

Brodhead Independent Register

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SHOPPING NEWS

917 W. EXCHANGE STREET, BRODHEAD, WI 53520

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

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Another 'brick' in the wall

Klondike Cheese Company pledges \$1 Million toward YMCA Capital Campaign

Klondike Cheese Company responds to the Colony Brands Foundation's "Drive for Five" challenge in support of the Green County Family YMCA.

A pledged commitment worth \$1 million from Klondike Cheese Company demonstrates the Buholzer family's commitment to their employees and their community. For four generations, Klondike Cheese Company, Producers of Odyssey & Buholzer Brothers Brand, has been crafting a variety of cheeses and yogurts in the rolling hills of Green County on the factory's original site since the late 1800s.

Ron Buholzer, a third-generation Cheesemaker said, "All areas of the country are challenged to find enough employees. If Green County can attract people to our area, it is a plus for everyone. More employees allow business to grow. As the economy grows, this will allow people to open a new business that will offer a greater variety of goods and services for all members of the community. That will attract more people to the area and the growth cycle can continue."

Trent Henning, Executive Director of the YMCA said, "We can't thank the Klondike Cheese Company and the Buholzer family enough for their generosity. They have always been great supporters of the YMCA, but this gift shows how committed they are to building a stronger community here in Monroe and Green County."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent Register

Klondike Cheese Company responded to the Colony Brands Foundation's "Drive for Five" challenge in support of the Green County Family YMCA with a pledged commitment worth \$1 million.

This generous contribution is part of a larger \$30 million campaign that will transform the future of the YMCA. This donation from the Buholzer family now leaves the Green County Family YMCA with less than \$4 million yet to fund-raise. Through the efforts of the Y's Building A Stronger Community Capital Campaign, the YMCA building will be renovated and enlarged to meet the ever-changing needs of YMCA patrons.

Buholzer said, "We believe an expanded facility will enhance the quality of life for our community. It has the potential to help at-

tract new people to the area and also retain existing residents." The YMCA's Capital Project will allow for new and innovative programs that will have a long-lasting impact on the health of people for generations to come. The enhanced facility will include a combination of renovated and newly constructed spaces with the addition of 50,000 square feet. New spaces will include

Childcare and Youth Development Centers, Healthy Living Center, Gymnastics Center, community kitchen, fitness studios, spaces for adults, youth and more.

Henning remarked, "This remarkable \$1 million gift

from Klondike Cheese and the Buholzer Family continues our "Drive for Five" campaign and gets us one step closer to making our project a reality." The YMCA has been serving the citizens of Monroe and Green County since 1981 and offers more than 100 programs for everyone from toddlers to active older adults and seniors. The Building A Stronger Community Capital Campaign will ensure childcare and healthy living needs are met for generations to come. To learn more about the Campaign, or to contribute to the project, visit www.green-countyymca.org/stronger.

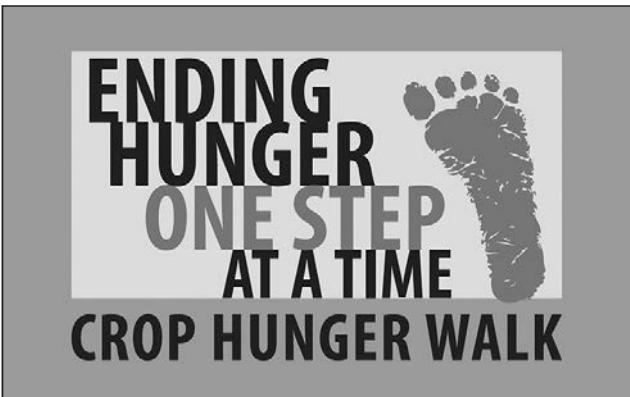
CROP Hunger Walk happening April 30

Rock County area walkers will "Bee the Change" to help end hunger on Sunday, April 30, during the 46th annual Janesville Area CROP Hunger Walk.

Organizers hope to raise \$50,000, and ECHO again will receive 25% of the total amount donated. The remaining funds will help the efforts of Church World Service, a faith-based organization that fights hunger and poverty in communities around the globe.

"Bee the Change" is the theme for this year's walk in recognition of CWS's efforts to help families in Kenya establish bee colonies so they can earn money by harvesting and selling honey. CWS provides families with a set of beehives, supplies to hang the beehives, harvesting equipment, training and honey-processing units.

On April 30, walkers can choose a 5K route that starts at Cargill United Methodist Church, 2000 Wesley Ave., Janesville, makes a loop along Milwaukee Street, Ran-



dall Avenue, Racine Street, through Palmer Park and back to the church via Lexington Drive. A shorter 2.5K route also is available. Registration for the walk will take place from 1 to 1:30 p.m.

Last year's Janesville area walk raised more than \$49,000 with about \$12,250 going to ECHO, a Janesville-based organization that helps provide temporary housing, food and transportation to people in need. Through the years, the Janesville area walk has raised more than \$1.28 million.

