

Obituaries.....2

Woodstock Willie predicts six more weeks of winter4

Gov. Evers to deliver on 10% middle-class tax cut8

REGISTRATION
U.S. Postage
Paid
The
Independent
Register
Customer

Brodhead Library may refine lost or damaged book policy

By Dan Moeller
CORRESPONDENT

The Brodhead Memorial Public Library Board discussed changes to several policies at its meeting last week.

The board discussed clarifications to its policies regarding lost or damaged books or other items, its policy regarding financial accounts, and its policies regarding the public meeting room.

Library director Kyle Domer said the policy that patrons are discouraged from purchasing their own copies of lost or damaged books “was super vague.” The payment policy just needs to be clearly articulated, he said.

The policy states that the replacement of lost or damaged items is discouraged and any exceptions must be approved by the library director. If any replacement is allowed, the replacement must be a new and an exact match for the lost items including the binding type. In addition, patrons are still liable for any processing fees the library may assess.

Domer noted that a book could be years old and in deteriorated condition but the policy still calls for a new book. Also, some books don’t need to be replaced if the library wants the shelf space, he said, particularly if there are already multiple copies.

In an interview later, Domer said as a new director he has never spoken in depth with the board about how it wants him to handle the replacements.

“We had a patron that had a damaged item that she wished to try and find her own replacement copy. I just wanted to clarify with the board what their wishes in terms of handling those types of situations were.”

He also wants some clarifications on the meeting room policy, especially for private

gatherings such as birthday parties and other types of private celebrations.

The cleaning fee is \$50 per hour of cleaning and groups are responsible for any damages to the library.

“Part of that discussion should be an adult to child ratio,” Domer said.

The board agreed that the library should make the library facilities as wide open for use as possible.

Also, Domer is reviewing the financial policies and feels the language could be more specific regarding the library’s fund balance and money in reserve. He said the library needs to figure what percentage is appropriate to have in the fund balance above and beyond its operational cost. “Again, we need to do the same thing for the reserve money.”

He also said regarding investing options that “no decision should come at the risk of losing that (fund) initial balance.” Also, he stressed the desirability to invest money in a financial instrument that allows for liquidity.

The board discussed the meeting room policy, financial policy and policy on damaged or lost books and laid over action on all of them until at least next month.

The board also laid over action on approving the annual report until a special meeting this week. Domer said he was close to finalizing the annual report, a report he is doing for the first time after becoming director in September.

In other matters, Domer said:

- There were 3,653 items checked out in January to 1,630 patrons. That was almost double the number of patrons from the previous January. There were 201 attendees in January at 15 events and activities for active programming. “We continue to have all of our craft kits

go out.”

- There was a good turnout for the January family movie with 25 people. “We’re hopeful we have as many or more for this month.” The movie this Saturday at 12:30 p.m. will be “Strange World.” An added bonus is that the library provides free popcorn. Movies are held the third Saturday of the month unless the library is closed for a holiday.

- Both the Lego club and the book club continue to be well attended.

- There were quite a few applicants who responded to the part-time library job opening. The position involves staffing the front desk and possibly some programming duties. He and assistant library director Crystal Willegal and a board member will be interviewing the three most viable candidates who each have previous library experience.

- The cost of snow removal so far “wasn’t too bad because we had kind of a gap where it didn’t snow a whole lot.”

- He reimbursed the library for the \$28 registration cost for the library legislation day in Madison that he wasn’t able to attend for personal reasons. “I felt bad,” he said.

- He did a small January book order so they can reduce some of the processing backlog that’s accumulated. February and March will probably be a little bigger, he said.

- He thinks a good way to spend down some of their book money would be to update classic children’s titles. “We’ve noticed some of them are sort of shabby.”

- WPPI Energy will pay for upgrades to the lights. Domer will look into ways to lessen the water buildup outside the library doors and move the moisture away from that area.

“Anything to make it safer,” said one board member.



Submitted photo Brodhead Independent Register. Pictured (from left) at a recent rehearsal for the play are Alli (Buckets) Leutenegger, Melanie Zentner, Emily Duvall, Melissa Schnepfer and Kate Eliasson. Not pictured is Denise Plantenberg.

Monroe Theatre Guild begin season with ‘Steel Magnolias’

At their annual meeting on Jan. 10, Monroe Theatre Guild announced their 2023 Colony Brands Season. The new year begins with “Steel Magnolias”, directed by Jennie Lembach.

Jennie shared her personal relationship to the story having lost a family member to diabetes, making this a must-direct for her alongside Assistant Director, Jonah Levia. Jennie wanted to work with a smaller cast, and she will as the cast features only six actresses; Kate Eliasson as Truvy, Alli Buckets as Annelle, Melanie Zentner as Clairee, Emily Duvall as Shelby, Melissa Schnepfer as M’Lynn, and Denise Plantenberg as Ouiser.

Written by Robert Harling, “Steel Magnolias” tells the story of a group of women who are, as the title suggests, delicate as magnolias but tough as steel. In synopsis, Truvy runs a successful beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, where all the ladies in the neighborhood have a standing Saturday appointment. Along with her eager new assistant, Annelle, Truvy

styles the hair of many of the women about town: wealthy widow and former first lady of Chinquapin, Clairee, local curmudgeon Ouiser, compassionate career woman M’Lynn, and her daughter Shelby, the prettiest girl in town. Shelby’s wedding is the talk of the town, but the joy of her special day quickly turns to concern as she faces a risky pregnancy and a myriad of health complications due to her long history with diabetes. When Shelby dies from the complications of the disease, M’Lynn has to deal with the most difficult challenge: the loss of one’s child. As the women make their way together over life’s many hurdles they find comfort, with a fair amount of verbal ribbing, in one another.

Monroe Theatre Guild is also sponsoring a theme-based silent auction with all proceeds going directly to the American Diabetes Association. In keeping with the setting of the play and the underlying story of the devastating effects of diabetes, the auction will feature donated items and gift certifi-

icates from local hair salons and barber shops. To make an auction donation for this worthy cause, please reach out to MTG at info@monroetheatre.com. Items for bid can be viewed on the MTG website starting March 1, and in the MTG lobby during Steel Magnolias’ performances. The silent auction wraps up during the intermission of the final performance on March 19. Successful bidders need not be present to win.

The show will have six performances on the Colony Brands Stage: March 10 at 7 p.m., March 11 at 7 p.m., March 12 at 2 p.m., March 17 at 7 p.m., March 18 at 7 p.m., with the final performance March 19 at 2 p.m.. Tickets are available on MTG’s website, monroetheatre.com, under the BUY TICKETS tab. If you do not have access to the internet or would like to purchase your ticket in person, tickets can also be purchased exclusively at the MTG Ticket Window Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 910 16th Avenue, Monroe, or by calling 608-325-1111.

Register soon for Boater Safety Education Courses

Sheriff Fell announces the Rock County Sheriff’s Office will offer two Boater Safety Education Courses this spring.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, is required to complete a Boater Safety Education Course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waters.

It is recommended that participants be at least 12 years of age or turn 12 shortly following completion of the class.

Class #1

Mandatory registration is Tuesday, Feb. 28, 6 p.m. at the Rock County Fairgrounds – Craig Center, 1301 Craig Ave, Janesville.

The class is Saturday, March 18, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rock County Fairgrounds – Craig Center.

Class #2

Mandatory registration is Tuesday, April 25, 6 p.m. at the Edgerton Conservation Club, 900 Stoughton Rd, Edgerton

The class is Saturday, May 13, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Edgerton Conservation Club.

Registration is now open for Class #1. Complete the online enrollment form to reserve a seat.

Class size is limited to 30 students. Upon submission of the online enrollment form, the submitter will see an onscreen confirmation message with in-

formation on the mandatory in-person registration meeting. Registration for Class #2 will open the week of April 10.

Enroll at www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/sheriff-s-office/recreational-patrol/boat-education.

A class fee of \$10 per student will be collected at the in-person registration meeting. The student and a parent or legal guardian if the student is underage must attend the mandatory registration meeting in order for the student to take the course. Students will receive course materials at the in-person registration meeting.

Please direct any questions to Deputy Trevor Lund at trevor.lund@co.rock.wi.us.

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Gov. Evers announces plan to protect voting rights, Democracy in Wisconsin

Proposal makes voting easier, more accessible for eligible voters, supports local election administration, ensures elections remain free and secure

Gov. Tony Evers today announced several initiatives that will be included in his 2023-25 biennial budget proposal to defend voting rights and democracy in Wisconsin.

