

Connecting Brodhead globally in anniversaries

By Tony Ends
CORRESPONDENT

I'm celebrating an important event in my life and reporting on it from West Africa.

Marking anniversaries has long been an important function of local newspapers. Anniversaries bond us to people and places we love. They can also deepen our passion for artful, useful practices.

Observing anniversaries of families, businesses, organizations, duty in service at home and abroad can strengthen our principles.

Bringing all those aspects of life together in a newspaper can help sustain marriages, communities,

craftsmanship, even collective missions. Can it sustain our world?

My best friend in life and I are looking to a 30th year of marriage in the spring. Yet my loving wife Dela is deeply supporting my observance of another personal milestone, which takes me away from her at this time.

This past summer marked the 40th anniversary of my return from Peace Corps service. As I tended vegetable crops sustaining our family's little farmstead now for 23 seasons, I kept recalling lessons from that life-changing experience.

These lessons started after my senior year of college in 1975. I

was recruited to teach English in a public school in Senegal. I set aside my ambition to look for newspaper work after graduation. I took the assignment in West Africa.

I was excited to travel and live overseas. I was eager for a chance to use all I'd learned in school.

Yes, I wanted to help others, but I didn't know what I was getting into. I didn't really understand what world hunger was, what justice, or mercy, or humility were all about.

Then suddenly I was squatting on a reed mat covering the dirt floor of a shack in a refugee camp. The camp paralleled railroad tracks in the town where Peace Corps sent me to serve 5,000 miles away from my home in the Midwest.

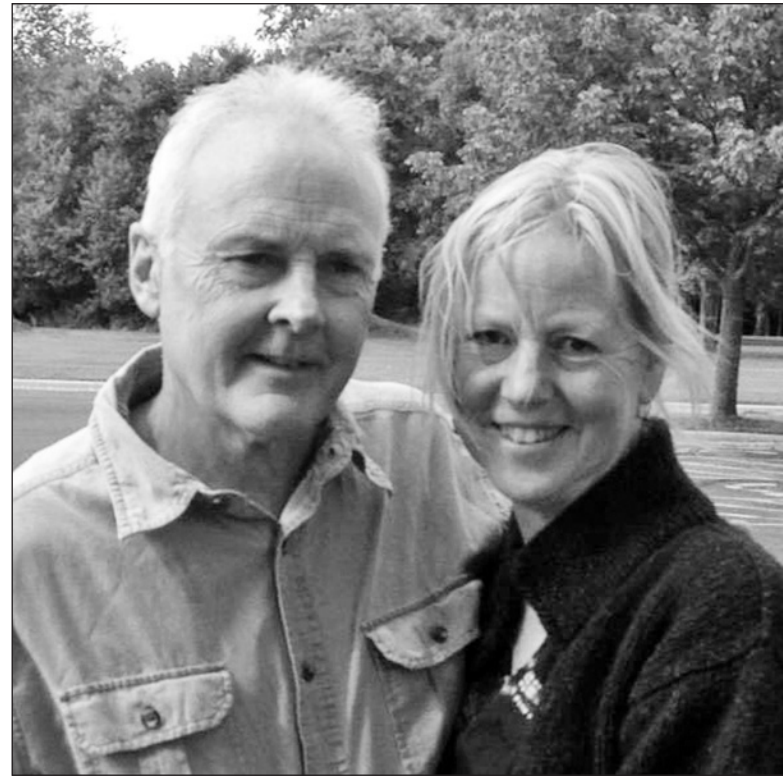
I knelt with hungry children around a big common bowl of rice. I felt their honor and respect of me, a teacher in their crude home. I watched thin fingers and arms reach into that bowl and push the little bits of meat and vegetables in the rice to my side of the bowl.

For the next 2 years, people like that everywhere – joyfully, reverently, humbly – shared their food with me. Sometimes they went hungry for the honor of feeding a teacher from America.

All my deepest feelings for farming, food and faith were set for life in these experiences. I've longed over and over for a chance to thank the Senegalese people, and those refugees from Guinea.

This past Wednesday, Nov. 1, I set out on an anniversary year of thanks. I departed first from Madison's airport for two days of travel and 6 months' volunteer work in Guinea. I'm in Guinea now and writing to you from there.

Guinea and its neighbor Senegal



Tony, left, and Dela Ends.

COURTESY PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

are North African nations. More than 80 percent of the people in Guinea derive their income from agriculture. Yet one-third of their households are food insecure, and many children – even in school – are malnourished.

I'm going to be a field officer monitoring and evaluating food needs for the United Nations World Food Program. I'm taking tools, seeds, patterns for solar food drying and school gardens. I hope to help school feeding programs for 100,000 children become self-suf-

ficient.

I'm serving as a staff member for the United Nations, but I am sponsored again by the Peace Corps. Each year now, Peace Corps sends scores of returned volunteers to partner with agencies such as the World Food Program. They fill shorter term, high impact assignments.

Probably few people here in Wisconsin, nor our nation, realize how strongly our lives and lifestyle are connected to Guinea.

Every time we open an aluminum can of something to drink. Every time we ride in a car or truck made with light-weight aluminum parts. Every time we climb aboard an airplane, or close a window made with an aluminum frame, or use something in our kitchen made with aluminum.

We may be benefitting from bauxite aluminum ore mined in Guinea by the American Alcoa company based in Pittsburg.