Walkers can sign up online

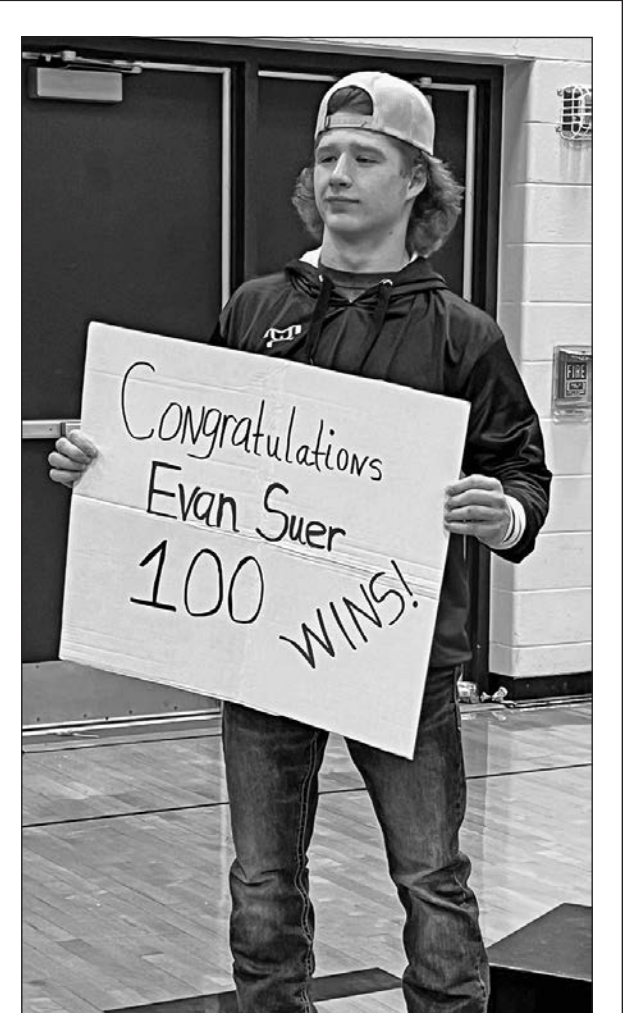
individually or as a team at www.crophungerwalk.org/janesvillewi. Just click on "Register," fill in your details, and you'll find lots of tools to help you get started. There is no registration fee to participate, but walkers are encouraged to collect donations to support the cause.

Sixteen teams participated in the 2022 walk, and organizers hope that number will increase this year. Event coordinator Kathy Holcombe encourages area congregations, businesses and other groups to get involved in the fight to end

hunger. For more information, contact Holcombe at 608-752-8117 or crophjanesville@charter.net.

A breakfast meeting for team captains is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 8:30 a.m., at ECHO, 65 S. High St., Janesville. Recruiting materials will be distributed at the meeting, followed by a tour of ECHO. Captains planning to attend the meeting can RSVP to Holcombe at the number or email listed above.

If you're not available to walk at the event, consider making a tax-deductible online contribution at www.crophungerwalk.org/janesvillewi. Regardless of its size, your gift will help people in your neighborhood and around the world.



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Suer gets 100th win

In the quarter finals at the Belleville regionals recently, Evan Suer from Parkview/Albany got his 100th win with a pin over Wyatt Nelson of Evansville.

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Volunteer executive director of Rock County suicide prevention and safety series retires

Rock County Legislators present bipartisan legislative citation honoring Tony Farrell Sr.

Recently, Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) and Representatives Sue Conley (D-Janesville), Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon), Scott Johnson (R-Jefferson), and Ellen Schutt (R-Canton) presented a legislative citation on behalf of themselves and Senator Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) and Representative Clinton Anderson (D-Beloit) to Anthony "Tony" Farrell Sr.

The Rock County legislators presented the bipartisan legislative citation at the Rock County Board of Supervisors meeting on February 23, following the Board's recognition of Tony.

Tony has served Rock County for over 50 years as a musician, small business owner, advocate, and devoted volunteer, and is retiring in March 2023 as the volunteer executive director of the Rock County Suicide Prevention and Safety Series, where he has worked to spread information and awareness about the warning signs of someone who is contemplating suicide. Tony has also been a constant helpful presence at many



Above: Rep. Jenna Jacobson (far left), Rep. Sue Conley (second from left), Tony Farrell Sr. (center left with citation), Sen. Mark Spreitzer (center right), Rep. Ellen Schutt (second from right), and Rep. Scott Johnson (far right) after citation presentation.

local government meetings and a dedicated volunteer and supporter of many other causes.

Sens. Spreitzer and Nass and Reps. Conley, Anderson, Jacobson, Johnson, and

Schutt were proud to recognize Tony through a bipartisan legislative citation to congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement and thank him for his exceptional contributions to Rock County.

Right: Tony Farrell Sr. speaks at Rock County Board of Supervisors meeting.

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Obituary

ARDELL RAE SWEDLUND

Ardell Rae Swedlund, age 86, passed away while surrounded by her family on Feb. 21, 2023. Her loving husband, Harold, cared for her to the end.

Ardell was born on Aug. 25, 1936, in Arlington, South Dakota, the daughter of Glenn and Evalena (Perry) Thomas. She married Harold Swedlund in Pipestone, MN, on Aug. 21, 1953. They have spent over 70 years together.

Ardell was a member of the Union-Oakley Methodist Church in Juda. She worked for over 15 years at Advance Transformer in Monroe before running an in-home care center for adults at her home for many years. Ardell and Harold have also fostered more than 20 children over the years. Ardell enjoyed crocheting, reading and going to rummage sales in the summer. She spent most of her life caring for others, family, foster children and disabled adults.

Ardell is survived by her husband, Harold; four children, Rocky (Clare) Swedlund, Andy (Marie) Swed-



lund, Judy (Mike) Hale and Sam (Denise) Swedlund; 15 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; four sisters,

Lois Lawler, Louise Solem, Alice Phillips and Myrna Losquadro (John Cullen) and many other nieces, nephews and relatives and friends.

Ardell was preceded in death by her parents, Glenn and Evalena and three brothers-in-law, Dan, Don and Wally.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to the family in ArdeLL's memory.

Funeral services were held at the Union-Oakley United Methodist Church, W2388 Gerber Road, Juda, on Feb. 27. A visitation was also held at the church on from 9 a.m. until the time of service. Burial concluded at the Union-Oakley United Methodist Cemetery.