The governor's plan includes streamlining processes to make it easier for eligible Wisconsinites to register to vote and cast their ballot, ensuring voting equipment and databases are secure and well-maintained, and supporting local elections officials who work tirelessly to administer elections.

"The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy, and we should be making it easier—not harder—for every eligible voter to cast their ballot without interference from politicians," said Gov. Evers. "Even as some politicians continue their efforts to undermine our safe, secure elections, restrict access to the ballot box, and control the outcomes of our elections, I have and will continue to defend and support the right to vote, our clerks, poll workers, and election administrators, and the opportunity to participate in our democracy."

"These investments will help ensure eligible Wisconsinites can exercise their fundamental right to vote and that our local partners have the resources they need to continue

administering elections safely, efficiently, and securely."

A list of the governor's proposals to make voting easy and accessible to all eligible voters, support local partners and elections officials in administering elections, and ensure Wisconsin's elections remain safe, fair, and secure is available below.

Making voting easy and accessible

Gov. Evers' budget proposes several critical changes that make it easier for eligible Wisconsinites to cast a ballot, including:

- Providing \$172,700 for the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) to work with the Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to implement automatic voter registration. WEC will facilitate the initial registration of all eligible voters as soon as practicable, and WisDOT will be appropriated \$349,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 to address one-time costs. More than 20 states, including Michigan and Illinois, as well as Washington, D.C., have implemented automatic voter registration;

- Restoring state law requiring all public high schools to offer voter registration for enrolled students and staff and allowing private and Tribal high schools to do the same,

expanding access for newly eligible voters to register to vote;

- Restoring previous residency requirements so that a resident of Wisconsin is eligible to vote in an election in a municipality or ward if the voter has been a resident of that location for at least ten consecutive days before an election;

- Eliminating the restriction on how soon a person may complete an absentee ballot in-person, making in person absentee voting more accessible; and

- Modifying certain voter identification requirements to comply with current court rulings and requiring the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System to issue identification cards that meet the revised requirement.

Additionally, Gov. Evers proposes ensuring all eligible voters are aware and informed of their rights at the polls by requiring polling places to post a voter bill of rights that informs voters of voting rights guaranteed under current law.

Supporting local election administration

Gov. Evers' budget supports local governments and elections officials in administering elections by:

- Allowing a county or municipal clerk to canvass absentee ballots on the day before an election after working with WEC to ensure it will be conducted securely and effectively. This will allow clerks to better manage the workload of administering elections and may result in faster vote tabulation and reporting;

- Modifying the scheduling of special elections to ensure they are scheduled with sufficient time to comply with federal requirements for sending ballots to military and overseas voters, protecting these voters from disenfranchisement;

- Enabling WEC to reimburse counties and municipalities for certain costs incurred in the administration of special primaries and special elections through a GPR sum sufficient appropriation, further ensuring these local governments have the resources they need to safely and efficiently administer elections;

- Modifying WEC's recount appropriation to allow local units of government and petitioners to be reimbursed in a timely manner;

- Explicitly allowing WEC training funds to be used to train municipal and county clerks on all aspects of election administration, in addition to voter ID requirements;

and

- Providing \$400,000 to create a grant program for municipalities to purchase Badger Books. Badger Books are an electronic version of the voter list and are used to check in voters, process election day registrations, and record absentee participation. The use of Badger Books can help clerks manage Election Day tasks more efficiently and speed up the registration and voting process for in-person voters.

Creating the Office of Election Transparency and Compliance

To better and more quickly respond to inquiries and complaints regarding potential election law violations, Gov. Evers' budget invests nearly \$2 million over the biennium and creates 10 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to create an Office of Election Transparency and Compliance. The office will be provided resources to improve audits on voting equipment, databases, and potentially hire an outside contractor to review certain information, such as voter lists, to ensure continued confidence in Wisconsin elections

Obituaries

WAYNE EDWARD SCHEIDER

Wayne Edward Scheider, age 80, passed away on Feb. 6, 2023, at the Mercy Hospital in Janesville.

Wayne was born on May 29, 1942 in Ill., the son of Glen and Ethel (Fryer) Scheider. He married Judy Kuhl on December 28, 1962 at the Martintown Community Church in Martintown.

Since Judy passed away 8 1/2 years ago, Wayne had wanted to be with her and always said when he goes he will be happy again.

Wayne was so happy living with his son Dan since his retirement to take care of him. Wayne enjoyed going places with Tammy and Paul when he was feeling good. Wayne enjoyed camping with Tammy, Paul, Jenna, Brandon and Bristol, watching Braydon play football and was so proud of all his grandchildren and his great grandchildren.

Wayne was a member and the past president of the Garden Club for many years and loved all of his flowers and gardening around the house. Wayne enjoyed riding around in the yard on his scooter and picking dandelions or gardening. Wayne grew up on a farm and loved his horses. He helped as a 4-H leader and helped his kids in showing horses and with barrel racing. He later helped his garden club with float entries, led many parades with his horses and flag banners and for many years was the town



Santa.

Wayne is survived by his children, Dan Scheider of Brodhead, Tammy (Paul) Sweeney

of Brodhead, Mike Scheider of Mt. Carroll, IL and Ryan Scheider of Appleton; six grandchildren, Kristie Douglas, Jenna Sweeney (Brandon Angileri), Amanda (Kevin) Pascavis, Samantha Scheider, Kody (Ashlynn) Scheider and Christopher Scheider; nine great-grandchildren, Braydan, Colton, Autumn, Bristol, Kaylee, Zander, Elijah, Abby and Azekiel; a sister, Carol (Lester) Tornow, his dog JR and many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Wayne was preceded in death by his wife Judy in October of 2014, a daughter Mary (Tracy) Scheider in March of 2019, his parents, Ethel and Glen, in laws, Melvin and Ethel, a sister, Sharon (Ray) Van Dyke; a nephew, Roger Tornow and his dog, Molly.

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

Funeral services were held at the DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead on Feb. 11. A visitation was also held at the funeral home from until the time of services. Burial concluded at the Greenwood Cemetery.

LINDA WILSON

Linda Wilson, age 79, passed away peacefully surrounded by her children on Feb. 8, 2023, at Oak Park Place in Janesville after a courageous battle with cancer.

Linda was born on June 29, 1943 in Monroe, the daughter of Willis and Janet (Marsh) Williams. Linda married her childhood sweetheart, Wally Wilson at the Juda Methodist Church on Sept. 19, 1964. Linda babysat until her children were in school, then she worked at the Bank of Brodhead and the Monroe Clinic until she retired.

Linda enjoyed many bus trips throughout the United States and Canada, bowling, card club, playing the slots, tending to her beautiful flower beds and most of all, quilting.

Linda is survived by her children, Michelle (Dale) Roth, Darci (Jim) Lewis and Eric Wilson (Mary Backenger); grandchildren, Logan and Jacob Wilson, Mikaela and Brianna Roth, J.D. and Jimmy Lewis, Anna Backenger and five great-grandchildren. She is further survived by her sibling, Greg



(Carol) Williams and Steven Williams and many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, Willis and Janet, her husband Wally, her sister, Sherry and a special family member, Walter Williams.

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

Funeral services were held at the DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead on Feb. 14. A visitation was also held at the funeral home on Feb. 13 and on Feb. 14 until the time of services. Burial concluded at Greenwood Cemetery in Brodhead.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Monroe Clinic Oncology department, the Brodhead EMS, Oak Park Place in Janesville, Agrace Hospice Care and staff in Janesville and Leah Foley at Joyce's Home Care.


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The Independent-Register

Foreign Type Cheesemaker's Association of Monroe adds new board members

The Foreign Type Cheesemaker's Association, Monroe, recently held their annual election for Members of the Board of Directors for 2023.

