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your hearing fades. You have only a few teeth left, and your body is marked with wrinkles and scars. You fought hard for good causes and never shied away from a challenge. You practically crawl to your grave, having given everything you had. You face the afterlife unafraid, with the remnants of

your soul.

So, which path will you choose—the easy way, with its stately graces and comforts, or the challenging route, overcoming obstacles and conflicts, leaving the world a better place behind you?

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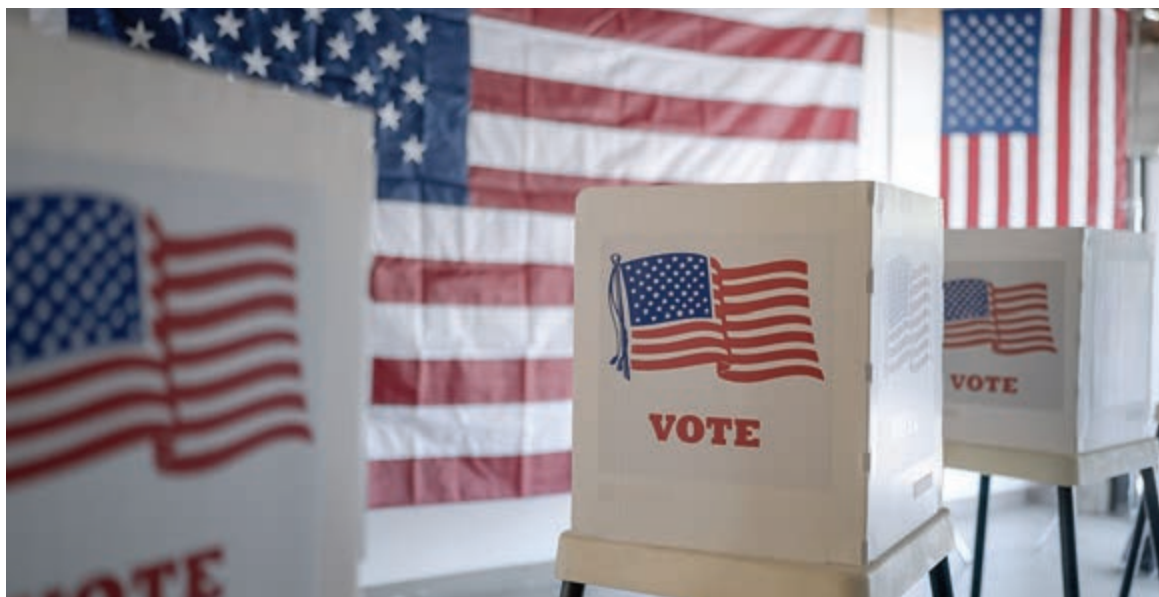


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Incumbents win

The Marathon County clerk and treasurer will remain the same after a heated race



The Republican primary race for Marathon County clerk and treasurer became more heated than typical this summer - but in the end neither seat will change hands.

Incumbent clerk Kim Trueblood and incumbent treasurer Connie Beyersdorff will remain in their posts after winning the Republican primaries for those two positions Tuesday.

Trueblood defeated challenger Toshia Ranallo 12,721 votes to 3,091 votes; Beyersdorff defeated challenger Jen Seliger 10,072 to 5,247.

The election results came after a surprisingly heated primary race, with accusations that Trueblood had unpaid fines in Kentucky and that Ranallo might have been on paid administrative leave from the county.

Trueblood confirmed to City Pages that she paid the \$144 fine for driving 36 miles per hour in a 35-mph zone; she said she hadn't received notice from Boyd County Kentucky about the fine.

Punch data received by City Pages showed Ranallo indeed hadn't punched in at the county since June 26. Ranallo explained to City Pages that she was on paid administrative leave after county human



Connie Beyersdorff

resources officials accused her of circulating nomination papers on the job.

Ranallo told City Pages the incident came after a leadership meeting at NorthCentral Technical College and that she believed she was no longer on county time.

John Spiros won a three-way Republican



Kim Trueblood

District 86 Assembly race; Brent Jacobson defeated Cory Sillars for the Republican District 87 Assembly nomination; Rebecca Cooke won a three-way race for the Democratic nomination for US Congress District 3; and Kyle Kilborne won the District 7 Democratic nomination.

Committee selects new developer for potential RiverLife development

If the project goes through, Wausau would have a brand new developer it's working with.

The city's Economic Development Committee last week selected Wangard Partners to potentially build a new apartment complex in the "RiverLife South" development area south of the current RiverLife apartments.

The decision came after the city tried something new, sending out "requests for interest" versus request for proposals. Interim Community Development Director Randy Fifrick told the city it's something the department wanted to experiment with after putting out requests for full proposals in the past and getting nothing. That's because proposals are time-consuming and expensive for developers to put together just to not be selected.

The new method requires less of developers and would allow the city to weigh in on concepts, after which city leaders could work with developers to fine tune the projects to city interests.

Wangard proposed 135 apartment units in two buildings in the RiverLife south area. They would be three stories of apartments on top of a parking garage. That helps eliminate the need for contaminated soil removal, says Wangard representative Mark Lake.

Lake says the building is similar to projects they'd already built in the past. And, if successful, Lakes says they would like to pursue other projects in the area so that they could justify hiring local staff to manage them.

The committee chose Wangard over T.

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Wall Enterprises, which also expressed interest in the site. T. Wall didn't include a specific building type and Nick Patterson of T. Wall told city leaders in the meeting that the Foundry on Third project would be their main priority. He said there would be no hard feelings if they weren't selected.

Plan change puts affordable housing project back on track

An affordable housing project that was derailed by underground utilities that weren't accounted for is now back on track, city leaders say.

The affordable housing project planned at 700 Grand Avenue by Commonwealth Development Corp. had been delayed when the underground utilities were discovered. But the city has been working with Commonwealth to move its plans a little to the south, which helps put the project back on track, says interim Community Development director Randy Fifrick.

The project aims to build an apartment complex on the site, which is located on the corner of Grand Avenue and Thomas Street. (The site had been a Vino Latte coffee and wine shop and later became a community orchard and garden area.) The proposal would include 50 apartment units between one and three bedrooms, according to the original proposal.

The building is supposed to also include an onsite fitness room and a business room, which would be free for tenants to use.

Downtown street reconstruction to start in 2025

With the first project under the mall redevelopment under construction, city leaders say the remaining street work will begin construction in early 2025.

Mark Graun of Becker-Hoppe says the firm hopes to start street work in April of 2025. That will start with the west side of Washington Street, working on rebuilding the street into a two-way street with new landscaping and level design (meaning no curbs). Graun says efforts will be taken to keep the sidewalk near the businesses open as much as possible and to keep Third Street open for as long as possible so they don't interrupt traffic.

The idea, he says, is to get Second Street open as soon as possible so as to not interrupt traffic to the Children's Imaginarium.

The street project will also include the extension of Third Street one block to the south, and extension of Jackson Street to connect with Third Street.

All that comes as the first development project in the former mall area, the Foundry on Third project, began construction earlier this summer. Mayor Doug Diny told City Pages that the work is on time and under budget following a site visit by T. Wall's owner Terrence Wall last week.

Graun says they will be building permanent infrastructure as much as possible, but will use temporary asphalt near blocks 3 and 5 of the development area because it'll be easier to remove when those undergo development. Those blocks are on either side of the current development.

Lead service line contractor works toward 2024 replacement goals

The contractor working on the lead service line replacement plan says they're close to reaching their goals for 2024.

Eric Jones from CIP, the contractor hired by the city to replace lead lines in the city on the private side, says workers so far have identified 469 lead lines to be replaced this year in the city. The contractor has a goal of 553 lines the city hopes to finish by the end of the year, but CIP plans to continue the work through October, according to a chart presented at the city's Infrastructure Committee last week.