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

Skidmore and Hendrickson join Main Street Alliance at the capitol

On Feb. 13, over 70 Main Street Alliance member businesses from every corner of Wisconsin gathered for a Day of Action to discuss small business policy matters. They met with 55 legislative offices, the Lieutenant Governor, and the office of the Attorney General. In those meetings, they called for Paid Family Medical Leave, Badgercare expansion with a public option, and Child Care Counts extension. Corrine Hendrickson and Brooke Skidmore were among those who met with Assembly Rep. Bare (D-Verona) and Senator Hesselbein's (D-Middleton) office. Both Representatives along with Green County Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) all fully support those three budget priorities. The remaining four state from the county were noncommittal: Rep. Anderson (D-Beloit), Rep. Jacobson (D-Oregon), Rep. Novak (R-Dodgeville) and Sen. Marklein (R-Spring Green).

Governor Evers formally announced his budget on Feb. 15, and talked about those same priorities and how those investments would decrease the workforce challenges and improve the quality of life for hard working Wisconsinites.

"Over a billion dollars would come in to help Wisconsin meet our needs for our state." Becky Cooper, owner of Bounce Milwaukee stated, "On top of all of that, the benefits cliff where workers cannot take more hours in order to remain eligible for their health insurance is a huge barrier to addressing our workforce challenges. Expanding Badgercare is one of the best ways we can address it."

Hendrickson, who attended the Capital budget address on Feb. 15, stated, "The inclusion of \$340 million for Child Care Counts by the Governor in his budget acknowledges that we

cannot continue to expect parents and early childhood educators to absorb the entire cost burden to educate our children from six weeks to five years. That childcare is workforce development and education combined. I am cautiously optimistic that our legislators will also understand that connection to stabilize the industry and invest accordingly so that parents can access care, the educators are paid better and employers can recruit and retain the skilled employees they need to succeed."

Irene Strohbeen of Strohbeen and Associates in Appleton added, "I am very heartened by the total inclusion in the Governor's budget of Paid Family Medical Leave. It's a great starting point. I hope that the legislature includes this in their version of the budget. It is essential for Wisconsin to remain competitive for young professionals, especially among the other midwestern states."

"We look forward to working across party lines to ensure these provisions are included in the final budget. That is what small business needs now," said Shawn Phetteplace, Midwest Regional Manager for Main Street Alliance.

Join the conversation and learn more about how those priorities impacts the county by joining Skidmore and Hendrickson at the Brodhead Memorial Library on Thursday, March 9, starting at 6 p.m. for a free presentation of a Community Conversation for Change with Brodhead special guests, Lori Sutherland, owner of Little Prairie family child care, and Chelsea Andrews, owner of Little Learners family child care. Or Wednesday, March 15, at the Green County Justice center starting at 6 p.m., with special guests Monroe child care professionals.



Geoff Gaston, staff member of Sen. Hesselbein with Skidmore, Hendrickson and MSA members.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent Register



Rep. Bare and MSA members including Skidmore and Hendrickson.

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I'm a farmer, too – women in agriculture event

Women are a key aspect of the agriculture industry and are responsible for many facets of the farm. This program is geared toward women and the many hats they wear in the agricultural industry. Planning for the unknown, farm biosecurity, telling your farm story, and farm safety topics will be presented.

Presenters and topics will be:

- Planning for the Unknown with Joy Kirkpatrick, Farm Succession Outreach Specialist: Joy will discuss how to organize contingency plans for unexpected events, both short-term disruptions and catastrophic events; and will give a brief primer on what happens to property and other issues when there is no plan at the time of an unexpected event, such as death or disability.

- Farm Biosecurity by Carolyn Ihde, UW-Extension Ag Educator Crawford and Richland Counties: With so many ways for diseases to come in contact with your livestock, implementing a few low-cost biosecurity measures can decrease the risk of transmission and allow for the tracing of disease movement in the case of highly contagious animal disease outbreaks. Take the small steps now to ensure proper biosecurity.

- Telling your farm story with Amanda Cauffman, UW-Extension Regional Livestock Educator – Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette

Counties: Using your farm story to be an Ag Advocate and educate our communities about agricultural practices.

- Farm Safety presented with Jackie McCarville, UW Extension Regional Dairy Educator- Grant Green, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties: Considerations on how to keep children and adults safe on the farm. Exploring the potential hazards and dangerous areas while still having fun on the farm.

Participants will also be completing a craft project while they learn. Craft projects are beef, dairy, sheep, and pig themed. There will also be door prizes.

The event will be Thursday, March 23 in Gays Mills, 9:30 a.m. registration, program begins at 10 a.m. at the Gays Mills Community Commerce Center, 16381 WI 13. RSVP by Thursday, March 16 by calling Crawford County UW Extension, 608-326-0223.

The cost of the program is \$35 dollars and covers materials, lunch, and craft supplies. Checks can be made payable to UW-Extension. RSVP and registration fee is required a week before the program date. We may cancel due to low enrollment, calling those who have registered. Please contact the host county Extension Office for that specific location for more information.



Submitted photo Brodhead Independent Register Above: Assembly Minority Leader Rep. Neubauer and Rep. Bare at the budget address.

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3-Point Challenge

Albany sophomore Abby Hollis qualified for the WIAA 3-Point Challenge at the Girls Basketball State Tournament on March 11th. Hollis is shooting 48.4% from the three-point line and leads Division 5 in three-point makes with 76 so far this season. That mark is also a single season school record, passing the prior season high of 40 set by Payton Wachholz during the 2019-2020 season.