The new Board Members are:

- Andy Rufener, Plant Manager, V&V Supremo – Arena, Arena, WI
- Kevin Davis, Plant Manager, Cheese Louise, Monroe, WI (Vice President)
- Rob Frie, General Manager, PFD - Shullsburg Creamery, Shullsburg, WI (President)
- Tony Hook, Owner, Hooks Cheese Company, Inc., Miner-

al Point, WI

They join the following returning Board Members:

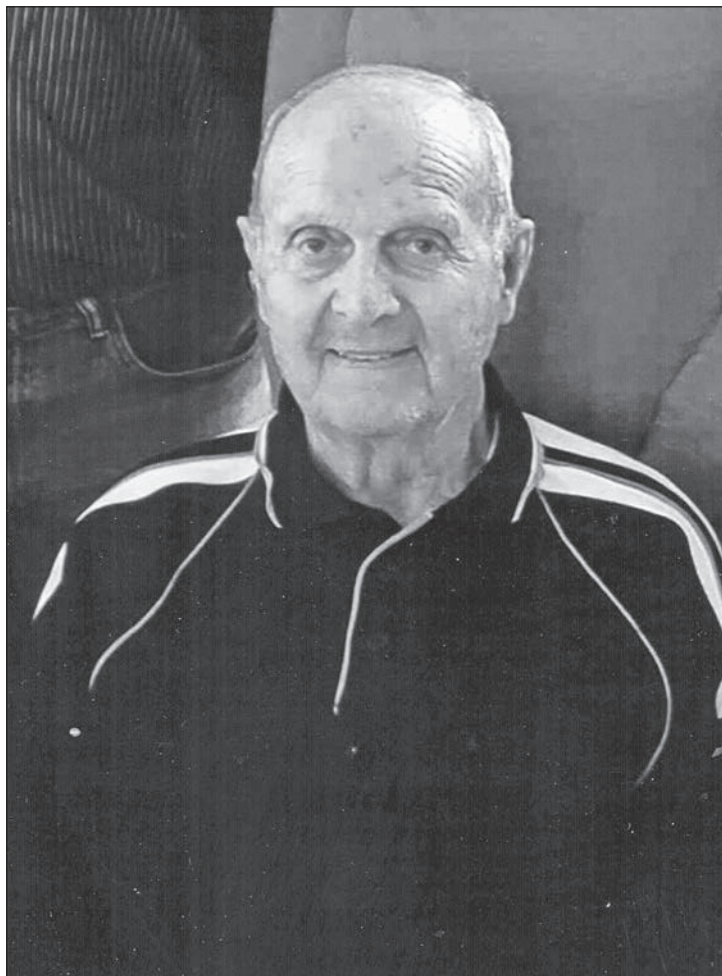
- Mark Witke, President, Zimmerman Cheese, Wiota, WI. (Treasurer)
- Matt Wenger, SQF Practitioner, Wenger's Springbrook Cheese, Davis, IL
- Emily Harbison, Technical Specialist, Dairy Connection, Inc, Madison, WI
- AmberLynn Wilson, SQF Practitioner, V&V Supremo - Arena, Arena, WI
- Gina Mode, Researcher, Assistant Coordinator, PCQI Cheese Industry & Applica-

tions Group, Center for Dairy Research, Madison, WI (Secretary)

- Luke Buholzer, VP Sales, Klondike Cheese Company, Monroe, WI

The Foreign Type Cheesemakers Association was established in 1935 to perform quality control testing on the cheese produced by Green County Cheesemakers and today serves the cheese and dairy industry throughout the US. The Association operates Precision Biolabs, an ISO 17025 Certified food safety laboratory in Monroe.

Happy 90th birthday!



Roland "Gene" Mathewson, of Orfordville, will be 90 years old on Feb. 16. Come celebrate with him and enjoy some cake and coffee on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Luther Valley Church, 7107 S. Luther Valley Rd., Beloit. Please let your presence be his present.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Brodhead Independent Register



BECKY MALKOW Brodhead Independent Register

Football players sign

Brodhead seniors Aidyn Vondra and Austin Moe, pictured here with their football coaches, signed their national letters of intent on Feb. 1. Vondra will be furthering his academic and athletic career at University MN Duluth and Moe at Minnesota State Mankota.

Farmers of the Sugar River will host annual meeting Feb. 21 in Albany

The annual meeting of the Farmers of the Sugar River will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the Albany Lions Club, 402 Cincinnati Street, Albany.

The Farmers of the Sugar River is a farmer-led watershed group, covering the Middle and Lower Sugar River reaches, that aims to teach other farmers how to implement conservation practices that save time and

money while improving water quality in the Sugar River.

The meeting is a chance for farmers to learn from each other and network with others.

The public is also invited to attend to learn what farmers are doing to be more resilient to weather extremes.

The agenda for the day is meant to cover a variety of topics so that everyone can

learn and take home a tidbit of information to use. At 10 a.m. Steve Apfelbaum, local ecologist and founder of AES, will start the day off and help the audience understand the importance of carbon in our world and how farmers can help with storing carbon. His book, "S is for Soil" will be given to all

See FARMERS, Back Page



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent Register

The cover crop was cut from the 2x2 foot square sample, weighed and sent to a lab for nutrient analysis. Results will be shared at the annual meeting for the group on Feb. 21.

Beautiful Babies of 2022



PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS,
AUNTS, UNCLES...
SHOW OFF YOUR
RECENT ARRIVAL!

For just \$20, The Independent-Register will celebrate your beautiful baby of 2022. Babies born between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2022 will be featured in the Feb. 22 issue.

Please send your baby's picture, completed form and payment by 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16.

Baby's Name _____
 Birth Date _____
 Weight _____ Height _____
 Parents _____
 Grandparents _____
 Great-Grandparents _____
 Contact Phone _____

Drop-off or mail to: The Independent-Register, 917 W. Exchange St., Brodhead, WI 53520 or email picture to: paper@indreg.com by 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your picture returned.

Woodstock Willie predicts six more weeks of winter

By Heidi Schulz
STAFF WRITER

A normal Thursday morning would usually find me sleeping in on my day off, but last week on Feb. 2, I couldn't resist rising to an early alarm so I could make the trip to Woodstock, IL, for the annual Groundhog Day prognostication by the locally famous 'Woodstock Willy'.

Unfortunately, my driving time from southern Wisconsin didn't take into account getting stuck behind school buses on country roads, sitting at a railroad crossing in town for the early morning Metra passing through, and parking close to a half mile away from the downtown square. A very brisk walk in the early morning temperature that was hovering around 12 degrees, and I arrived at the downtown square to join the hundreds of others that had gathered to watch the Groundhog Day prognostication.

The band, Die Musikmeisters, was busy belting out some polkas while the crowd continued to grow. I made my way down as far to the front as I could without being intrusive to those that had been there earlier and deserved the better spot. At 7 a.m., the band stopped and the welcoming began. Rick Bellairs, Groundhog Day committee chairman, gave a short history of the

filming of the "Groundhog Day" movie that put Woodstock on the map, and one could almost feel themselves back on the set with Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell back in 1992.

Woodstock Mayor Mike Turner took his turn and thanked all the volunteers that help put the Groundhog Day festivities together. He surveyed the crowd with questions of attendance and how far some have traveled to Woodstock. I raised my hand as a first time attendee and for traveling from outside of the state, even if it was just over the state line from Southern Wisconsin. There were shouts from the crowd from people that had traveled from far away states and other countries, and I learned that the people standing next to me were visiting from France.

Then the time arrived and Danny Rubin, the Groundhog Day screenplay writer who had traveled from Florida for this 30th anniversary festivity, read the prognostication to the anxious crowd.

Woodstock Willie's handler, Mark Szafran, held the groundhog high up for the crowd to see, and Rubin finished off the prognostication with, "Willie looked skyward to the east, and then behind to the ground, and stated clearly in 'Groundhogese', I definitely



HEIDI SCHULZ PHOTO *Brodhead Independent Register*

Festivities were held from Feb. 1-5 in Woodstock to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the release of the Groundhog Day movie that featured Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell. Almost two-dozen activities were planned during the run of the event including the early Thursday morning reading of the prognostication by the groundhog known as Woodstock Willie. For future event information visit woodstockgroundhog.org.

ly see a shadow."

Even with the news of six more weeks of winter, the crowd was buzzing with excitement and energy to have witnessed this unique event.

A very long line formed and attendees were able to get their picture taken with Woodstock Willie. I opted to wander across the street and stand in line at the Public House, where they were selling souvenir shot glasses and having a 'drink to world peace' as Murray and MacDowell did in the movie. I'm guessing that attendance was much more than expected this year because they ran out of the sweet vermouth before it was my turn.

Standing in line gave me the chance to talk to another solo attendee and share our story of why we were there. Carol had traveled up that morning from Norwood Park and had just missed making it to the reading of the prognostication. We chatted for a bit and I was able to share some of my photos with her and then showed her where the line across the street had formed to get photos with Willie, so we wandered that way.

Hopefully next year I can spend more time enjoying some of the other festivities involved in the five-day celebration in Woodstock, but for now I will just be counting down the days until spring.

Right: A long line formed to wait for photos with the locally famous Woodstock Willie.

HEIDI SCHULZ PHOTO
Brodhead Independent Register



HEIDI SCHULZ PHOTO *Brodhead Independent Register*

The crowd grows as the Die Musikmeisters plays some polka tunes.



