

Contact Information

News

news@thepecvalleyleader.com

608-543-9500

Subscription & Billing

ad@thedodgevillechronicle.com

608-935-2331

PECATONICA VALLEY

Leader

Volume 28, Number 17

"Leading the Pecatonica River Valley in Coverage"

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Blanchardville's Committees as a Whole

Police asks for less hours or more pay, Main Street meeting Jan. 14, development of TID lands addressed

By Kayla Barnes

Blanchardville's Chief of Police asked the Public Safety Committee at the Committees as a Whole meeting on Monday, Dec. 22, to consider decreasing his hours or increasing his pay due to the stress he is enduring from his work case load. The Public Works Committee also discussed the informational meeting for the STH 78 utility project on Main Street that will take place on January 14 at 6 p.m at the Pecatonica Area Middle/High School Library and a potential project happening in the TID No. 1 lands north of the village.

Blanchardville's Chief of Police Ryan Kumor stated he was recently approached by the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department to come back on as a full time officer. He stated that he is at the point where he was considering the option due to the case load he has been enduring and he just needs a break.

Over the course of 2025, Kumor has taken on 90-100 cases. He has been able to complete 80 percent of those cases as many are simple cases and don't take long to complete. There are some cases that are more in depth, including his open cases of child abuse, child neglect and child sexual assaults. All of these cases have taken place within the village.

Kumor stated that when he worked with the Sheriff's Department, they would begin the initial cases but then detectives would take over the rest of the case, so he would just need to focus on patrolling. In the village, he is seen to do it all, begin the case and follow it through until it is closed. Some cases do require outside help, like from Lafayette County Human

Services or some assistance from detectives from the county, but the rest of the work falls on Kumor.

The Sheriff's Office has asked for his help on a couple shifts as they are down a couple patrol officers and a detective.

"It is nice to get a break, to get away from here and all the cases that need work. I get it. Why go work somewhere else when I have so much to do here but sometimes I need a break. I could work 10-12 hour days and still won't be caught up," Kumor said.

He said the whole reason he took the Blanchardville Chief of Police position was to be able to spend more time with family but he is to the point where he is bringing everything home and it is effecting his family and home life.

"It is getting to the point that I don't want to come to work."

At the meeting, Kumor asked to either drop his hours down to 80 hours every two weeks or increase his salary. When he was hired, he suggested to be paid salary at \$72,000, which was the average of the base rate at the Lafayette County Sheriff's Office and what he was earning last year at the sheriff's office. He said that switching him back to hourly wouldn't be fiscally responsible for the village.

The committee felt this subject should be brought up at the Police Commission first before anything could be decided.

Brian Nutter thanked Kumor for his honesty.

Kumor added that it took a lot of discussion between his family but he has decided that he does want to stay

Continue to page 8

Thank you for coming to their 'Ed Talks'

Pec seniors hone speaking, research skills through English project



Students in Pecatonica teacher Madeline Bartels' senior English class recently completed an "Ed Talks" unit that combined skills in research, writing and public speaking. Pictured here are the students who were selected by their peers to present at the final event. They are, from left, Lukas Orloff, Cohlman Schlimgen, Scarlett Jacoby, Mazie Theorin, Chayse Hirsch, Kyssah Gann, Loretta Tisch and Rachel Underly.

They researched, presented their case and learned about public speaking – and it also gave them an even larger opportunity: To share real ideas to improve student experiences and outcomes in the Pecatonica School District.

Seniors in Madeline Bartels' fourth-year English class recently took a public speaking concept used by motivational speakers, researchers and experts – known as TED Talks – and created their own "Ed Talks." These public speaking projects encouraged them to research a topic they are passionate about, develop an informative and motivational speech and then present it to their peers and district administrators, too.

"These are real-world skills they will need for the rest of their lives. My final hope for students is that they felt like they could make a positive change on a place that has changed them," shared Bartels, who is in her second year teaching at Pecatonica and fifth year as an educator.

"Many of them have been Pecatonica Vikings since kindergarten, and I hope they continue to want what is best for the district for years to come."

The three-week unit began after Thanksgiving break and concluded with presentations at the final Dec. 22 "Ed Talk" event given by eight students whose speeches were voted the best by their peers. The final presenters and their topics were: Kyssah Gann (Genius Hour), Rachel Underly (Research Curriculum), Lukas Orloff (Brain Breaks), Chayse Hirsch (Study Abroad), Loretta Tisch (Study Halls), Cohlman Schlimgen (Recess for High School Students), Scarlett Jacoby (The Arts in Education) and Mazie Theorin (Passing Periods).

"This experience was very empowering – it made me feel my voice was being heard about an issue that I'm passionate about," Jacoby said. "This speech was a

Continue to page 2

Year-in-Review

January-June 2025

January 2

Pulling a very heavily loaded U-Haul trailer that was donated by Rick Frederickson, I (Rainelde Raymond) was on my way. My vehicle was headed south towards Ashville, North Carolina to areas damaged by the 2024 Helene Hurricane.

January 9

The Blanchardville Village Board met Monday, January 6 and accepted the proposal from Vierbicher Associates in helping them apply for the DNR grant for a new bathhouse in the lower McKellar Park for the campground.

January 16

This will be the fifth year that Cody Stamm of Argyle will be participating in the Snowball Cancer Challenge's Valentine 500 snowmobile ride that begins Bergland, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula on February 6 and then again on February 13. This year Stamm will be taking a few local riders with him on this 500 mile ride.

January 23

The Argyle Village Board discussed the officials and public meetings that will take place on February 6 and 13, respectively, to discuss the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) pavement

replacement project for Hwy 78 & 81 coming up in 2028.

January 30

At last month's meeting of the Pecatonica Area School Board, there were some poignant discussions around school safety. In continuing those discussions with various school board members since that meeting, District Administrator Dr. Dani Scott came to the board at this month's meeting on January 21 to give some thoughts that were brought up.

February 6

The Blanchardville clinic will be closing and holding the last clinic day on Thursday, March 13, 2025. This closure is necessary to ensure the safety of our patients and staff during the Blanchardville Main Street construction project.

