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### QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS?

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# Schlesner jumps into first at state track meet

By Zach Rastall  
Sports Writer

LA CROSSE — All Jack Schlesner could do was wait.

On a rainy morning at the final track meet of his career, the Cashton senior had persevered in tough conditions to put himself in position to win a state title in the high jump at the 2024 WIAA State Track & Field Championships. The only thing that could stop him was a friend of his: Wauzeka-Steuben senior

Lucius Cooley.

Schlesner and Cooley were the only two competitors in the Division 3 boys' field to clear the bar at 6 feet, 3 inches, with Schlesner doing so on his first attempt and Cooley pulling it off on his third and final try, thus giving Schlesner the edge if neither succeeded at a higher height.

Schlesner proceeded to make his attempts with the bar at 6 feet, 4 inches, but failed to clear it on any of his three tries. While

that was going on, Cooley — who won the D3 boys' 300-meter hurdles, placed second in the 110-meter hurdles and was sixth in the long jump — put a pause on the high jump to go run

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**Cashton's Jack Schlesner secured his first state championship in the high jump at the WIAA State Track & Field Meet on Saturday, June 1 in La Crosse. Record photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.**



Cashton's Nick Wall and the 10U softball team gather in the infield at the end of the first day of practice on Wednesday, June 5. Record photo by Logan Everson.

# Summer Sluggers

## Cashton's recreational ball teams start the season

By Logan Everson  
Record Editor

School's out. Which means summer is officially here. Which also means that the future generation of Eagle sluggers will be honing their skills in Village Park over the next two months.

The summer program serves kids ages 4 through 14 between t-ball, 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U teams.

For softball, the staff is slim. Nick Wall serves as the sole coach for all levels, and is welcome for any help that a dedicated individual, or individuals, could provide. Wall has been coaching for the summer recreational program since 2017.

Despite the staffing shortage, Wall is excited for the season.

"Our goals for this year are the same as every year, to learn more about



Cashton's Jeff Moreno hands out baseball caps to the 10U boys prior to Wednesday's first practice on June 5. Record photo by Logan Everson.

the game of softball, to improve our skills, and most importantly, to have fun," said Wall.

On the baseball side, full time coaches for all levels include Jeff Moreno and recent Cashton graduate Gavyn Wuerzberger. Aiden

Brown, Trent Kast, and Owen Von Ruden serve as assistant coaches, along with some current high school students.

Wuerzberger's high school season ended last week in a division 4 regional final to De Soto, but he was

eager to jump back into the summer baseball saddle.

"This is my third year coaching," said Wuerzberger. "I was excited from moving

**'SUMMER' continued on page 2**

## Village board hears need for noise ordinance change

By Logan Everson  
Record Editor

One of the hot topics of Cashton's Village Board meeting on Wednesday, June 5 was a part of the police report, delivered by Chief of Police Brent Knutson.

For the past 3 weeks, the police department has received complaints about the noise levels being too high in the Village Park. Knutson stated that the current park rules say that the decibel level should not exceed 75 decibels and the deadline for that noise level is 11 p.m., with the decibel level decreasing to 70 decibels between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Based on nearby communities like Westby and Viroqua, Knutson suggested that the board change the decibel level allowed to 65 decibels between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.

"It's to the point where we have to do something," said Knutson.

The board reviewed the village's sound ordinances, and because of the pattern of complaints, Amundson suggested that issue be addressed in the next judicial meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Once last month's meeting minutes were approved, Jason Kuderer presented plans for a new housing development on the east side of the village on Ontario Ave.

The first phase of the development includes 21 lots that are roughly 90' feet wide and 120' feet long. The development has three phases.

Questions and answers were traded back and forth amongst the board members and between Kuderer and Public Works Director Al Erickson in regards to

**'VILLAGE' continued on page 2**

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Cashton's Gavyn Wuerzberger (center) leads the assistant coaches and 12U boys in a break down of practice on Wednesday, June 5 in Village Park. Record photo by Logan Everson.

**'SUMMER'**  
continued from page 1

out of [playing] baseball to coaching summer rec,"

Wuerzberger's high school head coach Moreno serves as the lead coordinator for the baseball program. Moreno has been a part of the youth summer baseball league since 2007.

"I've been at it a little while," said Moreno.

Moreno mentioned that t-ball starts June 6, but will take place every Thursday at 7 p.m in the Village Park. Any child between the ages of 4-6 years old is welcome to participate. There is no fee, but registration must be completed. The form can be found at <https://www.cashton.k12.wi.us/community/summerrec.cfm>.

As of today, 66 girls are registered for softball and 70 boys are registered for baseball. Not including t-ball numbers, the program serves around 180 kids from all over the area.

Baseball will start up their games on Monday, June 10 at De Soto. The 10U team will play at 4 p.m., with 12U at 5 p.m.

The first game for softball is on Tuesday, June 11 at North Crawford, with 10U starting at 4 p.m. and 12U at 5 p.m.

"The overall goal of the program is to develop young ball players while giving them every opportunity to have fun and make great summer memories," said Moreno.



A group of 12U boys watches on as a teammate makes his throwing attempt during 'Last Man Standing,' a game where the fielder must collect the ball quickly and accurately throw it to first base. Record photo by Logan Everson.



A 10U girl collects the ball after a throw to first base. Record photo by Logan Everson.



Scan QR code for schedules and t-ball form

**'VILLAGE'**  
continued from page 1

utility lines and possibility for apartments.

Village Board President Robert Amundson questioned if the project would be eligible for tax increment financing. No one was sure on that matter, but Amundson thanked Kuderer for his efforts to bring more homes to Cashton.

"We need the housing, desperately. I appreciate you going and doing this," said Amundson.

Next up was Jim Kuhn, who brought up a property line issue between the Veteran's Memorial and the School District of Cashton. The village was aware of

the issue and the meeting moved forward.

Knutson began the police report with last month's call count of 81. Knutson went on to say that the bike rodeo was successful with over 200 kids participating.

"I'd like to give a special thank you to you for doing that event," said board trustee Jeremy Kuderer.

Next on the agenda was the public works report. Erickson's news included the completion of the installation of new lights in the community hall.

Erickson also reported that portions of Odyssey Rd. and Fred St. were grinded down to gravel and given new blacktop. He also received a \$14,049 bid from

Struck and Irwin for the Coe St. recoating. The bid was approved unanimously.

Erickson informed the board that the DNR would be visiting the Village Park to check the health of the pine trees and give guidance on how to move forward.

"Most of [the trees] are dead," said Erickson.

The board discussed the history of the pine grove and how it was originally planted as a school forest.

"The trees were planted so close so that the lower branches would fall off [on purpose]," said board trustee Rita Byers.

The grove is made up of red pines, and according to the DNR, the close planting has contributed to the

spreading of disease.

Erickson then brought up the possibility of the underground electric needing to be replaced behind Trinity Lutheran Church to Johnson Street. The type of line currently used has been known to fail, according to Vernon Electric.

"It's more of a preventative maintenance thing," said Erickson.

The meeting then shifted to the village's acquisition of county land on highway 27 that sits downstream and adjacent to the village's sewer plant.

The land is a part of flood mitigation plan and sits along the Little La Crosse River. The area is currently undergoing rip-rapping



Cashton's Bev Bjornstad gives a rose in a tub of frosting to Jack Schlesner. Herald photo by Kyle Evans.

# The rose tradition marches on for Cashton's Mrs. B

By Kyle Evans  
Staff Writer

Makayla Gooselaw, Jack Schlesner, and Aubri Schaldach were the recipients of a treasured Cashton High School tradition at Friday's pep rally on May 31.

Bev "Mrs. B" Bjornstad, 87, is a lifelong resident of Cashton who also taught and coached in the district for 35 and a half years before retiring in 1996. Bjornstad continued her long-standing tradition of giving a rose to those who've qualified to compete at the state level at last week's pep rally for the state track qualifiers.

Any team or individual in a WIAA (Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association) sport qualifies for a Mrs. B rose.

When Bjornstad began teaching at the Cashton School District in the 1960's, there were no girls' sports.

The rose tradition began when Bjornstad wanted to do something special for her gymnastics team and individuals that went

to state in 1971. Bjornstad also coached girls track which led to her giving roses to state track participants, both on the girls' and boys' side.

"From there, there have been whole teams that have garnered the tradition of getting the roses," said Bjornstad.

The rose isn't the only thing that comes with the tradition, state qualifiers receive the rose in a tub of frosting. Bjornstad said, "working hard all year is the cake, I just give them the icing on the cake."

Bjornstad used to ask permission from the athletes until one athlete said, "it's tradition, isn't it?"

Cashton High School Principal, Jennifer Butzler said, "she was one of my teachers in high school, I don't think she's missed one person going to state since it started."

Bjornstad added, "I'm like a bad smell, I just won't go away. I'll be continuing to do this tradition, even if somebody has to wheel me out on the gym floor in a wheelchair."

maintenance on the banks.

Jim Kuhn was on hand to answer questions about the project, as he is the Monroe County Board representative for the area.

If the village were to acquire the property, they would be in charge of maintenance, including repairing any damage from floods. The area would be open to fishing and a parking lot, most likely gravel, would be available for parking. Kuhn suggested that the village collaborate with the county's land conservation department. A letter from the village was submitted to the Monroe County Board.

Other news from the meeting includes the re-

approval of the Bethel Home alley project after a new survey was submitted.

The board also approved the motion to apply for the COPs grant. This federal grant covers the employment of a full-time police officer for three years, but requires the municipality to cover 12 months of employment after that.

"We can approve to apply, but doesn't mean we have to accept [the grant]," said Amundson.

The meeting wrapped up with unanimous approval of all bar and operators' licenses, as well as the mobile home park licenses of Chetooka Circle and Pleasant View.

THANK YOU FOR READING THE CASHTON RECORD

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# Announcements



## Klinkner's celebrating 50 years

Arnie and Linda Klinkner of Cashton are celebrating 50 years on June 8th.