So far 135 private lines have been replaced and another 86 are expected to be replaced in August.

Many of those lines were replaced on the city's Southeast Side, where the city has been reconstructing Eau Claire Boulevard. The firm knocked on doors and held meetings in the neighborhood.

The city announced last year that it would be one of the first recipients of a new program from the Biden Administration intended to fund the replacement of lead service pipes nationwide as lead pipes are associated with detrimental health outcomes, especially in developing children. That means replacing the roughly 8,000 lead service lines within the city.

But less clear at the time was that the funding would come in the form of grants and loans, meaning there would be a cost to city taxpayers. And the city will hold a meeting this month to talk about what a lead service line ordinance will entail, which originally spooked residents who thought they would be required to replace their lines and pay for them. No resident this year will be on the hook for the replacements and city leaders said they don't intend for the project to cost individual taxpayers anything.

City looking into revamping performance pay

The city's human resources director will be looking at new options after a performance-based pay system, he says, has gone out of control.

HR Director James Henderson told the city's HR Committee that the DPI program was supposed to reward a few employees who were going above and beyond. Instead, he says, supervisors in giving performance reviews were awarding nearly every employee the highest marks so that they would get the extra raise. That led to raises that combined with other mechanisms reach 9% or higher, Henderson said.

The problem is that there is no money budgeted for the program. Henderson told the committee he was looking for direction in what to do next, since the program had no funding.

Some committee members said they needed to still have performance incentives, but others said the program seemed to have gone off the rails. The committee told Henderson to come up with some options for the committee to consider. **CP**

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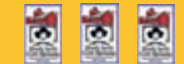
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COVID conundrum

Evers has nearly \$300 million in COVID funds left to spend



Gov. Tony Evers has spent or obligated 94% of the \$5.1 billion in federal COVID-19 funds he had sole discretion over, according to the latest update the state sent the U.S. government and shared with WisPolitics.

That leaves \$295.4 million to spend as he sees fit.

Evers' oversight of the federal COVID-19 funds is a key piece of the debate over two constitutional amendments on the ballot today. The amendments seek to give the Legislature a role in how similar federal funds are spent in the future.

The update from Evers' office shows more than \$1.5 billion has been allocated or expended for the pandemic response or public health as of June 30. That includes \$606.9 million for "testing and vaccine

acquisition and implementation."

Another \$1.5 billion has been obligated or expended for "economic resilience." That includes \$639.2 million for various grants targeting small businesses impacted by COVID-19, including some money specifically for rural Wisconsin as well as funds to venues that host live events.

Evers also directed \$113.7 million to chambers of commerce and nonprofit organizations as well as to community development financial institutions to help small businesses.

The other major categories are: \$963.3 million for "community building," \$565.1 million for education and child support; \$167.3 million for household assistance; and \$105.7 million for broadband expansion.

WI native working as Walz's chief of staff

Sam Cornale, the executive director of the Democratic National Committee, says next week's convention in Chicago will feature many local and state elected officials, including governors from across the country.

"The Democratic Party has a massive bench," Cornale said on WISN's "UpFront," which is produced in partnership with WisPolitics. "We've been winning a lot, in Wisconsin, in the Midwest, nationally. The last seven years have been a really strong run."

Cornale, a Wisconsin native, will now serve as Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz's traveling chief of staff during the campaign.

He defended the party's virtual nomination process ahead of the convention.

"This was about ballot access deadlines," he said. "In states like Ohio and Washington and other places, historically those states have worked with us to say, OK, we know who the nominee is going to be, we'll give you a pass, and you'll be on the ballot. Most of those states did work with us this go around, but one in particular in Ohio where the MAGA extreme Republicans wanted to play games because they can't win a fair fight."

Former regent urges pause on UW campus closures

Former Universities of Wisconsin Regent Robert Atwell questioned whether the closure of four branch campuses this year would actually help the universities' financial situation.

Two additional two-year campuses are slated to close in 2025 due to enrollment challenges.

"Stop closing campuses until we have a comprehensive decision about how we're going to invest in the future of the state," Atwell said. "Are we going to subsidize inefficiency? Or are we going to fix, and then invest?"

Atwell, who was appointed to the Board of Regents by former GOP Gov. Scott Walker in 2017, also criticized the pay differential between UW faculty and faculty at peer institutions.

During yesterday's Legislative Council Study Committee on the Future of the University of Wisconsin System meeting, members heard from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, UW President Jay Rothman, and UW-Madison Economics Professor Ananth Seshadri.

Rothman argued the campuses need more resources and questioned where the money to increase pay would come from

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if the state did not provide more financial support. He also presented data showing that compared to peer universities, UW — other than the Madison campus — pays assistant faculty 5% less, associate faculty 13% less and full faculty 19% less.

Marquette poll shows tight presidential race in WI

The presidential race in Wisconsin remained tight in the latest Marquette University Law School Poll, though enthusiasm has spiked among Dems with Kamala Harris now the party's nominee.

The poll — taken after the assassination attempt of Donald Trump, the GOP convention and Joe Biden dropping out — found 50% of registered voters backed the former president while 49% favored Harris. Among likely voters, it was 50-49 for Harris.

In a multiple candidate race, Harris was backed by 45% and Trump 43% with

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. at 8%. No other candidate topped 1%. In June, Trump was at 43% to Biden's 40%, while Kennedy was at 8%.

Poll Director Charles Franklin noted some significant shifts in the results, even though the topline numbers were largely unchanged from late June, when it was 50-50 between Trump and Biden.

Franklin said Dem enthusiasm dipped significantly nationally after Biden's poor debate performance, which came shortly after the last poll was in the field. But Harris' entry has reversed that malaise.

In the new poll, 92% of Dems said they were very or somewhat satisfied with Harris as their nominee, and 81% were somewhat or very enthusiastic about voting in November. In June, 64% of Dems said the same about casting a ballot this fall.

Eighty-six percent of Republicans said they're enthusiastic to vote this fall, compared to 76% in June. **CP**

From the Attorney's Desk

by Jason Krautkramer, J.D.