Several volunteer Emergency Medical Services throughout the state and country are struggling with keeping the service as a volunteer service due to lack of staffing. Argyle, Blanchardville and Hollandale (which is a first responder service) are all struggling. The Blanchardville Public Safety Committee met on Monday night, January 27, during their portion of the Committee-On-Committee's

meeting to discuss the service and what can be done moving forward to keep it affordable for the village and surrounding communities they serve.

During the Public Works Committee meeting on Monday night, January 27, the committee discussed what was to be done with the clock that is in the steeple at the United Methodist Church building. The United Methodist Church is for sale. It officially closed on August 31, 2024. The Methodist Church is the oldest church in Blanchardville. The village owns the 122 year old clock.

February 13

On Sunday, February 2nd, at the annual meeting, Argyle-Apple Grove voted to rebuild at the site of the former Apple Grove church that was destroyed the previous year by a tornado. "It has been a long journey of grieving, prayer, discernment, and listening," says Pastor Dan Bohlman.

Needing a last minute gift for that sweetheart? Don't look any further than the Bee Havens Flower Farm right here in Blanchardville.

February 20

Members of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation met with Argyle community members to

Continue to page 3

Four time champions of

Pecatonica Alumni Basketball



The first place Pecatonica Alumni basketball tournament champs, Classes of 2017-18, defeated the classes of 2004 and under, 38-37 winning for the fourth time in the last four years. Team members are Corey Linder, Cory Swenson, Pressley Hauser, A.J. Hendrickson and Jake Dearth. Approximately 40 Alumni participated as a fundraiser for the Pecatonica boys basketball team.

Woodford State Bank Supports Community Play with \$10,000 Donation for New Park Equipment



Pictured left to right: Maverick Muhlstein of Woodford State Bank, Candi Schmid of Woodford State Bank, Ashley Bredeson, Kayla Nikula, and Janelle Ritschard.

Woodford State Bank announces a \$10,000 donation to the Argyle Community Parks Foundation to support the purchase of new playground equipment for the village’s parks. This contribution strengthens the bank’s ongoing commitment to community wellbeing and family-friendly public spaces.

The Argyle Community Parks Foundation is leading a capital campaign to update and expand playgrounds and recreational assets that are safe, inclusive, and welcoming for children and families. The Foundation is working closely with the Village of Argyle and local partners to raise funds for improvements that will benefit residents of all ages.

“We’re proud to support this effort to bring updated play spaces to Argyle,” said Maverick Muhlstein, Agricultural & Commercial Lender at Woodford State Bank. “Parks are

central gathering places where families make memories, neighbors connect, and children grow and play. We’re glad to help make this vision a reality.”

The bank’s donation will directly support the purchase and installation of modern playground equipment, helping address the community’s need for safer, more engaging play areas. Local fundraising efforts continue as the Foundation works toward its broader goal.

Woodford State Bank’s contribution reflects its mission to invest in local quality-of-life projects that strengthen community bonds and promote active, healthy lifestyles for families across the region.

Community members who wish to support the project can make a donation online through the Argyle Community Parks Foundation at www.argyleparks.org or make a donation in person at Woodford State Bank

Woodford State Bank Donates \$5,000 for Badger Park Renovations in Shullsburg



Pictured from left to right: Christina Benson, Woodford State Bank; Tyson Morrissey, Executive Director, Advance Shullsburg; and Janelle Schumacher, City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Shullsburg.

Woodford State Bank is proud to support the City of Shullsburg and the Badger Park Renovation Project with a \$5,000 donation to help enhance the park for residents, families, and visitors.

Badger Park has long been a community gathering place, and the renovation project aims to improve accessibility, safety, and overall enjoyment of the space. Woodford State Bank’s contribution supports

ongoing efforts to invest in outdoor recreation and strengthen community connections.

“Supporting projects like Badger Park is part of our commitment to giving back to the communities we serve,” said Christina Benson of Woodford State Bank. “Parks bring people together, and we’re happy to play a small role in helping create a space the community can enjoy for years to come.”

The Badger Park Renovation Project is led in partnership with the City of Shullsburg and Advance Shullsburg, with a focus on community driven improvements and long term impact.

Woodford State Bank is truly locally owned and has proudly served southwest Wisconsin for over a century, reinvesting in the communities where its customers live and work.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tech Help

Blanchardville Public Library will host a Tech Help day on Monday Jan. 5, 2-4 p.m. Bring your devices (laptops, phones, tablets etc), passwords and questions. We will have professional help here to help you.

Prom for Pennies

Prom for Pennies, sponsored by Monroe High School Junior Optimists, is looking for donations of gently used prom and formal

dresses, tuxedos, shoes, jewelry and more! If you are looking to clean out some closets and donate to a great cause, look no further!

Now until January 7, you can drop donated dresses, shoes, & jewelry off at Argyle High School. Chief Saalsaa will be helping us take donations to the Monroe High School.

Donations can be dropped off during normal school hours. Please call before coming over Christmas break as we will be taking time to spend with our families too!

Annual Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 11, the Lafayette County Historical and Genealogy Society will hold its Annual Membership Meeting featuring a presentation on the latest publication - The Darlington Depot and Caboose, Historical Preservation and Restoration, at 1 p.m. The program is free and open to the public. People are encouraged to bring questions or railroad artifacts for show and tell or donation to the museum. Location is the lower level meeting room of the museum at 525 Main St. Darlington.

Lafayette County Sheriff’s Department Activity

December 23
6:35 p.m.
A deputy responded to N. State Street, Village of Argyle for a 911 misdial.

December 24
2:29 a.m.
A Deputy responded to E. Milwaukee Street, Village of Argyle for an unsecured premise.

December 25
7:14 p.m.
Deputies, Lafayette County EMS, and Darlington Fire responded to County Shop Road, Darlington

Township for a one vehicle accident. Porter L. Olson, 22, Argyle, was traveling on County Shop Road, when he lost control of his vehicle, causing him to leave the roadway and strike a tree. Olson was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Olson’s 2009 GMC received disabling damage and was towed from the scene. As a result, Olson was cited for Operating While Intoxicated – First Offense and Failure to Keep Vehicle Under Control. Darlington police assisted.

