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ters, take photos and free cookies
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Also Santa says that as long as you
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can come along too.

Ho Ho Ho.

THANK YOU

The family of Tom Tomaw would like to express their sincere appreciation to all for their prayers, words of comfort, food, flowers, and donations during Tom's fight against anaplastic thyroid cancer. Special thanks goes to Scott & Val and the entire Gaffney family, the Markhardt family, Pastor Jim, Pastor Carolyn, Cindy Reeson, Tom Burke, Emily Wicker, and everyone else who helped with the visitation and funeral.

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Searching for green among brown and white

Green can be a pleasing color, except when we prefer autumn's panorama of paints.

We particularly desire chlorophyll green, indoors and out, about this time and can find it in watercress springs, mosses and fern inhabits, and of course where evergreen trees and shrubs grow, are planted, or brought indoors.

Some of the grander evergreens catch our eyes, change our minds, and chip into our billfolds.

Pine and spruce Christmas trees have disappeared, somewhat, giving way to firs, including balsam and Fraser, which hold needle leaves much longer, and even remain somewhat pliable without water dampening little more than a tree's base.

Firs, even those still having an attached root system, tend to dehydrate during winter's cold, wind, and low humidity. Frozen water is impossible for a tree to absorb from soil so a better solution, one that evolved soon after plants became terrestrial was waxy substances.

Waxy layers cover every part of a fir's evergreen needles and function just as they do in keeping a picked apple fresh for several months.

While some of the youngest deer hunters (remember there is no minimum age to hunt in Wisconsin)

may still hold tight to the idea of reindeer on rooftops, many hunters of all ages heard, saw and registered fewer white-tailed deer during the nine day gun deer season than in 2018. Generally, those numbers were down about 25 percent, pretty much statewide.

The preliminary number is 160,769 deer registered by 564,664 gun deer hunters. Adding all registrations to date by hunters of all ages using any implement, adds to 253,574 and counting.

Locally, comparing last year's number with 2019 is 4,029 for 2018 and 3,160 for 2019 in Columbia County; 2,572 down to 1,940 in Dane; 1,929 down to 1,225 in Green; 2,500 down to 1,899 in La Crosse; 1,880 down to 1,505 in Lafayette; and 5,007 down to 3,797 in Sauk.

All units are compared on the DNR's deer harvest page on the Web site.

Because the 2019 registration didn't notch deeply into the nearly two million deer, September estimate, landowners, farmers, deer managers and insurance companies are mostly disappointed. Many hunters are, too, however most understand there is more to deer hunting than killing a deer. Camaraderie, tradition, being in deer habitat, seeing other wildlife, and talking with unfamiliar hunters are examples rating high.

Some deer hunting continues with muzzleloader

season just ending, followed by the four-day antlerless hunt. The Holiday hunt begins Dec. 24. Archery/cross-bow season, too, runs into January.

Now, a month after the first rut, does and bucks are seen during the daytime. These later hunts could be interesting even without deer drives.

While waiting for ice to thicken, think of fishing trout again beginning January 2, 2020, during the winter's catchand release opener.

Christi Seroni, manager at Monroe's Beast Buffet has not heard her customers complain about an absence of feeder birds and continues to recommend her premium wild bird mix containing something for everyone. It includes black oil sunflower, safflower, millet, cracked corn, peanut pieces and nyger seed.

Later this month the DNR will be doing a Holiday release of roosters on eight public hunting lands. Check the DNR web site for locations. The recent nine-day gun deer season was relatively safe, with only four incidents reported, none fatal. Winter outdoors activities can be treacherous, and slippery, with finger-freezing wind chills. Be smart; be careful.

Contact Jerry Davis, a freelance writer, at sivadjam@mhtc.net or 608.924.111

NATURALLY SPEAKING

By Jerry Davis

Chestnuts, even though most have never or likely ever will taste them, are popular in the minds of many when they hear about them in a Christmas song.

So what are we missing?

The texture is sort of potato-like, somewhat bitter, and crunchy when raw, which might be why they are best roasted and then described as flavorful nuts.

