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Trudi Schaefer's 16 pieces of circus art located in the Ellsworth Public Library. Photo by Andrew Harrington

## Circus artwork and local history on display at Ellsworth Public Library

By Andrew Harrington

ELLSWORTH – People have been enamored with the circus for centuries, but not as many people know the local impacts the circus had in Pierce County.

“The Circus: The Smallest

Show on Earth,” currently on display at the Ellsworth Public Library, showcases just how vast that history is. Sixteen art pieces created by Trudi Schaefer are the centerpiece of the display, showcasing a variety of things from old time circuses. In

addition to the art, historic newspapers from the Pierce County Historical Association tell stories about when the circus came to town, in addition to “The Day the Circus Came to Town” by Jayne Hoffman of River Falls.

See EPL, Page A-10

## Police follow Pierce Co. burglary trail to stolen semi suspect

Staff report

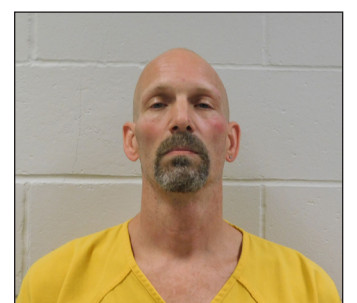
Investigating a string of Pierce County business burglaries led police to identifying one man they believe stole a semi-tractor in Minnesota and submerged in the Mississippi River.

Scott Brian LaCroix, 55, Cottage Grove, Minn., paid \$2,500 cash bail June 19 at a Pierce County Circuit Court initial appearance, where he was charged with two felony burglaries – building or dwelling, one felony possession of burglarious tools and three criminal damage to property charges. If convicted, he faces up to 12.5 years in prison and/or fines up to \$25,000.

As of June 26, no charges had been filed regarding the stolen semi-tractor.

According to the complaint:

Deputies responded at 5:45 a.m. Monday, May 1 to Crestwood Cabinetry (N1428 760th St., Hager City) for a burglary complaint. An employee had gotten to work and noticed a window that had been forced open. Police noticed marks on the win-



Scott LaCroix

dow and window frame that appeared to have come from a crowbar, along with a broken screen. A camera in the office was turned toward the ceiling, which had not been that way Friday when the owner left.

The thief had pried open a wooden desk drawer with a crowbar and a small lockbox inside. The victim estimated about \$5,500 in cash had been taken. An employee had come into the office at 9 a.m. Sunday and noticed nothing amiss, so the theft was believed to have taken place between 9 a.m. April 30 and 5 a.m. May 1. A second employee reported that \$60 had been taken from her

See BURGLARY, Page A-9

## River Falls student finds his niche performing under the Big Top

By Beth Cedarholm

Aidan Bowman (also known as “Aidan BB”) has been told that he was a clumsy little kid. By the time he was two-and-a-half, his frequent falls had resulted in facial stitches on several occasions. “My parents realized that I was going to keep injuring myself if they didn’t do something to fix it,” said the almost-15-year-old, who is an incoming sophomore at River Falls High School—and much more graceful than he was during his toddler years.

His mother, Mel, recalls that by Aidan’s third trip to the emergency room, she and husband, Chad, realized their son needed a physical outlet. Friends had told them about St. Paul’s Circus Juventas, the largest youth performing circus arts school in North America, and they signed up Aidan for a beginning class.

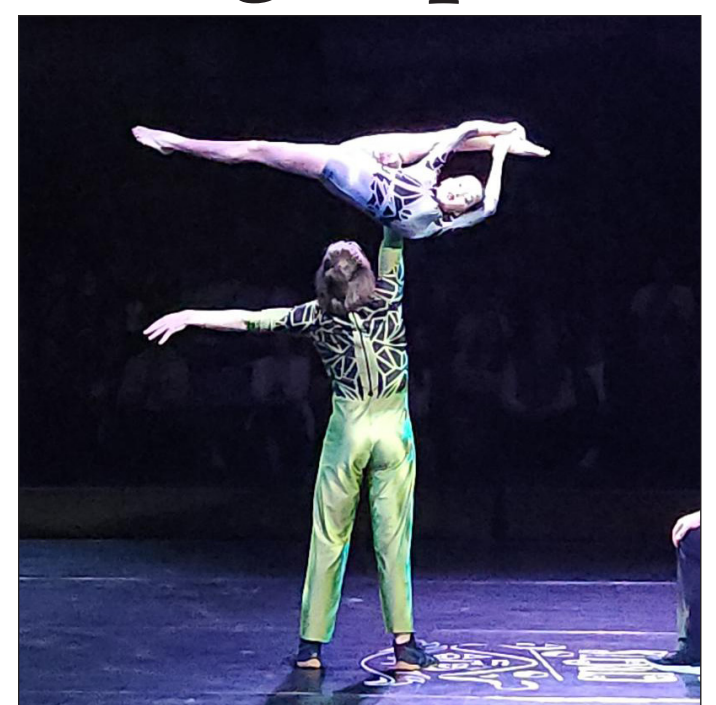
“Here I am, almost 13 years later, and I’m still doing it,” said Aidan.



Aidan Bowman, River Falls, sporting his sailor costume at his first Circus Juventas performance in May 2013. Photo courtesy of Mel Bowman

These days Aidan rehearses six days a week, for a weekly total of 18 hours, leaving little time for much else. Aidan plays French horn in the high school band,

and he also plays the cello. He helps out at home – doing laundry, yard work, and cooking (he recently mastered salmon), and during the pandemic, he did some



Aidan Bowman performing a hand-to-hand act with his partner at the spring Circus Juventas 2023 show. Photo courtesy of Mel Bowman

woodworking in the family’s shop. But most of his time away from school is devoted to Circus Juventas.

Aidan doesn’t remember his beginning years at Circus

Juventas as a 2-year-old. He is, however, familiar with the story of his first spring show performance, when he sported a white sailor costume.

See AIDAN, Page A-9

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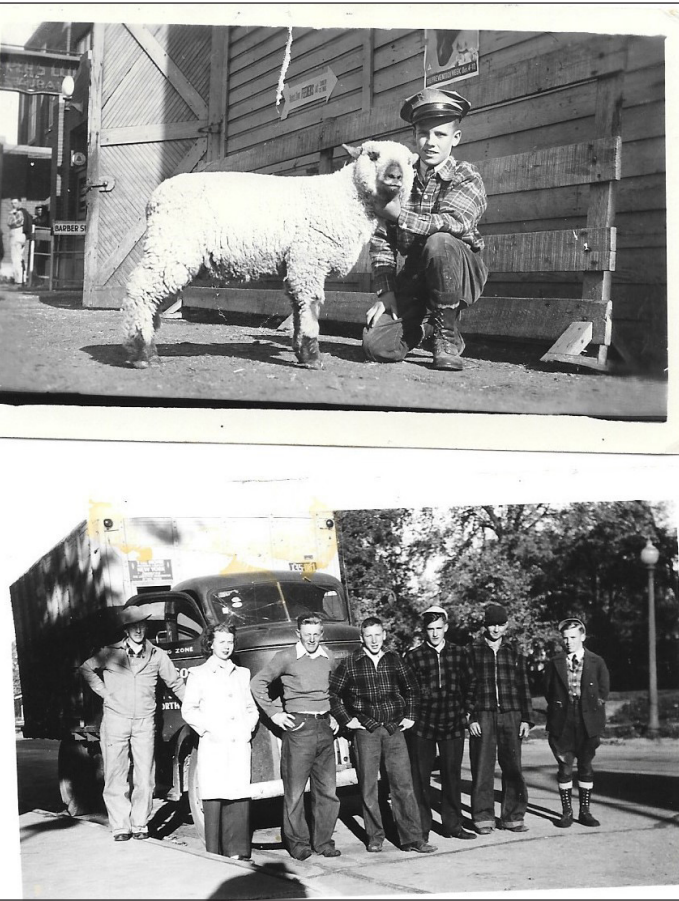
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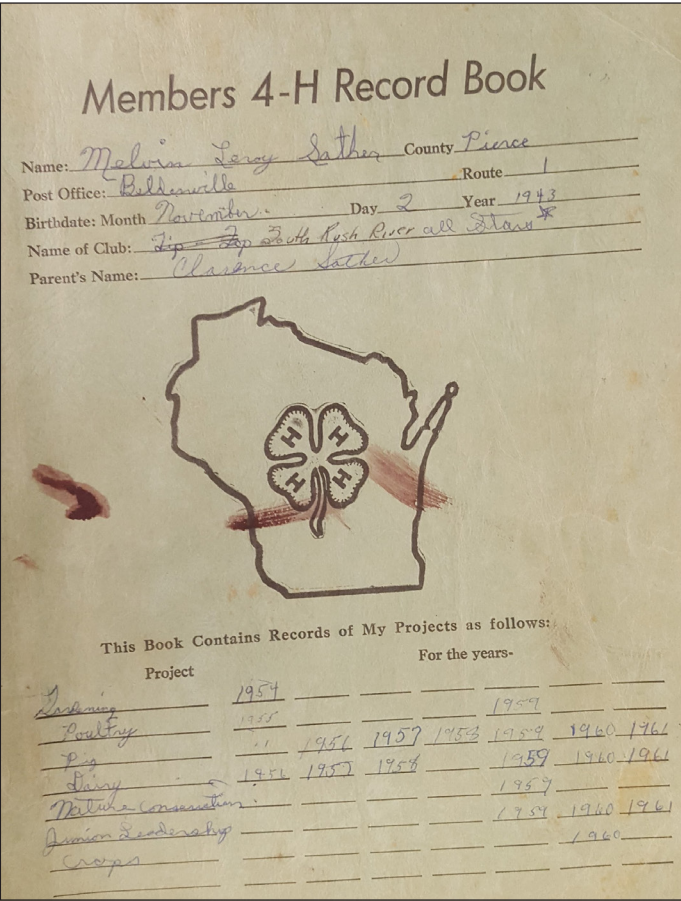
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AROUND the county



The Pierce County 4-H Historical Committee is collecting 4-H memorabilia and photos from the past 100 years for a special display at this year's Pierce County Fair. Photos courtesy of Beth Ingli



Help preserve Pierce County 4-H history

The Pierce County 4-H Historical workgroup has been meeting and working on collecting photos and memorabilia from 1921 until 2021. The committee will be purchasing displays to showcase the historical pictures, newspaper articles and historical items collected. We are looking for monetary donations to help with these purchases. The displays will cost \$3,000 and will be in the Seyforth Building at the Pierce County Fairgrounds this year, then placed in the Pierce County Courthouse Annex by the Pierce County 4-H office the rest of the year for the public to look at.

The workgroup is working with Julie Huebel and the Pierce County Historical Association in making a pictorial DVD from photos collected over the past 100 years from the fair and 4-H activities. This collection of pictures will be available to watch during the fair.

If anyone would like to help with the purchase of these displays, you may mail your donation to: Beth Ingli, N5535 290<sup>th</sup> St, Elmwood, WI 54740. Checks can be made payable to "Pierce County 4-H Alumni."

If you know of anyone that has any Pierce County Fair or 4-H photos from the past 100 years, please contact Dean Bergseng at 715-307-4976 or Beth Ingli at 715-639-2630. Thank you for your support.

Submitted by Pierce County 4-H Historical Committee

Gilman drug bust results in multiple felonies for SV man

Staff report

The search of a Town of Gilman residence led to the discovery of drugs in the house, car and shed and felony charges for a Spring Valley man.

Jackson Tate Brink, 21, was charged June 9 in Pierce County Circuit Court with felony possession with intent to deliver amphetamine, psilocin or psilocybin, narcotics and THC; possession of cocaine and felony neglecting a child where specified harm did not occur and the child is under 6-years-old or has a disability.

If convicted, Brink faces up to 15 years in prison and/or fines up to \$50,000.

Pierce County deputies executed a search of the Town of Gilman residence along with the St. Croix Valley



Jackson Tate Brink

Drug Task Force on June 6.

Three other residents were home, in addition to Brink, when police arrived, one of them a juvenile.

At the residence, Brink was sleeping in his bedroom on the west side of the house. Police woke Brink and escorted him outside to read him his Miranda Rights and question him. Brink denied a search of his 2019 Nissan.

After talking to Brink, one

member of the department walked by the car and saw a black bag on the passenger's side that appeared to contain marijuana.

Inside Brinks' bedroom, police found a glass smoking device on the windowsill with a propane tank and a lighter. A jar with a wax-like substance was located next to a computer in front of the window. A PUFFCO smoking device was found in the closet of the bedroom. Keys to a safe were found, revealing three guns, cocaine and THC.

A K9 alerted officers of the odor of narcotics in the Nissan, causing police to tow the car to the impound garage until a search warrant was obtained. The warrant was obtained on the same day, and police searched the vehicle.

The officers found what they believed to be psilocybin

mushrooms in a backpack on the rear passenger side of the vehicle. There was also a box of glass jars that appeared to be THC wax located beneath the backpack.

THC edibles that appeared similar to candy were found next to a child's car seat. Upon opening the backpack, police found THC candies and two pill bottles containing white and blue pills along with the mushrooms. After checking the pill bottles, the pills were identified as pregabalin.

Other items in the bag included Louis Vuitton receipts, a child's shirt and what appeared to be melted edibles.

Inside the box with THC wax jars were 36 packaged edibles.

The front passenger's side of the car contained the bag police noticed while at the residence. Inside were 18

bags of THC and two bags of psilocybin mushrooms. In the front pouch of the backpack was a jar with THC wax, a scale, a THC vape cartridge, an empty THC wax container with a marijuana leaf on it, vape pens and rolling papers.

Moving to the center counsel, police discovered two pill bottles, a fully loaded handgun and green bud believed to be THC. Upon inspection of the pills, the police believed there to be dextroamphetamine, cyclobenzaprine and oxycodone pills.

The driver's area contained items such as brass knuckles, a prescription for Brink, containers of THC wax, another PUFFCO smoking device and a notepad with names next to numbers. The investigator assumed the notepad to be used for the sale of narcotics.

Returning to the child's

seat, the nearby floor contained a grocery bag of homemade items believed to be THC and psilocybin edibles.

The investigator returned to the original property the next day, getting consent from one of the other residents to search the shed south of the house. Inside the shed, a pick with wax residue assumed to be used to assist in wax smoking was found. A resident told the officer he had seen a similar product in the driveway, which he then retrieved and gave to police.

Brink's preliminary hearing is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. July 11. The court ordered a bond of \$10,000 with conditions including absolute sobriety, no possession of substance without a valid prescription and no leaving the state of Wisconsin. He posted the cash bond on June 19.

Goats donated for brush cleanup at Sea Wing Park

By Andrew Harrington

DIAMOND BLUFF – Emily Dosdall of Goats on the Go has provided goats for brush removal services at many locations, but donating the service to Sea Wing Park of Diamond Bluff was a new experience.

Dosdall, who grew up in Diamond Bluff, has always enjoyed taking part helping spruce up the town, and now the goats have given her an opportunity to help even more.

"Diamond Bluff is my home, and I love it here and we enjoy the park, we go swimming down here," Dosdall said. "We try and do the road cleanup and beach



A goat tagged "Phoebe" was one of the 31 goats at Sea Wing Park in Diamond Bluff that assisted in the removal of the brush this past weekend. Photo by Andrew Harrington

cleanup every year, so this is just one more thing to keep our area clean and usable."

Thirty-one goats were brought to the site Saturday with the goal to clear two-



Three goats reach into a tree to find a bite to eat at Sea Wing Park in Diamond Bluff. Photo by Andrew Harrington

thirds of an acre of brush at the park.

The idea was set into motion when Dosdall received a suggestion from father-in-law and town board supervisor Roger Dosdall to go to the town board to offer the goats

to clean out the brush as a donation.

Dosdall did so last winter with the town agreeing to pay for insurance costs, and has now gotten to work. With Fourth of July celebrations at the park just around the corner, Dosdall brought the goats to do the brush cleanup over the weekend.

Dosdall said doing the clearing this way is more environmentally friendly and quicker than other ways of doing so. Another benefit is the entertainment provided to the people who are around the park while the goats are there.

"It's a good alternative to going in and doing all the work by hand or with chemicals," Dosdall said.

2024 Elmwood American Legion members



ELMWOOD – At the June 15 monthly meetingM the Elmwood Crain-Ottman American Legion Post 207 installed its new officers for Fiscal Year 2024. Pictured (from left): Sargent-at-Arms Jim Baier, Adjutant Dean Marsh, Commander/Finance Officer Jerry Thompson, Vice Commander Pat Hines, Chaplain Dave Hauschildt and Historian Marilyn Galoff. Post 207 will have a food booth at the Olson Antique Tractor Show July 7 and 8. Stop by for hamburgers and chicken sandwiches and purchase your tickets for the daily 50/50 raffles. Raffle proceeds support student scholarships. Photo courtesy of Commander Jerry Thompson

Spring Valley plans annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

SPRING VALLEY – Join us for our annual 4th of July Celebration. Starting at noon, there will be youth and adult baseball games at the North End of McKay Avenue:

Noon-1 p.m. – First and second grade boys/girls  
1:30-3:30 p.m. – Third vs. fourth-grade boys  
3:30-5:30 p.m. – Fifth vs. sixth-grade boys  
5:45-7:45 p.m. – Seventh vs. eighth-grade boys  
8-9p.m. - Legion vs. adults/alumni

Legion Post 227 will be serving concessions and having a bake sale!

The fireworks show will begin at dusk!

Thank you to our fire-

works sponsors: Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce, Village of Spring Valley, Crystal Cave, The Sun-Ar-gus, Dragonfly & Damsel, Branco Custom Cabinets, Arneson Insurance Agency, Overdale Kennel, Claudia Traynor, CPA; Spring Valley Dentistry, Valley View

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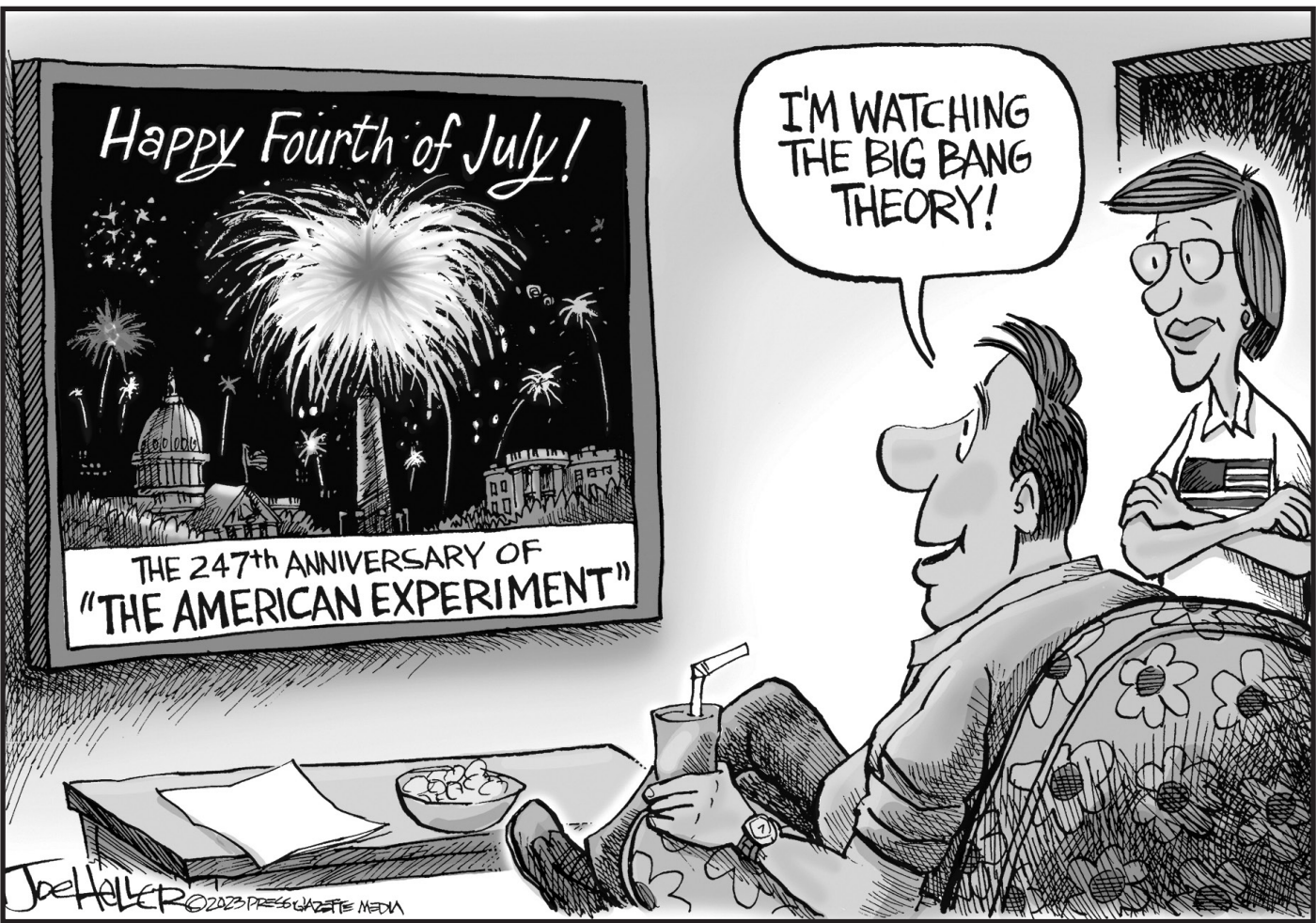
VIEWPOINTS

Trump, Tiffany top WisPolitics.com straw poll at state GOP convention in La Crosse



Donald Trump has been indicted. But many state GOP activists still like him. That’s according to a WisPolitics.com straw poll at the state GOP convention in La Crosse on Father’s Day weekend. Just under 53 percent (169 votes) of those participating in the straw poll said they backed Trump in the presidential race. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis was second with 34 percent (109 votes). No one else was close to the two. Wisconsin is at the center of the presidential race over the next year and a half. This August, the first GOP primary debate will be held in Milwaukee. Next summer, the Republican National Convention will be in Milwaukee, while Democrats will be in Chicago presumably to nominate President Joe Biden. And then in November 2024 Biden will try to win Wisconsin again, as he did narrowly vs. Trump in 2020. Evidence of Wisconsin’s

importance: DeSantis is planning a July 11 visit to Waukesha for a fundraiser. It will be DeSantis’ first trip to Wisconsin since he spoke to the Marathon County GOP in early May. The other big race on the 2024 ballot is the U.S. Senate contest. Democrat incumbent Tammy Baldwin will be seeking a third six-year term. But no candidates have formally declared their intention to run for the GOP Senate nomination. U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany, of Minocqua, has been looking at a run. He was activists’ top choice among possible candidates. Tiffany was the choice of 35 percent of those who answered the U.S. Senate question (301), with 106 votes. Former Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke was preferred by 19 percent, with 57 votes cast in his favor. State GOP officials reported that approximately 650 people registered for the weekend’s convention. Earlier in the weekend Tiffany told reporters at the state GOP convention that he sees the upcoming presidential primary as a “two-way race” between DeSantis and Trump. The Minocqua Republican declined to say his preferred candidate. He said it’s important for



candidates to be competitive in the post-primary period. “So I think any statewide candidate, you got to be able to show that you can fund your campaign the day after that primary, and that you’re prepared to go toe-to-toe.” He also said state Democrat Party Chair Ben Wikler has done a good job of convincing out-of-state donors that Wisconsin is “ground zero” in every election. Tiffany conceded Baldwin will be very difficult to beat considering her ability to attract out-of-state money. “But I think she’s also very vulnerable because she’s a career politician. People are tired of career politicians,” Tiffany, a former state rep who has held state and federal office for 12 years, said. He argued Baldwin has

offered no solutions to issues like crime and border security. He said he will make a formal decision whether to run in the coming months. Democrats are ready if Tiffany runs. They have launched a website targeting Tiffany as an extremist with an “ultra-MAGA agenda.” See more at www.wispolitics.com. *The Capitol Report is written by the editorial staff at WisPolitics.com, a nonpartisan, Madison-based news service that specializes in coverage of government and politics and is distributed for publication by members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.* Copyright © WisPolitics.com



BACK Home

BY CHRIS HARDIE

Cooling down in the summer

Beating the summer heat is a pretty simple task when it involves turning on the central air conditioning unit and staying indoors. But when you work outside and live on a farm, you can’t avoid the heat and need to embrace it. Growing up we had no air conditioning in the house. We had a box fan or two to move some air and my brother and I shared an ancient centrifugal fan that was shaped like a cash register, with the motor on the bottom and the vent on the top.

We called it the hamster cage because it squeaked a lot. It had two speeds – moth-wing fluttering and barely perceptible breeze. It didn’t move much air and always emitted the smell of oil. But inside the house was pleasant and cool compared to working outside. As the adage goes, you make hay when the sun shines and the cows still had to be milked. Hot is when you work in 100-plus degree temperatures for eight hours unloading or stacking hay bales and then having to

finish the day squatting between hot dairy cows. Cooling off also depends on where you live. I lived near Milwaukee until I was 6 years old and still remember Dad making sure that we had sweatshirts or jackets even on hot summer days just in case a strong east wind picked up cool air from over Lake Michigan. Recently my wife Sherry and I visited Superior and Duluth and experienced the cooling lake effect. It was 85 degrees when we left home

and in the upper 50s when we arrived in Superior. We checked the forecast before we left and each packed a fleece for the weather change. But there is a big difference between 58 degrees without a wind and 58 degrees in a 30 mph wind blowing off an expanse of water barely topping 40 degrees, which is what we experienced when we visited Wisconsin Point in Superior. Wisconsin Point is part of a 10-mile-long sandbar that is split in the middle – with the other side of the split making up Minnesota Point in Duluth, Minn. At the end of Wisconsin Point is Superior Entry Lighthouse, marking the entry to the Superior Entry Channel. The lighthouse was built in 1913 and stands 56 feet tall at the end of a concrete walkway that is accessible only by first walking across a rocky breakwater. With the wind and the waves breaking

over the rocks, we opted to view the lighthouse from a distance. The lighthouse in 2019 was purchased by a tech industry executive from San Francisco who bought it at an auction for \$159,000 but will remain accessible by the Coast Guard for keeping the light active. Wisconsin Point includes sensitive dune habitats, which are being protected and restored. There are marked trails that take you through the dunes to the beach, where we sat on a driftwood log and watched the whitecaps. But it was regrettably a short stay, as our fleeces were no contest for the cold wind. The next day we visited Minnesota Point when there were red risks and no-swim warnings issued by the National Weather Service for the danger of rip currents. That surf zone forecast is issued by the Duluth office and is based

on wind speed, wave heights and direction. The last thing we wanted to do was swim or surf, but the waves were fabulous – for the few minutes we could stand. The next morning we purchased a couple of sweatshirts for some extra layers and revisited Wisconsin Point – which was still under a red risk. Even with the additional warmth we were only there a few minutes. Next time we’ll bring our winter coats – no matter what the season. *Chris Hardie spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and publisher. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won dozens of state and national journalism awards. He is a former president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Contact him at chardie1963@gmail.com.*

Do we need to give up 40 years of progress?

By Gene Goenner  
River Falls

Having grown up and then owning a dairy, swine and crop farm that supported three families before moving on to a different career in agriculture, I know firsthand that today’s evolving world, and the agricultural industry has and is witnessing a positive shift towards more sustainable practices, particularly in animal agriculture compared to what it was in the past. Let us explore what responsible farming is and highlight the remarkable progress made in the past 40 years to address environmental concerns and promote animal welfare. Maybe it is time to celebrate the positive developments and the promising future of sustainable animal agriculture in this area.