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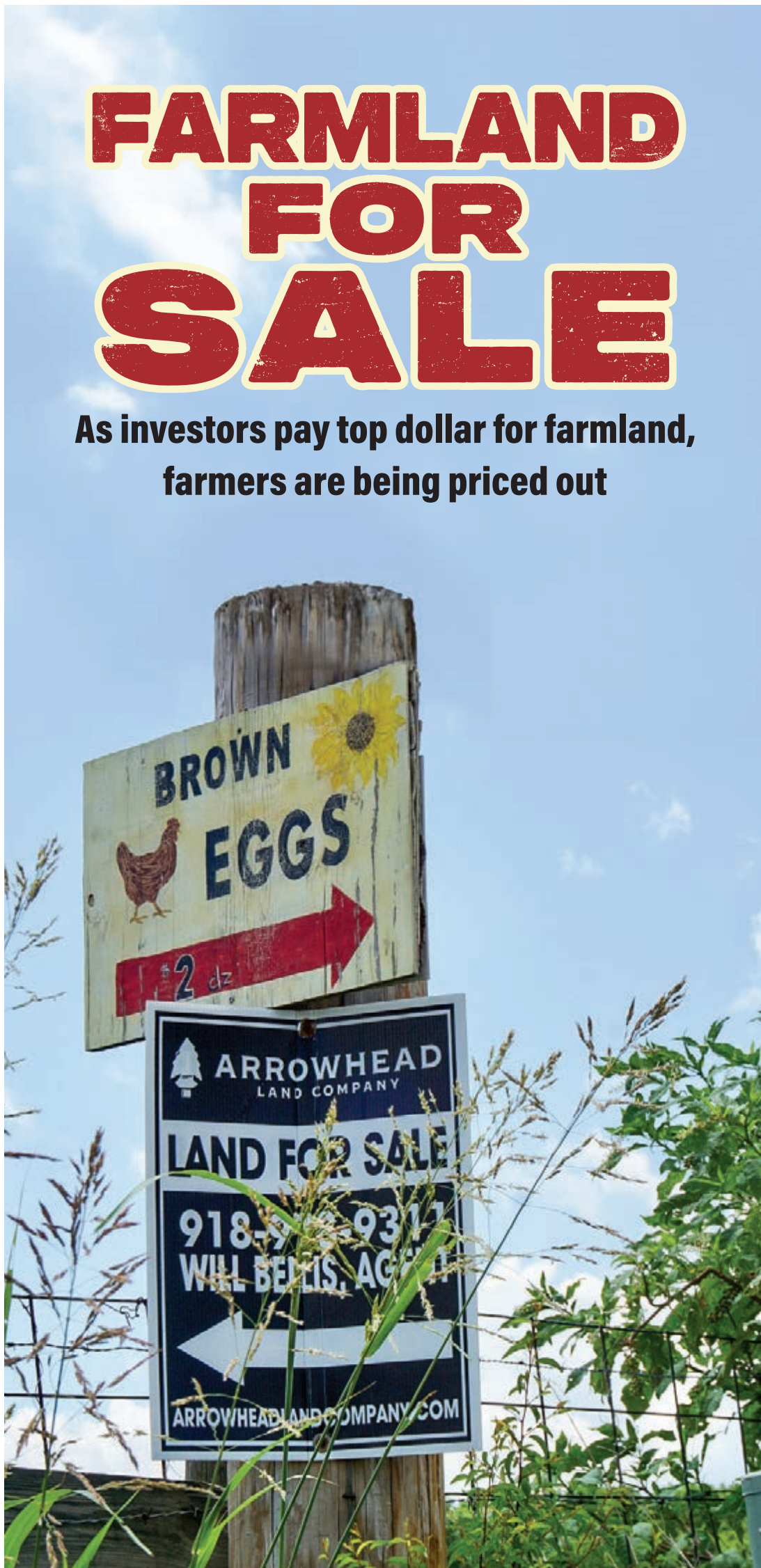
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FARMLAND FOR SALE

As investors pay top dollar for farmland, farmers are being priced out



As Jess Bray pulled up to a 21-acre farm nestled in an eastern Oklahoma valley, she instantly got a warm feeling. “This is the place,” she thought.

After attempting to buy two other properties before being outbid by cash buyers, Bray and her husband Jon began to wonder whether their dream of owning and operating their own farm would become a reality.

“We always wanted to farm, but we aren’t trust fund kids, we didn’t grow up in agriculture ... we didn’t have a farm handed down to us, so it wasn’t something that was very accessible to us,” Bray said. “This was a dream come true ... but it wasn’t without challenges.”

In 2022, Bray, then 39, purchased the valley property, which they now operate under the name Blue Mountain Farm, growing a variety of vegetables and raising pigs and a dairy cow near the town of McCurtin.

While Bray eventually realized her dream, the rising cost of farmland has priced out many other would-be farmers and ranchers or forced others into early retirement. The parts of the country where farmland prices have seen the largest increase have also been where the number of agriculture producers has declined the most.

From 2017 to 2022, the average value per acre of all American farmland grew from \$4,368 to \$5,354, an increase of nearly 23%, according to USDA data on the market value of farmland and its buildings.

But in the 409 counties across the country that saw a producer decline of 15% or greater over the past five years, average farmland values increased by 31%, according to Investigate Midwest’s analysis of USDA reports, land value records and other property data.

In reviewing property records and speaking with more than a dozen officials who closely track farmland values, Investigate Midwest found there are multiple causes for the decline in producers in counties that saw the most significant increase in value:

Population growth expanding into rural communities has increased prices and reduced farmland as 11 million acres of agricultural land were converted into residential properties from 2001 to 2016, according to the American Farmland Trust.

The push toward wind and solar energy, often backed by government subsidies, has also raised land rents much higher than for traditional agricultural use.

Large investment firms, such as Farmland Partners, PGIM and Gladstone Land, are paying top dollar for land and reselling some property at amounts as much as five times higher than the regional average.

The move toward industrial farms has also meant more corporate land buyers who can pay cash and beat many local offers.

“The biggest competition (for farmland) used to be from the person who wanted a hobby farm but maybe wasn’t farming full time,” said Vanessa Garcia Polanco, a policy campaign director with the National Young Farmers Coalition. “Today, the biggest threat we see is from corporations and hedge funds.”

The increase in competition for farmland has been especially detrimental for young and would-be farmers. According to a 2022 National Young Farmers Coalition survey, 59% of farmers under 40 said finding affordable land was “very or extremely challenging.”

Farmland ownership has received increased attention from lawmakers in recent years, especially concerning foreign-owned companies. Lawmakers in dozens of states have pushed laws limiting foreign land ownership, including from countries like Iran and China, often claiming these buyers drive up costs that push out family farms.

However, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently called that focus misguided and said the growth in American investment firms buying farmland is a more pressing concern.

“Do you know roughly a third of all the farming operations that generate more than \$500,000 in sales are owned by investment outfits? Are you concerned about Wall Street owning farmland?” Vilsack said in response to a question about foreign-owned land while speaking at the North American Agricultural Journalists conference in April.

But Paul Pittman, the executive chairman of the investment firm Farmland Partners, said companies like his were not to blame for rising prices and were keeping many farms in production.

“That’s populist B.S. and nothing less,” Pittman told Investigate Midwest when asked about Vilsack’s comments. “And remember, for every farmer who is whining about being outbid, there’s a farm family that owned that farm for 100 years and deserves to get the highest price possible.”



Jess Bray stands on the dirt road leading into Blue Mountain Farm, which she operates near McCurtin, Oklahoma, on June 17, 2024.

Investment firms significantly increase farmland holdings

In the spring of 2023, the Farmland Partners investment firm spent \$8.85 million in cash on 1,840 acres of farmland in Haskell County, Oklahoma. The land was a highly productive swath of soybean, corn and wheat fields with an irrigation system pulling water from the nearby Canadian River.

The Denver-based firm had grown in recent years to become the nation's largest farmland investor, with a valuation of more than half a billion dollars and a portfolio of more than 180,000 acres across the country.

One of the firm's land buys in Oklahoma was a 174-acre property for \$3 million. At \$17,232 an acre, the Oklahoma purchase was five times more than the median for comp sales in the area, based on data from the land value tracking site AcreValue.

However, the firm had shown that its high purchase prices were likely to pay off. It had recently sold nearly 2,500 acres of farmland in central Nebraska and South Carolina for a combined \$16.2 million, a transaction that netted Farmland Partners a 24% return on investment, the company announced.

According to data from the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries, investment firms increased their farmland holdings by 231% from 2008 to 2023. While traditional real estate property is constantly expanding, many investors see the decrease in available farmland as a partial driver of its value.

Most farmland investment firms lease the land back to producers who operate the entire farming business. In a recent SEC filing, Gladstone Land, which owns 111,836 acres of farmland across 15 states, said it rents most of its land to farmers on a "triple-net basis," which means the tenant pays the related taxes, insurance costs, maintenance, and other operating costs in addition to rent.

However, Pittman, the chairman of Farmland Partners' board of directors, said there are signs that more farmers are struggling to afford rents.

"There's a little more trouble out there than there was 12 months ago ... and we're seeing it in having an occasional farmer come to us and say, 'Hey, can you re-rent this farm to someone else?'" Pittman said on a May 1 investor call, according to a

transcript. "When we've had that occur, we've been able to (re-rent) the farms at the same price or in some cases, a little bit higher."

Industrial farm growth led to a 'hollowing out of the middle'

In most counties that lost producers, agriculture production actually increased as the remaining farms often grew larger or were converted to industrial operations.

