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**SUNDAY**

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**SPORTS**

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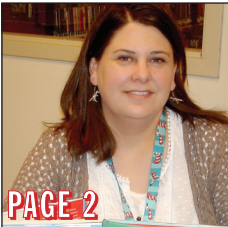
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**BUSINESS**

Creative nature shows in unique holiday pieces

PAGE 4

**LocalLife**



PAGE 2

Patience pays off for children's author

**COVER STORY**

The holidays just won't be the same if you've lost someone you love. But there are ways to ...

**Find joy amid sorrow**

By DENNIS HINES  
STAFF WRITER

ROCK COUNTY — For John Cooper, the holiday season just won't feel the same this year, because his wife of 50 years died on Easter Sunday.

"After being with someone for 50 years, it hurts," said Cooper, a Janesville resident.

He recently attended a seven-week grief support group at Beloit Regional Hospice to help him deal with the upcoming holidays. It helped to talk to people who also have experienced the death of a loved one, Cooper said.

"(Hospice) helped tremendously. Everyone in the group is going through the same thing that you're going through," Cooper said. "The group had seven women, and I was the only guy. We did a lot of crying and a

lot of talking. I would recommend it for anyone who needs it."

Nicole Morgan, grief program coordinator at Beloit Regional Hospice, said joining a support group can be beneficial for someone like Cooper, who is experiencing grief during the holidays. The hospice is offering grief support groups throughout December (see box on Page 8).

"You will meet with other people who are experiencing the same feelings," Morgan said. "We talk about coping skills for the holidays. People are able to share their own story about their loved one, which is important."

Morgan said people who are experiencing holiday grief may not feel like celebrating the holidays or participating in holiday traditions.

"Some people might not be looking forward to the holidays and they can't wait for them to be over," Morgan said. "They don't want to do the same things they've done in the past, maybe not buying the holidays gifts, maybe not cooking the holiday meal or not wanting to spend as much time with the family because they're really going to miss their loved one and things are different now."

"If you spent the holidays with that person who died, now you're spending them by yourself and you're looking for other things to do."

Cooper said he's learned that dealing with grief will be an ongoing process.

"They (hospice) told me to take it one day at a time," Cooper said. "They told me I would never get over it, but it would get better with time."

People who are dealing with grief might have to adjust their expectations for the holidays, Morgan said.

"Don't expect the holidays to be perfect," Morgan said. "They will be different after the loss of a loved one and

See Grief, page 8



DAN PLUTCHAK/STAFF

Lights glow brightly on the Mercy Health System Lovelight tree. The tree, outside of Mercy Hospital and Trauma Center in Janesville, was illuminated last week in memory of loved ones who have died. Lighting a candle or light in memory is one way to deal with grief during the holiday season, grief support experts say.



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**IN BRIEF**

**JANESVILLE**

■ **Concerns raised over scaled-back fire station:** The Janesville Plan Commission approved plans for a new fire station last week. Several of the commission members expressed concern about the elimination of an eighth apparatus bay from the plan. The council members eliminated the eighth apparatus bay in October to keep the project under \$9 million. The plan commission made a recommendation that the city council consider returning the eighth apparatus bay to plan. The project is expected to go out for bids in February.

■ **D.A. announces run for judge:** Rock County District Attorney David O'Leary plans to run for judge in the April election. O'Leary is seeking election in Branch 5 of Rock County Circuit Court. The seat currently is being held by Kenneth Forbeck. Three Rock County judges' terms are set to expire in 2015. Judge Michael Fitzpatrick and Judge Richard Werner recently announced plans to run for re-election.

**MILTON**

■ **Milton approves bus funding:** The Milton City Council last week approved a \$30,000 sponsorship for Janesville Transit System's Innovation Express bus line for 2015. The bus line offers service to Milton, Janesville and Whitewater. The city of Janesville recently approved \$15,900 in funding and the Generac company will contribute \$15,400.

**ORFORDVILLE**

■ **Tax rate up 2.5 percent:** Orfordville's tax rate will increase by 2.5 percent in 2015. The village's 2015 budget includes no changes to staffing or services, however, money will be set aside for equipment upgrades for the public works department. The budget also includes \$24,000 to remodel the former Burtness Chevrolet building into the village hall.

MESSENGER ONLINE



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WEB POLL RESULTS

**Question:** Do you agree with the grand jury decision in the Michael Brown shooting case?

Yes ..... 87 percent  
No ..... 13 percent

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BOOKS

Library becomes inspiration for author

Latest book features award-winning illustrator

BY DENNIS HINES  
STAFF WRITER

JANESVILLE — Jamie Swenson says although it took almost five years for her latest book to be published, the wait was well worth it.

Swenson sold the manuscript in 2009 for the book, "If You Were a Dog," but it wasn't until 2012 that award-winning illustrator Chris Raschka was able to begin work on the project.

"It was well worth it," Swenson said. "It was amazing to see his artwork and see it come to life."

Swenson, who works in the children's department at Hedberg Public Library in Janesville, said the publishing company decides which illustrator will work on her books.

"They go about the business of creating the book," Swenson said. "So since they're doing everything, they're deciding the layout. They're totally in control of the layout and the design and the size of the book. So, they probably have an illustrator in mind then they pick up a manuscript."

"If You Were a Dog" is about how children use their imagination.

"It's taking kids to different animals and asking them, 'What kind of dog would you be or what kind of cat would you be?'" Swenson said. "I use a lot of lively language. It's just a lot of fun."

Swenson has two other children's books that have been published. "Big Rig" was released in February, and "Boom! Boom! Boom!" was released in May 2013. Swenson said she enjoys seeing her books at the library and in the bookstores.

"It's thrilling. That's something I've worked for, for 10 years when I decided to be a writer," Swenson said. "I just focused on getting the first book published, so you just have that all-consuming goal of getting published."

"Boom! Boom! Boom!" recently was published in a Japanese version.

"I know (the publisher) had sold the rights to Japan, but I didn't know if they would produce the book," Swenson said. "It just showed up in the mail one day. It's fun to see how they changed it slightly. Whether the books are published in a Japanese version depends on whether the rights are sold. I haven't heard anything about 'If You Were a Dog' or 'Big Rig.'"

Swenson said it usually takes her between a year to three years to complete a manuscript for a children's book.

"Picture books seem deceptively easy, so it looks like you can sit down and whip it out in about an hour, and you proba-



DENNIS HINES/STAFF

Jamie Swenson's latest children's book, "If You Were a Dog," was published in September. Swenson, who works at Hedberg Public Library, finds inspiration working in the children's department.

She said it:

"I always had that desire to write, but they always say you have to find your place as a writer."

— Author Jamie Swenson

bly can. They're about 500 words, and you could probably write the first 500 words very quickly, but it takes a long time to revise," Swenson said. "I think 'If You Were a Dog,' to get all the various descriptors right, it took a couple of years to get the ending. Picture books have to have a perfect ending that wraps around, and to get that perfect ending can take a very long time, not only to know what it should be but to wrap it up perfectly. So, it's not that you're sitting there writing for three years but you're waiting for the proper inspiration or to piece the puzzle together correctly, so it can take a long time to get it just right."

Swenson said she develops ideas for her books from her life experiences.

For example, "Boom! Boom! Boom!" was based on a situation when her children and pets jumped into her bed during a thunderstorm. Swenson said she also receives inspiration for her books by working in the library.

"The book is about a little boy whose animals jump in bed with him during a thunderstorm, and that's what happened one night," Swenson said. "I have a dog, a cat and children, and one very stormy night, first the dog jumped in, then the cat jumped in and then the kids jumped in. So, that was a very obvious start-

ing point for a book. You can always get ideas for books but to have a whole book fleshed out, that's what takes the work. A lot of it is working around the library and being with the kids and seeing what they're interested in."

Swenson became interested in writing children's books based on her love for reading. Besides children's books, Swenson also has published magazine articles and essays.

"My early memory was my mother reading to me, and I think that's where everyone

Read more

Books by Jamie Swenson

- "If You Were a Dog," September 2014
- "Big Rig" February 2014
- "Boom! Boom! Boom!" May 2013

starts. If you're going to be a writer, you probably started as a reader at some point," Swenson said. "I started writing some really terrible adult novels in my early 20s and they were horrendous."

"I always had that desire to write, but they always say you have to find your place as a writer. When I came back working in the children's room and I was around picture books, it just seemed very natural for me to start telling stories in that structure and framework of a picture book. I just, so much, enjoy the theatrics of it and the story time aspect, and I just love picture books."

Swenson said her next goal is to publish a novel.

"My next goal is to create a middle-grade novel," Swenson said.

Swenson has worked in the children's department of the library for about 14 years. She worked as a clerk there during her teenage years and volunteered when she was 12.

"I would be lying if I said working at the library didn't have an effect on me becoming an author," she said.

Swenson said she enjoys writing books because it gives her an opportunity to be creative.

"I love sitting there and playing with language and words and coming up with the perfect fit," Swenson said. "I could just sit there and do that all the time, and that's probably the storyteller in me. I just love the creation and the writing itself."

Copies of Swenson's books can be purchased at local bookstores, Hedberg Public Library coffee shop and online.

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE



## Transitioning vets have specialized financial needs

The latest generations of veterans face a complicated financial picture, attributed to multiple deployments, a tough civilian economy, predatory lending threats at home and disability and health issues.

That's why the Veterans Financial Coalition, VeteransFinancialCoalition.org, was formed in June 2014. The organization aims to meet the needs of veterans re-entering civilian life by executing three goals:

- Educate veterans and the community organizations that serve them.
- Research consumer protections for veterans.
- Raise awareness for veterans' financial needs.

Aside from the Veterans Financial Coalition, returning veterans and reservists also can use the following suggestions and resources to build their post-military financial and career path:

### GET PERSONALIZED ADVICE.

Throughout the military career life cycle, personnel have access to investing and spending resources. But nothing takes the place of personalized financial/tax advice. As part of the coalition's free resources, the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning provides an online database to locate a certified professional financial counselor to help with savings, spending, investing and tax issues. On the credit front, check out the Wells Fargo Hands on Banking education program specifically for servicemembers, HandsOnBanking.org.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

The Transition Assistance Program offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is a first-step clearinghouse for information on VA career, educational, financial and vocational rehabilitation assistance. Workshop and video guides are available on the site in addition to links to training and career success programs. The U.S. Department of Labor's Career One Stop site offers additional information on military-specific career programs.