It's the only nut containing vitamin C, a great source of potassium, and hyped as a healthy nut alternative. They contain 50 percent less fat than peanuts or almonds, making this nut a low-caloriessnack.

These tree nuts are scarce since chestnut blight, a wind-spread fungal disease, wiped most of this great tree from eastern U.S. and not resistant cultivars have been developed or found in nature.

American chestnut belongs in the beech family with oaks, beeches, and several western tree species.

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Mar. 1 Mar. 5 Apr. 5

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FUN FOR EVERYONE...JOIN US SUNDAY

THE RECIPE BOX



Rich and Creamy Potatoes Au Gratin

Prep 20 m Cook 1 h 10 m Ready In 1 h 30 m

Ingredients
3 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and very thinly sliced
3 cloves garlic, minced
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup heavy cream, divided
freshly ground black pepper to taste
freshly grated nutmeg to taste
2 cups freshly shredded Gruyere cheese, divided

Directions
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Place potatoes, garlic, and salt into a large pot, fill with enough water to cover, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, and simmer the potatoes until tender but not mushy, 8 to 10 minutes. With a slotted spoon, transfer about half the potatoes to a 9x13-inch baking dish. Pour half of the cream over the potatoes, season with black pepper and nutmeg, and sprinkle half of the Gruyere cheese onto the mixture. Top with the remaining potatoes; sprinkle again with black pepper and nutmeg. Pour on the remaining cream, and sprinkle with remaining Gruyere cheese. Bake in the preheated oven until the cheese topping is crisp and brown on top, about 1 hour.

BARNEVELD BOOSTER CLUB

Booster Club meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6pm in the school library. We need your support for our student athletes! Email questions to barneveldboosterclub@gmail.com

BARNEVELD CHURCHES

Church News Sponsored By:

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**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CATHOLIC PARISH...Barneveld 8:30 AM**

10:30 am St. Bridget's Church -Sunday, Ridgeway
5:00 P.M. St. Bridget's Church Saturday night

Lector & Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (Barneveld)
Sat., Dec. 14 SB 5 p.m. Chuck Walczak
Sun., Dec. 15 IC 8:30 a.m Rhonda Clerkin , Judy Straus
Sun., Dec. 15 SB 10:30 a.m. Tom Pechan
Sat. Dec. 21 SB 5 p.m. Jerry Zander
Sun., Dec. 22 IC 8:30 a.m. 4th Grade Mike Ashmore
Sun., Dec. 22 SB 10:30 a.m. Michael Lancaster
Tues., Dec. 24 IC 7 p.m. Ellie Pechan Mary Ann Myers
Wed., Dec. 25 SB 8:30 a.m. Chuck Walczak
Wed., Dec. 25 IC 10:30 a.m. Erin EslingerAnne Massey

**CONGREGATIONAL UNITED
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e-mail: barncong@mhtc.net

Sundays 9:00 am Worship Service
10:05 am Coffee Hour
7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

BARNEVELD LUTHERAN CHURCH
924-8621 barneveldlutheran505@gmail.com or
www.barneveldlutheranchurch.org
Pastor Jim Hearne pastorjimblc@gmail.com

Sunday- Worship at 9:00 am & 5:00pm
Holy Moly 9:50 – 10:30am
Wednesdays –9:30 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:30 Food Pan-try Open
6-7pm Bridge and Confirmation Class

Worship Assistants: Sunday December 15
Altar Guild: Teri Hendrickson and Joy Coyne
Accompanist: Linda Seeley
Greeter: Mark & Teresa Buechner family
Ushers: Terry and Otis Nelson
Assisting Minister: youth tba
Reader: Joy Coyne
Communion servers: Liz T., Diane S., Marcia T., Deb P. Joann M.
Coffee Fellowship hosts: Joann M and Michelle K.

Barneveld Food pantry is a cooperative outreach of the Barneveld churches, local organizations and private donations. The Food pantry, housed at the Barneveld Lutheran facility is available for those in need in the area. The Pantry is Open on Wednesday 9:30 -12:00 & 1:00 – 3:30 or by appointment by contacting 924-8621. Donations are always welcome.

