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4-H club helps four-legged friends



PHOTOS COURTESY EVANSVILLE 4-H CLUB *Evansville Examiner*

In February, the Evansville 4-H Club made mini tie-blankets for cats and dog pull toys. Older members and Cloverbuds (K-2) had fun tying and braiding after the meeting. The fleece was donated to the club by Joann's Fabric Store in Janesville. The 4-H club donated the finished projects to the Humane Society or Southern Wisconsin and Friends of Noah, which are local organizations helping animals. 4-H is a non-profit organization that helps kids learn new skills and develop leadership skills. For more information, please contact evansville4H@gmail.com.

J.C. McKenna wins Spirit of Excellence

Schools across Wisconsin, including J.C. McKenna Middle School, competed for the prestigious Wisconsin Association of School Councils (WASC) Spirit of Excellence Award, which recognizes schools for achieving excellence in leadership, sportsmanship, and service to their school and communities. These schools are true champions in their region and in this state.

- for Wisconsin.
- Senior High School (SHS) recipients:**
- Region II: Stevens Point Area Senior High School (Overall State Winner)
 - Region III: Bay Port High School
 - Region IV: South Milwaukee High School
 - Region V: Stoughton High School

J.C. McKenna was a runner up for the Spirit of Excellence Award.

- Junior High and Middle (JAM) school recipients:**
- Region I: Cameron Middle School
 - Region II: Ben Franklin Middle School
 - Region III: J.R. Gerritts Middle School (Overall State Winner)
 - Region IV: Pilgrim Park Middle School
 - Region V: J.C. McKenna Middle School
 - Region VI: Adams Friendship Middle School

Student leaders from around the state submitted a detailed portfolio to the WASC highlighting their achievements in multiple areas, including service, sportsmanship and positive culture, leadership in academics, athletics, and fine arts, and development of leadership both in and out of school. This portfolio was judged by a team of leaders from Wisconsin.

Recognition for these awards includes banners for all regional recipients, a trophy for the overall SHS and JAM state winners, on-court awards recognition during the Monday, March 4 Milwaukee Bucks game, and an awards presentation at the WASC State Leadership Conference in Madison on Sunday, April 7.

Please join The Wisconsin Association of School Councils, the Milwaukee Bucks, and WASC's other partners in congratulating the following schools for being recipients of the 2023-24 Spirit of Excellence Regional and State Awards. These schools are beacons of excellence

Annual Easter meal registrations due soon

The registration deadline for AWARE in Evansville's Easter holiday program is approaching fast. AWARE in Evansville, a program of Community Action, Inc., is working again with local daycares and preschools to provide this holiday meal program. Registration is limited to low-income households with children in the Evansville Community School District. Families who participate will receive items for Easter dinner and candy-filled eggs for each of their children. Families that are interested may register online at bit.ly/AWARE-Easter24 or pick up a registration form from

the AWARE in Evansville office at 209 S. First Street, or the Evansville Ecumenical Care Closet at 206 S. Madison Street. Completed forms are due to AWARE by Monday, March 18. Households that have not yet done the 2024 application process with AWARE will be contacted for additional information to determine eligibility. Eligible households will then be able to register for other 2024 AWARE programs, including school supplies, Koats for Kids, Toys for Evansville, and more. The Easter Meal Distribution will be held Tuesday, March 26, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the AWARE

in Evansville office. Contact Amy at AWARE at 608-882-9900 or email aware@community-action.org with any questions. AWARE, a program of Community Action, Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties, is a grassroots program created in 1998 to address the needs of Evansville's growing low-income population. AWARE's services benefit struggling families, seniors, and disabled adults who reside within the Evansville Community School District. All financial and in-kind contributions to AWARE are invested 100% in the Evansville community to help local friends, families, and neighbors in need.

Daylight savings begins



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 10. Readers are reminded to set their clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night. Fire safety officials say this is also a good time to check batteries in smoke detectors and other home safety devices.



PHOTO COURTESY EVANSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FACEBOOK PAGE *Evansville Examiner*

Clinton sends cards after tornado

The Evansville Community School District would like to extend a big thank you to the students, staff, and families of the Clinton Community School District for the cards, donations, and well-wishes to those that had been affected by the February tornado. The schools are very appreciative of the support and generosity. They have now shared the cards with the Evansville Fire Department, so that the first responders are able to read all the well-wishes. Thank you, Clinton community!

Pastor's corner

The Lord's Prayer: As we forgive others

Jesus tells his disciples as recorded in Matthew 6:14-15, "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." In his book titled Peacemaker, Ken Sande writes this, "Forgiveness is not a feeling but a decision. The decision is to offer grace instead of demanding justice." Let that sink in for a minute; to offer grace instead of demanding justice.



By PASTOR JOSH BRUMBAUGH Contributor

Christians have been forgiven much; therefore, we are compelled from within to forgive much. Unforgiveness is all around us and it affects everyone, from one degree to another. Unforgiveness is a bitter burden to shoulder. John Stots, in the book Confess Your Sins, quotes the director of a large English mental hospital as having said, "I could dismiss half my patients tomorrow if they could be assured of forgiveness." We all long

to be forgiven, and we should equally long to forgive. There are Four Promises of genuine forgiveness according to Ken Sande. 1. I will not let this hinder our relationship. 2. I will not dwell on this. 3. I will not bring this up ever again. 4. I will not tell others about this. Many of us go through the motions of trying to forgive, but we continue to bring up the offense time and time again, or we tell others about it. Unless all of the above-mentioned things take place, we are fooling ourselves to say that we have truly forgiven. Our unforgiveness has scabbed over into bitterness. And bitterness is the acid that eats a person

from the inside out. How can I test to see if I have truly forgiven someone? Use each of these four promises as a diagnostic tool to double-check to make certain you have forgiven the other person. And in the case of forgiveness, one of four, two of four or three of four is not adequate. For genuine forgiveness, you must meet all four of the criteria or promises to ensure the burden of unforgiveness has finally and permanently been lifted. When we come to grips with how much God has forgiven us through Jesus Christ, it is then and only then that we can offer genuine forgiveness to others. Genuine forgiveness restores relationships, pays a debt for the trespasser and releases a bitter burden for the one trespassed against. Josh Brumbaugh is pastor for Oak Grove Church at 7150 N. Weary Road in Evansville. The church can be contacted via phone at 608-882-4488 or via email at office@oakgrovechurch.com.

Obituaries

JOHN ALMOND
John Robert Almond, 86, passed away at Agrace Hospice Care, Fitchburg on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024. He was born on August 23, 1937, in Stoughton, the son of John and Anna Marie (Strandlie) Almond. He graduated in 1955 from Stoughton High School. John joined the U.S. Navy the summer before his senior year for a total of 6 years (4 years reserve and 2 active duty), advancing to a Machinist II. During his service he travelled the world, and attended firefighter school. He attended the University of Platteville for 1 year also during this time. John lived in California for several years, and eventually relocated back to his hometown, Stoughton. He bought a farm, and established his own business called "Almond Tools and Gifts" which later was destroyed by a tornado. John was very proud of his tool shop where he could help others. On April 9, 1983, John married Jeanette Ann Jackson in



Stoughton. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last year. He worked for Greg Manufacturing as a tool and dye machinist. John was known as an everyday inventor and engineer. He was a Mr. Fix It. He was a helper not only to his family, but to his neighbors and anyone who needed help. He loved being a grandpa. He enjoyed playing with the grandkids, great grandkids and was always willing to babysit. He was a very patient and disciplined man. John and Jeanette vacationed in Europe for 3 weeks, enjoyed visiting Branson, Las Vegas, Hawaii and a Caribbean Cruise. They loved going to casinos together, and dancing in their early years. John enjoyed metal detecting and trap shooting. John is survived by his loving wife, Jeanette; son, John D. (Carla) Almond; stepchild-

dren: Larry Fesenfeld, Laurie Muchow, Leora Gunn, Laverne Jackson; grandchildren: Aspen (Mario) Almond, Tarin (Brianna) Tyson, Draven Cooper, Adreanna (Carson) White, Brielle Fesenfeld, Jessalynn Fesenfeld, Christa Muchow, Alec Muchow, Hannah (Phil) Wellnitz and Lucas (Emily) Gunn; great grandchildren: Noelle, Liam, Philip and Winston; brother, Ron (Barb) Almond. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Jean Gjermo. A visitation was held on Monday, March 4 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Evansville. Funeral services were held at 11:30 a.m., also at the church. The burial will follow at Maple Hill Cemetery, Evansville. Military Honors will be provided by VFW Post 6905. A luncheon will also be provided for all after the burial, at the church. Ward-Hurtley Funeral Home, Evansville is assisting the family. For online condolences please visit: www.ward-hurtley.com.