HEIDI SCHULZ PHOTO *Brodhead Independent Register*

Groundhog handler Mark Szafran holds Woodstock Willie up for the crowd after the reading of the prognostication.



HEIDI SCHULZ PHOTO *Brodhead Independent Register*

Carol Klinger of Norwood Park gets her photo taken with Woodstock Willie.



HEIDI SCHULZ PHOTO *Brodhead Independent Register*

Cheers went up from the crowd even though Willie claimed to see his shadow and six more weeks of winter were predicted.

Parkview/Albany Wrestling highlights

By Joel Steinmann
CORRESPONDENT

On Feb. 11, Parkview/Albany wrestlers competed in Belleville in the D2 super regionals. The top two teams moving on to team sectionals on Tuesday finished sixth with 141.5 points out of 13, Evansville and Belmont/Platteville team moving on.

Individual results for Parkview/Albany had six wrestlers qualify in the top four and will be moving on to Evansville on Saturday, Feb. 18, to compete in sectionals where the top three will move on to the Kohl center in Madison. At 106 lbs., Slater Valley 38-8 placed third. In the third place match Valley over Garrett Kothour 27-3 (Edgerton) by pin. In the second place wrestle back Blake Frey 34-13 (Evansville) over Valley by pin. At 120 lbs. Danny Finley 37-8 placed fourth. Third place match Lincoln Keller 39-8 over Finley by MD 13-1. At 132 lbs. Ian Suer 39-10 placed fifth with a win over Carter Spensley 16-7 (Belmont/Palatteville) by Dec 12-9. 138 lbs. Evan Suer 31-17 placed fourth. In the third place match Suer over Carter Ries 19-6 (Big Foot/Williams Bay) by pin. In the wrestle back Mason Owlrich 24-18 (Belmont/Platteville) over Suer by pin. At 182 lbs. Sam Schwengels 43-4 placed second, in the first place match Owen Heiser 15-1 (Evansville) over Schwengels by fall. In the wrestle back Schwengels over Kadyn Davis 25-16 (Belmont/Platteville) by pin. At 195 lbs. Wyatt Egan 37-5 placed third. In the first place match Ross Crist (Darlington/Black Hawk) over Egan by Dec. 7-5, in the wrestle back Carson Loshow 37-9

(Belleville/Monticello/New Glarus) over Egan by Dec. 6-2. 220 lbs. Wes Egan 44-2 placed second. In the first place match John Wackerhauser 28-7 (Cuba City/Benton/South Western) over Egan by fall. In the wrestle back Egan over Jacob Wienke 34-10 (Edgerton) by pin. Connor Flippin 113 lbs., Nico Zamora 145 lbs., Simo Cenacchi 152 lbs., Jayden Anderson 160 lbs. and Sean Morales 170 lbs. all wrestled tough matches throughout the day but did not place.

Parkview/Albany hosts 2023 Trailways Conference Tournament

Parkview/Albany hosted the 2023 Trailways conference tournament. 13 schools from the north and south conferences came together for the final conference matches of the season.

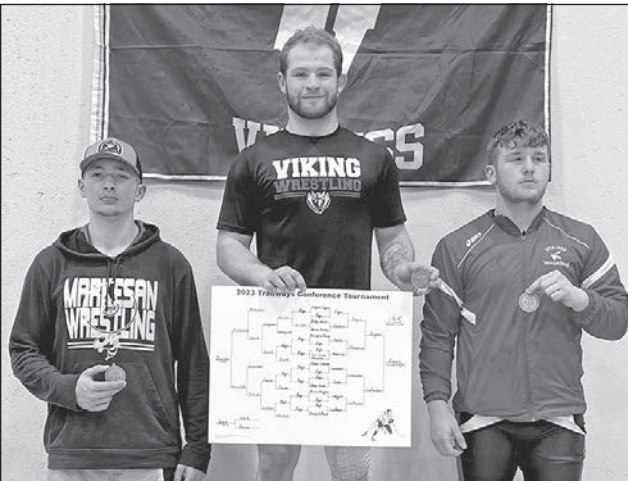
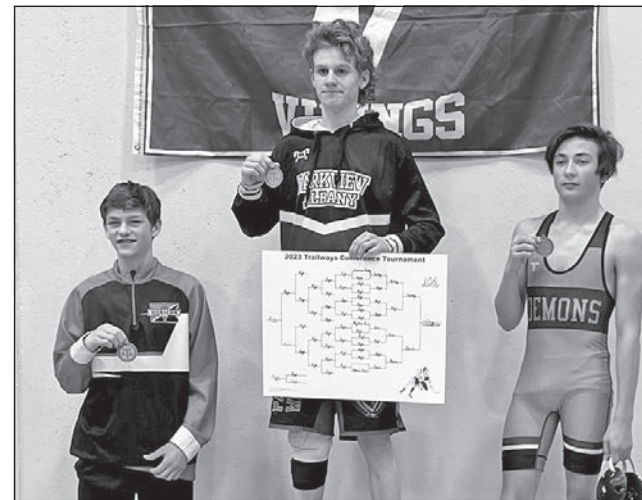
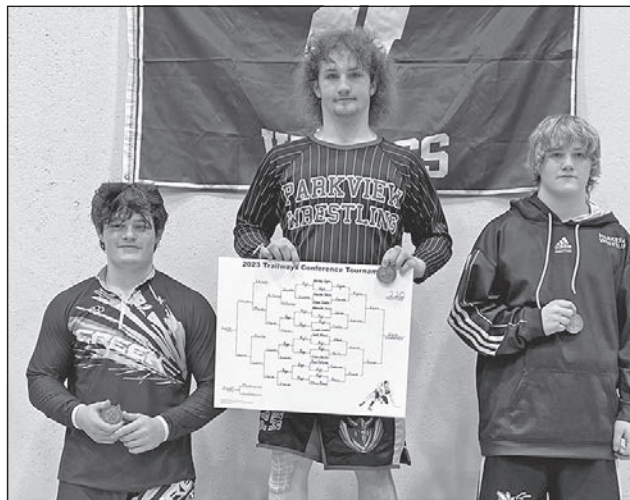
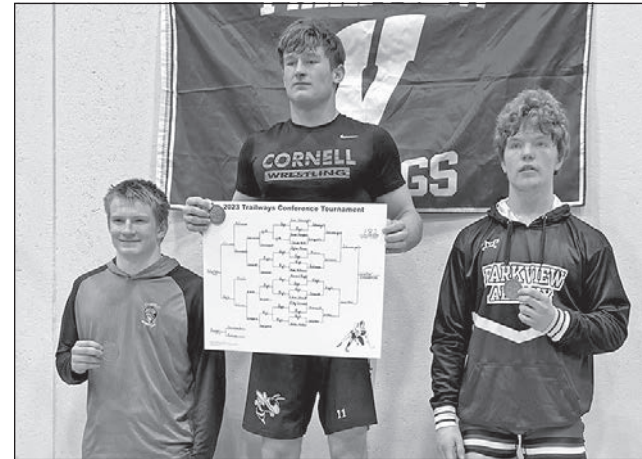
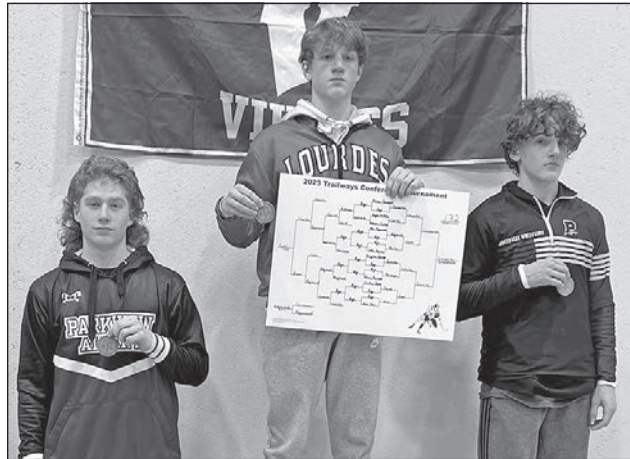
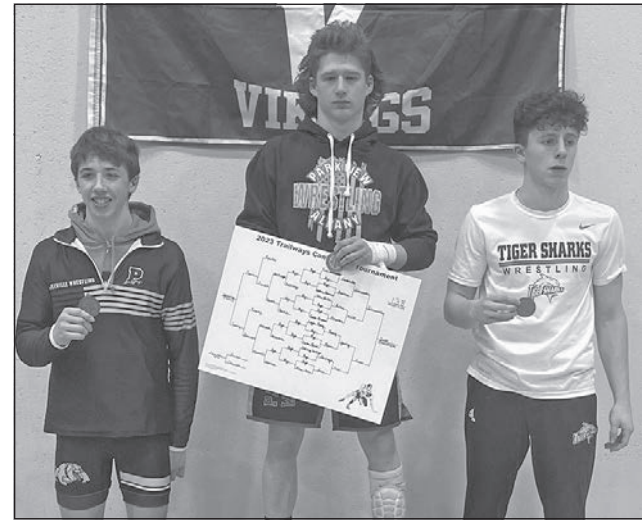
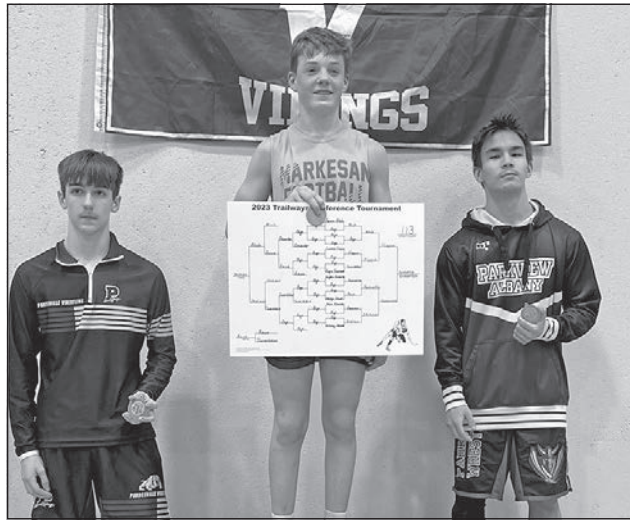
Markesan was first as a team with 234.5 points, Parkview/Albany was 2nd with 214.0 and Pardeville was 3rd with 197.0.

