



NEWS BREAK April 2017

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Run a flyer in the newsletter

Run a flyer in the Chamber newsletter or weekly news for just \$20. Spread the word about your event or business. We'll take the ad as a pdf or jpg no larger than 8.5"x11". The deadline for submitting an ad in the weekly news is Noon on Wednesdays or the 20th of the month for the monthly newsletter.

**Our pipelines are
monitored 24/7, 365.**



Wine Walk

The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting its 5th Annual Portage Wine Walk on Friday, April 28 from 6pm to 9pm. 350 tickets will be sold. Downtown retailers and establishments, each offering a red and white wine option, represent the 18 stops on the walk.

wine|walk
portage 2017

A ticket for the wine walk is just \$30. For the first time, tickets can be purchased online (a small fee applies) for this event. [Click here for tickets.](#) Tickets are also available payable by cash or check at the Chamber office, 104 W. Cook St., and Prairie Flower Beads, 210 W. Cook St.

Every effort is made to ensure a safe and fun event for all involved. Age identification is checked, cab ride vouchers are available, and one-ounce pours are mandated. For more information, please call the Portage Chamber at 608-742-6242.

Finishing strokes on new mural

The fifth installment to the Portage Mural Project is a really big one. Measuring 30' x 12', the mural, painted by artist Kelly Meredith, depicts a representation of the early people of Portage. The mural was installed on the east side of Wilz Drug at 140 E. Cook St. in downtown.

Thank you to the Business Improvement District, City of Portage Tourism, Dan Kremer and Phil Koch of the Portage Parks and Recreation, Wilz Drug and Tyler Hoel of H & M Contracting for helping to make this mural happen.

A mural by Charles Bradley depicting the feed mill along the canal that was removed due to development of the new Columbia County administration buildings will soon have a new home. Installation on the east wall of the U.S. Bank drive through building located at 212 W. Edgewater St. along the canal should happen in the coming weeks.



Text PACC to 51660

to receive information about upcoming Chamber events

Blitz the VFW, more Launch Portage events scheduled

The Portage Chamber has started an exciting new venture! Known as Launch Portage, this is a group of Young Professionals building leadership skills, networking and socializing to create a culture of community involvement through the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce.



Our Chamber is part of a statewide initiative called YPWeek, April 24-29. YPWeek Wisconsin 2017 brings together young leaders in 25 communities, at purposefully chosen locations that integrate the unique cultural assets with meaningful learning or social interaction. The activities engage the millennial workforce in activities and experience that are important to them while educating employers on the important role these functions play in retaining their workforce. To date, the nation has not seen a collaborative, statewide effort to engage talent - Wisconsin is poised to fill this gap and become a national best practice.

We are planning a big Launch Portage kick-off event 'Blitz the VFW' for Tuesday, April 25 from 6pm to 8pm as part of YPWeek. Held at the VFW Post #1707 at 215 W. Collins St., the event will feature Wisconsin Dells Brewing Company Brewmaster Jamie Baertsch from 6pm to 7pm. Jamie is the first female brewmaster from Wisconsin, who also happens to be from Portage.

For a cost of \$15 per person, Jamie will have three types of her Wisconsin Dells Brewing Company beers on tap to sample. Come to the VFW, meet new people, sample food from our businesses, listen to live music and much more!

Other Launch Portage events are scheduled as part of YPWeek, too. Please join us in doing some spring cleaning at the area of Sunset Park & WI River Boat Launch. This will take place on Wednesday, April 26 from 5pm to 6:30 and we will have snacks for all the helpers afterwards at Sunset Park.

The Portage Wine Walk is scheduled for Friday, April 28 from 6pm to 9pm and Launch Portage will have an information table at one of the stops, Realty Executives, during the walk to give you information on upcoming activities.

Contact the Chamber at 742-6242 if you would like to be involved in Launch Portage and stay tuned for more information about these and forthcoming events.



World-class care is closer than you think.

April Chamber Business Luncheon

The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce is offering another way to network with your fellow Chamber members and make those important connections that can help you in your business or career. Bring your business cards, brochures, or anything you wish to share with other members.