Upcoming happenings

Live music
Hop Garden Brewing and Tap, 18 E. Main St., Evansville, will host the following live music events: Friday, March 8, 5 p.m. - Strong Arm Sally, indie folk and indie rock; Saturday, March 9, 4 p.m. - Durango, Americana and old school blues and country; Sunday, March 10, 1 p.m. - Bill Conway, Americana and folk and rock; Friday, March 15, 5 p.m. - The Driftless Ramblers, country and bluegrass and rock; Saturday, March 16, 4 p.m. - Shekinah King, blues and rock and soul; Sunday, March 17, 1 p.m. - KT Johnson, classic to recent hits; Friday, March 23, 5 p.m. - Dusty Road Duo, folk and rock; Saturday, March 23, 4 p.m. - Tony John music, country and folk and bluegrass; Sunday, March 24, 4 p.m. - The Radiant Beings, classic rock and Americana; Friday, March 29, 5 p.m. - Myles Talbott Dyad, acoustic folk and rock; Saturday, 4 p.m. - Two County Lines, classic rock and blues and country; Sunday, March 31,

1 p.m. - Tom Innis, classic rock and blues and country. **Winter Games at Hope Garden Brewing**
Hope Garden Brewing are holding their inaugural Hop Garden Evansville Winter Games on March 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. There will be a brat toss, Hopenslaugen, stein holding, and corn hole. At 4 p.m. the winning teams will be announced, with prizes for first, second, and third best teams. After the event, from 4 to 7 p.m., there will be live music by Durango, a mixture of Americana, old school blues, and country. The event is free, no advanced signup is needed, and zero athleticism is needed. Hop Garden is inviting two-person teams to compete. For those that missed the Hop Garden Paoli Winter games in February, here is a second chance for glory. The events are:
• Brat Toss: One person tosses the brat and the other catches it in a bun. Points gained for each successful

MARDYTH GOLZ
Mardyth E. Golz of Janesville passed away peacefully at The Heights at Evansville Manor on Feb. 28, 2024 at age 98. She was born on June 1, 1925 on the family farm outside of Evansville, the daughter of George and Mary (Arner) Millard. Mardyth graduated from Evansville High School, Class of 1943. She was united in marriage to the love of her life, Rollin (Tom) Golz, on Dec. 31, 1944 in the Evansville Baptist Church, and they shared 62 years of marriage until Tom's death in 2006. Mardyth retired from Parker Pen Company after 38 years. She volunteered for Meals on Wheels and the Wilson School Breakfast Program. Mardyth was a member of First Baptist Church in Janesville and was a greeter for many years. She enjoyed playing cards with friends, bowling, golfing and collecting owls. Mardyth loved to travel. She and Tom enjoyed many years traveling throughout the United States, their favorite being Hawaii. They also vacationed in Florida for many winters. Mardyth is survived by her nieces and nephews: Larry (Bonnie) Luchsinger, Randy Luchsinger of Evansville; John Luchsinger, Darcy (Paul) Paskey of Madison; Marti (George) Cooper of San Francisco, Calif.; Tracy Martin of Decatur, Ga.; Tom and Julie Ehredt of Seattle, Wash.; Bruce (Linda) Deering of Janesville; Don Doering of Las Vegas, Nev.; Randy Millard, Mardyth (Roger) Heenan, Maxine Millard of Yuma, Ariz.; and Steven (Dawn) Millard of Spokane, Wash. She is also survived by her great nieces and nephews and her sisters-in-law: Joan Golz of Grangeville, Idaho and Ruth Millard of Yuma, Ariz. She was preceded in death



and served the Brodhead area for 42 years. Prior to being an electrician, he served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War as a crew chief for C130s from 1971 to 1974. In his free time, he enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, fishing, hunting, golfing and vacationing with family and friends. He leaves behind his wife, Donna (Indergand) Trumpy

by her parents; her husband, Tom; sister Bettie (Gordon) Doering; brothers: George and Gerald (Leona) Millard; brothers-in-law: Al (Natalie) Golz, Bernie Golz; sisters-in-law: Arlene (Wilbur) Luchsinger, Doris Golz and Jeanie (William) Ehredt; and many extended family and friends. The family would like to thank The Heights at Evansville Manor and the Staff at Agrace Hospice for providing exceptional care. Funeral services were at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, at First Baptist Church, 3414 Woodhall Drive, Janesville. Rev. Jerry Amstutz officiated. Entombment followed in Milton Lawns Memorial Park Mausoleum. Visitation was at the church from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 5. Mardyth's family is being assisted by Henke-Clarson Funeral Home and Crematory, Janesville. Online condolences may be sent to www.henkeclarson.com.

GORDON TRUMPY
Gordon "Butch" Duane Trumpy, passed away peacefully on Feb. 29, 2024, surrounded by family. Butch was born August 14, 1951, in Monroe, to LeRoy and Ellen (Sonstebly) Trumpy. He was married to Donna (Indergand) Trumpy for 53 beloved years. Butch owned his own electrical company, Trumpy Electric

and served the Brodhead area for 42 years. Prior to being an electrician, he served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War as a crew chief for C130s from 1971 to 1974. In his free time, he enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, fishing, hunting, golfing and vacationing with family and friends. He leaves behind his wife, Donna (Indergand) Trumpy

of Brodhead, son Scott Trumpy (Monette Staton) of Chicago, Ill., daughter Jamie Lentz (Andrew Lentz) of Marshall, and daughter Haley Trumpy (Keith Webster) of Westfield, Ind. Two wonderful grandchildren from Jamie and Andy, Mya and Barrett Lentz of Marshall. In addition, two siblings Gene Trumpy (Katie Trumpy) of Albany, Wis. and Marj Trumpy of Winnebago, Ill. and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Gerald "Charlie" Trumpy, and Greg Trumpy. A visitation will be held Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead from 4 to 7 p.m. A memorial service will be held at the funeral home on Friday, March 8 at 11 a.m. and a short visitation will be held starting at 10 a.m. A celebration of life will be held following the memorial service at Bass Creek Golf Course, Janesville. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you make a contribution in Butch's name to the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, or charity of your choice.



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Public meeting for road improvements

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is conducting a public involvement meeting to discuss improvements along WIS 213 from WIS 11 in Orfordville to WIS 59 in Evansville in Rock County.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., at Creekside Place Community Center, 102 Maple Street, Evansville. The objective of this meeting is to familiarize the public with the purpose and need for the project and to obtain input on the proposed improvements.

The proposed project would address pavement conditions along the corridor. Proposed improvements include roadway resurfacing, widening of the paved shoulder, box culvert

replacements, and safety improvements at the County A and WIS 59 intersections and two culverts near WIS 92 and County M.

Adjacent property owners are encouraged to attend the meeting.

If unable to attend or for more information please contact WisDOT Project Manager Chris Hazard at 608-245-2652 or at christopher.hazard@dot.wi.gov.

Written comments can be mailed to Chris Hazard at 2101 Wright Street, Madison WI 53704.

Citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing and require an interpreter may request one by contacting Chris Hazard at least three working days prior to the meeting.