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*Take a break from your
busy life to discover a
peaceful way to
rejuvenate your body
and mind*

American Farmer

written by Nick Kirch 10-11-2012

Gets up early every morning to do what most folks won't. Has no college degree and is the butt of many jokes.

He is in love with his family and cattle and the land. Always puts himself second and can be hard to understand.

Professor and lawyers take vacations and escape, laugh and think its great sipping wine and eating steak.

The American Farmer is doing what he can while the rest of us wish we could live off the land,

Not knowing the sacrifices that he makes just to compete. Keeping food cheap, So we all can eat.

While corporate greed, harvest they reap.
The attorneys get rich and law suits high.
While the American Farmer barley gets by.

So the next time you see him when your driving down a country road, tip your hat to the man that helps this country grow.

The lines on his face and the dirt on his hands, tell a story of humility that few understand.
He is the American Farmer and he built this land. In love with family and cattle and land.

He works every weekend and all holidays, while the rest of us go out and play.
He does not want a handout, nothing for free. He just wants respect and a little dignity.

So when you look in those tired eyes and see all the tough years and trials. Please look back at him with a big old smile! And say thank you and I know for a fact, that he will smile back and make it all worthwhile.



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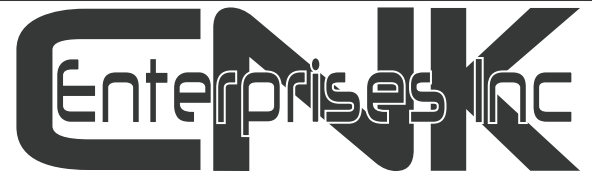
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Eagle Flyer



December 12th, 2019

Editor: Jacey Spring

Upcoming Events:

Girls Basketball

12/14 vs. New Glarus 6:00 pm
12/17 @ Monticello 7:00pm
12/20 vsa. Juda 7:00pm

Boys Basketball

12/13 vs Monticello 6:00pm
12/16 @ New Glarus 6:00pm
12/19 @Pec 6:00pm

Gymnastics

12/14 @ West Salem 10:00am
12/20 Home 5:30pm

Have Fun...

By: Mikenzie Leahy

Edited By: Tyler Bomkamp

Damon is an intelligent, funny, and energetic person. His favorite teacher is Mr. Vergeront who teaches his favorite class, math. Damon enjoys Mr. Vergeront and his class because he makes class fun and is good at explaining confusing math problems. Damon has played basketball and baseball all four years of high school. His favorite is playing baseball as the center fielder. A highlight of the baseball season for Damon is, after every away game, the team loads up and heads to Culver's for some post game burgers. When Damon is not in school or playing sports, he is often found hunting, fishing, or hanging with his friends. His favorite memory from high school is when Wyatt drove his car down the school hill. Damon notes that, while he did get into some trouble throughout his years of high school, he did make many good memories with his friends. After high school, he plans to become an electrical apprentice. Damon will miss being in Barneveld because he loves playing baseball and he has so many friends here. One message that Damon wants to share with any lower classmen and upcoming high schoolers is to focus on your grades but do not put too much pressure on yourself, high school is meant to be fun, so have some fun.



Elise's Magical Year

By: Grace Gordon

Edited By: Tyler Bomkamp

Elise is a senior at Barneveld High School. Throughout her four years she has experienced great memories, made great friends, and has personally helped to make this school a better place. Throughout Elise's four years, she has participated in basketball (9-11), track (9-10), mock trial and forensics. However, art has been a part of Elise's life since forever. Elise loves to draw, paint, and create new things with art. She is planning on pursuing an art career for herself. She plans on going to Madison College for graphic design, and then wants to transfer to UW Madison for marketing. Elise has many hobbies that she focuses on outside of school like hunting, working, drawing, and hanging out with people that she likes. Elise works at Dick's Sporting Goods, and enjoys her work environment very much. So if you ever want to stop on by, Elise will be there to check you out. Her advice for the underclassmen is no matter how hard it gets, it will always get better.