Luncheon Information

Detective Lt. Roger Brandner of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office will speak with us about the growing epidemic of drugs in the workplace and our community.

Attendees will learn about: what drugs are in our area, the common behaviors associated with using drugs, information regarding drug related deaths, indicators for drug use and resources that can help.

Date: Tuesday, April 4

Where: B & B Hitching Post, 2503 W. Wisconsin St.

Time: Lunch at 11:30AM, Presentation at Noon

Cost: Pay for your lunch at the restaurant



PLEASE RSVP. CALL THE CHAMBER AT 608-742-6242!

Text PORTAGE to 51660

to receive information about upcoming Portage events

Chamber Golf Outing

The 35th Annual Portage Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing will be on Wednesday, June 14 at the Portage Country Club. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to network with many Chamber members.

Call the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce if you are interested at 608-742-6242 or [simply print off this form](#) and return to the Chamber office.



Business Profile - Anytime Fitness

Anytime Fitness Portage is under the ownership of Madison area native, Andy Gundlach. Andy along with the entire team of 7 full-time employees in Portage include a Club Manager, Assistant Manager, Member Experience Manager and Fitness Coaches are all dedicated to creating a non-intimidating atmosphere. Our coaching system pushes the boundaries of fitness using a strategic, engaging experience paired with technology to empower lives.



Anytime Fitness of Portage offers a wide variety of cardiovascular, circuit training, free weight training, function and mobility equipment and both live bootcamp style classes and video classes. Each member has an electronic key fob and access to the entire club 24/7, 365 days a year. All members receive a Functional Movement Screening and Fitness Consultation with the Member Experience Manager to begin their personalized fitness journey.

Anytime Fitness members are the driving force in connection to the community and the "home away from home" feeling some members describe when walking through the front door. Over the years Anytime Fitness has managed food drives, sponsored run/walks, cancer drives, humane society drives and participated in a wide-variety of fund-raising raffles throughout the local communities. We have also offered both in-house and outdoor free bootcamp classes to the community.

Anytime Fitness is located at 2800 New Pinery Road. Call 608-745-0250 for more information.



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Sean Malone, Agent
415 W Wisconsin Street
Portage, WI 53901
Bus: 608-742-6754
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Dear Neighbor,

Health insurance is a critical part of your financial picture. When you turn 65, Medicare will become a part of this picture.

Although Medicare offers great benefits, it doesn't provide coverage for all your medical expenses. **A State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company** (State Farm®) Medicare Supplement Insurance policy may help reduce your out of pocket expense, cover some expenses that Medicare does not, and help provide you with confidence that your supplemental health insurance needs are being met.

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Sincerely,

Sean Malone, Agent
415 W. Wisconsin Street
P.O. Box 710
Portage, WI 53901-0710
Bus. (608) 742-6754

State Farm Medicare Supplement Plans are available to qualified applicants under the age of 65 who meet applicable eligibility requirements in states where it is mandated to issue to under age 65 applicants. **These policies are not connected or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the Federal Medicare program.** Policy coverages, exclusions and limitations may vary in some states. For exact terms and conditions see policy series 97037H, 97038H, and 97039H, 97041H in DE & PA; 97049H in WI; 97049H and 97050H in MN. Medicare Supplement Insurance Policy form numbers in Idaho are 97037 HID, 97038 HID, and 97039 HID. Not available in CT & NY.

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Museum at the Portage opens for the 2017 season on Thursday, April 6.

Phoenix open house

The Phoenix apartment complex in downtown Portage underwent an extensive remodel project. Now that the project is completed, an open house will be held on Thursday, April 13 from 2pm to 6pm to show off the new look.

"I have received a lot of positive comments from the tenants that the renovations have created a more warmer, homier feeling," said Sheila Masica, manager of The Phoenix apartments. Masica said she is looking forward to the open house where several tenants will have their doors open for visitors to take a peek inside.