Pecatonica Ed Talks continued from front

combination of utilizing both my own skills and learning new skills to adapt to an audience that I’m unfamiliar with.”

Students watched an existing TED Talk online to glean information about speaking, framing arguments and presenting research and had four more TED Talk options to review on their own time if needed for inspiration. An important part of the project was presenting on their topics to Pecatonica administration to bring student voices and recommendations to school and district priorities.

“As educators, we make better decisions when we listen to the students we serve. These Ed Talks gave our students a platform to share what they value, what challenges them and what inspires them,” said Dr. Dani Scott, Pecatonica’s superintendent. “Their insights are

exactly what we need to strengthen learning and student well-being. Their proposals were grounded in lived experience and thoughtful research.”

The project allowed some students to overcome anxiety and a dislike of public speaking, which is a skill that is necessary across future educational experiences and careers as they prepare to graduate and take the next steps in their lives.

“I’m extremely proud of these students, especially the ones who presented. Everyone poured their hearts and souls into these projects, and I hope the students and district leaders saw that,” Bartels said. “I hope we can continue this project next year.”

To see more photos from this year’s Ed Talks event, visit and follow Pecatonica School District on Facebook and Instagram.

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Pecatonica Valley Leader

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101 North State Street, P.O. Box 220, Argyle, WI 53504
For news, press releases and ads, please email us at news@thepecvalleyleader.com or call the Leader news phone at 608-543-9500

For subscription and billing questions, call the Dodgeville Chronicle office at 608-935-2331 or email subscription or billing questions to ad@thedodgevillechronicle.com

PUBLISHERS:
J. Patrick and T. Michael Reilly
NEWS EDITOR: Kayla Barnes
ADVERTISING SALES: Heather Olson

Periodical Postage Paid at Blanchardville, Wisconsin 53516.
Published Weekly at 101 N. State Street, P.O. Box 220, Argyle, WI. 53504.
POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form to The Pecatonica Valley Leader, Box 220, Argyle, WI 53504-0220.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
In Wisconsin: \$49.00 per year
Outside Wisconsin: \$56.00 per year
Single Copy \$1.25
ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
4:00 P.M. Monday
NEWS DEADLINE:
9:00 A.M. Tuesday
OFFICE HOURS:
(Open by appointment)

Year-in-Review

continued from front

talk about the WIS 78 and WIS 81 road project that is scheduled to happen in 2028. One of the big discussion points was adding a stop sign to the east bound WIS 81 road at the intersection of WIS 78 & 81, taking the major intersection in town from a three way stop to an all way stop.

February 27

On Wednesday, February 19, 2025, the Village of Argyle hosted its first Advancing Argyle Meeting at the Village Community Building. With over 50 attendees representing local businesses, organizations, and community members, the meeting served as a pivotal step toward unifying efforts to support business growth, enhance community amenities, and develop future initiatives to strengthen Argyle.

Westby was a busy place over the weekend, seeing many wrestlers punch their ticket to go to state, just like Pec-Argyl's Lukas Orloff (126#) and Aidan Gruenenfelder (120#) who both won their brackets. The first place match that Gruenenfelder wrestled just so happened to be his 200th win in his wrestling career. Both will be going up to the Kohl Center this weekend hoping to bring back more hardware.

March 6

Looking for a good drink that will give you that burst of clean energy and is healthy for you? Look no further than the newest business to Blanchardville's Main Street, Fuel Good Nutrition.

Two Pec-Argyle wrestlers participated in WIAA State Wrestling at the Kohl Center from February 27-March 1. Aidan Gruenenfelder defeated Liam Carey of Mineral Point, Derek Godard of Auburndale and finally Braden Johnson of Cumberland to win Division 3 120# weight class. This is Gruenenfelder's second state title after winning 106# last year. Lukas Orloff defeated Jack Wendling of Valders and Mason Dewing of Crandon before going against Co'ji Campbell of Kenosha St. Joseph. Unfortunately, Orloff wasn't able to defeat Campbell, who became the WIAA's 30th four-time state wrestling champion, ending Orloff's season with a second at state.

March 13

Friends of McKellar Park member

Marsha Crooks asked the Blanchardville Village Board at their meeting on Monday, March 3 to approve the site plans for the swimming pond the group has been working on to install in McKellar Park sometime this spring. The board unanimously approved the plans.

The Village of Hollandale reviewed the compliance for the conditional use permit for Amazing Auto Sales dealership after hearing some complaints.

March 20

The Argyle School Board initially approved the baseball and softball co-op with Black Hawk School District for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years at their meeting on Wednesday, March 12. The Black Hawk School District's Board of Education also met that the same time with the same agenda item. They placed a contingency on the approval of the contract. That contingency was then given to the Argyle School Board who denied the contingency.

RBS Activewear was damaged after a driver having a medical emergency crashed into their building, into the embroidery department Monday night, March 17.

Rue Service Station in Blanchardville announced on their Facebook that it will officially close its doors on March 28. Luke and Kristi Rue took over operations of the business from Gary Gruenenfelder mid-summer of 2021, renting the buildings from the Blanchardville Co-op Oil Association located at 200 Pine Street.

March 27

The Argyle Public Library Board of Trustees has named Bailey Watson as the new Director of the Library. She begins this position on March 25, 2025.

At a special board meeting on March 17 for the Blanchardville Village Board, they approved creating a limited time employee position for the Recreation Director in charge of only the pond and the campground at a rate of \$20/ hour.

The Pecatonica School Board heard, at their regular meeting on Monday, March 17, about some staffing changes taking place in the elementary school during the 2025-

26 school year, along with approving Camp Pecatonica for another year. This will be Camp Pecatonica's last year in the high school. In the summer of 2026, it will move back to the elementary school.

April 3

Glamping is a word created by combining glammers and camping together. According to Merriam-Webster's dictionary, glamping is outdoor camping with amenities and comforts (such as beds, electricity, and access to indoor plumbing) not usually used when camping. For Bri Thompson, it is a great way for people to get back into nature and enjoying all the great features Blanchardville has to offer while staying at Pink River Ranch.

