

Brodhead Independent Register

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Orfordville appoints acting chief as dust begins to settle following abrupt departure

By Maureen Vander Sanden
EDITORIAL COORDINATOR

Officer Jeremiah Burdick has been promoted to acting Orfordville Police Chief after the village's police chief abruptly resigned March 10.

Police Chief Brian Raupp's last day in the office was March 11, however his employment continues through April 4 as he uses up his vacation and earned flex time before officially vacating.

Raupp could not be reached for comment and his reason for resignation was not stated in his resignation letter to the board.

Burdick was appointed active chief and after Raupp's employment concludes officially, will be named interim chief, according to Village President Gary Phillips, who met with his Board March 18 for a special closed-session meeting in order to fill the vacancy.

With Raupp's departure, the village is down to two full-time officers in Burdick and O'Malley Lomax, who will patrol both Orfordville and the Village of Footville until the Board finds a new hire to join the department.

Phillips said Friday he has confidence in the pair and, even with the disagreements surrounding the department, he does not believe morale among the officers is low.

"I think the guys are stepping up and doing what they

can to get through the situation," he said.

Chief's resignation puts Village President under fire

Dozens of citizens turned out to the Orfordville Village Board meeting March 14 to express their opposition to the chief's sudden departure, and to look for answers about what led up to Raupp's resignation, and how the villages would be affected moving forward.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, George Maas, an Orfordville resident and former police officer, stated the resignation is a "huge loss" to the village.

Another citizen, David Giddley, criticized the board, and suggested the re-creation of a police commission to oversee the department's operations.

Shawna Marsh, clerk/treasurer from Footville, was also present at the meeting, and questioned why her village was not notified of the resignation, noting the village reimburses Orfordville \$60,000 annually for 1,200 patrol hours. She also stated her dismay with the loss of Raupp's services, explaining Footville was "very happy with his services and leadership."

In a later interview with Phillips, the village president stated that Orfordville would continue to follow its contract with Footville, providing those patrol hours as needed.



Gary Phillips



Brian Raupp

Though Raupp did not state his reason for the resignation, a plethora of people, including fellow board member Jason Knox, has accused the president on social media of overstepping his role at village hall by micromanaging Raupp.

A series of Board actions prompted primarily by Phillips were in the works or passed that affected police operations — uniform allowance, a new ordinance regarding parking during snow events, and a cut in part-time patrol hours — Phillips said prompted the resignation.

However, he stands by the recent actions as necessary and stated that if Raupp was unhappy with the current budget, he failed to voice his concerns during the planning process.

"There is no personal vendetta," he said. "This was all pertaining to holding up the ordinances and the ordinances spells out that the village president is to ensure the ordinances are being followed."

"I can't tell an officer to write a ticket, but I can tell them that ordinances need to be enforced," he said.



FILE PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

Officer Jeremiah Burdick was appointed active chief of police in the villages of Orfordville and Footville. He is pictured here on Nov. 12, 2019 when he was formally recognized by the Village Board and State Assemblyman Mark Spreitzer for his life-saving action in a truck-rollover crash that trapped a woman under the vehicle. He was also commended for helping a family during a house fire that summer. He joined the village police department in May 8, 2017.

President speculates reason for resignation

At the heart of the matter, according to Phillips, is that the village was not getting its end of the bargain when officials were pitched when Lomax was hired fulltime, in order to provide 20 hours of patrol during a 24-hour day.

He further stated that he understands that some days it is not possible to provide 20 hours of village coverage, with vacation days and training time, for example, but in the last 111 workable days, Phillips said only 31 of those days did the village see patrol past midnight.

"We weren't getting what we were sold on," he said.

Phillips said another area he

learned the chief was unhappy about is its budgeted part-time hours. That allotment was reduced from \$15,000 to \$5,000. Phillips said the rationale behind the change was that in the past four budget cycles, the department only used \$5,000 for those hours.

The remaining \$10,000 was not taken from the department, according to Phillips, but moved into its equipment replacement fund for future purchases, like new squads.

The department's clothing allowance was also a point of contention, according to Phillips. It used to be designated as a separate budget item, but was moved to the payroll line, as the village accountant advised, Phillips said.

Parking was another dispute between the village president and the chief, according to Phillips.

With downtown residents parked overnight on the streets, the village was unable to properly clear snow during emergencies, he said.

He questioned the chief

about "the same cars" always being parked in downtown spaces that he said should be prioritized for patrons of the local businesses.

One of the vehicles in question had a handicapped sticker on it, and during a past open meeting, Raupp said writing tickets to vehicles tagged handicapped is not something he is comfortable with, until he can fully investigate the matter.

A well-liked police chief

Residents and officials have lauded Raupp as a friendly face in the village — including Phillips.

Raupp came aboard to lead Orfordville from Brodhead Police Department on Jan. 1, 2018.

"He is very community minded, and that's what residents saw," Phillips said, noting Raupp's ability to connect with villagers whether it by driving around in his squad "waving to folks," or lunching with the school kids.

"He's going to be missed with those aspects," he said.

Obituary

ETHOL BRYANT

Ethol Louise Bryant, age 92, died on March 3, 2022 at the Graceland Manor Nursing Home in Monroe.

She was born on March 23, 1929 in Pennsylvania, to the late Clifford and Margaret (Cleveland) Dart.

She enjoyed doing crafts, such as quilting, crocheting, knitting afghans and making ceramics. She was a former member of the Albany American Legion Ladies Auxillary.

She is survived by three children, Ted Bryant of Pennsylvania, Gary (Suzanne) Bryant and Donald Bryant of Albany; 15 grandchildren; 30



great grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

She was further preceded in death by two children,

Frankie Bryant in 2018 and Douglas Bryant in 2019 and a sister, Betty Brace.

