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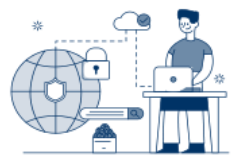
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Digester project is a no go

Danish company withdraws application from Ellsworth

By Sarah Nigbor

ELLSWORTH – Representatives of Bigadan, the company proposing to build an anaerobic digester in Ellsworth, have withdrawn their special use permit application. The project is no more.

According to an email received by Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Brad Roy from Bigadan consultant Ray Davy at 12:36 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, “Jorgen Fink at Bigadan informed me this morning that they wish to withdraw their application for a Special Use Permit to build a biogas facility in Ellsworth.”

Roy received another email at 2:38 p.m. April 3 from Bigadan Project De-



The Ellsworth Village Hall meeting room was packed past capacity Monday, Aug. 14 for a special board meeting and public hearing concerning a proposed anaerobic digester in East Ellsworth. Representatives from Bigadan sat in the front row. Photo by Jack McLoone

velopment Executive Jorgen Fink, which stated “Following up from your meeting

on April 28 (sic) and your decision, we hereby withdraw our Special Use Permit

(SUP) Application for Ellsworth Biogenery.”

Roy said he believes the

decision Fink is referring to, which should have said March 28 meeting, is the inability to come to an agreement to terms of the PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) and MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

Fink told the Journal in an email April 4 that Bigadan wishes to thank the community for considering the project.

“While there was much interest and support for the project and resulting benefits to the community, there was discussion about the proposed site within the village limits,” Fink said. “It became evident the project did not have full backing within the

See DIGESTER, Page A-3

Ellsworth water rate application will go to PSC

Public fire protection charge will move to water bills

By Sarah Nigbor

Village of Ellsworth residents will be seeing an increase in their water bills, but the amount is not yet known due to multiple factors.

At the April 1 Ellsworth Village Board meeting, Brian Roemer of Ehlers gave updated information regarding a Conventional Rate Case application with the Public Service Commission and spoke about those factors, which include the public fire

protection charge, scale of the Grant and Piety Street reconstruction projects and possible use of special assessments for the projects.

The village water utility must get a rate adjustment in place in order to secure a Safe Drinking Water Loan from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Grant and Piety Street projects. In short, the village water utility is not taking in enough money to cover its expenses. Roemer said a

minimum 25% revenue increase is needed, but Ehlers recommends a 45% increase in revenues to allow for flexibility in the event of an emergency, such as a water main break.

However, the PSC will ultimately determine the rate increase, which according to the numbers, would be about 65%. Ehlers works with the village and PSC to find a middle ground so the impact isn't so high on customers.

“Tonight we're looking

for consensus on how to file the application,” Roemer said. “You need to decide whether or not to special assess.”

Currently, Ellsworth's water rates are in the bottom third of the cheapest rates in the three-county area.

“An adjustment would put Ellsworth in the bottom of the top third if the PSC gets their way,” Roemer said. “We are hoping to land in the middle with the 45% adjustment.”

The water utility bills on a quarterly basis. For a regular 5/8-inch residential meter, the current average quarterly bill is roughly \$50. A 65% increase to revenues would mean about a \$31 change to that bill. If PSC got their way, it would mean a \$125 increase per year for the average residential user. Ehlers is hoping to reduce that amount by convincing the PSC a 45% increase is sufficient.

See PSC, Page A-5

‘The Play That Goes Wrong’ debuts this weekend

By Sarah Nigbor

ELLSWORTH – Who doesn't need a little laughter after the doldrums of winter? At least, that's what Ellsworth High School Dram Director Kimberley Catron thinks and we're inclined to agree.

“When I was looking for play options, I saw this was available and decided to give it a try,” Catron said of this year's selection, “The Play That Goes Wrong.” “It's also unique in the sense that the stage crew are actors who do the behind-the-scenes, and often on the stage, work of a real stage crew while acting as if they are stage crew.”

“The Play That Goes

Wrong” is an age-old murder mystery with a few twists, Catron said.

“Those members of the Cornely Drama Society have never been able to put on a decent play,” she said. “They are hopeful that The Murder at Haversham Manor will be their redemption. Unfortunately, a small budget and practice issues have set them up for failure, along with broken set pieces, forgotten lines, and unstable walls. Anything that could possibly go wrong ... does!”

EHS actors have been rehearsing this family-friendly play two to three times a week since January. The



What could possibly go wrong in “The Play That Goes Wrong” at Ellsworth High School. Well, a little of everything. Photo courtesy of Melissa Gutting

See EHS, Page A-3

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AROUND the county

Election results tallied from April 2, 2024

By Sarah Nigbor

The votes have been tallied from the April 2 election. The results were officially canvassed at 9 a.m. Monday, April 8 at the Pierce County Board Room (124 N. Oak St., Ellsworth).

Incumbents are marked with an (i). Winners are marked with an asterisk (*). Here are the official results for Pierce County races:

Pierce County Board

District 1

Kris Sampson* (i) - 633

District 2

Jim Ashbach* (i) - 539

District 3

Jon Aubart* (i) - 331

District 4

Ruth Wood* - 397

District 5

Mark Klecker - 167

Claire McCarty* - 281

District 6

Michael Kahlow* (i) - 73

Brady Penfield - 43

District 7

Scott Bjork* (i) - 227

District 8

Martin Kretzmann - 293

Dean Bergseng* (i) - 432

District 9

Angela M. Mathison* (i) - 379

District 10

Anne Claffin* - 384

District 11

Neil Gulbranson* (i) - 590

District 12

Melissa Petersen - 258

Dale Auckland* (i) - 266

District 13

Sheila Fischer - 265

Daniel Puhmann* (i) - 294

District 14

Nick Maxwell - 414

District 15

Jerry Kosin* (i) - 343

District 16

Barry John Barringer* - 456

District 17

Mel Pittman* (i) - 431

Prescott City Council

Mayor

Robert Daugherty* (i) - 770

Alderson District 5

Adam Granquist* - 115

Alderson At Large

Michael Gerke* - 711

Bailey Ruona (i) - 104

Municipal Judge

R. Patrick Eich* (i) - 765

River Falls City Council

Mayor

Dan Toland* (i) - 1,475

Alderson District 4

Todd Bjerstedt* (i) - 390

Michael Metro - 267

Alderson At Large (two seats)

Jeff Bjork* (i) - 1,183

Scott Morrisette* (i) - 1,256

Bay City Village Board

Trustee 2

Norman Baker* (i) - 53

Trustee 4

Jerry McConnell* (i) - 56

Ellsworth Village Board

Trustee (three seats)