Guinea rests above the Earth's largest deposits of bauxite aluminum ore. Alcoa has huge mining and smelting operations there. Ores they extract from Guinea make lives of everyone in our country more comfortable and easy. Yet farming people there are often desperate for food to feed their cattle, food to feed their children, water for their crops.

It seems from news and media accounts very popular in America to be angry today. We are angry about the economy. We are angry about our government. Some people are angry about church and people of God.

As an aspiring journalist of nearly 50 years, as a farmer half that time, and a father committed to my family, I realize, that I am my economy. I spend the dollars I earn. I use this money, locally or globally.

I also am my government, a government of the people, by the people, for the people. I've pledged allegiance since a child to that government's liberty and justice for all. I am my church. I am how my church lives its faith, eats its faith, shares its faith, possessions, knowledge.

I personally don't feel anger toward anyone. I credit sincere observance of the anniversaries that have marked and shaped my life. I've actually cherished anniversaries and rich memories of people, places and practices. They shaped my principles.

If anyone can reform our world, it is up to each of us to – increase our awareness, act on our knowledge, live those principles.

I'm going to write and report to you what I experience over the next 6 months of my anniversary Peace Corps experience back in West Africa. I invite you to reflect with me in this newspaper on what this means to all of us.

Legal Notices

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NOTICE

TOWN OF ALBANY Public Budget Hearing

Tuesday, November 14, 2017
6:00 p.m., followed by

Regular Town Board Meeting
Proof of posting verified – Town

Hall, Clerk's residence, Town Website and published.

1. Approval of October Minutes.
2. Treasurer's Report.
3. Public Input:
4. Website.
5. Plan Commission Report
6. Roads and Driveway Permits:
7. Building Inspector.
8. Assessor.
9. Insurance:
10. Library:
11. Recycling.
12. Other Business:
13. Payment of bills.
14. Adjournment.

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11/8/2017
WNAXLP

299721

GREEN COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Per Wisconsin State Statutes 88.05(2) - NOTICE is hereby given that on Monday, December 11, 2017, 9:00 a.m. in the Green County Historic Courthouse Basement Conference Room, 1016 16th Avenue, Monroe, Wisconsin, a Public Hearing will be held by the Green County Drainage Board, regarding the Annual Drainage District Reports for the Broughton, Decatur, Drain #1 and Drain #2 Drainage Districts. The annual reports are available at the Green County Treasurer's office, 1016 16th Avenue, Monroe, Wisconsin. All interested citizens are invited to attend. All questions and concerns will be heard by the Board. Drainage board members include, John Ott, N9096 County Road O, New Glarus, WI 53574; Joseph Schwarzenberger IV, W3894 State Road 11, Monroe, WI 53566; or John Dieckhoff W2210 Pinnow Road, Brodhead, WI 53520.

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299859

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JUDA

Regular School Board Meeting

November 8, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
The meeting will be held in the Learning Commons.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order by President Pfingsten
- II. Roll Call:
 - Dennis Pfingsten Eric Makos
 - Pat Daniels Joann Goecks
 - Tonya Whitney Joanne Salzwedel
 - Stefanie Baum
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Proof of Notice
- V. Acceptance of Agenda
- VI. Open Forum
- VII. Consent Agenda-Consent agenda items will be approved in one motion; however, any Board member may ask that any individual item be acted on separately.
 1. Approval of the minutes of the regular board meeting held on October 11, 2017 (Action)
 2. Treasurer and Financial reports (Action)
 3. Approval of Contracts: (Action)
 4. Resignations (Action)

5. Donations (Action)
- VIII. Referendum Update: Discussion/Action
 - Review of additional projects
 - Systems Updates: Fire Alarms/sound system/lights/phones/bells
- IX. Reports

1. School Staff/Student Report
 - Student Recognitions
2. School Board President's Report
 - Joint Board meeting-possibly March 7th, 2018 at Juda
 - State Convention-January 16th-19th, 2018.
 - November 9th Ham/Scalloped Potato Dinner. School Board Help?
 - Update on area Board Presidents Gathering
 - Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance Gathering
3. Administrative Report
 - General Updates
 - JAMBB Updates
 - Student Data Systems
 - Qualtrics / Strategic Planning
4. Recreation Department Report
5. Finance Committee Report
6. Collaboration Report
7. Policy Report
 - Credit Card Policy: First Reading
- XI. Five Minute Recess
- XII. Adjourn into Executive Session according to Wis. State Statutes 19.85 (1) (c) (f)
- XIII. Reconvene into open session and take appropriate action as necessary
- XIV. Future board agenda items and meetings: (discussion/action)
 - December 8, 2017
- XV. Adjournment

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TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Orfordville Fire District meeting room

173 N. Wright St., Orfordville, WI

AGENDA

1. Call to order
 2. Approval of agenda
 3. Verification of proper public notice
 4. Minutes approved
 5. Treasurer's report approved
 6. Reports
 7. Audience communication
 8. Old business
 - A. Town tax levy, road work, State grant
 - B. Brush cutting
 - C. Recycling contractors
 9. New business
 - A. City of Brodhead storm water drainage
 - B. Insurance renewal
 - C. Humane Society contract
 - D. Road Improvement Plan
 10. Future agenda items
 11. Payment of bills
 12. Adjournment
- Julie Gerke, Clerk
Recycling drop-off 2nd Saturday of the month
Rock Co. Public Works Bldg.
Hwy 213 Orfordville
9am-noon.
www.townofspringvalley.com
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