The Phoenix renovations include work on the roof, new exterior siding, new windows and blinds, new boilers, new appliances, fresh paint and new carpeting in hallways and common areas, updated flooring in some apartments and the laundry room and a new overhead garage door in the underground parking area.

The Phoenix is located at 104 W. Cook St. For more information, call Sheila at 608-745-4450.

Lions Annual Radio Auction

The Portage Lions Club will be hosting their 41st annual radio auction on Saturday, April 1 beginning at 12:30pm. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser are used to support many Lions service projects on the local, state and international levels. Some of the local activities include pre-school vision testing, eye exams, glasses for those in need, and transportation of eye tissue to and from the Eye Bank in Madison. Other projects include scholarships, annual Easter Egg hunt, the High School athletic fund, The Caring Tree, and many others.



[Click here for the list of this year's auction items!](#)

To participate in the Lions Radio Auction: Listen to 1350 AM WPDR starting 12:30pm on April 1. Call 745-5864 to find out the latest bids on any item. Make your bid by giving name and phone number along with your desired bid.

Bidding may also be done from St. Mary's Cafeteria (St. Mary's School - corner of West Conant St. & MacFarlane Rd.) and where all items will be on display. Bids from the auction location will stop at 3:30pm thus allowing the radio listeners the final half hour of phone bids.

Winners will be announced from 4pm to 4:30pm. Please pick up winning items between 5pm and 6pm from St. Mary's Cafeteria. Cash or check only.



Brakebush expanding

Brakebush was founded in 1925 by brothers William and Otto Brakebush and is still proud to be U.S. owned and operated by the Brakebush family. Brakebush provides the food industry with safe, great tasting, high quality chicken products.



The business currently employs 1,000 people at its state-of-the-art processing facility and corporate headquarters in Westfield and also operates a raw portioning plant in Irving, Texas. Brakebush acquired the Texas plant 4 years ago and has more than doubled the business and processing capacity and increased the team members from 315 to now over 660.

In April 2016, Brakebush added its third processing facility in Wells, Minnesota. The 100,000 square foot Brakebush Wells plant currently employs 75 team members.

From these three facilities, Brakebush services a wide array of customers in the fast casual, college/university, healthcare, school, convenience store, national chain and retail segments with over 200 chicken products.

Due to strong growth, plans are in place to expand capacity at its Westfield facility. An additional 85 thousand square feet of production will be added at a cost of \$40 million. This added capacity will put Brakebush in a great position to grow business with existing accounts and aggressively pursue new business. Brakebush will continue to expand its workforce with an additional 75 team members needed in production, maintenance, sanitation and utilities positions.

Brakebush is located at N4993 6th Dr. in Westfield. For more information, please call 608-296-2121.

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OFFICIAL SUPPLIER OF
THE SILVER LINING® WEST BEND®

New Chamber Members

Rock N' Wool Winery

W7817 Drake Road Poynette, 53955

Shaun Lapacek at 608-635-4339

A vineyard and winery located on 40 beautiful acres in Poynette that 'makes Wisconsin wines with grapes that grow in Wisconsin.'

Smart Cookies

On the second Thursday of each month, The Partners are busy baking in the Divine Savior Healthcare front lobby. The delicious aroma of freshly baked cookies goes throughout the hospital.

The Partners generously donate their time baking these "Smart" cookies to raise funds for scholarships. This year, two different types of scholarships are available for students in the communities served by Divine Savior Healthcare who are pursuing an education in a healthcare-related field.

Please see the attached [scholarship application](#). Thank you for supporting the Partners of Divine Savior.



Ridge Motor Inn

Ridge Health & Fitness Center
2900 New Pinery Rd.
608-742-5306

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TWICE UNITED**

Columbia County

TOUCHED TWICE

"We need to change the culture to a healthy culture where people want to live."
Dr. Kevin Blau

Sign up now

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Looking for You!

The **culture** we live in affects our *quality of life* and our ability to be productive. **JOIN** community leaders who are building a better **culture** in Columbia County Wisconsin.