Lance Austin* - 521

Laurie A. Neeley* (i) - 337

Jenni Hines - 333

Tony Hines* (i) - 551

Elmwood Village Board

Trustee (three seats)

Jason Severson* (i) - 91

Pam Marson* - 87

Dawn M. Toth* - 78

Maiden Rock Village Board

Trustee (one seat)

Anthony Lins* (i) - 34

Plum City Village Board

Trustee (two seats)

Kent Gilles* (i) - 86

Peggy Gilles* (i) - 82

Spring Valley Village Board

Trustee (three seats)

Chris Davis - 84

Brad Jorgenson* (i) - 176

Matt Huepfel* (i) - 173

Rich O'Connell* (i) - 120

Oak Grove Town Board

Supervisor III

Michelle Huber* (i) - 461

Supervisor IV

James Boles* (i) - 472

River Falls Town Board

Supervisor III

Joe Mahoney* (i) - 529

Supervisor IV

Brad Mogen* (i) - 505

Trenton Town Board

Supervisor III

Randall John Christiansen* (i) - 345

Supervisor IV

Roger E. Schommer - 173

Chris Truttman* (i) - 207

Ellsworth School Board

Two seats open

Steven Mark* (i) - 1,840

Mark Stoesz* - 2,172

Elmwood School Board

Three seats open

Patrick Geraets* (i) - 179

Jenny Wolf* (i) - 178

Jake Hartung* - 193

Plum City School Board

One seat open

Erin Clare* (i) - 294

Prescott School Board

Two seats open

Tanya Holub* (i) - 1,218

Pat Block* (i) - 1,363

River Falls School Board

Three seats open

Alan Tuchtenhagen* (i) - 1,695

Crystal DuBois - 1,262

David Bo Hirstein* - 1,999

Monica LaVold* - 1,664

Spring Valley School Board

Two seats open

Jennelle Wolf* (i) - 435

Sandy Jacobs* (i) - 448

State Referendum Question 1

Use of private funds in election administration

Yes* - 4,715

No - 3,837

State Referendum Question 2

Election officials

Yes* - 5,236

No - 3,310

Ellsworth Community School District referendum

Yes* - 1,463

No - 1,341

Prescott School District referendum

Yes - 986

No* - 998

Presidential Primary

Democratic

Joe Biden* (i) - 3,153

Dean Phillips - 275

Uninstructed delegation - 274

Republican

Donald Trump* - 3,798

Chris Christie - 72

Vivek Ramaswamy - 43

Ron DeSantis - 199

Nikki Haley - 573

Uninstructed delegation - 173

Stafsholt's 'Eisenhower Bridge of Valor' Bill signed into law



Sen. Rob Stafsholt (R - New Richmond) and Rep. Warren Petryk (R - Town of Washington), authored a bill, recently signed into law by Gov. Tony Evers, to rename a section of USH 63 across the Mississippi River in Pierce County. The bridge was originally named the "Eisenhower Memorial Bridge" in honor of President Eisenhower, who played a significant role in World War II. This legislation renames it to the 'Eisenhower Bridge of Valor,' to properly honor not only President Eisenhower, but also honor heroes in the armed forces, law enforcement, and emergency services. In addition, this will simplify the bridge's name by aligning the Wisconsin side of the bridge with Minnesota, which made the same name change in 2019. Submitted photo

Elmwood MS/HS heralds 3rd quarter honor roll

ELMWOOD - Elmwood Middle/High School has released its third quarter honor roll for the 2023-24 school year. Congratulations students!

A honor roll

Seniors: Aaden Birtzer, Ericka Bosch, Morgan Dux, Jefferson Holten, Seth Loga, Alexis Nehring, Skylar Prinsen, Morgan Sailer, Kara Shary.

Juniors: Cadie Asher, Norah Auth, Sierra Bemis, Cole Christman, Riley Ginsbach, Lucas Glaus, Jaycob Reitz, Isabelle Skogen, Hailey Webb.

Sophomores: Taylor Asher, Blake Bechel, Braeden Bechel, Izzabella Edwards, Hannah Fesenmaier, Austin Krentz, William Mattson, Jackson Neubauer, Kasey Trainor.

Freshmen: Tessa Asher, Robert Duffy, Kyra Edgemon, Macie Garfield, Abigail Krings, Aurora Sampair, Allison Sauve.

Eighth grade: Brady Bibeau, Landon Claffin, Paige Ginsbach, Lucas Hartung, Ella Quail, Alexis Thalacker, Polly Webb.

Seventh grade: Bryce Bechel, Olive Berhausen, Hannah Bleskacek, Lillian Claffin, Grant Hinzman, Sean Hinzman, Mikenna Manor, Emma Sauve, Katie Steinmeyer.

Sixth grade: Brody Bechel, Vanessa Bowen, Molly Garfield, Olivia Knegendorf.

Fifth grade: Amber Fesenmaier, Chevy Jochim,

Jordy Kosin, Simon Maas.

B honor roll

Seniors: Blake Allen, Dominic Forster, Kadance Holcomb, Caden LeBlanc, Gavin Moats, Natalie Weix.

Juniors: Ryan Bemis, Ella Johnson, Britta Link, Colin Manor, Tyce Thiry.

Sophomores: Saige Buchholz, Lane Duden, Skylar Fischer, Donovan Fretty, Jayden Obermueller, Alayna Pazurek, Kenneth Peters, Kale Rud, Jack Steinmeyer, Joseph Weber, Nevaeh Zahara.

Freshmen: Logan Auth, Karlie Casello, Shianna DeLong, Cooper Kitchner, Brewer Link, Oliver Mendlik.

Eighth grade: Lexi Bemis, Haylee Borst, Marlee Hotchkiss, Weylin Krentz, Lacey LaPlante, Michael Nehring, Cody Obermueller, Adyson Prinsen, Kiera

Shoptaw, Grace Weber.

Seventh grade: Leah Asher, Sophia Bemis, Kyra Duval, Austin Fesenmaier, Miranda Holcomb, Arlen Holt, Elijah Luther, Louis Marson, Owen Quail, Benjamin Trainor.

Sixth grade: Alaina Bechel, Dawson Coss, Tucker Flesberg, Kennedy Gibson, Gavin Gilles, Gavin Graham, Grace Hartung, Tru Ann Hoffacker, Briar Marson, Ella Obermueller.