Wisconsin's Douglas County, located in the state's northwest corner, lost 31% of its producers from 2017 to 2022 but saw net cash farm incomes more than double and sales from agriculture products increase by 45% during that same period.

Across the state, five counties saw a producer decline of at least 15% yet also saw agriculture production sales increase.

"Many operators continued to exit, and this happened rapidly among Wisconsin dairy farms," said Jeff Hadachek, an agriculture professor at the University of Wisconsin. "At the same time, the farms that remained were increasing in size."

Hadachek said the increase in farm production means the local economy may still be growing even with a loss of producers.

"I think economists would typically say that just looking at the number of farms is not the best way to consider economic health in a community," Hadachek said. "Certainly, for the people who own land, the increase in value is a great thing ... so there are two sides of the issue for sure."

Like most types of farming, Wisconsin's dairy industry has seen a move toward more industrial operations to improve efficiency, which can increase profits in a sector with tight margins for smaller dairy farmers.

In 1997, the average Wisconsin dairy farm had 55.6 cows, while the 2022 average topped 203 per farm, according to research from the University of Wisconsin.

Some farmland investors see profit opportunities in the transition to larger farms and are predicting a continued shift toward industrial agriculture.

"An aging farmer generation, fractional family ownership structure and technological advances requiring sizable capital investment will naturally transition farmland holdings from individuals to institutions," stated a report from PGIM, the \$10 billion property asset management company run by Prudential Financial that has increased

its farmland holdings in recent years.

Hadachek said the growth in larger operations has led to a decrease in medium-sized farms, what he calls a "hollowing out of the middle."

"The growth in the larger end reflects consolidation and the economies of scale and size associated with large farms, while the growth in the smaller end reflects growth in specialty foods, farms targeting the 'local foods' market, and hobby farming," Hadachek said.

But Pittman, the executive chairman of the investment firm Farmland Partners, said data on the decline in the number of farms across the country can be deceiving.

From 2017 to 2022, America lost 141,733 farms, but 80% of those lost farms had less than \$2,500 in annual sales.

"You and I know those aren't really farms, I don't know why they're called farms," Pittman said. "If you're talking about supporting a family or two families on a farm, you are talking about at least a million dollars in annual sales, which would give you about \$50,000 in distributable household income to send your kids to school and pay for food and all that."

USDA data shows the nation lost 10,537 farms with annual sales of \$100,000 to \$499,999, but farms making more than \$500,000 grew by more than 26,000.

Some states, nonprofits work to protect farmland from development

Construction sounds have become a constant echo in McCurtin County, Oklahoma, where cabins and resorts are being built in the pastures and forests between the Ouachita Mountains and Red River. Tourism growth, especially visitors from the Dallas metro, which is within a two-hour drive, has increased local farmland prices much faster than the state average.

From 2017 to 2022, McCurtin County lost nearly one out of every five producers while the average value per acre soared from \$1,901 to \$2,601 as investors, second-home buyers and some private equity firms snatched up land to build vacation homes or sit on the land while its value grew.

"When someone's waving that kind of money at grandpa's farm, they let 'em have it," said Brent Bolin, a poultry producer in McCurtin County, who is also a state agriculture commissioner.

In a recent report titled "Farms Under Threat," the American Farmland Trust found that between 2001 and 2016, more than 11 million acres of farmland was converted to urban and residential use, with Texas, California, Arizona, and Georgia topping the list.

To stall the urbanization of farmland, the American Farmland Trust, a nonprofit that says it wants to expand the "conservation agriculture movement," has facilitated the purchase of more than 78,000 acres to protect it from nonagricultural uses.

Some states have taken similar measures, including Oregon, where counties must protect some farmland through specific zoning restrictions.

Bolin said zoning restrictions might be worth considering, although he's hesitant to suggest them.

"It's something that would be super

controversial, and I don't know where I stand on it," Bolin said. "I know there are some states that help protect farmland, but that is more regulation, and we don't like that here in Oklahoma. But I don't know what the answer is."

Even if farmland is protected from being converted into another use, young farmers still struggle to compete with cash buyers. While many of those cash buyers, including investment firms, rent the land to farmers, critics say that creates a system that lacks stability for farmers and ranchers, especially those looking to start a business for the first time.

"The contract could be a three-year lease or a five-year lease, but that's not much long-term security for a farmer," said Polanco with the National Young Farmers Coalition.

Bray, the Oklahoma farmer, said owning land was crucial for her to have the kind of control she wanted over her business. It also allowed her to make more environmentally focused decisions about land use.

But when Bray was looking to buy land, competing with cash buyers was even more difficult because her own financial options took a long time to fulfill.

"Not only did we have to finance but we were kind of forced into a commercial funding route instead of the state program route because the government programs take too long," Bray said.

The National Young Farmers Coalition has advocated for the Farm Service Agency to be made a loan-making institution with pre-approval and pre-qualification processes to give farmers needing financing a better chance at competing for land.

"This would allow farmers to show they are eligible, especially if the seller wants an offer right away and has a cash offer from a corporation," Polanco said.

Even when Bray was able to purchase her current property, complications arose from the land's previous owner, a cash buyer who made a quick purchase.

"Moving in, it took us months and months and months to get in our property because of how it was handled before," Bray said. "The title had never been transferred, so we had to wait for that to be transferred to the prior owner before it could be transferred to us. And there was official paper that they had run out of stock on, somebody forgot to order the official state paper for the licenses and titles and all of that, so that was another waiting game."

During the delays, Bray's Realtor warned her she might have to move on to another property.

"He said, 'Honey, if you don't get this, don't feel bad, we'll keep looking,'" Bray recalled. "But I said, 'No, we will wait' because ... I had that feeling when we got here that this was the place. This was our dream, but you know, high interest rates, the prices of the properties and the margins as a farmer, those three things don't go together, they just don't." **CP**

This story is a product of the Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk, an editorially independent reporting network based at the University of Missouri School of Journalism in partnership with Report For America and funded by the Walton Family Foundation. Wisconsin Watch is a member of the network. Sign up for our newsletter to get our news straight to your inbox.

arts & entertainment

HIGHLIGHTS



HOWARD LUEDTKE



BUCKCHERRY

Big Bull Falls Blues Fest

8/16-17 | Fern Island, Wausau

Did you know that not only is Wausau's Big Bull Falls Blues Fest one heck of a good time, but that it's the longest-running Blues Fest in Wisconsin? Some great blues legends have come through this festival and if you love yourself a good 12-bar blues track, this is your place to be. Kicking things off this year is a Wisconsin legend, Howard Luedtke. With a main stage featuring eight different blues acts over Friday and Saturday, plus a side tent with two more, you will get your money's worth having a drink and watching some blues. \$60 for both days, \$160 VIP. More at wausauevents.org

Friday

- 5 pm — Howard Luedtke
- 7 pm — Reverend Raven and the ChainSmoking Altar Boys
- 9 pm — Lamont Cranston

Saturday

- 1 pm — Tommy Bentz
- 3 pm — Ivy Ford
- 5 pm — Mark Hummel
- 7 pm — Robert John and the Wreck
- 9 pm — The Blood Brothers

EgoCon

Saturday 8/17 | Sentry Curling Center, Plover

Sci-Fi/Fantasy conventions typically come and go, but EgoCon has been around for decades now. The convention, which says they are interested in everything but has a major focus on Dr. Who, is back and now is being held at the Sentry Curling Center. Come meet genre authors, podcasters, see a lightsabre demo, games run by the Evercon folks, artists, miniature enthusiasts and more. Plus, plenty of vendors will be on hand to help you add to your collection. In the past, the life-sized Daleks were always a treat. 10 am to 4 pm. \$15. Check out <https://sites.google.com/site/egoconevent/> for the full schedule.