Per Ethol's wishes, she will be cremated and buried back home in Pennsylvania.

The DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead is assisting the family with arrangements.

Sheriff's Office: Beware of scam phone calls

The Rock County Sheriff's Office has received reports of recent fraudulent phone calls to citizens within Rock and Dane counties with a caller posing as a Rock County sergeant.

The caller will indicate the person needs to send money to clear up a legal matter.

In a press release, the sheriff's office stated officials are not aware of any monetary loss to the public.

"These phone calls are fraudulent in nature and the sheriff's office warns the public that they nor their representatives will call citizens

asking for money," the release stated.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office encourages the public to let family and friends know about these scams, which are still under investigation.

Citizens should always use caution and are reminded not to give personal information or pay money to anyone over the phone unless they can verify the source it is coming from.

Anyone receiving calls of this nature are urged to report it to the Rock County Communications Center at 608-757-2244.

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The **Independent-Register**

The race is on for Albany School Board

There are three seats open for election on Albany School Board Tuesday, April 5.

Board president Steven Elliott filed notice of non-candidacy papers last year to complete his current three-year term. Vice President Sherry Gertsch and Treasurer Justin Monson will be on the ballot to secure their current seats. Newcomers Jeremy Flood, Amy Hollis and David Patchen have come forward for a seat.

Polls open for the Spring Election at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

Here is a bit about those who will be on the ballot:

Justin Monson

Age: 38
Occupation: Animal nutrition regional sales manager
Years in the district: 11
Family: Married for 11 years with four elementary school-aged children who also attend Albany schools
Previous political experience: currently serving first term on the School Board



would appreciate the opportunity to continue to lead our district as an Albany School Board member."

Open enrollment in and out of the district is a challenge Monson hopes to address with an additional term.

To do that, he pledged to "continue to be involved with developing a marketing plan to show off all that the Albany School District can provide for any and all students and families."

Sherry A. Gertsch

Age: 40
Education: Albany graduate, currently attending Blackhawk Technical College for associate's degree in business management
Occupation: CSR- Compeer Financial
Years in the district: Life-long
Family: Husband, Johnny; son, Andrew, 17; daughter, Alayna, 5
Previous political experience: Current School Board member
Organizations: Junior Comet League Board member



Incumbent Sherry Gertsch is running for re-election due to her desire to continue serving the district she loves.

"I graduated in Albany in 2000 and have stayed in the community," she said. "My son is a senior and my daughter is in kindergarten. I believe that my involvement in the school district uniquely positions me to contribute to the board.

"My experience as a community member, parent and

volunteer has allowed me to gain a perspective of the district and what it has to offer students and the community.

There are two issues that the district is currently faced with, according to Gertsch - filling the principal and superintendent positions, and moving past COVID and getting the kids back to a normalcy.

"We are in the process of filling both positions, involving both staff and the community so they are involved and have input," she stated on the vacancies issue.

"We are on the right track having in-person learning and by continuing to do what we can to keep the kids face to face," Gertsch said her approach to post-COVID learning.

Amy Hollis

Age: 45
Education: Master of Science in health-care administration, bachelor of science in education
Occupation: Director of imaging services
Years in the district: 19
Family: Married to Brandon 18 years, two daughters who both attend Albany schools
Previous political experience: None
Organizations: Albany Sports Boosters, president; Albany Junior Comet League, treasurer; Brighten Their Future, vice president; United Way of Green County board member, AHRA, The Association of Medical Imaging member



Amy Hollis is running for School Board on the belief that board members should act in

the interest of all students.

"I am committed to educating myself on the multiple perspectives of issues, speaking truthfully based on facts, doing what is right even if it is not popular and refraining from making decisions based on personal opinion or preference," she stated.

Accountability is a key issue Hollis wants to approach if elected.

"One of my top priorities is to improve accountability within the district," she said. "Our students deserve a safe environment where students, teachers, administrators, and School Board members are held accountable for their actions."

Listening to stakeholders is where she said she would start. "... to understand what is and what is not working," she said.

"As a district, we need to come together to maximize what is working and celebrate those successes. At the same time, we must evaluate the processes that are not working, identify opportunities for improvement and implement impactful changes," she stated.

David Patchen

Age: 40
Education: High school
Occupation: Business owner, thetopatch.com
Years in the district: Lifetime, Class of 2000
Family: Wife Andria, and two kids Tyler, 14 and Piper, 10
Previous political experience: None
Organizations: Albany Dugout Club Board Member



Newcomer David Patchen said he is seeking a spot on the School Board because "parents voices have not been heard in the past few years."

"As an alum I am very proud being a Comet and want to make sure everyone graduating feels the same way," he said.

Enrollment numbers are a challenge he sees the district currently facing.

"Our school is the backbone of the community. I would work with other members of the board to ensure the highest quality of education is met," he said, in response to how he would help those declining numbers.

"There would always be an open line of communication with me from any community member that had an issue," he added.

Jeremy R. Flood

Age: 39
Education: Albany High School Class of 2001, Universal Technical Institute Class of 2002
Occupation: Independent business owner and farmer
Years in the district: Lifelong, comes from multiple generations of Albany School District graduates
Family: Married to Heather, also an Albany graduate; two sons who also attend Albany schools, Ethan and Dayne
Previous political experience: None, however routinely

attends School Board meetings.

Organizations: Active volunteer with Brooklyn Snow Hornets and Sugar River Clean up

Lifelong resident Jeremy Flood decided to run for School Board because the future of children in the community are important to him.