Orfordville looking for event sponsors

The Community Engagement Committee of the Village of Orfordville is looking for sponsors for the Music in the Park and Movie in the Park events held in the summer months. Businesses can sponsor the event on their own or combine with another business and sponsor the event together. Businesses that sponsor will be acknowledged in the advertisements for the event. Music in the Park sponsors will need to book the music and arrange for a food vendor if you wish to have food available. The Community Engagement Committee can assist with finding music performers and also knows of food truck vendors who like to participate in the event. The Community

Engagement Committee will also do the Marketing for the event. Movie in the Park sponsors will only need to arrange for food vendors if they wish to have food available. There is no minimum sponsorship amount. Movies are pre-selected as the Village has to pay licensing fees for each movie that is ordered. The Village hopes to keep these two popular events going and sponsors are needed to be able to do so. Please reach out to the committee at events@orfordville.org for more information. The Committee is open to accepting donations for the events if you don't wish to sponsor the full cost of one event.

Gov. Evers celebrates Public Schools Week, highlights budget plan to do what's best for kids

Gov. Tony Evers recently celebrated the beginning of Public Schools Week by highlighting major investments and initiatives from his 2023-25 biennial budget to support Wisconsin kids and K-12 schools across the state.

As highlighted by Gov. Evers earlier this month and announced during his 2023-25 Biennial Budget Message, the governor's 2023-25 biennial budget proposal provides an increase of more than \$2.6 billion for public schools, including the second largest proposed direct investment in state general aids since the 1995-97 biennium, the largest per pupil adjustments since revenue limits were imposed, and a historic investment in special education. Gov. Evers also proclaimed Feb. 27 through March 3 of this year as "Public Schools Week" in Wisconsin. A copy of the governor's Public Schools Week proclamation is available online.

In his 2023-25 Biennial Budget Message, Gov. Evers outlined his plan to invest in K-12 schools and do what's best for kids.

"I'm also here to tell you that the way we're funding our schools isn't sustainable, either. We need to change that, too. Budgets reflect our priorities, which is why every budget I've ever built began with doing what's best for our kids. This one is no different.

"Now, let's remember where we started. Four years ago, we hadn't seen the largest per pupil revenue limit adjustment or the largest nominal increase in general aid in a decade; in 10 years, not one additional cent had been invested in special education aid; and if I hadn't been here as governor to use my veto pen and take unilateral action, per pupil aid wouldn't have increased by more than \$300 per student.

"So, we've accomplished a lot. And I'm proud of our work. But I've also spent four years asking some people in this building to do more. And I've heard those same people suggest time and again that because of our previous budgets and federal pandemic aid, our kids and our schools have already received enough. I'd like to respond to that tonight.

"On Monday this week, the CDC released its Youth Risk Behavior Survey report. Here's what the data show: in 2021, more than 40% of high school students felt so sad or hopeless nearly every day for at least two weeks in a row that

they stopped doing their usual activities. One in 10 students attempted suicide. One in five students seriously considered attempting suicide.

"And the statistics are especially bleak for teen girls and LGBTQ students. Nearly 60% of teen girls felt persistently sad or hopeless—double the rate for teen boys. Nearly a third of teen girls seriously considered attempting suicide—think about that, that's one in three teen girls. And about 70% of LGBTQ students experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness. More than 20% of LGBTQ students attempted suicide.

"No one who has the privilege of working in this building can read these statistics and say with a straight face that we're already doing enough. Folks, 'enough' will be enough when these are not the statistics we're reading about our kids in the news. It's time to get serious.

"As a governor who's also a grandfather, tonight I am calling on the Legislature to join me in doing what's best for our kids by approving the largest increase in K-12 schools and education in state history.

"I've said before, and I'll say again tonight: our kids can only achieve their full and best potential when they can bring their full and best selves to the classroom. If we want to have a chance at improving our kids' outcomes, then we have to shorten the odds.

"We can start by addressing the statistics I just read to you. Let's make sure every kid in Wisconsin has access to school-based mental health services through our "Get Kids Ahead" initiative. It's the Year of Mental Health, folks. I know we can get this done.

"Here's another easy step we can take: let's make sure kids aren't hungry—yes, ever, but especially at school. My plan is simple: fully fund universal school breakfasts and lunches so that every kid can be focused on their schoolwork and not when or whether they'll eat next.

"These are basic steps we can take to help improve outcomes for our kids so they can come to class coursework-ready. Coupled with our investments and initiatives to bolster our educator pipeline to keep class sizes small and improve financial literacy, math, and reading outcomes across our state, we're going to make sure our kids are ready for success.

"And we're also going to make sure our kids have the skills and tools they need to join the 21st Century workforce we're working to build together. So, I'm going to deliver on my pledge to improve access to computer science education in Wisconsin with a \$10 million investment to bolster computer science education across our state, including requiring high schools to provide this critical instruction. ..."

In September, as students, parents, educators, and staff returned back to school, Gov. Evers, together with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Jill Underly, announced their shared priorities for the 2023-25 budget, which included investments to improve reading and literacy outcomes, expand access to student mental health services and school nutrition, provided financial literacy and out-of-school programming, address educator staffing shortages to help keep class sizes small, and

increase per pupil and special education aids. The governor's 2023-25 biennial budget proposal delivers on these priorities and includes additional supports for Wisconsin kids, including investments to advance computer science education in schools statewide and additional resources for English Learners.

After a decade of disinvestment, Gov. Evers has worked to invest in public education at every level. Under the governor's leadership, the state passed an overdue increase in special education aid—the largest increase in state history, per pupil aid was increased by more than \$300 per student, and Wisconsin's K-12 schools have returned to the top 10 in the country after falling to 18th under previous leadership. In the 2021-23 budget signed by the governor, legislative Republicans finally joined the governor in restoring two-thirds funding for public schools for the first time in two decades, hitting that mark by the end of the biennium. However, the governor was clear that the budget sent to his desk by the Wisconsin State Legislature left much unfinished business in providing the support kids and schools deserved, and in December 2021, Gov. Evers directed an additional \$110 million investment using federal relief funds to provide \$133.72 in supplemental per pupil aid for every Wisconsin school district. In August, Gov. Evers also announced a \$75 million investment using federal relief funds to help schools meet staffing needs, keep classroom sizes small, and provide other direct classroom support.