Buckcherry

Saturday 8/17 | bantr, Rothschild

Buckcherry seemed like your typical 90s rock band's story: Come seemingly out of nowhere, have a ton of commercial success, put out a couple of albums and break up. But that's only the start of Buckcherry's story — the band after a three-year hiatus reformed in 2005 and they've been going strong ever since. It's hard to classify Buckcherry — imagine Aerosmith mixed with 90s Rage-style guitar licks and numetal-style lyrics and I think you kind of get close. The band just never really stopped touring and now they're coming to Wausau! You can come see them at bantr, the fancy millennial living place that's been hosting comedy and music too. 6 pm. bantrrothschild.com/events for tickets.

Wausau Night Market

Thursday 8/15 | Downtown Wausau

It's the very last night market of the summer! Come browse local vendors while downtown streets are closed off, providing a cool downtown walkable experience. Stroll the numerous local vendors downtown as they set up on the length of Third Street and turn downtown into a festival atmosphere. This is the last one of the year, so if you haven't visited this downtown event yet, be sure to give it a try. Check out items ranging from Indian baked goods to sipping vinegars to candles, eggs, artwork and much more. 5-9 pm. wausauriverdistrict.org

Midwest Freestyle Championships

Sat.-Sun. 8/17-18 | Whitewater Park, Wausau

It's usually noteworthy enough when Whitewater Park has its rec release events, since they themselves always turn into little mini-events as people gather and watch kayakers practice on the downtown course. But this is even better — one of the actual competitions! Watch more than 100 kayakers and canoists take to the rapids to compete for a spot on the podium. It's truly impressive what these guys can do and it's right downtown, with plenty of options to make a day of it. Starts at 8:30 am both days. wausauwhitewater.org




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We are seeking part-time drivers for our long-term care distribution service, offering medication delivery to assisted living facilities. We are looking for responsible individuals who will offer timely service to our customers with a positive and friendly experience.

A general knowledge of Wausau and the surrounding areas, including use of GPS is a must. Part time evening and weekend hours available, with flexible scheduling.

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- Must have clean driving record
- Occasional lifting of up to 25 pounds

If interested, please email resume to becky.hummer@youngsdrgstore.com or apply online <https://youngsdrgstore.com/employment/>

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WAUSAU NIGHT MARKET

pm on 8/18. \$15 suggested donation on Thurs. \$15/adult, \$10 veteran/student Fri.-Sun. [cvact.org](#)

Red Hot Chili Pipers · Thurs. 8/15, Campanile Center for the Arts, Minocqua. Scottish-themed music that blends rock music with bagpipes. Starts at 7 pm. \$37 general admission. [campanilecenter.org](#)

Bored Teachers: The Struggle Is Real! · Fri. 8/16, Grand Theater, Wausau. Comedy. Starts at 7:30 pm. \$40-\$70. [grandtheater.org](#)

NEW Dueling Pianos · Fri. 8/16, Bantr, Rothschild. Enjoy a piano show that covers practically every music genre. Starts at 8 pm. \$25 pre-sale, \$30 general admission. [bantrrothschild.com](#)

Buckcherry · Sat. 8/17, Bantr, Rothschild. Rock 'n roll. 18+. Starts at 8 pm. \$39-\$49. [bantrrothschild.com](#)

Jeff Erickson Quartet · Sun. 8/18, Kickbusch Plaza, Wausau. Jazz. Starts at 5 pm. Free. [rivervalleyjazz.org](#)

PJ's Live: Blame it on Waylon · Wed. 8/21, PJ's-SentryWorld, Stevens Point. Country. Starts at 5:30 pm. [sentryworld.com](#)

Notes @ Night: Hijinx · Wed. 8/21, Downtown Stevens Point, Stevens Point. Variety. Starts at 5:30 pm. [downtownpointwi.com](#)

Gazebo Nights at Normal Park: Carl Jackson · Thurs. 8/22, Normal Park, Merrill. Acoustic country. Starts at 5 pm. 715-297-4309

Gazebo Nights at Normal Park: Still Reckless · Thurs. 8/22, Normal Park, Merrill. Country. Starts at 6 pm. 715-297-4309

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Levitt Amp Concert Series: Chris Pierce · Thurs. 8/22, Pffiffner Park Bandshell, Stevens Point. Blues. Starts at 6 pm. [createportagecounty.org](#)

The Tape Face Show · Fri. 8/23, North Star Mohican Casino Resort, Bowler. Comedy. Doors open at 7 pm. Starts at 8 pm. \$25-\$35. [northstarcasinoreport.com](#)

West Avenue Band · Tues. 8/27, Hodag Park, 509 Hodag Park Dr, Rhinelander. Hard rock/electric blues. Starts at 6:30 pm. 715-362-1975

Notes @ Night: Jordan Bain & Friends · Wed. 8/28, Downtown Stevens Point, Stevens Point. Variety. Starts at 5:30 pm. [downtownpointwi.com](#)

Concert on the Square: Hip Pocket · Wed. 8/28, 400 Block, Wausau. R&B, rock, Latin-infused, jazz, pop, modern & classic rock hits. Starts at 6 pm. [wausauevents.org](#)

Bad Bad Hats w/ Ian George · Thurs. 8/29, Lamplight Sessions, 224 Main St, Mosinee. Indie rock, folk pop, alternative. Doors open at 6 pm. Show starts at 7 pm. \$38. [lamplightsessions.com](#)

Brewery Comedy Tour · Sat. 8/31, Mosinee Brewing Company, Mosinee. Comedy. Starts at 7:30 pm. \$13-\$20. [eventbrite.com/e/the-brewery-comedy-tour-at-mosinee-tickets-225689612707](#)

Notes @ Night: Aaron Lee Kaplan · Wed. 9/4, Downtown Stevens Point, Stevens Point. Americana & blues. Starts at 5:30 pm. [downtownpointwi.com](#)

ONGOING

Parent Aide Triple P In-Home Program · Children's WI, 705 S 24th Ave, Wausau. Program that promotes positive parenting practices to address and prevent a range of social, emotional, and behavioral problems in children and teens. For parents of children ages 0-17. 715-660-0397 for more information or to sign up

Marshfield Pickleball · Every Mon., Tues., Weds., and Fri., hosted by the city of Marshfield. Located at the Oak Ave. Community Center, 201 S. Oak Ave. Advanced ticket discounts available through the Parks & Rec department. [ci.marshfield.wi.us](#)

Learning Essentials About Parenting · Mondays, Children's WI, 705 S 24th Ave, Wausau. Learn how to solve problems and strengthen relationships in your home. Starts at 6 pm. Free. 715-848-1457 to register

Werle Park Plus Neighborhoods of Wausau · 2nd Monday of most months, Grace United Church of Christ, 535 S 3rd Ave, Wausau. Meet and discuss neighborhood issues. Use basement entrance off back of church. Starts at 6 pm. 715-845-7051.