Markesan won the north conference and Parkview/Albany won the south conference.

Parkview/Albany had all 12 wrestlers place in the top 6 and 7 making the podium. 195# was the starting weight for finals for the 1st place match Wyatt Egan 34-3 over Joseph LaRoche (Rio/Camb-Fries/Fall River/Randolph) fall in 3:38. Also going for 1st at 220# Wes Egan 40-1 over Ethan Rowe (Markesan) fall in 4:44.

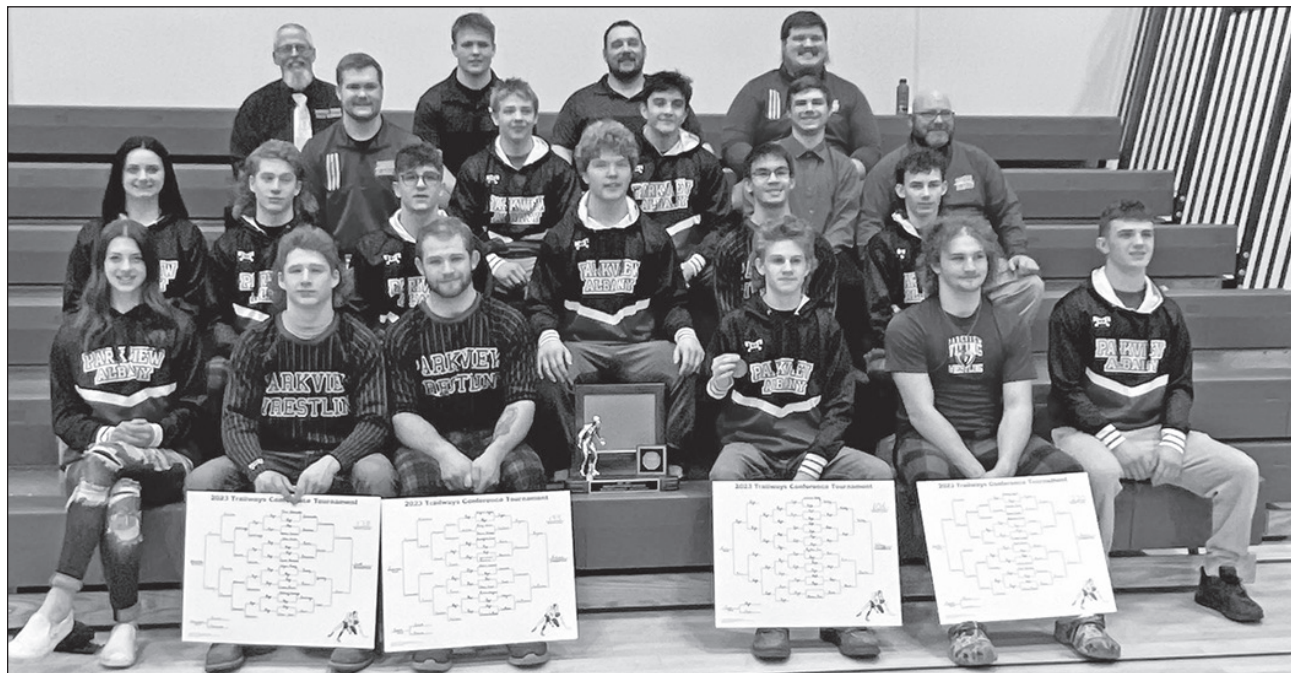
The 1st place match at 106# Slater Valley 35-6 over Ruben Bach (Deerfield) fall in 2:00. The 1st place at 113# Kayden Vannah (Markesan) over Connor Flippin 12-13 Fall in 3:28. 120# 5th place match Trevor

See WRESTLING, Back Page



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Brodhead Independent Register

Above: Wyatt Egan, first place match. Top, from left to right: Conner Flippin, second place match; Evan Suer, first place match; Ian Suer, third place match; Sam Schwengels, second place match; Wes Egan, first place match, Slater Valley, first place match; the team conference champions pose for a group photo.



Parkview Hall of Fame Night

Parkview is hosting its Hall of Fame Night on Friday, Feb. 17, at halftime of the varsity boys basketball game at the high school.

Hall of Fame Class of 2023 is Nick Melton (class of 2010), 2012 State Runner Up Boys Baseball Team, John Kinna (Coach 1968-1992).

There will be a reception at Bass Creek following the game.

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SMILES Therapeutic Riding needs volunteers

City of Brodhead, Towns of Avon, Spring Grove, Decatur, Sylvester, Spring Valley and Magnolia

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President - Mike Krupke; **Vice President** - Jim Wahl **Clerk** - Michael Oellerich; **Treasurer** - Al Schneider; Jodi Kail, Elizabeth Kempel, Don Buchanan

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT
District Office Board Room

Wednesday, January 25, 2023
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Board President Mike at 7:01 p.m. The meeting agenda was published in the Wednesday, January 18, 2023 edition of the Independent Register and properly building posted on the same date.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Krupke, Jim Wahl, Michael Oellerich, Al Schneider, Jodi Kail, Elizabeth Kempel, and Don Buchanan [virtually]
 Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA **ACTION ITEM**
 Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Jim Wahl, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
 No one was present to give public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
 a. Special Meeting: January 9, 2023
 b. Regular Meeting: January 11, 2023

2. ACCEPT DONATION(S)
 a. One Ukulele donated by Gary Hallowell to the ES Music Department
 b. \$73.45 monetary donation from Sara Stephenson to the ES Library

3. RESIGNATION(S)
 • None at this time

4. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)
 a. Tami Day, Elementary School Part-Time Night Custodian
 b. Clayton Elmer, Middle School Part-Time Night Custodian
 c. Emily Haydn, Elementary School Part-Time Night Custodian

5. VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)
 a. Daniel Skoumal, JV Baseball

Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Al Schneider, to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried, 7-0.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION – MIDDLE SCHOOL **PRESENTATION ITEM**
 Middle School Principal Dr. Semrow, parent Stephanie Pinnow, and students (Raya Santiago, Logan Krupke, and Beck Benton) presented on the school's new parent PTO group – Teen Connection.

SET OPEN ENROLLMENT SEAT LIMITS FOR 2023-24 **ACTION ITEM**
 Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Al Schneider, to approve the recommendation there be a seat limit for 5th grade set (0 seats available) for the 2023-24 school year as presented. Motion carried, 7-0.

DISCUSSION OF TEACHING STAFF COMPENSATION MODEL **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM**
 Motion by Elizabeth Kempel, second by Jodi Kail, to create an ad hoc committee to review the teaching staff compensation model (four teachers, two Board members, Superintendent Novy, and Comptroller Cathy Pfeuti). Motion carried, 6-0-1 [M. Oellerich abstained].