# Meal Site Menu

### Cashton Nutrition Site

**Monday, June 10** – Breaded Pork with Brandy Apple Glaze, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Asparagus, Tropical Fruit, Whole Grain Bread & Butter, Whole Grain Rice Krispie Treat.

**Tuesday, June 11** – Chicken à la Rosa, Seasoned Rice Pilaf, Seasoned Carrots, Rainbow Cahr with Lemon Vinaigrette, Whole Bread Bread & Butter, Fresh Fruit.

**Wednesday, June 12** – Swisshed Cube Steak with Mushrooms & Onions, Cheesy Scalloped Potatoes, Oven Roasted Cauliflower, Whole Grain Bread & Butter, Apples.

**Thursday, June 13** – Lemon Pepper Haddock, Rice Pilaf, Roasted Zucchini, Mediterranean Bean Salad, Rye Bread & Butterm Tartar Sauce, Applesauce.

**Friday, June 14** – Chicken Stuffed with Broccoli & Cheese, Mashed Baby Red Potatoes, Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Whole Grain Bread & Butter, Seasonal Fresh Fruit, Lemon Bars.

### Meal-site at the Cashton Senior Site is open!

There is suggested donation of \$4.00-\$7.00 per congregant and home-delivered meal. Please call by noon 2 days before to reserve your meal. Any questions, or to reserve a meal, call 608-377-3831.

# Looking Back

## 70 Years Ago

**Week of Friday, June 4, 1954**

Former Cashton Girl Graduates from Japan: Louise Tourville, daughter of Major and Mrs. Clarence Tourville, will be in the graduating class from Camp Crawford high school in Hokkaido, Japan.

## 60 Years Ago

**Week of Friday, June 5, 1964**

Chris, John and Oscar Erickson and Mrs. Olga Everson went to Madison where they met Mr. and Mrs. Oskar Christensen of Oslo, Norway. Mr. Kristensen is the cousin of the Ericksons and Everson and this was the first time they had met.

## 50 Years Ago

**Week of Wednesday, June 5, 1974**

Elaine Rudser and Betty Cox, two Cashton Elementary School teachers, have been chosen Outstanding Elementary Teachers of America for 1974.

## 40 Years Ago

**Week of Wednesday, June 6, 1984**

Keith Schutte-meier makes history as the first Cashton athlete to win an individual title at the WIAA state track and field meet.

## 30 Years Ago

**Week of Wednesday, June 8, 1994**

Hardee Acres was overflowing with guests for the Vernon County Dairy Breakfast last Saturday. The farm is owned by Harlan and Delores Melby.

## 20 Years Ago

**Week of Wednesday, June 2, 2004**

Cashton graduate Bailey Brueggen earned honorable mention All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletics Conference honors while in his season season of baseball at UW-Platteville.

## 10 Years Ago

**Week of Wednesday, June 4, 2014**

C & L Fertilizer opens in Cashton; Chuck & Linda Connelly create organic fertilizer from worm waste.

# Calendar of Events

## Saturday, June 8

7 a.m. - Bird Hike @ Wildcat Mountain State Park. Join local birder Kelly Rueckheim for a morning of birding.

## Sunday, June 9

6 p.m. - HS Softball Awards Night @ HS cafeteria

## Monday, June 10

1 p.m.-1:45 p.m. - Tai Chi Exercise at Bethel Home Fellowship Hall, 614 S. Rock Ave., Viroqua & the Ontario Public Library. Call Vernon County Over 50 at 262-384-0082.

## Tuesday, June 11

1 p.m.-3 p.m. - The Library Knitters meet at the Cashton Memorial Library on a weekly basis.  
6 p.m. - Town of Jefferson meeting, 12035 Olympic Ave.

## Wednesday, June 12

10 a.m. - Read and Play Storytime at Cashton Memorial Library. This free 20-30 minute program uses stories, songs and fun activities to promote early literacy and socialization skills. For information, call 608-654-5465.  
1 p.m.-1:45 p.m. Tai Chi Exercise at Bethel Home Fellowship Hall 614 S. Rock Ave., Viroqua & the Ontario Public Library. Call Vernon County Over 50 at 262-384-0082.  
7 p.m. - Town of Portland Meeting, 6736 State Hwy 33

## Thursday, June 13

5:30 p.m. - Intro to Birding, presented by Valley Stewardship Network @ McIntosh Memorial Library, Viroqua

# Obituaries

### WILLIAM "BILL" S. OLSEN

April 16th, 1944 — April 2nd, 2024

CASHTON-William "Bill" S. Olsen, 79, of Cashton, entered into rest on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024 at his home. He was born on



William Olson April 16th, 1944 in Sparta, WI to Egon and Hilda (Sherpe) Olsen. He grew up in Sparta and graduated from Sparta High School in 1962. He traveled and worked as a crane operator for the Railroad, retiring after 30 plus years of dedicated service, eventually settling in Cashton, WI.

Beginning in his early years, you could regularly find him at the local tavern playing pool with his good buddies (and he had a lot of them). He was a steadfast stock car race fan and very involved in the racing circuit. He was right at home at the West Salem Speedway. He was also an avid hunter, a lifelong member of the NRA and Rod & Gun Club. Over many years, he had accumulated an impressive and prized collection of firearms.

He never missed an opportunity to take his dear friend, Charlotte and her camera, for long ride through the country, either by car or motorcycle to enjoy nature, the Amish communities, and the rolling hills. He will always be remembered for his generosity. He gave freely and without hesitation to those in need; friends, family or strangers.

Bill is lovingly survived by his children, Celeste Weinzirl of Eau Claire, WI, Michael Earl of Colorado Springs, CO, Kimberly Robinson of Pittsboro, IN, and Julie (Glen) Arnold of Pittsboro, IN; grandchildren, Robert Earl-Mullins, Patrick Earl, and Edwin Earl; great grandchildren, Keeler Seals, Liam Earl, and Hayden Earl; niece and nephew, Hannah Olsen and Jacob Olsen of Sparta, WI; and other relatives and best friend, Charlotte Stockel.

He was preceded in death by his parents; Egon and Hilda (Sherpe) Olsen; brother, Robert Olsen; nephew, Lucas Olsen; and grandchildren, Daniel Scheuttig and Andrew Scheuttig.

A visitation will be held from 10 a.m. Saturday, June 15th, 2024 at Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation, Sparta. Private burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Sparta.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be sent to: Gain Music Academy, 123 West Busby St, Lebanon, IN 46052, (memo: Andrew Scheuttig Memorial Scholarship). Online condolences may be offered at [www.schanhoferfh.com](http://www.schanhoferfh.com)

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation

## Thank You from the Cashton Scholarship Foundation

The Board of Directors of the Cashton Scholarship Foundation would like to thank everyone who has donated to the Foundation over the past year. The donations received, from individuals and groups, allow the Foundation to continue its mission of annually awarding scholarships to Cashton High School graduates. This year we awarded thirty-four scholarships totaling \$32,725 to graduating seniors. We thank you for your generous donations, which allow us to continue to assist our youth in furthering their education. If you have any questions about the Foundation, please feel free to contact one of our Board members: Mike Huntzicker; Mike Brueggen; Dustin Hundt; Nancy Schmitz; Norma Jean Miller; Julie Lundeen; Ashley Herricks

If you would like to make a donation to the Foundation, please send to: Cashton Scholarship Foundation, Inc., c/o Mike Brueggen, PO Box 61, Cashton, WI 54619

(The Cashton Scholarship Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) organization)

## Thank You from the Cashton Police Department

The Cashton Police Department would like to thank the following people and businesses for their donations to the Cashton Police Department Bike Rodeo. If it wasn't for these people and businesses, we would not have been able to have a successful bike rodeo. Please thank these people and businesses when you see them.

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Mitby's  
Todd Warthan  
Simonson Realty  
Maple Valley  
Lind's Home Center  
Cashton Farm Supply  
Cashton Snowblazers  
Cashton VFW Auxiliary  
Organic Valley  
Cashton Lions Club  
Jeff Mlsna  
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WCCU  
Bob Ritter  
Cashton Vet Clinic  
Jake Miller  
The Pink Poodle  
Jenny Radcliff  
Karen and Paul Spaeth  
Thrive Wellness  
Torkelson's  
Joe Horning  
Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers  
Cashton Knights of Columbus  
Portland Implement  
Doghouse Saloon  
Cashton Community Club

We would also like to say a special thanks to the people that helped out during the bike rodeo

Brianna Connelly  
Jake Thompson  
Alex Erickson  
Tim Hundt  
John Stavlo  
Sara Miller  
Jeff Mlsna  
Ken Flick  
Amanda Schultz  
Steven Palmer

Lexie Harrington  
Rolly Wagas  
Mary Beth Smith  
Vernon County Sheriff's Department  
Jake Miller  
Alan Erickson  
Bill Hundt  
Denise Flick  
Nicole Brueggen

- Cashton Police Department  
Chief Brent Knutson  
Sgt. Dalton Harrington

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# Opinion

OP-ED GUEST COLUMN: BRAD PFAFF

## June Dairy Month is Special

By Sen. Brad Pfaff  
State Senator (D-32)



As a farm boy, June Dairy Month has a special meaning to me. Growing up on my family's dairy farm in northern La Crosse County, I saw the huge impact dairy has on our state. It is the economic and cultural lifeblood of Wisconsin. It signifies our heritage and who we are. Dairy provides a nearly \$50 billion impact and employs thousands of Wisconsinites. Green Bay Packers fans wear foam cheeseheads on game days. We take pride in our dairy. Our license plates read "America's Dairyland" for a reason. Dairy products from Wisconsin cows

are enjoyed by consumers worldwide. Dairy farming however, is not easy. Consolidation continues to occur in the agriculture sector, squeezing small family farmers. Much of our supply chain and distribution system is outdated and strained, limiting farmers' access to different markets. Uncertainty in market prices, high input cost, and labor challenges trim family farmers' margins. Wisconsin farmers carry a significant weight of our state's economy on their shoulders, yet they struggle to make ends meet. We must work to provide our dairy farmers with the resources and tools they need to grow and thrive. This means seeking new domestic and international markets. This means investing in conservation efforts that protect and restore our soil. This means

improving air and water quality, while at the same time providing a financial return on investment for our farmers. Local renewable energy opportunities await, along with the potential for greater agritourism and more direct farmer to consumer market opportunities. Additional attention must be focused on the consolidation of agriculture taking place in the meat slaughtering and food processing sector. It's vital that policy makers put people before special interests, because when a small handful of companies control most of the business, prices rise and choices decrease for Wisconsin's families. I will always fight for agriculture and family farmers, because of the intrinsic value that agriculture provides. The value of hard work, resilience, and dedication.