Over the past four decades, the agricultural sector has made significant strides in improving its environmental impact. Through technological advancements, innovative practices, and increased awareness, farmers have been at the forefront of positive change. Let us look at a few. Soil conservation: Conservation tillage methods, such as no-till or reduced tillage, cover cropping has gained popularity. These practices minimize soil erosion, enhance soil health, and promote carbon sequestration, mitigating climate change and preserving valuable agricultural land. Remember there are only two major natural industries that can store carbon long term, production agriculture and forestry, and for forestry to do it you need to cut the forest and replant

new trees. Water management: Farmers have implemented efficient irrigation systems, precision watering, to reduce water usage and minimize waste. Additionally, improved nutrient management practices have reduced nutrient runoff into water bodies using cover crops, contour tilling, buffer strips, no till, just to name a few. They are all designed to help in the protection of the topsoil and the water quality and ecosystems around the farm. Agroforestry and riparian buffers: The integration of trees and vegetation in farming landscapes has become more prevalent. Agroforestry practices and riparian buffers help prevent soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide habitat for biodiversity. Precision farming technol-

ogies: Adoption of precision agriculture technologies, including GPS-guided equipment, remote sensing, and variable rate fertilizer/manure applications, to the specific need of the crop has led to optimized resource utilization, reduced input waste, and improved overall efficiency. Renewable energy: Farms are increasingly utilizing renewable energy sources, such as methane digester systems, the placement of solar panels and wind turbines, on farmland to power our homes. All of this reduces reliance on fossil fuels, lowers greenhouse gas emissions, and contributes to a more sustainable energy mix. Nutrient Management: Improved understanding of nutrient cycling and utilization has led to better fertilizer application practices. Precision

nutrient management reduces excess nutrient runoff, minimizing water pollution and promoting efficient nutrient use. Unfortunately, I have seen practices that were detrimental to the environment in the past and they all occurred on smaller farming operations that are not under the continued scrutiny of a CAFO operation. I do not know of any farmer, large or small, who wants to harm their land or the waters that their land affects. Afterall, they know that their ultimate livelihood is best when the land and water is protected and healthy. Regrettably, all of this is not inexpensive and there is no way that a farming operation that I grew up on would be able to implement these environmentally friendly strategies without the additional animal units to diversify the cost over more animal units and more acres.

the carbon footprint of milk by 63% due to improvements in animal breeding, health programs, cow comfort, and overall farm management practices. The carbon footprint of a glass of milk is two-thirds less than it was 70 years ago, which has the same nutritional benefits and great taste. Producing a gallon of milk has 19% less greenhouse gas emissions than it did in 2007. My question to you is do we want to give up the progress made in the past 40 years? The agricultural sector demonstrates the commitment of farmers to environmental sustainability. By adopting innovative practices, leveraging technology, and implementing conservation measures, farming has significantly reduced its environmental impact. The more we embrace sustainable animal agriculture that a CAFO type of farm is required to follow, we will build upon this progress that has been made, recognizing the interconnectedness of environmental stewardship and animal welfare. Together, through collaboration among farmers, consumers, and policymakers, we can continue to advance responsible farming practices, ensuring a bright future where our food systems are environmentally sustainable, ethically sound, and capable of nourishing a growing population. Let us celebrate the achievements thus far and remain optimistic about the transformative potential of sustainable animal agriculture no matter what the size of the farm.

the JOURNAL

WESTERN WISCONSIN'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER SINCE 1855

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WEATHER Forecast

Thu 29	84°/61°		PM Thunderstorms	36%
Fri 30	83°/60°		Partly Cloudy	15%
Sat 01	81°/60°		Partly Cloudy	8%
Sun 02	84°/63°		Mostly Sunny	5%
Mon 03	85°/63°		Mostly Sunny	24%
Tue 04	85°/63°		PM Thunderstorms	50%
Wed 05	87°/64°		Partly Cloudy	16%

ST. CROIX COUNTY Jail Log

**Monday, June 19**  
**Bud Irea Sutton**, 45, Saint James City, Fla., by SCSO, warrant, domestic disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property.  
**Joseph Lester Kohls**, 50, Star Prairie, by Hudson police, probation hold, misdemeanor or bail jumping, felony bail jumping, possession of methamphetamine.  
**Anthony Roy Czerminger**, 18, Hammond, by SCSO, domestic disorderly conduct.  
**James Henry Nikolaisen**, 54, Farmington, Minn., by Baldwin police, violate/harassment restraining order.  
**Dominick Allen Stevens**, 26, Minneapolis, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Steven C. Wichelmann**, 53, New Richmond, by NR police, second degree sexual assault – intoxicated victim.  
**Andrea Zellene Evans**, 27, Sauk Rapids, Minn., by Probation & Parole, probation hold.

**Tuesday, June 20**  
**Janna Marie Zellmer**, 39, Somerset, by New Richmond police, warrant.  
**George James Fiorentino**, 60, Chippewa Falls, by NR police, probation hold, felony bail jumping (two counts), operating while revoked, possession of methamphetamine.  
**Nova J. Smith**, 26, Galva, Ill., by Hudson police, domestic disorderly conduct.  
**Erik Allen Pawlowski**, 39, New Richmond, by NR police, felony bail jumping (four counts), possess drug paraphernalia.  
**Amanda K. Gilker**, 24, New Richmond, by NR police, possess drug paraphernalia.  
**Lucas James Clower**, 31, Baldwin, by Baldwin police, disorderly conduct, resisting or obstructing an officer.  
**Kirstin Ann Person**, 39, Woodbury, Minn., by Hudson police, possession of methamphetamine.  
**Pierre Denzel Bowdry**, 28, Minneapolis, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Justin Dennis Krizan**, 34, Hammond, by Hammond police, probation hold, domestic disorderly conduct, physical abuse of elder person.  
**Jay Lawrence Winger**, 33, address not listed, by RF police, disorderly conduct.  
**Jennifer Ann Potvin**, 49, Baldwin, by SCSO, sentenced, serving 33 days.  
**Randy Michael Stodola**, 52, Mayer, Minn., by SCSO, warrant.  
**Patrick Paul Haynes**, 42, Menomonie, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Rhondia Lynn Brown**, 46, Stanley, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Wade Thomas Cudd**, 23, Hudson, by North Hudson police, misdemeanor bail jumping (two counts), disorderly conduct.

**Wednesday, June 21**  
**Felipe Hernandez-Hernandez**, 28, Hudson, by Hudson police, operating after re-

vocation, OWI-second.  
**John Randall Scheet**, 42, New Richmond, by Probation & Parole, warrant.  
**Jesse Lee Aherns**, 31, Somerset, by SCSO, domestic disorderly conduct, probation hold, domestic battery.  
**William Wyatt Qualls**, 27, River Falls, by RF police, second degree sexual assault/mentally ill victim.  
**Maryah Ashley Mara**, 35, New Richmond, by SCSO, possession of controlled substance, possess/illegally obtained prescription, possession of THC, possess drug paraphernalia.  
**Michael Steven Johnson**, 44, Deer Park, by SCSO, operating while revoked.  
**Jinson Alexander Ramon Ramon**, 26, Hudson, by SCSO, operate without valid license (second).  
**Jose A. Diaz-Gomez**, 27, Hudson, by SCSO, operate without valid license (third).  
**Justin Irvin Mudrick**, 41, Stacy, Minn., by SCSO, SCC courts.  
**Marvin Wayne Chapman**, 61, address not listed, by Polk County Sheriff's Office, Polk County warrants.

**Thursday, June 22**  
**Joseph Benjamin Brusky**, 38, Hudson, by Hudson police, operating while revoked.  
**Jacob Ryan Clemenson**, 22, Hudson, by Probation & Parole, resisting or obstructing an officer, possess drug paraphernalia, possession of THC (second+ offense, possess open intoxicants in motor vehicle – driver, probation hold.  
**Kristopher Joseph Vse-tecka**, 24, Somerset, by Hudson police, OWI-first.  
**Cristian Aaron Borrego Arroyo**, 27, Emerald, by SCSO, disorderly conduct.  
**Austin Lee Krueger**, 23, Loyal, by NSA, hold for non-system agency.  
**Keith Emil Roettger**, 59, Somerset, by Somerset police, warrant, operating while revoked, sell a transmitter for unauthorized purpose, OWI-third.  
**Joseph Daniel Young**, 39, Prescott, by Probation & Parole, warrant.  
**Gale Robert Field**, 53, St. Paul, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Andre Nelson**, 41, New Richmond, by Hudson police, felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping.  
**Jeffrey Richard Schwab**, 40, St. Paul, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Amy Scott Anderson**, 45, Hudson, by SCSO, resisting or obstructing an officer, domestic disorderly conduct, misdemeanor bail jumping.  
**Rose Marie Jasperson**, 62, Star Prairie, by SCSO, disorderly conduct.  
**Bill Ellis Lockhart**, 40, Roberts, by SCSO, mistreat animals – intentional or negligent violation, imp.animal shelter – sanitation – aft abate.

**Emily Jane Cook**, 33, New Richmond, by SCSO, domestic disorderly conduct.  
**Brianna Kay Dankers**, 24, Red Wing, Minn., by SCSO, hold for SCC courts.

**Friday, June 23**  
**Chad Alben Rice**, 50, River Falls, by RF police, OWI-third, operating while revoked, ignition interlock device tampering.  
**David Joseph Kuschel**, 42, address not listed, by NR police, OWI-fourth.  
**Brandon Nellessen**, 37, address not listed, by Wisconsin State Patrol, operating while revoked.  
**Thomas A. Revord**, 63, Glenwood City, by Glenwood City police, misdemeanor bail jumping, operating while revoked.  
**Erin K. Coffin**, 37, River Falls, by NSA, warrant.  
**Luis Borrego Arroyo**, 34, address not listed, by SCSO, disorderly conduct.  
**Blaire Greg Brown**, 50, address not listed, by Somerset police, disorderly conduct, battery.  
**Heather Darlene Thomson**, 44, Lino Lakes, Minn., by SCSO, sentenced, serving four days.  
**Kelsey Allan Knudson**, 43, Hudson, by SCSO, sentenced, serving four days.  
**Austin John Frye**, 28, Hudson, by Hudson police, probation hold, warrant, possess drug paraphernalia.  
**Jay Lawrence Winger**, 33, address not listed, by Hudson police, disorderly conduct.  
**Kealy Marie Nelson**, 26, Hudson, by Hudson police, warrants, possess drug paraphernalia, retail theft – intentionally take.  
**Isaiah Michael Jafferi**, 19, Baldwin, by SCSO, hold for SCSO.  
**Dorian Marcus Cross**, 49, River Falls, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.

**Saturday, June 24**  
**James Norman Bryant**, 60, Deer Park, by SCSO, go armed with firearm while intoxicated, disorderly conduct (two counts).  
**Michael Glen Warnke**, 41, New Richmond, by NR police, domestic battery, domestic disorderly conduct.  
**Katrina Leigh Jansen**, 39, Baldwin, by Baldwin police, felony bail jumping.  
**Michelle Jan Loiselle**, 34, Merrill, by Hudson police, possession of methamphetamine, possess drug paraphernalia.

**Sunday, June 25**  
**Sarah Beth McCarten**, 26, Hudson, by Hudson police, OWI-first.  
**Simerjeet Singh Manak**, 26, Hudson, by Wisconsin State Patrol, emergency phone calls/refusal to yield, OWI-second, criminal damage to property, domestic disorderly conduct.

ELLSWORTH Police Department Reports

The following incidents were reported to Ellsworth Police Department June 19-25.

**Monday, June 19**  
**Roger Christopher Sabby**, 55, Ellsworth, backed into a vehicle driven by **Sadie Rae Olson**, 17, Ellsworth, at 4:14 p.m in the parking lot at 412 W. Kinne St. Sabby hit the driver's side front and rear doors.  
**Amber Marie Bakken**, 41, Ellsworth, was involved in a traffic stop at 7:41 p.m. at US Highway 10 and 760th Street. Bakken was stopped for a suspended vehicle registration, but was arrested for possession of THC and drug paraphernalia.  
Police made contact with a subject walking to Eau Claire at 8:57 p.m. at 610 E. Main St. The subject was intoxicated, but there was no reason for arrest.  
Police responded to a complaint at 9:53 p.m. at 463 E. Wall St. of a homeless subject that the complainant did not want to return to the bar due to disorderly conduct. Police advised that the subject was gone for the night and does not have ties to the area.

**Tuesday, June 20**  
At 6:06 a.m. at East Wall and Main streets, police told a subject if he wants to remain in Ellsworth he can no longer sleep in parks. The subject said he was heading to Eau Claire by walking along Highway 10.  
Police stopped a golf cart at 12:22 p.m. at 157 E. Main St. for cutting through private property. The vehicle was not registered, so police advised a return home.  
At 1:40 p.m., police responded to 801 E. Main St. for an intoxicated man who requested help. He was taken to River Falls Area Hospital for alcohol issues, but later became verbally aggressive with staff there and asked to be released.

**Wednesday, June 21**  
Police received a report at 6:18 a.m. of someone throwing glass bottles in the parking lot at 707 N. Maple St., leaving shards of glass on the ground. The vandalism occurred overnight.  
At 7:27 a.m., police received a complaint of a suspicious person leaving 163 Evergreen Estates St. Police spotted the vehicle nearby and arrested passenger **Lauren Anne Smith**, 39, Onamia, Minn., for possess drug paraphernalia.  
An accident between **Ella Jane DeFrang**, 18, of Zumbrota, Minn., and **Jasalynn May Van Eperen**, 19,

of Red Wing, Minn., at 6:13 p.m. at East Main and North Broadway streets led to road blockage.  
Police received a noise complaint at 10:27 p.m. at 188 Evergreen Estates St.

**Thursday, June 22**  
At 7:54 a.m., Family Dollar (181 E. Main St.) reported three juvenile girls spraying shaving gel and spilling shampoo on the shelves of the store a day prior. The three left the store without paying for the used products.  
Police received a report at 2:03 p.m. about junk left on the roof of the building at 358 W. Main St. Police gave the subject five days to remove the junk.  
A juvenile in the 100 block of South Maple Street told complainant her mom slaps her, spansks her and makes her sit in the corner. Complainant does not believe there to be immediate danger.  
At 7:27 p.m. at 312 W. Main St., someone told police they were hit by someone in their vehicle while driving to Subway and reacted by striking back out of instinct. The two told police they did not feel pain and felt no fear of each other.  
A caller reported finding baby raccoons at 10:20 p.m. near 106 Evergreen Estates St. He was advised to leave them alone.

**Friday, June 23**  
A caller reported a sick raccoon in their yard at 1:26 p.m. at 809 N. Brown St. The officer didn't think the raccoon looked sick and relocated it to some long grass on the other side of the street.  
Police responded to an accident between **James Conrad Scullard**, 39, Hudson, and **Marlene Martha Brunckhorst**, 75, River Falls, at 2:22 p.m. at North Maple Street and Midway Avenue. Scullard said he saw Brunckhorst slowing down, but did not see the left turn signal, causing him to hit the back of Brunckhorst's vehicle. The front of Scullard's vehicle was damaged in the accident.  
Police received a complaint at 5:47 p.m. at 355 W. Main St. of a complainant entering the residence of her son, where a verbal argument broke out. The complainant returned home and the criteria was not met for an arrest.  
At 11:59 p.m. at 213 W. Summit Ave., a tenant complained he did not have access to wifi, garage storage, was denied access to common areas, was locked

out of the residence and the landlord entered without notice. Complainant said each of the issues were allowed per the lease agreement, and the landlord also got aggressive with another tenant.

**Saturday, June 24**  
At 11:07 a.m., police spoke to a person at Main and Broadway streets for directing traffic and disrupting vendors.  
At 2:54 p.m., **Robert James Bartz**, 60, Ellsworth, was cited for not wearing a seatbelt and warned for driving faster than the 30 mph speed limit at West Industrial Road and North Maple Street.  
Police assisted EMS at 3:29 p.m. at 252 N. Broadway St. with a juvenile who passed out.  
Officers asked a person to leave Cheese Curd Festival at 5:44 p.m. near 242 N. Broadway St. for making a disturbance. He was asked to move his vehicle and leave the event.  
Police received a complaint at 9:36 p.m. at 130 N. Chestnut St. of a subject throwing rocks at police and yelling at the complainant. The complainant used party snappers to scare subject off, and the subject denied throwing rocks at the police. Both the complainant and subject were given warnings.

**Sunday, June 25**  
**Mark Frederick Walz**, 51, Ellsworth, was reportedly breaking signs during the Cheese Curd Festival at 12:28 a.m. at 252 N. Broadway St. At 12:08 p.m., Walz was suspected of directing traffic, but said he was riding his bicycle and using hand signals. Walz was also spotted taking down caution tape at Cenex, saying he was asked to help take it down. At 4:22 p.m., Walz was arrested for damage to property, disorderly conduct and misdemeanor bail jumping. Walz said he had a bat with him, but did not at the initial contact. Walz stated he was trying to see how far he can hit a golf ball.  
Police received an animal complaint at 6:21 p.m. at 721 E. Campbell St. No one appeared to be home.  
At 6:43 p.m., police received a complaint of juveniles trespassing on private property, and police warned them not to enter abandoned buildings. The juveniles advised they had permission to clean the property, located at 110 Summit Ave.

**Ikener**, 31, River Falls, by RF police, felony bail jumping, disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property.  
**Matthew Dennis Smith**, 34, River Falls, by RF police, theft – movable property, misdemeanor bail jumping, released.  
**Farhia Abu Mohamed**, 31, River Falls, by PCSO, possession of cocaine/coca, operate without valid license, misdemeanor bail jumping.

**Sunday, June 25**  
**Kathryn Nicole Bas-signana**, 35, Robbinsdale, Minn., by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, released to other agency.  
**Mark Frederick Walz**, 50, Ellsworth, by Ellsworth police, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, misdemeanor bail jumping, released.

PIERCE COUNTY Traffic and Forfeitures

**Nicole Amber Allenspach**, 39, Stillwater, Minn., non-registration of auto/vehicle, \$175.30.  
**Kaiden Bradley Baggenstoss**, 16, Ellsworth, improper right turn, \$175.30.  
**Zane Day Bakken**, 21, Hudson, non-registration of vehicle/auto, dismissed.  
**Jesse Londer DeCarlo Jr.**, 24, Oakdale, Minn., OWI-first, alcohol assessment ordered, license suspended six months, \$937.50; operating with PAC, dismissed.  
**Daniel Joseph Fenter**, 30, Maiden Rock, speeding, \$225.70.  
**Juan Garcia Morales**, 58,

Milwaukee, operate without valid license, \$200.50.  
**Jacob Lee Harris**, 16, River Falls, operate without valid license, \$200.50.  
**Nathan Robert Joyce**, 26, Hager City, operating with PAC, dismissed; failure to keep vehicle under control, dismissed; possess open intoxicants in motor vehicle – driver, dismissed; OWI-first, alcohol assessment and ignition interlock device ordered, license revoked seven months, \$989.  
**Jason Allen Killian**, 45, Fosston, Minn., operate without valid license, dismissed.  
**Ulises Panzo Montalvo**, 24, Ellsworth, operate without

valid license, \$200.50; operating a motor vehicle without insurance, \$200.50; operate without valid license, \$200.50; fail/yield while making left turn, \$175.30.  
**Brenda Leticia Nieto Garcia**, 33, Plum City, operate without valid license, \$200.50.  
**Bertin Perez Ochoa**, 34, Ellsworth, operate without valid license, \$200.50.  
**Joseph John Spitzmuelier**, 22, Roberts, speeding, \$175.30.  
**Miguel Salas Tzompaxtli**, 34, Ellsworth, operate without valid license, \$200.50; operating a motor vehicle without insurance, \$200.50.

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# RIVER FALLS*Police Department Reports*

The following incidents were reported to River Falls Police Department June 9-19.

**Friday, June 9**  
At 7 p.m., police spoke to the suspect of a purse theft that had occurred at 1047 E. Cascade Ave. June 1. A woman who had been struck during an argument and taken to the hospital had grabbed the property of another individual present, who had been arrested and taken to jail. She told police she didn't have permission to do so. She told officers she had given it to another person, who resided at 555 Marcella Court. Police were able to collect the property from that person and return it to its rightful owner.

**Saturday, June 10**  
Officers responded at 9:36 a.m. to River Falls Area Hospital (1629 E. Division St.), where a private vehicle had brought a 2-year-old identified as Reign Karma Berg, who had been struck by a vehicle. Hospital staff performed life-saving measures for an hour, but the child died. Police learned a mother had accidentally backed into the child at N3863 940<sup>th</sup> St., River Falls. The parents immediately brought the child to the hospital. The case is being handled by the Pierce County Sheriff's Office.

**Sunday, June 11**  
At 3:01 a.m. police responded to 1715 Nicholas Place for a broken front window. The resident had been woken up by the sound of banging and glass shattering. The front window had been smashed; police took a piece of glass with blood on it into evidence. A K9 track wasn't successful in finding the suspect, but one has been identified; the case is ongoing.

**Monday, June 12**  
Officers were called at 7:30 p.m. to Devine Liquor (703B N. Main St.) for a theft that had occurred 10 minutes prior. The suspects, a man and woman with a white dog, had left in a vehicle heading north on Main Street after stealing a bottle of Jameson, valued a \$30.58. The man shoved the bottle of booze down his pants and walked out. Police were called back at 8:38 p.m. for another theft attempt by the same man and another man; this time, the business owner was able to stop the theft and wanted the two male suspects trespassed. The man from the previous theft had put a bottle of Wattie Boone Bourbon (\$94.94) down his pants. When confronted, he went around a corner, took the bottle out of his pants and placed it on a Bacardi display. The store staff provided officers with video of both incidents. Police located the suspects from both thefts at 508 Apollo Road,

two of whom were staying in a camper next to the house. They recovered the Jameson bottle, which was half gone. Trespass notices were issued to **Macey Mae Johnston**, 30, address unknown; **Matthew E. Gerlach**, 50, River Falls; and **Jamison Andrew Miller**, 40, River Falls. A retail theft – intentionally take charge for Miller was forwarded to the district attorney's office for review.

**Tuesday, June 13**  
At 9:26 a.m., two River Falls State Bank (124 S. Second St.) employees turned in counterfeit bills received in night deposits from McDonald's and St. Croix Lanes. The businesses were unsure of who passed the four bills, which had "For Motion Picture Purposes" printed on them. The case was forwarded to the U.S. Secret Service for review.

Officers responded at 3:07 p.m. to a domestic at 513 S. Wasson Lane. A woman there reported her 51-year-old boyfriend had been talking to a witch doctor about their relationship, which caused issues for them. They were arguing and she told him to get out. When she placed his backpack in the hallway, he "bum-rushed" her and flipped her over onto her back with a wrestling move. Two children were present during the attack. The man also threatened the woman with a baton, called her profane names and stepped on her phone to break it. He fled when she called police on his phone. He has not been located but could be headed to Maryland. Domestic battery, domestic disorderly conduct, theft, intimidate victim/damage property and criminal damage to property charges are under review by the district attorney.

Police were dispatched to a possible fight at 4:12 p.m. at Heritage Park (232 W. Maple St.) A woman reported being struck by a man, causing her to bleed. He then fled on a bike. Police stopped the man on West Division Street and identified him as **Clyde Michael Palmer**, 45, River Falls. Palmer said he and the woman had stayed in an RV at Heritage Park for one night, but he wanted her to leave as he has a girlfriend. When he returned from work, she was inside the RV and refusing to leave. He said she kicked him as he tried to get into the RV and he fell backward. He claimed to not know how the woman had been struck. Her story differed; she said he returned from work high and didn't know where he was. She claimed he hit her 27 times and that she didn't hit him back because she'd kill him. She was taken by EMS to River Falls Area Hospital for her injuries. Palmer was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct and a probation hold and transported to Pierce County Jail. The

district attorney declined to pursue charges in the case.

Police responded at 7:32 p.m. to 655 S. Main St. for a domestic. Two people were yelling and cussing each other out in front of three children. The man at one point grabbed a child aggressively and hauled them into the house. The man, identified as **Lucas Cole Larson**, 31, River Falls, took off in a pickup truck. Police pulled him over at Main and Cedar streets, where he was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct and a probation hold, then transported to Pierce County Jail. A domestic disorderly conduct for the woman was also forwarded to the district attorney's office for review.

Officers intercepted a juvenile at 8:06 p.m. near Winter Street and Winter Court who left his residence after an argument with his mother over a tablet. The juvenile had struck the mother with a fishing pole in anger when she told him to give her the tablet back. Officers were able to mediate the situation and the juvenile returned home. Battery and disorderly conduct charges were forwarded to St. Croix County Human Services.

At 7 p.m., a 520 N. Falls St. resident reported receiving a phone call from a female stating his girlfriend had been stabbed in the stomach and their unborn baby aborted. He received two phone calls while his girlfriend also received calls. Police tracked down the phone number and determined that three St. Croix County teens were responsible. Two teens tried to blame the incident on another teen, who told police she was told what to say. The case is pending.

**Wednesday, June 14**  
**Lillian June Marguerite Scanlon**, 20, River Falls, was cited \$313 for underage drinking/possession of alcohol (second) after a suspicious activity incident at 1:17 a.m. Police saw two people standing in the yard of 508 Apollo Road. When they circled the block, one person ran. Police spoke to the person who stayed behind, who told police he'd been at a party with people he didn't know. When they saw police, three people ran. Eventually, Scanlon came out of the bushes where she was hiding and admitted to drinking at a party; she registered a BAC of .09. The other two people were not located.

Police responded at 2:18 a.m. to the area of Second and Elm streets for an unwanted person/restraining order violation complaint. The victim said **Jennifer Lynne Javner**, 32, River Falls, came up behind him while he was walking home from a bar and yelled "Babe." He has a restraining order against her. He immediately called police, who didn't find her in the area or at her residence. He

also showed officers numerous text messages from her. She was located and arrested for a warrant and felony bail jumping the next day at 10:02 p.m. at Kwik Trip (1200 S. Main St.) She denied following the victim the previous night.

Officers were dispatched to a shoplifting complaint at 4:40 p.m. at Kwik Trip (1536 Cemetery Road). A 16-year-old had tried to steal a bottle of vodka by hiding it down his pants. The teen was warned for retail theft – concealment and trespassed from all Kwik Trips in town before being turned over to his father.

**Thursday, June 15**  
Officers provided mutual aid to Pierce County deputies at a domestic at 12:12 a.m. at N8835 1031<sup>st</sup> St. A caller reported cars going in and out of the driveway and hearing someone scream, "They're killing me! You're my brother!" When police arrived, they found a campfire burning surrounded by empty chairs, alcohol bottles, several cars and all lights off in the residence. One person, a 17-year-old who was later identified as a missing person from Chippewa Falls, came walking down the driveway. He was told to stay put but fled into the house, where he was later found hiding in a closet. A second man was seen running east and after refusing commands to stop, was tased and fell into a pile of brush. He was identified as **Joseph Foster Hinton**, 18, Hudson. He was highly intoxicated (.259 BAC), drooling, moaning, crying and speaking incoherently. A Prescott K9 officer attempted to track a second individual who had run without success. A woman in the residence said that Hinton had punched her in the face. Police took photos of her injuries. After being cleared by EMS, police transported Hinton to a residence in Hudson. Disorderly conduct, resisting an officer and misdemeanor bail jumping charges were forwarded to the district attorney's office. The 17-year-old was transported to Flying J in Roberts where a St. Croix County human services employee took custody of him and transported him to the Eau Claire Juvenile Detention Center. Neighbors surrounding the home said the residence has had multiple problems lately. A 17-year-old Beldenville teen was arrested and cited \$861 for OWI-first after a traffic stop at 6:39 a.m. at Highway 35 and Quarry Road. An officer following the vehicle noticed it swerving over the fog line onto the gravel shoulder several times before pulling it over. The driver, who denied drinking, smelled of intoxicants and had red, glassy eyes. They refused a breath test after speaking to a parent and were transported to the hospital for a blood draw. The juvenile's father,

after speaking to a lawyer, called police back and said the juvenile should do the breath test, which was noted. The juvenile was released to their parents.

Police were called at 9:39 a.m. to Holiday (302 S. Main St.) for a theft. A woman had come into the store, dispensed an iced coffee and soda from the machines, drank them and threw the cups away before heading north on Main Street. Police located and pulled the vehicle over at Main and Union streets. The woman, identified as **Halie Elaine Frankki**, 29, Colfax, admitted to drinking the soda and coffee. She said she's seen other people do it before and thought it wasn't stealing. She was trespassed from the store.

**Saturday, June 17**  
**Edgar Ivan Flores Perez**, 29, was arrested for OWI after a traffic stop at 2:18 a.m. at Second and Pine streets. His passenger, a 35-year-old man who was also intoxicated, said he'd wait for a ride. An anonymous caller reported he drove the vehicle away after police left. He was not located.

Police responded to a two-vehicle crash at 1:53 a.m. at Main and Elm streets between a 2015 Dodge Caravan, driven by **Bernard Allen Knutson**, 67, Spring Valley, and a 2017 Jeep Renegade, driven by **Allan Jaye Larrabee**, 57, Maplewood, Minn. Both vehicles were heading south on Main Street. Larrabee said his dog jumped into his lap, causing his foot to hit the gas and rear-end Knutson. Both vehicles had minor damage. Knutson, who wore a seat belt, complained of leg pain but denied EMS. His passenger, **Pamela Dawn Savage**, 66, Spring Valley, wore a seat belt and reported no injuries. Larrabee wore a seat belt and reported no injuries. He was cited for operate motor vehicle without insurance and fail/notify DMV of address/name change.

A caller reported a theft at 5:45 p.m. at Hoffman Park (547 Hanson Drive). Someone jumped out of a GMC Yukon bearing Texas plates and smashed the windows on two vehicles. A purse was taken from each vehicle. One contained debit cards and miscellaneous items, while the other contained \$250 in cash, a nursing license, W2, conceal carry permit and various cards. The vehicle took off heading north toward Hudson, where Hudson police spotted it heading west on I-94. Washington County (Minn.) police recovered the women's purses near Lakeland, but the cash, permit and HSA card were taken.

A disturbance was reported at 10:53 p.m. at 429 Kennedy St. A woman there told police she and her boyfriend were arguing over family issues. Both parties were intoxicated and children were

upstairs. **Trevon Lamar Dupre Ikener**, 31, River Falls, was arrested for felony bail jumping (drinking violated his bond conditions) and transported to Pierce County Jail where he threatened officers. He stripped off his shirt and pants and stood in front of officers flexing. Child Protective Services was contacted as well; a neighbor came to stay with the woman and children after the woman registered a .221 BAC.

**Monday, June 19**  
Officers responded at 3:18 a.m. to 100 E. Spring St. for a harassment/restraining order violation incident. A man reported a woman who is not supposed to contact him messaged him on Instagram and yelled at him from the carport of the Radisson. Police located the woman in her vehicle and pulled her over near Kwik Trip (1200 S. Main St.) **Jennifer Lynne Javner**, 32, River Falls, admitted to driving past the Radisson but said she had not contact with the victim. She was arrested for a probation hold and transported to Pierce County Jail.

At 3:23 a.m., a woman at 745 Sycamore St. called police for a stray cat in the building. She said she's terrified of cats and could hear it moving closer. An officer located it in a community room. It seemed friendly, but when picked up, scratched and bit the officer through a protective glove, who dropped it. The officer found the cat again in the cafeteria and took it outside through an emergency door. The officer had to go to the hospital for the bite.

At 11:59 p.m., an officer driving east on Golfview Drive saw graffiti on the Highway 35 bridge. The words "SNOT" and "WASKA" were spray-painted in blue. The cost to remove the paint is about \$100.

Police responded to a two-vehicle crash at 2:17 p.m. at the Highway 35 off-ramp and Highway 65 between a 2006 Kia Optima, driven by **Kayla Jean Burns**, 21, River Falls, and a 2016 Chevy Cruze, driven by **Katelyn Emma Huppert**, 19, River Falls. Burns was traveling south on the Main Street overpass, while Huppert turned left onto Main Street from the off-ramp and struck Burns. Both vehicles had minor damage. Both drivers wore seat belts and reported no injuries. Huppert was cited for fail/yield while making left turn.