29TH

APRIL 2017

St. Mary's Church

309 W Cooks St, Portage, WI 53901

Equipping Community

We are *Building* **PROGRESS** into **LIVES**: Relationships, Prayer, Work Projects, Healthcare, Haircuts, Family Portraits, Entertainment, & Food!

We  Volunteers

[Click here for Volunteer form!](#)

River Haven proudly presents..

Harmony for the Homeless Concert



Mike Powers & Company

River Haven Homeless Shelter 608-742-7687

Sat., April 8, 2017

At 7:00pm

Portage Center For
The Arts

Tickets \$15

Available At Portage
Chamber Of Commerce

[Sponsor this event! Click here for a form!](#)

Portage organizations win CCVB awards

A number of Portage organizations took home awards at the Columbia County Visitor's Bureau awards banquet held at Dino's Restaurant on March 23.

The Columbia County Humane Society won the Hometown Hero Award in part for their care of Misty the Dog and their dedication to animal adoption. At right, Dallas, the shelter mascot, and Simone Ederer, shelter manager, accept the award on behalf of the shelter staff.



The Mercantile and Artisan Foodie won the Business Award, with Mila Stahl accepting the award for expanding the variety of products that are offered in the retail shop and consistently working with other shops in the downtown to cross promote their products.

The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce won the Event Award for its Wine Walk, now celebrating 5 years. Celebrating the wins in the above photo are (left to right) Marianne Hanson, executive director of the Portage Chamber, Steve Sobiek, business development specialist for the City of Portage, Mila Stahl of the Mercantile, Brad Conrad marketing director of the Portage Chamber and Nancy Elsing,

executive director of the Columbia County Economic Development Corporation.

Pride of America Camping Resort won the Lodging Award for providing an exceptional experience to campers who stay at their campground. Summer fun!

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of the 2017 awards. Thank you to J.D Smith of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for serving as featured speaker for the event and to Dino's Restaurant for serving as a great host and providing a delicious dinner.



Anderson joins First Weber

Jason Anderson joined First Weber Inc. in February and is excited to work with individuals with all of their real estate needs and concerns.

Jason was born and raised in Columbus, WI. After high school he decided to move to Charleston, South Carolina, where he became a firefighter and served for a little over two years. Jason recently moved back to Oxford, WI where he is currently a volunteer fireman.

First Weber in Portage is located at 333 W. Wisconsin St. Call 608-742-4897 for more information.



Looking for a Hot Deal? See our list!

Check out our Hot Deals webpage for deals our Chamber members are offering. Have a Hot Deal of your own you want others to know about? Post your deals on our webpage and join the Hot Deal brigade! There is no charge for posting a Hot Deal, so post away! If you have questions, call the Chamber office at 608-742-6242 to get started.

**HOT
DEAL**

[Click here](#) to see the specials that are currently running!

Ribbon Cuttings

A ribbon cutting was held at 51 Auto Sales, N6826 Highway 51 South, to celebrate a grand re-opening event.

51 Auto Sales has added additional sales staff and expanded their inventory. With a vast selection of vehicles (and firearms) from \$400 to \$25,000 they have something for everyone. Now offering financing and extended warranties.

Call 608-742-2994 for more information.





Building Facade Improvements

A matching loans funds program exists for the purpose of upgrading and improving the exterior front, side and rear facades of existing privately owned businesses. The loan program will facilitate completions of many smaller scale exterior improvement projects.

Funding for this program was made possible through the City of Portage and Portage Area Chamber of Commerce's participation in the America's Best Communities competition, sponsored by Frontier Communications.

[Read the guidelines of the facade grant program.](#) [View the grant application.](#)

Chamber April meetings & events

- 4 Chamber Luncheon at B&B Hitching Post 11:30am
- 5 Ambassador meeting at Community Bank 8am
- 6 Ribbon Cutting at Journey Mental Health 9am
- 7 Golf Committee Meeting at PACC 8am
- 25 Launch Portage kick-off event 'Blitz the VFW' 6pm-8pm
- 26 Launch Portage Sunset Park & boat launch cleanup 5pm-6:30pm
- 28 Portage Wine Walk 6pm-9pm

Give Portage Green Gift Certificates

Portage Green Gift Certificates make an excellent gift. Used just like cash, the certificates can be purchased from the Portage Chamber in \$5, \$10 and \$25 increments. Recipients of the Portage Green may redeem them at [these participating Chamber member businesses](#). By buying Portage Green Gift Certificates, you are helping to boost local business by keeping thousands of dollars right here in Portage. For more information, call the Chamber at 608-742-6242.