**AVOID SCAMS.** Sadly, active and returning military personnel are often targets for a diverse range of financial fraud. Veterans Financial Coalition member Consumer Action offers an economic survival guide for servicemembers and veterans.

**GET TAX HELP.** The Internal Revenue Service website provides a variety of tax resources for active military and veterans. It's a good idea to rely on trusted friends and family for referrals to tax professionals, but you also can contact your state certified public accountants' society for referrals. Always interview professionals before you hire them.

### GO DEEPER ON EDUCATION BREAKS.

Check the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website for its education benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill, for example, may cover the full cost of in-state tuition and fees for a public college for up to 36 months after release from active duty. A combination of VA tuition and training programs can offer more assistance. Student aid programs also exist for the children of deceased and disabled veterans. FinAid.org offers background on many of these programs.

If you're a veteran, take advantage of the full range of financial, career and training resources to secure a bright, post-military future.

Jason Alderman is a financial expert with Visa Inc. who directs Practical Money Skills for Life, a free, award-winning financial education program available at [www.practicalmoneyskills.com](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com).

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

# Simple to sophisticated holiday decor

Colleen's Creations features one-of-a-kind wreaths, centerpieces and more

**Business name:** Colleen's Creations  
**Owner:** Colleen Knilans  
**Address:** 1258 S. River Road, Janesville  
**Phone:** 608-931-5167  
**Website:** Search for Colleen's Creations on Facebook, [facebook.com/pages/Colleens-Creations/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Colleens-Creations/)

**Hours:** By appointment. Open house from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

**Type of business:** Holiday gift store

**When did business open?** November 2013

**Why did you start this business?** I love to decorate, and the holidays are the most fun time to decorate.

**How did you get into this line of work?** This isn't work. This is a passion of mine, to make something out of nothing and to make beautiful, one-of-a-kind creations. My love of gardening has allowed me to bring nature outside and inside with the use of fresh-cut flowers for arrangements, as well as dried items like seed pods, acorns, ornamental plums and dried flowers for twig and grapevine wreaths. It's amazing what you can create.

**What types of products or services does your business offer?**

Because trees and wreaths are the cornerstone of many holiday settings, I have available wreaths from simple to sophisticated, from fresh to dried, from big to small in different colors and textures. Also, I have lighted crosses for display in your yard and fresh evergreen lighted baskets to adorn your entrance or walkway.

**What has been the biggest challenge in your business?** Exposure to



DENNIS HINES/STAFF

Colleen Knilans operates Colleen's Creations out of her Janesville home. Knilans' creations include holiday wreaths, centerpieces and lighted crosses. She will host an open house from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 6 and Dec. 13, at 1258 S. River Road.

the public, as I work and sell out of my home.

**What aspect of the business do you enjoy the most?** I find it very rewarding when individuals comment on the excellence of my work and the uniqueness of knowing they are truly getting one-of-a-kind merchandise at great prices.

**From what cities do the majority of your customers come?** I was getting customers from Janesville and Beloit as I was selling at the farmers markets in September and October. I

do have a Facebook page, "Colleens Creations," which I hope to draw other people from.

**What are your plans for the business?** Possibly owning a shop in the future. Right now, I enjoy creating and designing from my own home. I enjoy meeting people and visiting with them in a more relaxed environment.

I have an open house from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13. If you are unable to make the open house, you can call me at 608-931-5167 for an appointment.

## BUSINESS BRIEFLY

### ■ Outreach coordinators added at CASA:

CASA of Rock County has hired Peggy Emery and Sandy Johnson as community outreach coordinators. The new positions were made possible through a \$40,000 grant from the national Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.

Emery has been a CASA volunteer for more than 20 years. Johnson has more than 10 years of experience in sales and marketing.

The CASA program recruits, trains and supports volunteers who ensure that children who have been found to need protection receive

appropriate services and have a voice in determining their futures.

To learn more about CASA of Rock County, call 608-305-1087 or send an email to [casarc@familyservices1.org](mailto:casarc@familyservices1.org).

### ■ City accounting officials honored:

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded the city of Janesville's Accounting Division a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the comprehensive annual financial report for the 2013 fiscal year.

The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The city's financial report was judged by an impartial panel to meet program standards, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving about 17,500 government finance professionals.

## Fetch Graphics opens new location in Janesville



Fetch Graphics recently hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony with Forward Janesville for its new location at 1312 Barberr Drive in Janesville. For more information, find them on Facebook at [facebook.com/fetchgraphics](https://www.facebook.com/fetchgraphics).

FORWARD JANESVILLE

# Families invited to orchestra's Holiday Spectacular

By IAN GRONAU  
STAFF WRITER

BELOIT — After many years of hosting the Holiday Spectacular as the Beloit Janesville Symphony, the tradition will continue, but the organization will be offering the performance this year under its new name — The Rock River Philharmonic.

"We changed our name this past April after our 60th season," said Rock River Philharmonic outreach and marketing director Britney McKay. "It's our first holiday performance as the Rock River Philharmonic and it's going to be a really fun family event."

"If you look of the etymology of the word philharmonic, it basically means the appreciation or love of music," McKay said. "It's

more reflective of what we plan on doing going forward. We always perform a standard classical repertoire and a pops concert in July and December. Going forward, we are still having the classical and the pops, but also trying some new events that are a bit more innovative, things with some visual arts incorporated."

As for the Holiday Spectacular, it will remain as the Stateline has come to know it. This year the Janesville performance will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Craig High School and will feature Craig and Parker high school choirs.

The Beloit performance will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Eclipse Center. That show will feature the Beloit Turner High School choir and Miss Andrea's Dance Factory.

Both events will feature

classic holiday tunes and the debut of a Christmas song written by conductor and music director, Rob Tomaro.

"It's a lot of fun that we have such a versatile conductor who is also writing Christmas pop songs, and he'll actually be singing it," McKay said. "Rob's song is not actually an orchestral piece, it's sort of a rock piece."

"It's called 'Don't Open Till Christmas,' and it's a ballad-like song in the style of 'Blue Christmas.' It's a great piece and it's actually getting a lot of play in Europe right now."

The concert also includes a medley from the hit Disney movie "Frozen" and selections from "The Nutcracker."

McKay said the selection of easily recognizable music makes the Holiday

## If you go

### Holiday Spectacular

**Janesville:** 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, Craig High School  
**Beloit:** 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, Eclipse Center  
**Tickets:** Adult \$22, senior \$20, college \$5, up to 18 free  
**Information:** Call 608-313-1200 or visit [www.rockriverphil.org](http://www.rockriverphil.org).

Spectacular a terrific event for the whole family.

"It's a really big family event and a great family tradition," McKay said. "There are plenty of families we see every year. It's great to take the kids and introducing them to a concert-going experience because there will be a lot of music they will be familiar with."

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## Former 4-H members inducted into Wisconsin hall of fame

ROCK COUNTY — The University of Wisconsin-Extension 4-H Youth Development Program recently inducted 100 laureates into the new Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame. The hall of fame induction ceremony was the last statewide event celebrating 100 years of 4-H in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame was established to recog-

nize 4-H volunteers, financial supporters, staff and pioneers who made major contributions to 4-H at the local, state and national levels. The honorees represent 4-H in the broadest sense, according to Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development State Program Director Dale Leidheiser.

"We are inducting volunteers, supporters and UW-Extension

employees who had an impact on the lives of children, their community or state through significant contributions of time, energy, or financial resource to 4-H and its members," Leidheiser said in a news release.

Rock County 4-H was represented by J.A. Craig. Craig was an industrialist in Janesville in the early 1900s. He's best

known for bringing General Motors to Janesville in 1919. He was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in 2002 and has a cabin at Upham Woods 4-H camp named after him.

At the end of his life he stated, "I consider the greatest contribution made by me in my lifetime is with 4-H. These things have prevented me from going to seed."

Rock County 4-H also was represented by Nellie Klusmeyer in the 4-H Hall of Fame. Klusmeyer was a mother, farmer's wife, writer, active church and community member and school teacher who wanted to provide young girls with the same learning opportunities boys had through 4-H.

In 1924, Rock County agriculture agent R.T. Glasgow approached

Klusmeyer and other rural women to help raise money to hire a county home economics agent to develop the girls' program.

Helene French was hired as a summer home economics agent in 1925.

Not being able to recruit a 4-H leader, Klusmeyer took on the role herself. The first club had 28 members who worked on sewing, food and canning projects.

Klusmeyer's family moved in 1929 and she started a new 4-H club, which she led for several years. She also helped the neighboring 4-H club, which her daughters joined.

Klusmeyer stated, "I think the secret of good education for children is to belong to 4-H."

She was a leader for 48 years, until her death in 1975 at the age of 80.

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CSI PUBLICATION

HUMOR

JIM LYKE  
LYKEMINDED



# The Fall Guy

I'm not what you would call graceful.

My history includes many episodes that range from awkward to downright clumsy. A classmate once described me as being "as coordinated as a cow on stilts." But the defining moment of my school career occurred during a junior high basketball game when, after attempting a layup, a laughing teammate declared that I looked like a flying camel.

And lo, unto me a nickname was born. To this day, former school friends — as well as their parents — still refer to me as Camel.

On one recent morning, it was hard to tell whether I resembled a camel, cow, Bambi or some other odd animal as I lay sprawled upon my icy driveway, howling in pain. Venturing out in a bathrobe and flip-flops to get the morning newspaper, the freezing rain claimed another victim, a

**When she asked how I was feeling, I simply replied, "Stupid."**

cruel reminder that Mother Nature takes no prisoners during Wisconsin winters.

In pursuit of the day's headlines, I instead acquired a headline of my own, a Harry Potter-like laceration above my right eyebrow. When I went down, my forehead struck the

corner of a stone wall, almost immediately inflating a bulge that looked and felt like a baseball growing out of my face.

After the ice melted on the roads — and in the pack on my forehead — we made the obligatory trip down to urgent care, where X-rays of my head showed nothing (apologies to Yogi Berra). The medical staff all were very nice and sympathetic, never once blurting out, "You idiot! What were you doing out on the ice?"

Of course, when you visit the doctor, you get asked to rate your pain on the 0 to 10 scale, with 0 being no pain and 10 being worst possible. There is a chart on the wall to assist you in your pain estimate, with helpful facial expressions next to each number. For example, 0 is a big smile and 10 is a huge frown with tears. With each number up the scale, the center of the eyebrows moves upward, the smile straightens and then turns downward, the eyes look sadder and finally cry. Even with that as a guide, I never know what to say. It would be easier to self-assess with real world examples; say, a paper cut is a 2 and having your leg gnawed off by a tiger is a 10.