April 10

It has been a long and busy 20 years for Diana Kaiser and she is ready from a little bit of down time as she says good-bye to managing the Viking Cafe.

Members of the public were welcomed through the doors of the new hospital, Lafayette Hospital + Clinics, in Darlington on Wednesday, April 2.

The McKellar Park log cabin was moved on Saturday, April 5 from the upper McKellar Park to its final resting place next to the Blanchardville Historical Society building on S. Main Street in Blanchardville. This move took over five years to complete.

April 17

The Pecatonica Softball team requested the Blanchardville Village Board allow them to erect a permanent backfield fence at McKellar Park at the board meeting on Monday, April 7. The board ultimately tabled the request seeking further information.

The Argyle Village Board held their regularly scheduled meeting on April 2 where the board heard discussions had at the Advancing Argyle meeting regarding the park long with a conditional use permit request.

April 24

The Hollandale Village Board at their regular board meeting on April 8 discussed what were the next steps for the Amazing Auto Sales business after they continued to be out of compliance of their conditional use permit.

The Argyle School Board met on Wednesday, April 9 early due to the FFA Banquet but were still able to discuss and approve the contract with Pecatonica for a 50/50 split of a

Spanish teacher.

A Stoughton man pled guilty on Monday, April 21 in the Iowa County Circuit Court for driving a vehicle with a PAC second offense that killed a Blanchardville man in December 2023.

May 1

The Argyle/Blackhawk softball and baseball teams together will be doing fundraisers for the Krahenbuhl family of Argyle whose 4-year-old daughter was recently diagnosed with B-Cell Leukemia.

The sun was shining, the temperature was warm and the earth was moving on Tuesday, April 22, Earth Day. Fourth and fifth grade students from Pecatonica Area Elementary School filed off a bus onto land owned by Bill Smith on County Road A, southeast of Hollandale to plant 26 trees along Gordon Creek.

The Pecatonica Area School District's Board of Education, at their regular board meeting on

(Continued on page 8)

Countryside News

by Jerry Davis



Now what? The poinsettia, best pronounced poyn-seh-tee-ah, is a perennial plant and can be carried over to another Christmas, but it takes some doing and a misstep may mean going back to the beginning and having to wait until 2027. But it can be fun, too. Poinsettia plants are short-day plants. This means they need 12-14 hours of uninterrupted darkness for several weeks to trigger development of colorful red bracts (modified leaves) to change color and start flower development in October. If this cycle is interrupted, start over, please. Pruning, watering, soil changing, and fertilizing, too, need to be applied. The bracts may be less than the first time due to several factors of messing up along the way. If this seems fun, try it; if not purchase a new plant in November but keep this one as long as the foliage is appealing.

XI

XII

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IX

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Best wishes for a

Healthy and

Happy New Year.

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Woodford State Bank proudly sponsors these photographs and scenes from the Winter Concert and Art Display!
Congratulations to the Pecatonica Middle School/High School Art, Music & Band Students and Teachers!!



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Pecatonica Area Middle/High School held their winter concert on Tuesday, Dec. 23 after postponing it due to weather. The middle school band started out the concert with Asian Folk Rhapsody arranged by Richard L. Saucedo and ended their performance with So-Called Unison by Stephanie Berg.



The middle school band also performed Christmas Concerto #3 by Robert W. Smith under the direction of guest conductor and Pecatonica senior Mazie Theorin. The song also featured solos by Evan Olson (alto saxophone), Abram Hughes (euphonium), and Ellen Barnes (trumpet) (pictured left).



Along with the music, several pieces of art were on display created by the middle and high school students.



The middle school choir performed Think Snow by Jill Gallina, Hashivenu, a Hebrew Folk Song, arranged by Ruth Morris Gray, Old Joe Clark, an American Folk Song, arranged by Earlene Rentz and Winterlight by Amy F. Bernon. The last song featured solos by Rylie Lancaster and Chelsea Schlafli (pictured left to right).



The high school band performed The Polar Express by Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri, arranged by Michael Story, My Favorite Things by Oscar Hammerstein II and Richard Rogers, arranged by Robert Buckley, Santa Meets Sousa, arranged by Mark Williams and Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson. One song had Scarlett Jacoby on the drumset (left).



The high school choir performed Christmas Carols: Away in a Manger, Deck the Hall, Silent Night and the Wassail Song by Martin Luther, H.M.M., and Franz Gruber, Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe, as East African Worship Song arranged by Greg Gilpin, and Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow! by Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn, arranged by Milford Fargo.



Pictured are more pieces from the art show.



Valley Leader’s Church News

New Hope Lutheran Church
Blanchardville and Hollandale
Churches of the ELCA.;
Office Phone: 608-523-4239;
Newhopeoffice@tds.net
Pastor Chris Strohm
Saturday, Jan. 4
-8:30 a.m. in Blanchardville
-10:30 a.m. in Hollandale
St. John’s Church, South Wayne,
Rev. Fr. Christopher Gernetzke:
-8:00 a.m. Mass, 2nd and 4th Sun-
days
St. Joseph’s Catholic Church,
Gratiot, Rev. Fr. Christopher Ger-
netzke:
-8:00 a.m. Mass, 1st and 3rd Sun-

Legal

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 25-PR-42
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
LAFAYETTE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Aleksandr Avenosov
DOD October 23rd, 2025
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal adminis-
tration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth Oc-
tober 8th, 1961, and date of death Octo-
ber 23rd, 2025, was domiciled in
Lafayette County, State of Wisconsin, with
a mailing address of 287 Gibson Street
Benton, WI 53803.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against
the decedent’s estate is 03/27/2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Lafayette
County Courthouse, Darlington, Wiscon-
sin, Room .
Teresa L. Siegenthaler
Lafayette County Register in Probate
12-10-2025
Attorney Samuel J. Goaley
1503 1st Center Avenue
Brodhead, WI 53520
608-448-3680
Bar Number 1136863
12-18-3c-PR-C WNAXLP