Fifth grade: William Anderson, Marissa Beyer, Lydia Bibeau, Jayce Bock, Maximus Borst, Isabella Bowen, Casen Claffin, Kali Edgemon, Elliot Galbreath, Presley Geraets, Samuel Hartung, Blayne Keck, Evan Mathews, Isaac Pazurek, Emerson Wallace.

Submitted by Elmwood School District

Digester

from Page 1

village board, and for that reason, Bigadan has chosen to withdraw its special use permit application.

Bigadan is a Danish renewable natural gas company that wanted to build a contained anaerobic digester and nutrient recovery facility in Ellsworth near the East End Industrial Park on 25 acres owned by Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery.

The biogas company, named Bigadan, has more than 40 years of experience and offers engineering and construction services to biogas plants, along with specializing in renewable energy production, manure and organic waste treatment and nutrient recycling.

The project was expected to invest \$190 million in the community in five years and create 37 jobs in trucking and at the plant. Since the digest-

er would have been considered a utility and utilities are exempt from property taxes, the company was proposing to "voluntarily pay taxes on a yearly basis," which is called "payment in lieu of taxes," or PILOT.

Bigadan owns and operates 10 biogas plants in Denmark. The digester would have taken in various waste streams, including animal waste from area farms and whey water from Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery and convert it into natural gas and CO2 byproducts.

In July 2023, when the project was first proposed publicly, Pierce County Economic Development Director Joe Folsom said Davy reached out to him to identify a potential location. Ellsworth was considered desirable because of its proximity to farms, the creamery, an existing natural gas pipeline, and UW-River Falls, home to one of the largest dairy science programs in the United States.

Hudson and Menomonie's wastewater treatment plants and the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery's Menomonie location have anaerobic digesters.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, anaerobic digestion is a process through which bacteria break down organic matter (animal and food waste, wastewater biosolids) in the absence of oxygen in a sealed vessel called a reactor. The reactors contain complex microbial communities that break down the waste and produce biogas and digestate (the solid and liquid material byproducts of the process).

Many citizens spoke out against the project at Ellsworth Village Board meetings, starting in August 2023. They cited concerns ranging from odor, property values decreasing, safety, proximity to homes, truck traffic, affects on infrastructure, lack of transparency, conflict of interest, and more.

EHS

from Page 1

most challenging part of this production has been the set, Catron said.

"Things need to fall off walls and not break, and walls need to fall down without hurting anyone," she added. "But the most rewarding part, of course, is always watching the cast come together and enjoy themselves up on stage."

If the recent rainy and gray weather has you feeling blue, this production is the cure.

"We just want the audience to have a lot of belly laughs, because laughter is the best medicine after all," Catron said.

The drama department is also excited to show off the brand-new lights that were installed in the auditorium (323 W. Hillcrest St., Ellsworth) over Spring Break.

Doors open at 6:20 p.m. April 11-13 with showtimes beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are available only at the door: \$5 per adult and \$3 per student with open seating.

Cast & Crew

Cornley Drama Society actors

Trevor - Dakota Moldenhauer

Annie - Bre Sympson

Chris - Josie Pechacek

Robert - Josh Kelley

Denise - Rebecca

Dendinger

Jonathon - Logan Mar-

sandra

Sandra - Madeline Saver

Max - Brett Unser

Stage Crew actors

Breken Young

Loralei Johnson

Kendra Aufderhar

Bridget Dendinger



Crew members Isabelle Lane and Lilly Clark help Sandra (played by Madeline Saver) after a mishap in EHS spring comedy. Photo courtesy of Melissa Gutting



Cast members of "The Play That Goes Wrong" rehearse just a few days before opening night, April 11. Photo courtesy of Melissa Gutting

Isabelle Lane

Lilly Clark

Stage managers: Addie

Oelker, Jenna Early

Tech crew manag-

ers - Jenna Early, Ady Oel-

ker

Sound Board - Eric Bak-

er

Light Board - Axel Si-

monson

Spotlights - Bailey Ole-

son, Eden Fritz

Mic Managers - Nora

Novak, Elianna Ortiz

Advertisement for Plum City American Legion 68 Years of Excellence Buffet-Style Fish Dinners April 12.

VIEWPOINTS

Group launching a second recall effort against Vos



The strange election-year recall effort targeting the longest serving speaker in Wisconsin history has gotten stranger.

The group seeking to recall Robin Vos has now launched a new attempt targeting the GOP Assembly speaker after the first one appeared to fall short of the signatures needed to force an election.

In a late March filing with the state Elections Commission, the recall proponents signaled they're targeting the Rochester Republican for his tacit "support of the Chinese Communist Party," lack of commitment to election integrity, blocking lower prescription drugs costs and referring to them as "whack-jobs, morons and idiots." Vos said those things at a recent WisPolitics luncheon.

The new effort comes as the original recall petition is still pending before the Elections Commission. Vos has challenged that effort, arguing it fell short of the valid signatures needed and was rife with fraud.

Backers in a statement said they aren't abandoning the original effort, but instead are pursuing a simultaneous new effort.

"This concurrent petition drive is not a diversion but a reinforcement of our collective mission. It is a strategic

endeavor to ensure that no voice from Racine County goes unheard," the petitioners said in a release.

A Vos spokesperson didn't comment on the new filing, instead pointing to his past comments that trying to recall him was a waste of time in an election year with a primary only months away. Vos at the WisPolitics luncheon dismissed those seeking to recall him as "stupid" and "whack jobs," predicting the effort will fail.

The Rochester Republican added those seeking to oust him as fitting the definition of "moron." Vos said his volunteers and a private investigator have found a litany of issues such as forged signatures, duplicate names, signatures from at least one person who has dementia and his own name.

"If you believe the people who started the recall, I signed my own recall," he said.

In the meantime, there's a question about which district boundaries should be used.

The recall group argues the state Supreme Court needed to first decide which legislative district boundaries the Wisconsin Elections Commission should use in considering the effort.

Vos was elected to the 63rd Assembly District in the 2022 elections. But the state Supreme Court's December 22 ruling that threw out the previous maps barred the Elections Commission from using those lines for future elections. Meanwhile, the new maps signed by Democratic Gov. Tony Evers in-



clude a provision that they don't take effect until this fall.

The Supreme Court has directed the parties involved in the redistricting suit to weigh in on a request from the Elections Commission for the justices to decide which lines should be used for any recall or special elections ahead of this fall.