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH NEOLA **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM**
 Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Jodi Kail, to approve the Neola Contract for Bylaws and Policies using Option 1 as presented, in the total amount of \$16,150, and utilizing ESSER funds for the payment. Motion carried, 7-0.

SETTING UP A REFERENDUM COMMITTEE **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM**
 Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Elizabeth Kempel, to approve the creation of a Facility Planning Committee. Motion carried, 7-0.

APPROVAL OF WIAA SPORTS CO-OP RENEWALS **ACTION ITEM**
 Motion by Jim Wahl, second by Elizabeth Kempel, to approve the sports co-op renewals as presented. Motion carried, 7-0.

FUTURE AGENDA [February 8, 2023]
 • Accept Donation(s)
 • Resignation(s)
 • Employment Recommendation(s)
 • Volunteer Recommendation(s)
 • Facility Planning Committee Update
 • Approval of Summer School Timelines & Guidelines

ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(f) **ACTION ITEM**
 Motion by Jim Wahl, second by Al Schneider, to go into Closed Session under WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(f) at 7:43 p.m. for the discussion of:
 a. Approval of Alternative Open Enrollment Applications
 b. Support Staff Compensation

Roll Call vote: All ayes (7-0).

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION **ACTION ITEM**
 Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Al Schneider, to return to open session at 7:58 p.m.
 Motion carried, 6-0.

ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS **ACTION ITEM**
 Motion by Michael Oellerich, second by Jodi Kail, to approve two alternate open enrollment applications as presented. Motion carried, 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT **ACTION ITEM**
 Motion by Jodi Kail, second by Elizabeth Kempel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.
 Motion carried, 6-0.

The Independent Register
 2/15/2023
 WNAXLP 432865

As SMILES gears up for a busy Spring session, beginning April 1, they are looking for new volunteers to add to their team.

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is ‘What are you doing for others?’”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

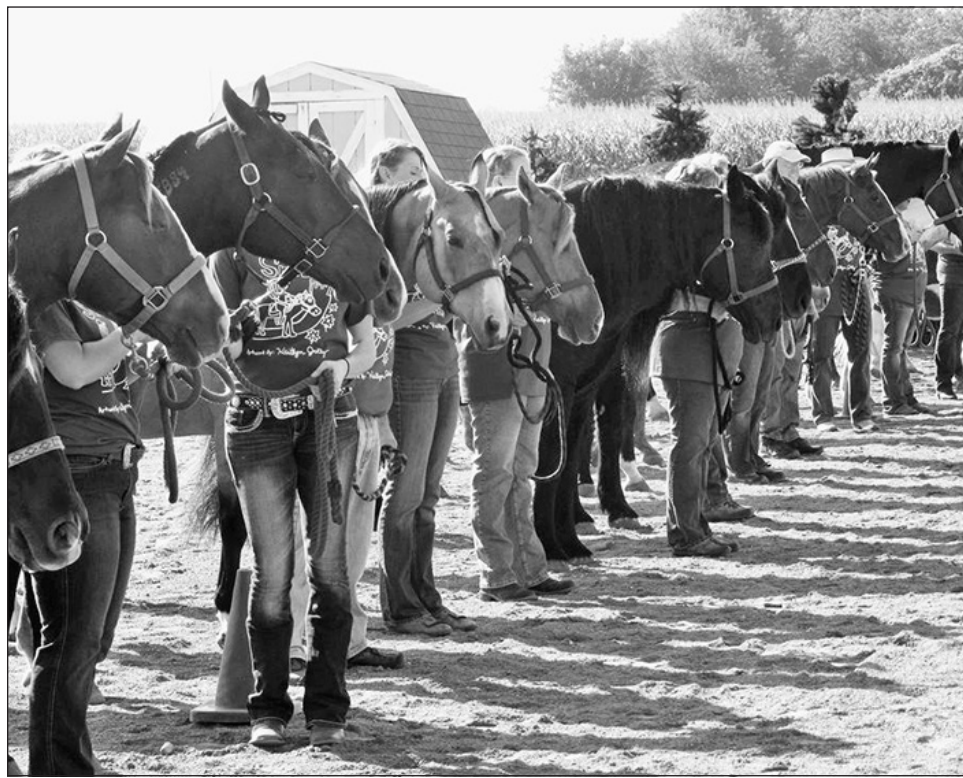
They urge you to reflect on the question above and consider acting.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can help, please join them for a New Volunteer Open House on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

This is a great way to learn about the different areas of volunteering that are available, and to see their program in action. With a commitment of only one hour per week, you CAN make a difference.

To RSVP for the Open House, please fill out the form on the S.M.I.L.E.S. Facebook page.

Volunteers must be at least 15 years old.



COURTESY PHOTO Brodhead Independent Register

Volunteer to make a difference in someone’s life through horse therapy.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED pursuant to Sec. 75.12 Wisconsin Statutes

Owners of the lands hereinafter described: You are hereby notified that Green County is the owner and holder of each and all of the master tax sale certificate items hereinafter identified, covering premises situated in Green County, Wisconsin, sold by the County Treasurer of said county, in said state, for non-payment of taxes. Said lands are described as follows, with the sums for which each tract was sold, year of sale, year of tax, master certificate item number and date of certificate set opposite each description.

Owner: Brandon Frasure; (1) Tax Parcel No.: 23012 12250000; Legal Description: DECATUR LAKE ESTATES LOT 57; Year of Sale: 2021; Year of Tax: 2018; Master Certif. Item No.: 5895; Date of Certif.: 9/1/2021; Amount Sold for: \$176.37; (2) Tax Parcel No.: 23012 12240000; Legal Description: DECATUR LAKE ESTATES LOT 56; Year of Sale: 2021; Year of Tax: 2018; Master Certif. Item No.: 5894; Date of Certif.: 9/1/2021; Amount Sold for: \$173.16

Owner: J.J.S. OF BRODHEAD, LLC C/O TODD J SCHULTZ; (1) Tax Parcel No.: 23012 13760000; Legal Description: GOLF COURSE ESTATES LOT 41; Year of Sale: 2021; Year of Tax: 2018; Master Certif. Item No.: 5898; Date of Certif.: 9/1/2021; Amount Sold for: \$152.31 (2) Tax Parcel No.: 23012 13770000; Legal Description: GOLF COURSE ESTATES LOT 42; Year of Sale: 2021; Year of Tax: 2018; Master Certif. Item No.: 5899; Date of Certif.: 9/1/2021; Amount Sold for: \$152.31

Owner: Maureen Shrier; Tax Parcel No.: 23206 12210000; Legal Description: DICKSONS ADD BLOCK 34, LOT 7; S 22 FT LOT 8; Year of Sale: 2020; Year of Tax: 2017; Master Certif. Item No.: 5728; Date of Certif.: 9/1/2020; Amount Sold for: \$1,848.64

You are further notified that the amount for which the tract or parcel above identified was sold will bear interest at one percent per month or fraction of a month from January 1 of the year of sale of the respective master certificate items, plus ½ percent penalty per month as provided by law, and that after the expiration of three months from the service of this notice upon you, application for tax deed will be made.

FOR TOTAL DUE CALL 608-328-9430

Dated at Monroe, Wisconsin this 30th day of January, 2023.
 Arianna L. Voegell,
 Green County Clerk
 The Independent Register
 2/1, 2/8, 2/15/2023
 WNAXLP 432315

CITY OF BRODHEAD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

7:00 P.M.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by the City of Brodhead Board of Appeals on **Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Brodhead City Hall, 1111 W. 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, to consider the following request for variance to the zoning/building codes:

Request by Scott Cook for a variance to **1402 17th Street**. The applicant is requesting a second driveway to be constructed to his detached garage from West 6th Ave. Per ordinance chapter 236, only one driveway is permitted in residential property. Legal description is: **Original Plat Block 210 Lots 1 & 2**

Request by Midwest WI, LLC & Peter Oleszczuk for a variance to **parcel 210 01912501 (vacant lot South East Corner of Hwy 11 & Hwy 104)**. The applicant is requesting a variance reduce the number of required parking stalls from 86 to 50. Legal description is: **PT NW ¼ Crosswinds Lot 1**

All persons, their agents or attorneys will be given an opportunity to be heard in relation thereto.