TOWN OF BLANCHARD
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, Jan. 5, 2025 - 7:00p.m.
207 Pine St., Blanchardville, WI
Agenda for Board Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Proper Posting
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Public Comment
5. 2026 Contracts
6. Review Driveway Ordinance
7. Transportation Update
8. Financial Report
9. Vouchers
10. Any Other Business
11. Next Meeting Date
12. Adjournment

Lisa Sikora, Clerk
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chardville 4:00 p.m.; Mass on Sun-
day, St. Patrick’s at Hollandale, 10:30
a.m.
St. Joseph’s Catholic Parish - Ar-
gyle, Rev. David Carrano
Mass on Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
Cornerstone Lutheran Church of
Argyle AFLC 543-3630 (office),
handicap accessible Website: cor-
nerstone-argyle.org;
Sunday, Dec. 28
-10:00 a.m. service
Perry Lutheran Church, Da-
leyville. Pastor Kelli Fisher 437-
5924;
-9:00 a.m. worship in church &
Facebook
Yellowstone-Argyle/Apple Grove

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Theology every Sunday morning at
9:00 a.m.
Wiota Lutheran Church: Ph:
968-3432.
Sunday, Jan 4
-10:00 a.m. Worship at Wiota
New Glarus Bible Church 207
6th St. (608) 527-2625
Worship Services - 10:00 a.m..
Trinity Episcopal Church, 403
High Street, Mineral Point;
https://trinitymineralpoint.org/
- 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist the 1st
and 3rd Sundays of the month

College News

Coe College’s Fall
2025 Dean’s List

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Coe
College is recognizing its highest
performing students as members of
the Dean’s List, including Hunter
Enloe, who is currently among this
elite group.
Enloe, of Blanchardville, has been
named to the prestigious Fall 2025
Dean’s List at Coe in Cedar Rapids,
Iowa.

UW-Whitewater
announces Dean’s List

WHITEWATER — The following
students were named to the
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Dean’s List for the 2025 fall
semester: Kory Makos of Argyle,
Ashley McDermott of
Blanchardville, and Bri Peterson of
Blanchardville.

Green County Sheriff’s Department Activity

December 23
12:49 p.m.
Deputies responded to a report of a
single vehicle crash in the N8700
block of Badger Road, in the Town of
York. Gregory G. Jepsen, 65,
Blanchardville, was traveling
southbound, when he lost control of
his vehicle. The vehicle exited the
roadway to the west and collided
with an embankment causing the
vehicle to overturn. The vehicle
came to rest on its roof. Jepsen
reported not wearing his seatbelt and
was uninjured. The vehicle sustained
disabling damage with no airbag
deployment, and was towed from the
scene. Jepsen was arrested for

Operating While Under the Influence
(1st-Alcohol). Jepsen was further
cited for Operating With a Prohibited
Alcohol Concentration (1st),
Possession of Marijuana, and
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.
He was released to a responsible
party pending a court appearance.



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Lund honored with DAISY Award



FENNIMORE, Wis – Lindsey
Lund, a recent nursing graduate of
Southwest Wisconsin Technical
College, was honored with the
prestigious DAISY Award during the
college’s nursing pinning ceremony.
The award recognizes her
compassion, professionalism and
commitment to patient care.
Lund graduated Dec. 12 with an
Associate Degree in Nursing. The
DAISY Award is an international
recognition program that honors
nurses who demonstrate
extraordinary care and make a
lasting impact on patients, families
and colleagues.
A 2019 graduate of Wauzeka-
Steuben High School, Lund began
her college journey at the University
of Wisconsin–Eau Claire before
returning closer to home in 2020.
She said proximity and the
supportive learning environment at
Southwest Tech ultimately led her to
the nursing program. “I’ve always
been drawn to nursing,” said Lund.
“My grandma was a nurse most of
her life, and I grew up helping care
for my grandpa, who was diabetic.
It’s something that was always part
of my life, but it really became clear
once I got into the nursing program
at Southwest Tech.”
Lund said small class sizes and
strong communication with
instructors were key to her success.
She completed her certified nursing
assistant coursework prior to

entering the nursing program, which
she said provided a solid foundation
for her studies. “That CNA
experience helps put you in the right
mindset,” she said. “It teaches you
the basics and gives you confidence
going into the program.”
While in the program, Lund
balanced coursework with raising a
young family. She has a 3.5- year-old
child and welcomed her second child
during the middle of the semester
last spring while enrolled full time.
She credited instructors and campus
support services for helping her stay
on track. “My instructors and the
disability services staff were
incredibly helpful,” she said. “They
worked with me to create a plan so I
could finish the semester and return
successfully. That support made all
the difference.”
“Despite the personal sacrifices,
Lindsey never compromised the
quality of her work or her care for
others,” said one of Lund’s
nominators. “She challenges others
in a way that helps them achieve
greater success and demonstrates
critical thinking, rather than blurring
out an answer because she almost
always knows it. Her ability to lead
with empathy, manage her time, and
selflessly care for her family while
pursuing a nursing education is
nothing short of extraordinary.”
Lund said she was surprised when
her name was announced as the
DAISY Award recipient during the
pinning ceremony. “It wasn’t
something I expected at all,” she
said. “So much of what nurses do is
behind the scenes. You’re just doing
what’s asked of you, so to be
recognized for that was really
meaningful.”
Looking ahead, Lund is exploring
several career paths within nursing,
with an interest in labor and delivery.
She said the flexibility of the
profession and the strong preparation
she received at Southwest Tech have
given her confidence as she begins
her career. “The nursing program —
and really all the programs at
Southwest Tech — are just
wonderful,” she said. “The people
here genuinely want to help you
succeed.”

CORRECTION

In the December 28 edition of the Pecatonica Valley Leader, in the article about the Pecatonica Area School Board, the \$400 donation given to the district for birthday books was donated by the Blanchardville Woman’s Club. Jill Gaskell is the treasurer. Apologies for the mistake.

Town of Perry

Assistant Town Road Patrolman


The Town of Perry seeks applicants for the Assistant
Town Road Patrolman – a part-time position, on-call basis.