And a Dane County Circuit Court judge has set oral arguments for April 8 to hear arguments from those seeking to recall Vos that they should get more time to respond to the Assembly speaker's challenge of the petitions filed against him.

Whatever the lines are, the effort was short of the needed signatures after an initial review.

Backers needed 6,850 signatures to trigger a recall in the 63rd Assembly District that Vos was elected to in 2022. But the Elections Commission originally found 5,905 signatures from that district. The agency also found 3,364 from the 33rd Assembly District, where he now resides under the new map.

According to Vos' challenge filed, a second Elections Commission review found 5,393 in the old 63rd and 2,758 in the new 33rd.

Meanwhile, Vos argued dozens of signatures were problematic, including some that he alleged were collected by convicted felons who may not have completed their sentence. Those with a felony conviction must have

completed their sentence to circulate petitions.

In announcing the second challenge, the recall group acknowledged the allegations, saying "it's clear that while our resolve was strong, the path was fraught with unexpected challenges." The committee vowed to use new safeguards.

"Our goal is to fortify the integrity of the recall process, ensuring that each step we take is marked by precision, transparency, and

trust," organizers said.

For more go to www.wispolitics.com.

The Capitol Report is written by 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.



BACK Home

BY CHRIS HARDIE

Spring captured in a flower

One certainty that I have learned over my long years is that nature moves at her own pace.

Yes, we've done our worst to mess with the climate and destroy ozone, but nature slowly responds to the changes. Even though we've had spring-like weather for much of this winter, there are still nature's harbingers that tell us that true spring has arrived.

Perhaps it was appropriate that we had an early Easter this year. Nature marked this holy day in her own way as dozens of crocuses displayed their delicate blossoms in our yard.

Crocus are remarkable flowers - they are nyctinastic - closing their flowers at night and opening them during the day. These early bloomers emerge from bulb-like structures called corms. They can bloom for up to three weeks and can live up to five years. They also spread, so a patch of crocuses can last for years as new plants form.

That's certainly the case of a crocus circle that's

popped up in the yard for many years. The circle was planted by my mother, who hated the long winters. After the blooms faded and the green shoots yellowed, Dad would mow the plants down. They rested and rejuvenated over the fall and winter and resumed their spring show.

Spring crocuses have a symbolic meaning, representing rebirth, joy, hope, and fresh beginnings. In classical mythology, Crocus was a mortal youth who was changed by the gods into a saffron flower.

According to atozflowers.com, one legend says Crocus was a young man who fell in love with a nymph called Smilax. The gods were so pleased with his love and devotion that they granted him immortality and turned him into the plant of the same name. Smilax was given a similar fate and turned into bindweed so that the two lovers could be together forever. Any gardener who has to deal with bindweed knows how intertwined their fates were.

Another legend states that

Crocus was a mortal companion of the god Hermes. Crocus and Hermes were playing a game of discus and Hermes accidentally hit and killed his friend. A distraught Hermes turned the mortal Crocus's body into a flower. The first crocus grew at the spot where he died, symbolizing rebirth and renewal of the body and spirit.

Today saffron is a spice derived from the crocus sativus flower - primarily grown in the Middle East. Saffron threads are the stamens of the flower and it takes more than 50,000 flowers to produce one pound of saffron, which can cost more than \$5,000.

Sounds like a lot of work,

but certainly more profitable than my attempts at farming.

The sun was shining and the birds were singing as I took some photos of the crocuses on Easter afternoon. Spring burst forth.

I breathed in the hope of fresh beginnings.

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.

TOWN OF ELLSWORTH Highway Patrolman Job Posting

Hours: Full-time 40 hours per week with some evenings, weekends, and holidays

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent (preferred); Equipment operator and/or commercial driving experience of at least one year; Snow plowing experience of at least one year (preferred); Class B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement; Experience driving a heavy duty truck with manual transmission

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Salary: based on experience

Job Summary: Under minimal supervision of the Town Chair or other Town Supervisor(s), the Highway Patrolman participates in activities associated with road maintenance, road improvement projects, equipment and shop maintenance. Also provides such services as generally required or as may be required in emergency situations.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities: This position is responsible for all forms of highway maintenance, including snowplowing, road improvement and repair work.

Safely operates various types of manual transmission heavy and light equipment with proficiency. This includes: trucks -- pickup through heavy duty diesels, snowplows, road graders, material spreaders, tractor with commercial mowing attachments, brush chipper, tar kettle with attachments, and small hand tools such as chainsaws, brush saws, shovel, pickaxe and weed eaters.

Performs preventative maintenance in accordance with prescribed methods.

Maintains accurate operational and preventative maintenance records in a neat, clear and concise manner and communicates same to the Town Board on a regular basis.

Assists with equipment maintenance including, but not limited to, greasing, oil changes, regular thorough washing and cleaning of equipment, minor repairs, mounting and dismounting of equipment attachments, changing plow and wing blades, welding experience helpful.

Operates technical equipment, measuring devices including measuring tape, and mobile radio.

Responds to emergency calls at any time, including weekends, evenings and holidays.

Ability to navigate phone, tablet, or computer; read and navigate electronic mapping; familiar or ability to read construction plans.

Other duties as assigned.

Licensure: Possession of valid Class B Wisconsin Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with air brake endorsement upon hire. If selected for an interview, the applicant will be required to sign a release form for a background check including driving record information. Applicant's driving record for the five (5) years prior to date of hire will be reviewed. Any revocation, suspension, or the accumulation of six (6) or more demerit points in that period may be grounds for disqualification from further consideration. Must be able to pass drug test and submit to regular and random testing as required.

Essential Skills: Must be able to work under minimal supervision. Must be able to work with the public. Must be able to independently prioritize work, and adjust priorities based on frequently changing circumstances.

All interested applicants must submit a resume to town.of.ellsworth@outlook.com or mail to Town of Ellsworth, W6244 410th Ave, Ellsworth WI no later than April 30, 2024. Questions, please call town clerk at 715-273-5847 or 715-821-5847.

the JOURNAL

WESTERN WISCONSIN'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER SINCE 1855

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A GREAT LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

Proudly Published in Memory of Edward J. McLoone, 1929-2020, Member Wisconsin Newspaper Association Hall of Fame

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FROM THE Editor's Desk

BY SARAH NIGBOR

When childhood was fun

I don't think it's any secret that our kids are growing up much differently than we did. I'm sure I grew up much differently from my mom and uncles, who grew up in the 50s and 60s. But I feel sorry for kids these days. They will most likely never know many of the freedoms we had as children, to run free without worry.