It's about seeing things through, from beginning to end, and not finishing until the job is done. These are the values I was raised with. Growing up on the farm taught me the importance of knowing where you are from. Walking on that farm, literally in the footsteps of my parents and grandparents, connected me to my heritage. That's what agriculture means to me. I encourage you to join me in supporting Wisconsin's dairy farmers this month by buying Wisconsin dairy products, attending a dairy breakfast, and thanking farmers for the work that they do. Senator Brad Pfaff represents the 32nd Senate District, which includes La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and southern Monroe County.

OP-ED GUEST COLUMN: NANCY WEDWICK

## With historic dam decommissioning looming, commitments to watershed conservation increasingly critical for flood mitigation

By Nancy Wedwick  
President, Coon Creek Community Watershed Council

Ninety years ago, Southwestern Wisconsin's Coon Creek Watershed rose to the seemingly impossible challenge of reversing catastrophic soil erosion and flooding, problems so severe they threatened to destroy farming as a way of life. Farmers, agriculturalists, federal employees, and university researchers came together in 1933 to implement widescale conservation practices in what would become the nation's first ever watershed demonstration project, and a model for positive change across the nation. Today, our Coon Creek Watershed is again faced with a seemingly impossible challenge, as the Natural Resources Conservation Service is recommending the notching of 22 of the 23 PL-566 earthen flood control dams in this watershed and in the adjacent West Fork Kickapoo watershed, dams that we have been told, for 70 years, have been protecting us from our increasingly worse floods. We have the opportunity, again, to come together to consider the pivotal role that conservation-based land management must play in helping us live together through these worsening floods. Though I have lived in this watershed most of my life and call this place home, all of this I have learned since becoming a founding member of the Coon Creek Community Watershed Council, Inc. This fall will mark the 91st anniversary of the Nation's first large-scale conservation demonstration, the Coon Creek Watershed Project, that changed the face of the earth here in Coon Creek and then well beyond, leading to a nationwide effort to stop soil erosion during the Dust Bowl Years. Some 90 years ago, this Driftless Area suffered from intense soil erosion and flooding as the result of agricultural practices implemented by my ancestors and others from western and northern Europe, practices that worked in Europe but did not translate here because the climate was different. As people connected the erosion and flooding with land use management, entrepreneurial farmers began to experiment with conservation-based land use practices. At the same time, the federal government realized that a national catastrophe of historic proportions was underway and so, through a

series of events, the federal government in the form of the Soil Erosion Service (later the Soil Conservation Service, and today the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS), the Civilian Conservation Corps, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and our local farmers, agriculturalists and those who lived in this area collaborated to create and implement the famous and successful Coon Creek Watershed Project. In the late 1950's and early 1960's, the Soil Conservation Service again came to this area to work with our communities to try to create more protection from flooding by building dams, the PL-566 dams. To build the dams, 22 of them in Vernon County of 82 across the state, Public Law 566 required community participation, and 50 percent of the landowners upstream of the proposed dam sites to engage in conservation-based land management practices. It was through the requirement of community participation that the first Coon Creek Watershed local organization was born, and the dams were constructed. And, crucially, these land management changes—and the effects they had on soil infiltration—have been shown to account for many of the flood control benefits attributed to the dams. In concert with these conservation measures, for nearly 70 years, the dams seemed to work even beyond their expected 50-year life span to support flood protection. The first time I walked onto one of these dams, better than 30 years ago, I did not know what to make of the sloped earthen structure stretching across the valley and offering sweeping views on either side. It was a dam I was told, and this made no sense to me because there was no water in sight. Then, on August 27, 2018, incredibly heavy rains began and five of the PL-566 dams in the Coon Creek and West Fork Kickapoo watersheds breached or overtopped, an unprecedented event unleashing torrents of water rushing through the valleys destroying homes, farms and businesses in its path. A community came together and a second watershed organization, the Coon Creek Community Watershed Council, was formed. It was in the aftermath of this destruction that I came to understand so much more about these dams. The NRCS had to investigate to determine what happened. In late 2023, this investigation and legally mandated report,



Sandstone cliffs remain where a Coon Creek Watershed flood control dam failed during August 2018's catastrophic flooding. Following the flood, the Natural Resources Conservation Service issued an unprecedented, formal recommendation to decommission all 14 of the watershed's aging flood control dams. Photo by Rebecca Lave.

known as the PLAN-EIS, or Environmental Impact Statement, concluded that the dams had aged out, were compromised due to their connection to fractured bedrock, and unsafe. This makes sense, especially given the devastation wrought by the 2018 storm, and storms prior to and after as the result of rain events with increasing intensity, frequency and duration. This spring, NRCS recommended the dams be decommissioned by cutting a large notch in the dams to pass water up to the 100-year flood event, a flood that has the likelihood of occurring once in every 100 years, though that frequency is no longer accurate. The notched dams will be sloped and reinforced with rock. Material excavated from these decommissioned dams will be redistributed across valley bottoms, where it is expected to be mobilized in future storms and eventually carried downstream. The terms of the federal decommissioning recommendation also suggest that counties relinquish the easements to dams back to their owners, who are mostly private landowners. This decision will have huge consequences in the coming storms. The decommissioning of all 14 of these structures in the Coon Creek Watershed at once will be the first instance of watershed-wide flood protection abandonment in the United States. La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon counties are now being asked to accept this recommendation from NRCS, and they feel pressure to do so. The risk of breach is real, and the federal government is offering to pay 100 percent of the cost of decommissioning if the counties follow their recommendation. I have stood upon two of the dams that

breached, and the devastation is visible today. The danger is clear. The recommendation to decommission is not. The PLAN-EIS report explored several alternatives to decommissioning, one being collaborating with landowners in this area to increase conservation land use practices such as cover crops, perennials, grazing, to mitigate the effects of flooding. Another alternative involved collaborating with landowners to install small ponds to mitigate flooding. These alternatives were rejected by NRCS. The reason given for rejecting the alternatives is that NRCS did not think it would be feasible for landowners to voluntarily implement and increase conservation land use practices and small ponds. This reason runs contrary to the storied history of volunteer conservation efforts by landowners in the Coon Creek Watershed and this reason does not address the need to mitigate the effects of flooding. History has shown that watershed residents have voluntarily made dramatic changes before. Many are making changes now and I know more will. The current recommendation leaves many questions. Who will be responsible for the remaining dam structures? Who takes care of them? What happens when a rain event occurs beyond the 100-year level? What happens when the earthen material from remaining notched structures is washed downstream in rushing flood waters? Also, I wonder: what if, as has been the history of this watershed and the federal government and the University of Wisconsin-Madison and our watershed community, we work together to improve conservation efforts and mitigate the effects of the dam decommissioning through a

coordinated, collaborative, and funded pilot project? There are almost 12,000 PL-566 dams across the nation, all of which will begin to face the same decisions we are facing here now. With our 14 dams in the Coon Creek Watershed, and 9 dams in the West Fork Kickapoo Watershed, the decommissioning that is about to happen here is unprecedented and will once again set the stage for what happens across the country. This event is historic. How we meet the challenge is once again being watched by the world and will be written into the history of conservation efforts worldwide. Fortunately, we have the depth of community expertise, community interest, and community participation at the ready to take this challenge. We also have our friends at UW-Madison, who are already engaging in research the community has requested, and who are actively seeking funding to support the work ahead of us. Experts in dam decommissioning and dam removal at the national and regional level are aware of the current situation here, are deeply concerned, and stand ready to help. We just need the final piece, our federal government to join us as partners in this growing movement, as it did 90 years ago in this watershed. This is about more than funding the replacement of the dams' flood control capacity through a panoply of practices. Instead, we are calling for coordinated land management transformation to address some of the root causes of flooding, while also enhancing soil and water health, creating economic opportunities and advancing community resilience. Given this unprecedented and historic decommissioning proposal, we need a coordinated, collaborative, funded watershed-wide project to decommission or fully remove the dams and implement land use practices with minimal financial risk to the landowners, transforming the landscape which will result in flood mitigation and increased resilience. Nancy Wedwick is a fifth generation Coon Creek Watershed resident, and President of the Coon Creek Community Watershed Council (CCCWC). She can be reached at nancywedwick@cooncreekwatershed.org or at 608.386.9086. Find CCCWC online at cooncreekwatershed.org

### What is an 'op-ed'?

An op-ed, short for opposite editorial, is an opinionated article submitted to a newspaper for publication. They are written by members of the community, not newspaper employees.

WEEKLY COLUMN: MUSEUM NOTES

## Summertime hours at the museum

By **Kristen Parrott**  
Curator

The Vernon County Museum and History Center is now on its summertime hours. We are open to the public Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., plus Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. These hours will be in effect through the end of September. Be sure to take advantage of the Saturday hours, which are only offered from June through September. As always, we are also open by appointment – contact us at 608-637-7396 or at museum@vernoncountyhistory.org to set up a time.

Our next fundraising grill-out will be held on Sunday, June 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., outside of Nelson Agri-Center in Viroqua. The menu will be bratwurst and hot dogs. Thank you to everyone who supported our May grill-out, which was a real success on a busy, beautiful day. All proceeds from these events benefit the Vernon County Historical Society.

Here's something for your calendar: This year's Cemetery Walk will be held at the Country Coon Prairie Lutheran Church and Cemetery, S2706 Coon Prairie Rd. (two miles

south of Westby). The date is Sunday, June 23, from 3 to 5 p.m.. Ice cream, lemonade, and water will be served for a donation during that time.