AARP Chapter 272 Monthly Meeting · 3rd Mon. of each month. United Way Office, 705 S 24th Ave, Wausau. Each month will have a speaker discuss a current topic in the news or in the area as well as legislation being proposed that affects those over age 50. AARP membership encouraged but not required to attend. Starts at 1:30 pm. 715-571-6189

The Landing Literacy Book Club · 4th Mon. of each month. Book club at the Landing YMCA, Wausau. Book notices at YMCA, Literacy Council and Janke Bookstore. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. 715-841-1855

Senior Bingo · Every Tuesday, hosted by the Marshfield Parks & Recreational Department at Drendel Room, 211 E 2nd St, Marshfield. Starts at 1 pm. \$1 for 2 cards. 715-486-2041

Sweet Adelines Center Point Chorus · Every Tuesday, Harmony House, 3500 Harmony Lane, Stevens Point. Learn and sing 4-part A Capella music barbershop style. Starts at 7 pm. 715-630-3155

Joe & Dough Military Veterans Morning Social · 2nd Tuesday of every month, Elk's Club, 1132 Clark St, Stevens Point. Military veterans are invited to socialize with others, ask questions or relax. Select meetings will feature a guest speaker presenting a veteran-related topic. Complimentary donuts, sugar-free bakery items, coffee & tea will also be available for attendees. Starts at 8 am. 715-341-6194 for more info

Pine Tree Quilters Guild · 2nd & 4th Tuesday, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 6205 Alderson St, Weston. Join us for educational & informational gatherings on the 2nd Tues. at 6:30 pm & 4th Tues. at 10 am. [pinetreequilters.org](#)

Super Sip 'N Swap or Shop · 3rd Thursday of every month, JN Creations LLC, 608 Washington St, Wausau. Taste a sip of a beverage sold at the boutique from a Wisconsin Maker & Swap out your reading, cookbooks, magazines, puzzles & board games. Not a swapper just a shopper? No problem. Come on in. Open all day from 10 am-5 pm in Aug. Free. 612-756-1177

Veterans Weekly Cup-of-Coffee at a Glance · Wednesdays, Denny's, Rothschild. Veterans can meet and enjoy a cup of coffee and meal. Starts at 10 am. More info at [mikeheil123.wixsite.com/website](#)

Wednesday Night Sessions · Wednesdays, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston. Enjoy a fellowship meal at 5:30 pm. Programs include FISH (for parents and children ages 3-grade 5), Ignite Confirmation (grade 6 & 7),

Fusions Youth Group (for grades 8-12), and an adult bible study. Starts at 6:15 pm. [mtoliveweston.org](#)

Wausau Morning Toastmasters Meeting · 1st & 3rd Wed. of each month, Vino Latte, Wausau. Starts at 7 am. [toastmasters.org](#)

Central Wisconsin Marine Corps League Detachment 350 · 3rd Wednesday of each month, 2970 Post Road, Plover. Meet at 6:30 pm. New members are welcome. 715-824-3343 or 715-252-3339 for more info

Aspirus Wausau Farmers Market · Every Thursday, Located at Aspirus Corporate Parking Lot, 2200 Westwood Dr, Wausau. Opens 9 am. [Aspirus.org](#)

History Chats · Every Thursday, hosted online by the Marathon County Historical Society. Learn about Marathon County's history from Ben Clark and/or Gary Gisselman. Starts at 12:30 pm. On Facebook Live and Marathon County Historical Society's Youtube page

Out & About · Every Thursday (except 4/14 & Thanksgiving), Jubilee House Free Community Meal, St. Matthew Catholic Church Campus, 221 S 28th St, Wausau. 4:30 pm-6 pm. 715-848-6120

Farmers Market of Wausau · Saturdays & Wednesdays from May-mid Nov., 200 River Dr, Wausau. Starts at 7 am. [farmersmarketofwausau.com](#)

Stevens Point Quakers Meeting · Every Sunday. Boys & Girls Club, 941 Michigan Ave, Stevens Point. All welcome! Child care available. Religious education twice a month. Starts at 10 am. 715-344-2593 for more info

First UU Church of Wausau Service · Sundays. First UU Church of Wausau, 504 Grant St, Wausau. All are welcomed at the first UU Church of Wausau. On Sun. 8/18, Rev. Brian Mason will be preaching Tender Mercies: Insights from Parenting (failures included). Explore the insights gained from the ups & downs of raising children. Look at how parenting teaches about love, patience, grace, & the power of a good laugh. Music provided by Margaret Jerz. Starts at 10:30 am. [uuwausau.org](#)

Edgar Community Cookbook · now until 9/1, Marathon County Public Library, Edgar. Drop off your recipe at MCPL Edgar or email [MCPL.Edgar@co.marathon.wi.us](#). Recipes may be original or created by others; please include a brief description of each recipe's origin. After enough recipes have been received, a cookbook will be compiled & added to the library's collection for the community to enjoy. Free event & open to Edgar area community members. 715-352-3155 for more info

"Bloomin' Greenhouse Tour"-2024 · April thru Oct., hosted by the Clark County Economic Development Corporation & Tourism Bureau at Clark County, WI. Go on a self-guided tour to many greenhouses & garden centers throughout Clark County consisting of several plants of many varieties. Start times vary. No cost. For a brochure, call 715-255-9100 or visit [clarkcountywi.org](#)

Sunday Brunch on the Farm · Every Sunday from Mother's Day thru October, Lonely Oak Farm, 11946 County Rd S., Milladore. Serving from 10 am-2 pm. No pets please. [lonelyoakfarm.net](#)

Worship Service · Sundays, Peace United Church of Christ, 1530 Grand Ave, Schofield. Starts at 9 am. [peacechurchucc.com](#)

Kronenwetter Farmers Market · Sundays from June-Oct., 2390 Terrebonne Dr, Kronenwetter. Opens 9 am-2 pm. [kronenwetter.org](#)

Marathon City Farmers Market · Thursdays, 400 Main St., Marathon City. 45+ vendors. Produce, food trucks, bakery, arts & crafts, flowers & drinks. Opens 2 pm-6 pm. [MarathonCityFarmersMarket@gmail.com](#)

MCPL Learn How to Play Cribbage · Tuesdays during the summer, Marathon County Public Library, Wausau. Adults can visit the library and play cribbage. Cribbage boards and cards will be available and all skill levels are welcome. Starts at 3 pm. Free. 715-261-7230

Saturday Morning Serenity Seekers AFG · Saturdays online, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 600 Wilshire Blvd, Stevens Point. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/886522432> Meeting ID 886 522-432 Passcode: Serenity. In person first Saturday of the month at 9 am. 312-626-6799

Harvest Moon Fall Tour 2024 · Sun.-Thurs. 9/1-10/31, hosted by the Clark County Economic Development Corporation & Tourism Bureau at, Clark County, WI. Experience corn mazes, pumpkin patches, community festivals, roadside stands & farmers markets. Go on a self-guided tour along the scenic country roads. Start times vary. For a brochure, call 715-255-9100 or visit [clarkcountywi.org](#)

EVENTS/SPECTATOR SPORTS

Plant Swap · Mon.-Sat. 8/12-8/17, Marathon County Public Library, Wausau. Patrons can take or leave a plant, along with plant care instructions. Stop in anytime the library is open. Free. 715-261-7230

Les Mills Bodycombat · Thurs. 8/15, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:15 am. [gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness](#)

2nd Annual Car Show · Thurs. 8/15, Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews, 225548 Rib Mountain Dr, Wausau. Enjoy the car show, burgers, homemade chips, beer & music. \$5 a glass of beer at beer tent. WSPT & B-104.9 FM playing music from 4 pm-6 pm. Blindsides playing rock & blues from 7 pm-10 pm. 715-301-0019

Fun@5 at the Island-Member Appreciation Picnic · Thurs. 8/15, hosted by the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce at Clark Island, Wausau. Network with others and enjoy food, beverages & desserts. Registration required. 21+ event. Starts at 4 pm. Free. [wausauchamber.com](#)

Pizza in the Orchard · Thurs. 8/15, Rock Ridge Orchard, Edgar. Enjoy a pizza buffet and music from the Jerry Schmitt band (duo). Bring a lawn chair. Doors open at 4 pm. Music starts at 6 pm. \$18 adults, \$6 children 11 and under. 715-370-4083

Les Mills RPM-V · Thurs. 8/15, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 4:40 pm. [gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness](#)

Zumba · Thurs. 8/15, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:45 pm. [gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness](#)

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Dinner in the Vineyard · Thurs. 8/15, Willow Springs Garden, Wausau. Enjoy a specialty-themed cocktail, appetizers, salad greens, homemade bread, two meat entrees, potatoes, rice, grilled veggies, dessert, after-dinner drink and wagon rides. Starts at 6 pm. \$70/person. willowsspringsgardens.com