Despite this significant progress, Gov. Evers knows that many kids and schools are struggling and that the current funding system is not sustainable. During his 2023 State of the State address, Gov. Evers announced he will be delivering on the promise he made before the election to use a portion of the state's more than \$7.1 billion projected surplus to make a historic investment in kids and schools, including providing more than \$270 million over the biennium to make his "Get Kids Ahead" initiative a permanent program to expand access to school-based mental health support for kids in nearly every school district in the state. This, along with the many other bold investments in the governor's proposal, will provide the kind of ongoing, sustainable funding Wisconsin schools need to ensure every kid can be successful.

A list of the governor's updated K-12 initiatives included in the 2023-25 biennial budget proposal is as follows.

Overall investment

To ensure kids and educators have the resources they need to be successful, Gov. Evers is providing an overall state investment of over \$2.6 billion in general and categorical aids for public schools. Gov. Evers' historic education budget proposes:

- \$1 billion over the biennium through the state's general equalization aid formula, the second largest proposed direct investment in state general aids since the 1995-97 biennium;
- A more than \$1 billion increase in special education aid over the biennium, which would increase reimbursement rates to 60 percent in both years of the biennium;

• Granting districts a sizable increase in revenue-raising authority, with per pupil revenue limit increases of \$350 in fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 and an additional \$650 in FY 2024-25—the largest per pupil adjustments since revenue limits were imposed;

• A low revenue ceiling increase of \$450 per pupil in FY 2023-24 and an additional \$750 per pupil in FY 2024-25, increasing revenue limit equity among school districts;

• A combined increase of \$1,000 per pupil over the biennium while keeping the estimated gross school levy increase below one percent on a statewide basis in both fiscal years;

• A per pupil aid investment of \$46.5 million over the biennium, resulting in a \$24 per pupil increase in FY 2023-24 and an additional \$45 per pupil in FY 2024-25;

• Per pupil payment increases of \$374 in FY 2023-24 and another \$695 in FY 2024-25 for independent charter schools and schools participating in a parental choice or special needs scholarship program. These increases are commensurate with the increased spending power provided to public school districts through revenue limit adjustments and per pupil aid increases; and

• Freeze enrollment in schools participating in a parental choice program for school year 2024-25 at year 2023-24 enrollments, allowing families continued access to private schools while affirming the state's commitment to robust funding for Wisconsin's excellent public schools.

Special education

Wisconsin, like its peers across the nation, is experiencing a special education staffing crisis. Special education teachers are 2.5 times more likely to leave the profession than their general education peers. Before Gov. Evers took office, special education funding in Wisconsin had been held flat for a decade, during a period when costs for special education skyrocketed. Under the governor's leadership, the final 2019-21 biennial budget included the largest increase in special education aid in state history. Gov. Evers is now proposing an increase more than 10 times that record-setting amount by:

• Providing a more than \$1 billion investment in special education aid, reaching 60% in both years of the biennium and going beyond his fall proposal with a historic and critical investment of \$491.4 million in FY 2023-24 and \$521.7 million in FY 2024-25; and

• Investing \$1.6 million in FY 2023-24 and \$5.9 million in FY 2024-25 to increase high-cost special education reimbursements, increasing the reimbursement rate from 39.5 percent today to 60% at the end of the biennium.

"Get Kids Ahead" Initiative

Gov. Evers is meeting Wisconsin's student mental health crisis head-on by investing more than \$270 million over the biennium to make his "Get Kids Ahead" initiative a permanent program, including:

• \$117.9 million per year to continue the "Get Kids Ahead" initiative, providing per pupil payments instead of competitive grants;

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Remember to include the 5W's:
Who, what, where, when and why!

Blackhawks hosts annual Soul Food Luncheon



Submitted Photos Brodhead Independent Register
 About 200 people gathered Feb. 21 for Blackhawk Technical College's annual Soul Food Luncheon. The event, which raises money for the college's Diversity Scholarship Fund, was held for the first time in person since February 2020.

About 200 people gathered Feb. 21 for Blackhawk Technical College's annual Soul Food Luncheon. The event, which raises money for the college's Diversity Scholarship Fund, was held for the first time in person since February 2020.

"It's truly wonderful to have so many people together, chatting and enjoying a meal prepared by Blackhawk's Culinary Arts students," said Dr. Tracy Pierner, President of Blackhawk.

Hosted by Blackhawk's Multi-Cultural Alliance, the Student Government Association, the Culinary Arts Department and the BTC Foundation, the Soul Food Luncheon supports scholarships and is a key part of the college's Black History Month celebration.

This year, the event featured musical performances

by LaChelle Newkirk and Harlan Jefferson. Two recipients of the Blackhawk Diversity Scholarship, Jalil Luckey, a Digital Marketing student, and Linh Trinh, a Radiography student, also spoke at the event, which was emceed by Linda Fair, an Academic Advisor at Blackhawk.

The menu included baked/fried chicken, ham, fried catfish, BBQ ribs, okra, candied yams, collard greens, coleslaw, black-eyed peas, macaroni and cheese, cornbread and rolls.

About the Diversity Scholarship

The BTC Foundation established the Diversity Scholarship to foster an environment that appreciates and values an increasingly diverse student body; to increase the recruitment, re-

attention, and graduation of a diverse student body; and to develop student interest, involvement, and leadership in diversity, inclusion, equity, and accessibility initiatives at the College.

