

YMCA distributes gifts to area youths

BELOIT — The spirit of generosity was in full swing during the 2023 holiday season as members of Staline Family YMCA came together to donate a remarkable total of over 260 gifts to 86 youth in the Beloit community.

This heartwarming initiative, conducted in collaboration with the School District of Beloit and the South Beloit School District, exemplifies the organization's commitment to fostering community connections and brightening the lives

of local children. By working together, the Y and the School Districts were able to identify and reach out to deserving youth and families, ensuring that the gifts reached those who would benefit most from the community's generosity.

APPLE/ from A1

- Ariana Sanders, Belvidere High School, 10th-12th grade Social Studies
- Kathleen Podraza, North Boone High School, Poplar Grove, English
- Timothy Perian, Harlem High School, Machesney Park, Music
- Jeremy Toledo, Harlem High School, Machesney Park, Choir/Guitar/Drama
- Bethany Austin, Guilford High School, Rockford, Art
- Amy Avery, Guilford High School, Rockford, Spanish
- David Bardwell, Jefferson High School, Rockford, Biology
- Aubrey Barnett, Flinn Middle School, Rockford, 8th grade ELA
- Amanda Becker, Auburn High School, Rockford, History
- Michael Davis, Kennedy Middle School, Rockford, PLUS 6-8 (Special Education)
- Brooke Harp, Holy Family School, Rockford, 6th-8th grade Literature
- Molly Kettelhut, Galapagos Rockford Charter School, 7th grade ELA and Social Studies
- Marianna Ruggerio, Auburn High School, Rockford, 11th and 12th grade Physics
- Chelsea Spinello-Johnson, Marshall Middle School, Rockford, Literature/Publications
- Cara Wolfe, Flinn Middle



BDN FILE PHOTO

Willowbrook Middle School, South Beloit, choir and music teacher Linda Julian was honored with a Golden Apple award in 2017. Finalists for the 2024 Golden Apple Foundation Excellence in Teaching Awards have been announced.

These teachers will be observed in their classrooms by trained community volunteers on four separate occasions between Jan. 16 and Feb. 14.

School, Rockford, 8th grade ELA
 These teachers will be observed in their classrooms by trained community volunteers on four separate occasions between Jan. 16 and Feb. 14. The next step in the selection process after observations is an interview. The process culminates with the selection of five teachers who will receive the Golden Apple Awards in

surprise classroom presentations.
 The Annual Golden Apple Banquet recognizing Excellence in Education and honoring the Golden Apple Teachers will be held on April 26. It is sponsored by Bergstrom Inc. and Collins Aerospace.
 For more information visit the Golden Apple Foundation website at <https://goldenappleofrockford.com/>.

COUNTY/ from A1

a need for more childcare options and a need to continue supporting local law enforcement.

Gorman told the Daily News he has grown concerned that discussions and actions by some board members "have people walking on eggshells," and hopes that he and others can get people working together again.

"I think people on the board and people around the board agree on more than we disagree on," Gorman said.

"Just in general we can take a breath, lower the temperature, and realize we are here for the greater good," Gorman added.

Gorman also said Rock County is in a great spot for growth, but "only when supervisors can work together."

"People want the basic services covered. People want birth certificats and death certificates, and people want to have taxes at a reasonable level at the same time," Gorman said.

Zoril confirmed Thursday in a statement to the Daily News that he will run for re-election to defend his seat on the board.

In that statement, Zoril said he welcomes the contest as a "chance to focus on our community's needs and the solutions I've implemented."

Zoril pointed to the \$5.6 million tax cut he negotiated in the 2023 budget.

He also pointed to his amendment on the county's childcare subsidy resolution to restrict eligibility to Rock County residents and his multiple attempts to pass human trafficking

resolutions. After failing to pass a "Stand Against Illegal Immigration Week" resolution in June 2023, Zoril attempted to pass a "Stand Against Illegal Immigration and Child Sex Trafficking Week" in July and a resolution in September for construction of a human trafficking homeless shelter. Neither of those resolutions passed either.

The county ultimately allocated about \$2.2 million toward human trafficking efforts in its 2024 budget.

"Effective leadership means breaking away from the comfort zone," Zoril said, adding that his advocacy to reopen the county treasurer's office was a sign of that leadership, and that it ended "two years of taxpayer frustrations and unnecessary surcharges."


The treasurer's office had been closed after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and remained closed to the public until September 2022. Zoril proposed a resolution to cut the office's budget in half if Treasurer Michelle Roettger did not reopen the office to the public. After Roettger defended keeping the office closed to protect the health of office staff and their elderly parents due to COVID-19, Roettger relented and reopened the office.

"My office speaks to direct action on issues that touch every Rock County household," Zoril said.

Gorman works as a development and events manager for Wisconsin Conservation Voters. He has also worked at Beloit College.

Gorman is the husband of Wisconsin State Sen. Mark Spreitzer.

Zoril was voted into the seat when he ran unopposed in the 2022 election.



444 E. Grand Ave., Suite 102
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Mark Lewis
 Regional President,
 APG Southern Wisconsin
 mlewis@adamspg.com

Kim Boreen
 General Manager
 Beloit Daily News/Stateline News
 608-364-9235

Robert Ireland
 Director of Business Development, APG
 Southern Wisconsin
 robert.ireland@adamspg.com

Karyn Saemann
 Regional Editor,
 APG Southern Wisconsin
 608-755-8294
 karyn.saemann@apg-sw.com

Clint Wolf
 Editor, Beloit Daily News
 608-364-9225
 cwolf@beloitdailynews.com

Tim Seeman
 Regional Sports Editor, APG Southern
 Wisconsin
 608-755-8394
 tim.seeman@apg-sw.com

Roberta Baumann
 News Editor
 roberta.baumann@apg-sw.com

Jacob Swanson
 News and Digital Editor, APG Southern Wis.
 Jacob.swanson@apg-sw.com


Submit Community News
 608-364-9225
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Classifieds
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