MCPL Movie Night · Thurs. 8/15, Marathon County Public Library, Wausau. Watch the 2024 biopic about a legendary Jamaican reggae artist who inspired many with his message of love & unity. Movie is rated PG13. Starts at 6 pm. Free. mcpl.us

Grit Virtual · Fri. 8/16, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:15 am. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Central Wisconsin Military Show · Fri.-Sat. 8/16-8/17, Motorama Auto Museum, Aniwa. Check out military vehicles, re-enactments, swap meet, live music and more. Starts at 9 am. \$10. Free for kids 12 and under. motoramaautomuseum.org

Dinner in the Gardens: Spring Rolls · Fri. 8/16, Monk Botanical Gardens, Wausau. Make dinner using ingredients harvested & prepared from the kitchen garden. Starts at 6 pm. \$15 per person, 20% member discount, free for ages 3 & under. monkgardens.org

Strong Nation · Sat. 8/17, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 8 am. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Barre · Sat. 8/17, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 9:15 am. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Friends of MCPL Members Only Book Sale · Sat. 8/17, Marathon County Public Library, Wausau. Books, CDs, TV movies, artwork, board games and puzzles for sale. For members only but nonmembers can join on the spot for a yearly membership of \$10 or \$25 per family. Starts at 9:30 am. 715-261-7200

EGOCON 2024 · Sat. 8/17, Sentry Curling Center, 1515 Maple Dr, Plover. Sci-fi fantasy gaming convention with Daleks, vendors, charity auction, activities & more. Starts at 10 am. \$15 admission. egocon.org

Beer & Cheese for Pets Please · Sat. 8/17, hosted by the Humane Society of Portage County at Feltz Family Farm and Dairy Store, 5796 Porter Drive, Stevens Point. Enjoy beer, hard cider, soda, sausage and cheese along with music from Gray Catz and a raffle basket. Starts at 4 pm. \$40 general admission. hspcwi.org

Flow & Restore Yoga · Sun. 8/18, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 4:30 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

RPM-V · Sun. 8/18, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:45 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

TRX · Mon. 8/19, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:15 am. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Mosinee Book Club: "I Was Anastasia" by Ariel Lawhon · Mon. 8/19, Marathon County Public Library, Mosinee. A historical suspense novel that unravels the extraordinary twists & turns in Anna Anderson's fifty-year battle to be recognized as Anastasia Romanov. Starts at 2 pm. 715-693-2144

Yin and Yang Yoga · Mon. 8/19, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 4:30 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Bodypump · Mon. 8/19, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:30 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

HIIT · Mon. 8/19, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 6:30 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Bodypump · Tues. 8/20, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:15 am. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Central Wisconsin State Fair · Tues.-Sun. 8/20-8/25, fairgrounds in Marshfield. Many rides, food vendors, art contests, entertainment and more. Entertainment as follows: Tues: The Dweebs; Wed: Dylan Scott; Thurs: Hairball; Fri: Daughtry; Sat: Rodeo; Sun: Demolition Derby. \$30 season pass for adults, \$15 season pass for children, \$10 day pass for adult, \$5 day pass for children. centralwisconsinstatefair.com

Ribbon Cutting-Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes · Tues. 8/20, Doepke Park, Wausau. Join the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the opening of the Girl Scout Silver Project & meet Girl Scout, Eva Rose, who created a SkiERG shed at Doepke Park for the community. Cake & refreshments will be served afterwards. Starts at 4 pm. business.wausauchamber.com

Les Mills RPM-V · Tues. 8/20, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 4:30 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

StrongNation · Tues. 8/20, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:30 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Boxing & Self-Defense · Tues. 8/20, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 6:30 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Cycle Strength · Wed. 8/21, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:15 am. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Stratford Book Club: "All That Is Mine I Carry With Me" by William Landay · Wed. 8/21, Marathon County Public Library, Stratford. A tale about family, family secrets & vengeance, but also family love. Starts at 1 pm. 715-687-4420

TRX · Wed. 8/21, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 4:30 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Les Mills Bodypump · Wed. 8/21, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:30 pm. https://gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Pizza on the Patio · Wed. 8/21, Willow Springs Garden, Wausau. Enjoy all you can eat homemade pizza, salad, bread, a featured dish, dessert, lemonade, milk, water and live music. Starts at 6 pm. \$16/person, \$5/person ages 6-10, free for ages 5 and under. willowsspringsgardens.com

Les Mills BodyBalance · Wed. 8/21, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 6:35 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Les Mills Bodycombat · Thurs. 8/22, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:15 am. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Les Mills RPM-V · Thurs. 8/22, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 4:40 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Zumba · Thurs. 8/22, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:45 pm. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

Movie in the Park: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Mutant Mayhem · Thurs. 8/22, The 400 Block, Wausau. Bring a blanket, chairs and snack to enjoy during the movie. Starts at 7 pm. Free. marathoncounty.gov/about-us/departments/parks-recreation-forestry

Grit Virtual · Fri. 8/23, Greenheck Turner Community Center, Weston. Starts at 5:15 am. gtcc.dce.k12.wi.us/quick-links/group-fitness

American Artist Appreciation Weekend · Fri.-Sat. 8/23-8/24, Marathon County Public Library all locations. There will be artist stations with projects inspired by famous American artists, participants can create their own art & view feature book displays about well-known American artists. Open during regular hours. Free. 715-261-7220

2024 Edgar Steam Show · Fri.-Sun. 8/23-8/25, Edgar Steam Show, Edgar. Learn about steam engines. Vendors and musical entertainment will also be present. Music at the barn lineup: Fri. Barefoot Becky & Ivanhoe Dutchman at 3 pm, Sat. The Polka Spirit at 1 pm, Hocus Pocus at 6 pm, Sun. Tom Knies Orchestra at 9 am, Music Connection at 2 pm. Music outside the tent: Fri. Northwoods Skitchers at 6:30 pm. Sat. Chicken Stanley at 2 pm. Jerry Schmitt Band at 7 pm. Starts at 6 am. \$10 per day, \$25 weekend pass, free for kids 12 and under. edgarsteamshow.com

Dinner in the Gardens: Chicken Laab · Fri. 8/23, Monk Botanical Gardens, Wausau. Make dinner using ingredients harvested & prepared from the kitchen garden. Starts at 6 pm. \$15 per person, 20% member discount, free for ages 3 & under. monkgardens.org

Movie Under the Stars: Wonka · Fri. 8/23, hosted by the Village of Kronenwetter at Friendship Park, Kronenwetter. Bring a blanket, chairs & bug spray and enjoy the movie. Starts at 6:30 pm. Free. kronenwetter.org

OUTDOORS

IRONBULL Underdown Trail Run · Sat. 8/17, hosted by IronBull at Merrill. Half marathon, marathon, 60k trail plus Thunderdown in the Underdown 13, 37 & 111 mile mountain bike at Underdown Recreational Area. Underdown Trail Races are grassroots trail runs in Northern Wisconsin. It's located only 6 miles off Hwy 51. Underdown trail run tarts at 9:30 am, 10:15 am, or 11:30 am. Bike rides start at 8 am, 9 am or 9:15 am. \$35-\$65. ironbull.org

History Hike · Sat. 8/17, hosted by Friends of Rib

Mountain at Rib Mountain State Park, Wausau. Go for a hike and observe talk about the early settlement history in the park. Starts at 10 am. Free. ribmountain.org or 715-680-9480

Sporting Youth Heritage Day · Sat. 8/24, hosted by the Wausau Noon Optimist Club at Wausau School Forest, Wausau. Youth between the ages of 8-16 can participate in outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping and more. Preregister by 8/17. Starts at 8:30 am. Free. wausaunoonoptimist.org