The scholarship is, in part, funded by the proceeds of the annual Soul Food Luncheon held every year in February.

Scholarship amounts from \$250 to \$1,000 are awarded to multiple students each semester. Students can be enrolled (or will be enrolling) in any program at Blackhawk and are a member of an underrepresented or marginalized group. Students can either be enrolled as part-time (minimum six credits) or full-time students and must be in good academic standing. This scholarship is available to new or continuing students.

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2023 Dementia education series

Presented by ADRC and Beloit Public Library on March 7

The Aging & Disability Resource Center of Rock County and the Beloit Public Library are offering four dementia education programs in 2023. The first program, Dementia & Brain Health Basics, will be offered on Tuesday, March 7, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the library, which is located at 605 Eclipse Blvd. in Beloit. There is no cost to attend this program.

The March program provides information about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias defining the five most commonly diagnosed dementias and accompanying signs and symptoms. Attendees will also learn about what supports brain health and practical steps to make lifestyle adjustments. Time will be reserved for discussion and questions.

"Education is the key to understanding, reducing stigma and lessening the fears associated with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Armed with information, we can make informed

decisions that can improve our quality of life - with or without a dementia diagnosis", said Karen Tennyson the Dementia Care Specialist for Rock County.

In addition to the Dementia & Brain Health Basics program in March, The ADRC of Rock County and the Beloit Public Library are also offering the following programs for 2023:

- Memory screenings: May 12, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations required.
- Dementia Live Experience: June 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations required.
- Caring for Someone with Dementia, How to Survive the Holidays: Nov. 14, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

For more information about this or any of the programs offered by The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Rock County, please contact Karen Tennyson at 608-741-3615 or karen.tennyson@co.rock.wi.us. When emailing, please include your contact information.

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• Evers (Continued from page 4)

- \$18 million per year to reimburse schools for costs around an expanded list of school mental health professionals; and
- \$580,000 per year for staff training on evidence-based strategies.

Additionally, the governor's investment will provide \$3.6 million in FY 2023-24 and \$7.3 million in FY 2024-25 to allow schools to receive Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth origination costs.

Increased Medicaid Support

Gov. Evers is also recommending modifying Medicaid school-based services to allow participating school districts to retain 100% of the federal funding received for those services as opposed to the 60% share they currently receive. This will result in school districts receiving an estimated additional \$112 million of federal funding over the biennium.

Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids

Gov. Evers has long maintained that a kid who's hungry isn't going to be able to focus on their studies or in the classroom, and his budget proposal makes critical investments to provide universal breakfast and lunch and engage local farmers and producers in the school meal marketplace. The governor's plan includes:

- Creating the *Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids* program, an initiative aimed at improving student health and reducing hunger by investing \$120.2 million in FY 2024-25 to fully fund school breakfasts and lunches for all children;
- Providing \$4.3 million in FY 2023-24 and \$4.7 million

in FY 2024-25 to increase the school breakfast reimbursement rate to 15 cents per meal and extending eligibility for the reimbursement to independent charter schools and state residential schools operated by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI); and

- Incentivizing schools to support Wisconsin farmers, food producers, and local economies by providing \$2.75 million in FY 2024-25 for an enhanced 10 cents reimbursement per meal for those including locally sourced foods.

Literacy and Improving Reading Outcomes

Gov. Evers' is honoring his commitment to improving reading and literacy rates statewide by investing:

- \$10 million per year to fund comprehensive training for 28 new coaches in literacy and 28 new professionals in early reading instruction practices, designed to focus on school reading instruction improvement and early childhood; and
- \$4.9 million over the biennium to engage multiple stakeholders and strategies, including: \$1.4 million for The Literacy Lab; \$3 million for the Wisconsin Reading Corps; and \$500,000 for Reach out and Read.

This budget also provides \$742,500 per year for Wisconsin Literacy to conduct adult literacy activities, including expert trainings, personalized consultations, and workforce connections.

Gov. Evers believes that strong financial literacy and mathematics curriculum will

Financial Literacy, Mathematics, and Computer Science

Gov. Evers believes that strong financial literacy and mathematics curriculum will

provide a strong foundation for students' financial futures. This budget invests in financial literacy and mathematics curriculum training by:

- Introducing a new "Do the Math" personal finance initiative, allocating \$2.5 million per year to help schools start or improve programs around financial literacy curriculum and innovative instruction practices; and
- Providing \$10 million in FY 2024-25 to the Milwaukee Math Partnership, a collaboration among the Milwaukee Public Schools district, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Area Technical College focused on the implementation of mathematics curriculum and professional development for current and aspiring Milwaukee teachers.

In 2022, Gov. Evers signed the National Governors Association Computer Science Compact, pledging to improve access to computer science instruction in Wisconsin's K-12 schools. Gov. Evers understands that equitable access to computer science instruction is critical to student success and the state's future. The governor's plan includes:

- Funding a statewide computer science education coordinator through DPI, allocating \$20,000 in FY 2024-25 for a computer science education task force, and providing \$5 million annually for grants to school districts to access computer science curriculum, particularly around programming concepts and professional development; and
- Creating a statutory requirement that each Wisconsin high school provide at least one computer science course.

Supporting English Learners

Gov. Evers' budget improves school capacity to support English Learners by investing:

- \$8.2 million in FY 2023-24 and \$14.2 million in 2024-25 to increase reimbursement of costs for schools with higher concentrations of English Learners from 7.9% to 20% by the end of the biennium; and
- More than \$25.9 million per year for a new Aid for English Language Acquisition program and \$310,500 over the biennium to formalize the process for Wisconsin English learners to earn a Seal of Biliteracy and support districts that assist students in achieving this seal.

The governor's budget also invests \$200,000 per year for a grant program administered by DPI to reimburse expenses incurred by school districts that choose to change race-based mascots and logos.