In the summertime, I had two main rules: I had to be home for supper and to do the dishes, then I had to be home before dark. And believe me, I took full advantage of that. As soon as the last dish was wiped, I was out the door, running down the road to my friend Meghan's house. We would lose ourselves for hours playing in the woods, wading in the South Fork or riding bikes up and down the country roads. When I think of all the stupid things we did and lived to tell about them, I laugh (and cringe). A few that come to mind:

Riding a scooter from north Saddle Club Road, whizzing across Highway 29 to south Saddle Club Road. You had to do this in between cars, of course.

Jumping off the bridge into the swirling waters of the snow-fed dry run in April, because we couldn't wait for summer to swim.

Riding bike with no hands down "Suicide Hill," seeing who could go the farthest before wiping out. Meghan scraped her head so badly one time that she had a bald spot. And no, we did not wear hel-

nets.

Riding in the back of Uncle Ronnie's "Coke truck" on skateboards while he drove around town. It was even more exciting because it was pitch black in the back, so you couldn't see where you would crash next.

Prank calling our friends' parents, asking them if their "refrigerator was running." Ah, the days before caller ID.

I'm not saying I want my kids to do dangerous things, but a part of me feels a little sad when Carolina carefully straps on kneepads, elbow pads and a helmet to practice roller skating. Is it the right thing to do? Absolutely. But a part of me wishes she had a bit of the daredevil in her that her mother had as a child. Instead, my girl makes sure to cross every T and dot every I, to think of every potential dangerous scenario and plan accordingly so those things don't happen. I don't have to remind her to wear sunblock or drink plenty of water. In fact, it's the other way around. She also reminds me to lock the doors at night, fasten my seat belt, sign her permission slips and wash her softball uniform.

Lincoln is the same way. He has a new injury every day, each of which requires a Band-aid, an icepack, and ointment. He shows us injuries each day that honestly, I just can't see sometimes. I think back to Meghan's bald spot or the time I put a rusty stake through my foot and wonder when kids became so

... wimpy. Or maybe it's just my overly cautious children. Maybe they are making up for my childhood.

When I was a kid, I lived by the seat of my pants. I wouldn't care if I wore the same clothes for days in a row. I procrastinated shamefully and threw myself into a tizzy because I waited too long to do things. My grandpa always said if my head wasn't attached, it would have been long gone. Surprisingly, I never broke any bones. The worst injury I ever had was from falling off the tractor seat onto the hitch ball, right on my hip. My leg was black from hip to toe. I'd never seen anything like it and I was proud. It made me look tough, though it hurt like hell.

Another thing I hated to do as a child was be near adults. Whenever I was anywhere near adults, they found chores for me to do, or told me to be quiet, or something equally unpleasant. With our kids, they stick to us like glue. If I want time to myself, I have to hide in the bathroom. They love to be around us, which don't get me wrong, is wonderful. But sometimes I just want to breathe, to inspire them to ride a bike with no hands just once, to tie a bike to a tree and use it as a swing. Go do something fun, spontaneous, outside! Maybe I should force them to polish the paneling with Liquid Gold like my grandmother did to me. That kept me out of the house and away from her for hours.



WOODWORKING Again

BY DAVE WOOD

Interminable garden bounty

One of the many lessons we've learned among the joys and sorrows of being unquashable planters, is that if you're devoted to putting seeds in the ground and oohing and aahing at the wonderful works of nature, it can take a toll on your conscience. What to do with the buckets of multiplier onions, the bushels of sweet corn, the mounds of pea vines? It's a crime (a sin?) to let it go to waste! Kill Mother Nature's offspring? Horrors!

Years back, when I informed my father that we would like a 1/4 acre garden on our newly purchased hobby farm, he shook his head but obliged us. Anything to bring his civilized son close to the soil. We soon realized that it takes lots of seeds, transplants, and tubers to fill up all that dirt, but, undaunted, we plunged ahead, filling long rows with beautiful red striped cranberry beans shelled by our neighbor, the beautiful Madeline Hagen, and scads of marvelous multiplier onions given to us by another neighbor, Henry Sylla. Of course, both produced huge yields, of which we were very proud, inducing me to separate every scallion bulb into its eight separate parts for next year's garden. Talk about prudent, but you never could tell when old Henry might bite the rich loam of Dissmore Coulee. To make matters worse, I continued saving them until we had literally bushels, which we couldn't give away because our neighbors said they were "too hard to peel."

The same went for goes for Madeline's beautiful scarlet beans. She was no spring chicken either, so Ruth and I laboriously CANNED them, after which they languished in our Minneapolis root cellar for years alongside jar after jar of string beans, which Ruth insisted on canning after we discovered that the blanched and frozen ones tasted like uncured silage.

In the following season, still sticking with the 250-foot row of green beans, we learned about the virtue of barter. One night at a supper club called The Midway, I complained to Mavis Anderson about how our bean crop was overwhelming us. Mavis replied, "Huh! You think you've got problems. I've got nine kids with voracious appetites and so tomorrow I'm stuck with the job of butchering a hundred heavy hens!"

At that moment, waitress Ramona Sygulla

appeared with my order of batter-fried chicken gizzards, a specialty of Midway. "You eat those?" asked Mavis.

"You bet! They're delicious."
"I wish my kids thought so. All they can say is 'oof-da! Chicken Lizards again!'"

And so it was that the Anderson-Wood Pact was signed and sealed wherein Mavis Anderson would bring the kids out to Dissmore Coulee to pick our bean patch clean as a whistle, and in return we'd come out to Irvin Coulee to pick up 100 chicken lizards—er, gizzards.

So we learned lots from our giant farm garden. One summer we despaired over a huge crop of sweetcorn which ripened during the month we spent in Europe. Not even hogs would eat them. So we left the ears on their stalks a few more weeks until the kernels were rock-hard and ready for chucking into a borrowed crank-propelled, single cob shuck-er. Then we ground the kernels in a Waring Blender, after which we sifted the stuff in an ancient flour sifter to produce a delicate corn meal, which we froze in plastic bags and enjoyed breakfast muffins for several winters until we moved to River Falls, after which we switched to round boxes of corn meal with William Penn's picture on each label, then saved the empty boxes until spring when they served as fine protectors of tender young transplants.