"There has been a lot of challenges that our school district and our students have faced in the last few years," he said. "I can't make a difference if I don't get involved. I don't want the education and needs of our children to get lost in all of the chaos around us. Our children are our future and they should be our No. 1 priority."

Flood sees financial issues being a challenge for the district.

As a board member, he said he wishes to address "financial concerns with the district and ensure that money is used for issues that benefit our students and their education as well as provide them opportunities."

To do this, he said he would make sure parents have a voice and are heard

"Bullying is a concern with our students and allowing it to be tolerated," he added. "There should be zero tolerance for bullying and ensuring that it doesn't happen in our school with staff, students, administrators or our school board."

See ALBANY, Page 5

Albany Comet News

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

-Albertson Memorial Library open 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
*Albany Alumni Basketball Tournament, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

-Albertson Memorial Library open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
*Albany Alumni Basketball Tournament, 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

*Zumba in the Cafeteria, School District, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

-Albertson Memorial Library open 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
-All Booked Up! Book club at the library, 7 p.m.
-Village of Albany Personnel Committee meets, 6:30 p.m.
*Albany FFA Donkey basketball game, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

-Albertson Memorial Library open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
-Children's Storytime hosted by the library on Facebook, 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

-Albertson Memorial Library open 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
*Albany School District, early release, 2:37 p.m.
*Zumba in the Cafeteria, School District, 6 p.m.
*Adult Open Gym, School District, 7 p.m.
*Adult volleyball, elementary school gym, 7 p.m.

- Denotes a community event.

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

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Students of the month

Albany Elementary School recently recognized its Students of the Month for March. Students include Carter Crain (from left), Charley Rakow, Bradley Calkins, Kenslee Gill, Morgan Carl, Alexander Ramirez, and Zoey Muhlenhaupt. Mariah Detra, Levi Keeley and Nevaeh Alexander also received the honor, but are not pictured.

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Committee seeks input on how to allocate ARPA funds

Ideas must be submitted by March 28

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), was signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021 to speed up the United States' recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing recession.

The plan allocates \$350 billion to help state, local, and tribal governments, with the Green County receiving \$7.17 million in funds.

In November, the Green County Finance and Accounting Committee authorized the creation of the ARPA Ad Hoc Committee as a participatory way for the community to submit ideas for how Green County ARPA funds should be used to address needs and priorities in Green County.

The committee is tasked with fact finding and information gathering on countywide needs and priorities.

The needs and priorities will then be organized into broad categories and themes.

The committee will make a recommendation with suggestions on percentages or dollar amounts to allocate to each category to assist the Finance Committee in making a final recommendation to the County Board on how the funds should be used.

The committee is seeking input from groups and organizations within the county. For this reason, it has created a presentation application process to invite community leaders to share the issues, opportunities, and priorities in Green County.

This invitation is solely for the purpose of fact finding and information gathering by the committee and is not a grant application. The presentation application form can be found at www.greencountywi.org/DocumentCenter/View/1166/Proposal-for-Use-of-Funds---Fillable-Form. Presentation proposals are due to the County Clerk's Office by Monday, March 28.

The committee will review the proposals at its March 31 meeting and will invite selected applicants to present to the committee in the month of April.

For more information on ARPA, visit www.greencountywi.org/423/Green-County-Ad-Hoc-Committee, contact County Clerk Arianna Voegeli at avoegeli@greencountywi.org or 608-328-9430.

Officials urge parents to get children caught up on vaccinations, well checks

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recently announced its partnership with the Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP) in urging families to make sure their children are up-to-date on well-child visits and vaccinations.

Green County Public Health and SSM Health Monroe are reiterating this message.

In 2020, there was a significant drop in clinic visits across the state.

This resulted in delays in vaccinations, screenings, referrals, and general guidance to help keep families healthy.

Falling behind on vaccinations leaves children vulnerable to preventable diseases like influenza, measles, and whooping cough, according to health officials.

The decline in the number of office visits and routine vaccinations is alarming and could have long-ranging impacts on a child's health and the health of the community, health experts say.

Wellness visits for kids should be scheduled with the child's doctor regularly from birth through age 3, then yearly after that.

Different vaccinations are given at different times

throughout childhood.

Parents and guardians can speak with the child's doctor about when their child should receive different vaccinations.

Vaccine schedule recommendations are also available on the CDC's website in English and Spanish.

"If a child has missed a vaccination, it is not too late to get caught up," RoAnn Warden, Green County Public Health Officer/Director, stated in a press release.

"Childhood vaccines and wellness visits are extremely important for a kid's overall health and well-being, when kids are healthy they are able

to continue to do all the things they love—play sports, go to school, be with their friends."

Each child's vaccination status is available on the Wisconsin Immunization Registry or by calling 608-266-9691.

Other resources for families include:

- Health care coverage available through BadgerCare Plus and Wisconsin Medicaid
- Free transportation to medical appointments
- Food pantries and non-profit organizations to assist with food and access to other services

For more information, visit gcpublichealth.org.

In brief

Green County Emergency Management to host weather safety, spotter classes

Green County Emergency Management will host in-person severe weather/tornado spotters' classes on Thursday, March 31.

The first class will be held at 1 p.m. at the Monroe Fire Dept. #1 at 601 W 17th St. (by Badger State Ethanol) and the second class will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Juda Fire Department - Community Room, N2350 County Road S, Juda.

Jacki Anderson and Cam Miller, meteorologists with the National Weather Service, will be instructing the classes.

The classes will be split in two sections; with the first hour covering the essentials of correctly identifying and reporting severe weather to

the NWS. The second hour will cover safety aspects for spotters and the general public.

One weather radio will be given away at the end of each class. Anyone can take these free classes.