I also was brutally honest with the doctor examining me. When she asked how I was feeling, I simply replied, "Stupid." No other answer ("OK," "Fine," "Not so good," etc.) seemed appropriate.

Fortunately, no stitches were required on the cut; instead, it was held together with a big glob of glue. It was like being in second-grade art class all over again.

A knock to the noggin is the gift that keeps on giving. Three days later, swollen purple sacks formed in the corners of both eyes. Within a day or so, I sported two shiners straight out of a Rocky Balboa film.

Trying to hide facial injuries is an art. The head wound was camouflaged by parting my hair to the other side. With the black eyes, contact lenses were eschewed in favor of dark-rimmed glasses. The restyled coiffure just felt weird, though, so it didn't last long. There are worse things in the world than displaying a big purple splotch on one's forehead. Heck, it didn't stop Mikhail Gorbachev.

It also is an art to avoid staring at someone's injury. The wound on my head is just so darned interesting to folks. It is hard to avoid laughing when seeing people's eyes dart from my forehead to my eyes and back. At least they can look straight into my eyes to appreciate the shiners.

I guess I should have listened to the advice I dispensed from the theatrical stage two years ago, as I sang the line, "When on thin ice, please watch your step." The musical? Of course.... "Guys On Ice."

Jim Lyke is a writer who lives in Milton. His column appears monthly.

YOUR VIEWS

## A mistake to remove Bibles

To the editor,

Hope, a bright future. Hope, it springs from our God-given soul. Hope, humanity yearns for it. Why then would anyone or any organization want to extinguish that flame of hope? I'm not sure why, but the Freedom from Religion Foundation is hell-bent to do just that.

Ever since 1908, Gideons have been placing Bibles in almost every hotel room in America. In fact, they are approaching the 2 billion mark in distributions worldwide. The essence of those Bibles convey hope, and countless people in those often lonely motel rooms have been given hope and help in preventing self-destruction or evil to others.

Even more thousands have been given hope and set on a brighter future by a passage or verse from one of those Bibles.

Now here comes a letter to University of Wisconsin President Ray Cross from the Freedom from Religion Foundation saying the university was "violating the Constitution."

The Freedom from Religion Foundation hardly is a law firm, let alone a court, yet Cross has a quick reply. Yes, yes, of course. "We have decided to remove the Gideon Bibles from all guest rooms." Not much constitutional reflection on that campus, eh?

History documents that the intent of Congress was to prevent government from overriding and intruding on religion.

The First Amendment clearly states Congress shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religious faith. Hope and faith in God are really all we have to sustain us. Let us nourish those virtues and encourage the Gideons.

Don Hilbig  
Beloit

## Scenes of the season

To the editor,

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" for the big \$10,000 campaign donor who's going to be getting the 21 acre Hill Farms state-owned property in Madison from Santa Claus. The late Eddie Rabbitt would probably think, "Two Dollars In The Jukebox" was the better deal. Either one is pay to play.

Those who have washboard roads to deal with like Wisconsin Highway 11 between the four corners in Darien and Delavan, or Wisconsin Highway 50 in between Walgreens and Perkins should ask Santa for a RG72 RotoGrader or something similar.

Once their work was done they could rent it out like a carpet shampooer to others in need and make some extra money.

Schools that can't afford to keep the lights on for a full five-day week should ask Santa for wind turbines. Fort Atkinson has two near the high school and they'd probably be

## WRITE TO US



650 words; not all guest columns will be published; Limit of one letter/column per month. Send to: Letter to the editor, P.O. Box 367, Delavan, WI 53115. Email to [dplutchak@communityshoppers.com](mailto:dplutchak@communityshoppers.com)

■ We publish all letters that follow our length and style guidelines, and we welcome issue-oriented letters and guest column submissions for publication on the Perspectives Page. **Guidelines:** Letters no longer than 250 words; all letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar, length; no personal attacks or letters related to personal disputes; daytime phone number needed for verification. Guest columns should be approximately 550 to

glad to tell others how to enter the 21st century.

A Talgo train set would be a nice gift for little boys since there'll never be a real one in Wisconsin as long as the current regime is in power. Little girls might want a Gossiping Barbie to aid in learning that skill if it doesn't come naturally.

Everybody who wants to know how to get something from Santa should listen to "Do The Brownnose" by the Dead Milkmen.

D.J. Duffy  
Delavan

## President usurped Congress

To the editor,

President Obama's sweeping amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants is a brazen attempt to usurp the role of Congress prescribed in the Constitution. Previously, Obama himself described what he just did as a betrayal of our political order. He said "that's not how our Constitution is written."

Obama maintains he has "prosecutorial discretion" to decide which illegal immigrants he deports. That he has precedent-grounded power to protect particular groups from deportation. Therefore he can issue work permits to half the illegal-immigrant population.

Contrary to Obama's most recent lie, no president has attempted anything remotely like what Obama did without the consent of Congress. Previous presidents granted work permits to small groups of clearly defined populations facing persecution if they returned home. Nothing approached Obama's lawless arrogance.

Democrats should be just as outraged as Republicans. Now that Obama has set the precedent, what will stop future Republican presidents from unilaterally rewriting laws they disagree with? Democrats have complained about Republican presidential signing statements. There has never been a signing statement close to Obama's irresponsible action.

Obama is acting in direct defiance of the American people. Obama cynically delayed this action until after the election to spare Democrats the wrath of voters. Voters weren't fooled. The shellacking Obama and his party took was a repudiation of the very action

Obama just took.

There wasn't a crisis that forced Obama's hand. Obama's disgraceful power grab, and the Democrats who are cheering it, have set a dangerous precedent.

Larry Holterman  
Milton

## Thanks for donating blood

To the editor,

Thank you everyone who contributed blood at BloodCenter of Wisconsin's recent blood drive. Special thanks to the Walworth County Human Resource Association and its members, who helped set a record for the amount of blood collected during a single drive.

Almost 50 donors participated in the blood drive at Peoples Bank in Elkhorn on Tuesday, Nov. 12. Three donors were unable to donate but still came out to support our mission along with those who made successful donations.

BloodCenter collected 42 whole blood units and three dual red donations, and we were pleased to introduce five first-time donors to this life-saving effort.

Blood collected by BloodCenter of Wisconsin will support local hospitals. BloodCenter is the only provider of blood for patients at Aurora Lakeland Medical Center.

The donors at our blood drive will save the lives of up to 144 local patients.

Walworth County Human Resource Association will sponsor another drive next year. It will once again be held at Peoples Bank on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, for our annual blood drive.

If you would like to learn more about the donation process or what happens to donated blood, or if you would like information about the marrow and tissue registries, visit [www.bcw.edu/blood](http://www.bcw.edu/blood) or [www.bethematch.org](http://www.bethematch.org) or call 414-937-6150. You also may contact Blood Center of Wisconsin at 414-877-BE-A-HERO (877-232-4376).

Thanks again to everyone at Peoples Bank, to everyone who helped make this event successful, and especially to everyone who made a blood donation.

Nancy Ziolecki  
Blood program consultant  
BloodCenter of Wisconsin

# CROSSWORD

## Across

- 1. High spots
- 5. Common request (acronym)
- 9. Doctor Who villainess, with "the"
- 13. Gout-causing \_\_\_ acid
- 14. Kind of code
- 15. "\_\_\_ Brockovich"
- 16. O. Henry's "The Gift of the \_\_\_"
- 17. "Die Lorelei" poet
- 18. Angry, with "off"
- 19. Actuarial chart
- 22. Goddess of the hunt
- 23. Narrow parallel

- 45. Be a snitch
- 47. Priestly garb
- 48. Nasal partition
- 51. Fowl place
- 53. Execution of a plan
- 56. "I, Claudius" role
- 57. \_\_\_ Wilson of The Beach Boys
- 58. June 6, 1944 (2 wds)
- 60. Coagulate
- 61. Heavy drinker, slang
- 62. \_\_\_-mutton (2 wds)
- 63. "\_\_\_ for the poor"
- 64. Caught in the act
- 65. Biblical birthright seller

- 10. "Gladiator" setting
- 11. Bridget Fonda, to Jane
- 12. Memorial Day race
- 14. Carboic acid
- 20. Ring bearer, maybe
- 21. The Donald
- 24. "The Alienist" author
- 25. Chill
- 27. Legislate
- 31. Amuse
- 32. Roundworms
- 33. Blue hue
- 34. High-hatter
- 36. Secondary storylines
- 37. Be bombastic
- 41. Cuban dance (pl.)
- 42. "Citizen Kane" actor

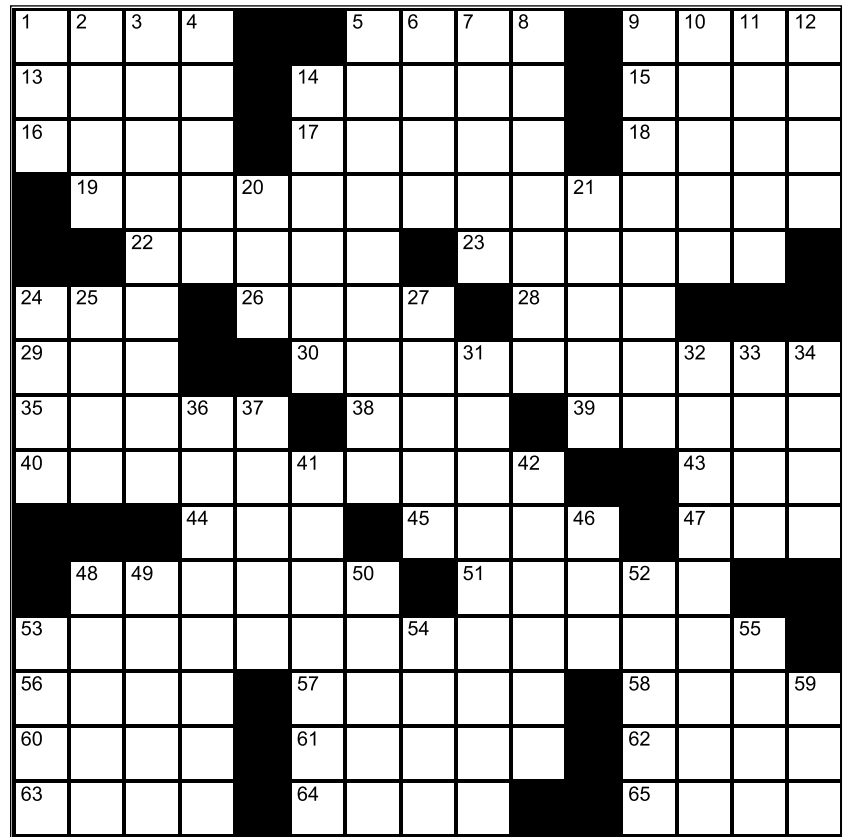
## Down

- 24. Jail, slangily
- 26. "Coriolanus" setting
- 28. Bleed
- 29. "Act your \_\_\_!"
- 30. Facial contours
- 35. \_\_\_-Japanese War
- 38. Masefield play "The Tragedy of \_\_\_"
- 39. Be exultant
- 40. Returns to life
- 43. \_\_\_ jacket
- 44. "\_\_\_, humbug!"