Got News?

What is your business up to? Pass along information and corresponding photos to graphics@portagewi.com and let us help spread the word about the great things your business or

organization is doing. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

April Community Events

Spread the word about your events by posting them on our [website!](#)

- 1 Vintage Release at Rock N' Wool Winery
- 1 A Salute to Vietnam Veterans at VFW
- 1 Portage Lions Club Radio Auction
- 1 Craft/vendor sale to benefit Columbia County Humane Society at old Fashion Bug building
- 2 Bingo at VFW
- 4 Business Luncheon at B & B Hitching Post
- 5 Fundraiser for Touched Twice Portage at Pizza Ranch
- 5 Healthy Cooking Class at Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church
- 6 Painting Still Life Class at Mercantile
- 6 Opening of Museum at the Portage
- 7 Area High School student exhibit opening at Portage Center for the Arts' Drury Gallery
- 7 Euchre Card Party at Portage Presbyterian Church
- 8 Columbia County Humane Society Open House
- 8 Harmony for the Homeless Music Concert at Portage Center for the Arts
- 8 Dinner Fundraiser for Carol Heisz at Trail's Lounge
- 11 Mystery Book Group at Portage Public Library
- 12 Healthy Cooking Class at Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church
- 13 'Smart Cookie' Sale at Divine Savior Healthcare
- 13 Blood Drive and Marrow Registry in honor of Sam Bieno at Divine Savior Healthcare
- 13 Open House at The Phoenix in downtown
- 14 The Friday Show with Kaylin Brandsma at Portage Center for the Arts
- 15 Easter Egg Hunts: Portage Lions Club, Culver's Restaurant, Pierce's Marketplace and Our House Senior Living
- 16 Bingo at VFW
- 17 Portage Historical Society Annual Meeting at Trail's Lounge
- 19 Healthy Cooking Class at Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church
- 20 Kratz Funeral Home Free Advance Planning Luncheon at Dino's Restaurant
- 21 Bingo at Our House Senior Living
- 21 Unwinding Road exhibit (through end of June) - Meet the artist at Tivoli
- 22 Free Saturday Theatre Workshop at Portage Center for the Arts
- 22 Pat McCurdy, comedian/musician at Jack's Tap
- 22 Schools for Haiti Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser
- 22 Hiroya Tsukamoto at Portage Center for the Arts
- 24 Portage Sharing Supper at Wayne Bartels Middle School
- 25 Launch Portage - 'Blitz the VFW'
- 26 Launch Portage - Cleanup at Sunset Park & Boat Launch
- 27 Brown Bag Lunch at Portage Center for the Arts
- 28 Portage Wine Walk
- 29 Touched Twice Portage at St. Mary's School Gymnasium
- 29 St. Mary School Trivia Night at St. Mary's School
- 30 Student Recital Series at Portage Center for the Arts

Recurring events - Every Monday


Monday is Beer Bucket Bingo Night at Jack's Tap
New Movie Mondays at Portage Public Library

For more information about these and other events, go to www.portagewi.com.

Organizing an event or having a sale?

Submit your event or sale to us and have it appear on the Chamber website calendar of events. You may enter your event by [clicking here](#). Please note: Your submission will take a while to appear as the Chamber office first reviews the submissions before approving them to appear on the web calendar. For more information, please call our office 608-742-6242.

The Portage Area Chamber of Commerce is providing leadership for
building a healthy economy and a high quality of life in the Portage Area.

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Join Our Mailing List!

NEWS BREAK is a monthly publication of the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce. Please contact the Chamber if you have news about your business that you would like to include in the next issue.

Our deadline is the 20th of the month. Email your news to graphics@portagewi.com.