Pre-registration is appreciated by calling Green County Emergency Management at 608-328-9416.

A schedule of other counties sponsoring these classes can be found at www.weather.gov/mkx/spotter-schedule.

Additional resources to help get prepared for the storm season can be found at www.greencountyem.com.

Freemasonry annual spring meeting will include gift to first responders

Leaders of Freemasonry in the Southern Wisconsin area will gather at their annual Spring District Meeting at the Brodhead "Bicknell" Masonic Lodge at 301 1st Center Ave, Brodhead, on Thursday, March 31 from 6:30-8 p.m.

This meeting traditionally has an educational agenda, discussing the more in-depth history of Freemasonry in the world. It also recognizes key Masons and their contributions to their lodges and communities.

In addition to the traditional agenda of the meeting, the Freemasons have invited the local Brodhead and New Glarus police departments in which they will be presenting several Fire Suppression Tools (FSTs) to each department. These units are state-of-the-art devices that can quickly slow fires giving first responders extra critical time to arrive, or even extinguish fires all together.

Each unit is valued over \$1,000 and are typically replaced for free by most insurance companies each time used, essentially creating a perpetual gift.

Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest fraternity with rich historic ties to the founding of the United States. Its mission is to "Make Good Men, Better Men" by guiding them to be better people, dads, husbands, and community leaders. All in the effort

to make the world a better place.

For more information, visit www.wimasons.org.

Habitat for Humanity serving all-you-can-eat pancakes April 3

Habitat for Humanity is hosting an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at the Monroe Moose Lodge, 639 3rd Avenue, on Sunday April 3, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-11 and kids 5 and younger eat free. The Moose Lodge is near the duplex home Habitat is currently completing.

All of the proceeds go toward Habitat's mission of making safe, affordable homes in Green County.

Rocks, gems, minerals and fossils show Saturday

The Badger Rock Club's 51st annual Rock, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show will be held on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rock County Fairgrounds, Craig Center Building, 1301 Craig Avenue, Janesville.

The show is free of charge and features 11 vendors in rocks, minerals, fossils, gems and jewelry; speakers; displays, including a 100-pound meteorite and a giant ammonite; lapidary demonstrations; club sales; an impressive fluorescent display and hourly door prizes.

This is a kid-friendly event as well, with a number of activities planned for young ones.

Food trucks will be on site. Donations for parking and admission are appreciated.

For more information, email Laurie Trocke at glowyrocks@gmail.com or visit badgerrockclub.org.

Brodhead Evening Garden Club offering scholarship

The Brodhead Evening Garden Club is offering a \$400 scholarship to local high schoolers seeking higher education in the agriculture field.

Since 2006, the club has awarded scholarships to graduating students in the area.

As with previous years, the scholarship is available to current seniors who attend Brodhead, Juda, Albany or Parkview high schools and qualified home-schooled students who are pursuing degrees in agriculture, with a preference in horticulture, plant science, landscaping or turf science.

Students may attend four- or two-year programs and the scholarship will be awarded after completion of the recipient's first semester. Students can pick up applications in their school's guidance office. Applications, plus a two-page essay highlighting achievements, extra-curriculars, future goals and objectives is due no later than Friday, April 15 to Ronald Massen, E314 23rd St., Brodhead, WI, 53520.

Monroe City Band welcoming new musicians

The Monroe City Band is always open to new members. Rehearsals for the 2022 summer season will begin on Monday, April 4, at 7 p.m.. Rehearsals will begin at Monroe Middle School, 1510 13th St., Monroe, inside the band room.

For more information, contact Monroe City Band Director Brian Bruggeman at citybandmonroe@gmail.com or call 608-328-7447.

Indoor flea market at Rock County Fairgrounds April 9

Rock County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Ave, Janesville, will host Rock County Mega Sales indoor flea market Saturday, April 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The sales will take place inside the Craig Center building and boasts more than 45 vendors selling rummage, antiques, vintage, collectibles, handmade items/crafts, art, baked goods, and direct sale company items. Food concessions and drinks will also be available for purchase. Admission and parking is free of charge.

For more information, email rcmegasales@gmail.com or contact Deanna at 608-201-8217.

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Wisconsin Policy study: State drop in unions among nation's largest

New data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show nearly all states have seen a decline in the concentration of their workforce that is unionized over the last 20 years, but none more so than Wisconsin, according to Wisconsin Policy Forum.

The non-profit, Milwaukee-based public research organization recently released a study's findings.

In 2000, 17.8% of all employed Wisconsinites were members of a union – the 10th-highest concentration in the country.

By 2021, that number fell to just 7.9%, putting Wisconsin at 28th among states and below the national average of 10.3%.

The 9.9 percentage point drop since 2000 for Wisconsin was the largest nationwide by nearly three percentage points, and substantially more than the national drop of 3.1 percentage points.

The 55.6% decline in the rate of union membership in Wisconsin over the same time period ranked second-highest in the country, behind only South Carolina (whose overall membership was lowest nationwide in both 2000 and 2021). Forum research finds that a combination of legislation aimed at curtailing public unions' authority and broader national trends impacting private union membership may help to explain Wisconsin's drop-off.

This decline has been welcomed on the right as a win for taxpayers and economic growth and lamented on the left as a blow to workers and income equality.

One thing both sides agree on, however, is that Wisconsin has been a leader in this national shift and these data bear that out. Data from the federal Current Population Survey (CPS), aggregated by professors Barry Hirsch (Georgia State University) and David Macpherson (Trinity University), allow for a deeper look into union membership at the state level as well as across certain industries.

Unlike data published directly by CPS, Hirsch and Macpherson's analysis does not yet include 2021 data.