The VCHS is happy to be working with Country Coon Prairie Church Preservation, Inc., and the Country Coon Prairie Cemetery Committee on this event. Tours of the church will be offered from 3 to 4 p.m. The church was built after a fire on Easter Sunday 1909 that destroyed the previous building. The current building is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was designed by the La Crosse architecture firm of Parkinson and Dockendorff in the Early Gothic Revival style.

The cemetery walk will start at 4 p.m., with a suggested donation of \$5. Costumed actors portraying various people buried in the church's cemetery will talk about the lives of their characters. The people featured will include Jacob Post Michelet (1796-1866); Amy Gott Roisland (1885-1972); Bennie Frydenburg (1895-1918); Elizabeth Harris Stoda Yarrington (1883-1984); and Albert Parkinson (1870-1952), the architect mentioned above. More details coming soon!

## Vernon County Sheriff's Report

From the week ending June 1, 2024

### May 26

- The sheriff's office received a report of a physical incident at Shovelheads Corner Bar in the village of Readstown. Upon arrival, deputies learned there was a physical altercation between employees of the bar and a patron. The male offender was taken into custody for Battery and Felony Bail Jumping.

- A deputy conducted a traffic stop on State Highway 35 in the town of Wheatland. The driver received a citation for no proof of insurance and a warning for speeding.

### May 27

- A citizen reported a male was throwing glass in the roadway on State Highway 35 in the town of Bergen. Prior to a deputy arriving, the male left in a truck. A deputy located the truck and conducted a traffic stop. The male was released with warnings for speed and unsafe passing.

- The sheriff's office was notified of a female who left a residence in the village of Stoddard and had been drinking. A deputy located the female, and she was subsequently arrested for Operating While Under the Influence, Theft, and Misdemeanor Bail Jumping.

### May 28

- Sara Ramirez-Colmenares, La Farge, was driving eastbound on East Salem Ridge Road in the town of Webster. Jeffrey Krueger, La Farge, was traveling westbound on East Salem Ridge Road. While negotiating a curve, Ramirez-Colmenares cut the corner and struck the driver's side door of Krueger's vehicle. Ramirez-Colmenares was cited for Operate Left of Center, Operate Without a Valid Driver's License, and Operate a Motor Vehicle Without

'REPORT'  
continued on page 8

WEEKLY COLUMN: AN OUTDOORMAN'S JOURNAL



## An Outdoorsman's Journal

By Mark Walters



How could you not like calling this home! Contributed photo.

# Home on the Flambeau

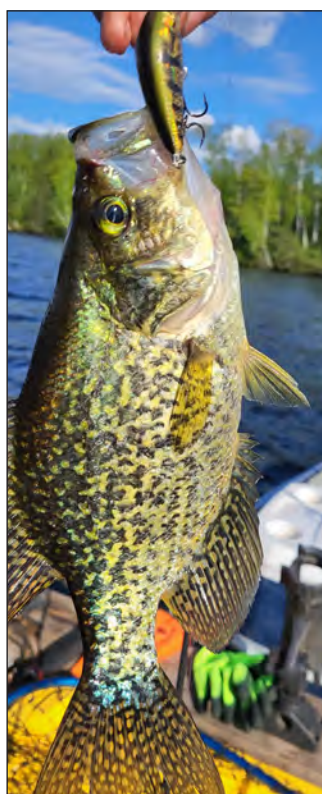
### Hello friends,

I have made an attempt recently to let you know that I am currently in a cycle of my life that is very busy but also positive. This week's column should be fun for you, I hope you are enjoying your spring.

Saturday, May 25th  
High 74, low 44

Plan A had me paddle trolling on Lake Superior out of either Washburn or Ashland and I was very excited about it. That plan was cancelled yesterday when a good friend told me the wind would be too strong to paddle a canoe on that piece of water. I changed that plan to spending 30 hours on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage and would begin on Saturday instead of Friday. I would have to leave Sunday as I had a graduation party in Glidden to go to.

When I travel, I am blessed with 2 sets of neighbors who take turns feeding my cattle, chickens, and dogs/puppies. This morning, I had planned on getting up at 4:00. At 3:00am I heard something in my backyard that did not sound right, at 3:20 I heard the same sound at the end of my house, at 3:30 I heard the same sound out



Salmo was the hot bait on this adventure. Contributed photo.

my bedroom window and when. I looked outside directly on the other side of the glass was my 2 steers and a heifer, all about 1100 pounds and very loose. Had I left yesterday this would have been an ugly story. I ran outside buck naked, got a bucket of feed and lured them back to their enclosure.

Today I put my canoe and in at Murray's landing which is the most remote location on the flowage and a place that I truly love. I had concerns that it may be a challenge to get a campsite at this point on Memorial Day weekend but that would not be the case. As my journey began, I decided to drag a Salmo behind me which is an affective type of crankbait. I had paddled maybe 30 seconds when my pole started bending and I landed an 11-perch. There would be a brutal headwind but I had no cares, I was on the Flambeau, I already caught a fish, my cattle did not run away and in just 4 days my daughter Selina would be coming home from Missoula for a wedding.

To make matters even better my rod started bending over again and this time I caught an 18-inch smallmouth bass and just after that I found a super cool campsite, made a comfortable camp and then went paddle trolling for whatever was hungry. It did not take long and the Salmo had lured in the first crappie of the trip and it was a beautiful

13-incher. The rest of my day was fish catching, going down memory lane from a place my dad first took me to 54-years ago, and enjoying the non-stop view of peace and nature.

Sunday, May 26th  
High 72, low 42

The Salmo was hot again this morning and it was tough knowing that I had to head out but I was headed towards Glidden where I am blessed with many good friends from the area and would be going to Jersey Polencheck's graduation party. Jersey was an all-star athlete excelling in basketball and softball and she is also a very kind and fun young lady, not to mention a go-for-it outdoorswoman.

The shing-ding was at the Shanagolden town hall which is the boonies and let me tell ya it was fun with a capital F. I like the remote, down to earth crowd and that is what you will find in the Glidden/Mellen area where I used to call home.

Folks I am out of space and Selina is now home as I write this, and my next trip is in the morning.

Jersey, you rock!  
Sunset

## eStatements

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## Hanley's HELPFUL HINTS

By Lorraine Hanley

This week's recipe was found in the "Home Town Recipes" book from the Dickman-Spaeth Ladies Auxiliary Post 8584, Cashton.

### Strawberry Rhubarb Bars

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Layer 1</b><br>2 cups flour<br>2 teaspoons baking powder<br>1/2 teaspoon salt<br>1/2 cup butter<br>2 eggs<br>2 tablespoons milk | <b>Layer 2</b><br>4 cups rhubarb, cut fine<br>6 oz. package strawberry jello | <b>Layer 3</b><br>1/2 cup butter<br>2 cups sugar<br>1 cup flour |
|--|--|---|
- Layer 1:** Cut butter into flour, baking powder and salt. Mix until crumbly. Combine eggs with milk. Add this to flour mixture. Spread into a buttered 9x13 inch baking pan.
- Layer 2:** Cover layer one with rhubarb. Sprinkle a package of strawberry jello on top.
- Layer 3:** Combine butter, sugar and flour. Sprinkle evenly over top. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes.

# Wisconsin Towns Association meeting held in Cashton

By John Gessner  
Staff Writer

In Monroe County municipalities, the city councils speak for the people. But who speaks for the rural residents? 58% of the population of Monroe County is in rural areas and 99% of the county is considered rural. This is where the townships come in. The 24 townships, or towns that make up Monroe County deal with similar situations that the municipalities such as Sparta and Tomah deal with but normally with a much smaller staff. Typically, towns are made up of an elected chairman and two supervisors, a clerk and treasurer, plus a contracted assessor.

These organizations do the yeoman's work for the towns on a very limited budget and small compensation for the work they do. Why do they do it? The Town

of Jefferson which centers around the Village of Cashton, chairman Jack Herricks puts it this way, "The towns are the grassroots of the government, closest to the people. The towns ensure that the residents have a good, safe, and healthy environment to live in." Towns will handle a variety of services for their rural residents to include fire protection, voting locations, garbage services, and snow plowing. It is the Town Boards's responsibility to collect the taxes and manage the finances.

Chairman Herricks said, "that it all begins with good and involved leadership." The 24 towns of Monroe County, plus the Village of Wyeville all belong to the Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA), Monroe County unit. The organization meets quarterly, every

'WTA' continued on page 8



Over 40 people were in attendance for the Wisconsin Towns Association meeting on Thursday, May 16. Record photo by John Gessner.



## Tri-Parish Catholic Community

Tri-Parish Office  
(608) 654-5654  
smash3p.org  
Rev. Michael Klos

## Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - St. Mary's Ridge

Sunday Mass - 8:00 a.m.  
Thursday - Adoration 6:30 p.m. / Mass 7:30 p.m.  
Sacred Heart - Cashton  
Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday Mass - 10:00 a.m.  
Tuesday Mass - 8:00 a.m.  
Friday Mass - 8:00 p.m.  
Adoration until noon  
St. Augustine of Hippo - Norwalk  
Saturday Mass - 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Mass - 8:30 a.m.  
Adoration - 5:30 p.m.

## Bethany/Immanuel Trinity Lutheran Cashton

539 South St. Cashton, WI 54619  
608-654-5236  
Pastor Amanda Schultz  
www.cashtonthreepointparish.org

**BETHANY**  
Sun., June 9 - Synod Assembly worship at Riverside Park  
In La Crosse at 10 a.m.  
Sun., June 16 - worship at 11:15 a.m.

**IMMANUEL**  
Sun., June 9 - Synod Assembly worship at Riverside Park  
Park in La Crosse at 10 a.m.  
Wed., June 12 - worship at 6:30 p.m.

**TRINITY**  
Sun., June 9 - Synod Assembly worship at Riverside Park  
In La Crosse at 10 a.m.  
Sun., June 16 - worship at 9 a.m.