Mr. Neuroth's Publications students have a variety of responsibilities in their class: produce a bi-weekly newsletter; create the Talon (Yearbook); make athletic programs; record daily announcements, just to name a few. With the flurry of small tasks that have to be accomplished daily to produce these larger publications, the act of learning and practicing newspaper writing can sometimes take a back-burner. With Mr. Neuroth's support and Ms. Bosch's help, students have been engaging in the journalistic process of being curious and caring about various issues and events and developing an angle for their writing which leads them into researching and interviewing to present a wider view of their topics. Over the next few Flyers, their final products will be shared.

One Bad Choice is All It Takes

By: Aubree Danz-Fry

"Biggest mistake I made in my life was abandoning myself and my gifts to be normal like everyone else." Barneveld 7-12 students attended a speech given by Tony Hoffman at Mineral Point HS on Wednesday, October 16. Hoffman acknowledged the power peer pressure has on conformity and one choice changed his whole life forever. Hoffman was very open about his story and how choosing to try drugs, what he thought was going to be a one-time thing, led him down a path that would be difficult to overcome and changed his life forever. His story about overcoming addiction shows that no matter how far he dug himself into a hole, he was able to climb out and get over his hardships and past mistakes to completely turn his whole life around. Hoffman proves that with determination and hardwork, it is never too late to start over.

Tony's presentation was so much more than a "Don't Do Drugs" speech because it's his life story. His speech contained messages about mental health, addiction, prevention, recovery, attitude, choices, and redemption. The difference between Tony Hoffman and other speakers is that he didn't just regurgitate information that everyone had heard numerous times. Instead, he told his story in an authentic way that captured the audience's attention, including the parts of his story that are sad and hard to talk about so as not to sugarcoat the issues. Tony's words made the audience think about their own lives. Jakob Ko-

rewitz said, "I really liked it. It made me question some of the friends I hang around because I don't want to go down the path he did." Additionally, Hoffman focused on how his decision to do drugs affected not only his life, but the people close to him and spoke about the stigma surrounding addiction.

After hearing Tony's message, students who didn't take the opportunity to go listen to his message missed out on an amazing experience. Mikenzie Leahy said, "Everyone said I should've gone." When students normally talk about how "stupid and boring" an AODA presentation is, this time they were telling those who didn't attend how much they enjoyed the presentation because Hoffman's raw and authentic speech caught their attention. His stage presence and interacting with the audience made the information he was saying seem more direct and powerful. Choosing to take drugs was something Tony could never take back, and even though he experienced horrible things because of his decision, he was able to overcome his addiction and continue to heal by telling his story as a warning to others.

The Powerline Crisscrossing Both the State and its People

By: Tyler Bomkamp

The Cardinal-Hickory Creek ATC line aims to bring new and clean energy to Southwest Wisconsin, but some residents feel like the line will cause unnecessary damage to the environment without being a big enough upgrade to the current system.

According to the Wisconsin State Journal, the Cardinal-Hickory Creek line is a high-voltage transmission line planned between the Cardinal substation in Middleton and the Hickory Creek substation near Dubuque, and is planned to have a capacity of 345-kilovolts. The path of the line is projected to cut west from Middleton all the way to Montfort, before cutting South-West to the Turkey River Substation in Iowa, then moving south finally to the Hickory Creek substation.

The ATC claim that the transmission line will allow new capacity for clean energy; they note that existing wind farms within Wisconsin are unable to work at full capacity due to lack of infrastructure to support the power. The line will also be connected to a grid of clean power from North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa, along with a transmission line between La Crosse and Madison.

However, there is widespread disdain about the line throughout the affected areas, with many locals in the prospective paths of the line complaining about the implications of a large power line cutting through the natural landscape of Southwest Wisconsin. Their complaints include destroying natural landmarks such as rocks, trees, and other things along with being dangerous to wildlife and people, while not being grand enough to warrant such damage.

While people will continue to fight the construction of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek ATC line, the line has been approved by the people responsible, so construction is projected to begin in 2023. Time will tell if the line will see the light of day.