After an analysis of this CPS data, researchers look at union recertification election data from the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) to understand what the drop in public sector union membership has looked like over the last decade.

Wisconsin's union membership

The state-level union membership data from CPS goes back to 1983.

That year, just under 2 million total people were employed in Wisconsin, with about 465,600 belonging to a union (23.8%).

Since that time, union membership in the state has declined by about 6,500 individuals on average per year; by 2020, total statewide membership was just over 227,000 (-51.2%).

With growth in overall employment, unionized employees constituted just 8.7% of Wisconsin's workforce in 2020.

The vast majority of Wisconsin's workforce (85.4%) is employed by private companies.

While much of the recent discussion around unions in Wisconsin has focused on the public sector, in 1983, about one in five (19.8%) private sector employees were union members. This number was driven by two industries: manufacturing and construction, which in 1983 in Wisconsin constituted 37.5% of all private employees and had union membership rates of 36.0% and 42.4%, respectively.

In the same year, construction and

manufacturing accounted for nearly seven in 10 (69.7%) unionized private sector Wisconsin employees.

Since that time, manufacturing and construction jobs have begun to disappear in the state.

In 1983, 31.5% of the total Wisconsin workforce was employed in private manufacturing and construction; by 2020, that had dropped to 24.2%.

Union membership in both industries has eroded. Construction union membership dropped from 42.4% in 1983 to 20.3% in 2020. The decline in manufacturing has been more stark: in 1983, 197,032 (36.0%) private manufacturing employees in Wisconsin were union members, compared to just 65,571 (12.8%) in 2020.

The decline in public sector union membership has been larger and more recent.

The peak year for both total public union membership and concentration was 1999, when 214,994 (57.9%) public employees statewide were union members.

From 1984 to 2011, public sector union membership stayed between 45% and 60%.

Since that time, however, union concentration has dropped significantly, and by 2020, just 22.1% of Wisconsin's public employees were union members.

Since 2011, Wisconsin's public sector unions have lost about 11,500 members per year.

State's union history

As the birthplace of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the first state to allow public sector unions to negotiate contracts in 1959, Wisconsin has long been known as a leader in trends around organized labor.

Yet the state also has a history of efforts to limit unions' scope and influence, including the Wisconsin Employment Peace Act of 1939, a forerunner of the federal Taft-Hartley Act which like the Wisconsin law prohibited certain kinds of strikes and some other labor practices.

Union influence has diminished in the Upper Midwest along with the loss in manufacturing jobs – a particularly crucial industry in Wisconsin.

Factors contributing to the loss of manufacturing jobs and union members include production being moved to other parts of the world, increased productivity and automation, and the rise of service-sector jobs.

In 2011, Wisconsin was again at the leading edge of a national trend when state officials repealed most collective bargaining for most state and local workers.

The legislation, known as Act 10, also required most public employees to contribute more for their pension and health care benefits, limiting costs for local governments and helping to offset the impacts of cuts to state aid to local school districts and schools that were used to help bridge a \$3 billion budget gap.

The law also required public employee unions to recertify every year by garnering the votes of at least 51% of all members of their bargaining unit, even if those members did not vote, and restricted bargaining to a limited range of wage increases, meaning that unions could no longer officially negotiate working conditions, benefits, and work rules.

Act 10 was followed by the passage of

See **STUDY**, Page 6

Providing care on and off the court

March is National Athletic Training Month

It's a common enough scene at high school basketball games - a player goes down withering in agony as they clutch their knee and hear the call for help. A medical-looking person comes onto the court, but who is it?

This is a valued athletic trainer.

Certified athletic trainers are licensed healthcare professionals who provide medical services for active patient populations.

From injury prevention and enhanced wellness to rehabilitation and return to activity, athletic trainers offer care everywhere in work, life and sport.

March is National Athletic Training Month – a time to celebrate the role that athletic trainers play in communities.

The 2022 theme for National Athletic Training Month is "Providing Health Care Everywhere."

No matter the team or sport, athletic trainers work diligently to reduce the risk of injury, enhance performance and rehabilitate after injuries to get athletes back to the things they love.

They provide care at



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Brodhead Independent-Register*

SSM Health Monroe Sports Medicine athletic trainer Michael Place provides coverage at a local football game this past fall.

sporting events and at the hospital to help with injury prevention, examination of injuries, immediate and emergency care and therapeutic intervention.

This March the SSM Health Monroe Sports Medicine athletic trainers are being hailed in appreciation for the care they provide on and off the court.

• Albany (Continued from page 3)

Flood said he is running on a "platform that the parents are the ones in charge of the board."

"They are the ones that vote and determine who will represent them and their children.

Parents are the ones we work for and it is their concerns that we should listen to, consider and take seriously. The parents in our community have the right to be involved in their children's education and a

right to be heard.

"As a lifelong Albany resident I have a vested interest in the success of our school and as a parent I have a vested interest in the success of our students."

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Blackhawk Technical College President Dr. Tracy Pierner (from left), and Dr. Morna Foy, president of the Wisconsin Technical College System honor Frito-Lay as a crucial partner to the schools, presenting the Futuremakers award to company reps Dan Washkoviak, Beloit Frito-Lay site director, and Rob Hendrickson, Frito-Lay Technical director.

WTCS, BTC honor Frito-Lay with Futuremaker Award

Blackhawk Technical College joined the Wisconsin Technical College System Board on March 15 in recognizing Frito-Lay North American, Inc., with the Futuremaker Partner Award.

The Futuremaker Partner Award is presented four times a year by the WTCS Board to recognize the unique, long-standing connections between the state's employers and local technical colleges.