Nikolai Wahl, City Clerk
 City of Brodhead

The Independent Register
 2/15, 2/22/2023
 WNAXLP 432806

AGENDA

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM 2501 West 5th Avenue, Brodhead, WI

6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I. REVIEW BUILDING & GROUNDS PRIORITY LIST AND COST ESTIMATES

II. SELECT PROJECTS TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL BOARD FOR APPROVAL

III. ADJOURN

The Independent Register
 2/15/2023
 WNAXLP 432867

AGENDA

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM 2501 West 5th Avenue, Brodhead, WI

JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET:
<https://meet.google.com/oiv-jiji-thn>

JOIN BY TELEPHONE:
 +1 727-325-2066
 (PIN: 996403637)

I. CALL TO ORDER
 II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 III. ROLL CALL
 IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

AGENDA

VI. CONSENT AGENDA
 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 2. ACCEPT DONATION(S)
 3. RESIGNATION(S)
 4. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)
 5. VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)

VII. SAFE CLUB PRESENTATION

VIII. MID-YEAR GOALS PRESENTATION

IX. FACILITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

X. FUTURE AGENDA

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The Independent Register
 2/15/2023
 WNAXLP 432868

NOTICE OF TESTING TOWN OF AVON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN there will be a public test of electronic voting equipment on Thursday, February 16th, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the Avon Town Hall, 16513 W. Beloit Newark Road, Brodhead, WI, which will be used at the Spring Primary on February 21st, 2023.

Stephanie Schwartzlow
 Avon Town Clerk

The Independent Register
 2/15/2023
 WNAXLP 432972

TOWN OF DECATUR NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

VILLAGE OF ORFORDVILLE LOCATIONS AND HOURS OF POLLING PLACE

At the February 21, 2023 Primary Election, in the Village of Orfordville, the following polling place locations will be used for the wards indicated:

LOCATION	WARDS
Orfordville Village Hall 303 E. Beloit Street Orfordville, WI 53576	Wards 1 & 2

THE POLLING PLACE WILL BE OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk.

Sherri Waege
 Village Clerk
 608-879-2004

The Independent Register
 2/15/2023
 WNAXLP 432861

Notice is hereby given that the Public Test of the voting equipment to be used at the **Spring Primary Election on Tuesday, February 21, 2023** for the Town of Decatur will be conducted at the Decatur Town Hall, 1408 14th Street, Brodhead, WI on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023 AT 1:00P.M.**

Sandra K McManus
 Clerk/Treasurer

The Independent Register
 2/15/2023
 WNAXLP 432971

TOWN OF DECATUR TOWN BOARD MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023 – 6:00PM DECATUR TOWN HALL 1408 -14TH- STREET, BRODHEAD, WI 53520

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Treasurer’s Report
6. Payment of Bills
7. Citizen Concerns
8. Land Division Request – Ronald & Darlene Schwartzlow
9. Land Division Request – Jeff Murray
10. Review Appraiser Contract
11. Request for Reimbursement for Refuse Containers – Curtis Jones
12. Culvert Placement on Greenbush Road for Pinnacle Dairy
13. Roadwork
14. Review Fees for Annual Audit
15. Set Dates for Open Book and Board of Review
16. Fire District Update
17. Sharing of Information/Correspondence
18. Future Agenda Items
19. Set Dates for Future Meetings
20. Adjournment

Sandra K. McManus
 Clerk/Treasurer

The Independent Register
 2/15/2023
 WNAXLP 432970

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40+ Nazi WWII Handguns & more!

Sunday, Feb. 19 - Military relics including helmets, uniforms, edged weapons, medals, books, and more!

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Gov. Evers to deliver on promise of 10% middle-class tax cut

Budget to deliver more than \$1.2 billion in targeted tax relief to working class and more

Gov. Tony Evers announced Feb. 12, provisions in his 2023-25 biennial budget that will deliver on the governor's promise made last August to fight for a 10% middle-class tax cut. The plan aims to build upon income tax cuts signed by Gov. Evers since taking office that have returned \$1.4 billion annually to taxpayers by delivering more than \$1.2 billion in targeted tax relief to working families, parents, veterans, caregivers, seniors, and student loan borrowers, among others, while limiting tax giveaways to wealthy earners.

"I promised the people of this state I'd fight to deliver a 10% tax cut for middle-class and working families, and today, I'm proud to deliver on that promise. I've said all along that we'd deliver real, responsible tax relief targeted to the middle class and working families—not spending big on breaks for the wealthiest 20% of earners in our state who don't need the extra help affording rising costs," said Gov. Evers.

"I'm proud to have signed one of the largest tax cuts in state history and to have kept my promise to provide a 15% tax cut for middle-class families during my first term in office, and with this budget proposal, we're going to build on that work so we can keep taxes low now and into the future responsibly and without driving our state into debt or causing devastating cuts to priorities like public schools or public safety."

Over the course of his first term, Gov. Evers more than delivered on the promise he made before being elected governor in 2018 to provide a 10%, middle-class tax cut. In the 2021-23 biennial budget, the governor signed one of the largest tax cuts in Wisconsin state history, providing \$2 billion in individual income tax relief over the biennium and approximately \$1 billion annually going forward. When combined with the tax cuts Gov. Evers signed in the 2019-21 biennial budget, as well as 2019 Wisconsin Act 10, 86% of Wisconsin taxpayers have seen an income tax cut of 15% or more, with 2.4 million taxpayers getting relief.

Additionally, Gov. Evers last year directed the Wisconsin Department of Revenue to revise its withholding tax tables, changing how much income employers withhold from an employee's paycheck in taxes. Based on these directed changes and Gov. Evers' prior tax cuts, over the course of the last year, a single filer making \$50,000 will have seen \$551 more in their paychecks while a married couple each earning \$50,000 combined will have seen over \$1,200 more for their household in their paychecks.

Gov. Evers' tax plan announced today draws stark contrast to a Republican-backed flat tax proposal to give enormous breaks to wealthy millionaires and billionaires rather than prioritizing relief for working families. Based on available details, Republicans' plan would provide more than \$3.5 billion in tax breaks to the wealthiest 20% of Wisconsin tax filers, which is nearly four times what the remaining 80% of filers would see combined. All told, nearly 80% of the flat tax plan will benefit

the top 20% of earners who file taxes in Wisconsin.

A breakdown of the governor's proposals to create a fairer tax code, provide tax relief to working families, and limit special tax giveaways that primarily benefit the highest earners is available below.

Providing long-term tax relief for working families

Income tax cuts signed by Gov. Evers since he took office have returned \$1.4 billion annually to taxpayers, overwhelmingly to the middle class.

The governor's 2023-25 biennial budget proposals add approximately \$1.2 billion over the biennium in tax relief for low- and middle-income Wisconsinites, especially those with kids and those who provide care to family members. The governor's proposals include:

Creating a nonrefundable Family and Individual Reinvestment (FAIR) Credit, which would cut taxes by 10% for single filers at or below \$100,000 in annual adjusted gross income and married-joint filers at or below \$150,000.

The credit would gradually phase out for single filers with adjusted gross incomes between \$100,000 and \$120,000 and married-joint filers with incomes between \$150,000 and \$175,000.

Below the start of the phase-out thresholds, the credit will have a \$100 minimum for single and married-joint filers and a \$50 minimum for married-separate filers.

This will provide total tax relief of \$418.7 million in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$420.9 million in fiscal year 2024-25, with over 1.9 million Wisconsin tax filers seeing an average tax cut of over \$200 annually.

Increasing Wisconsin's Supplemental Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for working families with one or two children.

Targeted tax relief through the EITC has been effective in reducing child poverty to help kids succeed, yet Wisconsin's credit for those with one or two children lags most other states and should be increased.

Beginning with tax year 2023, the governor's budget will increase the percentage of the federal credit that filers with one dependent child may claim from 4% to 16% and increase the percentage that filers with two children may claim from 11% to 25%.

Under these changes, nearly 200,000 filers with children will receive total tax relief of \$60.7 million in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$63.8 million in fiscal year 2024-25, and the average tax relief for these taxpayers will be over \$300 annually.

Expanding the current state Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit from 50% of the federal credit to 100% beginning with tax year 2023.

Most people eligible for the credit could receive up to \$600 if they are claiming it for one qualifying individual's expenses or \$1,200 for two or more qualifying individuals' expenses.

This will provide over \$27 million annually in tax relief to over 100,000 Wisconsin taxpayers at an average benefit of over \$260 per filer.

Creating a caregiver tax credit equal to 50% of the qualifying expenses incurred by those providing care or support to adult family members requiring assistance with one or more daily activities, limited to \$500 in a tax year.

For single filers, the credit will be available for those with incomes up to \$75,000, subject to a phase-out for those with incomes between \$75,000 and \$85,000. The credit will be available to married-joint filers with incomes up to \$150,000, subject to a phase-out for those with incomes between \$150,000 and \$170,000.