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

Extension Gardening: Fall Lawn Care · Wed. 8/21, Marathon County Public Library, Marathon City. Learn how to keep your lawn healthy during the fall season. Registration required. Starts at 5:30 pm. Free. 715-261-1241 or mcpl.us

Artifacts of the World Wars · Mon. 8/26, Marathon County Public Library, Edgar. Learn about artifacts from the World Wars that were collected by the Marathon County Historical Society. Starts at 5 pm. Free. 715-352-3155

Quilt College 2024 · Sat. 10/12, hosted by the Pine Tree Quilters Guild at Northcentral Technical College, Wausau. 4 classes offered. You choose 2 to attend. Starts at 9 am. \$80 early bird until 9/1. \$90 after 9/1. ntc.edu/calendar/conferences-seminars-and-workshops

ARTS/EXHIBITS

Q Artists Cooperative, Stevens Point · 1108 Main St, Stevens Point. Ongoing exhibits of the work of more than thirty local artists in a variety of media, featured shows rotating every two months. New Winter hours 11 am-4 pm daily. qartistscooperative.com

Riverfront Arts Center, Stevens Point · Open Wed.-Fri. 11 am to 5 pm. Sat. & Sun. 11 am to 3 pm. stevenspoint.com/rac

Woodson Art Museum, Wausau · Free. Open Tues.-Fri. 9 am-4 pm, first Thurs. of each month 9 am-7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun. noon-5 pm and closed Mon. & holidays. lywam.org

Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art · Open 11 am-3 pm Tues-Sat. Wmoca.org

Center for the Visual Arts, Wausau · Free. Gallery

hours Wed.-Fri. 10 am-4 pm; Sat. 12 pm-4 pm. Closed Sun.-Tues. 715-842-4545, cvawausau.org. Inspired by activities and events.

Change of Physical State: Metal, Stone & Glass · Wed.-Sat. 6/5-8/10. This juried exhibit highlights the mediums Metal, Stone, Glass, and the various ways artists manipulate the materials to create their artwork. cvawausau.org

Merrill Historical Society Museum, Merrill · Free. Gallery hours Mon.-Fri. 9 am-1 pm. 715-536-5652. discovermerrillhistory.org

Keeping Up Appearances-Suds, Duds & Irons · Ongoing exhibit. This exhibit showcases more than 60 individual & unique restored irons, washing devices & old laundry soap. discovermerrillhistory.org

Marathon City Heritage Center · Open from noon to 2 pm on the second Sunday of each month from Oct. to April, Open Sun. 4/5 noon-2 pm and 5/3 noon-2 pm. 715-443-2221. marathoncity.org


Marathon County Historical Society · Open Tues.-Fri. 9 am-4:30 pm. Sat.-Sun. 1 pm-4:30 pm. marathoncountyhistory.org

The 1920s: Rebellion, Prosperity & Loss · Ongoing exhibit. Step back in time 100 years to learn what life was like in the roaring '20s. This exhibit captures the excitement around new forms of media like the radio & moving pictures, the realities of enforcing a national Prohibition of alcohol, the growth of electrified appliances to modernize life at work & in the home, and much more. marathoncountyhistory.org

Peek Inside: See What We Collect and Why · Ongoing exhibit at the Marathon County Historical Society. View items on display and learn why they are a part of the Historical Society's collection. marathoncountyhistory.org

Our Stories: The History of Marathon County · Jan. 2022 thru Dec. 2025. Learn about the stories of people who lived in Marathon County for a long time. Themes include arriving here, making a living and having fun. marathoncountyhistory.org

Motorama Auto Museum, Aniwa · Open Wed.-Sat. 9 am to 5 pm from May to Oct. Check out over 500 rare, vintage vehicles. \$10 admission, free for kids 15 and under. motoramaautomuseum.org



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Auditions!

The Wausau Lyric Choir will be holding auditions on August 19 & 21 from 6pm-9pm and August 22 from 6pm-8:30pm.

Location: Mosinee High School

Contact: Jae Hilts at jae.hilts@gmail.com or call/text her at 715-907-2177 to schedule an audition time.

Bakery under the moon

Alanna Thao recently opened Moonlit Bakery on Wausau's north side

The chance to take your child to work with you either does not happen or only occurs once a year at most places, but, in a new Wausau bakery, Alanna Thao plays this day out regularly.

The former home and market baker is the face behind The Moonlit Bakery LLC on Wausau's west side. The shift from basement and bustling markets to brick-and-mortar officially took place in July. Thao had been operating out of her basement but as the numbers increased, so many people coming into her home started to seem unsettling.

So she built up a strong customer base that she could transition into a brick and mortar business instead.

"After a year or two I was confident and thought 'Maybe I can stop chasing them now and they can start coming to me,'" Thao says. "This is why I decided to take the big leap. We signed a contract with the realtor in February and have done minor remodels and decorating since then."

Besides the macarons and fusions of croissants with cookies, there are products like boba, bread, and some meats. The last is not a regular occurrence at many bakeries, but Thao adds this is part of a retirement plan for her parents to oversee a deli if they wish to when the time comes. If they decline, Thao and her husband are debating doing away with deli items and focusing on baked goods.

Either way, another generation of baker is operating in the business.



Alanna Thao poses in a chair with one of her macaron cookie pillows at her The Moonlit Bakery business. The spot at 1720 Merrill Ave. in Wausau is part of a wave of recent bakery openings.

"My daughter's bakery is in the back corner," Thao says. "Her little place to play is the Starlight Bakery in the Starlight Corner. She hires the little customers who come in and we have a miniature cake they can buy and add water to before microwaving it. She is the best employee."

In the future, Thao sees her space as one where kids can come and hang out and be safe, a possible host for pop-up businesses without an existing physical presence. While there has been a bakery boom recently, with two Ukrainian bakeries and The Chocolate Cafe opening recently, Thao is not worrying about standing out at all.

"I do not know why so many are here now," she says.

"There is a great and huge bakery community and I wish we could support each other more. Some may say it is competition, but is it really when we are all doing different things? I do not think Wausau is getting saturated."

The Moonlit Bakery LLC is located at 1720 Merrill Ave. in the former space for Royal Deli. Those wanting to know more information can go visit The Moonlit Bakery's Facebook page. **CP**

Evan J. Pretzer is a freelance contributor to City Pages. He can be reached at evanjpretzer.com or evan.pretzer@protonmail.com.

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STILL YOUNG @ ART

Classes taught by professional artists in the upper classroom area of the CVA next to the Grand Theater.

OUR 2024 STILL YOUNG @ ART CLASS LINE-UP:

SESSION 1: Saturday 9/7 from 9-Noon with Linda Raether RUG HOOKING: "GARDEN BUTTERFLY"

Learn a single stitch & simple finishing technique to hand hook a butterfly design for a small garden stake/plant poke. A wide variety of colors/textures of wool fibers available for adding your own design details to a basic butterfly shape.

SESSION 2: Saturday 9/7 from 1:30-3:30 with Diane Shabino WATERCOLOR: "FLORAL WREATHS"

Create small scale watercolors of spring, fall and/or winter/holiday floral wreaths using archival paper suitable for framing or use on notecards.

SESSION 3: Sunday 9/8 from 10:00-12:00 with Nancy Laliberte MIXED MEDIA JOURNALING: "THE ART OF CREATIVITY"

Students will get a colorful and creative introduction to mixed media journaling using fun, hands-on techniques with a variety of art supplies. Class includes a journal for you to keep.

SESSION 4: Sunday 9/8 from 1:30-3:30 with Krista Botsford ACRYLIC: "MONOPRINTING"

Create one-of-a-kind prints on a plastic template using acrylic paint with options for stencils and inclusions. Unique prints or a series of related images will be ready to take home!

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