"Frito-Lay's commitment to Blackhawk Technical College through their involvement in employer advisory committees, support of the IDEAL Opportunity Sponsorship Program, and their development of the Mentorship Training program for mentors in the apprenticeship program shows consistent strong support for the college, the students and the community," Rodney Pasch, Wisconsin Technical College System Board president, stated in a press release. "The relationship Blackhawk Technical College has forged with Frito-Lay is an exemplary model of how Wisconsin's technical colleges work with local employers to provide the skilled workforce needed to thrive in Wisconsin."

Frito-Lay has placed Blackhawk in the spotlight as a critical catalyst for the region's economic success, said Dr. Tracy Pierner, President of Blackhawk.

"Blackhawk Technical College is very fortunate to have an industry partner, such as Frito-Lay, to understand the actual value of partnership. Frito-Lay and its employees are exceptional champions of BTC and the value of a technical college education," Pierner said.

Frito-Lay serves on many advisory committees, providing critical input and support to Blackhawk programs. Company officials are frequent visitors to campus, promoting job opportunities and highlighting how a Blackhawk education prepares students to launch their careers.

Additionally, the company provides financial support to students enrolled in BTC through earn and learn programs, including internship and apprenticeship programs.

Frito-Lay also contributes monetary support of the college through donations to the BTC Foundation and an investment into internship programs that lead high school students to the talent pipeline in our region.

Frito-Lay also stepped up in the fall of 2020 to be the first lead donor for the long-term sustainability of the IDEAL Opportunity Scholarship Program, which focuses on assisting underrepresented populations with resources financially and matching the students in the program with an employer that will provide

an internship experience with the long-term goal of hiring students full-time.

In addition, Frito-Lay has partnered with the BTC Workforce and Community Development (WCD) team to offer customized Leadership Development training for their employees.

And the company also partnered with BTC to develop the Stateline Manufacturing Alliance (SMA), a new organization that serves as a regional catalyst for talent recruitment and development in advanced manufacturing through collective efforts, initiatives and partnerships.

A new collaboration is tak-

ing shape between Frito-Lay and BTC's Truck Driving program.

This collaboration will assist in developing a driver training program for new Frito-Lay drivers.

"Our success hinges upon the growth and development of our teams. The programs Blackhawk offers provide our employees with the necessary knowledge and skillsets to not only succeed in our environment, but to thrive in their daily lives as well. We truly appreciate the partnership and look forward to collaborating with BTC for years to come," added Dan Washkoviak, Beloit Frito-Lay site director.

State-chartered banks report strong year-end financial performance

Wisconsin's state-chartered banks reported strong financial performance through year-end 2021, according to data released earlier this month by the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI).

At year-end 2021, there were 132 state-chartered banks serving Wisconsin residents.

"Throughout 2021, Wisconsin's state-chartered banks demonstrated sound financial practices while helping their customers and communities weather the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic," said DFI Secretary-designee Cheryl Olson-Collins.

"Overall, the year-end financial indicators for Wisconsin's state-chartered banks are strong and show our banks are financially stable with a positive outlook."

Key financial indicators for Wisconsin's state-chartered banks include:

- Total assets were at \$68 billion as of Dec. 31, 2021. Assets increased by \$4.2 billion, a growth rate of 6.68% from year-end 2020.
- The capital ratio remained strong at 10.67% compared to 11.06% in December 2020.
- The past due ratio declined to 0.67% from mid-pandemic levels when the ratio was at 1.06% in December 2020.
- Net operating income increased to \$847.3 million compared to \$778.9 million in December 2020.
- The return on average assets ratio remained stable at 1.32%, a slight decrease from 1.34% in December 2020, due in part to strong asset performance and continued secondary market refinancing fee income.
- Net loans were at \$43.6 billion, up \$153 million, a 0.35% increase from year-end 2020, due to some improved loan volume.
- The net interest margin decreased to 3.31% from 3.49% in December 2020, due in part to the low interest rate environment combined with the excess liquidity from the extension of the COVID-19 pandemic's Paycheck Protection Program loans.
- Bank liquidity was strong putting pressure on the loans to assets ratio at 64.12% compared to mid-pandemic liquidity levels of 68.16% in December 2020.

Additional information regarding Wisconsin's state-chartered banks' year-end 2021 financial performance is available in the Bank Performance Indicator Report as of Dec. 31, 2021 at wdfi.org.

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• Board (Continued from page 6)

where mutual respect and trust were important, and no one was micromanaged. Department heads should be given the chance to run their departments without outside interference, as long as things are going well and there's no cause for intervention. Decisions being made without department heads being present is no way to run a village."

Transparency is a problem he sees the village facing. "The Village of Orfordville is

a pretty great place to live, and has been for the short time I've been here," he said.

"I think that transparency is lacking. There is very low community participation in the board meetings in general, especially the important ones like open book and budget meetings."

To reach more villagers, Boyce would like to begin streaming board meetings and post them to a YouTube channel, so people can view at their convenience.

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Salute to Ag in our Schools

BRODHEAD FFA

Brodhead's ag offerings reaches students and beyond

The Brodhead Agriculture Department offers a wide variety of classes including Introduction to Agriculture 1 & 2, Small Animal Science, Large Animal Science, Introduction to Veterinary Science, Natural Resource Management 1 & 2, Plant Science and Agriculture Cooperative at the high school.

The department also has opportunities at the middle school for the seventh-grade exploratory classes.

Brodhead's Agriculture Department just started a new course this year - Introduction to Veterinary Science. Students are now able to learn skills in the veterinary career.

The course covers medical terminology, clinical exams, hands-on labs and visits to vet clinics or veterinarians come into the classroom.

Brodhead FFA is known for its Food For America Program hosted annually at the Spring Grove Dairy.