Evansville to celebrate Spread Goodness Day

On Friday, March 8, Evansville is celebrating Spread Goodness Day.

Celebrated annually on the second Friday of March, this event is meant to inspire a global day of explosive goodness.

Leaders of the event want to encourage individuals, schools and organizations to spread goodness together. To show the epic power that one act of goodness, multiplied by hundreds, thousands, and maybe millions of people, has to change the world in just one day.

What to do for Spread Goodness Day?

Wear yellow, throw on some shades and do something good. To whoever you want, however you want and to whatever extreme you want. Celebrate goodness in your unique, do-gooder ways. Volunteer, buy a coffee, donate a car, surprise a friend with flowers, put

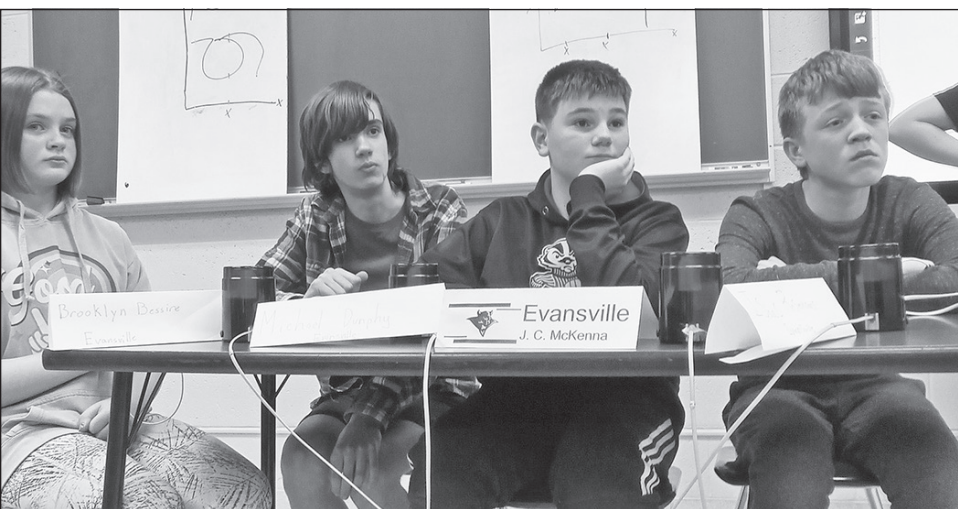
\$5 on someone's car, give someone a candy. Anything good goes!

The effect of acts of kindness

Did you know that performing acts of kindness, or even just witnessing kindness, creates Oxytocin, which reduces blood pressure and makes you feel more loving and loved?

It also reduces stress, anxiety and depression. Add some Serotonin, which helps heal your wounds and throw in some good ol' Endorphins to reduce pain. Spreading goodness literally provides healing, happiness and love to you and those around you.

This event is promoted by Becoming Better Neighbors of Evansville. Mayor Dianne C. Duggan also signed Mayoral Proclamation #2024-01 on Feb. 13 designating March 8 as Spread Goodness Day.



PHOTOS COURTESY EVANSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE Evansville Examiner

Library corner



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

All year, every year
It's never too early to start reading to your child. Sign up for the 1,000 books challenge in-person at the library. Pick up a reading log with early literacy tips at the library today.

Baby/Toddler Storytime

Friday, March 8, 10 a.m.
Lapsit stories, songs, and fingerplays that help develop pre-reading skills. For babies 0 to 2 with a caregiver.

Booking Time Together

Saturday, March 9, 10:30 a.m. to noon
An opportunity for parents and other caregivers to come together to discuss ideas and experiences sparked by this month's selected book. (Meetings will rotate monthly between 3 libraries, with March's meeting at Eager Free Library.) This month's choice: Hunt, Gather, Parent by Dr. Michaleen Doucleff.

Tech Time

Monday, March 11, 4 to 6 p.m.
Need some extra tech help? Sign up for a timeslot with Jenn for one-on-one help. Mondays 4-5 and 5-6, Thursdays 10-11 and 11-12. Dates and times may vary based on staff availability.

Storytime

Wednesday, March 13, 10 a.m.
Stories, songs, and other early literacy activities for children ages 2 to 5.

Casual Crafters Club

Wednesday, March 13, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m.
Join us for a relaxing, self-led craft in the afternoon or evening! Bring in a small project from home, start a new one with our supplies, or just hang out and chat! For both sessions in March

we will have knitting and crocheting supplies, and water color paints and paper available. On April 3, we will have materials for coloring and knitting/crochet, and on April 10, we'll have additional materials to make book nooks.

Playful Projects

Wednesday, March 13, 3:45 p.m.
Kids ages 4-8 are invited to make an art project after school! Join us for our last session of a monthly Senior Project art series where we'll be making Leprechaun Hands.

Tech Time

Thursday, March 14, 10 a.m. to noon
Need some extra tech help? Sign up for a timeslot with Jenn for one-on-one help. Monday's 4-5 and 5-6, Thursdays 10-11 and 11-12. (Dates and times may vary based on staff availability.)

Baby/Toddler Storytime

Friday, March 15, 10 a.m.
Lapsit stories, songs, and fingerplays that help develop pre-reading skills. For babies 0 to 2 with a caregiver.

Movers & Makers

Friday, March 15, 11 a.m. to noon
Sing, dance, play, and create! Enjoy a movement filled storytime followed by a hands-on art project.

About the library

The Eager Free Public Library is at 39 W. Main St. in Evansville.

For more information, visit the website at www.als.lib.wi.us/EFPL, or follow them on Facebook at @eagerfree-publiclibrary.

Call the library's main desk at 608-882-2260, Library Director Megan Kloeckner at 608-882-2278, or the children's department at 608-882-2275.

Library hours are Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and closed on Sundays. Hours around holidays may vary.

NEW MATERIALS

Adult Fiction
Shark Heart by Emily Habeck

Interesting Facts about Space by Emily Austin
The Edge by David Baldacci

Chain Gang All Stars by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

Unnatural Death by Patricia Cornwell

Fourteen Days: A Collaborative Novel by various authors

Flirting with Disaster by Elizabeth Hrib

The Pilot's Secret by Allison Leigh

The Cowboy's Road Trip by Stella Bagwell

Twenty-eight Dates by Michelle Lindo-Rice

Mercury by Amy Jo Burns

The Witch is Back by Sophie H. Morgan

Beneath Dark Waters by Karen Rose

Last Night by Luanne Rice

It Starts with Us by Colleen Hoover

An Amish Cinderella by Shelly Shephard Gray

The Ghost Orchid by Jonathan Kellerman

Vera Won's Unsolicited Advice by Murderers by Jesse Q. Sutanto

First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston

Adult Nonfiction
Oath and Honor by Liz Cheney

The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism by Tim Alberta

Young Adult Fiction
So Let Them Burn by Kamilah Cole

Powerless by Lauren Roberts

These Deadly Prophecies by Andrea Tang

Dungeons and Drama by Kristy Boyce

Shut Up, This is Serious by Carolina Ixta

Divine Rivals by Rebecca Ross

A Fragile Enchantment by Allison Saft

See LIBRARY, Back Page

Battle of wits at Quiz Bowl

Hit the buzzers! The J.C. McKenna Middle School Quiz Bowl Team faced off in an intense battle of wits at Parkview Middle School last week. Quiz bowl is a game in which two teams compete head-to-head to answer questions from all areas of knowledge, including history, literature, science, fine arts, current events, popular culture, sports, and more. The team has practicing after school since January. With a close finish of 2-3, each match was a testament to the students' determination. Cheers to the Evansville team's first outing of the year.



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CAFOs, part 2: The businessman

Pig farmer developer gains little trust in Wisconsin town, doesn't care

By Bennet Goldstein

WISCONSIN WATCH

This story was originally published by Wisconsin Watch. It is the second story in a three-part series called Hogtied, which examines the political, regulatory and economic forces shaping a proposal to build the state's largest pig farm.