**Esperanza Alejandrina Quezada Erraez**, 23, River Falls, was arrested and cited \$200 for operate without valid license (second) after a traffic stop for an inoperable license plate light at 11:53 p.m. at Main and Foster streets. Erraez was released to a valid driver after booking.

# PIERCE COUNTY*Court Reports*

**Initial appearances**  
**Amber Rae Barta**, 37, Durand, posted a \$10,000 signature bond June 14 on resisting or obstructing an officer and three felony bail jumping charges. A preliminary hearing is set for 10 a.m. Aug. 8.  
**Tundra Ann Beck**, 39, Hastings, Minn., pleaded not guilty and posted a \$10,000 signature bond June 13 on two issue of worthless checks and two retail theft – intentionally take charges. She was also ordered to have no contact with Ptacek's IGA in Prescott. A status conference is slated for 11:15 a.m. July 13.  
**Ermaine Lewis Burke**, 33, Redwood Falls, Minn., was ordered to pay \$1,000 cash bail June 15 on felony vehicle operator flee/

elude officer, felony take and drive vehicle without consent, felony possession of narcotic drugs and felony possession of methamphetamine charges. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 2:15 p.m. June 21.

**Jessica Ann Christner**, 42, Eau Claire, posted a \$10,000 signature bond June 14 on felony possession of cocaine/coca (second+) and four felony bail jumping charges. A preliminary hearing is set for 11:30 a.m. Aug. 10.

**Lucas Cole Larson**, 31, River Falls, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$2,500 signature bond June 14 on a disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charge. A status conference is slated for 2 p.m. July 19.

**Charles Darwin Lun-**

**deen**, 53, Prescott, was ordered to pay \$500 cash bail June 15 on felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping, resisting or obstructing an officer, criminal damage to property, and disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charges. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. June 30.

**Leopoldo Martinez**, 33, Minneapolis, was ordered to pay \$2,500 cash bond June 13 on felony possess with intent – fentanyl, possession of THC and disorderly conduct charges. A preliminary hearing is set for 2:30 p.m. July 24.

**Aldo Eduardo Torres-Hernandez**, 25, Maple Grove, Minn., was ordered to pay \$10,000 cash bond June 16 on a felony second degree sexual assault of

child charge. A preliminary hearing is slated for 4 p.m. June 20.

**Alexi James Vilchitsa**, 23, Prescott, posted a \$10,000 signature bond June 16 on felony possession of narcotic drugs, possession of controlled substance and disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charges. A status conference is scheduled for 1:15 p.m. July 17.

**Closed cases**  
**Elijah James Durnbaugh**, 42, River Falls, was convicted of criminal trespass to dwelling and fined \$443 June 13. Two misdemeanor bail jumping charges were dismissed. The charges stemmed from a Sept. 15, 2021 incident. A domestic disorder-

ly conduct charge against **Justin Michael Hause**, 26, Mason City, Iowa, was dismissed June 13 upon completion of a deferred judgment of conviction agreement. The charge resulted from a March 1, 2022 incident.

A felony forgery – writings or objects charge against **Melissa Ann Remington**, 42, Hastings, Minn., was dismissed June 15. The charge stemmed from a May 4, 2022 incident.

**Carl James Roles**, 35, Prescott, was convicted of disorderly conduct and fined \$277.80 June 13. The charge resulted from an April 8 incident in Prescott.

**John Edward Stein**, 61, River Falls, was convicted of felony possession of methamphetamine, sentenced

to 240 days in jail (time served) and fined \$518 June 14. Possess drug paraphernalia and possession of THC charges were dismissed. The charges resulted from a May 20, 2021 incident.

**Michael George Stoehr**, 52, Hudson, was convicted of felony possession of methamphetamine, sentenced to two years' probation and fined \$518 June 16. A possess drug paraphernalia charge was dismissed. The charge stemmed from a Nov. 20 incident.

A felony burglary – building or dwelling (as party to a crime) charge against **Joseph Harold Winger**, 37, Bay City, was dismissed June 13. The charge resulted from a Feb. 18 incident.

# PIERCE COUNTY*Land Transfers*

The following property transfers were recorded by the Pierce County Register of Deeds June 19-23.

**Monday, June 19**  
**John S. & Helen Shiely** to **John A. Dusek & Barbara Minkel-Dusek**, Unit 421, Eagle's Point at the St. Croix Condo, City of Prescott.

**Austin M. & Andrea Hines** to **Jacob & Caitlin Ninneman**, Pt. NW-NW, Sec. 10, Town of Ellsworth.  
**Gloria J. Bee** to **Jeffrey & Leann Coss**, Pt. SW-NW and NW-SW, Sec. 31, Town

of Spring Lake.

**Tuesday, June 20**  
**Derek Mallon** to **Jeffrey G. & Tena Danovsky**, NE-NW and NW-NW. Sec. 7, Town of El Paso.  
**Timothy J. & Kaysi C. Rixmann** to **Kayla & Jaymes Ross**, Lot 8, Mines Creek, Village of Spring Valley.

**Dale J. & Pamela B. Galienberg** to **Cody & Emily Zwiefelhofer**, Lot 57, Bartosh's Fourth Park View Addition, City of River Falls.

**Wednesday, June 21**  
**Glenn D. & Janet M. Hansen** to **Ravi P. Roelfs**, Lot 137, Spring Creek Estates South, City of River Falls.  
**Stacy J. & Deirdre A. Tschanz** to **Erik C. & Jane W. Kringen**, NW-SW, Sec. 20, Town of Martell.

**Lupine Properties LLC** to **JJ Epoxy Flooring, Inc.**, Lot 111, Block 1, Great River Road Flex Space Condominium, City of Prescott.

**Mortgage Assets Management LLC f/k/a Reverse Mortgage Solutions Inc.** to **Oscar Bustos Rodri-**

**quez**, Lot 31, Clifton Highlands First Addition, Town of Clifton.

**Anthony R. & Trudy L. Huppert** to **Zloh Enterprises LLC**, Outlot 260, Assessor's Plat, Village of Ellsworth; Pt. of Outlot 256, Assessor's Plat, Village of Ellsworth.

**Thursday, June 22**  
**Fetzer Farms Inc.** to **Paul R. & Charlene A. Fetzer Trust**, Pt. NW-NW, Sec. 31, Town of Rock Elm.

**Ryan Patrick & Allison Karen Sura** to **Jeffrey D.**

**& Shelly L. Otten**, Lot 58, Rocky Branch Third Addition, City of River Falls.

**Douglas J. Steinbronn & Michelle R. Perry** to **Sydney S. Welke & Michael J. Conde**, Lot 55, Rolling Hills, City of River Falls.

**Friday, June 23**  
**Shelley R. Wagner** to **Harold P. & Sue M. Hiniiker**, Lot 34, Peacock Ridge Second Addition, City of Prescott.

**John A. Radabaugh** to **Damien A. & Jacqueline Hansen**, Pt. NE-NW, Sec. 14,

Town of Ellsworth.

**John T. Huffaker & Charlene M. Torchia** to **Brenn Properties LLC**, N ½-SW-NW and N ½-NW, Sec. 34, Town of Salem.

**John E. & Karen S. Woehrl** to **Dylan Herme & Kaylee Soeldner**, Pt. NW-NE, Sec. 24, Town of Trim-belle.

**Ronald D. & Kathleen M. Meyer** to **Charles Kaitenberg & Geoffrey Snyder**, Pt. NW-NW, SW-NW, Sec. 13, Town of Oak Grove.



PIERCE COUNTY *Sheriff's Office Reports*

The following incidents were reported to Pierce County Sheriff's Office June 19-25.

**Monday, June 19**  
A suspicious vehicle was reported stopped on the roadway at 7:34 a.m. at 1090<sup>th</sup> Street/Highway 29, River Falls. The plate provided by the caller didn't match the described vehicle. No deputies were able to respond until later, when nothing was located. Stolen property was reported at 9:07 a.m. at W7196 Highway 35, Bay City. Upon further investigation, police determined the suspect was going to return the property. Police responded at 9:51 a.m. to a juvenile complaint in the 400 block of West Shaw Avenue in Elmwood. Two juveniles were not being cared for by an absent parent. Child Protective Services was also contacted. A caller reported a sick raccoon at 10:20 a.m. at Highway 35 and 1208<sup>th</sup> Street, Prescott. Police couldn't locate it. At 11:25 a.m., a caller at N8057 920<sup>th</sup> St., River Falls, reported a former landlord talking bad about him on Facebook. The issue was documented. A caller requested a welfare check at 11:57 a.m. for a person operating an electric wheelchair on the road at Highway 35 and County Road D, Bay City. The person wasn't located. At 12:42 p.m., a caller reported an elderly male pushing a cart along the highway at County Road QQ and Highway 10, Prescott. A passerby offered the man a courtesy ride. At 1:28 p.m., police were informed of an assault that occurred Friday, June 16 at W7196 Highway 35, Bay City. The complainant had no injuries and didn't want to press charges. Police were called at 2:36 p.m. to highways 63 and 35,

Hager City, for spilled seed in the roadway. The highway department helped to remove it. Deputies responded at 5:12 p.m. to cows in the road at 690<sup>th</sup> Street and County Road C, Ellsworth. The cows were moved. Police performed a welfare check at 6:01 p.m. at W7645 165<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hager City. A man said a woman was possibly being held against her will. The involved parties agreed to separate. Officers responded at 7:34 p.m. to County Road A and 385<sup>th</sup> Street, Maiden Rock, for an underage drinking and littering complaint. Deputies were called to a verbal domestic at 8:03 p.m. at W2221 County Road G, Elmwood. A man was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct. Deputies assisted Ellsworth police with an intoxicated man at 9:59 p.m. at 463 E. Wall St. Police responded at 11:02 p.m. to W7196 Highway 35, Bay City, for an argument between a homeowner and renter. Deputies advised the homeowner about the eviction process.

**Tuesday, June 20**  
At 5:25 a.m., deputies assisted UWRF and River Falls police in checking on a man lying on the road near highways 29 and 35. The man had stopped to rest while riding a motorcycle to Elmwood. Five or six Holstein steers were found at 7:21 a.m. at W5985 Highway 63, Ellsworth. A caller reported an abandoned homemade trailer on the roadside at 1:18 p.m. near Highway 63 and 320<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hager City. The trailer was marked and would be removed if not claimed. At 4:32 p.m., a caller at W6217 Highway 63, Ellsworth, reported his was missing six cows.

**Wednesday, June 21**  
A caller requested extra patrol at 7:41 a.m. near 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 810<sup>th</sup> Street, Hager City, due to ATV complaints. Deputies assisted Ellsworth police with a vehicle search at 7:52 a.m. at 163 Evergreen Estates. At 9:54 a.m., a caller reported a suspicious vehicle driving onto DNR property at 770<sup>th</sup> Avenue and County Road F, River Falls. A DNR worker was checking the land for a tree planting project. At 10:06 a.m., a caller reported a suspicious trailer at W7437 Highway 65, Beldenville. The owner of the trailer said they'd move it to their property line. Deputies assisted River Falls police with an alarm at 11:37 a.m. at Westside Elementary (1007 W. Pine St.) Vandalism was reported at 3:18 p.m. at Lions Park (444 Park Road, Plum City). At 5:49 p.m., a person was reported as a runaway at 126 Evergreen Estates St., Ellsworth. At 6:37 p.m., a caller reported possible animal abuse at W12568 695<sup>th</sup> Ave., Prescott. The dog in question didn't show any signs of abuse, appeared to be healthy and was not skittish. Animal abuse laws were explained to the owner. At 7:58 p.m., police received a report about a car mirror striking the bottom of a saddle on a horse carrying a rider at W6951 610<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ellsworth. At 8 p.m. a caller reported finding a red bull in the road at W6750 Highway 29, River Falls. The township was notified. At 9:45 p.m., a caller reported a vehicle doing burnouts and donuts and burning rubber near Highway 35 and 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Bay City. The caller was advised to get a photo of the license plate or vehicle for law enforcement in the future. The vehicle was not

located. A suspicious vehicle was reported at 10:02 p.m. near W5189 County Road G, Elmwood. The vehicle was not located. **Thursday, June 22** At 6:46 a.m., police received a call from Maiden Rock Township regarding an eyesore vehicle parked for months near Highway 35 and Second Street in Maiden Rock. The owner was called. Police received a report of a man and child hitchhiking at 9:47 a.m. at Highway 63 and 220<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hager City. Police could not locate them. A caller reported money lost in an Instagram scam at 10:39 a.m. at W6871 170<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bay City. **Friday, June 23** Police were called about a trespassing complaint at 1:11 a.m. at W10107 500<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hager City. A family member, who is not allowed on the property, was found looking around buildings. They were told to leave. A caller reported an argument with his girlfriend at 11:34 a.m. at W8101 290<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hager City. He didn't want to complete statements but said he'd been threatened. The girlfriend, who had left the residence, said the argument was verbal. A damaged window was reported at 1:37 p.m. at W8069 170<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hager City. Workers thought the shooting damage was caused by a juvenile. A caller reported a suspicious vehicle at 7:44 p.m. at W6318 490<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ellsworth. The driver said he was just turning around and had been talking on his cell phone. Police responded at 7:53 p.m. to N531 County Road S, Maiden Rock, for a female who fell and broke her arm. EMS also responded. At 8:32 p.m., a complainant

reported that someone had driven into their cornfield sometime that day at W7726 Highway 10, Ellsworth. No one witnessed the incident. Police responded to a noise complaint at 9:41 p.m. at N8202 950<sup>th</sup> St., River Falls. The homeowner was warned for shooting off fireworks that may require a permit. Police responded to an armed robbery in progress at 11:48 p.m. at N1090 825<sup>th</sup> St., Hager City. The male suspect fled on foot. **Saturday, June 24** A pig was on the loose at 8:39 a.m. near Highway 29 and County Road W, River Falls. Police could not locate the suspect swine. Police assisted the owner of a lost canoe in returning the watercraft at 10:59 a.m. at W6490 Lake Pepin Blvd., Bay City. Police observed a fire in the back of a residence at 11:23 a.m. at W5483 Highway 72, Ellsworth. At 1:12 p.m., a caller requested a welfare check on someone lying next to a mower at N6312 1170<sup>th</sup> St., Prescott. The owner said he was napping for a bit before finishing mowing. A caller asked for assistance in talking to her boyfriend during a dispute in their vehicle at 3:37 p.m. near W5034 190<sup>th</sup> Ave., Maiden Rock. The phone call ended and police couldn't reach them again upon call back. A family member later reported the two parties were now walking due to vehicle issues but had separated for the evening. Deputies responded at 5:06 p.m. to W10488 County Road FF, River Falls, for an unwanted person. RF police located the person nearby and they were arrested for possession of cocaine, operate without valid license (second within three years), and

misdeemeanor bail jumping (two counts). The woman was taken to Pierce County Jail where a safety plan was put into place. At 5:28 p.m., a complainant reported a person and vehicle blocking traffic on the bridge at Highway 63 and 825<sup>th</sup> Street, Hager City. No one was found. A tree was reported down in the roadway at 7:56 p.m. at Highway 35 and 113<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Maiden Rock. The highway department cleared it. Deputies responded at 10:13 p.m. to the jail (555 W. Overlook Drive, Ellsworth) for an uncooperative man that RF police had brought in. Police responded at 11:13 p.m. to W124 S. Second St., Spring Valley for a possible burglary. Tenants advised they lived there and the address is now an apartment building. There were no sighs of forced entry. Police were called at 11:41 p.m. to Highway 35 and 113<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Maiden Rock for a trespassing complaint. A woman was located and arrested for Douglas County warrants. A possible burglary was reported at 11:46 p.m. at W124 S. Second St., Spring Valley. The tenants again advised they lived there and there were no signs of forced entry.

Sunday, June 25  
Police responded at 1:23 a.m. to W9858 290<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hager City for a disorderly person. When police arrived, the pair had separated and the woman denied anything physical had happened. The man was not located in the area. At 3:31 p.m., a caller at W7037 135<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bay City reported ongoing drag racing issues in the area. Police assisted at a grass fire at 4:41 p.m. at 850<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 29, River Falls.

PRESCOTT *Police Department Reports*

The following incidents were reported to Prescott Police Department June 19-25.

**Monday, June 19**  
**A 17-year-old Rosemount, Minn. juvenile** was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 3:45 a.m. at Highway 10 and Cherry Street. **Michael Bernard Koeplin**, 60, Woodbury, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 7:33 a.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets. A suspicious activity/theft complaint was reported 8:03 a.m. at 800 Canton St. **A 17-year-old Ellsworth juvenile** was cited for unreasonable and imprudent speed after a traffic stop at 10:28 a.m. at St. Croix and Pearl streets. At 3:54 p.m., police assisted the Freedom Park director with security training at 200 Monroe St. Police located a semi parked on private property at 9:22 p.m. at 1750 Ryden Road. Officers responded to a suspicious activity complaint at 11:08 p.m. at 800 Deere Road. The suspects said they were allowed to be behind Kasco. Officers attempted to contact the keyholder.

**Tuesday, June 20**  
**Christina Marie Morrison**, 40, Scandia, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 10:21 a.m. at Warren and Jefferson streets. An officer responded at 1:14 p.m. to a stalled vehicle east of the Highway 10 bridge. Bystanders pushed the vehicle out of the roadway. The driver called family for assistance. At 8:35 p.m., police located a man playing with his dog at the kayak launch on Lake Street. He was informed dogs are no longer allowed to swim there. **Wednesday, June 21** At 12:04 p.m., a caller reported a large black pig walking down the street near 364 N. Court St. The pig returned to its yard. A power pole was found leaning at 1:37 p.m. at Monroe and Washington streets. Police found an open door at 5:41 p.m. at Malone Elementary (505 Campbell St.) They confirmed it was YMCA staff closing up. **Abby Armella Hoffman**, 40, Prescott, was cited for parking in a no-parking area at 6:21 p.m. at 117 Broad St. **Landon Thomas Kucera**, 26, Newport, Minn., was cit-

ed for failure to display boat launch fee at 6:51 p.m. at Ash and Front streets. **Gary Petr Gamayunov**, 31, Ham Lake, Minn., was cited for failure to display boat launch fee at 7:02 p.m. at Ash and Front streets. **Trigg Gerard Ruehle**, 32, Hastings, Minn., was cited for parking in a no-parking area at 7:32 p.m. at 805 Lake St. Police warned two people at 10:14 p.m. for being at the public beach (805 Lake St.) after hours. **Thursday, June 22**  
**Ivan Sushinskiy**, 53, Sacramento, Calif., was cited for parking in a no-parking area at 1:38 a.m. at Dexter Street and Ryden Road. **Miroslav M. Simic**, 63, Chicago, was cited for parking in a no-parking area at 1:53 a.m. at Dexter Street and Ryden Road. **Alexander Todd Metoyer**, 31, Omaha, Neb., was cited for parking in a no-parking area at 1:58 a.m. at Dexter Street and Ryden Road. **Jon William Becker**, 43, Afton, Minn., was cited for parking in a no-parking area at 7:08 a.m. at Ash and Front streets. At 5:09 p.m., police were informed that the Prescott

Lift Bridge lights would be shutting down at night for a week due to the mayflies. **David Thomas Grau**, 36, Ellsworth, was cited for parking in a no-parking area at 5:41 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Second streets. **Kaitlyn McKenzie Shaver**, 22, Cottage Grove, Minn., was cited for parking in a no-parking area at 5:48 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Second streets. **Jerry Alan Miller**, 74, Prescott, was arrested for OWI, operating with PAC, driving on sidewalk and operating left of center line after a driving complaint at 7:23 p.m. at 1000 Highway 10. Police responded at 8:38 p.m. to 504 Canton St. for a report of possible drug activity. Nothing was found. At 9:48 p.m., a caller reported kids walking around the abandoned hospital at 445 Court St. They were warned to stay away. **Friday, June 23**  
**Wendy Louise Carrick**, 55, River Falls, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 6:06 a.m. at 241 Broad St. At 6:57 a.m., an officer spoke with a parent about suspicious activity after a baseball game at 1200 Henry

St. Police responded to a property damage motor vehicle crash at 5:17 p.m. at 1333 Canton St. **Duke Joseph Morales**, 68, Prescott, was cited for operator make illegal right turn on red after a traffic stop at 6:59 p.m. at 1005 Eagle Ridge Drive. **Bryan Paul Fischer**, 57, Rosemount, Minn., was cited for parking in a no-parking zone at 8:15 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Second streets. Suspicious activity was reported at 11:36 p.m. at 1415 N. Acres Road. **Saturday, June 24**  
**Jane Frances McGough**, 61, Lilydale, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 7:56 a.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets. **Cristian Diaz Ledesma**, 26, St. Paul, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 11:51 a.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets. At 11:32 p.m., an officer saw a person break a pool stick at Prescott Tap (138 Broad St.) Management was able to handle the incident. **Sunday, June 25**  
**Christopher Aries**, 24, Hastings, Minn., was cited for

operate without valid license, non-registration of vehicle and operating a motor vehicle without insurance after a traffic stop at 1:11 a.m. at Highway 10 and Lake Street. At 2:06 a.m., police saw two people fighting at 127 Broad St. It turned out to be two people playing around. **James E. Masters**, 67, Pappillion, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 9:30 a.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets. Vandalism was reported at 7:35 p.m. at 644 Campbell St. N. At 8:07 p.m., a caller said juveniles asked someone near 236 Broad St. to buy alcohol for them. They were not located. Police received a fireworks complaint at 9:35 p.m. near Kinnickinnic and Flora streets. None were located. Officers were called at 9:53 p.m. to 213 Locust St. for a disorderly person. Both people said the disagreement never became physical and agreed to separate for the night. **David Joseph Pudans**, 58, Baxter, Iowa, was cited for parking in a no parking zone at 11:49 p.m. at Dexter Street and Ryden Road.

PIERCE COUNTY *Accident Reports*

Officer responded at 1:40 a.m. June 15 to a one-vehicle crash on County Road FF just east of County Road QQ in the town of Clifton. A 2006 Toyota Sienna, driven by **Mason Erik Thorwald Ronning**, 17, River Falls, was driving east on County Road FF in excess of the speed limit when it left the road and drove into the southern ditch. Ronning overcorrected and crossed the center line, drove into the oncoming lane and collided with a tree at W11688 Round Road FF. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Ronning, who wore a seat belt, reported possible injuries but was not transported to a hospital. Police were called at 7:33 a.m. June 15 to a two-vehicle crash on Highway 65 one-third of a mile west of 820<sup>th</sup> Street in the town of River Falls between a 2021 Ford F150, driven by **John Joseph Lukic**, 36, Hudson, and a 2018 Honda HRV, driven by **Jack Eugene Janke**, 19, Ellsworth. Lukic was heading south on Highway 65 and started to slow down for a vehicle in front of him making a right turn into a driveway.

Janke wasn't paying attention, failed to slow down and rear-ended Lukic. The Ford had no damage while the Honda had to be towed due to disabling damage. Lukic, Janke and Janke's passenger **Mason John Thor Anderson**, 20, Ellsworth, wore seat belts and reported no injuries. Deputies responded at 1:36 p.m. June 15 to a two-vehicle crash on Highway 10 just west of 50<sup>th</sup> Street in the town of Union between a 2020 Ford Explorer, driven by **Dustin Scott Edwards**, 37, Plum City, and a 2018 Ram 5500, driven by **Kenneth D. Anibas**, 57, Arkansas. Edwards was heading east on Highway 10 up a hill around a right-hand curve in the middle passing lane around another vehicle when he was struck by a trailer being towed by Anibas. Anibas, who was heading westbound down a hill, passed farm equipment in a no-passing zone and entered the middle lane. The Ford was towed due to disabling damage, while the Ram had no damage. Edwards, Anibas and passenger **Brendan Lance Mock**, 47, Nelson, wore seat

belts and reported no injuries. Anibas was cited for passing in no-passing zone. Officers responded at 3:11 p.m. June 16 to a two-vehicle crash at Highway 10 and County Road QQ in the town of Oak Grove between a 2005 Mack Tank straight truck (for Johnson Sanitation), driven by **Jackson Duane Hager**, 43, Ellsworth, and a 2021 Toyota Tacoma (for Plunkett's Pest Control), driven by **Jake Douglas Stanger**, 34, New Richmond. Hager was heading west on Highway 10 while Stanger was operating north on County Road QQ at the stop sign. Stanger pulled out in front of Hager, who was unable to stop and rear-ended him. Both vehicles had functional damage. Both drivers wore seat belts and reported no injuries. Police were called at 2:59 a.m. June 18 to a one-vehicle crash on Highway 65 six-tenths of a mile north of County Road W in the town of River Falls. A 2014 Kia Sorento, driven by **Breanna Marie Kellin**, 24, Durand, was traveling south on Highway 65, crossed the center line, hit the guardrail and roll

down the hill, where it was stopped by a tree. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Kellin wore a seat belt and reported no injuries. She was arrested for OWI-first. Alcohol test results are pending. Deputies were dispatched at 10:08 a.m. June 18 to a two-vehicle crash at Maple Avenue/County Road S and Court Road in Plum City between a 2004 GMC Sierra, driven by **Rebecca Marie Baader**, 25, Pepin, and a 2000 Chevy Silverado, driven by **Roy F. Inabnit**, 72, Plum City. Baader was heading east on Maple Avenue, while Inabnit was stopped at the stop sign on Court Road waiting to turn east onto Maple Avenue. Inabnit failed to yield the right of way, started to turn left and struck Baader. Both vehicles had minor damage. Inabnit, Baader and passenger **Derek John Baader**, 25, Pepin, wore seat belts and reported no injuries. Police responded at 9:05 p.m. June 18 to a one-vehicle crash on County Road F one-third mile south of 820<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the town of Clifton. A 2000 BMW 323, driv-

en by **Milagro Rodriguez**, 28, Apple Valley, Minn., was traveling south, crossed the center line, spun 180 degrees and struck a guardrail in the northbound lane. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Rodriguez wore a seat belt and reported no injuries. She was cited for inattentive driving and failure of operator to notify police of accident. She had been using her phone at the time of the crash. Officers responded at 9:28 a.m. June 22 to a two-vehicle crash on County Road CC four-tenths of a mile south of 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the town of Salem between a 2006 Ford Escape, driven by **Christopher Brian Caturia**, 29, Plum City, and a 2016 Terex Advance Mixer straight truck, driven by **Mitchell Tod Fisher**, 63, Elmwood. Caturia was heading north on County Road CC, while Fisher was operating south. Caturia dozed off, crossed the center line into oncoming traffic and sideswiped Fisher's truck. Caturia then entered the western ditch and struck a gas line power box before continuing into a corn

field where he damaged the crops. The Ford was towed due to disabling damage while the Mixer had minor damage. Both drivers wore seat belts and reported no injuries. Caturia was cited for operating left of center. Deputies responded at 9:52 a.m. June 22 to a vehicle vs. pole crash at 319 Maple Ave. in Plum City. A 2008 Pontiac Grand Prix, driven by **Kelsey Joy Valdovinos**, 32, Durand, was heading east on Maple Avenue, entered the driveway of 319 Maple Ave. at the end of the street (the wastewater treatment facility), drove through the parking lot, turned to the south and struck a yellow concrete post. First responders at the nearby fire hall located the driver, who had a family member transport her to the hospital in Durand with suspected minor injuries. Valdovinos said her brakes failed going down the hill and that she ran a stop sign, went through a gate and hit the post going about 45 mph. She had recently had brake work done to her vehicle, which was towed due to disabling damage.





Aidan Bowman practicing a routine in the German wheel at Circus Juventas. Photo courtesy of Mel Bowman

# Aidan

from Page 1

He and his fellow preschoolers were backstage with crayons to keep them quiet and busy until it was their time to perform, and all the children ended up with crayon marks staining their once pristine sailor suits. His first memory of his circus training was jumping on a mini vault – a tiny, slanted trampoline – and being too small to bend the springs.

He said there was no “aha” moment when he realized the circus was for him. It was more of a gradual understanding that he enjoyed what he was doing and that he wanted to continue.

This summer, Aidan is busy preparing for one of the highlights on the Circus Juventas calendar: the summer show, which features the school’s advanced students. This year’s summer show, “Excalibur,” boasts a medieval King Arthurian-theme, with chivalrous knights, jousting, a dragon, and even an archer who will release a fire-lit bow and arrow with her feet. In the production, Aidan will entertain audiences with performances on the teeterboard, Russian bar, and as part of a two-person horse puppet in a theatrical jousting scene. (It’s undetermined at this point if he will be the front of the horse or the rear.) This is the first year that Aidan will be performing in the summer show.

The Russian bar, one of Aidan’s specialties, involves a gymnastics-style beam that is held by two porters, while an acrobat performs on the beam. As a porter, Aidan’s role is to keep the bar under the gymnast’s feet, and to help to provide the power to propel the gymnast – or flyer – into the air. In the teeterboard, which resembles a playground seesaw, acrobats are propelled into the air when another performer jumps onto the opposite end. Aidan’s usual role in this routine is to act as a base,

catching the acrobat who is propelled into the air. Aidan is also currently involved with hand-to-hand, in which he also serves as a base.

“In hand-to-hand,” said Aidan, “I throw the other person around. They go off into a different position, and we do catch-and-release tricks.”

Aidan’s parents say their son was never really interested in traditional sports. He tried gymnastics, but Mel said the environment wasn’t very welcoming. He tried swimming, which he enjoyed, but he didn’t have the competitive edge to fit in.

That’s one of the great things about circus performance, said Aidan’s father, Chad.

“You’re not going against another team. Everyone’s helping everyone, and everyone’s working at getting better.”

He adds that it’s easy for students to find something that they want to do in circus performance arts, because there are so many options.