Teacher Workforce

Gov. Evers' budget creatively approaches the teacher shortage to help keep class sizes small and improve student outcomes by investing:

- \$5 million in FY 2024-25 for grants to support "grow your own" educator programming, which may include providing current employees with funding to pursue additional higher education credits, licenses, or certifications, engaging with community organizations, and supporting student organizations with "future teacher" missions; and
- \$9.4 million in FY 2024-25 to provide stipends to student teachers and interns, \$2 million in FY 2024-25 to provide stipends to teachers who agree to train and oversee student teachers or interns, and \$50,000 in FY 2024-25 for stipends to school library interns.

Gov. Evers knows the value experienced teachers provide to their communities and leverages that value amid the shortage by proposing to authorize state agencies and local units of government, including schools, to hire a retired annuitant teacher under certain circumstances to address workforce recruitment and retention issues. This will make it easier to hire experienced educators and staff.

Gov. Evers' budget proposes \$24,100 in FY 2023-24 and \$49,400 in FY 2024-25 to increase Wisconsin Grants for Tribal college students by 5% in the first year and another 5 percent in the second year.

Supporting Tribal Partners

The governor's budget also invests \$200,000 per year for a grant program administered by DPI to reimburse expenses incurred by school districts that choose to change race-based mascots and logos.

Gov. Evers knows that the opioid epidemic is affecting communities, families, and schools throughout the state, and his 2023-25 budget proposal establishes a requirement that every school in Wisconsin have opioid antagonists on hand in the event of a suspected opioid drug overdose.

Additional Student Supports

Gov. Evers' budget provides supports for students before, during, and after school by investing \$20 million in FY 2024-25 for out-of-school time grants, enhancing offerings from schools and communities to help kids avoid risky and dangerous behaviors, keep kids engaged in their coursework, and provide homework assistance. This budget also provides \$2 million per year to Graduation Alliance, which works to re-engage students at risk of not finishing high school.

Driver's Education

Gov. Evers knows the lack of Driver's Education fund-

ing has impacted students, families, and the safety of roads. That is why this budget provides \$6.5 million in FY 2024-25 to subsidize the cost of providing driver's education to economically disadvantaged students. This provision was also announced as part of the governor's initiatives to address reckless driving.

Career and Postsecondary Opportunities

This budget provides \$500,000 in FY 2024-25 to pay General Education Development testing costs and increase high school equivalency attainment to open doors for employment and postsecondary opportunities. In addition, this budget provides \$704,000 over the biennium to continue support for contract costs related to academic and career planning for pupils in grades 6-12.

Prevent Opioid Overdoses

Gov. Evers knows that the opioid epidemic is affecting communities, families, and schools throughout the state, and his 2023-25 budget proposal establishes a requirement that every school in Wisconsin have opioid antagonists on hand in the event of a suspected opioid drug overdose.

Encouraging Family and Outdoor Engagement

Gov. Evers' budget provides \$243,600 per year to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to provide fee waivers for annual admissions receipts to state parks for the families of fourth-grade students, aligning state parks with the national Every Kid Outdoors program.

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DATCP recruiting students for next Agriculture Youth Council

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is accepting applications for the next Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council. High school students who will be seniors during the 2023 – 2024 school year should apply now for the council.

The purpose of the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council is to encourage young people to engage with state government and increase their awareness of DATCP's interactions with Wisconsin's agriculture industry. Students serve a one-year term and receive a certificate at the completion of their term.

"In the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council I was showered with many topics, which allowed me to expand upon my love for animals and learn about different ways DATCP is involved in the industry," said Arionna Harris, a council member from Milwaukee. "Being on the council makes you want to become a member of DATCP itself!"

The goals of the council are to highlight agricultural-related careers, share resources available for farmers, provide insight in agricultural policy development, and increase networking opportunities for participants. Members participate in virtual monthly sessions to listen to presentations, engage in discussions, and connect with professionals across the agriculture industry.

"The Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council allows me to share my opinions and learn about the many parts of government that are involved with Wisconsin agriculture," added Henry Larson, a council member from Reedsburg. "The members I have been on the council with have unique

viewpoints on agriculture that have made this great learning experience that much more complete."

The council is comprised of 15 members. DATCP seeks to have at least one member from each of the nine council districts. The remaining seats are filled with at-large members. A map and listing of which counties are located in each of the nine districts is available at AgYouthCouncil.wi.gov.

"The Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council has been a great opportunity to become involved with the government as a young agriculture enthusiast," explained Jacob Harbaugh, a council member from Marion. "I have established relationships with other members that I will be able to use in my professional life after school, and learn about all various sectors of Wisconsin agriculture that are important to our state's economy."

To apply, students must complete an application form, which includes a brief essay sharing their involvement in agriculture and how their Council participation will benefit their future education or career plans. Applicants must also submit a one-minute video and letter of recommendation.

"The Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council has been a truly impactful experience," concluded Claire Esselman, a council member from Clinton. "I received insight from the monthly meetings on future careers and educational paths geared toward my interest. I recommend the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council to those who aspire to pursue agriculture or to learn more about the industry."

DATCP will accept applications through March 31, 2023. To access the application and additional information, visit AgYouthCouncil.wi.gov.

In brief

Personal safety presentation for Footville and Orfordville area senior citizens

Learn How to prevent internet and telephone scams, ensure personal safety, prevent internet and telephone scams in a presentation sponsored by Brian N. Raupp, Footville, Chief of Police, on Thursday, March 9, 2 p.m., at New Horizon United Methodist Church, 1726 S. Murphy Rd. (Between Footville and Orfordville, off Hwy 11).