Responsibilities include: operating snowplows, mowers, trim-
mers and other equipment to assist the Town Road Patrolman.

Please contact the Town of Perry Chairman Roger Kittleson
at 608-438-7249 or kittlesonroger@gmail.com
by January 12, 2026 .

PECATONICA

Strategic Plan Goal Setting



Tuesday, January 6, 2025 at 6 pm

Make up date: January 8th, 6PM

Pecatonica Middle/High School Library

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Pecatonica Area Elementary Basketball teams



3, 4th Grade Girls
Front: Mirielle Schwery, Josie Syse, Brianne Kuhl, Rylinn Kumor, Coach Brandon Halverson. **Back:** Blayke Halverson, Bevyynn Christianson, Raygen Rhoades, Kalie Cockcroft. **Missing from photo:** Coach Kendall Syse.



3, 4th Grade Boys
Front: Knox Hampton, Troy Gonzales Murphy, Griffin Stedman, Kashtyn Powell, Aero Anderson. **Back:** Coach Tyson Stedman, Jax Perez, Finley Sass, Jake Waldoch, Clark Spease, Henry Crooks.



5th Grade Boys
Front: Levi Hughes, Bryson Burkeland, Isaac Olson, Hunter Price. **Back:** Coach Brad Burkeland, Kolt Schmidt, Emmett Christianson, Michael Waldoch, Coach Jason Price.



6, 7, 8th Grade Boys
Front: Nathan Anderson, Clayton Harris, Parker Bethke, Quinten Syse, Evan Olson, Kamryn Burkeland. **Back:** Coach Kendall Syse, Nathan Schwery, Hudson Christianson, Jax Stateler, Wyatt Cockcroft, Coach Brad Burkeland.

1st day Pec/Argyle wrestling from Mid-States

Pecatonica/Argyle
113 Champ. Rd of 64 Layton Gruenenfelder (6-3) Fr., PEAR received a bye, Cons. Rd of 16 Layton Gruenenfelder (6-3) Fr., PEAR received a bye, Champ. Rd of 32 Layton Gruenenfelder (6-3) Fr., PEAR over Carter Walter (7-9) Jr., DGN (TF 23-8 (5:22)), Champ. Rd of 16 Camden Rugg (19-0) Jr., UNGR over Layton Gruenenfelder (6-3) Fr., PEAR (TF 19-3 (1:04)), Cons. Sub-Quarters Layton Gruenenfelder (7-3) Fr., PEAR over Juan Rosales (14-9) Fr., HARV (F 0:26)
120 Champ. Rd of 64 Charlie Krebs (9-6) Fr., PEAR received a bye, Champ. Rd of 32 Charlie Krebs (9-6) Fr., PEAR received a bye, Champ. Rd of 1 Charlie Krebs (9-6) Fr., PEAR over Keegan Eickmeyer (12-5) Jr., SHLU (F 1:25), Quarters Charlie Krebs (9-6) Fr., PEAR vs. Reece Moore (19-0) Sr., SUHA
132 Champ. Rd of 64 Lukas Orloff (20-0) Sr., PEAR received a bye, Champ. Rd of 32 Lukas Orloff (20-0) Sr., PEAR received a bye, Champ. Rd of 16 Lukas Orloff (20-0) Sr., PEAR over Paul Keeku III (8-5) So., UNGR (F 1:02), Quarters Lukas Orloff (20-0) Sr., PEAR vs. Jadon Dinwiddie (19-3) Jr., DGS
150 Champ. Rd of 64 Will Doescher (9-7) Sr., PEAR received a bye, Cons. Rd of 32 Will Doescher (9-7) Sr., PEAR received a bye, Champ. Rd of 3 Wyatt Roland (14-11) Sr., WAUC over Will Doescher (9-7) Sr., PEAR (Dec 10-4), Cons. Sub-Rd of 16 Will Doescher (9-7) Sr., PEAR over Samuel Cosme Avelino (1-2) Sr., ELKH (MD 14-5), Will Doescher (9-7) Sr., PEAR over Dahlton vogel (13-8) Jr., WHIT (Dec 9-5), Cons. Sub-Quarters Jaxin

Golliher (8-7) Fr., HARV vs. Will Doescher (9-7) Sr., PEAR
157 Champ. Rd of 64 Griffin Schlafli (10-11) Fr., PEAR received a bye, Champ. Rd of 32 Griffin Schlafli (10-11) Fr., PEAR over Maddox Riechers (7-8) Sr., ELKH (F 3:24), Champ. Rd of 16 Collin Hamm (19-0) So., WEFR over Griffin Schlafli (10-11) Fr., PEAR (F 1:14), Cons. Rd of 16 Coen McGill (10-11) Jr., BRBO over Griffin Schlafli (10-11) Fr., PEAR (F 3:30)
175 Champ. Rd of 64 Tucker Bethke (1-12) So., PEAR received a bye, Cons. Rd of 32 Tucker Bethke (1-12) So., PEAR received a bye, Champ. Rd of 32 Nathan Buckley (7-19) Sr., TURN over Tucker Bethke (1-12) So., PEAR (F 0:50), Cons. Rd of 16 Chris Dill (8-7) So., MASE over Tucker Bethke (1-12) So., PEAR (F 0:40), Champ. Rd of 64
190 Daniel Henderson (4-10) Fr., PEAR received a bye, Cons. Rd of 32 Daniel Henderson (4-10) Fr., PEAR received a bye, Champ. Rd of 32 Nathan Rathje (15-5) Sr., SHLU over Daniel Henderson (4-10) Fr., PEAR (F 0:57), Cons. Sub-Rd of 16 Mason Thompson (6-10) So., APNO over Daniel Henderson (4-10) Fr., PEAR (F 2:04)
215 Champ. Rd of 64 Ethan Ubersox (7-7) Fr., PEAR received a bye, Champ. Rd of 32 Ethan Ubersox (7-7) Fr., PEAR over Levi Lincoln (6-12) So., UNGR (F 1:34), Champ. Rd of 16 Cody Slater (21-3) Sr., JAPA over Ethan Ubersox (7-7) Fr., PEAR (F 5:09), Ethan Ubersox (7-7) Fr., PEAR over Ethan Taylor (1-11) So., CLIN (F 0:38), Cons. Sub-Quarters Nate Olona (18-4) Sr., DGN vs. Ethan Ubersox (7-7) Fr., PEAR

A/P advances to title game at Marshall invite

Kylie Butler and Brooke Wellnitz combined for 45 points to lead Argyle/Pecatonica to a 56-53 win over a good Laconia team at the Marshall Invite Monday.