“You can pick something new to do and progress, and if you really like it, you can continue to progress to a higher level. If you decide you don’t like it, you can try something totally different,” he said.

He adds that, unlike a sport like gymnastics, which demands a certain body type, there is no “circus cookie cutter body.”

Mel said that while Aidan is talented, genetics are definitely an asset for her son. Aidan was able to start the German wheel (two large metal wheels connected with horizontal bars, like an acrobatic human-hamster wheel) a year earlier than most kids, because of his height. (One must be big enough to fit in it). She adds that Aidan gave up his German wheel class to specialize in other areas, and also to make room for another student to pursue this act.

“Aidan is a 14-year-old boy who is 5’10”. You can work hard, but you may not be big enough to do the tasks. Aidan always knew he want-



Aidan Bowman, River Falls, at a Circus Juventas practice this year in rest position in the double trapeze. Photo courtesy of Mel Bowman

ed to do these things, and he eventually got big enough to do them,” Mel said.

During the pandemic, Aidan spent many hours lifting weights and working out. She shows a photo of pre-pandemic Aidan, and the transformation from chubby pre-teen into lean, muscular athlete, is marked. Now, with his strength and height, Aidan is a perfect match for hand-to-hand, teeterboard, and Russian bar routines.

Rob Dawson, a Circus Juventas coach, manager, and director, whose experience includes 21 years of performing and coaching with Cirque du Soleil, echoes Chad’s praise of the Circus Juventas program.

“It’s a huge self-confidence booster and a great athletic experience for youth. Being on stage is hard. I see the transformation from being super shy on the first day of class to seeing them performing in front of an audience of 1,000. It’s such a different way of building that confidence than traditional sports,” he said.

Dawson, who has been on staff at Circus Juventas for two-and-a-half years, praises Aidan’s progress “as an acrobat, as a partner, and as a friend to other students. Just to see his personality grow has been great, because he was really an introvert. To see him break out of his shell and build confidence within the group and on stage has been great.”

Aidan’s involvement in Circus Juventas is a family affair for the Bowmans. Parents play an integral role, volunteering on many levels, from set-building and painting, to serving as ushers, spotlights, and ticket-scanners at performances. Not only are one or both of Aidan’s parents at the center six nights a week for his practices, but they also help out volunteering on weekends. “We’re here all the time,” said Mel. “And I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Mel praises the inclusivity of Circus Juventas and the friendly community atmo-

sphere.

Mel admits that her son’s involvement at Circus Juventas has involved financial sacrifice for the family. She said that in the early years, the Bowmans saved money so that Aidan could take his first class as a toddler, but because they didn’t have enough money to pay for his second class, which would have allowed him to take part in the spring show, Aidan missed that performance. Her father-in-law came to the rescue to pay for Aidan’s summer sessions. Shortly thereafter, Mel said she found a better-paying job that allowed Aidan to continue his circus performance education. She said that Aidan is now a scholarship student, which gives him a discount on multiple classes.

In March 2021, Aidan suffered a devastating setback. While on the trampoline, he attempted a trick and landed with his legs lopsided. One leg took on more weight than the other, resulting in a severe fracture. Aidan had two steel rods implanted into his leg, and he was out of practice for six months. As he recuperated, he enrolled in a theater class at Circus Juventas, the only class he was physically able to take with his injury—and something he had not been interested in previously. He also volunteered to help paint the set and he assisted with spotlights – just to keep involved.

Even after sustaining an injury, Aidan insists he never feels like he is in danger, although he jokingly said that perhaps the flyers he is catching do.

“They may be thinking ‘We don’t know if we trust you.’ But we catch them, and everything is fine. We pride ourselves in the fact that we don’t like to drop our flyers, and we rarely do,” he said.

Aidan finds it difficult naming his favorite event at Circus Juventas, but he has come to especially enjoy the Russian bar, where he can showcase the talents of someone else.

“I like to focus on one per-



Aidan Bowman practices Russian bar this June (Aidan is the porter on left). Photo courtesy of Mel Bowman

son doing their own thing, and I like to help make them look good. I’ve accepted that I don’t need to be in the spotlight. I can give that to someone else,” Aidan said.

One of his favorite performance experiences was in this year’s spring show, where he got to don a T-rex costume during a comedy moment of a globe act, with the large spherical globes painted like dinosaur eggs.

“I got to walk on the stage looking all big and scary. I got to bop the kids on the heads, run off the stage, run back on, and then disappear,” he said.

He adds that his mother “plotted” with a coach and a program co-founder to make the dinosaur appearance a reality.

Aidan admits there is nothing like the satisfaction of performing for an enthralled and appreciative audience.

“I like the crowd thinking that this is the coolest thing ever. I like the praise we get as performers. I can’t *not* like that,” he said.

But he said this feeling of satisfaction is dependent on the success of his performance. He recollected a performance at this year’s spring show, where he and two other performers were doing a teeterboard routine called the “two high back balance,” which they had only successfully performed three times before. This act involves another boy standing on Aidan’s shoulders, who then catches the flyer by her back after she’s launched from the teeterboard. The third time, when they performed the trick a couple weeks later at a carnival, was their most successful attempt. “We all thought ‘Wow! We didn’t think this was going to go so well.’ We thought we’d be out of practice,” Aidan said.

In the high school world, finding one’s niche can be challenging for many teens, but Aidan has clearly found a world in which he perfectly fits. He said that he doesn’t always get a lot of praise in other areas of his life.

“I keep my grades up – my parents love that. But in terms of people at my school, this is one of my biggest bargaining chips. I’ve been doing this for so long. Nobody can make fun of me for what I do. I love what I do, so I’m going to continue to do it,” he said.

As far as professional circus aspirations, Aidan said it is yet to be determined if he will attempt to make a career

out of circus performing. He understands that circus performing isn’t something that one can do forever, so he will definitely apply to colleges and get a college education at some point. But, if the possibility of going professional presents itself, he would jump at the chance to do so.

“If I’m getting really good at something, and the person I’m doing it with said ‘let’s go professional,’ I probably wouldn’t say ‘no’ to that.”

He said he would consider the idea of taking a gap year or two to focus on circus performing before going to college.

For now, Aidan has two goals. Number one: To have a successful summer show. And number two: To continue getting better at the things he does.

“To keep yourself up there with the advanced kids, you need to keep improving *with* the advanced kids,” he said. “I’ll continue to work along with them, getting better with them until I graduate. And at that point, it’s kind of like... we’ll see what happens.”

Circus Juventas, co-founded in 1994 by circus performers Dan and Betty Butler, serves more than 2,500 youth, ranging in age from 2 to 18. Students in the program practice and perform in a 21,000-square-foot permanent big top facility, and they benefit from a diverse array of circus arts training and performance opportunities in a noncompetitive setting. Since the program’s inception, many alumni have gone on to professional careers with Cirque du Soleil, Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey, The Wallenda Family, Bello Nock, The Royal Hanneford Circus, Cirque Mechanics, Cirque Eloize, and many other professional circus organizations. In collaboration with Cirque Du Soleil, Circus Juventas offers a two-year Professional Program, geared for circus-bound individuals and those who have aged out of the youth program, who aspire to take their talents to the professional level.

Sixteen Excalibur performances will be held at Circus Juventas from July 28 to Aug. 13. Tickets went on sale June 26 and are available at <https://circusjuventas.showare.com>. Those who are interested in taking classes or donating to the nonprofit can find information on the Circus Juventas website.

# Burglary

from Page 1

desk when she came in Monday morning as well.

The neighboring company, Hager City Express/Schroeder Trucking (W7605 Highway 35, Hager City) had also been broken into. An employee there noticed a window lying in the grass and called police at 7:20 a.m. The window had been intact on Friday, April 28. It appeared to have been broken into by a crowbar. The office door upstairs had similar damage; the door jamb had chips of wood taken out of it that resembled crowbar marks. Nothing was taken from the business, but the damage was estimated to be \$1,500.

Spirit Trucking & Landscape (W8294 Highway 10, Hager City) also reported being burglarized sometime between 10 p.m. April 30

and 2 a.m. May 1. The owner said he’d been onsite until 10 p.m. When he returned the next morning, he found a fist-sized hole in a front window, where someone had reached through to unlock and slide it open. In the main office area, \$100 had been taken from an unlocked cash box.

Inside a second-floor office, drawers had been ripped out of cabinets and their contents strewn all over the office. About \$2,800 in cash and customer checks had been taken from a deposit envelope. Police located a footprint in the dust on a windowsill. The owner found another partial print with details on a wooden stool in an office.

On June 8, a Pierce County investigator learned about suspects in other trucking company burglaries in Minnesota from the St. Croix County Sheriff’s Office. LaCroix and a 34-year-old Hastings, Minn. man, Mitchell Gordon Gobely, who both

drive semi were identified as suspects. Other agencies had received information that the two men owned storage units in Prescott. A crime alert had also been issued for the pair from Lyon County, Minn., listing a 2016 GMC Sierra for Gobely and a 2019 Chevy Silverado for LaCroix.

Cell phone records indicated LaCroix’s cell phone pinged off cell phone towers in the general area of the Pierce County burglaries the evening they occurred. A Pierce County officer drove around Prescott checking storage units for the two trucks; two vehicles registered to LaCroix were found at Midwest Flex Space storage units (660 S. Dexter St.)

On June 12, a Prescott police investigator reported he too had seen the vehicles and a man who looked like LaCroix working on a semi at the storage unit. Police had also received an alert from Yellow Medicine County (Minn.) Sheriff’s Office about a sto-

len semi reported in Blaine, Minn. LaCroix had been the suspect identified in that theft thanks to a reverse dash camera in the semi.

At 4:40 a.m. June 13, PCSO took a report of a semi that had been driven into the Mississippi River just off the Diamond Bluff boat launch. The semi belonged to Joe Cotrone, who had reported it missing in Blaine. The seats and engine parts were missing. A Blaine police officer told PCSO that a black truck had been circling the area and following the semi near the place from which it was stolen (LaCroix owns a black Chevy Silverado).

On June 14, PCSO learned that Gobely had been involved in a domestic incident with his wife in Minnesota. She reported the incident to the Hastings and Cottage Grove police departments June 13. She also spoke about the crimes her husband and LaCroix had been involved in. Po-

lice learned the men started by robbing Applebees and bars in February or March. When they didn’t get enough money from these burglaries, they allegedly started targeting trucking companies.

After taking the safes, she said, they’d bring them to the Prescott flex space storage units to break them open. After taking their contents, they’d dump the safes in the river in Red Wing or Baldwin Lake in Cottage Grove. The pair kept guns, money and personal documents from the safes in the storage units. She said they’d robbed places in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and maybe the Dakotas, especially trucking places on the weekends.

Based off her information, police obtained search warrants for Unit 303. The warrants were executed at 12:55 p.m. that day. LaCroix was inside one of the units and detained in handcuffs. He denied knowing anything about the burglaries or being

anywhere near the businesses at the times of the burglaries in Pierce County. Police learned Gobely had been staying with LaCroix in Cottage Grove.

LaCroix was arrested and transported to Pierce County Jail. Officers obtained a search warrant for Gobely’s storage unit and a garage code from the landlord. Inside Unit 203, they located items that had been removed from the Blaine semi. They also found a metal John Deere box with coins and a blue Miller drawstring bag that were reported stolen in Baldwin.

Gobely has not been charged in Pierce County Circuit Court. However, he has been charged in St. Croix County Circuit Court with two felony burglary building or dwelling charges. A warrant for his arrest was issued June 22.

La Croix is scheduled for a status conference at 8:30 a.m. July 20.



# EPL

## from Page 1

Her book documents the lightning strike that killed seven people at a circus performance in River Falls in 1893.

The Ellsworth Public Library has prioritized local art and history displays for years, and the most recent display relives one of the largest pastimes from the time period.

Youth Services/Program Coordinator Caroline Herfindahl hopes the display brings people of all ages to the library to learn about the county's history. Herfindahl said the library's annual theme of togetherness is similar to how people from all over came together to put on the circus, and people came together to watch.

"Our theme this year is 'All Together Now' and the circus is a lot of people that come together to put on a show," Herfindahl said.

Herfindahl believes the circus was so popular at the time because people could go their whole lives never seeing an elephant or tremendous trapeze act. Now,

people can view the acts at the click of a button.

"There's the pictures of the elephants and camels and stuff walking down Main Street," Herfindahl said. "This would have been like going to the movies."

Herfindahl said she often imagines what it would be like to be in the pictures at the time and live through those much different experiences.

The art pieces are made from small items such as tuna cans and cigar boxes. Things that other people may consider as having no value, Schaefer turns into centerpieces of colorful projects.

During the pandemic, times were not always happy for people, sparking Schaefer to continue the circus series to give people a reason to smile.

"I chose the circus because I wanted to do something that was small, and would be lighthearted," Schaefer said. "Something that when it was done and when it was on display would lift people's spirits."

Recently a friend of Schaefer's daughter from Minneapolis 3-by-5-foot found a wall-hanging art



One of the smaller pieces of Trudi Schaefer's circus display made out of a sardine can on the left. On the right is a piece inspired by May Wirth, a famous trick rider. Photo by Andrew Harrington

piece of the circus. Schaefer created the wall-hanging for two children in the 1970s but had no recollection of doing so.

Finding this piece made Schaefer emotional, realizing this interest in the circus has gone on much longer than she remembered.

"I guess I've had this thing about the circus in

my head for a long time," Schaefer said.

When Schaefer finished the project, she knew she did not want to separate the pieces from each other by selling them individually. The 16 pieces are all connected, and Schaefer wants the art to be displayed in public places such as libraries and hospitals.

Three women from circus history inspired Schaefer to make three centerpieces of the display. The first was May Wirth, a trick rider known for doing things such as back somersaults from one horse to another during the early 1900s.

The second inspiration was Antoinette Concello, an early 1900s trapeze artist

who became known as "the greatest women flyer of all time."

Maria Spelterini was the final inspiration, an 1800s tightrope walker who accomplished many things such as crossing Niagara Falls many times, skipping and going backwards the whole way.

"Circus life can be kind of dodgy, and it's not the life for everybody," Schaefer said. "But these women show the good side of that."

Herfindahl said women in the circus are not always highlighted, but spotlighting them can spark a desire to learn.

"We don't always necessarily think about women in the circus and what that life might have been like," Herfindahl said. "I hope they find a lot of whimsy and interest in her pieces, but also maybe spark a little curiosity to learn."

There will be a meet the artist open house 5:30-7:30 p.m. July 6 at Ellsworth Public Library. At 1 p.m. July 18, Peter Shrake will give a Wisconsin circus history presentation.

The display will be available for viewing until July 28.

## SVSSP events abound in July

SPRING VALLEY – Spring Valley Seniors Staying Put, Inc. (S312 McKay Ave. PO Box 193) offers an array of non-medical volunteer services to help seniors and adults with disabilities maintain their independence in Spring Valley and Elmwood. They also offer people the chance to volunteer in the rural tradition of "neighbors helping neighbors." These services are offered at no charge, but donations are graciously accepted.

SVSSP has new office hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. Call 715-778-5800 for a complete listing of services.

**Transportation:** Staying Put provides local and non-local transportation for groceries, banking, and medical appointments. Call 715-778-5800.

**Meals on Wheels:** For info on home-delivered meals, call ADRC of Pierce County at 715-273-6780/toll free 877-273-0804. Can you deliver meals? Call 715-778-5800. Congregate senior dining will be available at Mooney's 11 a.m. to noon Tuesday through Friday.

**Coffee Klatch:** 10-11 a.m. Monday through Friday at the Staying Put office

(occasional cancellation). Enjoy a visit over fresh coffee or tea, donated treats. All clients and volunteers are welcome to drop in!

**Memory Café:** Every second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. This is a social get-together for older adults held 10-11:30 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, S520 Church Ave., SV. Come share your memories with a friend or companion. Have fun and share stories, enjoy coffee, tea and treats, all are welcome. For info or a ride, call Staying Put at 715-778-5800.

**New! Monthly Birthday Celebrations:** 2 p.m. July 19 at Staying Put Office. Members with July birthdays invited to register or drop in for treats, games and prizes!

**Monthly Music at Local Care Facilities:** Noon Thursday, July 27 at Spring Valley Villas. Join for some tunes form a youth pianist and visit with residents!

**Strong Bodies fitness sessions:** Co-sponsored by Pierce County ADRC. Classes are held 9:30-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays at the SV Village Hall. Call to register at 715-778-5800.

**Monthly library books/movies/tapes delivered:**

Staying Put is partnering with the SV Library to deliver monthly orders for the homebound in Spring Valley and Elmwood. Call Staying Put at 715-778-5800. We will bring you an application and discuss books and authors of choice.

**Bingo:** 1 p.m. every Wednesday, Spring Valley Public Library (E121 S. Second St.)

**Care Baskets:** Assembled and donated by a Staying Put volunteer, delivered to members experiencing loss, illness, loneliness. Please call the office if you have a tip: 715-778-5800.

**Tech Workshop:** For personal help on your electronic device, call 715-778-5800.

**NEW! Animal Companionship.** A certified therapy dog will come to visit. 715-778-5800.

**Animal Care:** Need some assistance w/animal-care? Call Staying Put at 715-778-5800.

**Walking Buddies:** Want somebody as a walking companion? Call 715-778-5800.

*Submitted by Spring Valley Seniors Staying Put*

## Mark your calendar for RiverFest on July 18-22

HUDSON – Hudson's 11th annual St. Croix RiverFest celebration is set for July 18-22. Hudson will celebrate the St. Croix River the annual summer "Party with a Purpose" with activities designed to inspire people of all ages to actively celebrate the river while recognizing the need to protect the river's health and beauty.

RiverFest kicks off with the annual river clean-up at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 18. The river clean-up is the "purpose" for the RiverFest celebration. Those participating in the cleanup will meet at Lakefront Park Bandshell and then collect trash along the riverfront. Lunch will be provided for clean-up crews at Picnic Point at the south end of Lakefront Park. Following lunch at 11:30 a.m., Carpenter Nature Center will present animal ambassadors.

On Tuesday evening, families with young children will enjoy The Toonies ENVIRO-FUN Puppet Show at the Lakefront Park Bandshell at 7 p.m. A new event this year is the free family-friendly movie "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" at Lakefront Park. Bring a picnic blanket and watch the movie under the stars. There will be kid-friendly pre-movie activities from 8-9:20 p.m.

On Wednesday, July 19 you can get out and enjoy the river with the Minnesota and



The annual river clean-up is the "purpose" for the RiverFest celebration. Join in at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 18 at the Hudson Bandshell to help collect trash along the riverfront. Photo courtesy of Jacki Bradham

Wisconsin National Scenic Riverway Tour on St. Croix River Cruises with a fajita dinner in the evening.

The St. Croix Valley Community Band concert on Thursday, July 20 at the Hudson Bandshell is one of the highlights of RiverFest. Partner organizations will have booths with information and demonstrations before the concert starts at 7 p.m. The concert will include musical selections that celebrate our wild and scenic St. Croix River.

Another new event is the Carpenter Nature Center's Wisconsin Campus Bioblitz. It starts at 3 p.m. Friday, July 21 with a variety of programs and hikes that run through

noon on Saturday. All ages are welcome at this free program.

Other Riverfest activities include: Storytime, Talewise and crafts at the Hudson Area Public Library; a foraging walk; a scavenger hunt and kayaking at Willow River State Park; and on Saturday, July 22, the Native American celebration followed by a speaker presentation "Indigenous Scars: Wisconsin Masseur & Boarding Schools."

A complete list of RiverFest activities and event details are available at St-CroixRiverFest.org or on Facebook.

*Submitted by Jacki Bradham*

## CVTC approves budget amidst state Assembly's property tax levy debate

EAU CLAIRE – The Chippewa Valley Technical College District Board approved the 2023-24 budget as proposed during its meeting on Thursday, June 22. This approval comes just a day after the state Assembly indefinitely postponed the vote on Assembly Bill 2, which posed a threat to the technical colleges' ability to levy property taxes for operating and maintenance expenses.

Sunem Beaton-Garcia, CVTC president, expressed her gratitude to the private

and public sector leaders who contacted Assembly persons to voice their concerns.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to our business partners throughout our 11-county district. The strong connection we have with our stakeholders allows us to be responsive and best serve the needs of our local constituents," Beaton-Garcia said. "We are grateful to the Assembly for their reconsideration of the proposed amendment for further consideration and discussion."

"Local funding contrib-

utes to local buy-in, and mixed funding streams provide greater stability. We will continue to educate the public on the importance of our funding and our essential role in our communities."

CVTC's budget calls for total expenditures of \$113,626,637, a reduction of 2.59 percent from the 2022-23 budget due mainly to the completion of referendum projects. General fund revenues are projected to be \$60,264,644, up 1.24 percent from 2022-23.

An estimated six percent increase in property values will result in a decrease in the tax rate of 0.03 percent from \$71.20 per \$100,000 of property value to \$71.18. The proposed tax levy – the amount collected throughout the CVTC district for support of the College – is \$25,576,325, up 5.97 percent from the previous year, and is related to an increase in debt service cost.

With more than 120 programs offered online and on-campus, Chippewa Valley Technical College delivers innovative, applied, and flexible education that supports a diverse community of learners, improves the lives of students, and adds value to our communities.

*Submitted by CVTC*

## PPCS announces Electrical Safety Poster Contest winners

ELLSWORTH – As part of National Electrical Safety Month, Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) teamed up in May to host an electrical safety poster contest that was open to all third graders in Pierce and Pepin counties.

Azalyn Larson of Caddie Woodlawn Elementary in Durand was awarded the first-place prize and a \$40 gift card, and Hailee Thoner of St. Francis Elementary in Ellsworth was awarded the second-place prize and a \$30 gift card. Larson also received a \$25 gift card from WECA for her first-place finish.

PPCS has forwarded their posters to WECA for judging in the statewide contest. The WECA statewide contest is open to children of PPCS members. WECA will award a Chromebook to the first-place winner, a \$100 dollar gift card to the second-place winner, and a \$75 dollar gift card to the third-place winner.

*Submitted by Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services*



Azalyn Larson from Caddie Woodlawn Elementary in Durand won first place and received a total of \$65 in prizes from PPCS and WECA. Photo courtesy of PPCS



Hailee Thoner from St. Francis Elementary in Ellsworth received a \$30 gift card from PPCS for second place. Photo courtesy of PPCS

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# ELLSWORTH *Area News*

## Say cheese! Another Cheese Curd Festival in the books



Workers at "Cheese Curd Central" prepared freshly fried Ellsworth cheese curds to be served to customers Friday, June 23. Photo by Andrew Harrington



Attendees were welcomed with large signs, colorful posters and a map for people to pin where they are from at the 2023 Cheese Curd Festival in Ellsworth. Photo by Andrew Harrington



The Cheese Curd Festival Car Show Friday night featured many sweet rides, including this 1978 Cadillac Eldorado owned by Stever Karger. Photo by Andrew Harrington



Jack Knife & The Sharps kicked off the live music on the main stage on Friday, June 23 at Cheese Curd Festival with their "unique upbeat style." Photo by Andrew Harrington



Fifteen-year-old Hayden Ekholm, of River Falls, was the first runner to cross the finish line during the Cheese Curd 5K Saturday, June 24. Photo by Jack McLoone



(From left): Sen. Jeff Smith, Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez and Rep. Warren Petryk were on hand as Cheese Curd Festival volunteers Saturday, June 24. Photo by Jack McLoone



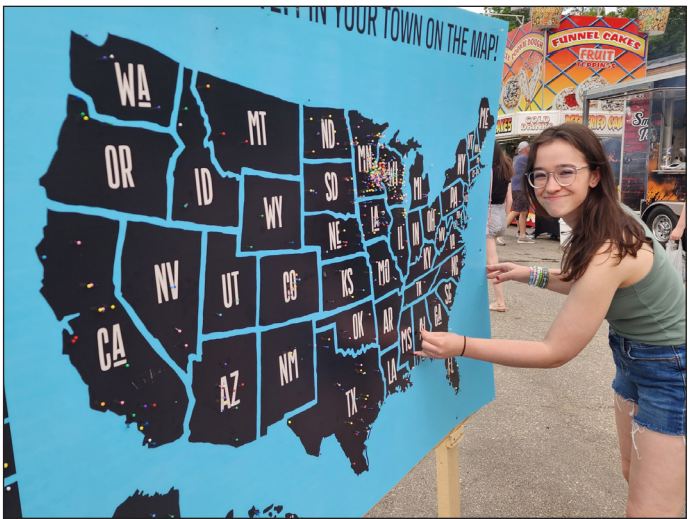
Wall Street was a foodie's dream during the 2023 Cheese Curd Festival. Attendees could find all sorts of cheese curd-infused dishes, including bacon wrapped jalapeno peppers, mini donuts, nachos, pizza and more. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



This year's featured flavor at Cheese Curd Festival was Nacho Supremo, a combination of taco, sour cream and a bit of jalapeno. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



Ellsworth Lions Club members Sharlene Kreye (left) and Margaret Volenec served up fresh, hot cheese curds at "Cheese Curd Central" Saturday morning. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



Lydia Olsen of Tuscaloosa, Alabama placed her pin on the map at Cheese Curd Festival in Ellsworth Saturday. Visitors came from all 50 states and several countries. Attendees numbered around 25,000 this year, considered a win thanks to the weather reports and downpour. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



Cheese Curd Festival visitors were greeted by the opportunity to color on a large mural when they entered the festival grounds. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



Meghan Griffin and Karol Dyrkacz of St. Paul took an opportunity to get a photo at the giant "CURDS" sign when entering the Cheese Curd Festival grounds Saturday, June 24. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



Ten-year-old Carolina Young was one of more than 300 community volunteers who helped Cheese Curd Festival 2023 run smoothly. Young worked in the curd merch store on Broadway Street. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



Competitors in Saturday's cheese curd eating contest were laser-focused on their mission Saturday, June 24 at Cheese Curd Festival. Photo courtesy of Cheese Curd Festival Committee



The Block Party is always a popular event at Cheese Curd Festival, where people can taste a variety of cheeses. Photo courtesy of CCF Committee



Ellsworth Lions Club member Margaret Volenec and Joe Dotlich of Rush River Brewery served customers at the Craft & Curd: Paired event during last weekend's Cheese Curd Festival. Photo courtesy of CCF Committee

## EPL has full slate of July events

The Ellsworth Public Library Summer Program runs June 26 through Aug. 4. Participate in the reading and activities challenge to earn free books and chances at prizes. Visit us in person at the library or visit the Summer Fun page on our website for complete details or to find out how to sign-up!

**Events**

**The Circus: Smallest Show** on Earth by Trudi Schaefer and Fred Johnson: Early Selfie Photographer art exhibits continue through July 28.

**Poolside Storytime:** Thursdays during the 2:30

p.m. swim break - July 6, 13, 20 and 27 at the Klaas-Jonas Pool

**Friday Morning Storytime:** 10:10 a.m. Fridays in East End Park\* (rain location: library) - July 7, 14, 21 and 28. July 7 features the Ellsworth Fire Department, July 14 will be at the Ellsworth Post Office\*, July 21 special animal guests - mini horses, July 28 features Ellsworth EMS and its ambulance.

**Pint-Sized Polkas** at 1 p.m. July 5 in Summit Park, plus FREE live caricatures by Nelson Brown before and after the show.

**Meet the Artist Open**

**House with Trudi Schaefer:** 5:30-7:30 p.m. July 6. Come view the show, enjoy circus-inspired treats and refreshments along with circus-inspired crafts and activities in the Makerspace

**Stitchin' Time Crafts:** 10 a.m. July 10 in the Meeting Room

**Tech Time:** Starting at 10:30 a.m. July 10 in the Study Room. Get one-on-one tech help; call the library for an appointment.

**Discover Together Tuesday: Securing Your Computer, Devices and Digital Info** with Reuben Herfindahl: 11 a.m. July 11 at Ellsworth

Senior Center. Luncheon following sponsored by the Senior Center and Friends of the Library

**The Everybody Club:** On July 11, meet children's author Nancy Loewen and learn the special origins of her book "The Everybody Club," with treats, book reading and crafts

**Traveling Lantern Theater** presents "Rhonda Applesseed" at 1 p.m. July 12 in Summit Park

**Morning Book Club:** 10:30 a.m. July 15 in the Meeting Room; virtual author visit from Lucy Sanna at 11 a.m.

**Teen Meetup:** July 13 at Summit Park; bring your ten-

nis gear or play outdoor games provided by library. We'll grill out and have a picnic too. Registration is preferred.

**Wisconsin Circus History:** 1 p.m. July 18 with Circus World Library Archivist Peter Shrake in the Makerspace.

**LEGO at the Library:** 3:30-5:30 p.m. July 18 in the Makerspace

**Nature's Niche Remnants of the Rainforest Animal Show:** 10 a.m. July 19 in Summit Park

**Community Book Club:** 6:30 p.m. July 20 in the Meeting Room

**Robotics Exploration:** 10 a.m. July 22 in the Mak-

erspace. Ages 8+; registration recommended.

**Stitchin' Time Crafters:** 10 a.m. July 26 in the Meeting Room

**Paul Halter Comedy Juggler:** 1 p.m. July 26 in Summit Park

**Together Thursday:** Part of the E3 Summer Fun Series, music 5:30-7:30 p.m. by The Pickled Beats in East End Park

Mark your calendars for our Aug. 1 **National Night Out Library Block Party**; more info soon

*Submitted by Youth Services/Program Coordinator Caroline Herfindahl*



# RIVER FALLS *Area News*

## Kennedy Street residents express concerns over sidewalk proposal

By Andrew Harrington

RIVER FALLS – The River Falls City Council June 13 meeting saw public concerns over a potential sidewalk and the denial of a concert at City Hall.

The 10 public comments during the meeting all came in opposition to the proposal of a sidewalk on Kennedy Street created to connect South Main Street to Wells Park and give people easier and safer access to the two.