## Down

- 1. Child's stomach
- 2. Face-to-face exam
- 3. Inflexibility
- 4. Video store section, shortened (2 wds)
- 5. Scrutinize again
- 6. Barber's motion
- 7. Windmill parts
- 8. Stringed instrument pluckers
- 9. Orthodontic appliance

- Everett \_\_\_
- 46. Auction offering
- 48. Common sense?
- 49. Erasable programmable read-only memory (acronym)
- 50. Actress Oberon
- 52. Edge
- 53. Ancient Andean
- 54. Big name in sneakers
- 55. Head-hunters of NE India
- 59. "\_\_\_ rang?"



## This week's answers



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*Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year!*



# SCHOOL CALENDAR

**MONDAY:**  
**■ Janesville:**  
 9 a.m., dress rehearsal for fourth- and fifth-grade concert, Lincoln Elementary School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 4 p.m., PTA meeting, Madison Elementary School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 6 p.m., PTA meeting, Jefferson Elementary School  
**■ Edgerton:**  
 7:30 p.m., Edgerton Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade band concert, Edgerton Performing Arts Center

**MONDAY through FRIDAY:**  
**■ Janesville:**  
 PTA Holiday Shop, Van Buren Elementary School

**TUESDAY:**  
**■ Janesville:**  
 Fourth- and fifth-grade concert, Lincoln Elementary School  
 9 a.m., for fourth-grade parents  
 1:30 p.m., for fifth-grade parents  
**■ Janesville:**  
 3:30 p.m., sixth-grade concert band rehearsal, Franklin Middle School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 choir concerts, Marshall Middle School  
 5:30 p.m., sixth grade  
 6:30 p.m., seventh grade  
 7:30 p.m., eighth grade  
**■ Milton:**  
 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Market Day pickup, Milton West Elementary School  
**■ Milton:**  
 6:30 p.m., PAWS meeting, Milton West Elementary School  
**■ Milton:**  
 7 p.m., band and choir concert, Northside Intermediate School  
**■ Edgerton:**  
 7:30 p.m., Edgerton Middle School sixth-grade band concert, Edgerton Performing Arts Center  
**■ Parkview:**  
 6 p.m., PTO meeting, Parkview Elementary School

**WEDNESDAY:**  
**■ Janesville:**  
 6:35 a.m., jazz ensemble rehearsal, Franklin Middle School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 Winter music programs, Jefferson Elementary School  
 8:30 a.m., fifth grade  
 9:30 a.m., fourth grade  
 10:30 a.m., third grade  
 11:30 a.m., second grade  
 1 p.m., kindergarten  
 2 p.m., first grade  
**■ Janesville:**  
 3 p.m., Boy Scouts meeting, Jackson Elementary School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 3:30 p.m., seventh- and eighth-grade combined band rehearsal, Franklin Middle School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 7 p.m., choir concert, Craig High School  
**■ Edgerton:**  
 7:30 p.m., Edgerton High School winter band concert, Edgerton Performing Arts Center

**WEDNESDAY through FRIDAY:**  
**■ Janesville:**  
 PTA Holiday Shop, Lincoln Elementary School

**THURSDAY:**  
**■ Janesville:**  
 6:45 a.m., show choir rehearsal, Franklin Middle School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 Winter Sing, Adams Elementary School  
 9 a.m., kindergarten  
 12:45 p.m., first grade  
**■ Janesville:**  
 Winter Sing, Madison Elementary

School  
 9 a.m., kindergarten  
 2:15 p.m., first grade  
**■ Janesville:**  
 9:30 a.m., dress rehearsal for kindergarten concert, Lincoln Elementary School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 5:30 p.m., PTA Winter Frolic, Madison Elementary School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 choir concerts, Franklin Middle School  
 6 p.m., sixth grade  
 7 p.m., seventh grade  
 8 p.m., eighth grade  
**■ Milton:**  
 6:30 p.m., Team Harmony meeting, Harmony Elementary School

**FRIDAY:**  
**■ Janesville:**  
 Winter Sing, Adams Elementary School  
 9 a.m., third grade  
 10:30 a.m., second grade  
 12:45 p.m., fourth grade  
 2 p.m., fifth grade  
**■ Janesville:**  
 Winter Sing, Kennedy Elementary School  
 8:45 a.m., kindergarten  
 9:30 a.m., first grade  
 10:15 a.m., third grade  
 12:15 p.m., fourth grade  
 1 p.m., second grade  
 2 p.m., fifth grade  
**■ Janesville:**  
 Winter Sing, Monroe Elementary School  
 8:45 a.m., kindergarten  
 9:30 a.m., second grade  
 10:15 a.m., first grade  
 12:30 p.m., fourth grade  
 1:15 p.m., third grade  
 2 p.m., fifth grade  
**■ Janesville:**  
 Winter Sing, Van Buren Elementary School  
 8:45 a.m., kindergarten  
 2 p.m., third grade  
**■ Janesville:**  
 Winter Sing, Washington Elementary School  
 12:15 p.m., kindergarten  
 1:45 p.m., first grade  
**■ Janesville:**  
 2:15 p.m., Market Day pickup, Van Buren Elementary School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 3:30 p.m., seventh-grade symphonic band rehearsal, Franklin Middle School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 6 p.m., PTA Movie Night, Van Buren Elementary School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 7 p.m., Rec Night, Marshall Middle School  
**■ Janesville:**  
 7 p.m., Rock River Philharmonic concert, Craig High School  
**■ Milton:**  
 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Partners in Education Secret Santa/Holiday Party, Consolidated Elementary School  
**■ Milton:**  
 5:30 p.m., movie night, Northside Intermediate School  
**■ Milton:**  
 6:30 p.m., dance, Milton Middle School  
**■ Milton:**  
 7 p.m., "White Christmas" musical performance, Milton High School

**SATURDAY:**  
**■ Janesville:**  
 7:30 a.m., ACT test, Craig High School  
**■ Milton:**  
 7 p.m., "White Christmas" musical performance, Milton High School

**SUNDAY:**  
**■ Milton:**  
 2 p.m., "White Christmas" musical performance, Milton High School



**Parker High School's Seventh Heaven Choir performs Monday at the Mercy Health System annual Lovelight tree-lighting ceremony. The lights on the tree honor the memory of loved ones.**  
 DAN PLUTCHAK/STAFF

## GRIEF

Continued from page 1

traditions may change, but you can start new traditions, as well."

One new tradition might be to light a candle in memory of a loved one and encourage other friends and family members to participate.

"Maybe each person gets to light a candle and share a memory of the loved one," Morgan said. "There's a lot of things that people can do to honor that person's memory to try to include them in the day."

Volunteering to help others is another way to ease grief this time of year, she said.

"The Salvation Army, a soup kitchen, your church, maybe your children's school or a hospital — there's a lot of places where people can volunteer," Morgan said.

The holidays also might be a good time to find a new hobby or participate in activities with friends or family, she said.

"Maybe you have a little more time on your hands, so pick up on some things that you had stopped doing," Morgan said. "Reach out to your friends. If you feel like going to a movie, just go to a movie or grab a cup of coffee. If you don't feel like doing those things, maybe you can write in a journal or write a letter to your loved one or read for encouragement."

People who are experiencing holiday grief also should take time for themselves, Morgan said. If a person who is grieving is attending a holiday meal or event, she suggested they should let the host know that they might need to leave early.

"If you feel like being alone for a few hours, then go do that," Morgan said. "There is no right or wrong answer for how people go through their own grief, but don't be afraid to show your emotions and to take time for yourself if you need to."

### Enjoy the happy memories

Dealing with memories is part of coping with grief during the holidays, said Nancy Bracken, director of home health and hospice for Mercy Health System. "The holidays bring up all these memories we have of our loved ones," Bracken said. "It's memories we cherish. Meals are a huge part of those memories. There's going to be an empty place at the table this year. You're going to feel that the family circle has been broken."

Bracken said people can ease their grief by thinking about the good times they shared with their loved one.

"Give yourself permission to enjoy things that you did with

## Dealing with grief

**■ Beloit Regional Hospice:** Call 877-363-7421 or go online to [BeloitRegionalHospice.com](http://BeloitRegionalHospice.com)

**■ Mercy Health System:** Call 608-754-2201 or go online to [MercyHealthSystem.org/body.cfm?id=647](http://MercyHealthSystem.org/body.cfm?id=647)

**■ Home Health United:** Call 608-241-6936 or go online to [HomeHealthUnited.org/hospice/bereavement-grief-support](http://HomeHealthUnited.org/hospice/bereavement-grief-support)

**■ Agrace:** Call 608-553-4289 or go online to [agrace.org](http://agrace.org).

your loved one," Bracken said. "Your loved one would want you to be happy and to be surrounded by family and friends."

Bracken suggested creating new traditions or doing holiday activities at different times.

"Instead of opening presents on Christmas Day, open them on Christmas Eve," Bracken said.

People should give themselves time to grieve, she said.

"Let your grief out, let your tears out. Don't deny yourself your grief time," Bracken said. "The puzzle has been broken, but you can put the pieces back together again. It will be whole again, but the picture will be new and different."

People who are grieving should try to eat healthy and avoid consuming too much alcohol.

"People often numb their feelings with alcohol or prescription drugs," Bracken said. "You need to let your grief out. You need to know that things will get better as time passes. You will never for-



**Bracken**

get, but the happy memories will overtake the sad ones."

Besides the loss of a loved one, holiday grief can be caused by being separated from friends or family members.

"If most of your family lives in one area and you live in another area because of a job, it could be difficult, especially if you can't get back home," Bracken said.

Grief also could be caused by an end of a relationship or by the death of a pet.

"The feelings of a loss of a pet could be similar to the loss of any loved one," Bracken said. "It's never easy."