Does this mean we've stopped canning and that the Ball Brothers of Muncie are heading for bankruptcy? Nope, we're still canning a plethora of raspberries, from which Ruth makes jam in big jars for those muffins, small jars for friends and relatives. Same goes for green tomatoes, which go into mincemeat, based on her Grandma Schwarz's recipe. Even when we're tired of our bounty, we soldier on. By September, we're usually full to the brim with red tomatoes in caprese salad, so it falls to me to make my mother's cream of tomato soup, thickened with white sauce. I freeze 6-ounce portions in cheap plastic cups. Take that, Ball Brothers!

Dave would like to hear from you even if you don't have a recipe for sweet and sour kohl rabi! Phone him at 715-426-9554.

LETTERS to the Editor

Shame on RF athletic director, school board

To the editor,

Welcome to a generation of entitled kids and the parents who made them that way: an era in which a school board and an athletic director can fire a reputable coach with great character based on an anonymous letter. This is a letter complaining that their child had to go to extra practices before the state games and did not get enough "justified" playing time. Unfortunately, we are in the "me" culture in which high school athletes can have egos bigger than the collective effort of a team and the coach who turned the program around and got them there. We are in a school district in which a school board and an athletic director are so worried

about upsetting and offending the "right" parents, that they are willing to crucify a good coach while overlooking some other serious bad behavior and complaints of other coaches in the prior three years.

River Falls is known for having some heavy politics within our athletic organization. Wealthy families run the show, sending their kids to outside training that costs thousands upon thousands of dollars for their kid to play. We have sports teams made up of students whose parents have open-enrolled them here for sports. You heard it right: sports. These are kids who cut out local kids and these are the families who you will often see favored by our athletic director and the coaches.

Our sports culture needs to change. Our coaches and their affiliations to the outside training and teams they promote to their selective "favorite" families, need to be inspected

by someone higher up on the food chain.

Sadly, the anonymous letter that came in will greatly affect the chance of our team going to state next year to the detriment of the athletes who take in the practices without complaint. It will affect attendance to the games and the reputation of the team. I will be shocked if anyone will want to apply to coach here, knowing they are under the scrutiny of certain families to appease. Sports is the new stage for politics and it is a growing business. Shame on the parents who wrote such a ridiculous letter (which is why it's not openly disclosed), to the athletes telling other students they support it because they should've won state and already have a new coach chosen and most of all, shame on our school board and athletic director.

Laura Anders
River Falls

PSC

from Page 1

Roemer spoke about Village of Star Prairie residents who helped the village and Ehlers fight their case with the PSC by writing letters about how such a high rate increase would impact their household budgets. He recommends Ellsworth residents do the same. The goal is to have the rate case settled by Sept. 1 in order to secure the loan.

Roemer recommended sending a notice to residents after the village files the rate case application so they don't find out about it "in the 11th hour at the mandated public hearing. Getting the public involved has been helpful in arguing for lower rates of return with the PSC," he said. The village can collect letters from the community and provide them to the rate case coordinator ahead of time.

As part of the discussion, the board unanimously voted to put the Public Fire Protection charge directly on residents' water bills. Currently, the village levies this charge through tax collection. Changing how this charge is collected will actually save residents money, Roemer said.

"You are limited as to how much you can levy each year. This \$213,000 expense will be taken off your general fund," Roemer said.

The average annual cost for the PFP per taxable property is \$153.53. Now the average cost, seen on water bills and not through taxes, will be about \$100 annually.

"It's actually cheaper to do this because tax exempt properties will now be getting billed for it and the customer ratio is based on meter size," Roemer said. "It will look like a huge spike, but it was previously charged on the levy."

Tax exempt customers that will now be paying this charge include churches, schools and the county.

"I think we need a little time to digest this personally and have people look at it before a decision is made," said Trustee Andrew Borer.

"I would be livid if I lived on one of these roads and the board voted on it and I didn't know about it. We need to notify people," said Trustee Ryan Bench.

Attorney Bob Loberg said the village can adjust the spe-

Village President Becky Beissel said she likes the PFP being spread out to all property owners.

"It's actually more fiscally responsible in my opinion," she said.

Roemer said about 71% of municipalities across the state are converting the PFP charge to water bills.

"But it shows up as a new charge and it's very hard to get that message out," he said. "Rely on the presentation that was shown tonight that shows the average is actually going down."

The next part of the discussion centered on special assessments for the 2024 utility projects. Tyler Hastings from CBS Squared has been working with Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Brad Roy and Public Works Director Brad Vick on the Grant and Piety Streets project. The plan is to add an 8-foot-wide trail along Grant and most of Piety, install new curb, gutter, water and sewer lines, driveway aprons and asphalt.

The cost of the Grant St. and Piety St. utility upgrades and reconstruction is estimated to be \$5,500,000.00. The final cost will not be known until the bids are received. The total cost of the project can be added to the utility bills, through increased utility rates. In this situation all utility users will pay for the project. Another option is to use special assessments.

Current Ellsworth Code states that special assessments for curb and gutter will be split 50/50 by the village and property owners adjacent to the work. Hastings estimated if this is the route the village goes, the average assessment per property owner would be \$8,000, and those with corner lots being \$13,000-\$15,000. The village would work with residents to set a payment schedule and percentage rates.

Roemer said if the village chooses to not special assess for these projects, the PSC might deny its water rate case application.

"I think we need a little time to digest this personally and have people look at it before a decision is made," said Trustee Andrew Borer.

"I would be livid if I lived on one of these roads and the board voted on it and I didn't know about it. We need to notify people," said Trustee Ryan Bench.

Attorney Bob Loberg said the village can adjust the spe-

cial assessment amount down the road, but no later than the May meeting.

"Every dollar that isn't special assessed gets added to utility bills," Roy said. "Where I struggle is this is two projects that are needed; however, it can get delayed if the board doesn't want to take this on. But it will only add costs in the future because prices are going to go up. If this was an easy problem it probably would have been solved years ago before this board started. There's no great answer."

The board will discuss special assessments for the Grant and Piety Streets projects at the May board meeting.

Other business

The board approved a Request for Proposal for the old junior high property at 254 S. Chestnut St. The RFP outlines the submittal requirements and timelines for development proposals.

The board voted to implement water, police, library and park impact fees effective immediately. The village has not charged these fees since 2019.

The village assessor set Open Book for May 8; the Board of Review will be held May 15.

The board voted to donate \$200 to the Ellsworth Senior Grad Night event.

The board voted to renew its Pierce County Economic Development Association membership at the silver level. Beissel abstained.

The American Legion Post 204 Memorial Day parade will be held from 9:45-10:10 a.m. May 27.