Pat Armstrong, who lives on Kennedy Street, was against the sidewalk, listing negatives and saying the road is wide enough to introduce a walking lane or a bike lane.

“The sidewalk will be two feet closer to our houses, and people will be able to probably see in our houses,”

Armstrong said. “And some neighbors are going to lose a lot of their driveways, and not be able to park ‘cause you can’t block the sidewalk. And a lot of neighbors have gotten their yards really fixed up nice. They’re going to lose all that too.”

Armstrong also expressed concern that some of the trees and other nature that currently occupy the space the sidewalk would take would be destroyed.

Fellow Kennedy Street resident Joe Munson said despite taking regular trips to the park with a family that includes three young kids, there has not been a time they felt unsafe walking on the road.

Munson believes the road is wide enough to work toward another solution, recalling

a story of a car break-in before moving to the property without a sidewalk.

“I’ve had my car broken into one time only, and I’m pretty sure it was because of the sidewalk,” Munson said. “I’m confident it was school kids walking by and broke into it.”

Munson said if the car was 10-12 feet further away from pedestrians, no one would have thought to break in.

Ben Miller disapproved of the number of housing units added to the end of the road already, and considers the sidewalk another disruption to the neighborhood.

“You guys have already disrupted us, jamming in how many units on either end of our development; now you are going to come in and just tear it all up,” Miller said.

Seven more Kennedy Street residents came forward with similar concerns to Armstrong, Munson and Miller, hoping the sidewalk does not get approved.

**Music in the Park**

The council unanimously rejected a proposal for Community Arts Base (CAB) “Music in the Park” to be held at City Hall from 7-9 p.m. on July 27 and 6:30-9 p.m. on Aug. 24. The event has taken place for years at Veterans Park, but CAB expects two of its concerts to have a larger attendance than the park can accommodate.

A concern that led to the rejection of the proposal was Municipal Court being scheduled from 4:30-7 p.m. on each of the concert days. Council members felt it

would be disrespectful to the court and the defendants to have music playing outside of the building.

Alderperson Diane Odeen was open to CAB selecting different days to hold the event at City Hall.

**Camping on public property**

The council approved an ordinance to prohibit camping on public property that was primarily discussed during the May 23 meeting.

Odeen proposed an amendment to strike the statement “and all public right-of-ways” due to the city already having ordinances in place to handle parking duration on public right-of-way. These rules in place led to Odeen looking to only enforce the ordinance on land

owned or leased by the City of River Falls in this specific camping ordinance.

The council then unanimously approved the amended ordinance.

**White Birch LLC**

The city council agreed to development and purchase agreements with White Birch LLC to construct a 20,000 square-foot, multi-tenant building in the River Falls Industrial Park on a three-acre plot.

Overall, the development is valued at \$2.5 million and 5,000 square feet will be used by White Birch for operations. The remaining space will be leased.

## Gov. Evers signs Shared Revenue Bill

*Bill will bring locally generated tax dollars back to Wisconsin communities*

RIVER FALLS – The City of River Falls is proud to announce that after almost a year of work with its partners, the legislature, and the governor, Gov. Tony Evers signed the Shared Revenue Bill, AB245, on Tuesday, June 20.

Mayor Dan Toland and the River Falls City Council would like to thank Evers, Rep. Shannon Zimmerman, Rep. Warren Petyk, and Sen. Jeff Smith for their support of the Shared Revenue Bill. Additionally, they would like to recognize Speaker Robin Vos, Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, and the bill authors, Sen. Mary Felzkowski and Rep. Tony Kurtz, for their initiative and guidance throughout the process.

Supporting the League of Wisconsin Municipalities in their effort to increase shared revenue from the state to municipalities became an official legislative priority by a resolution of the River Falls Common Council on April 11, 2023. Over the past two years, city staff have been involved in this process by serving on advisory committees, meeting with legislators, and attending the 2023 Joint Finance Committee hearing. The historic shared revenue funding change is the result of a coordinated effort

of local and state partners who worked across political party lines to bring this needed modification to the people of Wisconsin and the City of River Falls.

The outcome of the Shared Revenue Bill has a profound effect on state and local government funding structure and will result in increased sustainability of police, fire, EMS, public works, and the other essential services provided by local government.

The bill dedicates one full penny of the state sales tax, amounting to more than \$1.5 billion annually, to local governments. It includes a real increase of 27% in shared revenue payments to the city to support public safety and street improvements. Future county and municipal aid increases will be based on estimated increases in sales tax revenue.

“I am encouraged that the state has committed to using locally generated tax dollars in ways that will directly benefit our community,” said Toland. “This will help ensure that residents have access to high quality vital services, including fire, police, and street maintenance.”

Submitted by City of River Falls

## 2023 Mayor’s Cookout Conversations set to make a splash

RIVER FALLS – Mayor Dan Toland and River Falls City Councilmembers will return to city parks this summer with hotdogs and ice cream in tow for the 2023 Mayor’s Cookout Conversations.

The annual event series, which began in 2019, provides community members the opportunity for casual conversation with the city council, a free meal, and the chance to get to know their neighbors. The mayor and council will hold Cookout Conversations at four city parks this summer, with the first scheduled for 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 29 at Glen Park.

“While we hope that community members feel empowered to approach us at City Council meetings, we know that the formal setting can feel intimidating,” said Mayor Dan Toland. “The Mayor’s Cookout Conversations offer an opportunity to talk to us person-to-person, neighbor-to-neighbor, while we enjoy a good, old-fashioned cookout together.”

While the city’s previous Cookout Conversation events have focused mainly on socializing over food and drink, this year’s cookouts will involve collaboration with the city’s Park and Recreation department to include interactive activities for all ages.

Each of the four cookouts will feature a different lineup of activities. At the Glen Park cookout on June 29, community members can enjoy a free evening swim at Glen Park Pool, cornhole, and a googly-eyed monster finger puppet craft session led by recreation staff.

“The Mayor’s Cookout Conversations provide a great opportunity to gather with your neighbors and celebrate summer in a few of our wonderful city parks,” Community Services Director/City Clerk Amy White said. “Bringing in the city’s recreation staff this year will only amp up the fun.”

Community members of



River Falls Mayor Dan Toland (right) grills up hotdogs during a previous Mayor’s Cookout Conversation. Photo courtesy City of River Falls



A family enjoys a meal at a previous City of River Falls Mayor’s Cookout Conversation gathering. Photo courtesy of City of River Falls

all ages are encouraged to attend. Veggie dogs will be available as a meat alternative. For more information, visit <https://www.rfcity.org/997/Cookout-Conversations>.

*Please note: This is an informal gathering. There will be no official city business conducted by the mayor and council at these events.*

Park (630-632 Glen Park Road)

July 20, 6-7:30 p.m.: Ostness Park (100 N. Second St.)

Aug. 24, 6-7:30 p.m.: DeSanctis Park (1625 DeSanctis Place)

Sept. 21, 6-7:30 p.m.: Wells Park (250 Kennedy St.)

Submitted by City of River Falls

**Schedule**  
June 29, 6-7:30 p.m.: Glen



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# RIVER FALLS DAYS

**JULY 13-16 2023**

**MUSIC HEADLINERS**

**THURSDAY**



**THE DWEEBES**  
7PM

**FRIDAY**



**COREY WISE**  
7:30PM

**SATURDAY**



**THEM PESKY KIDS** | 7:30PM

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The River Falls High School baseball team celebrates together after winning a game last summer. Starting in the spring of 2025, the Wildcats will share the First National Bank of River Falls Field with the UWRF baseball team. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



The First National Bank of River Falls field has become home to several local teams since its construction finished just under a decade ago. The University of Wisconsin-River Falls baseball team will be its newest occupant starting in 2025. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

## RF Baseball Council, UWRF nearing historic agreement regarding future home of Falcon baseball

By Reagan Hoverman

The River Falls Baseball Council and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls are nearing an agreement that would make the First National Bank of River Falls Field the future home of UWRF baseball, which will be reinstated at the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year.

While monetary compensation and official timetables have yet to be finalized, Greg Peters, who is president of the River Falls Baseball Council Board of Directors, has indicated that the council and UWRF are expected to finalize a two-year, \$45,000 per year contract in mid-July.

"That's what is proposed, but we haven't signed it yet," Peters said. "I think it will be finalized in mid-July. That's what both sides seem to agree on and both sides have been cordial the whole way. I assume it's going to be good."

The River Falls Baseball Council, which is led by Peters and vice president Ryan Bish-

op, along with a dozen other at-large members, calculated the annual cost for UWRF baseball through basic arithmetic regarding operational expenses and wear and tear to the facility.

"We looked at the longevity of the turf and all of the hours and games that will be on there," Peters said. "That's how we came up with the number. We're going to have to replace (the turf) in probably 15 years and that will be a big price tag that we're responsible for."

In addition to a full turf replacement sometime in the next 15 years, the River Falls Baseball Council will have to provide smaller replacements annually to the most heavily trafficked areas that won't survive the more than 600 practices and games per year among all teams.

Those areas include home plate, the pitcher's mound and second base, all of which will create extra out-of-pocket costs for the River Falls Baseball Council. Peters spoke about how some of those smaller replacements fac-

tored into the price negotiations with UWRF.

"There will be needed repairs with home plate, second base and the pitcher's mound and those will add probably \$10,000 to our bills every year with UWRF coming in," Peters said. "We're not making money off of it, I'll tell you that. We're a non-profit organization, so we're not supposed to anyway."

The price negotiations regarding the future home of Falcon baseball came on the heels of UWRF's announcement that it would be reinstating baseball as a school-sanctioned sport, as was made official by athletic director Crystal Lanning on Thursday, June 1.

"It's been something that we've been discussing for a while, at least since I've been athletic director," Lanning said. "Our new chancellor, Maria Gallo, was looking for new opportunities to grow enrollment and she saw the success of our student-athletes. Not just athletically, but they tend to have better GPAs, retention and graduation rates. We were the only Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) school without

baseball, so it made a lot of sense."

Both Peters and Lanning are closely tied to the future of baseball in River Falls, but they aren't as deeply ingrained in its history as Josh Eidem, who is one of the at-large members of the River Falls Baseball Council. Eidem is also a player/manager for the River Falls Fighting Fish, the local amateur town ball team that he helped establish in 2008.

The sport is in Eidem's blood, and his history within River Falls dates back more than two decades, as he was a captain on the University of Wisconsin-River Falls baseball team the year the program got suspended in 2002.

Although the day he found out the baseball program was being suspended was more than two decades ago, Eidem hasn't forgotten the pain of learning that his dream of playing college baseball for four years was being prematurely extinguished.

Perhaps it's a testament to how much

See BASEBALL COUNCIL, Page B-3



Ellsworth guard Jack Stoltenburg, who is entering his sophomore year this fall, brings the ball up the floor during the UWRF Falcon Shootout on Saturday, June 17. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

## Ellsworth boys' basketball sees spike in offseason involvement

By Reagan Hoverman

Whether it's open gym hours, weight lifting sessions or competing for an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) program, the Ellsworth boys' basketball team has seen a significant spike in overall offseason involvement this summer.

The rise in participation has been no accident. When Ellsworth head coach Derek Staley took the reins last summer, one of his primary goals was to overhaul offseason programming and cultivate a culture around continual improvement.

That culture has developed, despite Ellsworth's 5-20 record last season, which was its worst since 2014-15. Staley, who is entering his second year, is still constructing the foundation of his program. Rebuilding is often accompanied by adversity, which his players haven't shied away from. Instead, they've embraced it, as offseason numbers have done nothing but skyrocket.

"I thought (our numbers) would spike at some point, but I didn't know when it was going to happen," Staley



Ellsworth senior Parker Woodland buries a free throw during the Panthers' last game at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Falcon Shootout on Saturday, June 17. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

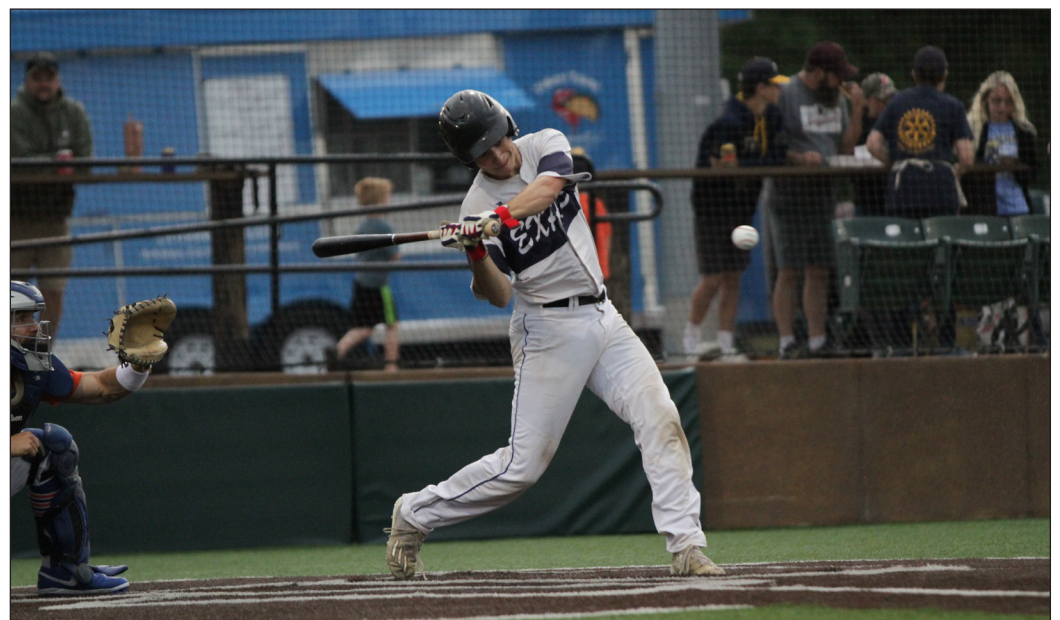
said. "We had a down year last year in terms of varsity record, and you never know

what that's going to do for

See BASKETBALL, Page B-3



Second baseman Kyle Trainor of the Elmwood Expos baseball team drifts into position moments before catching a flyout during the road game against River Falls on Saturday, June 24. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Elmwood Expos catcher Spencer Trainor takes a cut during the road game against River Falls on Saturday evening. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

## Elmwood Expos climbing back into postseason contention

By Reagan Hoverman

After a rocky start to the 2023 campaign that included dropping five of the first six games, the Elmwood Expos won four of their next five and promptly reinserted themselves in the hunt for a postseason berth.

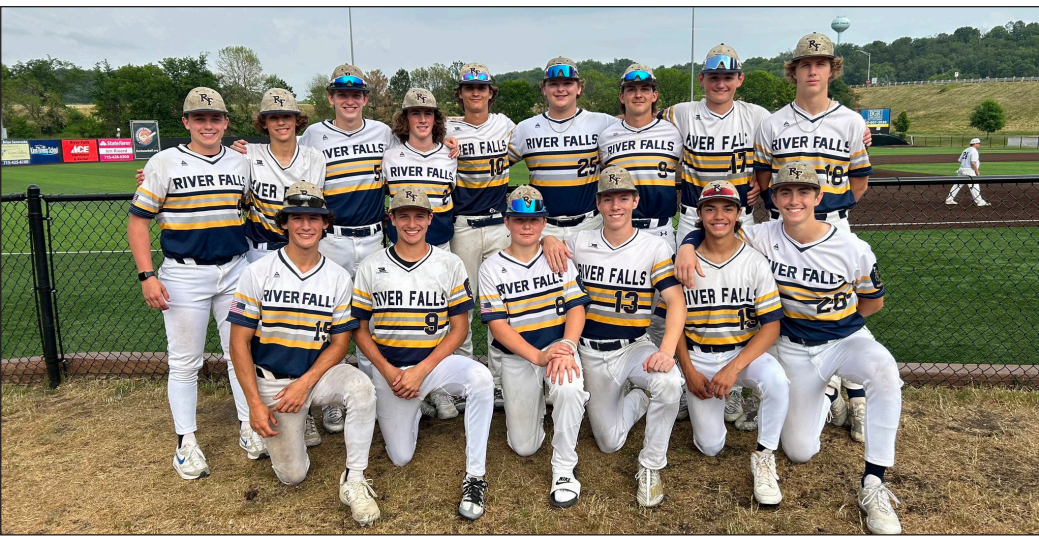
The Expos' turbulent beginning to the summer included defeats against Plum City, River Falls, Spring Valley and a pair against the Hudson River Rats. Staring down the barrel of early elimination, Elmwood responded, in large part because of the presence of its veteran players.

Player/manager Tom Sauve, who has been with the Expos for approximately half a decade, believes that his team's positive response to adversity was largely because of the veteran players on the roster.

Elmwood has a mix of long-time franchise legends alongside younger players who are in their third or fourth season with the team. According to Sauve, that's typically the time when young players acclimate to St. Croix Valley Baseball League competition and play to their potential.

See EXPOS, Page B-3





The 2023 River Falls Legion Post 121 baseball team celebrates together after defeating Chippewa Falls in the final game of the first weekend tournament of the year in River Falls on Sunday, June 18. Legion Post 121 beat Fond du Lac, Holmen and Chippewa Falls to go 3-0 for the weekend. Photo courtesy of River Falls High School Baseball



**Wildcats**

**ELI CONDON**  
**RIVER FALLS**

5'9" • 160 LBS • R/R  
PITCHER

HS ENROLLMENT: 1191 (D1)  
BIG RIVERS CONFERENCE  
WBCA HEAD COACH  
**RYAN BISHOP**

FUTURE PLANS  
**UW-LA CROSSE**



**15 Eli Condon**

Condon All Star Profile. Graphic courtesy of River Falls High School Baseball

# Young players showing early development with River Falls Legion baseball

*RF senior Eli Condon selected for Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Classic*

By Reagan Hoverman

A majority of River Falls’ varsity baseball players have chosen to play club or amateur baseball this summer instead of Legion competition, which has paved the way for younger Wildcats to get precious varsity experience throughout the summer season.

This year’s River Falls Legion Post 121 baseball team features just a handful of players who have ever seen legitimate innings of varsity action. The roster consists primarily of JV athletes looking to refine skills and develop an identity before next spring’s high school season.

Given River Falls’ lack of returning varsity experience, Legion Post 121 was the youngest, most inexperienced team at both weekend tournaments thus far. Despite that, River Falls has held its own and amassed a 6-4 overall record through the first two weeks of action.

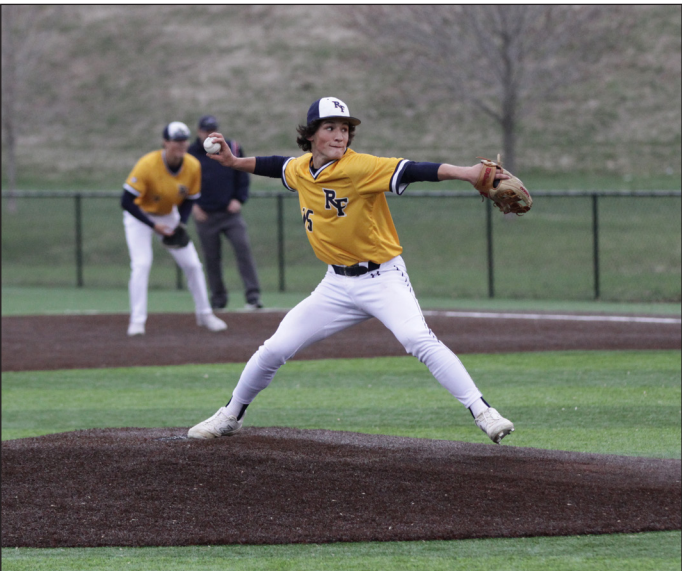
For Legion head coach Ryan Bishop, who also coaches the River Falls High School baseball program, the opening 10 games and two weekend tournaments have already taught his young roster a lesson. If they take care of the fundamentals, they’ll compete with anyone.

“We have no doubt been the youngest team at both of those tournaments,” Bishop said. “Our guys are learning that if they can control the basics, they will be competitive regardless of other variables. It’s been fun for our coaching staff to start seeing their confidence build every time they take the field. In the bigger picture, that’s the most important part of developing a young team.”

River Falls hosted the first Legion tournament of the summer and gave the hometown fans no shortage of cheering fodder. In the first contest of that tournament, River Falls notched a 2-1 victory against Fond du Lac. River Falls junior Tyler Nelson tossed a complete-game victory and tallied four strikeouts, allowing just six hits and zero earned runs.

Senior Eli Condon took the mound in the second game and threw a four-hitter in the 6-2 win against Holmen. Condon struck out eight and allowed just one earned run in his dominant performance on the hill.

Junior Hayden Bottolfson pitched the final game of the tournament against a tough Chippewa Falls squad. The contest turned into an offensive shootout, as River Falls edged Chippewa in a 13-9 victory to sweep through the opening tournament of the



River Falls senior pitcher Eli Condon delivers a strike during a game earlier this season. Condon was selected to the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association (WBCA) All-Star Game, which is slated for Friday, June 30, and Saturday, July 1. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

summer.

River Falls dropped a pair of mid-week contests against Stillwater and New Richmond before going 2-2 at the Chippewa Falls tournament the following weekend. Legion Post 121 tallied wins against Stevens Point and Marshfield but lost to Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls.

The 6-4 overall record through two weeks has been accompanied by flashes of brilliance as well as growing pains of a young squad. For Bishop, the pitchers have been a highlight. Of the five who have thrown major innings, just one, Condon, has any prior varsity pitching experience.

“We’ve played some good ball through our two tournaments the past couple of weekends,” Bishop said. “Our main pitchers have thrown the tournament games and have done a great job against top-notch opponents. We’ve had some learning moments in the field, but the defense has stepped up and made plays to give us a chance every game.”

River Falls’ offense may not be scoring runs at a historic pace, but the younger players are slowly becoming accustomed to the varsity-caliber pitching that they had previously never seen. According to Bishop, his players are not only generating more hits, but they’re starting to work counts and extend at-bats like many veteran players often do.

“We’re proud of how our guys have battled at the plate,” Bishop said. “Not huge numbers, but consistently tough at-bats. We won a lot of at-bats without ever getting a hit, but rather moving runners or just making a pitcher throw ten pitches before lining out. Those are winning at-bats that play a huge role in the game, although there’s nothing to show for it in the book.”

River Falls’ young players

have demonstrated that they will step up and battle in the face of adversity. While the Wildcats’ high school team is often expected to win games, the Legion team regularly faces more experienced programs.

In doing so, they’ve been in a relatively new underdog role. However, they’ve performed – often at a high level – even while being expected to struggle against more veteran-laden teams. Coach Bishop spoke about another lesson his young squad has learned this summer.

“We played well to beat some really good teams, but they also learned a lot in the process,” Bishop said. “One of the lessons is believing and expecting more, regardless of what it might look like on paper. Baseball, more than any other sport, has too many variables to think otherwise. Our coaching staff is really proud of our team’s mindset more than anything so far.”

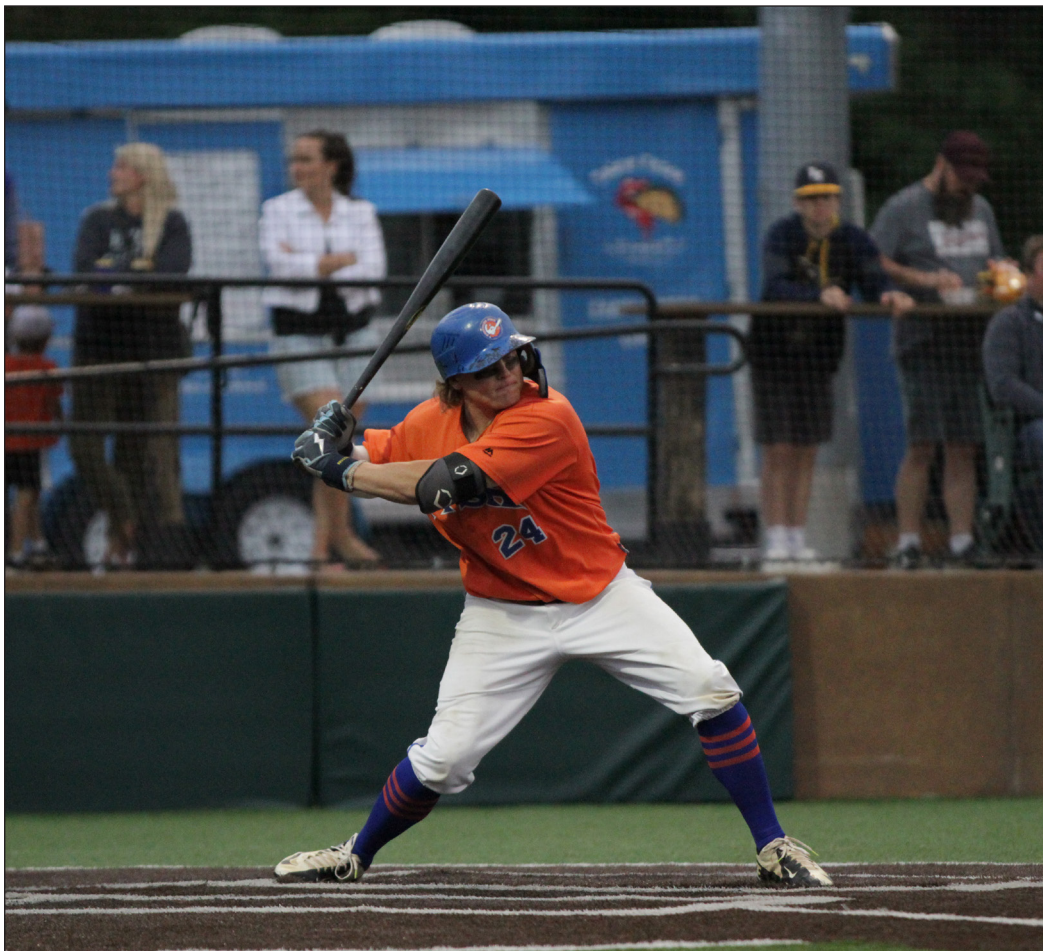
In addition to team success, River Falls players have enjoyed individual accolades. The aforementioned senior pitcher Eli Condon was selected to play in this weekend’s Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association (WBCA) All-Star Classic.

During his senior campaign this spring, Condon amassed a 7-1 record as a starting pitcher and posted a 0.84 ERA. He tallied 81 strikeouts and just 12 walks across more than 50 innings on the mound this year.

“Eli had a great spring and a great career overall for us,” Bishop said. “Not only does Eli get it done on the field, but he is one of the best teammates you’ll ever find. He has truly earned the opportunity and I can’t think of anyone more deserving to represent River Falls baseball in the All-Star Classic.”



River Falls Fighting Fish utility player Matt Bacon rifles a ball to first base moments after stepping on second to successfully turn a double play against the Elmwood Expos on Saturday, June 24. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



River Falls Fighting Fish veteran leadoff hitter Brian Giebel awaits a pitch during the home game against Elmwood on Saturday night. Giebel and the Fighting Fish defeated Elmwood 15-1 in seven innings of action. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

# Early offense lifts River Falls to a pair of wins, Fish improve to 19-0

By Reagan Hoverman

The Fighting Fish have been mashing the ball early and often lately, and it’s largely the reason that River Falls has improved to 19-0, which is its best start in the franchise’s 16-year history.

River Falls scored a combined 11 runs in the opening inning of its last two games. The Fish hung six in the bottom of the first against the Stillwater Loggers on Friday night, and then five more the following evening at home against the Elmwood Expos on Saturday, June 24.

The Fighting Fish’s early offensive salvos against Stillwater and Elmwood led to a pair of double-digit victories and an unblemished 19-0 overall record. River Falls also improved to 8-0 in St. Croix Valley Baseball League action, which puts the Fighting Fish firmly atop the standings.

For River Falls player/manager Josh Eidem, who has been with the team since its inception in 2008, the early offensive success that has driven the undefeated record is a by-product of a roster that has obsessed with pre-game preparation.

“For a town ball team, our guys prepare really well,” Eidem said. “Guys are early for batting practice and we don’t have a lot of guys who are coming in at the last minute. Life doesn’t always let that happen, but this crew is always ready the first time through. That probably sets them apart from other teams that we’ve had.”

Major League Baseball had the 1927 New York Yankees, which was a team revered for its top six hitters in the lineup. Their success ultimately earned the nickname “Murderers’ Row,” which was a testament to the strength of two-thirds of the Yankees’ batting order.

Although it’s a much smaller scale, River Falls has become the Murderers’ Row of the St. Croix Valley Baseball League and the larger Wisconsin Baseball Association. The lineup, which has produced a league-best 9.9 runs per game, is rife with current and former collegiate players.

Whether it’s third baseman Ragan Pinnow, who is currently playing Division 2 baseball at Augustana, or second baseman Lucas Luedtke, who was a four-year Division 3 player at UW-Stevens Point, River Falls’ offensive lineup is stacked with talent.

One of the newest additions to the team is second-year player Will Smoot, a Cottage Grove, Minn., native who has seen his role grow exponentially this season. Last year he

was a utility player, but this season he moved into the starting catcher role and has become an integral member of the Fighting Fish’s illustrious lineup.

Smoot catalyzed River Falls’ aforementioned first-inning success at home against Stillwater on Friday night. Already leading 3-0 with one runner on base when he came to the plate, Smoot blasted a two-run homer over the fence in right-center field to make it a 5-0 game.

When the Fighting Fish secured their 12-2 victory over Stillwater in seven innings, Smoot had gone three-for-four at the plate with a single, a double and one tape-measure home run that broke the game open. Eidem spoke about what Smoot has brought to the team this season.

“His baseball IQ for a kid his age is sky-high,” Eidem said. “He understands the game at a much higher level and I think that’s why he fits so well with the older guys. They don’t feel like they have to babysit him. To be able to jump into the middle of this lineup at his age is impressive. He’s our RBI guy. You get guys on base and that’s where you want them when he’s batting.”