He says he's an open book. He calls himself a creator.

"Not a details person at all!" his LinkedIn profile declares. "The best compliments to me is working around detailed people. I create a project and need them to complete it."

Jeff Sauer travels the country, bringing tidings of pigs.

In January 2019, Sauer came to Trade Lake, Wisconsin, with a plan in his pocket. He sought to establish the region's first large swine breeding farm, also known as a concentrated animal feeding operation, or CAFO. For that, he required farmland and lots of it.

The \$20 million project, known as Cumberland LLC, could have housed more than 26,000 hogs – the state's biggest sow operation. Given the potential of the massive farm to transform life in Burnett County, residents and property owners raised a gauntlet of questions: Who would own and operate the facility? Would it be well run? Who could the community hold accountable if it wasn't?

They found little comfort in the answers.

Opponents discovered Cumberland's owners sought to purchase fields from Trade Lake's then chairman, Jim Melin. Several sued to remove Melin from office, accusing the local official of conflicts of interest. From testimony collected during litigation, the plaintiffs believed they could establish Sauer falsely represented himself as a company owner when he submitted a CAFO application. They urged the state to reject it.

Sauer, who has since accumulated infractions in business dealings in another Wisconsin community, has sown distrust in Trade Lake among a public already wary of large livestock farming. Critics accused him of trying to site the swine facility, sentiment be damned.

Opponents have asked whether the level of diligence the company has invested into the hog farm's planning and community relations foreshadows a lack of care and transparency in operations. Adding to their unease is state regulators' reliance upon self-monitoring and community watchdogging to safeguard the environment from agricultural pollution.

Meanwhile, Cumberland's absentee owners hold minimal culpability in the event of damage because they formed a limited liability company that would own the facility – a common industry practice.

Sauer rejected the accusations and maintains he has never lied. In fact, Sauer said, he now is the sole owner of the entire project.

That the facility would be run poorly is preposterous, he said. "What would make you think that we would put an investment of that magnitude in and then make it look like trash?" Sauer told Wisconsin Watch.

He considers himself, and others in the local agriculture community, the victims of "selfish" and "stupid" "crazies"

and a hostile press.

"I bet you any money that your publication that you're wanting to write right here for this story is to slam me one more time – to slam Cumberland LLC," Sauer said. "Have you heard one uplifting story about this whole thing since it began?"

Searching for a farmer's sympathy

Cumberland's developers anticipated controversy from the start, particularly over potential odor and pollution. They chalked it up to community resistance to change.

Sauer filed a preliminary CAFO application with the state in early 2019 after scoping out properties in the Trade Lake area for months.

"The key to our puzzle is a participating farmer," he later explained.

Sauer identified one in Erik Melin, 38, Jim Melin's son. Erik, who was taking over his family's farming business, would purchase manure from Cumberland to fertilize fields he owns and rents.

In April 2019, a reporter from the area's newspaper, the Inter-County Leader, learned of the proposal and contacted Erik for an interview. Erik texted Sauer shortly after and suggested Sauer do the talking.

"We may want to wait on this opportunity for a while," Sauer responded, asking Erik to hold off until he could coach him. "Media can distort what you are implying and we don't want that."

Sauer had reason to believe waiting to comment was for the best. Public sentiment toward CAFOs usually sours, he said.

"It always does."

Trade Lake meets the businessman

Sauer unveiled his vision to Trade Lake community members the previous January at a town board meeting, but his presentation was listed under a vague agenda heading, and few members of the public appeared.

Still, word spread.

The board revisited the matter at Trade Lake's annual meeting in April. The Inter-County Leader had outlined details of the Melin sale the previous day, and more than 120 people overflowed the historic town hall for a monthly meeting that normally draws just a handful or two.

Property owners sought answers from Sauer in the form of scientific data, contingency plans and financial assurances.

They got something else.

"I'd like to know who he is," said Trade Lake resident Howard Pahl, 71, at the meeting's start.

"Well, I've been in a lot of post offices under wanted posters," Sauer opened.

The crowd raucously laughed.

Sauer introduced himself as a farmer from Thorp, Wisconsin, and a part-owner of a dairy and hog operation, unrelated to Cumberland.

He marketed the proposed swine farm's advantages for Trade Lake: It would source its corn locally, create about two dozen new jobs and annually generate \$5 million in economic activity.

"Can I interrupt you for a second?" said local resident Dean Moody. "You're not telling us who you are."



DRAKE WHITE-BERGEY WISCONSIN WATCH *Evansville Examiner*

A sign opposing a proposed concentrated animal feeding operation that would house thousands of pigs is shown in the town of Trade Lake in Burnett County on April 28.

In 1966, Sauer moved with his five siblings to Thorp, where their father, Arthur, farmed more than 1,000 acres for 30 years. Sauer says he concluded his formal education with the eighth grade, then attended the school of "hard knocks" to learn construction.

Now 57, he is married, by his account, to a woman who doesn't like hogs. In August 2019, Sauer was a father of seven, who ranged in age from 9 to 35.

He knows how to apply pesticides and herbicides. The co-owner of the veterinary company with whom Sauer planned Cumberland describes him as a "very, very clever guy" in construction and building equipment.

Sauer also is entrepreneurial. After working as a sales manager at Thorp Equipment, where he helped design calf nurseries, Sauer in 2017 founded Clear View Solutions Group, which assists swine producers with permitting in Wisconsin.

His ventures have landed him into conflict with the state and a central Wisconsin town where he operates an animal composting and rendering business.

Sauer says the company, Organic Waste Connections, which disposes of cow, horse, goat, llama, sheep and pig carcasses, is rooted in core values "like a foundation built on treating others as Jesus instructed us to – by showing respect for them and their needs."

Developer faces environmental lawsuits and citations

In November 2022, the town of Reseburg sued Sauer, alleging he is operating the facility without a license, generating noxious odors, producing leachate and discharging stormwater with dangerous levels of E. coli that drains into nearby waterways.

The lawsuit, which claims Sauer began commercial operations in June 2020, alleges that he refused to abide by a town animal composting and rendering ordinance and cooperate with local officials.

Denying all of the town's allegations, Sauer maintained he started the business in 2008, a year before the town unlawfully enacted its "retaliatory" ordinance, which has since, he asserted, only been applied to him, illegally.

In August, the parties agreed to parameters, effective through January 2024, concerning the disposal and storage of dead animals.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources also cited Sauer three times. A since-dismissed case from 2022 alleged Sauer failed to amend an industrial stormwater pollution prevention plan. The following September, after repeated warnings, Sauer was cited for failing to obtain a construction site stormwater discharge permit and to develop an erosion control plan.

In September, Sauer pleaded no contest in Clark County Circuit Court to one of the charges, and the state dismissed the other. He was fined \$5,000.

"He has painted himself in a very unflattering light, and I suspect we will hear refrains of, 'How come DNR would consider granting him a permit for a complex operation like a CAFO when he can't even get into compliance with a stormwater permit?'" wrote an agency staff member to the state's CAFO permit coordinator.

Sauer, who said the novelty of Organic Waste Connections is bound to ruffle feathers and "has no correlation to the Cumberland LLC project," told Wisconsin Watch that it's up to the state's agricultural and natural resources departments to regulate his business with respect to the offenses named in the town's lawsuit – not Reseburg.

"So if we're in good standing with those two departments," he said, "the other stuff is just basically bullshit."

Developer on defense as community crackles

At the Trade Lake annual meeting, attendees lobbed a volley of concerns Sauer's way. What would Cumberland do for the community if the farm impaired local air or water?

"So the question 'if' is a really big word 'cause you're assuming it will and I'm assuming it won't," Sauer said, adding, "You cannot deal with something of the unknown, because of the unknown, with the unknown."

A local farmer asked what guarantees the company could provide that it would "properly" respond to accidents like manure spills.

"The answer to your question is there's only two guarantees in life," Sauer said. "Death and taxes."