Mercy Health System offers monthly grief support groups in Janesville and in Walworth County. Mercy also offers a widows support group in Janesville.

### It's OK to compromise

Ridley Usherwood, grief support coordinator for Home Health United, offers his "three C's" to help people deal with holiday grief: choose, communicate and compromise.

People should choose which holiday activities they will participate in and how they will remember their loved one, Usherwood said.

"Think about ways you're going to celebrate the person's life," he said.

Usherwood said people also should communicate their feelings to others.

"Discuss your feelings," Usherwood said. "Other people may grieve differently than you. You may not want to put up a Christmas tree or you may not want to cook a holiday meal."

Usherwood said it's also OK to compromise on participating in regular holiday traditions.

"There's no right or wrong way to grieve your loved one," Usherwood said. "You might want to change some rituals."

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# MESSENGER

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333 S. Wuthering Hills Drive, Janesville, WI 53546  
 Classified: (608) 752-0777  
 Circulation: (608) 755-9487  
 Online: [www.communityshoppers.com](http://www.communityshoppers.com)

**Circulation: 29,075**

**President** ..... Sidney H. Bliss  
**Editor** ..... Dan Plutchak  
**Associate editor** ..... Jenny Sharp  
**Local sales manager** ..... Heidi Springer  
**Circulation manager** ..... Ken Curtis

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**Monday-Friday:**  
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**DEADLINES:**  
**Display ads: 5 p.m. Wednesday**  
**Classifieds: 11 a.m. Thursday**

Deadlines are advanced one working day during holiday weeks. The Messenger reserves the right to reject or edit any advertisement at any time. The Messenger is published by CSI Media, LLC, of Delavan, Wis., which also publishes the Stateline News, Shopper Advertiser and Walworth County Sunday

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# Giving Calendar

■ **Food and toys collected:** The Stataline News food and toy drive is collecting donations of unwrapped toys and nonperishable food items through Dec. 12. In past years, donations have gone to local groups such as the Salvation Army and Caritas. Donations can be dropped off weekdays from 9 a.m. to

5 p.m. at the Stataline News office at 1555 Willowbrook Road, Beloit. For more information, call (815) 389-2722.

■ **Janesville collection runs through Dec. 12:** The Janesville Messenger food and toy drive is collecting donations of unwrapped toys and nonperishable food items through Dec. 12. Donations can be dropped off weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Janesville Messenger office at 333 Wuthering Hills

Drive, Janesville. For more information, call 608-752-0777.

■ **Janesville Salvation Army needs ham and turkey donations:** The Janesville Salvation Army is accepting donations of ham and turkey for its Christmas food baskets. Donations can be brought to the Janesville Salvation Army, 514 Sutherland Ave., before Dec. 12. For more information call, 608-757-8300.

■ **Edgerton chamber participates in Big Bundle Up campaign:** The Edgerton Area Chamber of Commerce will conduct The Big Bundle Up campaign through Jan. 2. The chamber will be collecting coats, sweaters, hats, mittens and other warm clothing. Items can be dropped off at Anew Insurance Agency, 4 Lord St.; The Depot Cafe, 20 S.

Main St.; Best Realty of Edgerton, 5 W. Rollin St.; and Blackhawk Community Credit Union, 617 N. Main St.

■ **Drop off items for Toys for Tots program:** Janesville Salvation Army has kicked off its Marine Corps Toys for Tots programs. Toy donations can be dropped off at Toys R Us, Adecco, Anytime Fitness, Blackhawk Community Credit Union locations in Janesville and Edgerton, Bellasazi Salon & Spa, Janesville Choice Cleaners locations, Dollar General stores in Janesville, Milton and Beloit, Heartland Credit Union, Janesville Athletic Clubs, Kutter Harley-Davidson, Medithin Weightloss Clinics, Menards in Janesville and Beloit, Old Navy, Schnuck's, National Quick Cash, Walgreens stores in

Janesville and Beloit, Tan Shack, Beloit Health and Rehab and Milton Police Department. For more information, go to Janesville-wi.toysfortots.org.

■ **Agrace Thrift Store in need of items:** The Agrace Thrift Store, 2043 Humes Road in Janesville, is in need of donated items, including women's clothing, jewelry, women's accessories, men's clothing, furniture, housewares, home decor items, linens, books, games, DVDs, CDs and audiobooks. Proceeds from the sale of items are used to help care for patients at Agrace Hospice & Palliative Care and their families. Donations can be dropped off at the store from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

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\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) available through 12/31/14. Regular certificate of deposit penalties apply for early withdrawal of more than one half the principal balance. Fees could reduce earnings. \$5,000.00 minimum balance to obtain the APY. APY is accurate as of December 7, 2014. 188006

## Emergency food assistance available

BELOIT — Food assistance through The Emergency Food Assistance Program is available at several food pantries in Rock County:

- Beloit Salvation Army, 628 Broad St., Beloit, 608-365-6572
- Caritas Inc., 2840 Prairie Ave., Beloit, 608-362-4403
- Clinton Food Pantry, 608-676-4994
- ECHO, 65 High St., Janesville, 608-754-5333
- Edgerton Outreach, 106 S. Main St., Edgerton, 608-884-9593
- Evansville Ecumenical Care Closet, 206 S. Madison St., Evansville, 608-882-4532

• Janesville Salvation Army, 514 Sutherland Ave., Janesville, 608-757-8300

• Orfordville Food Pantry at Orfordville Lutheran Church, 210 N. Main St., Orfordville, 608-879-2575

TEFAP is a federal program that provides food assistance to low-income households through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Community Action Inc. is one of the organizations administering the distribution to food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters.

For more information, contact Judy Madsen at jmadson@community-action.org or call 262-728-8296.

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# Holidays are meant for favorite family recipes

LYNN GREENE  
LYNN'S PLACE



Sometimes it takes a family gathering around the holidays to get you to haul out the old family favorites — I'm talking recipes now. People ask for the same recipes because we so easily associate certain foods with life events. The smell, the taste, the look; it all reminds us of certain times in our life. The holidays are a great time to reinforce these memories, of course, but don't be afraid to try a few new things, too.

If you have family favorites, be sure to share them with each other. You could even use the holidays to gather recipes for a family cookbook. There are lots of publishers and options out there now. Here are some to check out:

■ Book1one.com — no minimum orders.

■ LifeRichPublishing.com — works in conjunction with Readers Digest and Taste of Home.

■ CookBookPrinter.com — a good choice for fundraisers.

## Quiche Lorraine

Makes 1 (9-inch, deep dish) quiche — serves 4 to 6

1 (9-inch) unbaked, deep dish pie shell

1/2 cup diced onion  
4 oz. bacon  
4 large eggs  
1-1/2 cups half-and-half  
6 oz. shredded Swiss cheese  
6 oz. shredded mozzarella cheese

16 oz. fresh spinach leaves, cleaned  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
1/2 tsp. salt (optional)  
1 tsp. dried, chopped parsley  
Dash of nutmeg

Chop the bacon into small pieces and place in large saute pan with the chopped onions. Saute until bacon is crisp. Drain the fat, then return pan to heat. Add the washed spinach leaves and cover. Cook until spinach is wilted down.

In separate bowl, beat together the eggs and half-and-half. Add the cheese, pepper, salt, parsley and nutmeg and combine. Add the bacon-spinach mixture. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Place on cookie sheet to catch any drippings and bake in 350 F oven for 45 minutes to one hour. Test as you would for custard — if knife comes out clean, it is done. Turn off oven to keep quiche warm for up a half hour.

## Eggnog

— No need to worry about raw eggs; this recipe calls for the egg mixture to be cooked first.

6 eggs  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1 quart milk

1 tsp. vanilla  
1/4 tsp. nutmeg  
1/4 tsp. cinnamon

Beat eggs, sugar and salt together in a saucepan. Stir in half the milk (two cups). On low heat, cook until mixture is thick and thinly coats a spoon. Make sure to stir constantly. Remove from heat and mix in the last of the milk and the vanilla. Cover and chill overnight. Serve with whip cream and a candy cane.

## Stollen

— Often called the German Christmas bread, it is a tradition in our house to make this bread around the holidays and then use the leftovers for French toast.

Makes 2 large loaves

1/2 cup warm water, 110 F  
2 pkgs. active dry yeast  
2 Tbsps. sugar  
1-1/2 cups butter  
Additional 3/4 cup sugar  
3 large eggs, beaten  
1 tsp. salt  
1 cup warm milk  
7-1/2 cups flour

### Filling

Additional 1/2 cup flour  
3/4 cup raisins  
3/4 cup candied fruits, minced  
1 cup almonds, chopped  
1/4 cup butter, melted  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1 tsp. cinnamon

### Egg wash:

1 egg  
2 Tbsps. water

In a small bowl, whisk the water and dry yeast with the two tablespoons sugar. Let this work until it is light and foamy. Meanwhile, in a large bread bowl, cream the butter and 3/4 cup sugar. Add the eggs, salt and warm milk. Mix together well. Add flour and stir.

Turn dough out onto a floured counter and knead to form a smooth and elastic ball of dough. Cover the dough and let rise until doubled in bulk. Turn the dough out onto a floured counter again; flatten the dough slightly with the palms of your hands.

Mix the raisins, fruits and almonds together and sprinkle the additional 1/2 cup flour over this mixture to coat. Sprinkle a bit of this raisin mixture over the dough and work in by kneading. Continue to incorporate the mixture this way until all is worked into the dough.

Divide dough in half. Roll out each half to an 8- by 15-inch oval. To the melted butter, add the brown sugar and cinnamon. Brush half the butter mixture onto each oval of dough. Roll the dough up into a loaf, sealing the seam underneath. Place each loaf on a cookie sheet and let rise until almost double in bulk.

Beat the egg with the two tablespoons of water to form an egg wash. Brush the top of each loaf with the wash and bake in a preheated 350 F oven for 35 to 40 minutes.

The bread is done when it feels dry and is firm to the touch. If you tap the loaf, it will sound hollow. Remove from oven; let cool.

## Send it in



## Be part of it

Friends of Beckman Mill will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a book consisting of recipes from their friends. If you have a special recipe and would like it to be included in the book, send the recipe to:

Recipes  
P.O. Box 74  
Beloit, WI 53511

Include your name, which will be listed in the book, and a telephone number just in case there is a question about your recipe. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 30.

Call Mary at 608-362-8912 and help them fill up the book with your delicious favorite recipe.