River Falls’ offensive success carried over the following night against the Elmwood Expos. The Fish scored five in the first inning, three in the second, a pair in the third and five more in the fourth inning.

The Fighting Fish cruised to a 15-1 victory and remained undefeated for the 2023 season. The flawless 19-0 mark is the best start in franchise history, especially considering it’s one of the toughest schedules River Falls has ever played.

Although River Falls appears to be speeding down the highway with the cruise control comfortably set at 95 mph, Eidem believes that eventually, a team is going to catch them off guard and end the winning streak.

“It gets hard to keep the intensity,” Eidem said. “Somebody is going to sneak up on us sometime, but that’s baseball. I think (being undefeated) is surprising because we’ve played some really good teams. The guys are bringing a really good effort, but when you get into the hot days at the end of June and early July, it’s going to be hard.”

River Falls has seamlessly married a dynamic veteran-laden offense with a deep pitching staff that has led to a historic start to the season. The Fighting Fish will look to continue their success against the Plum City Blues on Wednesday, June 28. That game will begin at 7:30 p.m.



# Basketball

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numbers and confidence with the kids. Sometimes you think maybe some would hang it up, but none of them have.”

Instead of hanging up the sneakers for good, Ellsworth’s core group of players have laced them up and gotten to work with offseason programming. For some, that has been putting up shots at open gym. For others, it has been lifting weights and competing in an AAU circuit.

Regardless of what the individual athletes are doing, the difference is that they’re involved more than ever. In years past, a handful of players frequented open gym hours and took part in weight lifting sessions.

Since Staley took over and placed an emphasis on the importance of more structured offseason development, player buy-in is as high as it has been in years. For Coach Staley, that recommitment to the program is reflected through the spike in offseason involvement figures.

“Our buy-in has been awesome and the kids are excited and working hard,” Staley said. “We have more kids at open gym than we’ve ever had and they’re way more responsive. Last year we had three guys playing AAU freshman through senior. This year I think we have 13. We have a lot more guys playing a lot more basketball, which is what we need to be doing.”

Staley and the Panthers dove into offseason programming as soon as was allowed by WIAA regulations. Ellsworth’s first game action of the summer was a two-day, six-game tournament at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh on June 10 and 11.

In that tournament, which featured 17 Ellsworth players between the varsity and JV rosters, the Panthers competed against stiff competition, including a pair of Milwaukee-area schools and a 1,500 enrollment out-of-state squad from Marquette, Mich.

Ellsworth held its own, even against some of those top teams from the lower corner of the state. That included a six-point loss against Milwaukee Marshall, a Division 2 program that went 13-6 last year and won the Milwaukee City-Blue Conference.

Although Ellsworth ultimately came up short, the Panthers battled into the closing minutes and had a legitimate chance to win in crunch time. For Coach Staley, seeing his athletes compete against larger schools with physically imposing players was a sign his team is improving.

“Our first game was against Marquette, Michigan,” Staley said. “They were a big

and physically talented team. That was good for our kids to see. Their guards are mature, strong guys. Then we played Milwaukee Marshall. They were solid and that was a really good game. We battled back and forth, but they ended up winning a six-point game.”

A litany of players have improved throughout the offseason, but few have rivaled the jump that now-senior Parker Woodland has made. Last season, Woodland occupied the sixth-man role for a majority of the year before Staley inserted him in the starting lineup late in the regular season.

Throughout the rest of that campaign and into this offseason, Woodland has developed both on and off the court. He has added to his game offensively and has taken on a larger role, while also stepping up in the locker room as one of the veteran leaders.

“Parker (Woodland) has certainly stepped up,” Staley said. “He has taken a leadership role, which is outside of his comfort zone, but that’s where he’s going to learn and grow. He’s lifting and getting stronger, and I think high jumping helped too. He has certainly stood out this summer. Parker still has a long way to go, but he’s on the right track for sure.”

In addition to the tournament at UW-Oshkosh, Ellsworth competed at the Falcon Shootout at UW-RF on Saturday, June 17. The Panthers also play in the Altoona Summer League, which features more than a dozen local teams that compete every Monday night.

Staley has kept his Panthers busy, often against tough competition, with the hope that it will expedite development and lead to more victories this winter. Ellsworth won just five total contests last winter and finished 2-12 in Middle Border Conference action.

“The idea is to get experience playing a bunch of basketball against different teams,” Staley said. “Our basketball IQ wasn’t the highest last year. We just need to catch up by playing games against tougher opponents. That’s what was great about the Oshkosh trip; we played teams that we’d otherwise never see.”

Despite some of the struggles in the last couple of years, Staley has kids believing that the program is heading in the right direction. Offseason numbers are up across the board and his message has resonated with the athletes.

“We’ve gained a freshman or two and everyone else is back,” Staley said. “That tells me that we’re doing the right things. You can’t always control winning games and talent level, but you can control your work ethic. Kids are enjoying it and learning, so hopefully the numbers speak for themselves that way.”

# Baseball

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Eidem loves River Falls and the game of baseball that he could only feel joy and excitement when he learned that UWRF was officially reinstating the sport.

“It’s great, but I was surprised by how excited I was for it to come back,” Eidem said. “When you get a program dropped and you’re a captain on that team, it’s a painful scar. Personally, as an alumnus, it’s a great and surprising level of happiness. For the guys who were a part of that, it’s healing. We can’t wait to sit in the front row and have a drink together before that first game.”

What Eidem went through with the program’s suspension in 2002 is a situation and feeling that he never wants another UWRF baseball player to experience. Because of his involvement with the River Falls Baseball Council and his history as a former captain at UWRF, Eidem has unique insight on how to give the program staying power.

In Eidem’s eyes, it’s not about signing the dotted line and then going separate ways until opening day in the spring of 2025. It’s about integrating the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with the River Falls Baseball Council and vice versa.

For the partnership to work, Eidem believes it truly needs to be exactly that – a partnership. He spoke about



The ballpark seats at the First National Bank of River Falls Field after a town ball game last summer. The field will be home to many more games and practices starting in the spring of 2025, as the University of Wisconsin-River Falls’ baseball team is slated to make the facility its home ballpark. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

what will make this a successful deal between two entities that will further cement baseball’s place in River Falls.

“I think it has to be a true partnership,” Eidem said. “What we’re discussing is not a rental agreement, it’s discussing a contract for a partnership. It’s about how (UWRF) can become part of the baseball council and how the university can feel like

the council is meeting their goals and expectations too. I think partnership is the right word and that will make it sustainable.”

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls and the River Falls Baseball Council are slated to finalize contract negotiations in mid-July. No official date has been provided for the next scheduled meeting.

## Security upgrades built into new Wisconsin driver license, ID cards

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announces new driver license and identification (ID) cards with updated security features. The new cards debut June 5 with new design elements built within the cards to make them more resistant to fraud.

“Wisconsin DMV continues to stay on the leading edge of technology by incorporating the next generation of updated security features into our driver licenses and ID cards,” WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson said. “Our residents can be proud of the modernized new cards and also the efforts DMV takes to secure their credentials.”

The new cards feature: Beautiful, artistic, hard-to-replicate designs: Hand crafted artwork of key Wisconsin features – like the awe-inspiring Wisconsin State Capitol and state flag – are woven throughout, creating a more secure, customized card.

Transparent windows visible on the card’s right edge and back bottom edge: The advanced manufacturing process allows the clear ribbon to flow right off the edge of the card and is integrated with cardholder data. Wisconsin is the first to have this unique security feature.

A distinct “flipping effect:” Looking at the embossed feature just above the ribbon, when angling the card one way, you see the secondary photo. While at another angle you see the month and year of birth. This unique feature is hard to duplicate and/or counterfeit.

The familiar orange DO-NOR dot: For those who participate in the life-giving organ donation registry, the orange dot is now nestled in the larger sugar maple leaf which you can feel.

The noticeable vertical format on cards for those under age 21 continues and will incorporate blue/red color themes for rapid visual recognition. Cards for those over age 21 are horizontal and have a blue/gold theme.



The new Wisconsin driver license has updated security features, such as hard-to-replicate designs, transparent windows, a flipping effect and a large sugar maple leaf signifying organ donation registry. Images courtesy of Wisconsin DMV

The upgraded security features will be available on regular and REAL ID cards. The fee remains the same.

“The first thing you notice is Wisconsin’s cards are even more attractive and the images celebrate the state. But built within the beautiful images and manufacturing process are layers of security features designed to protect card users and businesses who rely on their validity,” DMV Administrator Kristina Boardman said.

The laser-engraved version currently in circulation debuted in September 2015. These will remain valid until their expiration date. Cards with the new features will be issued upon renewal, replacement or first issuance. There is no requirement to get a new card but customers may replace their card with the latest features by ordering a replacement (wisconsinidmv.gov/Dreplac).

**Wisconsin DMV stats**  
Number of driver licenses

– 4.4 million  
Number of ID cards – 637,000  
Number of DMV service centers statewide – 80  
In-person transactions (90% completed in under 20 minutes) – 2.1 million

**Real ID statistics**  
Total number of WI driver license/ID holders – 4,820,919  
Total number of WI Real ID driver license/ID holders – 2,799,788  
Total number of WI non-compliant driver license/IDs – 2,021,131  
WI Real ID compliant percentage – 58.08%  
WI non-compliant percentage – 41.92%

More DMV and WisDOT statistics are available at <https://wisconsinidmv.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/newsroom/statistics/general.aspx>

Submitted by Wisconsin DMV



Elmwood Expos pitcher Noah Yanish delivers a pitch against the River Falls Fighting Fish on Saturday, June 24. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

# Expos

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“We’re to the point where this is the third year for our younger guys,” Sauve said. “They’re sophomores and juniors in college, so they’ve been doing it a while. We feel like we’re starting to gel and hit our stride. At the beginning of the year, we were losing games and wondering what was going to happen, but then we turned it around at Bay City. That was big for us.”

With the hopes of the 2023 season hanging in the balance, Elmwood went to Bay City on Saturday, June 10, and gutted out a 7-5 win to improve to 2-5 in St. Croix Valley Baseball League action.

The win sparked something within the Expos, as it was the beginning of a streak in which Elmwood won four of its next five games. That stretch included victories against Bay City, Osceola, Spring Valley and a series split against the Prescott Pirates.

Elmwood’s 10-7 victory against Prescott on June 11, which was the first of a two-game seven-inning doubleheader that day, was the Expos’ first victory against Prescott in four years. The Expos lost the second game 7-5, but it signified that they can compete with the top teams.

“We’re competitive just like we always are, but we’ve just got to beat those teams in the top half (of the league),” Sauve said. “We split a doubleheader with Prescott. As long as I’ve been here, we’ve never beaten Prescott before. We really should have had two against them, but the second one got away from us a little bit.”

After stringing together four wins in six days, Elmwood dropped an 11-1 game at Ellsworth and then a 15-1 contest on the road against River Falls the following evening on Saturday, June 24. While the losses were lopsided, four of Elmwood’s top six players missed both of those games.

Notable missing players include Mason Dado, Braden Wolf, Adam Churchill and Tim Green, all of whom are among Elmwood’s top six offensive players. Life happens, especially in town ball, but without those cornerstone players, the Expos simply couldn’t compete in league play.

Despite those absences and the lopsided losses to Ellsworth and River Falls, Sauve remains confident that his team’s spurt of

victories has them back in the hunt for a postseason berth.

“We were missing four starters,” Sauve said. “We’ve got different things going on, which is part of the season sometimes. We’ve got guys who have got lives. I would say the last week and a half starting with Bay City, we won four out of five, which got us back into the playoff hunt. We still feel like we control our destiny for getting in the playoffs.”

Elmwood, now 5-8 overall, is still in a position to make the annual postseason tournament. All teams within the St. Croix Valley Baseball League that have a .500 record or better in league play automatically qualify for the Wisconsin Baseball Association playoffs.

While the Expos still have a couple of tough games on the schedule, they’ve already played the vast majority of the most challenging league games against teams such as Prescott and Spring Valley.

“We’re trying to get to nine wins,” Sauve said. “We’ve already split with Spring Valley. We beat them last Friday, so that was a big win to put us back on track. We beat Bay City twice and we’ve still got two with New Richmond. We feel like we have some wins left on the schedule as long as we play ball like we should.”

While Elmwood is banking on stacking a couple of wins against New Richmond and Osceola to get back around .500 for the season, the Expos have another advantage – their last four league games are all at home.

That includes contests against Ellsworth, Hudson, Plum City and River Falls. The Fighting Fish have separated themselves as the top team in the league, but they’ve always had a tough time playing at Elmwood. Sauve feels good about where Elmwood currently sits in the standings.

“When we get nine guys that play every day, we’re much more formidable, and we never play well here, ever,” Sauve said with a bit of a chuckle after the game at River Falls. “Every time we play in Elmwood it’s a lot – actually we beat them the last few years in Elmwood. It’s not a rare thing, but it’s a big win for us.”

The Expos will look to continue their quest for a postseason berth at home against the New Richmond Millers on Saturday, July 8. The first pitch for that contest is slated for 3 p.m.





# SHOTS from the Hip

BY CRIPE OLSON

## Old School vs. New School

When it comes to athletics players, coaches and fans, for the most part they fall into two categories - old school and new school. The former embraces the traditional approach to competitive athletics while the latter champions a path much more bombastic, grandiose, and gladiatorial. One is no better than the other. But they are different, way different, and the trend is moving in a direction where respectful behaviors related to sports decorum is now teetering on the brink. But as Bob Dylan wrote and sang six decades ago, “The Times They Are A Changin.” Mind you, I grew up in an era where fans got their sports information from the newspaper, the nightly news, the radio, or the back of a baseball card. Absent was round the clock coverage of sports on countless cable channels. Today, from football to baseball, to soccer and televised bean bag toss games, we live in an era of 24-hour sports, where the cameras are always watching and “athletes” of all kinds pursue their 15 minutes of fame. For this fan the changing nature of competitive sports has been a tough row to hoe. The wonderful simplicity of sports is waning. The game itself is not enough. Six-hour pre-game shows are commonplace along with seemingly choreographed performances that would make P.T. Barnum green with envy. So what makes someone fall within the “Old School” or “New School” category?

The short game in baseball is becoming a lost art. The “get ‘em on, get ‘em over, get ‘em in” part of the game appears to be headed to the same fate as the Dodo Bird. Standing ovations and headlines for players and fans are not typically associated with those who have successfully executed the short game. However, for a handful of old school, seed cap wearing fans, exclamations of “Atta Boy” can still be heard after a successful sacrifice bunt at ball parks around the country. I guess I’m old school.

When it comes to baseball, statistics have always been the backbone of the sport. Years ago, fans young and old alike would read the sports page to see how close Pete Rose was to 200 hits or if Mike Schmidt was still on pace to hit 50 home runs. Was Dwight Gooden closing in on 20 wins and was Nolan Ryan inching closer to 300 strikeouts? No matter. Today it’s all about sabermetrics, analytics, the new way of determining the value of players. Being impressed by a player’s runs batted in, batting average, and era is for lazy, some would say uninformed fans. Numbers experts argue today’s fans should revel in stats that “actually mean something.” Granted, there is something to be said about baseball analytics and their importance in today’s game. But there is a reason attendance at Major League Baseball games continues to fall. For my money, one of the reasons is the loss of shared statistical lexicon that fans have used for over a century. Today’s statistical categories have acronyms that read like a column of FDR New Deal Programs or characters from a science fiction movie. And it’s hurting the sport and its connection to the fans. Today’s youngsters don’t talk about a player’s VORP, LIPS, or WAP on the playground. Nor do today’s adults argue about the Brewers team WHIP, UBA, or PECOTA over Saturday morning coffee. They like sticking to the old script like talking about the ERA of Greg Maddox or the baserunning of Rickey Henderson. I fail to remember the last time I discussed or was remotely interested in a player’s xFIP or pitcher’s BQR-S

number. I guess I’m old school.

Pitching velocity. There is little doubt pitchers are throwing harder than ever before. Specialized training at all levels has increased pitch speeds to levels never seen before in the game. Pitchers with 90+ mile per hour fastballs are becoming commonplace at the college level and specialized training has created explosive fastball arms for a growing number of today’s teenagers. For the high school hurler of today it’s all about “velo.” Pitchers post weekly screenshots on social media of radar guns measuring fastballs at 86 miles per hour while throwing into a windscreen or a brick wall. Who cares where the pitch went? Inside, outside, low, high, in the dirt, behind the batter, or over the backstop. Who cares? The pitch was clocked at 86 miles per hour. Ball one - so what. Ball two - big deal. Ball three - doesn’t matter. Ball four - I’ve got a good velo today. At all levels, command of the strike zone is becoming more of a lost art. The exploits of pitchers like Greg Maddox or Tommy John are but a distant memory. Today, the notion is if you don’t throw 90+ there is little place for you on any pitching staff. I hate to break the news to Mom and Dad, but the vast majority of high school pitchers never toe the mound at the college or professional level. So when it comes to high school, strike one is still the best pitch in the game. It doesn’t matter whether it crosses the plate at a sizzling 85 miles per hour or a pedestrian 71. Pitching is all about throwing the ball over the plate, giving yourself and your teammates a chance to be successful. Throwing with a good “velo” is one thing, but being able to throw the ball over the plate is another. I guess that makes me old school.

Perhaps the greatest change in the realm of sports over the last 30 years is the emergence of the contrived and choreographed celebrations by players. They are everywhere. Receivers routinely give the first-down signal after a 10-yard catch in the first quarter. Basketball players scream at the roof and flex like the Incredible Hulk when they make a 3-pointer in the first half. And baseball players pound their chest at second base after a one out double in a game they are trailing by a score of 8-1. For this old school fan, when an athlete is asked about incessant chest pounding or the obnoxious pitcher sword celebration after a strikeout, the response is, “I am just being me.” To that I say “Yes, it is all about you.” That is the problem. Individualism in sports is replacing the importance of the team approach to winning and competing. Many of today’s celebrations are not spontaneous; they are planned and orchestrated like a World Wrestling Federation event. A pitcher will pump his fist, or blow imaginary smoke from his index finger, after striking out a hitter in the sixth inning with a six-run lead. Hitters celebrate irrelevant home runs with complicated handshakes and elaborate dances, all in full view of the opposition. NFL Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith, whose 175 touchdowns rank first among running backs, when asked about his lack of celebratory behavior after touchdowns simply said, “Act like you’ve been there before.” But those days are long gone. This old school fan is stuck with walk up music, theatrical halftime shows, multi-colored shooting sleeves, and baseball players wearing John Randle like eye black. At least there’s a game in there somewhere. I guess I am old school.

# Community CALENDAR

**Every Thursday June-October**  
**Ellsworth Farmers Market**, 4-7 p.m., East End Park (398 E. Main St.) Browse a variety of farm, artisan and craft vendors offering seasonal produce, farm-raised meats and eggs, baked goods, handcrafts and more. Managed by St. Paul’s United Church of Christ. Held every Thursday except June 22 and Aug. 10.

**Every Thursday June 1-Sept. 1**  
**Summer Fun Series**, 5-7 p.m., East End Park (398 E. Main St.) Family-find activities, food vendors and live music alongside the Ellsworth Farmers Market. Music and activities made possible by generous donations from area businesses and organizations.

**Every Saturday & Sunday**  
**Weekend Tastings**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ellsworth Co-operative Creamery (232 N. Wallace St.) Ellsworth Co-operative Creamery vendors offer complimentary samples of specialties offered at the store, from gourmet meats and condiments, to craft beer and wine, plus cheeses.

**Thursday, June 29 & Friday, June 30**  
**Hancock Masonic Lodge Brat Stand Fundraiser**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nilssen’s Foods (157 E. Main St., Ellsworth)

**Thursday, June 29 – Sunday, July 2**  
**Hudson Booster Days**, Lakefront Park. Parade, carnival, live music, bingo, beer garden, fishing contest, bean bag tournament, car show, hot dog eating contest and tractor pull.

**Friday, June 30**  
**Maiden Rock Party in the Park**, 4-10:30 p.m., Maiden Rock Village Park. 4-H Rockets and MRACA food stands open at 4 p.m., craft/vendor fair 4-8 p.m., talent contest 4-7 p.m., magician Michael Huffman at 7:30 p.m., fireworks at dusk over Lake Pepin. Tribute to veterans before fireworks.

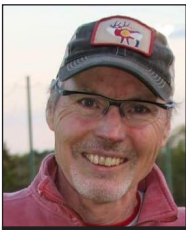
**Friday Films**, 1 p.m., Plum City Public Library (611 Main St.) Showing “The LEGO Movie” with popcorn provided. Film is PG, 101 minutes.

**Saturday, July 1**  
**Ruby’s Pantry**, 10-11:30 a.m., Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (corner of highways 10 and 63). Sponsored by Bethel Covenant Church; \$25 per share.

**76<sup>th</sup> Annual Elmwood Rod & Gun Horse Pull**, 11 a.m., Elmwood Rod & Gun (N6433 Highway 72, Elmwood). Wisconsin’s oldest horse pull features three classes, weigh on the grounds, food and beverages. Veterans get in free. 50/50 raffles, Calcutta, great day of horsepower and horsemanship.

**Tuesday, July 4**  
**4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration**, all day, Spring Valley baseball field, downtown Spring Valley. Watch baseball games between youth, alumni and Legion members. Concessions and bake sale by Spring Valley American Legions, with fireworks at dusk!  
**4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks**, 9-11 p.m., Clyde’s Corner (W7409 Highway 65, Beldenville). Celebrate with the best fireworks show in the area beginning at dusk. Free hot-dogs, chips and juice for the kids. Bring the whole family and get a spot on the hill early.

**Thursday, July 6**  
**Summer Fun Series**, 5-7 p.m., East End Park (398 E. Main St., Ellsworth) Music by Saint Croix Valley Opera, food by River Road Coffee and Cheryl Johnson. Sponsored by CCF Bank and YB Urban?



# OUTDOOR Tales and Trails

BY DAVE BECK

## A crappie thrashing

While waiting for the muskies to get more active, I have trended toward crappie fishing. It’s not that I can’t catch a musky this early in the season, it’s just that it requires a lot more time and effort. For now, my time and effort are directed towards the fixings for a great crappie garage fish fry; one of my simple pleasures in life. I can prepare fish in various ways, but Shore Lunch Beer Batter is my game and at the top of the list.

I met up with Rookie for Operation Crappie Fish Fry. Our outings are never frequent enough, but I guess at the same time it makes the ones we share together that much more special. He once caught a musky while lighting a cigar and threatened to write a “how to” article about his new revolutionary cigar lighting/musky catching technique. He even guessed that Musky Hunter magazine would reward him handsomely for his story. That right there tells you why Rookie is boat worthy.

We didn’t find the crappies right away. It took two or three spots before we found them off the deep side of a windblown weed edge which is where you’d expect to find them. I guess that goes to show you that not all wind-blown weed edges are created equal. Once we found them, the action was fast and furious. Very quickly crappies were headed for the live well. Actually, they were headed towards Rookie’s side of the live well. In Rookie’s boat there is a dividing panel in

the middle of the live well and before I even knew it, it was a competition with seven fish on his side of the tank and a big goose egg on my side.

Whenever I take a guest out in my boat I am thrilled when they catch more fish than I do because it means that I have done my job. This time in Rookie’s boat, guest or not, he was on an epic crappie roll. By the time Rookie had caught his 10th fish, finishing out his limit, I had a paltry total of three fish. At least he kept us on the spot long enough for me to finally catch my own. It was kind of crazy how quick he caught his limit and he was even quicker to point that out to me over and over.

When it was all said and done, I ended up with enough fish for my crappie fish fry. After the crappie thrashing that I took in the boat I decided to alter my beer batter recipe which calls for half a bottle. I upped the beer portion to two bottles and the end result was that the fish still tasted great and I felt better.

*Didn’t get enough Dave this week? Visit “Outdoor Trails and Tales with Dave Beck” on Facebook for photos and video of Dave’s adventures. You can share your own photos and video with him there as well, or by emailing him at [dave@piercecountyjournal.news](mailto:dave@piercecountyjournal.news). Also, check out OTT content on Instagram @the piercecountyjournal*

## CAMPUS News

### UW-River Falls

RIVER FALLS – The spring semester Dean’s List at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has been released by Registrar Kelly Browning. It honors 1,461 students.

To be named to the Dean’s List, a full-time undergraduate must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a scale of 4.0, or midway between an “A” and “B” average. Area students are listed below by name, hometown and major.  
*River Falls:* **Ben Merrill**, computer science and information systems; **Makayla Mobeck**, biotechnology; **Graham Montee**, horticulture; **Marissa Myska**, animal science, pre-professional; **Zach Newcomb**, business administration; **Wesley Papp**, marketing communications, stage and screen arts; **Alexandra Parent**, biomedical and health science; **Tiffinni Pawlak**, marketing communications; **Gage Pederson**, communication science and disorders, psychology; **Nevaeh Peterson**, social work; **Parker Rens**, business administration; **April Rizo**, English; **Holly Saumer**, elementary education; **Grey Schell**, computer science and information systems; **Rebecca Schill**, psychology; **Ali Schrententhaler**, mathematics and psychology; **Alyssa Schwabke**, animal science; **Serina Scott**, elementary education; **Kendall Seboe**, criminology, psychology; **Jeremy Seo**, data science; **Madyson Shew**, health and human performance; **Natalie Simpson**, communication sciences and disorders; **Michael Smits**, psychology; **Courtney Solberg**, biomedical and health science; **Meg Starkey**, business administration; **Jasmine Stein**, communication studies, marketing communications; **Liam Stien**, computer science and information systems; **Madie Sticha**, broad field social studies, history; **Samuel Swick**, health and human performance; **Christopher Szczech**, animal science; **Adam Thom**, elementary education; **Melissa Timm**, computer science and information systems, data science; **Josiah Tumilty**, fine arts; **Seth Urbach**, computer science and information system, data science; **Grace Wachtler**, business administration; **Joey Wachtler**, business administration; **Austin Walters**, business administration, marketing communications; **Iris Wang**, communication studies; **Lezlie Weyer**, mathematics; **Ruth Whall**, international studies; **Hannah White**, mathematics; **Mason Wilhelmy**, marketing; **Erik Winberg**, journalism; **Samantha Wolf**, computer science and information systems; **Marshall Yates**, business administration  
*Spring Valley:* **Michael**

**Bauer**, mathematics; **Aaron Borgerding**, health and human performance; **Connor Ducklow**, marketing; **Emma Esanbock**, modern language, sociology; **Taylor Falde**, marketing communications; **Ivy Kunde**, history; **Bradley Niekamp**, business administration; **Belle Peterson**, chemistry, geology; **Faylene Troemner**, biology  
*Wilson:* **Brady Bednarek**, computer science and information system; **Olivia Du-mond**, social work  
\*\*\*

RIVER FALLS – The following local residents were among 722 students receiving degrees from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls following commencement in May. Bachelor’s degrees were awarded to 645 undergraduates, while 77 students received graduate degrees.

At graduation, four types of merit awards are recognized:

Senior Merit - Graduating seniors who have maintained a 3.500 grade point for their last 60 credits at UWRF.

Cum Laude - Graduating seniors with a minimum cumulative 3.700 grade point average for their entire college career at all institutions.

Magna Cum Laude - Graduating seniors with a minimum cumulative 3.800 grade point average for their entire college career at all institutions.

Summa Cum Laude - Graduating seniors with a minimum cumulative 3.900 grade point average for their entire college career at all institutions.

*Beldenville:* **Gabrielle Brotk**, Bachelor of Science, Conservation and Environmental Planning; **Rebekah Tschanz**, Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Senior Merit *Ellsworth:* **Roslind Anderson**, Bachelor of Science, Dairy Science; **Kailey Brenner**, Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude; **Carter Christensen**, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration; **Taylor DeGross**, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical and Health Science; **Rachel Hennen**, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration; **Chloe Resendez**, Bachelor of Science, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude; **Maria Stress**, Master of Business Administration, MBA *Hager City:* **Emma Augustine**, Bachelor of Science, Neuroscience, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude; **Hunter Donnelly**, Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Business; **Lucas Kemmerer**, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration  
*Plum City:* **Samuel Erickson**, Bachelor of Science, Conservation and Environmental Planning, Senior Merit

*Prescott:* **Salome Dolo**, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical and Health Science; **Adam Erickson**, Associate of Arts and Science,

UW Extended AAS; **Mandy Haessly**, Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Senior Merit; **Parker Hince**, Bachelor of Science, Political Science; **Gabrielle Slater**, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical and Health Science; **Heidi Tayson**, Master of Science - Education, Counseling

*River Falls:* **Kaj Bjerke**, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; **Lizzy Bunnell**, Master of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders; **Breanna Bussan**, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science, Senior Merit; **Daniel Byers**, Bachelor of Science, Health and Human Performance, Senior Merit; **Chloe Byom**, Bachelor of Science, Biology; **Brooklynn CasaDeCalvo**, Bachelor of Social Work, Social Work, Cum Laude; **Sophia Cobian**, Bachelor of Science, Psychology, Magna Cum Laude; **Victoria Crouse**, Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Senior Merit; **Coryn Davidson**, Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Business, Senior Merit; **Logan Dunsmoor**, Bachelor of Science, Conservation and Environmental Planning; **Marijana Ekvall**, Master of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders; **Katrina Faas**, Bachelor of Science, Marketing Communications; **Macguire Flood**, Bachelor of Science, Health and Human Performance; **Spencer Fobbe**, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical and Health Science, Senior Merit; **James Heeg**, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration; **Grace Heil**, Bachelor of Science, Finance, Senior Merit; **Abigail Hicks**, Master of Science - Education, School Psychology; **Breanna Jentzsch**, Bachelor of Science, Criminology, Sociology; **Sophia Johnson**, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical and Health Science; **Dale Keller**, Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Senior Merit; **Katherine Korerper**, Bachelor of Science, Broad Field Social Studies; **Sebastian Kulow**, Bachelor of Science, Stage and Screen Arts; **Sarah Langlois**, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical and Health Science, Mathematics, Summa Cum Laude; **Karen Lein**, Bachelor of Science, Geology; **Clara Lemanski**, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science; **Josie Nelson**, Bachelor of Science, International Studies, Cum Laude; **Kaylea Nelson**, Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Senior Merit; **Isaac Noel**, Master of Science - Education, Counseling; **Geoffrey Osterbauer**, Bachelor of Science, Broad Field Social Studies, Summa Cum Laude; **Nevaeh Peterson**, Bachelor of Social Work, Social Work;



# Campus news

from Page B-4

**Avery Potthoff**, Master of Science, Strength and Conditioning; **Parker Rens**, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration; **April Rizo**, Bachelor of Science, English, Cum Laude; **Thomas Schell**,

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science and Information Systems; **Riley Schults**, Bachelor of Science, Food Science and Technology; **Michael Smits**, Bachelor of Science, Psychology, Summa Cum Laude; Devon Sundt, Bachelor of Science, Stage and Screen Arts; **Erika Thompson**, Bachelor of Science, Horticulture; **Melissa Timm**, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science and Information Systems, Data Science; **Tessa Toutant**,

Bachelor of Science, Animal Science; **Jack Walter**, Bachelor of Science, Broad Field Social Studies, Senior Merit; **Xue Wang**, Bachelor of Science, Communication Studies; **Ruth Whall**, Bachelor of Science, International Studies, Summa Cum Laude; **Christopher Zuelke**, Master of Arts, TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) *Spring Valley*; **Jackson Brink**, Bachelor of Science, Business Administration;

**Kenneth Fesenmaier**, Bachelor of Science, Broad Field Social Studies, Senior Merit; **Ivy Kunde**, Bachelor of Science, History, Senior Merit

## St. Mary's University

WINONA, Minn. (June 12, 2023) — The following Saint Mary's University of Minnesota students completed requirements for bachelor of arts degrees in April 2023.

