed by the Sexual Assault Recovery Program to local day cares, preschools, elementary schools and families in Green County, thanks to a \$4,375 grant from the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin.

"The three titles focus on facilitating conversations about healthy physical boundaries and on healing for children who have experienced sexual assault," according to a news release.

SARP, which serves Rock and Green counties, also will give the books to parents at the Green County Human Services Child Advocacy Center. SARP partners with the center to provide support, information and advocacy to parents and caregivers of child survivors of sexual assault.

"Our goal in distributing these books is twofold. One is to help parents, educators and concerned adults in giving kids guidance they can understand, practice and use to set boundaries for their bodies," said Kelsey Hood-Christenson, director of survivor empowerment services at SARP. "We

also want to provide resources for adults to help children who have experienced trauma."

SARP provides services to survivors and their family members of all forms of sexual violence, including recent sexual assault, past sexual assault, incest (past or present), and sexual harassment. Services are bilingual (Spanish and English), provided free of charge and include crisis intervention and support; support groups; medical/legal advocacy; and community education. SARP serves women, children and men.

As part of Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois Inc., SARP extends to survivors of sexual assault all the support offered by Family Services. This includes financial planning, a range of domestic violence services, parenting support, therapy and counseling, legal advocacy and community outreach.

SARP is a funded partner of United Way Blackhawk Region, United Way of Green County, the Office of Crime Victim Services and the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin.

News from  
Parkview in Orfordville:  
**Viking Times**

**THURSDAY, JULY 29**

- Orfordville library open, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; book club at 6 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JULY 30**

- Orfordville library open, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; storytime at 11 a.m.
- Lunch with the Librarian at Purdy Park, 11 a.m. to noon

**SATURDAY, JULY 31**

- Orfordville library open, 9 a.m. to noon

**SUNDAY, AUG. 1**

- Orfordville library closed

**MONDAY, AUG. 2**

- Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, AUG. 3**

- Orfordville library open, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Teen/Tween Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4**

- Orfordville library open, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Legal Notices

**TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY**  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
To be held Monday, August 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular monthly town board meeting at the Orfordville Fire Station meeting room, 173 North Wright Street, Orfordville, WI for the following purpose: To consider an application by Steve Hazeltine, 4526 S Holden Rd., Orfordville WI 53576 for a nonagricultural use business conditional use permit for Vintage Chariots auto restoration and sales in an existing building. This conditional use is provided for in the Town of Spring Valley Zoning Ordinance section 4.4F. For use of one acre of the 100 acre property zoned A-1, located at 4526 S Holden Rd., tax parcel 036-001488, on E 1/2 SW 1/4 20A, SE 1/4 SW 1/4 40A, SW 1/4 SE 1/4 40A

The Town of Spring Valley Planning & Zoning Committee will consider the application at its July 26, 2021 meeting and will advise the Board of their recommendation. A quorum of the Committee members may be present for information-gathering purposes.

Dela Ends, Clerk  
The Independent Register  
7/21, 7/28/2021  
WNAXLP 399681

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CITY OF BRODHEAD  
NOTICE OF JOINT REVIEW BOARD MEETING  
ANNUAL MEETING TO REVIEW TID NO. 4, TID NO. 5, TID NO. 6, TID NO. 7  
CREATION OF TAX INCREMENT DISTRICT (TID) NO. 8

Please take note that on Thursday, August 11, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., the Brodhead Joint Review Board will be holding its second meeting concerning the City of Brodhead's proposal to create TID No. 8. The meeting will be held at Brodhead City Hall, 1111 W 2nd Avenue Brodhead, WI 53520. The purpose of the TID No. 8 creation is to promote mixed-use development. The

Town of Avon  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Avon Town Hall  
**Tuesday**  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 – 7:30 p.m.  
Agenda:  
1. Call to Order  
2. Approval of Agenda  
3. Minutes from July's Meeting  
4. Treasurer's Report  
5. Constable's Report  
6. Payment of Bills  
7. Brodhead Area EMS presentation  
8. Board of Adjustments Appointment  
a. Discussion & Action  
9. Roger & Andrea Thom Trust Land Division  
a. Discussion & Action  
10. Solar Ordinance  
a. Discussion & Action  
11. Dumpster Ordinance  
a. Discussion & Action  
12. Schedule of Fees  
a. Discussion  
13. Blackhawk Propane Contract  
a. Discussion & Action  
14. Public Input  
15. Board Comments  
16. Adjournment

May be additional posting that will be posted 24 hours in advance. The three posting places in the Town of Avon are Debbie Jean's, Sugar River Bank, and the Avon Town Hall.

Stephanie Schwartzlow  
Avon Town Clerk  
The Independent Register  
7/28/2021  
WNAXLP 400639

# • Wages (Continued from page 4)

males,” Levine told Wisconsin Watch. “My estimate is that almost 40 to 45% of Black workers in Milwaukee would benefit from raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.”

## ‘Political volleyball’

For Wisconsin state Sen. Melissa Agard, the issue of raising the minimum wage is a moral one. Far too many people in the state who are working 40 hours a week — and who are disproportionately people of color — are still unable to take care of themselves and their families with dignity, she said.