## Westby United Methodist Church

Pastor Erika Martinez-Flores  
202 E. State St., Westby 608-634-3206  
9:00 AM - Worship Service  
10:00 AM - Fellowship  
10:15 AM - Sunday School  
(Youth: Sept.-May)  
Communion is on the 1st Sunday of the month and other special days throughout the year.

## Evangelical Lutheran Four-Point Parish, Cashton

Office: 654-7798  
Online Service on Facebook - Cashton Four-Point Parish - ELCA

June 9: 10:00 - Joint Worship - with Synod at Riverside Park  
June 16: 9:15 - Fish Creek Ridge Worship / Coffee following Worship  
11:00 - North Coon Prairie Worship  
June 16: 9:15 - Fish Creek Ridge Worship / Coffee following Worship  
11:00 - North Coon Prairie Worship  
June 20: 9:00 - Quilting at North Coon Prairie  
June 23: 9:15 - Portland Worship / Coffee following Worship  
11:00 - Brush Creek Worship

## Our Savior's Lutheran Church Westby

306 S. Main St., Westby, 608-634-4871  
Pastor Patrick Kempf

**OUR SAVIORS**  
Worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.  
**SKOGDALEN**  
Worship at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

## Mt. Pisgah Wesleyan Church

13198 Pisgah Rd., Ontario  
Pastor Nate Pyykkonen 608-337-4783  
Sun. - 10 a.m. traditional song service; 10:30 a.m. sermon; 11 a.m. contemporary song service.  
Wed. - 5:45 p.m. Royal Rangers; 6 p.m. Kids Kraze; 6 p.m. Youth at Grace Community Church in Ontario.

## St. John the Baptist Summit Ridge

(Administered from St. Pat's Parish in Sparta)  
Saturday Mass, 8:00PM

## La Farge & Dell United Methodist Church

Pastor Jorge Ochoa, Pastor www.dlfumc.org  
La Farge UMC - 625-2375  
Dell UMC - 625-4563  
Faith UMC (Salem Ridge-La Farge)

**La Farge**  
Wednesday - Jivin' with Jesus 3:30 to 5 p.m. for kids 4K-6th grade.  
Sunday - Worship service online or in person at 8 a.m.; Sunday School during worship; Youth Group from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

**Faith**  
Sunday - Worship service online or in person at 9:15 a.m.; Sunday School during worship.

**Dell**  
Sunday - Worship service online or in person at 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Join worship online at <https://www.facebook.com/dlfumc>

## First Congregational Church Of Leon

"Building the Family of God with a Heart for our Community!"  
20752 State Hwy. 27, Sparta, WI 54656  
Rev. Donald A. Ehler, Pastor  
Cell phone: 608-792-0481  
Email: chman1@centurylink.net

**Sunday**  
8:45-9:45 a.m. Discovery Land in the Fellowship Hall (Sunday School)  
9:00-10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Family Worship - Everyone is welcome-in person or at www.facebook.com

Weekly CD available, new nursery  
11:00 a.m. Coffee hour-fellowship hall.  
11:00 a.m. Confirmation class (TBA)

**Wednesday**  
9:00 a.m. Mid-week Bible study  
Holy communion-monthly on the 1st Sunday.

## St. Peter's Parish Middle Ridge

Father Biju Kunjukutty  
Saturday - Mass - 8 p.m.  
Sunday - Mass - 10 a.m.

I Will Love You Forever



ELVIS BEKMANIS

The lover's promise, heard often and broken often.  
Our lover's promises may not last.  
God's promises are true and unchanging.  
We can rely on God's promises.  
Hear God's promises this week in church.

## ...your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Psalm 138

1 Samuel 8:4-11(12-15), 16-20 (11:14-15) 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for  
Sunday, June 9, 2024  
Third Sunday After Pentecost

## Faith Independent Baptist Church

Ontario  
Michael T. Gjeffe, Pastor  
Sun. - Sunday School 9:30 AM;  
Worship 10:30AM & 7:00PM.  
Wed. - Prayer Meeting 7PM

## Bethesda Lutheran Brethren Church

210 W. Park St. Westby, WI  
Pastor Paul Tjelta • Office: 608-634-4440

Worship Service Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

## SPANISH MASSES at St. Pat's in Sparta

Sundays at 1 & 6 PM

These weekly church messages are contributed by

the following businesses who urge you to attend the church of your choice

**BANK OF CASHTON**  
724 Front St., Cashton 654-5121  
www.bankofcashton.bank FDIC

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Cashton, WI • 654-5128

**Torkelson Funeral Home**  
Cashton, WI 654-7764

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**Flock's Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.**  
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27551 Cty. Hwy. U, Cashton 654-5522 • 24 hr. service

**MITBY'S TV APPLIANCE**  
Cashton, WI • 654-5144

**PASTURE PRIDE CHEESE**  
110 Eagle Drive, Cashton (608) 654-7444  
www.pasturepridecheese.com

**Lind's Home Center**  
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Cashton • 654-5575

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633 Front St., Cashton • 654-7784

**CBS DESIGNS**  
KORTNEY KUHSE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER  
kortneykuhse@gmail.com  
523 Broadway Street Cashton, WI 54619 (608) 654-7871

**Hansen's Market IGA**  
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Cashton • 654-7682

**Cashton Farm Supply**  
608-654-5123 or 1-800-822-6671

**CASHTON CHIROPRACTIC AND UBUNTU MASSAGE AND BODYWORK**  
901 FRONT STREET CASHTON WI, 54619 608-654-5401

**Make Time for God**  
The idea of the Sabbath is one that very few people have forgotten, but the practice of the Sabbath has gone almost entirely by the wayside in the United States.  
With the many things with which we overburden ourselves today, we often find it hard to set aside an entire day during which we do nothing - no chores, no household, no laboring of any sort. With all the businesses that are open Sundays to try to keep up with the competition, it is hard to convince the workforce to take a break. While many stores have reduced operating hours, only a few have no hours on Sunday. However, most employers will work with employees that insist they cannot work on the Sabbath. While this may seem counterproductive for the employer, they do not want the reputation of religious intolerance. In many cases, the higher levels of management are either Christian or know someone who is and can understand your concerns. As far as home improvement and domestic labor, only you can prevent it on the Sabbath. If you work at it, you can find time during the week to get everything done to allow you to spend your Sabbath day in reflection or with your family. By doing this, you will start your new week more relaxed, help your family grow together and strengthen your religious convictions.



Nofsinger



Quario

## Two men arrested after breaking into tower site

Press release

Two men from Kendall have been arrested for attempting to steal copper.

The men arrested are Stephen Joseph Nofsinger, age 39, and Joshua Reed Quario, age 34, both of rural Kendall, WI.

Nofsinger and Quario were taken into custody Saturday night, June 1, 2024, at approximately 11:30 PM, after being caught attempting to steal copper from a communications tower site, located in rural Westby, WI, in the town of Coon.

Nofsinger and Quario both appeared in Vernon County Circuit Court on Monday, June 3rd.

Nofsinger is currently being held on a \$500 cash bond and is due back in court on June 10. Quario was released on a \$2,000 signature bond and is due back in court July 3.

Potential charges of criminal damage to property, trespassing, attempted theft, conspiracy to commit these crimes, and party to the crimes on both Nofsinger and Quario are being sought through Vernon County District Attorney Angela Palmer-Fisher.

Nofsinger is also expected to be charged with bail jumping.

Sheriff Torgerson would like to thank the Westby Police Department for assisting the Sheriff's Office.

The Vernon County Sheriff's Department is investigating.

If you have any information about this crime, or any other crime, contact Crime Stoppers by telephone at 608-637-TIPS (8477), or submit an online tip at [www.p3tips.com](http://www.p3tips.com)

## DMV offers option to add emergency contact information to license data

Press release

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) now offers an option for motorists and individuals to add emergency contact information to their driver license or ID record. Adding the information is voluntary and will not appear on the card.

Governor Evers signed the "To Inform Families First" or "TIFF" law last year. It was put in place to provide law enforcement the ability to contact a family member or other loved one more quickly in the event of an emergency. Adding this information

is not required. Only law enforcement, including police in other states, are able access the information.

To add emergency contact information to a DMV record, visit [wisconsindmv.gov/emergencycontact](http://wisconsindmv.gov/emergencycontact) for the convenient online self-service application. A visit to a DMV customer service center is not necessary.

This service joins DMV's extensive list of online services at [wisconsindmv.gov](http://wisconsindmv.gov).



Scan QR code to add emergency contact

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# Wisconsin's driver license named 'Best ID'

Press release

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has the "Best ID Card," according to an international association of the global card manufacturing industry.

Wisconsin's REAL ID over 21 driver license received the Élan Award of Excellence from the International Card Manufacturers Association for its incorporation of stunning and familiar imagery, including the Wisconsin State Capitol and State flag, in a highly secure design.

"We're grateful to receive this international award



recognizing the outstanding work our Wisconsin DMV team and partner CBN Secure Technologies Inc. did to integrate advanced security features with beautiful imagery from our state," DMV Administrator Tommy Winkler said. "Wisconsin residents should be proud of these

highly secure cards that deliver a superior user experience."

Wisconsin DMV debuted this innovative design on driver licenses and ID cards in June 2023. The new cards offer distinctive artistic features, including the hand-crafted artwork of key Wisconsin symbols.

Transparent windows, visible on the card's right edge and back bottom edge, allow the clear ribbon to flow right off the edge of the card. This exclusive design is integrated with cardholder data. Wisconsin was the first state to have this unique security element.

Wisconsin DMV worked with CBN Secure Technologies Inc. to design and integrate the next generation of updated security features with new, custom design elements. Beyond the artistry of the card, the manufacturing process also delivers a card with enhanced security, counterfeit resistance, and easier authentication.

## College News

### Area residents make the President's List at Western Technical

LA CROSSE, WI (05/15/2024)-- The following local residents were named to the Western Technical College President's List of High Distinction for the Spring 2024 term. To be included on the President's List, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and carry six or more credits in an associate's degree or technical diploma program.