**Prescott: Mackenzie Carney**, daughter of Barb Carey and Steve Carey; **Hope Miner**, daughter of Dean and Angela Miner  
UW-Oshkosh  
OSHKOSH - University of Wisconsin Oshkosh officials have released the names of students who qualified for the Dean's List and Honor Roll in spring 2023 across its three campuses (Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh).  
The term grade-point av-

erage (GPA) requirement for University Honor Roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for Dean's List is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0.  
To qualify, a student must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. There can be no individual grades below a "C" and no incomplete or non-reported grades at the time the process is run.  
**Ellsworth: Madeline Beck**, Dean's List  
**Prescott: Harrison Oney**, Honor Roll

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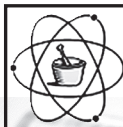
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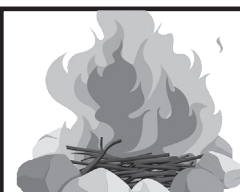
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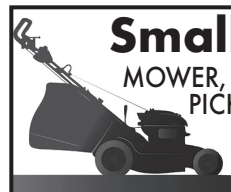


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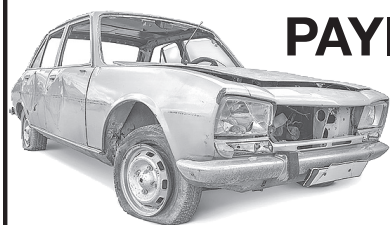
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# OBITUARIES

## Robert Loida 1943-2023

Robert Earl Loida, age 79, of Ellsworth, passed away on June 23, 2023 at Mayo Hospital- Eau Claire Campus. Robert was born to Earl and Inez (Deiss) Loida on Dec. 1, 1943 in Pierce County, Wis. He attended River Falls High School. Robert married his first wife Delores Blair in 1967; even though their union later dissolved, it was still blessed with four children: Laura, Steve, Jessica, and Stewart. Robert later married Coreen Tunheim in 1984 and they were married for 39 years.

Robert could be referred to as a “good ol’ boy;” he was an avid outdoorsman, spending many hours over the years going deer hunting, duck hunting and pheasant hunting. Along with hunting, he enjoyed fishing, watching a game of football, as well as playing a game of pool from time to time and darts. Robert

liked to go on car rides very regularly, just for the sake of going for a ride, taking in the countryside. While out on his car rides, he prized finding a garage sale that he could stop by; this was his favorite thing to do during the summer. You could never know what treasures you can find.

Robert is survived by his wife, Coreen; children: Laura (Ted) Ulrich, Steve (Kim) Loida, Jessica (Chad) Wahldroff, and Stewart (Jasmine) Loida; grandchildren: Stacie (Josh) Kurschner, Teddi (Kales) Humpal, Sarah (Will) Mahoney, Jenessa (Steve) Harfield, Carter Loida, Bowden Loida, and Charlotte Loida; and eight great-grandchildren; sister, Linda (Harold “Rap”) Brown; nieces and nephews: Trisha (Dan) Meyer, Kelly Brown, and Jeremey (Tegan) Brown, along with great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Inez Loida, and nephew, Lance Brown.

A Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at O’Connell Family



Funeral Home in River Falls, Wis.

Services are entrusted to O’Connell Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services of River Falls, [www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com](http://www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com), 715-425-5644



## Allan Leonard 1935-2023

Our hearts are broken with the loss of Allan Millard Leonard, or as his great grandchildren called him “The Old Papa.”

Al passed away peacefully surrounded by his family, June 20, 2023, at the Kinnic Care Center in River Falls.

A Celebration of Life was held from 3-7 p.m. Sunday, June 25 at Poor Farm Events Center, located at 760 Crosstown Road, two miles from Al’s home of 87 years.

Al was born, raised, and lived his entire life in Trim-belle Township. Born Nov. 12, 1935 to Donald and Emily (Marker) Leonard, Al was the third born of seven brothers.

He married Janice Marie Schmelzer on April 23, 1960. Together they raised three children: Dick, Julie, and Joe.

Al started out at a young age at the Farmers Union working on trucks. He then ventured out to run A.M. Leonard Construction in the 70s. In the late 70s he worked for Stanley Boles, driving semi-trucks hauling farm machinery. Al was a jack of all trades and was eager to help anyone out. He loved tractors, antique cars, and old equipment shows, however, his greatest love of all was his family. He always showed love and appreciation beyond measure.

Al is survived by his wife of 63 years, Janice, as well as their children Dick (wife, Lori), Julie McIntosh (husband, Steve), Joe (wife, Tammy); grandchildren: Levi, Logan, Ali, Cody, Collin, Adrian, Cole, Abby, Gavin, and Liam; great grandchildren: Kylie, Keira, Ila, Kamille, Adelia, Elizabeth, and Kasen; brothers: Ronald (Peg), Mike (Terri), and nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by parents, Donald and Emily, as well as brothers, Duwayne, Gaylen, Harold, and



Jake Leonard.

Memorial and cremation services are entrusted to the O’Connell Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Ellsworth, [www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com](http://www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com), 715-273-4421



## Beverly Kiefer

Beverly Kiefer, age 88, died Sunday, June 25, 2023 at Ellsworth Health Care Center. Funeral for Beverly will be

11 a.m., Saturday, July 1, 2023 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Beldenville. Visitation is from 9-11 a.m. at church prior to service. Burial is in Our Savior’s Lutheran Cemetery, Beldenville, Wis. Keehr Funeral Home, Spring Valley is handling the ar-

rangements; [www.keehrfuneralhome.com](http://www.keehrfuneralhome.com)

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## Arnold Johnson 1925-2022

Arnold L. “Arnie” Johnson passed away peacefully at his home on Dec. 20, 2022. He was born at Boyceville, Wis. on July 15, 1925 to his parents Vernie and Alvina Johnson. Arnold grew up and attended school in Stockholm, Wis. along with his brother Vern and sister, June. At 18, he enlisted in the Navy during World War II and then became a member of the Maiden Rock American Legion William E. Geer Post for 58 years.

Arnie met his wife Evelyn “Evy” Holmstadt when she came to teach at the Maiden Rock School. They were married June 20, 1952 at Lake City, Minn. Arnie built their home overlooking Lake Pepin, which they enjoyed together with family and friends.

Arnie started his career working at Lofgren’s Hardware Store and Hatchery in Maiden Rock and self-employed with Novelty Sign and Figurines at their home. He worked for Red Wing Shoe for seven years and then ventured out into starting his business Lakeview Painting and Remodeling with assistance of his great mentor John Jensen. His love for everything woodworking continued into his retirement, refinishing fine antique furniture and learning woodcarving of fish, Santa’s and ornate walking canes. He also enjoyed taking wood carving classes with his wife and sister-in-law.

In his retirement, he enjoyed his daily drive with his dogs around Rush River.

He also loved building birdhouses, and teaching himself wood carving of birds, fish and Santa holiday items. At 97, a 50-year span, he continued entering his woodworking in open class



at the Pierce County Fair. His highlight was entering a 10-foot redwood canoe built and awarded Grand Champion in Open Class Cultural Arts. He was a 4-H Woodworking leader and fair superintendent for many years along with exhibiting his woodworking in Open Class for 40 years.

His favorite past time was fishing, especially for trout in Rush River and other local creeks. He also enjoyed fishing Lake Pepin, Nugget Lake, and in Alaska. Other passions were deer hunting and restoring Ford Model A’s and T’s.

Arnie and Evy’s involvement as founding members of the Maiden Rock Community Association included building several parade floats of the Rockness Monster and a replica of the steamboat Pepin that was built at Maiden Rock in 1871.

Together Arnie and Evy enjoyed travelling across the US and Canada from Washington DC, Nashville, New Orleans, Branson, Hawaii and many national parks and monuments. For their 60th wedding anniversary, they took a cruise on the Mississippi River aboard the American Queen from St. Louis to St. Paul.

Arnie was a member and served on the council of Tabor Church. He volunteered for the Maiden Rock Fire

Department, snowmobile club, Mississippi Bluffs Historical Society and the Senior Citizens.

Arnie is survived by his wife Evy of 70 years; four sons; nine grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; sister, June Darst; and grand puppy Rocket. Arnie is preceded in death by his parents and brother Vern and Helen Johnson.

A Service for Arnie will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 15, 2023 at Tabor Church: N1298 530th St., Bay City, WI 54723, followed by interment at the Maiden Rock Cemetery.

The Celebration of life will be from 1-4 p.m. at the Maiden Rock American Legion Post 158: W2770 20th Ave., Maiden Rock, WI 54750.

Services are entrusted to O’Connell Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Ellsworth, [www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com](http://www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com), 715-273-4421



## Sharon Dingrando 1949-2023

Sharon Ann Dingrando, age 73, of Ellsworth, Wis. passed away peacefully surrounded by family after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born to Howard and Florence Young on Oct. 12, 1949 in Red Wing, Minn. Sharon attended Ellsworth High School, graduating with the Class of 1967. She later had one daughter Tracy. In 1981, Sharon married John Dingrando at St. Francis Catholic Church in Ellsworth, Wis.

Sharon was a down to earth, lighthearted person; she enjoyed tending to her many gardens, enjoying the flowers, and especially liked to cook and bake; she was famous for her homemade buns and cinnamon rolls. Sharon had a long history cooking at different cafés and restaurants in the Ellsworth area.

She was well known for her amazing food. Sharon also enjoyed many trips to Las Vegas and enjoyed trying her luck at the slot machines. She was also very fond of spending Sundays listening to music at Six String Saloon in Maiden Rock.

Sharon is survived by her husband of 42 years, John; her daughter, Tracy; siblings: Larry (Kathy) Young, Terry (Ann) Young, and Mary (Fred) Hoyer; nieces and nephews: Dawn (Joe) Minder, Chad Young, Jerad Young, Renee (Cory) Flynn, Lucas (Missy) Young, Kristen (Chris) Melius, Travis (Amy) Hoyer, Justin (Brooke) Hoyer, and Jason (Ali) Hoyer; along with numerous great nieces, nephews, and other family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A funeral service for Sharon was held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at O’Connell Family Funeral Home: 130 N. Grant St. Ellsworth, WI 54011. Interment will be at St. Francis Cemetery.

Services are entrusted to



O’Connell Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Ellsworth, [www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com](http://www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com), 715-273-4421





# Mahn Family

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# PUBLIC Notice

<b>STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 23PR28</b>	estate is September 14, 2023. 5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.	<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF Noelle Rose Hobbs Weisner By: (Petitioner) Noelle Rose Hobbs Weisner</b>
<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Cynthia S. Donnelly August 6, 1957</b>	<b>FORM COMPLETED:</b> Jens H. Loberg, Loberg Law Office, LLP <b>ADDRESS:</b> 359 W. Main St Ellsworth, WI 54011 <b>TELEPHONE:</b> (715) 273-5072 <b>BAR NUMBER:</b> 1086839  WNAXLP 6 14 21 28	<b>NOTICE IS GIVEN:</b> A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  FROM: [First] Noelle [Middle] Rose [Last] Hobbs Weisner  TO: [First]: Noelle [Middle]: Rose [Last]: Hobbs  Birth Certificate: [First]: Noelle [Middle]: Rose [Last]: Hobbs

# PUBLIC Notice

<b>IT IS ORDERED:</b>	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE: CITY OF RIVER FALLS OPEN BOOK SCHEDULE</b>
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Pierce County, State of Wisconsin: Judge's Name: Elizabeth Rohl Place: Pierce County Courthouse 414 West Main Street Ellsworth, WI Date: July 25, 2023 Time: 10:30 a.m.	According to Wis. Stats. 70.45, the City of River Falls assessment roll for the year 2023 assessment will be open for examination on July 13, 1 - 3 p.m. Accurate Appraisal, LLC, the city's assessment contractor, will conduct Open Book discussions to assist taxpayers in understanding their assessments.
<b>IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:</b> Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Pierce County Journal a newspaper published in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin.	Open Book appointments can be made online at <a href="http://www.accurateassessor.com">www.accurateassessor.com</a> or by calling Accurate Appraisal at 1-800-770-3927.
WNAXLP 6 14, 21, 28	All inquiries regarding 2023 assessments should be made during this public inspection period, which precedes the closing and certification of the assessment roll.
	Notice hereby give the 13th day of June, 2023
	Amy L. White City Clerk
	Publish: June 28, 2023 Posted: June 13, 2023
	WNAXLP 6 28



CITY OF RIVER FALLS  
AGENDA  
PLAN COMMISSION  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
JULY 6, 2023

The public may view/listen to the meeting by:  
•Calling Toll Free 1-844-992-4726, access code: 263 081 19882  
•Visiting the web link: <https://tinyurl.com/rfpc7623>; Webinar number: 2630 811 9882; Webinar password: 1234  
•Viewing the City's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofriverfalls>

CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
1. Minutes of the June 6, 2023 Plan Commission meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

2.Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment creating Chapter 17.50 - Corporate Park Zoning District

REPORTS

3. Planning Update

ADJOURNMENT

Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only.  
No official Council action will be taken.

NOTES:

Those wishing to speak during “public comment” may do so at the discretion of the presiding officer (the Mayor). Please be advised that the Mayor may set time limits or limit repeat comments.

Persons wishing to make a public comment should contact Angie (abond@rfcity.org or 715-426-3427) prior to 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting in order to ensure they are added to the list and can be accommodated during the meeting.

Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials to be in an accessible location or format, may contact City Clerk Amy White at (715) 426-3408 or in person at 222 Lewis Street, for accommodations. Requests for accommodations should be made at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting. Every effort will be made to arrange accommodations.

Published: 06/28/23 the Pierce County Journal; Posted: 06/23/23

WNAXLP 6 28

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
PIERCE COUNTY

Notice and Order for Name  
Change Hearing  
Case No 23CV93

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
NAME CHANGE OF Ashley  
Rae Erdmann By (Petitioner)

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: [First] Ashley [Middle] Rae [Last] Erdmann

To: [First] Ashley [Middle] Rae [Last] Strand

Birth Certificate: [First] Ashley [Middle] Rae [Last] Erdmann

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of PIERCE County, State of Wisconsin:

Judge's Name: Judge Elizabeth Rohl

Place: Pierce County Courthouse, 414 W Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011

Date: August 9, 2023

Time: 8:30 am

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the PierceCounty Journal, a newspaper published in PIERCE County, State of Wisconsin.

WNAXLP 6 28, 7/5 12

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
Pierce County  
SUMMONS

LVNV Funding LLC  
c/o Messerli & Kramer PA  
3033 Campus Drive  
Suite 250  
Plymouth, MN 55441

Plaintiff  
Case Code: 30301

vs.

Roger Seymour  
W7351 161st Ave  
Hager City, WI 54014-8043

Defendant(s)  
Case No. 23CV57

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

To each person named above as a Defendant(s):

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within forty (40) days of June 29, 2023, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is Pierce County Circuit Court, P.O. Box 129, Ellsworth, WI 54011 and to Messerli & Kramer PA, Plaintiffs attorney, whose address is 3033 Campus Drive, Ste. 250 Plymouth, MN 55441. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within forty (40) days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

MESSERLI & KRAMER PA  
Samuel J. Olson, #1104219 WI

DATE:  
eSigned on 6/19/2023 in Milwaukee County, WI

3033 Campus Drive, Ste. 250  
Plymouth, MN 55441  
cc-litigation@messerlikramer.com  
Ph#: (763) 548-7900  
Fax#: (763) 548-7922

WNAXLP 6 28, 7 5 12

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT  
PIERCE COUNTY

Notice and Order for Name  
Change Hearing  
Case No 23CV96

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
NAME CHANGE OF Lisa Marie  
Frazier Person By (Petitioner)  
Lisa Marie Frazier Person

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: [First] Lisa [Middle] Marie Frazier [Last] Person

To: [First] Lisa [Middle] Marie [Last] Person

Birth Certificate: [First] Lisa [Middle] Marie [Last] Frazier

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of PIERCE County, State of Wisconsin:

Judge's Name: Judge Elizabeth Rohl

Place: Pierce County Courthouse, 414 W Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011

Date: August 9, 2023

Time: 8:45 am

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the PierceCounty Journal, a newspaper published in PIERCE County, State of Wisconsin.

WNAXLP 6 28, 7/5 12

Prescott School District  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
May 17th, 2023  
APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Block, Holub, Matzek, Rudolph, Stoeckel

CALL TO ORDER by Board President Matzek, subject to section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes @ 6:00 p.m. in the Prescott High School Library.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Motion by Block Seconded by Holub to elect Mike Matzek as President of the School Board. Motion carried.  
Motion by Rudolph Seconded

by Block to elect Tanya Holub as Vice President of the School Board. Motion carried.  
Motion by Holub Seconded by Rudolph to elect Pat Block as Clerk of the School Board. Motion carried.  
Motion by Holub Seconded by Block to elect Vicki Rudolph as Treasurer of the School Board. Motion carried.

Board President Matzek adopted the consent agenda and it was approved. Approved April 19th, 2023 regular board minutes. Approved the April payroll checks, advised deposits, general fund checks, activity fund checks, district wires, district ACH as presented by the Finance Department. Acceptance of the following resignations: Katie Erickson - Sped Aide; Christine Tiffany - Food Service, St Joes. Acceptance of First National Bank of River Falls - Prescott and the Wisconsin State Investment Pool as the official school depositories for general funds. Acceptance of Pierce County Journal as the official newspaper and publication for business minutes. Acceptance of renewal of WIAA annual membership. Acceptance of Alternate School Food Authority agreement renewal with St. Joseph Parish School. Acceptance of returning Head Coaches for Fall and Winter 2023-24. Approval of all the following Athletics Field Trips: Girls Volleyball overnight trip to UW-Whitewater, August 24-26; Football overnight trip to Holmen, July 18-19; Girls Golf overnight trip to Hartford, July 23-26; Girls Golf overnight trip to Reedsburg and Tomah, Aug 11-14; Girls Golf overnight trip to Onalaska, Aug 17-18; Girls Golf overnight trip to Bay Port, Aug 24-25; Girls Golf overnight trip to Madison area, Sept 4-5.

RESIGNATIONS:

Motion by Block, seconded by Rudolph to approve the acceptance of intent to resign by Emma Brennan-Bobert- Elementary Special Ed Teacher - as of the end of 2022-23 School Year; Matt Rankin - High School Science Teacher- as of the end of 2022-23 School Year; Ross Wargula - 8th Grade Special Education - ss of the end of 2022-23 School Year. Motion carried.

RETIREMENTS: None

NEW HIRES:  
Motion by Holub, seconded by Rudolph to approve the hiring of Allison Cotton - Middle School Band Teacher - 2023-24 School Year. Motion carried.

Motion by Block to designate the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at PHS as the official date, time and location of the 2023 - 2024 board meetings, seconded by Holub. Motion carried.

Motion by Holub, seconded by Block to delegate Vicki Rudolph as the representative to attend the CESA #11 Annual Convention on June 5th, 2023, Turtle Lake. Motion carried.

Motion by Block, seconded by Holub to approve New Position of Head Coach of Sports Performance. Motion carried.

Motion by Block, seconded by Rudolph to adopt Licensed Staff Salary Schedule for 2023-24 school year and posting into the Employee Handbook. 4-1 vote motion carried.

Motion by Rudolph, seconded by Stoeckel to adopt Hourly Pay Rates for 2023-24 School Year and posted in the employee handbook. Motion carried.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

Andrew Caudill presented some changes to the Athletics Code (The proposed change "Honesty Clause") to take effect 2023-24 School Year if approved at the June Board Meeting.

Sara Dusek gave a presentation on Summer School dates and registration numbers. We already have 500 students registered so far, not including HS, and will continue to take registrations (limited classes as they are booking fast).

Dr. Spicuzza presented on the Vision 2035 process. He spoke about the Guiding Change document that will be shared for reaction; timelines framed by board input; four core input groups will be included: Students (2 rounds), Staff (multiple rounds), Families, Community. Process, model of facilitation used, and target date for board action finalized for Vision 2035. He is trying to come up with a date for the Board to have a work session with Teamworks.

Motion by Block, seconded by Holub to adjourn at 8:03pm. Motion carried.

WNAXLP 6 28

CLIFTON TOWN  
BOARD MEETING

The Clifton Town Board will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at 7:00pm at the Clifton Town Hall on the corner of FF and QQ. The agenda: call to order, approval of minutes, treasurer's report, public comment, building permits, discussion/action on: update on fireworks permit, discuss high capacity well options, 2nd driveway request for Cody Tomlinson, approval of checks, adjournment.

Submitted by:  
Kris Johnson  
Clifton Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP 6 28

TOWN OF TRENTON

PLANNING COMMISSION  
MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the regular monthly planning meeting for the Town of Trenton will be held at the Trenton Town Hall W7926-250th Ave Hager City, WI 54014

Thursday July 6th, 2023, at 7:00 PM

There may be a quorum of the Town Board present, however there will be no Town Board business conducted.

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Approve minutes from the last meeting.
3. Set next meeting dates, to be August 3rd, September 7th, October 3rd of 2023
4. Public comment
5. Discuss Vice chairman and Secretary positions.
6. Tyler Meerkins approval of CUP for setback variance for a deck.
7. Dave Williamson request for rezone of his property to General rural flexible.
8. Town Board member written report.
9. Correspondence

Adjourn

All agenda items are posted for discussion and possible action by the Planning Commission

Dated this 24th day of June 2023

Greg Sprick – Planning Commission Chairperson

WNAXLP 6 28

Ellsworth Community  
School District  
Ellsworth, Wisconsin  
May 31, 2023,  
special school board  
meeting minutes

The Ellsworth Community School District Board of Education met on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, for a special school board meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by President Katie Feuerhelm. Members present as identified by a roll call: Susan Beck, Kurt Buckner, Gary Kressin, Julie Lundstrom, Steve Mark, Michael Petersen, and Katie Feuerhelm.

Motion was made by Julie Lundstrom, seconded by Susan Beck to amend the agenda order to move the superintendent evaluation system review topic to the first item on the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Ashley Boe, Middle School Assistant Principal, presented information to school board members on how to complete the superintendent evaluation process.

Superintendent Cain presented the personnel report for school board approval. Motion was made by Kurt Buckner, seconded by Michael Petersen to approve the personnel report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Hires:  
Samantha Dunbar, High School Math Teacher  
Kiley Fiala, Middle School Alternative Education Coordinator/School Counselor  
April Finke, Elementary School Special Education Math Teaching Assistant  
Casey Joyce, Elementary First Grade Teacher  
Olivia Klund, Elementary School Speech Language Assistant  
Elizabeth Kolodzienski, Elementary School 4K Teaching Assistant  
Krista Lesiecki, High School Math Teacher

Resignation:  
Allison Anderson, Middle School Interventionist  
Karen Beard, Middle School 8th Grade Math Teacher  
Joseph Linder, High School/ Middle School English Teacher  
Dennis Langer, Bus Driver  
Bridget Nelson, District Wide Nurse  
Elizabeth Swanson, Elementary School Special Education Teacher  
Megan Taplin, Elementary School PKC Director for the 2023-2024 school year

TOWN OF RIVER FALLS  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The River Falls Town Board and Plan Commission will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 7:30pm at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770th Ave. The purpose of the Hearing is to take comment on a proposed Conditional Use Permit application submitted by Peterson Farms LLC for the installation of an anerobic digester located at W10322 State Road 29. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Details on the Professional Office plans are available by contacting Zoning Administrator Don Rodewald (zoning@riverfallstown.com or 715-307-0564).

WNAXLP 6 28

SECTION 00 11 13  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN  
2023 MILL AND OVERLAY PROGRAM

The City of River Falls will receive bids for **2023 Mill and Overlay Program**. Online bids are due by **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5**. The work includes the following approximate quantities of work:

<b>Mill Bituminous Pavement (Roadway)</b>	<b>10,500 S.Y.</b>
<b>HMA Pavement 5 LT 58-28 S (Roadway)</b>	<b>1,850Ton</b>
<b>Adjusting Manhole Covers</b>	<b>16 Each</b>
<b>Overlay 10' wide asphalt trail with 1.5" HMA</b>	<b>5,500 L.F</b>

Said work shall be in accordance with the Bidding Documents prepared by the City of River Falls Engineering Department. Any questions concerning this project shall be directed to Project Manager Adam Martinson, [amartinson@rfcity.org](mailto:amartinson@rfcity.org), (715) 426-3457.

Digital copies of the Bidding Documents are available at [www.questcdn.com](http://www.questcdn.com) for a fee of \$30 by inputting QuestCDN eBidDoc No. 8565407 on the website's Project Search page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or e-mail quest at [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com).

No bid will be considered unless accompanied by a certified check or bid bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid made payable to the City of River Falls, as a guarantee that if the bid is accepted, the successful bidder will execute the Contract and furnish a performance bond and payment bond in the total amount of the Contract within ten (10) days after the award of said Contract.

All bids shall be submitted on the forms provided in QuestCDN for "**2023 Mill and Overlay Program**". The City of River Falls reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities, and to accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the City.

Amy White, City Clerk  
City of River Falls

Published in the Pierce County Journal on June 21, 2023, and June 28, 2023.

WNAXLP 6 21 28

CITY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Common Council of the City of River Falls will conduct a public hearing Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at City Hall, 222 Lewis Street, on the following:

**6:31 p.m.**

Ordinance 2023-10 - Amending Title 17 Zoning; Chapters 17.44, 17.68, 17.84 and 17.116 related to Electronic Reader Board Signs – Second Reading and Disposition

All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Proposed ordinances are available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall at 222 Lewis Street, or on the City's website ([www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org)) under the "agenda center" corresponding to the date listed above.

Dated this 14th day of June 2023.

Kristi McKahan, Deputy City Clerk

Publish: The Pierce County Journal  
June 21 and 28, 2023

Post: City Hall  
June 14, 2023

WNAXLP 6 21 28

Transfer:

Katie Foley, transfer from Elementary 4YK Teacher to Elementary Kindergarten Teacher  
Nicholas Foley, transfer from High School Social Studies Teacher to District Wide Instructional Coach  
Abbie Green, transfer from Middle School 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher to Middle School 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher  
Lynn Loesch, transfer from Elementary Early Childhood Teaching Assistant to Elementary Teaching Assistant  
Melissa Olson, transfer from Elementary Teaching Assistant to Early Childhood Teaching Assistant  
Hope Wachholz, transfer from High School/Middle School Spanish Teacher to High School Spanish Teacher

Superintendent Cain presented the open enrollment applications for the 2023-2024 school year for school board consideration. He recommended approving all of the application requests to transfer into the district except for the identified 8th grade student (grade level for the 2023-2024 school year) currently attending the district requesting to transfer in from the River Falls School District with a denial of truancy. Motion was made by Julie Lundstrom, seconded by Gary Kressin to deny the request for the 2023-2024 8th grader currently attending our district from the River Falls School District and approve the remaining applications as presented. Roll call vote: Susan Beck- yes, Kurt Buckner- yes, Gary Kressin- yes, Julie Lundstrom- yes, Steve Mark- yes, Michael Petersen- yes, Katie Feuerhelm- yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Cain present-

ed the open enrollment application requests to transfer out of the school district for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was made by Susan Beck, seconded by Michael Petersen to approve the open enrollment requests to transfer out of the school district for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Cain presented considerations for staff wages for the 2023-2024 school year as recommended by the Personnel Committee. School board members discussed the efforts of the staff following COVID and their commitment to serving students. Discussion was held regarding the specific dollar amount each teaching staff would see based on a 4.5% and a 5% increase which takes into account alternative compensation. Motion was made by Michael Petersen, seconded by Gary Kressin to approve a 5% wage increase for teaching staff, administration, and support staff and a 2% wage increase for co-curricular staff. Roll call vote: Susan Beck- yes, Kurt Buckner- yes, Gary Kressin- yes, Julie Lundstrom- yes, Steve Mark- yes, Michael Petersen- yes, Katie Feuerhelmsen- yes. Motion carried 7-0. The Superintendent wage consideration will be an action item at the June 12, 2023, school board meeting.