On June 17, Agard announced she would re-introduce legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$15 in Wisconsin. She said it is “embarrassing” and “shameful” that the minimum hourly wage in the state has been frozen at \$7.25 since 2009.

Many minimum-wage workers are forced to rely on public assistance programs, which cost the state billions. Addressing income inequality, in part by raising the minimum wage, could actually save the state money in respect to government-funded assistance programs because people would be able to better support themselves and their families, Agard said.

“Increased wages mean less people (are) reliant on government assistance for food, health care and other essentials,” she said. “In the richest country on the planet, no one should work full time and live in poverty.”

The UC Berkeley Labor Center found that 45% of workers in Wisconsin who would receive a pay boost if the Raise the Wage Act were passed are currently enrolled in one or more public assistance

programs, including Medicaid, FoodShare and the Earned Income Tax Credit. Those working class employees are supported by an estimated \$2.4 billion in public assistance programs in Wisconsin, the Labor Center estimated.

Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce is a major voice of opposition to raising the minimum wage. The group argues that the biggest issue facing employers is a lack of skilled workers, and that the state should focus on training workers and incentivizing young professionals and college graduates to remain in the state.

The powerful business group did not respond to requests for comment. But in its legislative agenda, WMC stated that “raising the minimum wage will increase the cost of employing entry-level workers, resulting in fewer job opportunities for workers entering the workforce who need to build skills and experience for their career.”

In addition, the Congressional Budget Office projected that the reduction in employment would increase spending for programs such as unemployment compensation, and an increase in labor cost for firms would result in a considerably larger net effect on the budget deficit during that period. It also projected the costs of goods and services would increase, leading consumers to limit purchases and employers to reduce their employment.

Agard said raising the minimum wage has become part of the “political volleyball” played by Democrats and Republicans in the Legislature.

“This is yet another example on a long list of policy items that continues to be challenged

because of the hyper-partisanship in the Capitol building,” she said.

After attempting to push through the bill in 2015 and 2017, the senator invited her Republican colleagues to join her. “Everyone deserves economic security,” she said.

## Higher tipped wage proposed

Another Democratic-backed proposal in Wisconsin would ensure tipped employees currently making \$2.13 or \$2.33 an hour are compensated the same minimum wage as the rest of the workforce. Sen. Chris Larson of Milwaukee and Rep. Francesca Hong of Madison are sponsors of the measure.

“This wage is simply not enough,” Larson said at a March press conference introducing the legislation. “Up to 60% of tipped workers report that their tipped wages are too low to meet unemployment thresholds, and 46% rely on public assistance for basic survival.”

Larissa Joanna, a restaurant worker and single mother of two, said such a change would have helped her. She described getting paid the sub-minimum wage at her past restaurant jobs as dehumanizing. Having to rely so heavily on tips from customers to support her family made her stressed and worried.

For the past three years Joanna has worked as a manager at a Madison restaurant that starts every employee at the \$7.25 minimum wage, plus tips. But she continues to fight for a higher wage for others because she knows what it’s like to work hard and yet not earn enough to support a family.



WISCONSIN WATCH *Brodhead Independent-Register*  
**Evette Gardner speaks to the crowd during a Fight for \$15 protest outside the McDonald’s on Park Street in Madison in 2015. Efforts in recent years to raise Wisconsin’s \$7.25 an hour minimum wage have stalled in the Legislature.**

And she can never make up for lost time with her sons — one of whom has autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and speech delays — while she worked two jobs just to make ends meet.

“Unfortunately I had to spend that time away from my children, and if we were all making better pay it would be beneficial for everyone as a whole including our children,” Joanna said. “Being with mom will always be better than being at child care.”

Chuck Self, the chief investment officer at iSectors investment firm in Appleton, Wisconsin, supports raising the minimum wage. But Self said the longstanding income and wealth gaps between white and Black people will not be erased overnight by a \$15 an hour minimum wage.

In his essays for the Community Foundation for the Fox

Valley Region, Self referenced a 2018 report by Duke University, arguing there is little Black people can do on their own to close the wealth gap. Greater educational attainment, home ownership and banking have proven insignificant in lifting Black families out of poverty and closing the generational wealth gap over the years, the report found.

“The whole point of the narrative has been historically, Black people should do things to lift themselves up, so that they could be at the same wealth level as white people, but what that report shows is that it’s impossible, it can’t be done,” Self said.

But for McKnight and Rudd — and many like them — raising the minimum wage is the first step.

“Let’s keep fighting, let’s keep going, let’s keep going until we see a change,” McK-

night said.

Said Rudd: “Fifteen dollars is just a start. We want to take vacations. We want to be able to live the American dream.”

*Wisconsin Watch* reporters Zhen Wang and Isaac Wasserman contributed to this story, which was produced as part of an investigative reporting class at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication under the direction of Dee J. Hall, *Wisconsin Watch’s* managing editor. The nonprofit *Wisconsin Watch* ([www.wisconsinwatch.org](http://www.wisconsinwatch.org)) collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the UW-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication. All works created, published, posted or disseminated by *Wisconsin Watch* do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of UW-Madison or Rock Valley Publishing.

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