The past six years Brodhead FFA has teamed up with the Parkview FFA in this event.

The event consists of 20 different agriculture stations

to educate local fourth-graders about different aspects of agriculture.

This past year the program hosted nine elementary classrooms.

Brodhead FFA's annual plant sale held in May is another popular community event. This year's sale will take place on Thursday, May 5 through Saturday, May 7.

The plant science class works hard in growing, cutting and transplanting plants to sell at the annual Agriculture and Brodhead FFA Plant Sale.

This year Kiara Quimby has started her own Nursery SAE in doing propagation with a wide variety of houseplants and succulents.

Right: Brodhead FFA and the Parkview FFA teamed up to host the annual Food For America Program at Spring Grove Dairy. The event reaches youngsters by educating them in different aspects of agriculture relayed at themed stations.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Brodhead Independent-Register



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register
Kaylae Nehls (from left), Emma Beutel and Zoey Hinkle make dog treat in their Small Animal Science class.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register
Seventh-grade ag student Seth Coplien harvests lettuce from the Brodhead FFA tower garden.

Don't miss these upcoming events

- Agriculture Department and FFA Annual Plant Sale, Thursday, May 5 through Saturday, May 7
- Brodhead FFA Banquet and Auction, Friday, May 13

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Salute to Ag in our Schools

PARKVIEW FFA

From the reporter's desk

Parkview Agriculture Education: Reaching new heights

Parkview FFA is one of the school district's largest student-run organizations, with 101 students as members.

Any student in seventh grade or older can become a member. Parkview FFA members participate in a wide range of activities ranging from Leadership Development Events (public speaking), Career Development Events (judging teams), exhibiting at the Rock County and Wisconsin State fairs, leadership workshops, state and national conventions, community service projects, FFA State Honors Band and Choir, and completing Supervised Agricultural Experience Projects.

The National FFA Organization is the largest student-run organization in the country and prepares students with an interest in agriculture, science, business, and technology. The FFA is a widespread and diverse organization serving over 700,000 students in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

While the FFA certainly still serves students with an interest in farming, it also provides opportunities in medicine, research, technology, the environment, business, communications, and leadership.

FFA members are on the forefront of advances in



By **CHRISTINA STARK**
Contributor

science, have opportunities to grow through leadership, and can become proficient in public speaking and career-related skills through activities available throughout the year in FFA.

FFA members are among the most active students at Parkview High School.

Members can choose for themselves how active they wish to be in the organization.

Students are encouraged to explore their own personal interests within the FFA.

Some students may have an interest in more traditional activities in the FFA, such as showing at the county fair. Others may be more interested in the scientific side of the FFA and may choose to conduct research using the department facilities such as an independent study in the greenhouse.

Some students join FFA to travel to conferences, workshops, and conventions all across the state and nation. Students may want to take part in a public speaking competition or meet new friends on a field trip or



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

Horticulture students Madison Copeland and Brooklyn Crecelius plant hanging baskets for the ag plants sale scheduled in the coming weeks.

social event such as pumpkin bowling, bingo night, or the meeting on the farm.

If any student or parent would like to learn more or are interested in joining Parkview FFA, contact FFA Advisor Mr. Sattler at tsattler@email.parkview.k12.wi.us.

Agriculture in the Classroom

The Parkview Agriculture Department offers 13 different

courses including Large Animal and Vet Science, Horticulture/Landscaping, Welding/Metal Fabrication, WI Outdoors, Agribusiness, and many more.

The agriculture courses are designed to teach students skills that they can use beyond high school.

Students who enroll in the agriculture courses can learn how to MIG and ARC weld,

See PARKVIEW, Page 10

Why should students become involved in FFA?

"... because there is so much growth that happens here. Through all of the leadership conventions, right down to cleaning up the highway, we are becoming better people. We are learning to better ourselves, and then use that to better help people."



– Hailey Beeman

"Students should take the opportunity to get involved in FFA because it can give you many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities and life experiences. FFA has helped me to become a more outgoing student and leader through all of the different events I've attended and opportunities I have been given."



– Christina Stark

"It opens doors to opportunities to do so much more than what school offers. You are able to improve social skills and your



overall knowledge just by going to the different FFA events. You also make so many friendships with people who you probably would have never been friends with if you had never been in FFA together. It is just such a great organization that offers so much more than what people put it out to be."

– Allison Johnson

"I would strongly recommend students getting involved with FFA because it is exciting to be a part of, very inclusive, and it carries on the tradition of agriculture."

– Emily Femyer

"FFA is a good way to learn valuable life skills while still in high school. I've been in FFA for six years now and have been an officer for the past three. As an officer you learn things like collaboration, time and resource management, and public speaking skills. However, you don't need to be an officer to do that. As a member you can



– Natalie Abey

involve yourself with speaking contests and career development events that let you work all of those skills. I personally have done the employability skills contest for the past three years and have used what I learned in the contest in several interviews. FFA is an overall great experience. We have so much fun and we work hard to better our community."

– Cassandra Clint

"... because it connects them to new kids and the different opportunities involved in FFA makes you step outside your comfort zone and try new things."

– Paul McCarthy

"Students should get involved in FFA because of all the experiences that they will be able to have the chance to go through! There are many leadership opportunities, service hours, learning experiences, as well as tons of fun activities. Some of my favorites have been our movie night, our gingerbread house contest,

pumpkin bowling, and Ag Olympics. You definitely don't want to miss out on being in FFA!"

– Emily Kjelland

"FFA has a large variety of activities you can choose from, there's something for everyone. From career development events such as horse evaluation, vet science, and dairy products, to leadership development events, to state honors band and choir, FFA relates to all students."