The crowd fumed.

"I can guarantee you that it ain't going to smell, right?" Sauer shouted over the grumbling. "And I can leave here and fall off the end of the road and get killed. So what good is it?"

"You're asking us to assume a lot of risk and trust," another attendee said. "And I just ain't feelin' the love."

A woman asked if a "comprehensive and tangible" impact study would be available.

"This is our heritage," she said. "This is our legacy. This is our birthright. It isn't yours. And you're trying to dictate to us. And I'm mad as all get-out."

The room burst into applause and amens.

"So, that is not required for us to do at the moment," Sauer said.

He reminded the audience he didn't have to publicly discuss the hog farm until the state held a public hearing later in the review process.

"You're working from historical knowledge," he said. "Some of these things are fallacies."

Sauer might have attempted to persuade the crowd that draining the local aquifer doesn't make financial sense for Cumberland's owners or that the manure wouldn't smell because it would be treated and injected into the ground.

But, he said in subsequent interviews, what's the point of trying to convince the "antis" when community members already decided they don't want the pig farm?

Controversy has existed "since the beginning of time," Sauer told the crowd.

Trade Lake experienced controversy over a dock, he continued, referring to another divisive town issue. Controversy over boat wakes too.

"And quite honestly, everybody's talking about negatives here," Sauer said. "I want to know would your battery work in your car if you had it all negatives? No, it's an equilibrium of positives and negatives which makes your economy work."

At the urging of another attendee, Erik Melin addressed the gathering to share his enthusiasm.

"I'm very excited for this," he said. "It allows for me and my wife and my children to be profitable in farming. We are very invested in this community. We love Trade Lake. We don't want to ruin it for anybody."

When residents suggested passing a CAFO moratorium, Sauer told them they couldn't do so that night, and even if they did, Cumberland would be exempt because he already submitted the application to the state.

"Wisconsin sets all the criteria," Sauer said. "You follow the rules, you do exactly as laid out, you get the permit. It's not 'if.'"

By the end of the meeting, he was hurling legal threats.

"Correct me if I'm wrong," Moody said, "but what I heard you say is you're coming in whether you have to do it with the lawyers or we welcome you."

"I won't even pay a penny for that litigation," Sauer said, in reference to the moratorium. "The state of Wisconsin will fight this, and that's not going to cost me a penny, but it's go-

ing to cost taxpayers."

Sauer contended that even if all locals don't benefit from the hog farm directly, the Melin's opportunity would extend to the public.

"You got manufacturing in town here. Do you prosper from that? No, but it does make the community," Sauer said. "So it's every aspect is a building components of everything that's in sync that makes the community stronger."

"Can I stop you, 'cause you've gotten so far from my statement," Moody said.

"No!" Sauer said.

"Yeah, you have –"

"The reality is that our intentions are to come."

"Yeah, any way you have to."

During a deposition that occurred in the Melin lawsuit, Sauer said he left the annual meeting with the impression that there were "a bunch of pricks" in Trade Lake.

"You guys are all selfish," he told trial lawyer Andy Marshall. "You're included."

Marshall, a town property owner who represented the 11 plaintiffs who sued Melin, asked Sauer if residents' concerns over groundwater contamination or disease are also selfish.

"Fake news," Sauer said.

Trade Lake moves to halt hog farm

Following the annual meeting, the community's opposition to Cumberland was "swift and overwhelming," as Marshall, 63, described it.

Several Trade Lake property owners and residents formed a local opposition group, Know-CAFOs, and periodically deluged the email inboxes of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency staff, along with elected and appointed officials. The St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin also admonished the project.

Opponents questioned the surveying and study of the farm site and unsuccessfully petitioned regulators to conduct an environmental impact statement.

"We will not back down until the DNR starts to protect the waters of our state as the department was intended," wrote Trade Lake resident Judi Clarin, 62.

Confusion over CAFO ownership

Sauer has been described as the consultant, coordinator or middleman, but questions remained about whether he co-owned or managed Cumberland – which formed in 2018 – at the time he submitted his initial CAFO application.

People who file with the state must certify they are one or the other, but many Trade Lake property owners alleged Sauer misrepresented himself, a violation punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 or six months imprisonment. Opponents cited the purported falsification as grounds for denying Cumberland's application.

Sauer was retained by owners of an Algona, Iowa, swine management and veterinary company, Suida Health and Production, in 2017 to site and build the Trade Lake farm. Sauer said he wouldn't be paid until he did so. In 2020, at least

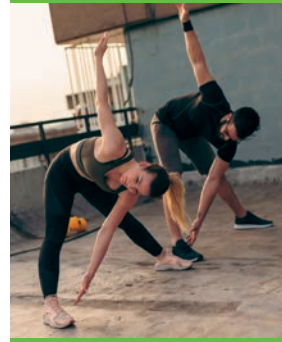
Students study **strawberries** in school

Strawberries aren't just for eating; they're also superstar subjects for DNA extraction adventures. Just like DNA makes us uniquely human, it also gives strawberries their "berry special" qualities. With some simple materials, the 8th grade science class at J.C. McKenna Middle School was able to extract DNA from a strawberry's cells.

PHOTOS COURTESY EVANSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE *Evansville Examiner*



Beginner's Guide to Fitness



Tuesday, March 12th
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Stoughton Health
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OPINION

Slices of life

Northern cold versus southern cold



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

I'm a recent transplant – from a northern state to a southern one. I now spend winters in Florida, but for most of my life, I endured the (harsh, frigid, bitter, unending, Arctic, hyperborean) winters of Minnesota, aka Minnesnowta (cold nose, warm heart).

I like to think it made me stronger. Hell, I know it did. You can't survive and endure 30 degree negative temperatures (with a windchill of unspoken proportions) without cultivating some sort of inner fortitude (not to mention frostbit fingers).

It's been a cold winter in Florida. By cold, I mean about May or September in Minnesota terms. The lows have hovered around the 40's and 50's. We've had a night or two in the mid 30's. People cover their plants and wear winter coats to the grocery store. I've even seen gloves and a stocking cap or two, but I haven't yet seen my breath.

People who think it's cold when you can't even see your breath outside don't really understand cold. They've probably never even had their cheeks burn while walking from the car to the front door.

Let's just put this out there: it doesn't get cold in Florida. 50 degrees Fahrenheit is not cold. 40 degrees is not cold. Even 32 degrees, while technically freezing, isn't cold – if you are from Minnesota.

In the north, we wear shorts in 32 degrees – without a second thought. Anything near or above freezing is not cold. We consider it warm.

We do the polar bear plunge into any one of our 10,000 frozen lakes, but before we dive into the cold water, we have to cut a hole through the ice to actually get there.

In the south, people complain when the pool temperature dips below 80 degrees (Fahrenheit).

In the south, it's a blustery day if you have to wear socks. In the north, blustery requires layering two sets of leggings – before you put on your fleece-lined jeans. And that's just for life inside your house.

Yesterday I was listening to the radio and a winter

warning came on – for pets. The overnight low was a predicted 35 degrees and pet owners were advised to be cautious and careful about the hypothermia levels of their beloved's paws.

In the north, humans are a sturdy lot, nearly impervious to the frigid temps. Pets take that one step further. They lie on the snow for a relaxed state of fun.

When it is really cold – like a windchill of negative 30 – we let them out and then in again within five minutes or less because, well, that's the smart thing to do. When the weather is 35 degrees (above zero), we let them play outside for as long as they want because fur coats were invented for a reason, and that reason is winter.

Today I got a text message from the HVAC folks who service my unit. They reassured us that they are on call 24/7 during this cold snap, in case someone's heater should stop working, causing an obvious emergency to ensue.