Literacy Lowdown

By: Grace Gordon

Because of schools throughout the country, children are learning literacy skills everyday. Working on close reading, writing, listening, and discussions are keys to success. These literacy skills are all things needed to pursue the future they choose. Close reading helps students to understand their materials, and find a deeper meaning behind the words on a page. Close reading can be beneficial by helping people to read harder texts and still comprehend them. Writing is another skill beneficial for future career paths. In order to get into college, one must draft a personal statement. To get a job, one needs to write a resume. Writing is a beneficial tool that will be necessary for a long time. Whatever future one pursues will require them to listen. Listening is a major life skill that everyone must practice to be successful in their future. Learning these skills young will help many children in the future to be prepared for the world ahead of them. Literacy also helps you with in discussion with individuals or groups of people. Throughout life you will have to talk, whether it be in a conference room, in a classroom, or maybe just in a doctor’s office. Discussion will be a major skill for success, if you know how to use it. Success for the future begins with solid literacy skills that will help for life and for an amazing future ahead.



Transformational Technology

Tyler Bomkamp

“The success of your presentation will be judged not by the knowledge you send but by what the listener receives.” - Lilly Walters

With a new school comes a new way of doing things. The previous announcements, which were spoken over the intercom to the entire school, have been replaced with two separate announcements. The elementary students are treated to daily made videos by the high school publications class. These videos provide the lunch menu, rules, and other fun things to engage the children. They are more engaging to the children than a dull voice over the loudspeaker.

As for the middle and high school students, announcements reach them through a slideshow presentation created by a senior, Jack Thompson. These slideshows contain a plethora of information for the students, including lunch, weather, sports, and news necessary for day to day life.

These student-created announcements provide a unique opportunity for students to take part in something within the school that allows them to practice their public speaking abilities and provide a service for their fellow students. By placing the announcements in the hands of the students, they have a new sense of responsibility and accomplishment.

Academic Excellence:

ACT Preparation

By: Claire Brindley

Edited By: Jacey Spring

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today” -Malcolm X

ACT preparation has been beneficial for improving the ACT scores of students for many years, but in more recent years, Barneveld High School has used the extra P.I.E. time to further prepare each student. This P.I.E. time provides small group time with each teacher of a specific subject so each student knows what to expect when the test comes around.

Getting into college is a stressful situation for many high school students, and getting a higher score on the ACT lessens that stress. Juniors who have only taken a few of these ACT prep classes have already seen the beneficial factor of realizing their areas of struggle or weakness in each subject. As a senior, I agree that my test score was improved by being provided with one-on-one time with each teacher to fix any mistakes I made.

As Malcom X says in the quote above, those who prepare are more likely to succeed. With the extra ACT preparation that Barneveld High School provides, every student will be able to achieve success.

OUTDOOR GEAR

With the wet, cold winter weather here in Wisconsin, please remember to send your child with appropriate outdoor gear. If students wear boots to school, please make sure to include shoes to change into.

WINTER WEATHER-SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

Once a decision is made about a closure or ,delayed start time, this information is posted on our website, broadcast on local TV and sent to parents using our district-wide messaging system. We will use the messaging system to send each parent in our database a text message and phone call. If your contact information has changed since you last reviewed it during the online summer registration process, please call your school office to inform them of the changes.

LOST AND FOUND
Our lost and found collection is getting full! Please make sure to collect your things after team practices and games. Missing something? Check the main office for your item.

Scholastic Book Fair When Thursday, Dec. 12Th, 8Am To Friday, Dec. 13Th, 8:30Pm Where 304 South Jones Street Barneveld, Wi More Information Held In The School Library.	Winter Carnival When Tuesday, Dec. 17Th, 8:30Am-3Pm Where 304 South Jones Street Barneveld, Wi More Information Lower Gym
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LEGION Act signed into law

JUL 30, 2019

In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941.

The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

“Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing do and it is long overdue,” National Commander Brett Reistad said. “The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them ‘Legionnaires.’”

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion’s eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed.

The law’s journey began on Feb. 14 when Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced S. 504, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. A companion measure, H.R. 1641, was introduced in the House by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va.

Reistad expressed gratitude to the bipartisan members of Congress for passing the legislation.

“We are grateful that President Trump fully acknowledges the importance of The American Legion by signing the LEGION Act in the White House today – just one week after it passed the House of Representatives,” Reistad said. “In an era of partisan gridlock, Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly recognized the importance of allowing thousands of honorable but previously ineligible veterans the right to join the largest and most influential veterans organization in the country.”