Lynn Greene is senior editor for CSI Media, which publishes this paper. To share this column or read past Lynn's Place columns, go to CommunityShoppers.com/blogs/lynn-place-blog. Contact her at (262) 728-3424 or email lgreene@communityshoppers.com.

# Ever wonder what kind of critter it takes to be in the movies?

TERRI  
SCHLICHENMEYER  
THE BOOKWORM SEZ



You love your pooch very much — but she's no Lassie. If, in fact, you pulled a Timmy and fell into a well, you're sure your dog would probably go chase butterflies. She couldn't find help if it was attached to a bone; seriously, there are days when she doesn't even come when she's called.

Maybe the problem is that you just haven't found what motivates her. In the new book "Animal Stars" by Robin Ganzert and Allen and Linda Anderson, you'll read about Hollywood critters, trainers and how you can teach old dogs new tricks.

When watching modern Hollywood fare, you might think that wild action scenes with animals are somehow computer generated or edited. It's safer that way, right?

The truth is that what you see today is 90 percent real, and 99.98 percent safe. That's because, back in 1939, things were too real, there was a "horrific disregard for animal safety" on at least one set, and a terrified horse died.

In 1940, the American Humane Association convinced

the movie industry to make sure things like that never happened again; from then on, an AHA representative was consulted and on-set during scenes when animals were acting.

But before any animal star gets on the set, its trainer knows exactly what to expect, script-wise and from the animal.

Horse trainers prize equines that are easy to work with. Those who train large animals like bears and monkeys have their charge's tolerance in mind, and aren't shy about speaking up when that tolerance is at its limits. Dog trainers understand what makes Woofie want to work. Snake handlers know that you can't train a snake.

To teach an animal to work in Hollywood takes patience; trainers like Bobby Lovgren, Nicholas Toth, Mathilde de Cagny and Thomas Gunderson use the word again and again.

So you say your favorite star happens to wear fur all day, all night. Then "Animal Stars" is going to delight you — mostly.

Ganzert and the Andersons give movie and TV fans plenty of insight on today's animal actors and the people who make sure those awesome stunts you see



Ganzert

## "Animal Stars: Behind the Scenes With Your Favorite Animal Actors"



(Out of five stars)

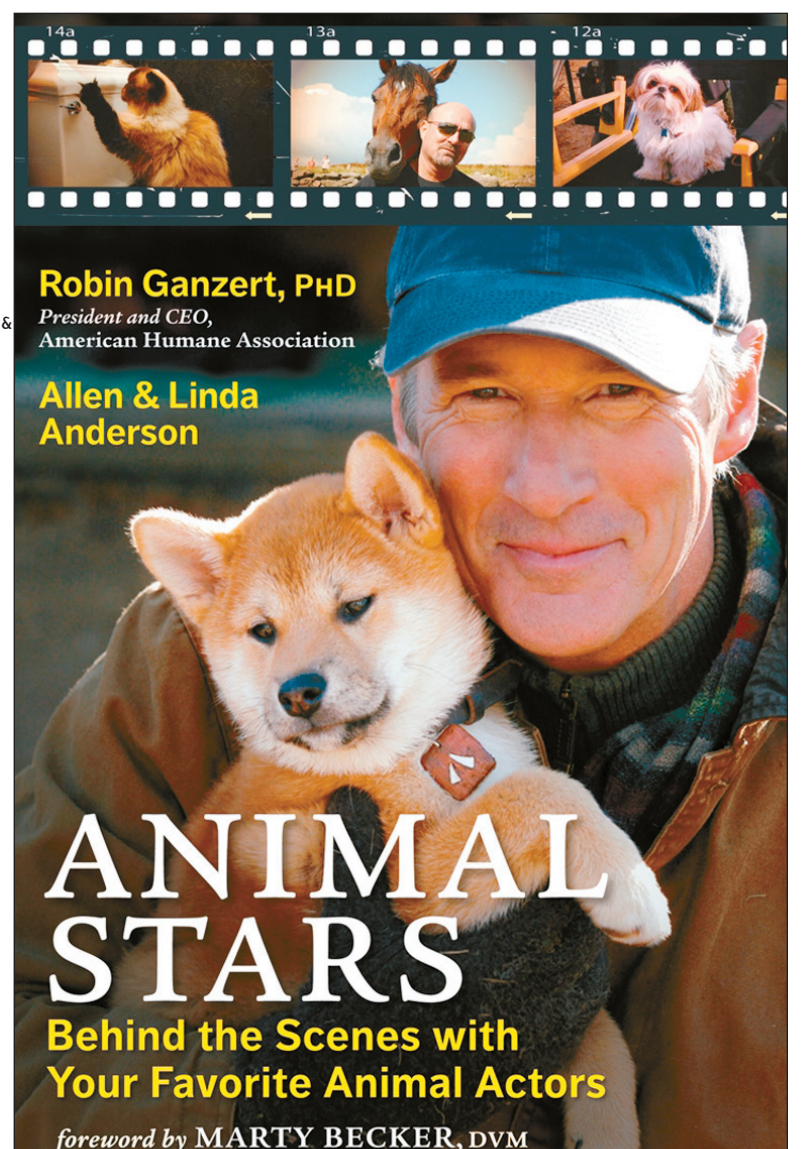
By Robin Ganzert and Allen & Linda Anderson  
New World Library  
\$22.95, 296 pages

are pulled off without a hitch. The behind-the-scenes peeks you'll get are fun to read, and hints for teaching your own critter are definitely helpful.

I was less than impressed by the brief messages from human stars scattered throughout this book, however. They seemed to me to be rather like thank-you notes dashed off to a dotty great-aunt: perfunctory and awfully lame.

That bugged me, but not enough to put this book down, which means you should pick it up. Animal lovers of all stripes, I think, will enjoy "Animal Stars" pretty well.

Terri Schlichenmeyer is The Bookworm of La Crosse, Wisconsin. She has been reading since she was 3 years old and lives with two dogs and 12,000 books.



The CEO of the American Humane Society has gathered vignettes of your favorite furry friends in this entertaining book.

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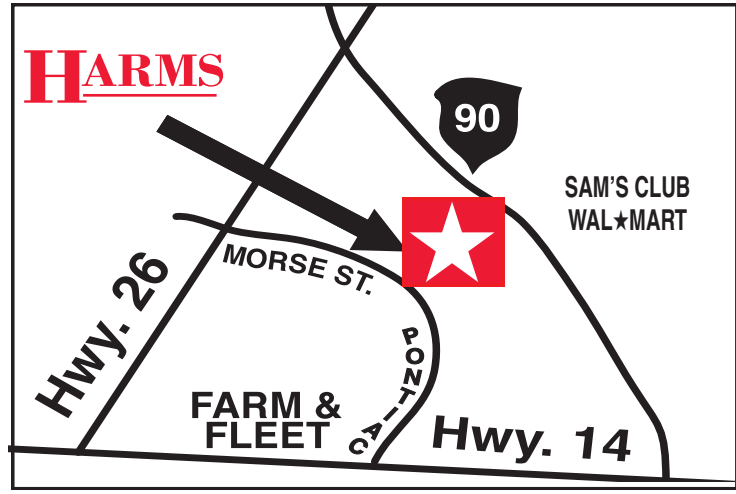
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**2011 Chevy Impala**  
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**2007 Subaru Forester LL BEAN**  
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**2005 Buick LaCrosse CXL**  
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**2012 Ford F150 XLT 4x4**  
**\$26,982**



**2010 Nissan Altima 2.5S**  
**\$13,575**



**2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4**  
**\$7,860**



**2011 KIA Forte SX**  
**\$14,965**



**2010 Chevy Equinox LT**  
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- Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle (PZEV)

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**HO...HO...HO...EVERYTHING MUST GO!**

# CALENDAR

Do you have an event that you would like publicized? Send your calendar submission by 9 a.m. on Friday for inclusion in Wednesday's edition or by 9 a.m. Wednesday for inclusion in Sunday's edition. Send your item to Calendar CSI, 1555 Willowbrook Road, Beloit, WI 53511 or email it to dhines@communityshoppers.com.

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<b>Bone in Sirloin PORK CHOPS</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb. 6 lbs. or more	<b>Bone in COUNTRY PORK RIBS</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb. 6 lbs. or more	<b>Order your Bone In or Boneless PRIME RIB</b> Lock in your price <b>\$10.95</b> lb.	<b>10 lbs. GROUND BEEF</b> <b>\$34.90</b> <b>GROUND CHUCK</b> <b>\$38.90</b>
<b>Boneless Skinless CHICKEN BREAST</b> Never frozen <b>\$1.99</b> lb. 10 lbs. or more reg. \$2.79 lb.	<b>LOBSTER</b> <b>\$5.99</b> ea.	<b>6 oz. BACON WRAPPED FILET</b> <b>\$4.99</b> ea. 6 or more	<b>Black Angus CHUCK ROAST</b> <b>\$5.49</b> lb. reg. \$5.99 lb.
<b>Butterfly PORK CHOPS</b> 10 lbs. or more <b>\$3.39</b> lb. reg. \$4.89 lb.	<b>Stuffed PORK CHOPS</b> <b>\$2.99</b> lb. reg. \$4.29 lb.	<b>STEAK GIFT BOXES</b> <b>\$39.90-\$59.90</b> One size fits all	<b>BEEF BONES FOR FIDO</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb.