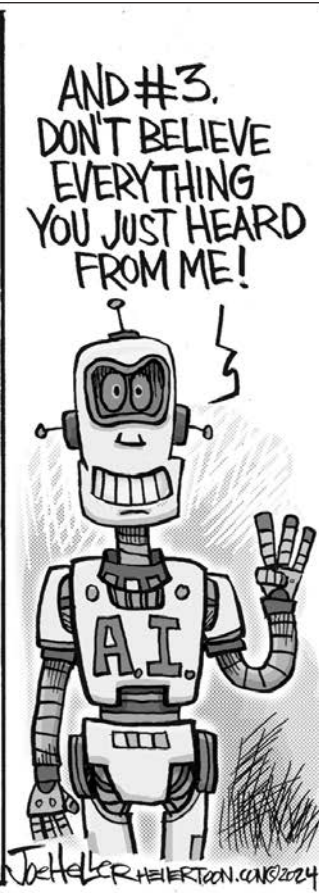
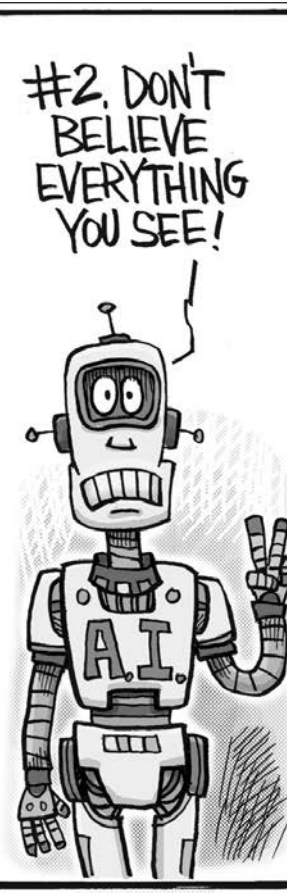
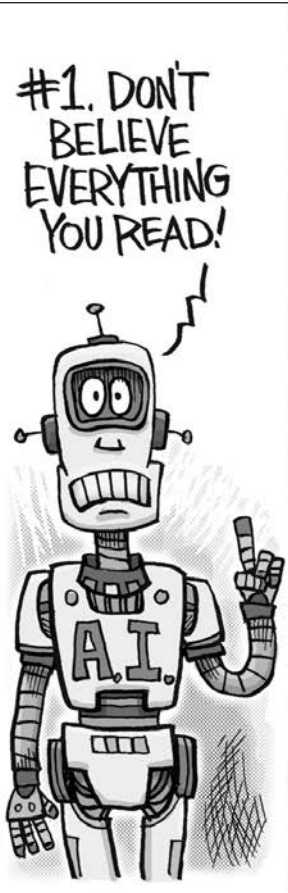
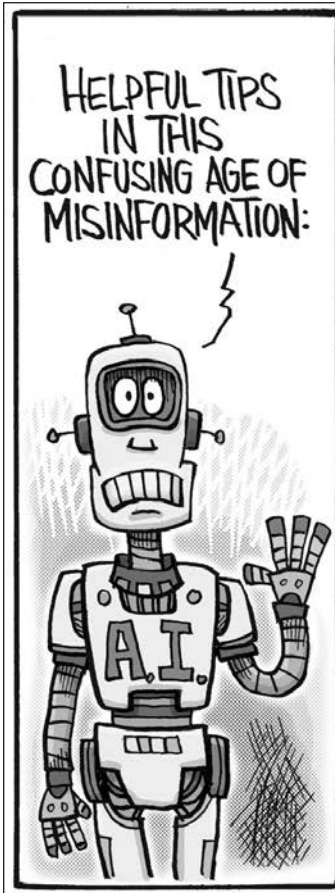
I had to stop myself from laughing. I've slept with an open window (and ceiling fan on) every night during this cold spell. Heat hasn't even been in my vocabulary.

Winter in the north versus south is indeed very different – and I haven't even touched on the subject of snow days. That's probably a column all its own.

But let's get down to the nitty gritty. We live in a very big, very beautiful nation. There is north, south, east and west and there is good in every corner. Some may find it in a white, sandy beach – others in a glistening white snowfall.

And there is beauty in both – and everything in between. Let's all relish in that.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.



On the garden path

Show some love with unique indoor plants



By **MELINDA MYERS**
Columnist

Any time of the year is a great time to gift someone flowers or a plant.

Consider an indoor plant with heart-shaped leaves or flowers. Anthuriums are an easy-to-grow long blooming indoor plant. The red, pink, or white heart-shaped flowers rise above glossy green leaves. Grow it in a brightly lit location out of direct sunlight and water when the soil is slightly dry.

Heart-shaped leaves and colorful flowers of the florist cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*) make it an excellent choice for Valentine's or for anyone special in your life. Its pink, red, purple, or white flowers rise above variegated leaves of green and silver. It prefers cool, draft-free locations and bright indirect light. Allow the soil to almost dry between waterings.

Valentine hoyo, also known as Sweetheart hoyo (*Hoya kerrii*), is usually sold as a single rooted leaf in a small container. It eventually grows into a vining plant and requires the same care as other hoyas. Grow it in a warm location with bright indirect light and well-drained soil.

String of hearts (*Ceropegia woodii*) is just that, a thin vine dotted with an abundance of small heart-shaped leaves. The leaves are dark green with silver highlights adding to its appeal. Grow it in bright light with well-drained soil and water it when the soil is dry.

Beginning and experienced gardeners will appreciate a low-maintenance pothos or philodendron with heart-shaped leaves. Select one of the variegated philodendron varieties like Brasil or Neon pothos with bright lime green leaves for a bit different look.

Purchase or create a heart-shaped topiary. At your favorite garden center, you'll find many ready-to-buy or all the necessary materials to

plant your own.

All you need is a pot with drainage holes, a couple of vining-type plants like wire vine or English ivy, and a piece of heavy gauge wire or a preformed heart-shaped topiary frame.

Small-leaved ivies and wire vines are easy to train into attractive topiaries. Look for small plants with long branches for immediate impact.

Bend the wire into a heart shape with one or two legs that will extend into the container. Fill the bottom half of the container with a well-drained potting mix. Set the topiary frame in place.

Locate the plants in the container so the stems can be trained up either side of the heart. Cover the roots with soil and water. Secure the stems to the wire frame and add a decorative stone mulch,

if desired.

If your recipient is an avid gardener, they may prefer assembling their own topiary. Just provide all the materials and directions wrapped in pretty paper.

If you opt for fresh flowers, make sure to get the most from your floral investment. Look for the freshest flowers possible. A whiff of the water will let you know if the flowers are fresh and have been properly tended.

Look for upright and perky flowers with lots of firm buds that are just starting to open. Avoid cut flowers with drooping discolored leaves and slimy stems.

Give the recipient a packet of floral preservatives to add to some fresh water. Encourage them to remove any lower leaves and re-cut the stems before placing them in a clean vase.

If the roses bend at the neck soon after purchase, there is an easy cure. Remove them from their vase, re-cut the stems, and submerge the whole rose – stem, leaves, flowers, and all – in a sink or tub

of warm water. Leave the roses submerged for 30 minutes. Re-cut the stem and place it in a clean vase with fresh water and a floral preservative.

Always protect your living gift when transporting it between the store, your home, and the recipient. Wrap plants or cut flowers to protect them from the weather and never leave them in a cold or hot car.

Whatever plant or flowers you select, you are sure to generate a smile and boost the spirits of the person on the receiving end.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening.

She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV and radio program.

Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her website is MelindaMyers.com.



MELINDA MYERS PHOTO Evansville Examiner

Anthuriums are a low-maintenance and long-blooming plant, giving the recipient heart-shaped flowers to enjoy. They are just one of several gift suggestions ideal for any time of the year.

Write us!

This newspaper invites readers to comment on issues of local or topical interest by submitting letters to the editor.

Letters should be concise – 500 words or less. The editor reserves the right to edit for length and content prior to publication; however, every effort is made to maintain the original intent of the letter.

Priority is given to letters of local interest.

All letters must be signed to be considered for publication. Names will not be withheld. The writer's community and telephone number must be included. Phone numbers will

be used only for verification and will not be published.