This will result in \$96.7 million in tax relief in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$98.3 million in fiscal year 2024-25, providing an estimated 240,000 taxpayers with an average tax cut of nearly \$400.

Qualifying expenses under the credit include modifications to a dwelling for the care or support of a family member, purchase or lease of assistance equipment, and acquisition of goods or services or support to assist in caring for a qualified family member.

Providing targeted tax relief for seniors and veterans

The governor's budget proposal provides targeted property tax relief by:

Enhancing the Homestead Credit to provide increased property tax relief to lower-income Wisconsinites, particularly seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Over the years, Republicans have eroded the value of the state's Homestead Credit by failing to adjust the credit for inflation, and due to inflationary adjustments in Social Security benefits, the number of senior claimants of the Homestead Credit has been greatly reduced in recent years.

The governor's budget will increase the maximum eligible household income under the program from \$24,680 to \$35,000 and restore indexing for the credit beginning with tax year 2023, which is vital for those on fixed income streams such as Social Security or disability payments.

Beneficiaries will see approximately \$100 million in targeted property tax relief over the biennium through this expansion of the Homestead Credit.

Expanding the Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit to include renters and increasing availability of the credit to those with disability ratings in excess of 70%.

This proposal would extend the credit for renters at the rate of 20% for those with heat included in their rent and 25% for those without heat included in their rent.

In total, these provisions will provide \$26.2 million in relief in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$27.3 million in fiscal year 2024-25. This proposal was previously announced along with the governor's other budget investments to support Wisconsin's 300,000 veterans.

Protecting student loan borrowers

Keeping his promise to student loan borrowers, the governor's budget will include adopting federal tax changes that would ensure

federal student debt relief received by Wisconsinites would not be subject to state taxes. The federal ARPA exempted student debt relief from being subject to taxation until 2026, but unlike residents of more than 40 other states, Wisconsinites who qualify for student debt relief will be subject to state income tax if current law is not changed per the governor's recommendation. More than 300,000 Wisconsinites have applied and been fully approved for student loan debt relief under President Biden's plan, and the governor believes they should not be penalized for receiving that relief.

The governor's budget also adopts most of the major remaining provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which have resulted in increased tax collections in the numerous other states that automatically adopted them. These provisions will raise \$187.6 million in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$200.6 million in fiscal year 2024-25.

Providing tax relief for Wisconsin businesses

Small businesses make up more than 99% of Wisconsin businesses, employ nearly half of Wisconsin workers, and are more likely to hire locally, buy supplies locally, and reinvest in local communities.

Supporting small businesses has been key to Gov. Evers' successful economic recovery efforts and remains a key priority in his plans to bolster Wisconsin's workforce and maintain the economy's momentum. A recent 2023 report shows that, as a share of aid Wisconsin received under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Wisconsin ranks number one in the country for both aid Gov. Evers directed to support businesses and aid the governor directed toward economic development.

In his 2023-25 budget, the governor is continuing his support for small businesses and providing them with additional tax relief by:

Fully repealing Wisconsin's outdated personal property tax and providing more than \$200 million in tax relief for businesses.

The governor has long supported repealing this burdensome tax on businesses, and because this provision also provides \$202.4 million in fiscal year 2024-25 to compensate all local taxing jurisdictions for the reduction in their property tax bases, homeowners will be protected from any shift in property tax burden.

Payments to local governments to offset the reduction in property taxes will continue and increase with inflation.

Increasing the refundable share of the research credit for businesses from 15% under current law to 50% beginning in tax year 2024.

This increase will provide \$16.1 million in tax relief to businesses in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$64.4 million annually beginning in fiscal year 2024-25, further incentivizing critical research and development spending by Wisconsin businesses and improving their competitiveness in developing new products.

Refundability of the re-

search credit is important because many of the most innovative start-up companies do not have the tax liability to offset with a nonrefundable credit. Providing enhanced refundability gives new firms a meaningful incentive to conduct research in Wisconsin.

Creating a fairer tax code

The governor's proposal ensures the wealthiest earners in Wisconsin pay their fair share by minimizing special tax breaks that primarily benefit millionaires and billionaires while generating the ongoing revenue needed to invest in key priorities like public safety, infrastructure, and K-12 schools. Gov. Evers' tax fairness proposals include:

Limiting the manufacturing portion of the Manufacturing & Agriculture Credit to only apply to the first \$300,000 in qualified production activities income for each firm qualifying for the credit and preserving the agricultural portion of the credit as it is under the current law.

This credit has failed to demonstrate any measurable success at increasing Wisconsin's share of national manufacturing employment or increasing wages in the manufacturing sector while costing the state more than \$400 million a year.

Wisconsin's relative standing in manufacturing wages has declined, with Wisconsin manufacturing workers only ranking 34th among the 50 states for average annual wages.

Meanwhile, in tax year 2021, a mere 7,560 taxpayers—approximately 0.3 percent of all individual income tax filers with a net tax liability—claimed the manufacturing portion of the credit for a total of \$402.4 million, approximately \$53,300 per claimant.

Sixty-seven percent of the total tax break went to taxpayers with incomes greater than \$1 million, and more

•Farmers (Continued from page 3)

attendees. There will be a panel of local farmers that have been no-tilling for many years. They will share what they've learned and tips for beginners to get into the practice. There will be information on a biomass sampling project that was started this past fall to analyze the nutrients in the cover crops. After a hot and delicious lunch prepared by the Albany Lions Club, DNR personnel will update the audience on the health of the Sugar River. Farmers will get a chance to learn different methods to test their own soil for stability. There will be a few farmers that talk about their non-conventional ways of using manure better. The day will wrap up

•Wrestling (Continued from page 5)

Haugen 6-4 received a bye. in the 3rd place match at 132# Ian Suer 36-9 over Luke Hartz (Johnson Creek) 6-3. The 1st place match at 138# Evan Suer 28-15 over Tait Glassmaker (Princeton/Green Lake) 5-1. At 145# 3rd place match Joe Beavers (Hustisford) over Nico Zamora 23-12 fall in 3:16. 152# 5th place match Simo Cenacchi 9-18 over Mikolains (Dodgeland) by med forfeit, 160# 5th place match Hunter Milanowski (Deerfield) over

than half of those claims were to taxpayers with incomes greater than \$5 million. In 2021, approximately 170 claimants with incomes greater than \$5 million claimed \$149.7 million in the manufacturing credit, or nearly \$900,000 per claimant.

Limiting the credit will generate \$348.7 million in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$306.4 million in fiscal year 2024-25, which will be used to offset some of the additional tax relief provided to lower- and middle-income Wisconsinites and support small business growth and development.

Limiting the current 30% long-term capital gains exclusion to individuals with incomes below \$400,000 and married-joint filers with incomes below \$533,000.

This exclusion is another large tax break that primarily benefits a small share of the overall taxpayer population by providing a preferential rate for disproportionately high-income earners on income derived from capital asset sales.

For very high-income Wisconsin taxpayers subject to the highest tax bracket, instead of facing the ordinary 7.65% marginal rate that applies to wage and salary income, investment gains qualifying for the capital gains exclusion have an effective preferential rate of 5.355%. This is only slightly above the marginal tax rate faced by most middle-class taxpayers.

The governor's recommendation preserves the exclusion for all but the highest income earners while continuing to provide relief to ordinary retirees and small investors.

The limits to the 30% long-term capital gains exclusion will raise an estimated \$185.2 million in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$154.2 million in fiscal year 2024-25.

An online version of this release is available content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/34829dd.

with farmers sharing demonstrations and trials they've been trying on their farms. The program is slated to conclude around 3:15 p.m.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP with Tonya Gratz at Tonya.Gratz@wi.nadnet.net or 608-325-4195, extension 121, by Friday, Feb. 17, to make sure there's enough food to feed everyone. There will be a \$10 charge at the door to help offset costs for the day. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has awarded the group a grant through the Producer-Led Watershed Protection program which helps fund educational events such as this.

Jayden Anderson 13-19 fall in 4:17.

At 170# 5th place match Dayton Epps (Rio/Camb-Fries/Fall River/Randolph) over Sean Morales 10-15 forfeit. 1st place match at 182# Jaden Walker (Markesan) over Sam Schwengels 39-3 10-1.

Parkview/Albany ended the conference dual season 6-0. Beating Horicon 46-28, Hustisford 66-15, Palmyra-Eagle 70-0, Dodgeland 68-6, Deerfield 60-24 and Johnson Creek 72-9.