Parkview School District nature events Spring Woodland Wildflower Survey, May 6

For nature-lovers, there is no better way to celebrate the final arrival of spring than a hike in the woods to observe the blooms of spring woodland wildflowers led by David Bendlin. A program will be held at the Sunny Peace Prairie, 2604 S. Coon Island Road, Orfordville, on May 6 beginning at 2 p.m. On this walk, we'll be doing an initial survey of the wooded portion of the Sunny Peace Prairie nature reserve looking for the blooms of Dutchman's breeches, hepaticas, violets, spring beauty, anemones and other spring wildflowers. Dependent on the yearly variation in bloom time, there might also be columbine, jack in the pulpit and wild geranium.

The program will last one hour. Questions, please contact the Parkview School District at 608 879-2717.

Prairie Nature Program, July 15

Have you ever observed a plant or heard a bird call and wondered, "What is that?" Your cellphone has the answer. A program will be held

at the Sunny Peace Prairie, 2604 S. Coon Island Road, Orfordville, on July 15 beginning at 11 a.m., introducing two cellphone apps which identify plants and bird calls. The apps are Seek by iNaturalist, and BirdNET from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The program will cover the use of these two apps followed by a scavenger hunt for practice. Download these two free apps ahead of time from your favorite app store, and bring your cell phone to the event or pair up with someone who has a phone.

The program will last less than two hours and be held regardless of weather. What is a little rain to lovers of nature. Questions, please contact the Parkview School District at 608-879-2717.

Sen. Mark Spritzer and Rep. Clinton Anderson announce budget listening sessions

Sen. Mark Spritzer (D-Beloit) and Rep. Clinton Anderson (D-Beloit) announced listening sessions in Beloit, Evansville, and Brodhead to discuss Wisconsin's 2023-2025 State Budget and any other state issue.

"With a record state surplus, this budget presents a critical opportunity to shape our state's future. We hope that residents will attend these listening sessions to hear about the budget process and share their thoughts about the Governor's budget proposal," said Spritzer.

"The Governor's Budget contains much needed investments in education, shared revenue for local governments, and help for working families. I'm excited to be part of a community conversation on how this budget will work for the

people of the 45th district," said Anderson.

The details for the budget listening sessions are:

- Brodhead: Thursday, March 23, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Brodhead Memorial Public Library, Large Program Room, 1207 25th St., Brodhead.
- Beloit: Wednesday, March 8, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Beloit Public Library, Riverside Room, 605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit.
- Evansville: Saturday, March 18, 1 to 2 p.m., Creekside Place, Lounge, 102 Maple St., Evansville.

Economic boost expected as in-person live events return to local venue

The Janesville Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses – one of 45 in the US – will return to full operation next month, as more than 800 people attend the first in-person religious conference held there in nearly three years. This event will drive an economic boost to the community, according to the Janesville Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Among the attendees will be Reedsburg man Pat O'Brien, who remembers not only attending conferences there for 45 years, but also helping to construct the building.

Residents of Madison, surrounding counties, and much of Southern Wisconsin will attend two to three events over the course of 2023, contributing to the estimated 45,000 attendees at 45 events and the \$2.8 million economic impact.

For further information contact Richard K. Borden, Public Communications Representative, 608-347-9154, richardborden@rcm-tool.org.

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Brodhead School District is accepting proposals for HVAC/BAS upgrades for District facilities.

Brodhead School District
2501 W. 5th Ave.
Brodhead, WI 53520

ANTICIPATED RFP AND CONTRACT TIMELINES

Interested parties may tour the District facilities by appointment prior to the bid deadline.

RFP Due Date: March 17, 2023. Selection will be made on April 12, 2023.

Preference will be given to those firms who can guarantee a Project Completion (100%) by June 30, 2023 to be considered.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Brodhead School District is seeking to install HVAC/BAS upgrades in the Brodhead High School. All information in regard to specifications can be obtained by contacting the School District.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Questions related to this RFP should be submitted to Chad Dix, Building and Grounds Director by phone: (608) 897-2141 or email: cdix@brodhead.k12.wi.us, no later than 96 hours before the proposal due date and time. Responses will be issued no later than 48 hours before the proposal due date and time to all parties involved in the RFP process.

The Independent Register
3/1, 3/8/2023
WNAXLP 433416

City of Brodhead's 2023 April Referendum Question

This referendum would allow the City to increase the tax levy for operating expenses for Public

Safety, Public Works, Park and Rec, Library and EMS services. The question below will be on the April 4, 2023, Spring Election ballot.

Under state law, the increase in the levy of the City of Brodhead for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2024, is limited to 1.182%, which results in a levy of \$2,031,620. Shall the City of Brodhead be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2024, for the purpose of funding increased operating expenses such as Public Safety, Public Works, Park and Rec, Library and EMS services, by a total of 19.689% which results in a levy of \$2,431,620, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$400,000 for each fiscal year going forward?

The Independent Register
3/1/2023
WNAXLP 433522

AGENDA

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM
2501 West 5th Avenue,
Brodhead, WI

7:00 P.M.

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- PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

AGENDA

- CONSENT AGENDA
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- APPROVAL OF BILLS
- ACCEPT DONATION(S)
- RESIGNATION(S)
- EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)
- VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)

- SAFE CLUB PRESENTATION

- MID-YEAR GOALS PRESENTATION

- CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE DISTRICT HEALTH PLAN

- APPOINT BOARD OF CANVASSERS

- COLLEGE/TECH CREDIT APPROVALS

- APPROVAL OF STUDENT HANDBOOKS

- APPROVAL OF CONTRACTED & VOLUNTEER COACHES

- FACILITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

- FUTURE AGENDA

- ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(f)
 - Staff Reports
 - Teacher Negotiations
 - Select Scholarship Recipients

- ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- ADJOURNMENT

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