Letters deemed libelous, in poor taste or of a commercial nature will not be published.

Letters of thanks will be published if deemed newsworthy; however, long lists thanking individuals and business will not be accepted due to space restrictions.

In general, letter writers are limited to one published letter every 30 days.

Email is the most efficient and therefore the preferred method of delivery. Letters should be emailed to the editor at evansvilleexaminer@rvpublishing.com.

Rock County ADRC – Aging Unit Nutrition Program

The Rock County ADRC – Aging Unit Nutrition Program, dining centers and home delivered meals has laid out their regular menu for March 2024.

Reservations are required and must be made by noon of the prior business day. To make a reservation or for more information, call 608-757-5474 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dining centers are open. There is no longer curbside pickup.

Meals are served at 11:30 a.m. at all locations.

Friday, March 8

Broccoli quiche, red potatoes, asparagus, cottage cheese, orange juice, cinnamon raisin bread.

Monday, March 11

BBQ chicken breast, Italian blend vegetables, stewed tomatoes, whole wheat bread,

fruited applesauce, chocolate mousse.

Tuesday, March 12

Beef and rice casserole with green peppers, peas, carrots, whole wheat bread, mandarin oranges, lemon bars.

Wednesday, March 13

Swedish meatballs, noodles, cauliflower, beets, whole wheat bread, banana.

Thursday, March 14

St. Patrick's Day Menu: Corned beef, cooked cabbage, red potatoes, carrots, rye bread, mint brownie.

Friday, March 15

Lemon parsley, asparagus, carrots, rice pilaf, applesauce, soft oatmeal cookie.

Dining center locations

• Evansville: Creekside Place, 102 Maple Street,

Tuesday and Thursday only.

• Beloit: Chews and News Grinnell Hall Senior Center, 631 Bluff Street, Monday through Friday.

• Clinton: Senior Center, 508 Front Street, Monday through Friday.

• Janesville: Riverview Café – Riverview Heights, 930 N. Washington St. (park in back, special parking available on request), Monday through Friday.

• Milton: The Gathering Place, 715 Campus Street, Monday through Friday.

About the program

Eligibility: Any person age 60 or older, regardless of income, and a spouse of any age.

Dining centers: Reservations are required and must be made no later than noon of the prior business day. Suggested donation of \$5. All donations are appreciated.

Home delivered: Must also be homebound. Suggested donation of \$5.

Call 608-757-5474 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., for meal reservations, cancellations and home delivered meal information.

Funding is provided by Title III (Older Americans Act) and donations. Rock County COA is an equal opportunity provider. No eligible person will be denied a meal because of inability to make a donation.

Rock County Nutrition Program cannot assume any liability for adverse reactions to food consumed. Nutrition Program food should not be consumed by persons with severe allergies or dietary restrictions.

Due to supply chain issues, the program reserves the right to make substitutions when needed.

In brief

Evansville High School to hold career fair

Evansville High School is holding a Career Fair on Wednesday, April 17, from 8 to 10 a.m. at the EHS Commons.

The Career Fair is for all EHS students. Seniors are required to attend.

The school has extended the ACP to ensure everyone can participate. The class schedule for the day will run on a 2-hour delay schedule.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to explore future career paths.

at 408 S. Main St. in Janesville.

Come celebrate the charm of the season. The gallery is open on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m., as well as before and during JPAC performances. The artwork is also for sale for those that wish to bring a bit of that charm to their home.

As always, the art show is free and open to the community.

Visit them online at www.janesvilleartleague.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/JanesvilleArtLeague.

reins were handed over to the Evansville Area Chamber of Commerce to keep this event running.

Remember to save the date for Friday, May 10, in downtown Evansville. Be sure to follow along on the Art Crawl Facebook page at www.facebook.com/EvansvilleArtCrawl for more information.

Watch for business sponsorship opportunities, artist hosting, and artist registrations coming soon. For those artists who are interested, or for those who may be new to this event, they can email evansvillechamber@gmail.com to get more information.

lie on a mat, but you can also learn sitting on a chair.

To register for this free class, please send an email to Kathleen requesting an in-person spot or the Zoom link at kathleen@kathleenconklin.com. Questions? Call 608-772-2286.

Please visit on Facebook or the website at stoughtonhealth.com to learn about other upcoming health education events. To hear more about other health topics, go to the website and click on "Podcasts."

Beginner's guide to fitness class offered

Do you want to kickstart your fitness journey and stay on track? Stoughton Health is offering a Beginner's Guide to Fitness class to learn the essentials like stretching, appropriate gear, nutrition, and hydration (before, during, and after exercise).

This class will be held on Tuesday, March 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Stoughton Health Community Health and Wellness Center. To register for this free class, please go to stoughtonhealth.com and click on "Classes and Events." Questions? Contact Stoughton Health Community Education at 608-877-3498.

Evansville Art Crawl coming this spring

The Evansville Art Crawl has been a springtime staple for nearly 15 years in Evansville.

Though committee members have come and gone over the years, the past two years this event was run with a skeleton crew, hoping to keep the Evansville Art Crawl alive. This year the

Learning to breathe for healthy living

Join Kathleen, founder of Body Conscious LLC, Master Teacher of pilates and stretch/strength technique, for a 60-minute class with the option of an additional 15 minutes of mindful breath practice. This class is an introduction to Centric 6, the correct sequence of six steps that activate your main breathing structures. Proper breathing will improve digestion, reduce incontinence, flatten your belly, and increase stamina and endurance in all your sports and life activities. Participants

Activities at Creekside Place

Join Creekside Place for fun, exercise and friendship at 102 Maple St. in Evansville. Call at 608-882-0407 for details or visit the website at www.creeksideplace.org.

- 11:30 a.m. – Senior Dining
- 6 p.m. – Becoming Better Neighbors

Friday, March 15

- 9 a.m. – StrongBodies
- 10 a.m. – Women's Coffee Hour

Friday, March 8

- 9 a.m. – StrongBodies
- 10 a.m. – Women's Coffee Hour

Monday, March 11

- 9 a.m. – Creekside Coffee Hour
- 9 a.m. – StrongBodies
- Noon – Knitting Group
- 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. – Community Meal

Tuesday, March 12

- 9 a.m. – Creekside Coffee Hour
- 9 a.m. – Yoga
- 10:30 a.m. – Gentle Fit
- 11:30 a.m. – Senior Dining
- 12:30 p.m. – Bingo

Wednesday, March 13

- 8:30 a.m. – TOPS
- 12:30 p.m. – Bunco

Thursday, March 14

- 9 a.m. – Yoga
- 10:30 a.m. – Gentle Fit



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DIRECTIONS: ¼ mile south of Brooklyn on Hwy. 104 to Holt Rd., east 1 mile to Crocker Rd., south or 2½ miles north of Evansville on Hwy. 14 to West Union Rd., west 1½ miles to Crocker Rd., north. Watch for George Auction signs.

NOTE: Many pieces were purchased new. Everything has had excellent care & has been stored inside. Very clean & well-kept. With equipment questions call/text Jeff Johnson at 608-219-9931.

TERMS: No buyer's fee. Check or cash. 4% courtesy charge for purchases using credit card. All sales final. All announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed material. Not responsible for accidents or losses.

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For complete listing and photos log on to www.georgeauction.com

Edgerton Hospital Quick Care holds open house

Edgerton Hospital and Health Services has opened a new walk-in healthcare option in downtown Edgerton.

The Edgerton Hospital Quick Care, located at 4 Burdick Street next to Edward Jones, is a convenient option for people dealing with non-emergency ailments, who are unable to be seen within 1 to 2 days by their primary care provider. No appointment is needed, and most patients are expected to be seen and, on their way, within about an hour.

The Edgerton Hospital Quick Care is staffed by medical professionals experienced in Urgent Care services, including a Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant, and Certified Medical Assistants.