– Jenna Hume

"You meet a lot of new people and make new friends."

– Paul McCarthy

"It's fun to participate, especially if you are a farmer or live in a farming community with many options for help in starting a career, as well as many fun activities."

– Will Toberman

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Salute to Ag in our Schools

ALBANY FFA

Alumni, community make Albany's program shine

The Albany Ag program is growing, according to ag advisor Hala Ryan.

She said that being a first-year teacher and FFA advisor, she was curious about how this year would go.

"When I started, I was quickly introduced to a very supportive alumni and community. The students are hard-



Hala Ryan

working and are always up for hands-on learning. I am excited to say that we have accomplished a lot this year and I look forward to the future of this program."



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Brodhead Independent-Register*

FFA members Linsey Mueller (left) and Rhylie Gough moved onto the sectional speaking contest following a recent competition in leadership development.



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Albany eighth graders Beckette Wachholz and Emerson Briggs transplant succulent plants in horticulture.



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Farm management students Drew Sertle (left) and James Schwartz were among classmates who took a trip to Hanns Christmas Tree Farm late last year to learn first-hand about the physical and financial aspects of a Christmas tree operation.

• Parkview (Continued from page 9)

make their own beef jerky and salsa in Food Production, how to take cuttings and transplant seedlings in the greenhouse, score deer antlers in WI Outdoors, and learn how to administer shots in the vet science courses. The agriculture department consists of the classroom, metal shop, state-of-the-art greenhouse and a 20-acre agriculture plot.

Annual greenhouse plant sale

The Parkview Horticulture/Landscaping Class will hold its annual Greenhouse Plant Sale on Wednesday, May 11 to Friday, May 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be planters, hanging baskets, common bedding plants, herbs and vegetables available for sale. The greenhouse is on the east of Parkview High School. Follow the Parkview FFA Facebook Page for available plants as we get closer to the sale. All plants will be first-come, first-serve, so plan to arrive early.

Parkview FFA Alumni Association

The Parkview FFA Chapter is supported by the Parkview FFA Alumni Association. The Alumni Associations helps the members by coaching CDE Teams, practicing for LDE Competitions, providing \$2,500 in scholarships annually, interviewing for trip opportunities, and providing SAE Project opportunities.

An upcoming event is the FFA Alumni Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7 at 413 E. Beloit St., Orfordville. Any community member interested in supporting Ag Education at Parkview is encouraged to join.

You don't need to be a previous FFA member to join the alumni, and there are no annual dues.

The FFA Alumni meets on the first Monday of each month with the location varying. If you are interested in joining the alumni, contact them at parkviewffaalumni@gmail.com to start receiving monthly information.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Parkview students Jean Luc Cramer (left) and Dylan Sorg dissect hearts and lungs in the school's Large Animal Vet Science Class.



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Jenna Hume is MIG Welding in her welding/metal fabrication class which is part of Parkview's ag offerings.

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JUDA FFA



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Juda FFA members in 2021-22 include Matthew McCullough, who serves as Sentinel (front, from left), Aaron Makos (Treasurer), Jerzie Lerch (Reporter), Breanna Brooks (Vice President), Brilley Swedlund (Parliamentarian), Katie Nusbaum (President), Jackie Nusbaum (Secretary), Joe Lyne (Advisor), Anna Skoumal (center), Libby Jordan, Unity Masseur, Vanessa Liphart, Payton Hinton, Lexi Heimann, Katie

Brooks, Chad Mansfield, Christian Kreuzer (third row), Alivia Henning, Mary Riebe, Atlas Heimann, Aidan Lynaugh, Grace Melton, Abby Foster, Hunter Foster, Micheal Hosch, Trinity Iverson (back), Corina Black, Anna Bartels, Phoenix Homan, Kameron Simpson, Kennedi Lerch, Trevhar Vanryswyk, Tucker Lynaugh, Noah Burchard, Christopher Roth, Easton Hess and Lily Zimmerman.

Juda FFA molds future leaders

The Juda FFA has been very active this year, according to advisor Joe Lyn.

“As we have been able to get back to normal this year, students have stayed busy with numerous contests and events where we have seen success and leadership growth of our members,” he said.

Throughout the year, numerous Juda FFA students exhibit at the Green County Fair,

attend both National and State conventions, and various leadership conferences.

In the fall members competed in the Soil Judging Career Development Event at different contests around southern Wisconsin, and the senior team was able to finish eighth place at the State Contest in October that was held in Fennimore.

This spring members have competed in Leadership De-

velopment events.

At the district level, Aaron Makos competed in Employment Skills, Breanna Brooks competed in Extemporaneous Speaking, Kelsi Cameron competed in Creed Speaking, and Abby Foster competed in Discussion Meet.

The FFA also held a middle school Quiz Bowl team consisting of Noah Burchard, Josh McCullough, Tucker Lynaugh,

Lily Zimmerman, and Kameron Simpson.

Aaron Makos, Breanna Brooks, and Kelsi Cameron all moved on to the sectional contest at Marshall on March 9.

Juda FFA members will continue to compete in Career Development Events at both Janesville and UW-Platteville in the coming weeks.

On Saturday, April 2, from 5 to 7 p.m., Juda FFA will host

its annual FFA Alumni Blue and Gold Night.

The evening will consist of a meal followed by a live auction and various raffles, and there will be different door

prizes.

Tickets for this will be sold ahead of time and can be purchased by contacting Joe Lyne at Juda School, 608-934-5251 or lyne@judaschool.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Parkview FFA

Parkview FFA advisor Tjark Sattler and students Makenzie Morris and Natalie Abey administer shots to a sheep flock at the Sattler Farm as part of Large Animal Vet Science.

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