Eva Augenstein of Coon Valley; Jenna Bakken of Norwalk; Nicole Brueggen of Cashton; Presley Brueggen of Cashton; Sandra Canelo Arriola of Cashton; Alex Chandler of Coon Valley; Brianna Connelly of Cashton; Andra Curtis of Westby; Dietrich Diefenbaugh of Cashton; Hannah Dinuzzo of Westby; Isaiah Dodge of Ontario; Jessica Ezelle of Coon Valley; Julie Geier of Westby; Troy Gilbertson of Bangor; Chris Gough of Norwalk; Rylee Hall of Ontario; Samuel Hall of Bangor; Daisy Hansen of Ontario; Alexandra Harrington of Coon Valley; Alexander Hendrickson of Coon Valley; Trent Herlitzka of Coon Valley; Jackson Hilden of Cashton; Samuel Horstman of Bangor; Trevor Horstman of Bangor; Jacob Huntzicker of Cashton; Tayah Johnson of Westby; Grace Kaiser of Norwalk; Alexander Kniprath of Cashton; Elias Larrington of Westby; Jeremiah Las of Bangor; James Lee of Coon Valley; Zhanna Leer of Westby; Taylor Lowe of Bangor; Tyler Mlsna of Cashton; Meghan Nelson of Westby; Daisha Pedretti of Westby; Calsie Reavis of Bangor; Matthias Sandman of Westby; Perla Santiago de La luz of Norwalk; Ryan Schroeder of Bangor; Luke Shegonee of Ontario; Amy Synstebly of Westby; Lexiss Thelen of Westby; Eric Thomas of Westby; Anna Tjelta of Westby; Jonas Tjelta of Westby; Reese Von Ruden of Ontario; Alexandra Watters of Ontario; Terra White of Westby.

### Winona State releases Graduates and Dean's List for Spring 2024

WINONA, Minn. – Winona State University announces the Graduation List for Spring Semester 2024.

Area students who fulfilled their requirements for graduation include: Kionna Jacobs, Tomah; Cooper Lipski, Westby; Amanda O'Heron, Bangor; Alexcie Pieper, Bangor; Jennifer Ramirez, Sparta; Jo Marie Thompson, Norwalk.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate enrolled full-time (at least 12 credit hours for a grade) and achieve a minimum grade point average of 3.5.

Area students that made the list include:

Jayda Berg, Coon Valley; Alana Clark, Sparta; Vanessa Leis, Sparta; Cooper Lipski, Westby; Emily Mason, Sparta; Dalton Mayer, Sparta; Jack Mulvaney, Norwalk; Claire Pribbernow, Sparta; Abigail Schell, Sparta; Annie Schreier, Cashton; Gabby Schroeder, Bangor; Jack Weninger, Westby

### Marina Thompson makes Spring 2024 Dean's List at GSSU

AMERICUS, GA – Marina Thompson, a resident of Westby, WI, made the Spring 2024 Dean's List at Georgia Southwestern State University and was among 730 students recognized for scholastic achievement.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or better and take a minimum of 12 credit hours.

### Jeremy Pershing Named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH – Jeremy Pershing of Ontario has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2024 Dean's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

### Anna Dregne named to Dean's List at UW-Whitewater

WHITEWATER, WI – Anna Dregne from Westby, WI, has made the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2024 spring semester.

Students on the Dean's List have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

"Making the Dean's List is a tremendous honor. It is a recognition of our students' hard work and commitment to success," said John Chenoweth, who serves as UW-Whitewater's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "We are proud of our students and hope to see their names on the list again. Congratulations to all who were recognized!"

### Collins makes U of D Dean's List

DUBUQUE, Iowa (May 16, 2024) - The University of Dubuque congratulates Emily Collins of Coon Valley on being appointed to the Spring Semester 2024 Academic Dean's List.

Full-time students in good academic standing (registered for and having earned 12 or more letter grade credits for the term) who earn a term grade point average of 3.5 or above and who do not have any grades of Incomplete for the term are named to the Dean's List.

### UW-Milwaukee Holds Commencement

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Emily Olson of Coon Valley was among the 2,480 prospective candidates for degree attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commencement exercises Sunday, May 19, 2024, in Milwaukee.

Olson earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Letters & Science.

### Iowa State honors spring graduates

AMES, Iowa - Molly Stenslein of Westby received her Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State in early May. Stenslein's focus is in kinesiology and health.

More than 4,450 graduates received degrees from Iowa State University this spring. Graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies were held May 9-11 at Hilton Coliseum.

### Area students named to Dean's List at UW-River Falls

RIVER FALLS, Wis. - The spring semester Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has been released by Registrar Kelly Browning. It honors 1,456 students. Norwalk's Megan Culpitt is amongst them. Her focus is in Crop and Soil Science.

### UMD Announces Dean's List for Spring Semester 2024

DULUTH, Minn. - The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its Dean's List for Spring Semester 2024.

Westby's Grace Helbel has met the requirements to be placed on the Dean's List. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

### UW-Stevens Point undergraduates honored for scholastic achievement

STEVENS POINT, Wis. - Bonita Hanley of Cashton, Hannadh Davidson of Coon Valley, and Abby Leis of Westby earned spots on the honors list at UW-Stevens Point.

Hanley received highest honors designation for having a grad point average above 3.9. Davidson was in the high honors bracket for a GPA between 3.75 and 3.89, while Leis earned a honors citation for a GPA between 3.50 to 3.74.

## Upcoming Car Seat Check-Ups

Road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States, and more than half of car seats are not used or installed correctly. The best way to keep your child safe in the car is to use the right car seat in the right way.

Come get your car seat professionally checked by a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) on Thursday, June 6th from 3 - 6 p.m. at Morrie's Audi/VW location at 331 Theater Road in Onalaska. This event is open to the public with no appointment needed and no wait. Car seat check-ups are available at this location from April through September on the first and third Thursday of the month from 3 - 6 p.m.

Correctly used child safety seats can reduce the risk of death by as much as 71%. A certified CPST can help you select the right seat, ensure a proper harness fit, install your car seat correctly, and know when to move to the next seat.

Car seat checks are always available at the Monroe County Health Department by appointment along with car seats that are available for income-eligible people. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more.



## Farmers' market checks available for WIC participants

WIC will start issuing farmers' market checks starting on June 1st. Each eligible WIC participant can receive a total of \$30 for the summer to purchase select locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs at approved farmers' markets and farm stands. Active WIC participants can call the WIC office after June 1st, if interested in receiving these checks.

If you are a local farmer and are interested in accepting the farmers' market checks, please call the Monroe County WIC office at (608) 269-8671 for more information.

WIC provides healthful foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals to health care and community resources. Participants can receive their nutrition education over the phone by calling the WIC office at (608) 269-8671 or complete on-line at WICHealth.org.

If you are interested in applying for WIC, please visit wicmomstrong.com to find out more about eligibility and how to apply for services.

Follow the Monroe County WIC Program on Facebook and/or Monroe County WIC on Instagram for more information.

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The 2022 GMC Sierra overturned in the collision. Contributed photo.

## Passenger injured in two-car collision near Hillsboro

Press release

On Saturday, June 1, at approximately 12:00 p.m., the Sheriff's Office 911 Dispatch Center received a report of a two-vehicle crash that occurred at the intersection of County Road EE and County Road Q, rural Hillsboro, WI, in the town of Greenwood.

Kyra J. Bisarek, age 19, of Hillsboro, WI was operating a 2024 Chevrolet Trax, traveling south on

County Road Q. Bisarek did not stop for cross traffic on County Road EE and collided with a 2022 GMC Sierra driven by 67-year-old Gerald T. Mayer of Allenton, WI.

Both vehicles left the roadway and the Mayer vehicle overturned.

A female passenger in the Mayer vehicle, a female, age 60, sustained apparent non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to

Gundersen St. Joseph's Hospital, in Hillsboro, by Hillsboro Area Ambulance. Gerald Mayer reported minor injuries but declined transport. Bisarek did not report any injuries.

Assisting the Sheriff's Office at the scene were the Sauk County Sheriff's Office, Hillsboro Fire Department, and Hillsboro Area Ambulance Service. The crash remains under investigation by the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.

## One person seriously injured in car accident

Press release

One person was seriously injured after a motorcycle vs. SUV crash on Wednesday, May 29.

At around 4:15 p.m., the Monroe County 911 Communications Center received a 911 call regarding a motorcycle vs SUV crash at the intersection of Ironwood Rd and County Highway A in the Tomah Township. Both vehicles sustained severe damage, which caused the eastbound lane of County Highway A to be closed for approximately forty-five minutes for

emergency personnel to investigate and safely land Gundersen Air.

The initial investigation revealed that the SUV driver was stopped on Ironwood Road and proceeded into the intersection to cross County Highway A. The SUV driver looked but did not see the motorcycle traveling East on County Highway A. The motorcycle impacted the SUV on the passenger side, causing both vehicles to become disabled.

The driver of the SUV called 911 and rendered aid to the motorcycle operator. The motorcycle operator

sustained severe injuries in the crash and was airlifted from the scene by Gundersen Air to a local La Crosse, WI, hospital.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is investigating the crash.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Monroe County 911 Communications Center, Oakdale Fire, Tomah Ambulance, Tomah Area Medical Responders, Tomah Rescue Techs, Gundersen Air, Wisconsin State Patrol, Larkins Towing, and Grangers Towing.

### 'REPORT'

continued from page 5

Insurance. No injuries were reported. Ramirez-Colmenares' vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Krueger's vehicle received functional damage and was not towed.

- Jack Lipski, Westby, was driving westbound on County Road P, town of Christiana, when he reached over to get a cellphone, left the roadway, and struck a mailbox and lawn décor. Lipski received a citation for Inattentive Driving. Lipski did not report any injuries, and his vehicle was not towed.

- Harbor Kerby, Viroqua, was traveling eastbound on US Highway 14 in the town of Viroqua, following a vehicle driven by Joel Minton, Union Grove. Kerby looked down to change the song, and when she looked up, she hit the rear of Minton's vehicle. Minton was slowing down for the round-a-bout. No injuries were reported. Kerby's vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Minton's vehicle received functional damage and was not towed.