<b>14 LBS. NET WEIGHT</b> 3 Lbs. Ground Beef 3 Lbs. Chuck Roast 3 Lbs. Pork Chops 3 Lbs. Chicken 2 Lbs. Round Steaks <b>\$49.95</b>	<b>20 LBS. NET WEIGHT</b> 3 Lbs. Ground Beef 3 Lbs. Chuck Roast 3 Lbs. Pork Chops 2 Lbs. Round Steaks 2 Lbs. Sirloin 6 Lbs. Chicken <b>\$71.95</b>	<b>24 LBS. NET WEIGHT</b> 5 Lbs. Ground Beef 4 Lbs. Rump Roast 5 Lbs. Pork Chops 5 Lbs. T-bone Steaks 5 Lbs. Chicken Breasts <b>\$94.95</b>	<b>35 LBS. NET WEIGHT</b> 10 Lbs. Center Cut Pork Chops 10 Lbs. Small Spareribs 10 Lbs. Pork Steaks 5 Lbs. Pork Sausage <b>\$104.95</b>	<b>25 LBS. NET WEIGHT ECONOMY BEEF BOX</b> 8 Lbs. Ground Beef 6 Lbs. Chuck Roast 3 Lbs. Rolled Rump 2 Lbs. Sirloin Steak 2 Lbs. T-bones 4 Lbs. Round Steak <b>\$119.95</b>
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<b>42 LBS. NET WEIGHT LARGE BEEF BOX</b> 2-1 Lb. T-bones 1-3 Lb. Rolled Rump 8-1 Lb. Ground Beef 2-10 Oz. Strip Steaks 3-3 Lb. Chuck Roasts 2-2 Lb. Round Steaks 2-2 Lb. Sirloin 2-10 Oz. Ribeyes 1-1/2 Lb. Stew Meat <b>\$191.95</b>	<b>50 LBS. NET WEIGHT 1/2 HOG BOX</b> 12 Lbs. Bone-in Ham 9 Lbs. Pork Chops 4 Lbs. Slab Ribs 6 Lbs. Sausage 6 Lbs. Pork Steaks 4 Lbs. Bacon 2 Lbs. Ham Steaks 3 Lbs. Country Ribs 5 Lbs. Pork Roast <b>\$154.95</b>	<b>30 LBS. NET WEIGHT ECONOMY PORK BOX</b> 5 Lbs. Pork Sausage 5 Lbs. Pork Roast 5 Lbs. Pork Steaks 5 Lbs. Country Ribs 5 Lbs. Bacon 5 Lbs. Center Cut Pork Chops <b>\$87.95</b>	<b>STEAK BOX</b> 5 Lbs. Ground Beef 6-10 Oz. N.Y. Strips 6-10 Oz. Ribeye Steaks 6-1 Lb. T-bone Steaks 4-8 Oz. Filet Mignon 4-8 Bacon-Wrapped Sirloins 2-2 Lbs. Sirloin Steaks <b>\$210.95</b>	<b>BEEF &amp; PORK BOX</b> 2-1 Lb. T-bones 5 Lbs. Pork Chops 2-2 Lb. Sirloins 4 Lbs. Pork Steak 6-1 Lb. Ground Beef 5 Lbs. Pork Roast 3 Lbs. Round Steak 4 Lbs. Slab Ribs 4 Lbs. Bacon 6 Lbs. Chuck Roast 5 Lbs. Country Ribs <b>\$169.95</b>
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*Merry Christmas!*  
Luke 2:11

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**Sunday, Dec. 7:**  
**Juda fire department's gun show, Dec. 7**, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Juda Community Center and fire station located on Highway 11-81 between Monroe and Brodhead. For more information, call 608-214-0584.

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Rock County presents "Science Versus Religion- A Simple Misunderstanding," Dec. 7**, 6 p.m. at First Congregational Church, upper room chapel, 54 S. Jackson St., Janesville. For more information, go to Unitarianrockcounty.org.

**Milton Historical Society presents "A Christmas Carol," Dec. 7**, 6 p.m. at Milton House, 18 S. Jackson St., Milton. Audience members will move to different location of the house as

each Christmas spirit arrives. Tickets can be purchased at Milton Historical Society and Northleaf Winery and by calling 608-868-7772.

**Monday, Dec. 8:**  
**Design workshop meeting for the Bond Park skate park, Dec. 8**, 6 p.m. at Hedberg Public Library, program room, 316 S. Main St., Janesville. For more information, call 608-755-3030.

**WP&L Retirees meeting, Dec. 8**, 8:30 a.m. at Citrus Cafe, 208 S. Main St., Janesville.

**Janesville City Council listening session, Dec. 8**, 5:30 p.m. at Janesville City Hall, Room 401, 18 N. Jackson St., Janesville. Residents can meet with city council members individually or in small groups to discuss issues. For more information, call 608-755-3177.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9:**  
**UW Extension winter beef cow-calf meeting, Dec. 9**, 5:30 p.m. at the Innovation Center, 1221 Inno-

vation Drive, Whitewater. The topics for this meeting will include winter feeding considerations and retrofitting retired dairy facilities for beef production. For more information or to register, call 608-757-5698.

**CASA lunch and learn program, Dec. 9**, noon to 1 p.m. at the Rock County Courthouse, 51 S. Main St., Janesville. The program will include a light lunch and an overview of the CASA program. For more information, call 608-305-1087 or email casarc@familyservices1.org.

**National Alliance on Mental Illness support group meeting, Dec. 9**, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Rock County Job Center, 1900 Center Ave., Janesville. For more information, call 608-289-4305.

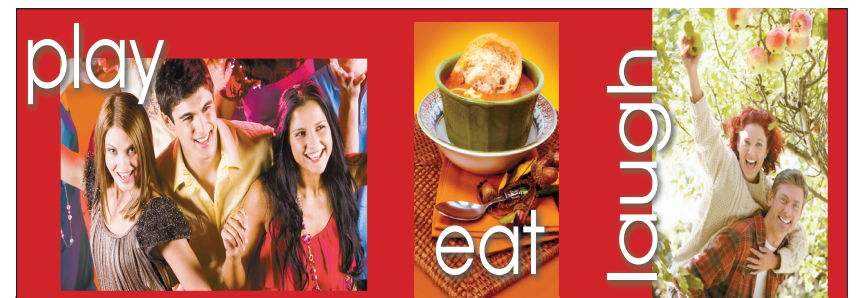
**Rock County Brain Trauma Support Group meeting, Dec. 9**, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Community Connections, Catholic Charities, 2200 W. Court St., Janesville. The meeting will include a holiday pot luck. Attendees are asked to bring

a dish to pass. Beverages and table service will be provided. For more information, call 608-752-4993.

**Wednesday, Dec. 10:**  
**Holiday Lunch and Music Show, Dec. 10**, 11:30 a.m. at Janesville Senior Center, 69 S. Water St., Janesville. The event will include music from the Blue Velvet Band and performances from local dance groups. For more information, call 608-755-3040.

**Rock County Progressives presents "Citizen Koch," Dec. 10**, 6:15 p.m. at Basics Food Cooperative, 1711 Lodge Drive, Janesville. The documentary is about the 2012 recall election. The event is independent of Basics Food Co-op.

**Community blood drive, Dec. 10**, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rotary River Center, 1220 Riverside Drive, Beloit. Donors must be at least 17 years old in order to donate blood. For more information, call 877-RRVBC-99 or go to RRVBC.org.



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**Soup:** French onion and herb soup with toasted baguette topped with smoked provolone cheese

**Entrée:** Christmas roasted Goose atop a cranberry curry stuffing and sweet potato mash  
**Dessert:** Sweet Potato Bar with coconut milk caramel and whipped cream

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# Paige Smith gets job done

Senior ready to lead Janesville Parker in battle for top of Big Eight standings

By TODD MISHLER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Style points are nice, but they don't count for anything in the box score. That goes for girls basketball, especially in the always tough Big Eight Conference.

However, longtime Janesville Parker coach Tom Klawitter knows he has one of the league's best players in senior Paige Smith; regardless of how it looks, she gets the job done.

"It's funny, because you take kids in a competitive situation and they all have their unique style, but Paige is a lot different than most others," Klawitter said. "It doesn't always look pretty, but she puts the ball in the basket."

Indeed she does. Smith finished second in the Big Eight with 16.2 points per game and was named to the first team after the Vikings finished in fifth place with a 10-8 mark in league action.



Klawitter

"She has become more consistent, and we've come to expect that high level of play from her," Klawitter said. "She has improved her all-around play, but first and foremost, she's a scorer."

Smith has played guard and forward, but she prefers life on the wings.

"I like to play both (positions) and am comfortable at either, but I grew up playing wing," the 5-foot-11 Smith said. "We play a lot of open offense, and I like driving to the basket. We set a lot of picks, and me being taller (than many defenders), it's easier for me to finish. But I still need to get stronger under the basket and finish even better."

That spells trouble for opponents as Parker hopes to challenge for its second Big Eight title in three years.

And Smith knows that she must continue to make progress for that to happen.

"I want to improve getting more offensive rebounds, my ball handling and new skills with dribbling," Smith said. "I'm confident in shooting to the three-point line, usually around the elbows on the perimeter. But I'd rather go to the basket."

Klawitter knows that is Smith's game, and the Vikings are counting on her to make them successful.

"By watching her, she doesn't show a lot of emotion ... she's level-headed through the good and the bad, and that's pretty hard to find," Klawitter said. "She provides leadership, and she does it by example. She loves the game and wants to play at the next level. I believe now that she's a senior, you can see a little more sense of urgency, and we need to see that consistency from her, and she's improved that every year."

Smith said she has received interest from Clarke University, an NCAA Division II school in Dubuque, Iowa, and the University of



TERRY MAVER/STAFF

Janesville Parker senior Paige Smith finished second in the Big Eight Conference in scoring last season. She scored 36 points in the season opener and 14 more in game two, both Viking losses.

Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

However, that decision will come in time. So, she wants to concentrate on helping Parker return to the top of the standings.

"I'm good at helping in the middle and on the weak side, but I need to improve my one-on-one defense," Smith said. "I'm a pretty happy person, so we like to have fun. But I'm also competitive, so I like to win. This will be my fourth year on varsity and we won conference my sophomore year, so I want to win it again and go to state."

Klawitter knows those are lofty goals, but the Vikings can't accomplish any of them without Smith playing at a high level.

"It's always tough, with Middleton and Verona, and Craig should be pretty good again, so it will be another dogfight," Klawitter said. "We hope to finish right up there with them. And we need Paige to be good and consistent, because as she goes, we go."

## Leipold shuffles off to Buffalo, will coach UW-W through playoffs

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater head football coach Lance Leipold on Monday accepted the same position at the University of Buffalo, a Football Bowl Subdivision school.

"I will be finishing this season and will be there as we prepare to take on an excellent Wartburg team this Saturday," Leipold said in a press conference. "My focus remains with this program and our student-athletes and on our goal of winning a national championship."

"I'd like to congratulate Coach Leipold on being named the next head football coach at the University at Buffalo," UW-Whitewater Chancellor Richard J. Telfer said in a news release. "It is a tribute to his hard work and excellent performance on and off the football field. I think I speak for many Warhawks when I say that we are proud of him and we wish him all the best."

"I'd also like to thank him for all that he's done for our student-athletes during his time at UW-Whitewater," Telfer added. "He took a strong program and made it a national powerhouse in Division III."

Leipold, a 1987 UW-W graduate, took a 106-6 career record into the Warhawks' third-round playoff contest. He has led the program to five national championships and earlier this season became the fastest head coach in NCAA history to reach 100 career wins.

"I'd like to thank Lance for his dedication and service to our institution and our student-athletes over the last eight years," UW-Whitewater Director of Athletics Amy Edmonds said. "Our football program has risen to new heights under his leadership, and we hope he'll lead the team to its goal of a national championship to end this season."

