

Ray-O-Vac

FROM PAGE 1A

were unsuccessful. However, the company did send a brief statement from an "Energizer Holdings spokesperson" in an e-mail, which stated, "Energizer Holdings is in communications with our colleagues and their union representatives about the future of our Fennimore and Portage facilities in Wisconsin. We will continue to focus on our colleagues – the people closest to this issue and who matter the most – as we work toward a final resolution."

According to Grant County Economic Development Director Ron Brisbois, Energizer did conduct an evaluation of the plant in late 2022, which would take into account factors such as efficiency, production, age, etc, but that evaluations like that are done at all plants every few years, and last he was informed, the Fennimore plant ran "very efficiently, and manufacturing there was strong overall."

Attempts to contact Energizer Holdings at the beginning of December, when the rumors of the plant's closure first surfaced, went unanswered then.

The City of Fennimore released a statement stating, "The City of Fennimore, along with our local economic development officials, will continue to extend our support to Energizer as they evaluate operations and work through the decision-making process on the future of the Fennimore plant. To our knowledge, no final decision has been made by Energizer. The Fennimore Energizer plant has been a strong piece of our community's history and one of our major employers for the last 53 years. We remain hopeful that we will continue this relationship for years to come."

The Times did also receive

a statement from Rep. Travis Tranel's office stating "We've been in contact with Fennimore Mayor Ryan Boebel, the Governor's Office, WEDC, Energizer, and the Union. From what we can tell, no definitive plans have been made or have been announced yet. We are encouraged that WEDC is working with Energizer, and we are committed to helping in any way that we can to retain these well-paying, family supporting jobs in Fennimore."

Portage Mayor Mitch Craig, whose city's Energizer plant is also facing uncertainty, said he is working with Governor Tony Evers' staff to negotiate with Energizer and keep the Wisconsin plants open. "There's nothing confirmed that they are closing the plant," Craig said. "But there's nothing confirmed that they're staying open either."

As of press time, Energizer was continuing to advertise for employment opportunities at the Fennimore plant, and Energizer has not filed layoff notices with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

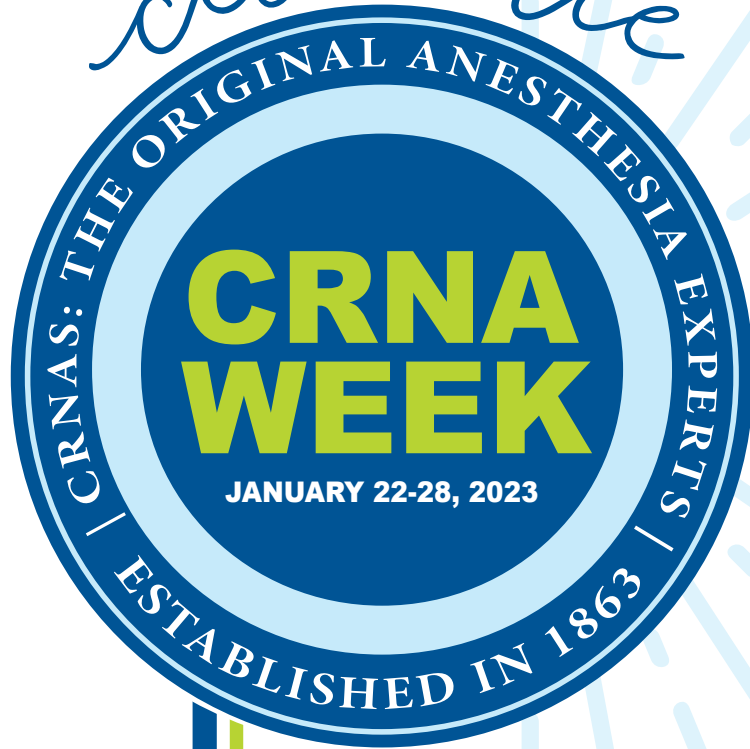
The Fennimore plant produces batteries for Energizer's retail brands, including Eveready and Rayovac, as well as specialty batteries for hearing aids.

It was a little more than a decade ago that the plant was signally being a success story when it was still with Spectrum.

In December of 2010, Ray-O-Vac increased production at Fennimore, where they expect to make one billion batteries at the factory in 2011.

"They brought their production out of China to the United States. That does not happen all that often, and I hope to see that be the start of something," Ron Brisbois noted at the time of the shift in production for the battery manufacturer.

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Matt Stader, CRNA



Michelle Bainbridge, CRNA



Scott Bainbridge, CRNA

Virtual Job Fair Jan. 31

The first Regional South Central and Southwest Virtual Job Fair of 2023 is set for Tuesday, January 31, 2023 from 2 pm to 4pm. Job-seekers can meet virtually with multiple local businesses in a variety of industries. As of January 20, 40 employers have registered to participate from a variety of different industries in the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (SWWDB) area, which includes the counties of Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and

Rock, as well as the South Central area, which includes the counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Marquette, and Sauk.

Participating job seekers can talk with employers in real time, explore job vacancies, and submit their résumé. Job-seekers can create their profile by clicking on the 'register to event' button, and following the steps through the set-up wizard to create the account. Internet Explorer does not

work with this platform, however, all other browsers will. To access the virtual event, go to <https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/8IPk28>

Those interested are urged to register prior to the event to help avoid any last-minute technical issues. In addition, Job Service staff will be available from 2 – 4pm to assist job seekers with online registration and navigation of the virtual event at the following locations: Rock County Job Center: 1717

Center Ave – Janesville, Beloit Public Library: 605 Eclipse Blvd – Beloit, Dane County Job Center: 1819 Aberg Ave – Madison, and Workforce Development Center of Jefferson: 874 Collins Road – Jefferson.

Individuals having questions can email DETWDAL1BusinessServices@dwd.wisconsin.gov.

JAN 31

TUESDAY

DISNEY/
SUPERHERO
DAY

10:00 AM "Pint Size Hero" Presentations
1:30 PM School Talent Show
(Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Clement School: Friday, Feb. 10th)

JAN 30

MONDAY

PAJAMA /
BABY
DAY

8:15 AM All-School Rosary in Church
9:00 AM Baby Shower for Clarity Clinic
12:45 PM United States Classroom Activities

JAN 29

SUNDAY

9:30 AM Catholic Schools Week Mass
11:00 AM Donuts in the Cafeteria
11:00 AM Book Fair Grand Opening in the Library
11:30 - 12:30 PM 4K Round-Up

FEB 1

WEDNESDAY

SAINT
CLEMENT
GREEN &
GOLD DAY

8:15 AM All School Mass
9:15 AM Book Fair "Grand" Event
10:15 AM Grades 4-6 Spelling Bee
1:00 PM Grades 1-3 Spelling Bee

FEB 2

THURSDAY

MISMATCH
DAY

9:00 AM Jazz Band & Song Spinners
11:30 AM Staff Appreciation Lunch
1:30 PM Escape Room Challenge

FEB 3

FRIDAY

CLASS
COLOR
DAY

First Friday Adoration
Swimming & Bowling - All Day
3:00 PM Book Fair Last Chance

4K - Purple, K - Black, 1st - Orange, 2nd - White, 3rd - Green, 4th - Red, 5th - Blue, 6th - Yellow



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