- Evelyn Tripp, Sparta, was driving westbound on US Highway 14, town of Kickapoo, when she struck a turkey. The turkey hit the windshield, shattering it. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Tripp did not report any injuries.

### May 29

- A citizen reported a goat was stuck in a fence on North Elk Run Road in the town of Webster and possibly had a broken leg. She requested assistance with freeing the goat. A deputy responded to the property. Prior to his arrival, another citizen went to the residence and was able to free the goat. The deputy and the helpful citizen carried the goat to the owner's vehicle, so she could take it to the vet clinic.

- Erica Buros, Viroqua, was driving southbound on Maple Dale Road, town of Viroqua. She was distracted by her mobile device and went into the shoulder of the road, striking a culvert and overturning onto the roof. Buros did not report any injuries. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage.

### May 30

- Kevin Price, Stoddard, was leaving Kwik Trip in the village of Stoddard, making a left-hand turn onto Broadway Street. Price struck a legally parked vehicle and continued to his residence. The passenger in the parked vehicle reported the accident. Price was located at his residence, and he received a citation for Hit and Run. Both vehicles received minor damage. No injuries were reported.

- A deputy went to a residence on McKibbin Lane to attempt service of a warrant for Failure to Appear. The offender was located and taken to the Vernon County Detention Center. He was later released after paying the required bond.

- Jonathan Lepke, Viroqua, struck a deer while driving eastbound on County Road Y in the town of Jefferson. The vehicle received functional damage and was not towed. Lepke did not report any injuries.

### May 31

The sheriff's office received a call of a physical domestic incident on Nottingham Road in the town of Jefferson. Two deputies responded and spoke with everyone involved. The male offender was arrested and taken to the Vernon County Detention Center on charges of Battery and Disorderly Conduct. He was later released after posting a cash bond.

### 'WTA' continued from page 6

three months at rotating locations, to coordinate and discuss best practices and activities which affect the Towns. Recently, on May 16, the WTA from Monroe County met in the Cashton Community Center. A fellowship meal was shared, and the atmosphere was friendly and cooperative, many of the participants having been friends for years.

One subject discussed is an unintended result of legislation to eliminate personal property taxes. Structures such as cell towers, windmills, pipelines and even rented grain bins are assessed to the property owner even though they may be owned by someone else. The reality is that the landowner may be paying taxes on a private entity that may be making a profit on the activity. Legislation is being considered on assisting farmers in recouping these taxes or shifting the burden to the actual real property owner or renter.

Several State and local political representatives were on hand to present updates, discuss upcoming projects and to listen to citizen concerns. State Representative Nancy VanderMeer and Loren Oldenburg discussed a new zoning bill which allows the towns the option to opt out of county zoning. Representative VanderMeer's family runs a multi-generation family farm and is not only well versed in legislation affecting farmers but also has a stake in pro-farming laws and regulations. Rep. VanderMeer discussed the



Representative Loren Oldenburg discussed a new bill that allows townships to opt out of county zoning. Record photo by John Gessner.

redistricting of her 96th Wisconsin District moving it father east and dropping the Sparta and surrounding area.

Adam Balz presented a report on how the library system is funded and the needs of the libraries. Of particular interest is the fact that local citizens fund libraries with their taxes but multiple people from outside the area can use the library at no cost. To better equalize the library cost the Monroe County Board of Supervisors instituted a non-resident reimbursement rate of 70% of the cost of library services to residents of the county who do not maintain a local library. Plans are in place to increase this figure by

5% per year until it reaches 100% in the year 2028.

State Senator Brad Pfaff spoke on bi-partisan efforts in the state legislature aimed at supporting farmers regardless of party ties. He also spoke on school safety and economic growth issues to relieve the burdens on taxpayers by growing the economy. He is very concerned with the loss of high value farmland. While the intention is good, government subsidized solar panel fields are chewing up farmland, thus reducing crop production overall. This is something that must be balanced between large municipality interests such as Madison and Milwaukee and the remainder of rural

Wisconsin.

State Representative Jill Billings of the 95th District is looking forward to meeting citizens as her district expanded east with the state redistricting plan. She spoke about a commitment of giving back to your community, of local control knowing the issues better, and areas of concern and interest that she has at the state level. These would include combating substance abuse and human trafficking. She spoke about "Steve's Law," an initiative to allow hunters to get licenses who may not have a driver's license due to no fault of their own.

The WTA meetings are important enough that they draw individuals representing federally elected officials also. Mollie Bohn representing Congressman Van Orden's office, gave an update on his initiatives at the federal level. Particularly his work on the defense appropriation bill, veteran's bills, a veteran higher education bill, farmer support bills and safe drinking water bills. Gregg Wavrunek representing Senator Tammy Baldwin's office updated the group on her initiatives to include FAA reauthorization bill passing, and initiatives for American aviation act careers.

The WTA also draws political hopefuls vying for office to give the gathering a sense of their interests and support. So, it was with guest speaker Stacey Klein. Ms. Klein is currently on the Trempealeau County board and seeking to run against State Senator Brad Pfaff in 2024. She has roots in farming,

growing up on a dairy farm. Ms. Klein advocates for limited government, fiscal responsibility and defines herself as a republican conservative.

County Board Chair Cedric Schnitzler was on hand for updates at the county level. These included a mental health fair held in Sparta with 175 attendees, a suicide prevention seminar planned in Tomah in 2025, nursing home updates, landfill updates to include the purchase of land for a new cell and broad band service around the Fort McCoy area.

Dave Pierce, representing the Monroe County Highway Committee gave an update on upcoming highway repairs and construction. County Highway Trunk F reconstruction will begin in 2024 as well as County BC along Putnum Ridge in 2024. Highway PC to Vernon County and County ET to allow access to federal lands is scheduled in 2025. The importance of these announcements is to allow rural dwellers to make necessary adjustments. As one farmer remarked, "90% of my farmland is on the other side of that highway bridge. This project will cause a 12-mile to detour every time I need to access my property." While perhaps road construction may be a minor inconvenience for city dwellers these are real world concerns for rural residents.

The next WTA Monroe County unit meeting is scheduled for August 15, hosted by the Town of Lafayette.



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## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE VILLAGE OF CASHTON LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Applications are on file with the Village Clerk, Village of Cashton, for fermented malt beverages and intoxicating liquor license, for the period beginning July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 on the following premises:

Badger Crossing Jay's Diner Central Express, Inc. Hansen's IGA, Inc.	Timothy & Debra Hundt Amy Kaitner Phil G. Mlsna Leo R. Hansen Rosemary Hansen Sean Kline Kelli Van Bendegom Becky Olson Todd & Laura Johnson	909 Front St. 913 Front St. 633 Front St. 830 Front St.	Class B Comb. Class B Comb. Class A Comb. Class A Comb.
Ray's Gas & Goodies Dolgen Corp, LLC. The Front Door Big Johnson's Doghouse Saloon		191 Front St. 425 Hagen St. 831 Front St. 817 Main St.	Class A Beer Class A Combo Class B Comb. Class B Comb.

Tammy L. Bekkum, Clerk

Posted 05/27/2024  
Published 05/30/2024 & 06/05/2025 - Cashton Record  
5/30, 06 WNAXLP

### Vacant Lot for Sale by Owner

Located in the Village of Melvina. Lot # 403. For sale on sealed bids, with a minimum bid of \$19,900. All bids must be received by the Village by August 1, 2024. Bids will be opened during a closed session at the August 12th board meeting. Please contact Douglas Schwarz at 608-632-9543 or Kari Passe at 608-632-5106 with any questions. Offer to purchase contracts can be picked up at the Village Hall during regular business hours or by contacting Doug or Kari. 5/30, 06, 13, 20 WNAXLP

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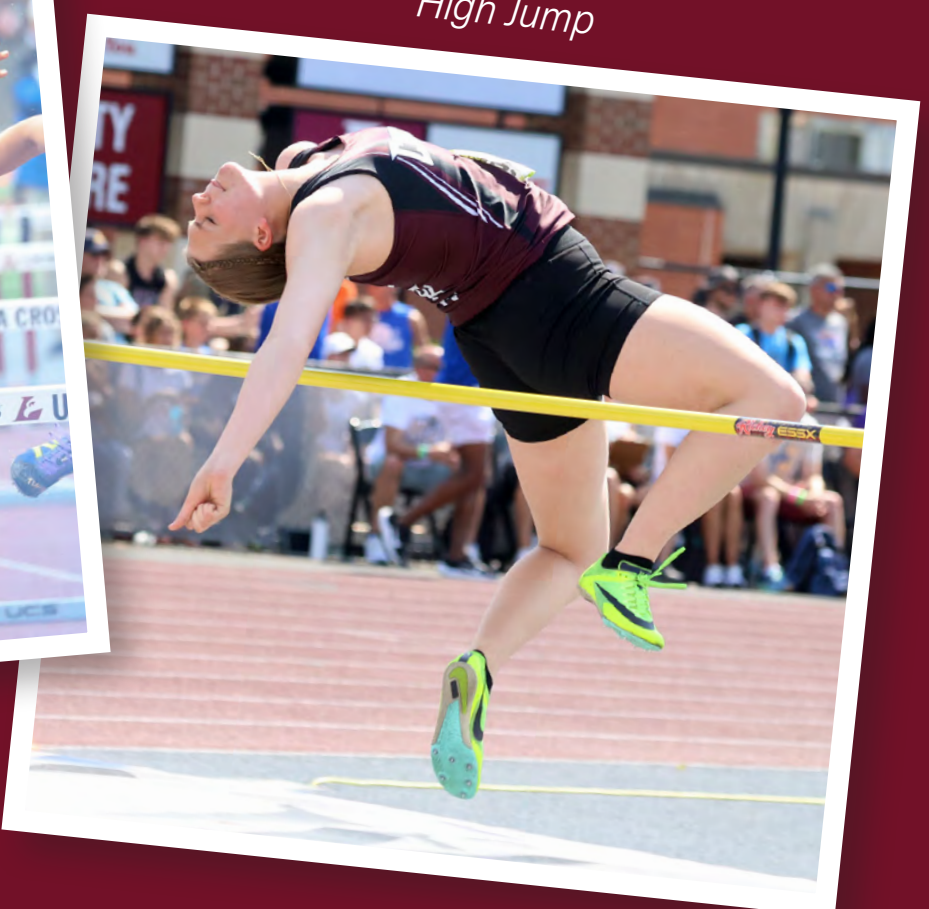


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TRACK & FIELD WESTBY

# Gluch takes second in high jump

## Area thinclads compete at state

By Nate Beier  
Sports Editor

For the third-straight season, Westby's Erin Gluch earned her way onto the medal stand in the high jump competition at the WIAA state track and field championships.