Motion was made by Julie Lundstrom, seconded by Gary Kressin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

WNAXLP 6 21







# A Look Back

Compiled by Joseph Back

## 25 years ago THE PRESCOTT JOURNAL June 11, 1998

Hired to replace attorney Don Schwab after the former's resignation, Robert Wertheimer was named city attorney at Prescott, per an article by staff writer R. E. Herman. A regular legal columnist in the Prescott Journal since 1989, Wertheimer had an office on Dakota Street North in Prescott, as well as at Hudson.

Making the front page after a successful season, meanwhile, the 1998 Prescott varsity softball team had won both conference and the region, advancing to sectionals. Included in the team photo were coaches Cheryl Tousley and Jay Bartsch, along with Beth Peterson, Allie Mercord, Steph Huppert, Megan Schommer, Angie Harris, Star Santo, Steph Johnson, Tonya Brabec, and Kim Krech, as well as Brigitta Meyer, Teresa Magnan, Meghan Most, Steph Ped-

ersen, and manager Jeremy Olson.

## 50 years ago PIERCE COUNTY HERALD June 14, 1973

Vital statistics for Pierce County in May 1973

Births - 9

Deaths - 20

Marriages - 34

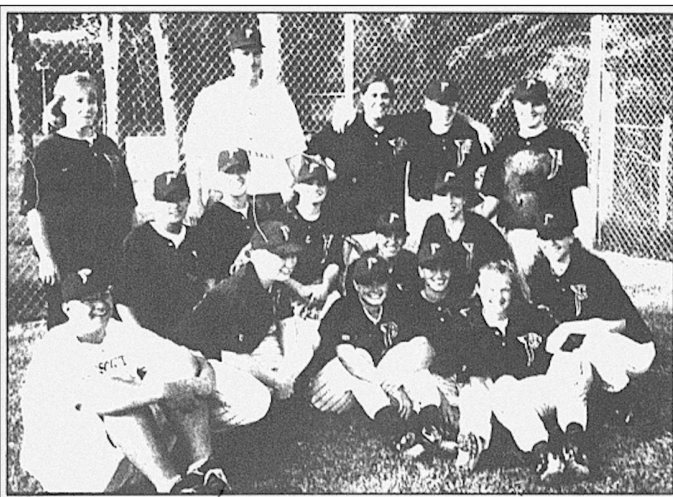
Obituary

Willie J. Christenson, age 80, of Ellsworth on June 7. Born May 12, 1893 to Albert and Mary Christenson. Married to Lorina Krummel Dec. 10, 1952. Farmed in Ellsworth township and worked at the Harvey Christenson Feed Mill for 10 years. Willie was also a member of the United Methodist Church of Ellsworth.

Surviving were his wife, one niece, one nephew, two step-daughters, 14 step-grandchildren, and two great nieces.

Two brothers and a sister preceded him in death.

Funeral at Ellsworth Unit-



### Softball team enjoys success

The 1998 Prescott High School varsity softball team has enjoyed a successful season, winning the conference, region and advancing into the sectional tournament. Members of the team are, back row, left to right: coach Cheryl Tousley, coach Jay Bartsch, Beth Peterson, Allie Mercord, Steph Huppert; middle row: Megan Schommer, Angie Harris, Star Santo, Steph Johnson, Tonya Brabec, Kim Krech; front row: manager Jeremy Olson, Brigitta Meyer, Teresa Magnan, Meghan Most and Steph Pedersen. (Photo submitted)

ed Methodist, with interment in South Rush River Cemetery

Church news.

Eidsvold Lutheran

Church Ladies plan a Mother-Daughter Tea on June 20 at 8 p.m.

Rev. Ted Smith appointed to Hartland United Methodist on June 5. Hartland Unit-

ed Methodist was one of nine churches in what was termed "the Pierce County Rural Parish."

## 85 years ago THE RIVER FALLS JOURNAL June 9, 1938

Recounted in Badger Tales, former farm boy and

outstanding State pioneer Jeremiah Rusk had been appointed US Secretary of Agriculture in 1889.

Over in St. Croix County, meanwhile, Sheriff Carl Simonson had been occupied with arresting a reputed cattle thief, along with a burglar.

The cattle theft had taken place in the town of Erin, while a trail of blood and small change from a meat market in Baldwin had led to arresting an Elmwood man, the trail ending at the train station.

## 130 years ago THE WEEKLY PRESS Maiden Rock June 10, 1893

The volcanic mountain, Cotopaxi, in Mexico,\* in one of its eruptions, threw a rock weighing more than 232 tons a distance of nine miles! It can never be known how far down in the bowels of the earth this huge rock was when vomited forth; It may have been thirty or forty miles below the surface

of the earth; it may not have been more than two or three thousand feet but in either event it seems to convey to our minds something of an idea of the marvelous forces of nature.

\* Cotopaxi is actually in Ecuador.

## 155 years ago PIERCE COUNTY HERALD Vol. 1, No. 18 May 14, 1868

The County Seat (Extract from editor's letter on continued county seat controversy)

The taxpayers of this county will look after their interests and have done it, in locating their capital in the geographical center of the county...the voters of Pierce County will place the county buildings at Ellsworth, where there is plenty of lime, lumber and water, and building rock, being in a location where it will convene the people from all sections of the county.

# Plum City Care Center Chatter

By Noel Elsen

Do you know the best way to start your week? With a little exercise! We get things started Monday morning with our Monday Movers seated exercise group. Residents followed along to a DVD of easy, yet effective seated exercises designed to stretch our muscles and loosen up limbs. Everyone stuck around afterward to participate in some Karaoke and we joyfully lifted our voices in song to classic tunes! All that moving and singing worked up quite the appetite and thankfully lunch was right around the corner. But the afternoon was just as busy because after lunch was eaten and mail was delivered, it was time for Crafty Corner! This week, residents created patriotic windsocks for Flag Day and we strung them up right away in the dining room. We next gathered folks together for a thrilling game of Tic Tac Toss. Everyone was in fine form this week – Judy Thorn was our fourth-place winner, Virginia Fritz took third place and Dennis Schuh was awarded second place! We had a tie for first place between Kevin Bauer and Dorothy Pfaffe which was settled in a final Tic Tac Toss shoot-out...and Dorothy Pfaffe was the ultimate winner! We

had a little bit of time to rest before supper, but after the meal was finished, we got ready for Monday night Bingo. Thank you to volunteers Teresa Fedie, Pat Frion and Riley for helping set-up, clean-up and deliver candy prizes. We couldn't do it without you ladies!

Tuesday was a little bit quieter day – residents gathered after breakfast for a tranquil Catholic mass and prayer service with Father Jojo. With the time in between mass and lunch, we enjoyed chatting with each other and visiting with folks in their rooms. Everyone loved seeing the summer sun shining outside and there is so much to be happy about. One thing we are always really happy about is freshly popped popcorn; folks followed their noses and "popped" on down to the dining room after lunch to scoop up bowlfuls of the savory snack at the weekly Popcorn Social. And for the residents who were soaking up the rays and warmth outside, we deliver! We welcomed Pastor Paul from Sabylund Lutheran Church for peaceful afternoon church and before you knew it, supper arrived. Our Tuesday evening concluded with playing games all evening with Aaliyah!

As the temperature climbed outside the competition was also heating up inside as we

began our Wednesday with a game of bowling. We had a big group of bowlers ready to test their skills on the lane and it was such fun to see them cheer each other on! We had a tie for fourth place: Alice Brantner and Shirley Klinski. Third place went to Judy Thorn, second place to Kevin Bauer and first place was awarded to Dennis Schuh. And we had so many folks stick around to watch; you know a game is good when you have a large crowd of spectators! As the day marched on, it was soon time for Fruit Bingo. Our blackout winner this week was Nancy Bishop! Thank you to Julie Tschumperlin and Lana Ingli for help setting up, prize delivery and cleaning up; we don't know what we would do without our volunteers! No sooner was bingo done then it was time for our Strawberry Shortcake Social to commemorate National Strawberry Day and we had a ton of folks stick around to enjoy the yummy treat. Nothing says summer quite like enjoying a delicious helping of sweet strawberry shortcake!

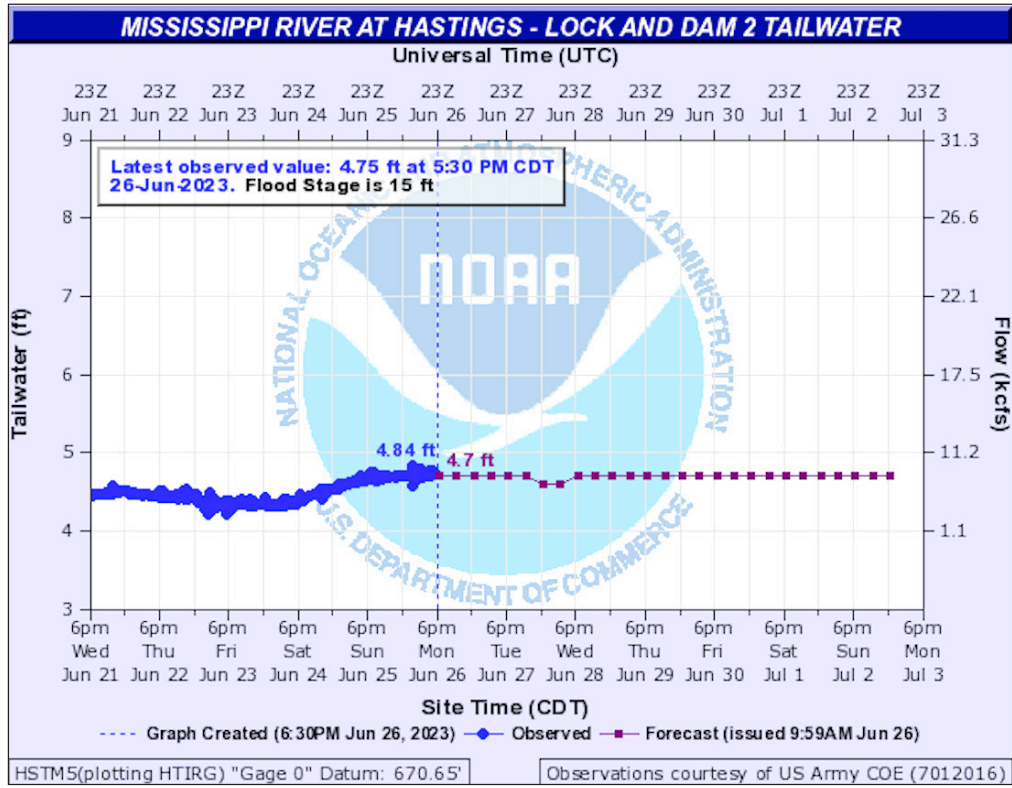
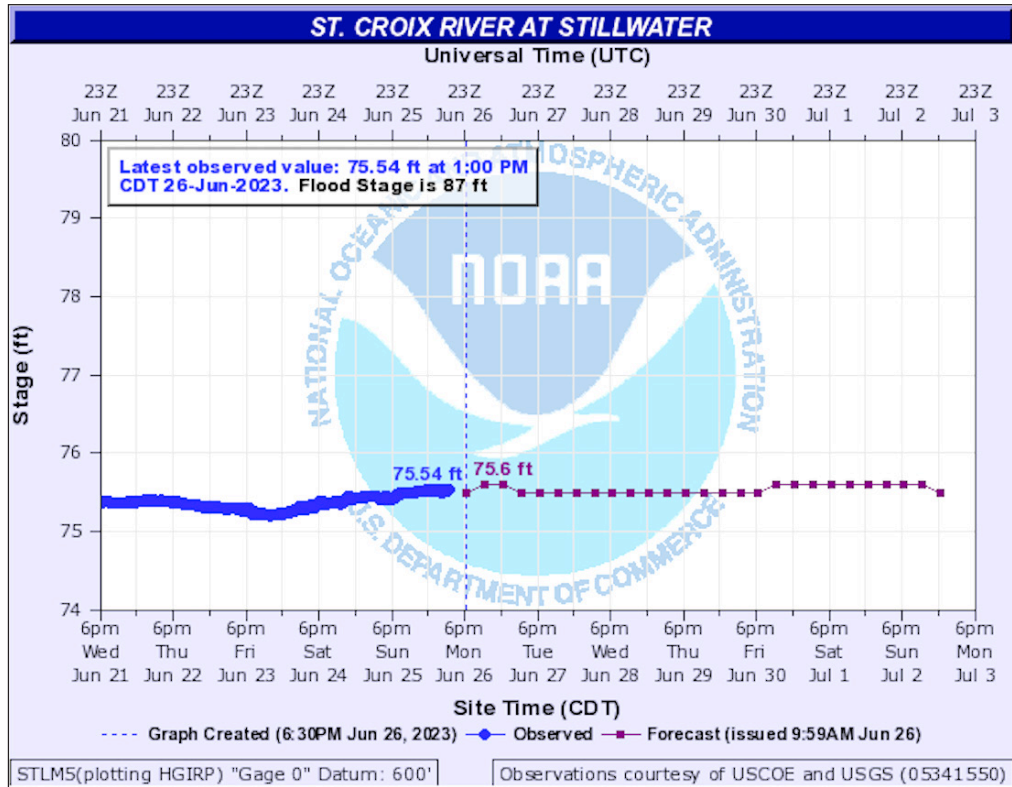
Thursday began with a delicious cup of coffee and the local news being read to residents by Marlene Zimmer. We sure appreciate our volunteers who stop by for a chat and to keep us informed on what is happening in our community! Lunch followed and then we offered manicures to the ladies but there weren't too many takers lined up this week.

But that was okay because we arranged an impromptu game of Dart Ball to fill our afternoon! We had quite a few competitors trying to hit a high score. Shirley Klinski nabbed fourth place, Dennis Schuh was third place and Alice Brantner came in second place. Judy Thorn was the first-place winner! Soon, supper was ready and then it was time for an evening of Pokeno fun with Aaliyah.

We cranked up the tunes and our fun Friday kicked off with a rowdy game of Soccer Shuffle. Residents gathered in a circle and we kicked a little hovering soccer "ball" around for almost a whole hour! After a bit of lunch and a rest, residents helped make Everything Snack Mix in preparation for our Happy Hour in the afternoon. Rice Chex, Kix cereal, pretzels, popcorn and oyster cracker roasted with butter and garlic made for a crunchy snack everyone loved to munch! Music from Craig Morton soon filled the room and we had a HUGE turnout for Happy Hour. Plenty of residents and visitors were tappin' toes, clappin' hands and singing along to the lively music. There may have even been a polka or two thrown in there! As the sun set outside, we dimmed the lights inside for our weekly Movie Night with "Call of the Wild" playing on the big screen. Next time you're in the neighborhood, consider stopping by for a visit. We would love to see you!

# WEEKLY *Rivers Report*

The following river level data was logged and/or forecast for the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers by the National Weather Service at water.weather.gov:



## UWRF chancellor speaks in support of change to Wisconsin-Minnesota tuition reciprocity agreement

RIVER FALLS – University of Wisconsin-River Falls Chancellor Maria Gallo testified in Madison Thursday, June 8, in support of changing the state's tuition reciprocity agreement with Minnesota, saying the legislation would enable Wisconsin universities to pay for enhanced student learning opportunities.

Calling the current tuition reciprocity funding system "outdated," Gallo told members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities that proposed legislation, Assembly Bill 140, that would allow UW System campuses to retain additional reciprocity tuition paid by Minnesota students is necessary to better serve students from both states. Wisconsin and Minnesota have had a tuition reciprocity agreement dating to the 1970s.

Currently, UW-River Falls and other UW System schools that enroll Minnesota students do not retain the higher tuition that those students pay. Instead, part of that money is returned to Minnesota, while the rest is deposited in the general fund of the state budget and is not used for higher education purposes.

"That is revenue that could have been reinvested in UWRF, meeting student demands and filling regional employer needs," Gallo told the committee.

In 2021-22, 43% of UW-River Falls students were from Minnesota. Had rules of the proposed tuition reciprocity bill been in place, it would have meant an additional \$4.3 million in revenue that year for UWRF.

"That revenue would al-



UW-River Falls Chancellor Maria Gallo, left, addresses members of the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities June 8 during a hearing about a proposed change to the tuition reciprocity agreement between Wisconsin and Minnesota. UWRF photo

low us to offer more innovative, high-quality programming for our students, add advisers and support student success, and increase hands-on collaboration opportunities with local employers," Gallo said.

UW System schools are of vital importance to the regions where they are located, Gallo said, and they are training students to fill current workforce and talent needs in Wisconsin's economy. With its proximity to the Twin Cities and construction to begin soon on a new Science and Technology Innovation Center, UW-River Falls is in a strong position to boost the regional economy, she said.

"But we will only be effective if we are able to fully capitalize on and reinvest the revenue we raise through the Minnesota-Wisconsin tuition reciprocity arrangement," she said.

UWRF senior Mayala Keita, a food science major who grew up in Coon Rapids, Minn., told committee members that she chose to attend UWRF in large part because

of its affordability. She said she was surprised to learn that not all the tuition she pays goes to UWRF.

Keita praised the education she has received at UWRF and said Assembly Bill 140 "is essential not only to provide those same (educational) benefits but expand on them, allowing for future classes to have an even better education than I received."

Gallo thanked state lawmakers who represent River Falls – Rep. Shannon Zimmerman (R-River Falls), Rep. Warren Petryk (R-Elewa), Sen. Jeff Smith (D-Town of Brunswick) and Sen. Rob Stafsholt (R-New Richmond) – for supporting the tuition reciprocity bill. Zimmerman is lead author on the Assembly bill.

UW-River Falls enrolls more than 5,000 students, attracting primarily Wisconsin and Minnesota students in a variety of fields that are valuable to the economic growth of western Wisconsin.

Submitted by UW-River Falls



PRESCOTT

Area News

Prescott Plan Commission hesitates on

remedial action for Wacota Street property

By Danielle Boos

PRESCOTT — The Prescott Plan Commission began its June 5 meeting talking about remedial action regarding the property of 154 Wacota St., citing the process began in May 2022 with no resolution thus far.

City Attorney Phil Helgeson was present along with McCoulter Eaton, who resides at the address. He spoke to the commission regarding the progress he has made removing items off the adjacent city property. Currently, Eaton's property is in violation of City code 443.9, which states that there must be safe, attractive and sanitary maintenance of commercial property. Eaton has many items stored throughout his property. The city previously notified him to remove items off his property or build a fence it. He also has debris and items encroaching onto city property that must be removed as well.

As Eaton addressed the commission, he explained that he was contacted last year and asked for more time to build a fence and remove some items. He showed them photos of the work he's done removing items and building a temporary fence, explaining that more work would be completed except he was delayed by the very snowy winter.

Plan commission members are confused why the temporary fence that Eaton installed is located significantly on city property. Eaton stated that previously the city was aware that he installed the fence on



McCoulter Eaton, resident of Wacota Street, describes the work he has accomplished on his property to bring it into compliance. (From left): City Attorney Phil Helgeson, City Planner Carter Hayes, City Administrator Matt Wolf and Prescott resident McCoulter Eaton. Submitted photo

city property, and they didn't have a problem with it. The other issue is that in August 2022, the city gave Eaton an extension to remove items off of city property and while he has made large strides in doing so, he has not met the city deadline. Eaton asked for more time again, mentioning the snowy winter conditions and that he travels a lot for his job.

"It's a work in progress yet and it will continue to be," Eaton remarked, showing commission members photos of the items he has already cleared.

City Administrator Matt Wolf recommended that members of the Plan Commission visit the property in question so they can understand the situation themselves.

"It sounds like maybe there has been significant progress made to clean up the debris on the city property," member John Peterson said. "The question is how much longer will we let this drag

out."

"I will need more than 30 days," Eaton said, adding that he may need a few months.

Plan Commission members were hesitant to issue a 30-day compliance letter as they felt Eaton has been working to be compliant and would need more time.

Member Steve Most said he doesn't think 30 days is realistic for Eaton to be compliant, but stated that it's important to make sure he is moving forward in a timely manner. Eaton said he would be willing to return to the next Plan Commission meeting in August with more pictures detailing his progress, to which the Plan Commission agreed.

The group decided to issue Eaton a final letter under Chapter 410 nuisance with 30 days to reach compliance and the Plan Commission will determine at the August meeting if remedial action is needed.

**Paid parking**  
City Planner Carter Hayes



The fence installed at 154 Wacota St. by McCoulter Eaton currently sits on city property. While the city isn't concerned with the fence, they are requesting that Eaton remove the remaining debris, abandoned materials, and other items as it violates city ordinance code 443-9b. Photo courtesy of the City of Prescott

discussed the idea of downtown paid parking project with commission members, which would address overnight boaters parking in Mercord Mill Park for extended periods. The issue has been addressed in numerous meetings and workshops since September 2022. Results of the project would include:

Parking revenue can be returned to pay for additional amenities in metered areas.

Turnover is stimulated resulting in more open spots.

It cuts traffic congestion by slowing down "cruising" or patrolling for an open free spot.

"It's been done in many cities," Hayes said. "The purpose of this altogether is not just to increase revenue. It's not just for the money. It's to manage our current inventory as best as we can without having to invest all that money into a parking ramp or parking lots that really provide nothing because

our downtown is really close to the river. We would really want businesses and buildings rather than pavement and parking lots."

The plan would affect 327 downtown parking spaces including those in the Cherry Street lot, Mercord Mill Park lot, and Orange Street lot, with the possibility of extending it to Locust Street. The expansion on Cherry Street would add 25 to 30 spaces resulting in a total of approximately 70 spaces in that lot.

For patrons to pay for the parking, Hayes said Prescott City Council likes the idea of using a mobile app system, pay stations for non-mobile payments, and annual permits for residents at \$50 and at \$100 for business employees. For enforcement, license plate readers would be mounted on police vehicles so officers can quickly identify violators.

Hayes added that the city doesn't want to make a profit

from the permits.

"We don't want to have our residents pay for parking like our visitors would," he said.

The revenue gained from the paid parking spaces would be divided between a new Downtown Parking Fund and a Capital Improvement Fund to be put back into city services.

Most asked, "Of what's on the map that you provided in regards to the parking downtown, how many of these spots would be affected by this new system?"

Hayes answered that it would be all of them.

"People are going to push back on this big time," Most stated.

"I would say we are fairly deep into it at this point," Hayes pointed out when Commissioner Kate Otto asked if this project was going to be brought to City Council. He further described that Prescott is looked at as the free parking city by visitors and they hope to combat that.

**In other news:**

The Plan Commission reviewed and made final amendments to the Chapter 635 Zoning Code that had been started in December 2022.

Most made a motion to ask the City Council to approve a public hearing to be held by the Plan Commission on Aug. 7, which carried after being seconded by Josh Gergen.

Plan Commission members Dave Hovel and Rick Miller were absent from the meeting.

Prescott City Council will hold public hearing on zoning changes

By Danielle Boos

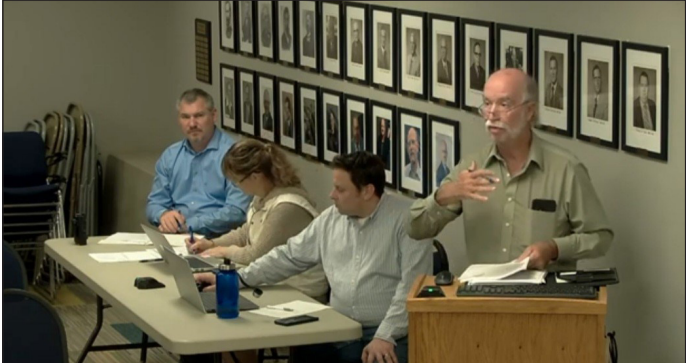
PRESCOTT — The June 12 Prescott City Council meeting was short and to the point with a mish mash of business Monday evening after Mayor Rob Daughtery took roll call with all present except Alderperson John Peterson.

After a succinct discussion over the finishing time for the businesses requesting amplifier permits, City Administrator Matt Wolf reminded the council that city code extends to midnight; Alderperson Darlyn Hintz recommended reminding businesses of the time limit so there is no future confusion. The board approved the permits unanimously, including Peterson, who arrived late.

The council approved a resolution to pursue a cost-share grant from the Department of Natural Resources for St. Croix Bluffs Park with the hope to receive funds for the second phase of Fairy Wonderland Park.

"It's so cute. Very sweet," Alderperson Maureen Otwell said, commenting that she walked through the first installation of the park.

On Oct. 15, 2021, the



Bob Cohlson (right) of Cedar Corporations explains off street parking changes to the Prescott City Council at the June 12 meeting. Under the new changes, residents wishing to store RVs need to store them on a hard surface pad to carry the load of the unit. Photo courtesy of Prescott Community Television

Prescott City Council requested a complete revision of Chapter 635 zoning. Beginning in September 2022, city staff worked with Cedar Corporation to develop changes for the Plan Commission to discuss per the recommendation of the Plan Commission. For the past six months they have been reviewing and finalizing changes and now with the work nearing completion, the Plan Commission is asking City Council to review any further changes and grant approval to hold a public hearing on Aug. 7, 2023. Letters will then be sent to all C2 dis-

tricts so they will be aware of all changes made and to R-1 property owners in the St. Croix Bluffs, Pineridge, and Great Rivers subdivisions who will be changed to R-4.

"Thank you, Plan Commission, Matt and Carter, because this is something that has been long overdue, and the amount of work put into this is unbelievable. It will be incredibly helpful in the future," Hintz remarked.

"Thanks for all your hard work," Daughtery said.

The council approved the public hearing request incorporating any final changes as requested.



City Administrator Matt Wolf (right) explains the revisions of Chapter 635 zoning changes at the Monday evening council meeting. Photo courtesy of Prescott Community Television

**Market values**

Wolf then presented the council with the interim market value update for the City of Prescott.

"Wisconsin state law does require that all taxing districts maintain assessments within 10% of the state's fair market value, so as part of that right now, all major classes need to be within 90% to 110% of full value," Wolf explained.

With city residential properties at 68.7% of market values, a complete assessment of market value needs to be updated this year. As a result, Accurate Assessors will be going out and reassessing properties and their values with letters going out to property owners in the coming months. According to the Wisconsin Realtors

Association, median property values in Pierce County have increased by 45% from 2017 to 2022.

Council members then watched a video from Accurate Assessors highlighting the job duties of assessors. It explained they don't determine the taxes people pay, but only the values of properties. It was further said that assessed values do not increase or decrease taxes, but rather taxes are determined by total tax levy and improvements to a property. If residents are concerned that tax rates will be increasing for 2024, they will have to wait to find out as taxing levies and budgets have not yet been set.

A council discussion arose surrounding a question from Alderperson Pat Knox, who informed members that the

state allows each city to have a certain amount of Class B liquor licenses (bars, restaurants, etc.) which is dependent on the population of the city. Class A liquor licenses are determined by the city on how many they choose to issue.

**Other business**

The Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement Agreement between the City of Prescott and Jacob Westbrook was approved.

The Locust Street project is moving up in terms of the schedule. More information is posted on the city's Facebook page in addition to letters delivered to residents.

Amplifier permits were approved and issued for Lucille's and No Name Saloon with the time limit of midnight.

The Plan Commission's July meeting has been canceled with the next meeting scheduled for August.

Pickleball courts are on their way as the Monarch Paving Company's asphalt bid of \$15,487.58 was approved by the council for 2023 pickleball court construction, with the hope for paving to be done in the last week of June.



Prescott Kiwanis will host their

# 26th ANNUAL Kids FISHING contest

**Entrants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to participate**

**Age Divisions**  
4 years old and under  
5-8 years old  
9-12 years old  
13 years old and up

**Bring A Grandparent!**

**Who:** All kids 18 years and younger

**When:** **SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2023**

**Time:** **9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** (Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)  
**8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**Fishing Clinic**  
*Sponsored by Mr. Brazzale and the High School Fishing Club, Philanders, WESTconsin Credit Union, Kitchen Table, Bodhi Studios, Great Rivers Printing and Edward Jones*

**Where:** **Mercord Mill Park**

**Cost:** **FREE!**

**What:** You need to bring your own fishing gear and life vest

We anticipate getting Fishing License exemption from the WI DNR, making it a free fishing event. Please follow Prescott Kiwanis Club - WI on Facebook for additional information and clarification around license requirement.

Prescott Kiwanis Kids

Fishing Contest is July 8

PRESCOTT — Calling all kids who love to fish! The Prescott Kiwanis 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Fishing Contest is Saturday, July 8 at Mercord Mill Park in downtown Prescott.

Kiwanis has always had the contest the first Saturday of June in conjunction with the free Wisconsin Fishing Weekend, but due to high waters this year, they've rescheduled the contest.

The contest registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with the contest running from 9-11 a.m. All kids will receive a fish bag with a bobber, treat bag, and all kids will go home with a prize! There are four age groups with first and second

place winners receiving a fishing pole and another fishing related item. Food and beverages will be sold by the Boy Scouts. Please bring your own fishing gear and life vest. Each entrant must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to participate.

Anyone interested in donating prizes for the popular adult drawing or monetary donations to the event, please email Denise Heschke-Krech at [fishfinder470@gmail.com](mailto:fishfinder470@gmail.com). A big thank you to everyone who has donated so far. The community has been very supportive! The newest sponsor is Kasco, who donated the first and second place prizes in each age group. Edward Jones

is providing treat bags. Great River Printing has donated all the printing needs for the event. Other sponsors for the event are: WESTconsin Credit Union, Philanders, Kitchen Table and Bodhi Studios.

Thank you also to Jason Brazzale and the Prescott High School Fishing Team, Pierce County Journal, and the Boy Scouts! Brazzale and the PHS Fishing Team will be holding a fishing clinic at the contest from 8-11 a.m.

We're looking forward to seeing you at Mercord Mill Park on Saturday, July 8! Practice your casting!

*Submitted by Prescott Kiwanis*