The win sent A/P against host Marshall, a 49-47 winner over Poynette,, in a Tuesday championship match-up.

Butler saved the best for last in her 27 point outburst. She had 15 of them the second half and made three of three free throw attempts near the end to ice the win. She made four of five tries the last 18 minutes and hit six of seven throws for the game.

Wellnitz was also a contributor from the stripe with a four of five night. She and Butler combined for four three pointers with Butler drilling three and Wellnitz one. Loretta Tisch and Aleah Harris finished the trifectas with two and one.

It wasn't the best shooting night for the team as only four girls scored.

"It was the kind of game that makes you really sweat," A/P coach Jen Wellnitz-Krogman said as the team welcomed her back to the coaching box after missing a game for surgery.

Both halves were close with A/P finishing off the Spartans 29-22 the first half.

Sophomore Mylee Redman found the range for the Spartans the second half and kept them in it with 18 of her 23 points. Senior Marissa Johnson added 16, nine in the first half.

The Spartans had a slight second half advantage, outscoring A/P 31-27.

Butler's ability to make free throws in clutch situations led to a pair at the 1:09 mark, two more with 15 seconds left for a five point lead then after Redman drained a triple to pull the Spartans within two with eight ticks left, she picked up one of two with six seconds remaining for the final margin.

SCORE BY HALVES
Argyle/Pecatonica 29 27 56
Laconia 22 31 53
BOX SCORE

ARGYLE/PEC 56 (fg-ft-tp): K. Butler 9-6-27, B. Wellnitz 7-3-18, L. Tisch 3-0-8, A. Harris 1-0-3, A. Steiner 0-0-0, L. Doescher 0-0-0, L. Wonders 0-0-0. Totals 20-9/13-56. Fouls- 12.

LACONIA 53: M. Redmon 9-1-23, M. Johnson 6-3-16, Dinno 1-1-3, Zimmerman 1-1-3, Pianke 1-0-2, Taplin 0-2-2, Plium 0-2-2. Totals 18-10/13-53. Fouls- 13.

3 Pointers Made:
AP- K. Butler 3, L. Tisch 2, B. Wellnitz 1, A. Harris 1.
LA- M. Redmon 4, M. Johnson 1.

Pecatonica Leader
Classifieds/
Business Directory

Professional
Directory

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Dr. Elizabeth Holcomb
Dr. Bonnie Liebner
Dr. Nick Wellman
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Saturday & Sunday CLOSED
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ARGYLE PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS:
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Year-in-Review

continued from p. 3

Monday, April 21, heard discussions on sharing Spanish teacher Jaimie Gordon approximately 50/50 with the Argyle School District for the 2025-2026 school year and ultimately denied the contract, asking for other for the Argyle students to be able to utilize Gordon.

May 8

Bailey Watson has worked as the Argyle Public Library Director for a month now and has enjoyed her time in this small town.

Millions of people are affected by mental illness each year. The month of May helps raise awareness, reduce stigma and promote mental health resources.

May 15

Former owner of the 39 acres of land that the Village of Blanchardville purchased 2022, Terry Erickson, met with the village board at their regular board meeting on Monday, May 5, to discuss the contract for the land purchase and the termination letter that he received in 2024.

The Argyle Village Board met on Wednesday, May 7 and discussed putting in a stop sign that would stop traffic heading east on Hwy 81 at the intersection of Hwy 78 and 81 in the downtown portion of the village.

The Hollandale Village Board, at their regular board meeting on Wednesday, May 7, discussed next steps for fixing the growing repairs happening at the Hollandale Lending Library.

May 22

Stress builds up in our bodies and creates a lot of aches and pains. Angie Gruenfelder is looking forward to helping you release that stress through her new business in Blanchardville, Angie Rae Wellness.

The Argyle School Board met on Wednesday, May 14, where they heard from Garry Rossing and Greg Rossing discuss the possibility of

starting the Distinguished Alumni Awards program.

May 29

The Pecatonica Area School Board held their regular board meeting on Monday, May 19 where they made decisions on additional referendum projects that were tabled from last months meeting.

The Lafayette County Board at their meeting on Tuesday night, May 20, heard from volunteer members of the United Neighbors Free Clinic hoping to open in Darlington in November, asking for the blessing of the board of supervisors.

June 5

Construction and Project Engineer Karter Zajicek from Jewell Associates Engineers met with Hollandale residents at Wednesday, May 21 to discuss the County K road project that started this week. Chandler Neimann from Payne & Dolan, contractor, was also present and answered questions.

This year, the 2025 Argyle Dairy Queen will be Izabella (Izzy) Isely.

There was a lot of discussion on the final plat for the annexed lands in both the Planning Commission Committee meeting, which met May 26, and at the full village board that met on Monday, June 2, but overall the final plat was approved and has moved on to the next steps.

The Argyle Community Parks Foundation is a recently created 501c3 organization dedicated to enriching the heart of the village of Argyle by creating and maintaining clean, safe, and inclusive spaces where children can play, seniors can stay active, and neighbors can connect. They are all about bringing the community together to build better parks—where kids can dream, seniors can thrive and everyone belongs.

June 12

Make sure to keep the morning of Saturday, June 14 free so that it can

be filled with a tasty breakfast with a side of farm life for the 2025 Lafayette County Dairy Breakfast hosted by Holmesville Dairy LLC, Travis and Stephanie Holmes, of Argyle at 6074 Everson Road.