The board approved a Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's License for the Pierce County Fair Aug. 8-11 for the Wine and Beer judging and Beer Garden.

The board approved a Class A license and cigarette and tobacco product license for CAPL Retail LLC, dba Express Lane, 101 N. Maple St. This is because they changed names.

The board approved a Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's License for the St. Francis School Gala on April 20, 244 W. Woodworth St. Beissel abstained.

The board approved a Temporary Class "B"/"Class B" Retailer's License for the Ellsworth FFA Alumni's Showdown in Curdturn on June 8. Beissel and Tony Hines abstained.



MY View

BY JOHN MCLOONE

Planning a journey

I'm due for a vacation. It's been almost a year since I took some time off and I think it was about five years before we embarked on a journey into the wilderness last summer.

I've been trying to think of places to go. The one important thing is that it has to be at a time when the weather is starting to get a little warmer. My vacation radius is about 10 hours from home base. I'm thinking of a drive that is a little bit uncomfortably long, but not too much so.

I'm not going to fly anymore, unless there's something really, really important on the other end. All these planes are falling apart. Airports are a hassle. Flights are getting cancelled like crazy. There's no guarantee you're going to get where you want to go anyway.

That's where my 10-hour rule comes in. I can get up in the morning, drive and easily be somewhere else for supper. And, it's basically a distance where it really wouldn't

be that much quicker to fly. You're going to have to go to the airport a few hours ahead, you're going to waste a lot of time there, you've got your time in the air, you wait for your baggage. Plus, you're not at your final lodging destination, so you either have to rent a car or download a ride service app and hope the driver isn't a mass murderer. You get to the hotel, you're exhausted and crabby. I know how you get.

On the other hand, I've had a very relaxing day. My wife and I have an arrangement where she does probably about 90 percent of the driving. So, the only thing different from me being chauffeured in a limousine for those 10 hours is the fact that it's a Dodge, and I'm in the front seat. She likes to drive. She likes to take in the world around her. There are birds and deer and unique animals in different states. She likes to see them. Also, she isn't a very good passenger. If she isn't driving, she's still

mentally driving. I, on the other hand, am an excellent passenger. I was made for it. I feel like I could sit in peace for endless hours. I can read. I can become an expert on our destination, so we hit the ground running when we get to Point B.

Last summer, we stretched it a bit and drove to Yellowstone. Of the 3,400 miles we put on, I drove about 200 of them, 100 on each side of Fargo on the way home. The journey was further than my 10-hour rule, so we broke it into several days of driving both ways. It was a great trip.

The problem I'm finding in my research is that there aren't many 10-hour destinations. We may have to change it to 12. That'll get us comfortably to a list of cities that include Denver, Oklahoma City, Memphis, Nashville, Pittsburg and almost to Toronto.

Some pretty exciting vacation destinations indeed! I'll have my wife wake me up when we get there.

WEATHER Forecast

Thu 11	54°/39°		Showers	40%
Fri 12	58°/38°		Partly Cloudy	6%
Sat 13	69°/48°		Mostly Sunny	4%
Sun 14	71°/48°		Sunny	5%
Mon 15	66°/47°		PM Showers	34%
Tue 16	61°/45°		Showers	49%
Wed 17	58°/44°		AM Showers	32%

ST. CROIX COUNTY Jail Log

Monday, April 1
Frederick David Gartmann, 37, Woodville, by SCSO, sentenced, serving 30 days.
Ariel Adriana Mackey, 34, Chicago, Ill., by SCSO, warrants.
Matthew Carl Franz, 35, Hammond, by SCSO, warrants, probation hold.
Levi Jean Jacobson, 28, Stillwater, Minn., by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Steven Nelson Chezick, 67, address not listed, by River Falls police, OWI-first.
Shawn Patrick Kaliszewski, 48, Oakdale, Minn., by SCSO, warrant.
Justin Morgan Manske, 39, Deer Park, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Ty Stewart Anderson, 60, Hudson, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.

Tuesday, April 2
Demonte Wayne Nolen, 29, Milwaukee, by CIP non-system officer, TLU for Challenge Incarceration Program.
Rebecca Ann Lynch, 43, New Richmond, by Baldwin police, operating while revoked.
Collin John Hines, 34, Baldwin, by Hudson police, OWI-third.
Jeremy Michael Vadner, 31, New Richmond, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Norman Harold Gilpin, 53, New Richmond, by SCSO, warrant.

Wednesday, April 3
Cathlene Laree York, 41, New Richmond, by NR police, domestic battery, domestic disorderly conduct, strangulation and suffocation (domestic).
Nicholas Wittstock, 36, New Richmond, by SCSO, warrant.
Garrett Wayne Garvin, 40, River Falls, by SCCC, warrant.
Chance Bradley Langer, 28, address not listed, by Hud-

son police, retail theft - intentionally take.
Eloy Sanchez Ginez, 27, Durand, by SCSO, operate without valid license (third).
Martha T. Guaman Guaman, 22, Baldwin, by SCSO, operate without valid license (third).
Luis Roberto Gomez Ruiz, 22, Hudson, by SCSO, operate without valid license (third).
Elvin Hiram Olivo Torres, 39, Somers, by SCSO, operating while revoked.
Michael James Tawney, 47, Grand Haven, Mich., by SCSO, operating commercial motor vehicle without valid CDL.
Dale Robert Rothermel, 56, Waupaca, by SCSO, operating commercial motor vehicle without valid CDL.
Andrew Ivan Gehl, 49, Roberts, by SCCC, operating commercial motor vehicle without valid CDL.
Jason L. Defoor, 32, Glenwood City, by SCSO, hold for SCSO.
James Arthur Chute Jr., 46, Deer Park, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.

Thursday, April 4
Keri Jean Ioppolo, 53, Oak Park Heights, Minn., by NR police, warrant.
Amara Marie King, 23, Hudson, by SCSO, warrant.
Nicholaos Kremetis, 36, Oak Park Heights, Minn., by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Jesse Lee Aherns, 32, New Richmond, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Tyler James Fjelstad, 26, Bayport, Minn., by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Jerome R. Seamon, 62, Chicago, by NR police, Columbia County warrant.

