

Argyle, Pecatonica Valley Leader

Introducing New Pec Valley Leader Editor



Kayla Barnes is the new editor of the Pecatonica Valley Leader and is pictured with family, son Frederick, 7, daughter Hannah, 1, and husband Brandon.

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With the retirement of long time editor Gary McKenzie, I would like to introduce myself to the many loyal readers of the Pecatonica Valley Leader as the new editor.

My name is Kayla Barnes. I currently live in Blanchardville with my husband Brandon and children Frederick, 7, and Hannah, 1.

I am originally from Belmont. I graduated high school in 2008 and attended Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee for two years before transferring to UW-Platteville where I graduated in 2012. Not long after graduation Brandon and I got married and in 2014 we moved to Blanchardville.

Brandon is originally from Blanchardville and is the son of Frank and Margie Barnes. He is a heavy equipment operator at Intercon Construction working in Janesville. Prior to working for the Pecatonica Valley Leader, I was the editor of the Republican Journal in Darlington for 6.5 years. Before that I worked for the Dodgeville Chronicle for almost two years as a reporter so I have once again returned to Reilly and Reilly Inc.

Along with being the editor, I am also the secretary of the Community Antique Tractor Pullers Club that has members from all over southern Wisconsin. We travel all over from Afion to Belmont, from Gratiot to Brooklyn and plenty of places in between putting on antique tractor pulls.

I am excited to be able to work close to home and get to know all the people in not only Blanchardville but Argyle and Hollandale as well. I have been a diligent reader of the Pec

Valley Leader myself and understand what a great loss it is to lose Gary as the editor. Both Gary and I have very different writing styles and I hope that will not deter people from reading the Leader. I very much want to keep all of the current Pec Valley Leader readers and hope to gain more from those who may have read my work while at the Republican Journal. There is no way I will be able to replace Gary and his dedication to these communities but I hope that you will be able to accept me in this position and we can both grow together.

Please be patient with me as I am learning much of this for the first time but some of it I am learning over again and it may take me a while to learn everyone's names, know what events or clubs you are involved in or even know the history of these beautiful areas.

I also ask that if you see me out and about either with a camera or without, please stop and introduce yourself and say hi. Let me know if you have a story idea or if you'd like to see something in the paper. The paper layout may be changing and I want to make sure it is something that is pleasing to everyone. I can be contacted with the same email at news@thepecvalleyleader.com or by calling the office at 608-542-9500.

Again understand that I am not Gary and cannot be everywhere all the time but I will try my best to live up to his name.

I really can't wait to see you all out and about and to be able to start this adventure with you all.

-Kayla Barnes