This year's Blanchardville Dairy Queen is Avery Webster. The crowning will take place Thursday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Ryan Memorial Park during Music in the Park.

The Blanchardville Village Board at their board meeting on Monday, June 2 did approve the final plat of the annexed lands that was first approved at the Planning Commission Committee meeting on Monday, May 27 and they also endorsed Karen Mayhew and Elaine Becker to bring the Woollets LLC into the village and use the village as backing when they are applying for grants. Other issues brought up was the raze order issued for 114 W. Elm Street and the discussion of placing trees on Main Street, suggested by members of the Blanchardville Woman's Club.

June 19

In June of 2024, Apple Grove Lutheran Church was leveled by an EF-2 tornado. In response to this devastating event, the community, surrounding communities, and churches from all over the country responded with generosity and compassion. Through this outpouring, the cemetery has been restored and the debris has been cleaned up. Although the church building was destroyed, the church remains very much alive, and the parish of Yellowstone/Argyle-Apple Grove continues to thrive.

Clerk-treasurer Holly DeWitt and Public Works Director Jerry Doescher talked the Hollandale Village board at their meeting on Tuesday, June 3 about the financial agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) for the Hwy 191 project scheduled for 2032.

June 26

For the first time ever, the Pecatonica Valley Leader has been chosen by the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors to be the newspaper that the county will use to post all of their legal notices and minutes, establishing them as the official newspaper of the county. This was all decided at their meeting on Tuesday, June 17.

The River Bend Cafe opened their doors on May 22 after Taylor and Whitney Berg purchased the business from Diana Kaiser, who retired from owning and working at the Viking Cafe for 20 years. That transition has gone so smoothly and the community has embraced the new owners of the much loved restaurant.

Former Pecatonica Area School District Board of Education member Roy Ruegsegger asked board members at their meeting on Monday, June 16 to figure out why so students and staff are leaving the district and what they should be doing to keep them here.

Blanchardville's Committees as a Whole

continued from front

here but wants to find a happy medium and be able to enjoy his job.

The Police Commission will meet on January 13. The Public Safety Committee will then meet after that to discuss what their suggestion is and bring a recommendation to the February board meeting.

Main Street Meeting

The public residential/business informational meeting date for the STH 78 Utility Project will be January 14 at 6 p.m. at the Pecatonica Middle/High School Library. Brian Berquist, Project Engineer at Town & Country Engineering, will be there to discuss the Main Street project portion of the entire STH 78 project. The Department of Transportation will also be in attendance.

TID No. 1 sewer plans

Berquist brought up the fact that STH 78 will be tore up from Lien Street all the way to County H near Daleyville. During that time would be ideal to possibly get some sewer work done for the TID No. 1 lands north of the village.

There is some serious interest from the developer for those lands. Berquist mentioned that during the time the road will be tore up, the village will have Maddrell Excavating in town and the village could potentially connect the sewer along side STH 78, past the well house and cut it up on the south side of County F.

Berquist stated doing this is risking in case the developer were to back out and it would be an added cost that the village hadn't potentially thought about happening this soon next year.

Matt Miller from Vierbicher stated that the village is hoping to have a developer agreement drawn up and signed soon and that would give them some confidence that the land would be getting developed soon, like as soon as next year.

The village would pay the up front cost of putting in the sewer until the developer would pay them back. They would be saving money on not

having to cut the asphalt and repave it if the road was already going to be tore up.

The piping would be about 300 feet along side the roadway and 300 feet angled up into the TID No. 1 lands. The final route for the piping would be through the streets planned on those lands. Berquist stated this was all informational and something the board should think about and possibly consider. Berquist said he would chat with Maddrell and learn more information soon.

Miller added that the developer has changed some of their plans but what he thought was best for the village to have built on the land was multi family housing, business opportunities, and commercial space as well. He hopes to have something tangible to show the village at their January meeting as to how some of the lot sizes have changed. One of the things the developer wanted to have on the land was some sub-storage opportunities north of County F, like a warehouse, in the industrial district.

Other business

Sarah Kyrie is working as the interim director for the Argyle Public Library for January and February for 5-10 hours a week or until they find a full time person. She wanted to reiterate to the board that she will not be leaving Blanchardville but just wanted to help out Argyle.

Rolly McGowan asked that the committee only allow village residents to dump brush and yard waste at the dump site on Old Q Road. Recently, Intercon Construction has been dumping their fill from the road work they have been doing in the village. McGowan is afraid the Department of Natural Resources is going to be upset since the village doesn't have a sill fence or any type of erosion control there. The committee made the motion to purchase no dumping fill signs that clearly state the fine that could be issued if anyone is caught violating the rules.

Obituary



Melissa R. Jindra, age 55 passed away on Saturday, December 20, 2025 at UW Hospital in Madison. She was born on December 29, 1969 in Dodgeville, Wis. Melissa grew up in Medford, Wis. and Mineral Point, Wis. She had worked for Ellis Manufacturing in Verona for many 14 years until working as a bartender and bar manager at Sportsman's Bar in New Glarus for 10 years until her health declined. Melissa met her

longtime companion and caregiver Art Thompson in 2009. They enjoyed many trips across the U.S.A including Yellowstone and the Appalachian Mountains as well as eight trips to Jamaica.

Melissa is survived by her husband Art Thompson, sons Dustin (Becky Zuber) Jindra and Jason Jindra, grandchildren Libby Rae Jindra and Thalia Grace Jindra. She is further survived by her brothers Todd (Priya Nataraj) Halverson and Mike Halverson.

She was preceded in death by her mother Jean McKernan and a brother Dennis Halverson.

A gathering of relatives and friends will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at the Zentner-Beal Funeral Home, 29 Sixth Ave., New Glarus, Wis.

A celebration of Melissa's life will follow at Ohana Kitchen (formerly Toffler's) 200 Fifth Ave., New Glarus, Wis., from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2026.

Online condolences may be given at www.bealfuneralhomes.com



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Contact Andrea- 608-523-3133

Argyle Cenex
108 W. Milwaukee St., Argyle, WI
Contact Tonia - 608-543-3071

OR Stop at any of the locations for an application