This year, though, the vertical jumper settled for second in the Division 2 competition after clearing a height of 5-05. In fact, Gluch's place was determined by criteria as four competitors cleared the bar at 5-05. Only one managed to go higher - Rice Lake's Adaline Sheplee - who finished with a Division 2 best height of 5-06.

This year marked the third-straight season that Gluch qualified for state in the event, though the now-junior has changed divisions each time. As a freshman, Gluch won the Division 2 title after clearing 5-05. In 2023 Westby dropped down into Division 3 and once again, came home with a gold medal after clearing 5-08 - a mark that would have won the D2 title as well since the winning height was just 5-06.

Gluch was also part of a top ten finish in the girls 400 meter relay.

The relay, which also included Katelyn Benish,



Westby's Erin Gluch was the 2023 state champion for division 2 high jump. By criteria, she claimed the second spot in this year's state track meet in La Crosse on Friday, May 31. Photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

The Bangor girls 800 meter relay (Grace Wenthold, Anna Fronk, Aubrey Langrehr, Bliss Knox) was 14 in the prelims and didn't qualify for finals.

Brookwood senior Wyatt Maurhoff earned a spot on the podium by finishing fifth in the boys' high jump with a mark of 6 feet.

Marshall Doll made the finals in the 400 where he took ninth overall. Eli Johnson was good enough for 12 in the 110 meter hurdle prelim and Cooper Powell placed 16 in the 3200 meter run.

Necedah's lone competitor, Jack Herried, was 12 in the triple jump.

New Lisbon had two competitors at state - Jameson Barker in the 300 hurdles and Blake Smith in the shot put. Barker was 15 in the hurdle prelims and Smith qualified for finals, taking ninth overall.

Wonewoc-Center's Danny Roehling ended his career in the 200 meter dash finals Saturday afternoon. Roehling just missed the podium after placing seventh in the 200. The outgoing senior took 13 in the 100 meter dash prelims. Katie Field was 12 in the 3200 meter run.



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Cashton's Aubri Schaldach clears the bar during Friday afternoon's division 2/3 portion of the WIAA State Track & Field Meet at UW-La Crosse. Photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

### 'SCHALDACH' continued from page 12

WIAA State Track & Field Championships, which were held on Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1 at the Veterans Memorial Stadium Complex on the campus of UW-La Crosse.

As can sometimes be the case in one's state debut, Schaldach didn't quite have the day she as hoping for on Friday.

"It was a challenging meet for her. I know she wanted to clear a higher height," said Cashton head coach Beth Lee. "High jump is one of those things that some days it's just there and some days it's

not. And as hard as she worked and as hard as she tried, it just didn't seem to go the way she wanted it to."

However, the mere fact that Schaldach competed at state was an excellent coda to her standout freshman season, which certainly has the potential to be a launching pad to even greater heights down the road.

"Confidence in her abilities, continuing to work on her form and her speed," Lee said of the areas she hopes Schaldach keep improving on. "She's got a lot of potential in a lot of places. Be patient, hang with it, be confident, those kinds of things."

### 'GOOSELAW' continued from page 12

time of 15.64 seconds that was the second-best in the overall standings between the two heats. However, with almost no wind and even despite some wet conditions for Saturday's finals, the pace was quicker and Gooselaw posted a time of 15.76 seconds that left her eight hundredths of a second behind Cumberland senior Andie Otto for sixth place and the final podium spot.

"Something about the situation just didn't quite click," said Cashton head coach Beth Lee. "She still broke 16 (seconds), which is amazing. She's run some great races, and I would say this is still a good race for her. She took a second off of her time from last year and finished a place higher, so the caliber of competition is just increasing, and I think we saw that in a lot of races across the state meet this year."

There's never a guarantee that you'll make it back to state, but Gooselaw will be hungrier than ever to return to La Crosse as a senior and give her best effort yet on the state stage.

"She will absolutely have this fire to get back to the same level again," Lee said. "You just have to make the best of your opportunities and do the best that you can."

Cashton's Makayla Gooselaw (center) steadies herself on the starting blocks ahead of the preliminary 100 meter hurdle race on Friday, May 31 in La Crosse. Photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.



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TRACK & FIELD CASHTON



Cashton's Makayla Gooselaw clears a hurdle during Friday's preliminary 100 meter race at the WIAA State & Track Field Meet at UW-La Crosse. Photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.

## Cashton's Gooselaw just shy of podium in 100m hurdles

LA CROSSE — Cashton junior Makayla Gooselaw entered this year's state track meet in prime position to compete for a spot on the medalist podium. She fell short of that goal but will have that as further motivation heading into her senior season.

Gooselaw placed seventh in the finals of the Division 3 girls' 100-meter hurdles at the 2024 WIAA State Track & Field Championships, held on Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1

at Veterans Memorial Stadium on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Gooselaw made it to the finals of the same event at the 2023 state meet, finishing in eighth with a mark of 16.19 seconds. She entered this year's meet with loftier goals and was seeded fourth coming out of sectionals.

In Friday's prelims, Gooselaw shined with a

**'GOOSELAW'**  
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Cashton's Aubri Schaldach steadies herself during a moment of rest between jumps at the WIAA State Track & Field Meet on Friday, May 31. Photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.

## Cashton's Schaldach makes state debut as freshman

By Zach Rastall  
Sports Writer

LA CROSSE — Even if you don't medal or place as high as you like, there is still great value in competing in the state track meet as a freshman.

You get a feel for exactly what that experience all entails, and it leaves you in a position to be better equipped to handle that grand state stage if you're fortunate enough to make it back there again.

Cashton freshman Aubri Schaldach was one of those freshmen at this year's state meet, where she gained valuable experience to build off of as she continues ahead with her high school track career.

Schaldach cleared the bar at 4 feet, 10 inches to finish in a tie for 14th in the Division 3 girls' high jump at the 2024

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# Cashton's Schlesner puts exclamation point on career with high jump state title

**'SCHLESNER'**  
continued from page 1

the 110-meter hurdles finals and then came back afterward to make his attempts at 6 feet, 4 inches.

Schlesner and Cashton head coach Beth Lee watched from off to the side, left as spectators like everyone else in attendance during the stressful moments while Cooley tried to rip the state title away from Schlesner.

"Jack was pretty nervous. He went through a gamut of emotions, but in the end, he said, 'well, if somebody's going to beat me, I'm glad it's Lucius because he works hard too,'" Lee said of the wait for Cooley to finish. "They've been back and forth all year at different meets. I think it helps when you know each other, and you've jumped against each other before and you have that human connection."

Cooley was unsuccessful in his first two tries, leaving him with just one final attempt. Cooley added an extra little bit of drama when he pulled up during the run toward the mat for his third attempt. Once he reset and tried again, the result was the same as his first two tries at 6-4. Cooley knocked the bar off, and the battle was over.

Schlesner and Lee embraced in celebration of the moment Schlesner's whole career had been leading toward: the honor of being a state champion.

"For him, it was just everything that he worked hard for and everything that he wanted came true," Lee said. "He really wanted to be a state champ."

Schlesner is far from a stranger to the environment at Veterans Memorial Stadium for the state track meet. After beginning his high jump career as a freshman, Schlesner made it state



Cashton's Jack Schlesner and head coach Beth Lee celebrate the moment Schlesner became a champion after Wauzeka-Stauben's Lucius Cooley could not clear the 6-4 height on Saturday, June 1 at UW-La Crosse. Photo by Logan Everson/GX3 Media.

in 2021. He followed that with a podium spot by finishing in sixth in 2022 and finished as the state runner-up as a junior in 2023.

Being so close to tasting gold last year provided that extra bit of juice for Schlesner over the offseason and going into his senior season as he looked to earn his place atop the state podium.

"It motivated me a lot because I knew I could get it," Schlesner said. "I've just been lifting weights and stuff to get ready for it."

No matter how much prior experience you have and how much work you put into the craft, there are always variables that can come in outside your control. That was the

case for Schlesner and his other competitors on Saturday morning, with a steady rainfall in La Crosse making things even more difficult.

Fourteen athletes began the event as part of the field. After two height changes, only four competitors remained.

Schlesner was nearly a shock exit early on with the bar at 6 feet. He failed on his first two attempts, leaving him with one final try to keep his season alive. Had he missed on the third attempt, his state title dreams wouldn't have just been dashed — he would have wound up missing the medalist podium entirely.

"I was really nervous, actually," Schlesner said of his third attempt at 6

feet. "But I knew I could do it, so I just went and did it."

Schlesner avoided disappointment by clearing the bar in his last try at 6 feet, then succeeded on his first attempt at both 6-2 and 6-3. That proved to be enough to secure himself a spot in the pantheon of state champions — a fitting end to one of the great careers in Cashton track and field history.

"It's been a great ride with Jack to watch him become such a strong jumper and be so consistent," Lee said. "Of course, it's the coach's dream come true that your kid becomes a state champ."

Cashton's Jack Schlesner clears the bar during Saturday's WIAA State Track & Field meet in La Crosse. Photo by Nate Beier/GX3 Media.



<b>Friday</b> 72° 52° Breezy and pleasant with times of clouds and sun	<b>Saturday</b> 69° 46° Partly sunny and windy with a couple of showers	<b>Sunday</b> 69° 45° Mostly cloudy and breezy	<b>Monday</b> 73° 49° Turning cloudy	<b>Tuesday</b> 70° 50° Mostly cloudy
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