## Here's hoping the Bears and their fans have a merry Christmas

"I've heard people say it is best to go into an interview ignorant, because you learn and are surprised, but you think it is best to learn about the person."

— Tucker Carlson

Perry Dee here, guest hack columnist reporting for this month's installment of Church on Sunday. I recently had the opportunity to interview Chicago Bears Coach Marc Trestman. The following are vital portions of that sit-down:

**Q.** Coach Trestman, how would you view the job performance of you, your staff and your players so far this season?

**A.** I like me as a coach. I like all of my coaches. I like all of my players. We work hard in practices, and we always have good practices. I like our performances.

**Q.** But coach, what about your win-loss performance? Many experts across the nation, even Walworth County Sunday columnist Jeff Churchwell, figured the Chicago Bears would challenge for the NFC North Division title.

**A.** There's a lot of good football to be played yet. If odd circumstances occur, we

as an organization still have a chance to make the playoffs. Right now, there are only five teams that stand between the Bears and that final NFC wildcard spot. We've stumbled a little out of the gate, but other teams have stumbled, too.

**Q.** Let's move onto an important point. What overall effect has Brandon Marshall had on the 2014 team on the field and in the locker room?

**A.** As always, Brandon is a true professional. We all look to Brandon for leadership and performance. As far as his locker room contribution is concerned, I hear only what I can, and that's all been positive — as far as I've heard.

**Q.** But what about his tirade of "Unacceptable, unacceptable, unacceptable" after the game against the Miami Dolphins?

JEFF CHURCHWELL  
CHURCH ON SUNDAY



**A.** Well, I never actually heard that, so I can't say it's true if I don't hear it. We, my coaches and my staff, really appreciate how Brandon Marshall puts the team before himself.

**Q.** OK, thanks coach. Now, let's move onto Jay Cutler. As the NFL's highest paid player for the 2014 season, it seems as if he really hasn't earned that money. What's your real, honest and frank opinion of his play this season?

**A.** We like Jay. He works hard. He's one of the leaders on this club. He's the first one to practice every day and the last one to leave. He practices hard. But yes, Jay has to play better. We all have to play better. I have to coach better. And that's what we try to do every week.

**Q.** So, that means he'll be a Chicago Bear again next year?

**A.** Of course, Jay's going to be around. Mel Tucker is going to be around. Brandon Marshall is going to be around. I'm going to be around. We like what we have here.

**Q.** Coach, when you look north to the Green Bay Packers, how do you think your organization compares to your

rival's?

**A.** We like Green Bay. And we hope that Green Bay likes us. I think the portion that both organizations have most in common is that both teams work hard and have good practices. Green Bay has a great quarterback, but we feel that we have one, too. Mike McCarthy is a fine coach, but I believe I'm pretty good, too.

**Q.** Finally, Coach Trestman, as our world approaches the Christmas season, do you have any plans?

**A.** I'm planning on working toward an NFC playoff spot. Yes, yes, I know that it is realistically and mathematically out of the question, but that's how we're going to approach this. Some teams could completely self-disintegrate. Some tragedy could befall three or four teams ahead of us. And if that happened, we would be in. So I, my staff, my devoted players and this whole organization are dedicated to being ready for just that opportunity.

Have a merry Christmas, Bears fans.

Jeff Churchwell of Elkhorn is a teacher at Milton High School. Contact Churchwell via email at [chewy@elknet.net](mailto:chewy@elknet.net).



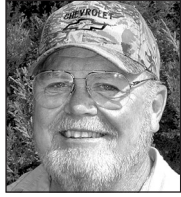
## Estimates say deer harvest will be down, especially in north

Hunters registered 15 percent fewer deer than a year ago during the recent nine-day gun season, which was the lowest kill in more than 30 years, according to a preliminary report released Tuesday by the Department of Natural Resources.

The number of harvested deer will increase somewhat because the muzzle-loader season started Dec. 1 and archery crossbow continues until the first week in January. Numbers from the far north will be significantly lower.

Here in the south, of course, there always will be pockets with good concentrations and sparse areas. You are seeing the results of overkill, especially when hunters were taking a lot of fawns — which by the way don't contract chronic wasting disease — but some folks always will want quantity, not quality. Speaking of quality, a good friend of mine, Mike

**JIM CHEADLE**  
SCALES AND TAILS



Schafer, took a beautiful, full-bodied 16-pointer. A tip of the cap to those who scored.

One thing I thought was refreshing this year is that the DNR stated before the season that numbers would be down in the far north. That's not like in the old days, when the only important thing was how many tickets were sold.

• Speaking of licenses, wild turkey and black bear hunters have until close of business Dec. 10 to apply for available permits for 2015. The spring turkey season begins April 11 and April 12 with the

annual youth hunt. The regular turkey season begins April 15 and will consist of six seven-day time periods, with the final one closing May 26.

A permit drawing will take place in late December or early January. Successful permit applicants will receive a postcard by late January. Applicants also may check their drawing status through the online licensing center beginning in late January. When sales for the 2015 license year begin March 4, permit winners may buy their required spring turkey licenses (\$15 for state residents and \$60 for non-residents) and wild turkey stamps (\$5.25).

Each permit, also known as a carcass tag, will be printed at the time of purchase. Conservation patrons and senior citizen recreation card holders are required to purchase a turkey license or stamp when they go to pick up their per-

mit. Leftover permits after the initial drawing for 2015 spring turkey season will be available in late March.

Turkey hunters are reminded that in-person registration stations are no longer available in Wisconsin. Turkeys can be registered online or via telephone at 888-HUNT-WIS.

• For those of you who don't hunt, folks are taking nice brown trout and rainbows in the Lake Michigan tributaries from Milwaukee to Racine. The best presentation has been skein, fresh eggs and white tube jigs floated under a bobber.

**The wild goose says: Wild birds in the area appreciate a little help, so fill feeders and put out suet.**

Write Jim Cheadle at 4108 W. Spring Creek, Beloit, WI 53511. Or email him at [cjcheadle@gmail.com](mailto:cjcheadle@gmail.com).

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### Girl Scouts attend leadership program in Utah



GIRL SCOUTS-BADGERLAND COUNCIL

Members of the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin-Badgerland Council recently attended the Girl Scout Leadership Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah. Members who attended the program included, from the left, Margie McMillian, Liza Salvi, Sheryl Barker, Elizabeth Woerpel, Lily Perkel, Hailey Maertz, Colleen McGuire, Jen Roman and Cordelia Regenold.

## The Christmas Barn

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### community

### BRIEFS

**Janesville city staff available for speaking presentations:** Janesville city staff are available for speaking presentations and tours. Staff members are available to talk about different topics including city issues, property values, city ordinances, the election process, the city's fiscal health, recreation programs and road projects. Tours also are available at the fire stations, city parks, Hedberg Public Library, wastewater treatment plant or police services building. For more information, call 608-755-3103.

**Choral Union to present 'Elijah':** Choral Union will celebrate its 133rd anniversary by presenting "Elijah" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Cargill United Methodist Church, 2000 Wesley Ave. in Janesville. For more information, call 608-741-5074 or go to [ChoralUnionJanesville.com](http://ChoralUnionJanesville.com).

**Milton Historical Society presents 'A Christmas Carol':** The Milton Historical Society will present "A Christmas Carol" at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Milton House, 18 S. Janesville St. in Milton. The audience will move to

another area of the house with the arrival of each spirit. Tickets can be purchased at the Milton Historical Society and Northleaf Winery in Milton or by calling 608-868-7772. To schedule a tour of the Milton House Museum, call 608-868-7772.

**Skate park design meeting scheduled:** A design meeting for the Bond Park skate park will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, in the program room of Hedberg Public Library, 316 S. Main St., Janesville. Skateboarders, BMX riders and scooter riders are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 608-755-3030.

**Janesville City Council hosts listening session:** The Janesville City Council will host a listening session at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, at Janesville City Hall, Room 401, 18 N. Jackson St. Residents can meet with city council members individually or in small groups to discuss different issues. For more information, call 608-755-3177.

**Class set for young artists:** The Janesville Recreation Division will host a Young Rembrandts course from

5:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 9, 11, 16 and 18 at the Janesville Senior Center, 69 S. Water St. The program is for children between the ages of 6 and 12 years. For more information, call 608-755-3030.

**Girls Night Out event to benefit local organization:** A Girls Night Out Rock County event will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Fredrick's Supper Club in Milton. The event will include beverage and raffle drawings with proceeds benefitting Independent Disability Services. For more information, go to [Facebook.com.GirlsNightOutRockCounty](http://Facebook.com.GirlsNightOutRockCounty).

**Winter beef meeting scheduled:** The University of Wisconsin-Extension Rock County will host a Winter Beef Cow-Calf meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Innovation Center, 1221 Innovation Drive in Whitewater. Topics include winter feeding considerations for beef cattle and retrofitting retired dairy facilities for beef production. For more information, call 920-674-7295, 608-757-5698 or 262-741-4968.

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Subaru Outback: 2005-'09

**THE GOOD STUFF:** The 2005-'09 Outback was a roomy and sure-footed machine that was praised for its ability to slog through most road and weather conditions. The spacious, well-appointed cabin could comfortably seat five. With the wagon's rear seat folded flat, the Outback displayed impressive cargo room (with an additional storage cubby below the load floor. The base four-cylinder engine was thrifter on fuel than many competing truck-like all-wheel-drive models, while the torquey top-of-the-line six-cylinder was an excellent choice for hauling recreational toys or towing travel trailers. Overall excellent ride quality and cornering control (assisted by the standard all-wheel-drive system) were also Outback strong points.

**HEADS UP!** Although the optional turbocharged four-cylinder engine as well as the six-cylinder provided sufficient muscle when called upon, they both consumed premium-grade gasoline and were thirstier than the base 2.5 four-cylinder. Although the Outback's somewhat hiked-up suspension made it competent on rough or slippery roads, it wasn't appropriate for extreme off-roading, not that many owners were so inclined. Given the complexities of all-wheel-drive, obtain a clean bill of health for your chosen Outback before driving away.

**OVERALL:** The Outback is one of the more practical automobiles out there. The wagon conveys just the right amount of machismo that complements its AWD ability (the poor-selling Outback sedan less so). Outbacks drive, ride and steer like most other cars, but it's the added ride height and go-anywhere powertrain that gives drivers the confidence to hit the road when conditions might otherwise keep them at home.

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