Area providers and community members are welcome to tour the remodeled space and meet the Quick Care staff, on Friday, March 8. Members of the Edgerton Chamber of Commerce and other Edgerton Hospital and Health Services staff will also be in attendance. There will be a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. and an open house, with baked goods and refreshments, to follow.

For more information on Edgerton Hospital Quick Care, please visit edgertonhospital.com

Edgerton Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital. The hospital serves the communities of Edgerton, Milton and surrounding communities. Founded in 1923, the facility offers inpatient, outpatient, surgical, diagnostic, emergency, urgent care and rehabilitation services. It is an affiliate of SSM Health.

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- Offering in-home respite care for seniors (companionship, errands, light housework)



Mindy Brice

Simply Healing
@simplyhealingreiki
mjbrice2@hotmail.com
website: 

608-228-4104

• CAFOs (Continued from page 4)

six of Cumberland's owners were current or former Suidae veterinarians.

As he was deposed in 2019, Sauer at various points claimed not to be an owner or know who the owners are; to never have been an owner; to be unsure whether he is an owner; to not recall whether Cumberland's other owners ever told him that he, too, is an owner; and that it's possible that he might be an owner because he might be named so in the future.

When confronted with these contradictions, Sauer said he, in fact, is actually the operator and manager.

"Operator and manager of what?" Marshall asked.

"This piece of paper," Sauer said, referring to the CAFO application, later adding, "This piece of property. This whole facility until it's up and running."

Four days after Sauer's deposition, he contacted Suidae veterinarian and Cumberland co-owner Dr. Matt Anderson.

"On all of the applications, I signed them as member/manager," Sauer told Anderson. "Of which I would say would be mostly true except for the fact that I really do not own any shares into Cumberland LLC."

Sauer suggested that Cumberland give him a 5% cut of the company, which would prove he was an owner. Opponents took Sauer's message as evidence that he understood he'd been "caught" and

sought to "cover up the false statements" he made on the application. Afterward, the Department of Natural Resources required Sauer to verify he was authorized to sign it.

Further convoluting Cumberland's ownership were Anderson's remarks at a Burnett County Natural Resources Board hearing in July 2019, shortly before the committee recommended the county board of supervisors also enact a year-long CAFO moratorium.

"I've been an owner in Suidae for 20 years and I've been a veterinarian serving animals and those people that own animals for just over 20 years, and we're not a CAFO," Anderson told the audience. "We're a service provider."

"We sought" to go about the state's permitting process "as best we can," he continued, "not sneaking around in any way." The hog farm, "if done responsibly, which would certainly be our intent," presents "no danger to the community."

Marshall, who also deposed Anderson, asked why Anderson failed to mention that he happens to be one of the CAFO's owners.

"Mr. Marshall, we are open and honest people so we expect to be perceived that way," said Anderson, who did not respond to Wisconsin Watch's requests for comment.

"I'm wondering why, if you wanted to be open and honest,



Left: Trial lawyer Andy Marshall is seen on his property in the town of Trade Lake in Burnett County on April 30. Marshall represented residents in a lawsuit that accused Trade Lake Town Board Chairman Jim Melin of alleged conflicts of interest in the construction of the state's largest pig farm. Right: Jeff Sauer is seen in a 2019 interview with PBS Wisconsin. He arrived in Trade Lake in 2019 with a plan to establish the state's largest pig farm.



DRAKE WHITE-BERGEY WISCONSIN WATCH / COURTESY PBS WISCONSIN Evansville Examiner

you don't communicate to the county board that's considering something with respect to the business that you own that you're part owner of the business," Marshall said. "That strikes me as being odd."

How CAFO partners limit liability

Many details of the Cumberland project are scant as the private company's finances and operations plans are shielded from disclosure.

Under the original proposal, Cumberland would own the buildings, but not the hogs. Suidae Health and Production also would own no hogs, but its clientele would. Suidae, instead, would handle the farm's management and payroll and receive payment for each pig that leaves the facility for finishing.

But Trade Lake community members took note that Cumberland's absentee owners structured the business as a limited liability company.

Research conducted by University of Kentucky associate professor of sociology Loka Ashwood found that farm investors form LLCs to shield personal assets in

case of business failure, enabling them to take on more financial risk. Instead, risk is thrust upon the communities in which CAFOs operate.

"They know they'll have spills. They know they'll have disease outbreaks. They know that is going to happen," Ashwood said. "So they need to reduce their liability and culpability."

One effective and typical system, Ashwood found, uses a chain of LLCs. One LLC can retain the land beneath a CAFO and lease it to a different LLC that owns the buildings. That LLC can, in turn, lease the buildings to the LLC that operates the business. The operating LLC may hold no assets, so in the event of a lawsuit due to poor management, that LLC can claim it lacks them.

Meanwhile, absentee investors don't necessarily face community pressures to operate responsibly as a local farmer would.

It's unclear to what degree Cumberland would operate under this model.

With respect to risk management, Sauer testified that Cumberland's owners hadn't

considered putting up security bonds to resolve potential nuisance claims because they aren't required to.

"They can pick up and they can move on when the moment is right for them, leaving us with what's behind," Ramona Moody, wife of Dean Moody and the current chair of the Trade Lake board, told PBS Wisconsin in 2019. "The cleanup, whatever they've left in their facilities, that ends up becoming our responsibility. So who holds them accountable?"

Trade Lake community members decided to do just that.

Trade Lake enacts CAFO regulations

After Melin agreed to step down as town chair, the Trade Lake board passed a CAFO ordinance and moratorium.

The ordinance, since updated, does not impact the siting of large farms but regulates the way they run.

Trade Lake requires new CAFOs of 500 animal units or greater - 1,250 swine or 357 dairy cows - to apply for a permit that regulates waste management, animal health and mortality, water use and air pollution. Owners also must prove the farm won't harm nearby property values or roadways. A financial assurance must be provided to cover application review and enforcement and, in the event of pollution or closure, cleanup costs.

"They call people 'activists,'" Clarin said, "but they're just people that are actively trying to protect their water."

Unsurprisingly, some farmers bristled at the ordinance. To their disbelief, it limits farm vehicles and large trucks entering and exiting CAFO premises to standard business hours and days, except vehicles involved in planting, harvesting and haying, which can operate at any time.

"It's pretty clear that they just don't want farming at all," Erik Melin said. "I don't know where you would compromise."

Developer on town's concerns: 'I don't care'

Around the time Sauer asked Anderson for a 5% share in Cumberland, Marshall contacted Burnett County's administrator to explain why the county should reject Cumberland's local CAFO application.

One reason he cited: Sauer's "contempt" for the county and residents of Trade Lake.

When he was deposed, Sauer testified that he consulted with members of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce who told him that Burnett County's CAFO moratorium, passed in July 2019, was illegal. The business lobbying organization, Wisconsin's largest, has played an outsized role in opposing CAFO regulation around the state.

"So you don't care what the county says?" Marshall asked Sauer.

"I don't really care what they say."

"You don't care what the town says?"

"I don't care."

"You're going to do what you're going to do and they're going to have to take it?"

"I'm going to dot the i's and cross the t's, and we are going to do what the law requires."

Sauer's feelings toward the community appeared to further darken.

The town last amended its CAFO regulations in March 2022. About two weeks later, the Polk Burnett Farm Bureau sounded the alarm on the "anti-agriculture ordinances" being enacted in northwest Wisconsin.

Sauer shared the post on social media with added commentary: "Crazies are at it some more! I hope they don't write these while eating!" he wrote. "They definitely are selfish bastards that want what they want and could care less about others."

It's been more than four years, and Cumberland still seeks state approval. After Sauer's application was rejected last spring, he returned with a smaller plan to house up to 19,800 swine.

Asked how he would respond to community members' grievances, Sauer remarked he felt much the same way.

"The lies. The misconceptions. Just the flat lies," he said. "If I was to point fingers - I mean, we were getting abused more than anyone else."

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• Library (Continued from page 3)

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