Reistad pointed out that existing American Legion membership applications are in the process of being updated but can still be used. “In the meantime, I recommend that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write ‘LEGION Act’ in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras,” Reistad said. “The larger pool of veterans now eligible for The American Legion will also open their family members to eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary as well.”

things you need to know about the LEGION Act

The LEGION Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — also redefines The American Legion’s membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now span from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

Here are answers to key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion.

Question: How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?

Answer: The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

Question: What’s the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?

Answer: Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at www.legion.org/join.

Question: I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?

Answer: The American Legion’s founding fathers believed, “a veteran is a veteran,” an axiom that has held true throughout the organization’s more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president’s signature changed that.

Question: So how does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?

Answer: The American Legion’s eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during “wartime.” When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion’s membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

Question: How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?

Answer: The Sons’ eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join the SAL.

Question: How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?

Answer: This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans.

Question: How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?

Answer: This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

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THE BARNEVELD OVER 55 GROUP


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AMERICAN LEGION SAL meets the 2nd Tues. of each month @ the Legion Hall.

AMERICAN LEGION will meet the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion hall.

THE COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET'S hours are the 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 10 a.m. -noon and the 3rd Thursday, 5-7 p.m. The Clothes Closet located at 102 E. Lincoln St., Mt. Horeb.

FOOD PANTRY: The Barneveld Food pantry is a cooperative outreach of the Barneveld & Ridgeway churches, local organizations and private donations. The Food pantry, housed at the Barneveld Lutheran facility is available for those in need in the area. The Pantry is Open on Wednesday 9:30 – 3:30 or by appointment by contacting 924-8621. Donations are always welcome.

THE BARNEVELD ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION is looking for new members. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month, so if you're interested in giving back to the community please come to the American Legion Hall at 7pm.

THE BLUE MOUNDS FOOD PANTRY is located at 11010 Blackhawk Drive located in the Blue Mounds Industrial Park south of hwy 18/151. Hours are every Thursday from 9 to 11 AM and 4 to 6 PM. We have no residence restrictions and you can come every week. Questions about pantry contact Sue at 437-5885 or Sharon at 437-8680. Always accepting donations monetary or food items.

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Identifying sources of fecal contamination in private wells in Lafayette, Grant, and Iowa Counties

The Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study of Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties is halfway through its second phase: identifying fecal sources of contamination in private wells. Samples were collected in mid-August 2019 from 34 private wells, which were selected at random from those found earlier in the study to be contaminated with coliform bacteria or nitrate above the drinking water standard.

Samples were analyzed for specific viruses and bacteria that indicate fecal contamination from human wastewater or livestock manure. Not all of these viruses and bacteria are capable of causing illness.

Out of 34 wells sampled, which had been found to be contaminated earlier in the study, fecal contamination was found in 25 wells. There was evidence of both human and livestock sources, including cattle and swine manure. The percentage of contaminated wells from this sam-

pling event is not a region-wide rate because the sampling focused on wells that were found to be contaminated earlier in the study.

Pathogens such as Salmonella and Cryptosporidium were also detected in 19 of the 34 sampled wells. Researchers have not calculated the health risk for these results, which will vary based on the specific pathogen, its concentration, and the health of the person that drinks the water.

It's too soon to assess which contamination source is more prevalent since they can vary seasonally. The percentage of wells that test positive is also expected to differ as weather and land use change over time.

Different wells will be randomly selected for future sampling rounds and results will be released when they are available. The research team will also look for correlations between water quality, geology, and well construction. The study's final report is expected by the end

of 2020. "Making sure our drinking water is clean and safe is a shared community responsibility," said farmer Jim Winn, chairman of the Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance, a farmer-led watershed conservation group. "The Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance's financial support for this study demonstrates agriculture's commitment to continuous improvement in conservation practices."

The study was initiated by Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties in collaboration with researchers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey-UW-Madison Division of Extension, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Support for the study comes from the counties and agencies involved, the Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance, the Iowa County Uplands Watershed Group and donations from Lafayette county citizens.

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