Friday, April 5
Roumer Donazal Jr., 26, Cottage Grove, Minn., by SCSO, sentenced, serving three days.
Austin Thomas Goff, 26,

Hudson, by SCSO, battery, disorderly conduct, disorderly conduct (domestic abuse), battery (domestic).
Hector Santamaria Castillo, 30, Coon Rapids, Minn., by SCSO, sentenced, serving three days.
Caleb Christopher Perry, 23, St. Cloud, Minn., by SCCC, warrant.
Joseph M. Scherer, 46, Colchester, Vt., by SCSO, hold for SCSO.
Isaac John Rayfield, 47, New Richmond, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Vincentarnor T. Filkins, 35, Boyceville, by SCSO, warrant.
Tundra Ann Beck, 50, Hastings, Minn., by SCSO, warrant.

Saturday, April 6
Jennifer K. Johnson, 40, address not listed, by SCSO, battery.
Katie M. Simonson, 33, Eau Claire, by SCSO, resist/obstruct cause injury, probation hold, OWI-fourth.
Keyan Allen Davis, 29, address not listed, by Hudson police, OWI-fifth/sixth.

Sunday, April 7
Anthony Ludwig Frey, 40, Hudson, by SCSO, probation hold, OWI-second.
Jerik Jeffrey Espersen, 33, New Richmond, by Hudson police, felony bail jumping.
Darla Kay Roisum, 62, address not listed, by SCSO, OWI-first.
Paul Anthony Olson, 43, New Richmond, violate/harassment restraining order.

Monday, April 8
Daja Renee Lungelow, 26, Spring Valley, by Hudson police, OWI-second.
Jeffrey Dale Scuto, 61, St. Paul, by Wisconsin State Patrol, possess drug paraphernalia, possess/intent manufacture/deliver THC > 10,000 grams, possession of methamphetamine.

23, town of Salem.
Francis J. Daleiden to Emery T. Whalen, Outlots 1 and 2, Govt. Lot 3, NE-NE, Sec. 16, Village of Maiden Rock.

Thursday, April 4
Jeremy William & Monique Danielle Allington to Timothy Verthein, Lot 1, Powr First Addition, City of Prescott.

Friday, April 5
Alphabet Properties LLC to Michael R. Brown, Unit 302, Building 2, Great River Road Flex Space Condominium, City of Prescott.
Howard B. Freshley to Gordon T. Hoyt, west 530 feet of SW-NE, Sec. 13, town of Maiden Rock.

PIERCE COUNTY Land Transfers

The following property transfers were recorded by the Pierce County Register of Deeds April 1-5.

Monday, April 1
Carol O. Weberg Revocable Trust to Eric Starbuck, Lot 11, Block E of Weberg's Pine View Addition, town of Trenton.
Richard E. Purdy to Richard T. & Ashley J. Purdy, Lot 1, NE-NE, Sec. 24, town of River Falls.
Kummer Revocable Trust to Cernohous Holdings LLC, N 1/2 of fractional SW, Sec. 19, town of El Paso.
Cudd Brothers Construction Inc. to Wise Rentals LLC, Unit 1203, Unit 1305, Stone Brook Condominium, City of

River Falls.
Kevin Amm to Lukas Benson, Outlot 63, Assessor's Plat, Village of Ellsworth.

Tuesday, April 2
Ashleigh Stroschein to Shelly Swanson, Lot 1, in NE-NE, Sec. 8, town of Martell.
Derek D. & Patricia Williams to Robert Bruce Schellin, north 80 feet of the south 244 feet of Outlot 51, north 90 feet of the south 334 feet of Outlot 51, Assessor's Plat, Village of Ellsworth.
Emery T. Whalen to Nicholas Z. Stoll, part of the NE-NE, Sec. 36, town of Trenton.

Wednesday, April 3
Greg Fitschen to Ann Wilkens, part of SW-SW, Sec.

PIERCE COUNTY Jail Log

Monday, April 1
Oscar Stanley Amany, 34, River Falls, by PCSO, operate without valid license, released.
Dorian Marcus Cross, 50, River Falls, by River Falls police, contempt of court - disobey order, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
Kenneth Lyle Gregg, 73, Ellsworth, by Ellsworth police, OWI, released, interrupted sentenced.
Amanda Rose Hildebrandt, 40, River Falls, by PCSO, operate without valid license (two counts), released on \$500 signature bond.
Ryan Thomas Joy, 38, River Falls, by RF police, contributing to truancy, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
Linda Michelle Lingerfelt, 51, Amery, by PCSO, operate without valid license, released

on \$500 signature bond.
Joseph Patrick Weldon, 41, Beldenville, by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, released.

Tuesday, April 2
Daniel Gomez Mendez, 43, Plum City, by PCSO, operating while revoked, released on \$500 signature bond.
Jake Ellis King, 36, Plum City, by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, illegal shining of deer, elk or bear; hunt/trap/fish without license, released on \$1,000 signature bond.

Wednesday, April 3
Benjamin Charles Johnson, 40, Beldenville, by Ellsworth police, probation violation, operate without valid license, released.
Roxanna Fay Linder, 42,

Ellsworth, by PCSO, disorderly conduct, released on \$1,000 signature bond.

Thursday, April 4
Michaela Briane Payment, 27, Hinckley, Minn., by Probation & Parole, probation violation.

Friday, April 5
Scott Allan Altenburg, 60, Spooner, by PCSO, failure to appear warrant.
Vanessa Renee Olson, 26, River Falls, by Ellsworth police, probation violation.

Saturday, April 6
Alexander Vinn Hooper, 55, Elmwood, by PCSO, possess firearm - convicted of a felony.

Sunday, April 7
 None

ELLSWORTH Police Department Reports

The following incidents were reported to Ellsworth Police Department April 1-7.

Monday, April 1
 At 8:25 a.m., it was discovered that approximately 3 feet of copper wire had been cut from 11 separate lines in a transformer box at 411 E. Business Way. The theft occurred sometime after 5 p.m. March 29 and before 8 a.m. April 1.

Police assisted EMS at 8:36 a.m. at 521 Burton Circle. At 8:38 a.m., a resident asked for assistance in gathering property from a residence at 575 N. Maple St., due to a protection order in place.

At 8:04 a.m., police were asked to conduct a welfare check on a woman at 509 W. Mitchell St. Residents said she hadn't lived there in three years and they didn't know her current location.

Tuesday, April 2
 At 8:41 a.m., a resident at 958 Southgate Drive reported receiving unwanted texts.

Officers received a complaint at 6:36 p.m. about a black truck parking in front of a fire hydrant at 253 N. Bourbon Circle. The suspect refused to wake up to speak to police.

Officers assisted EMS with a 7-month-old choking baby at 6:47 p.m. at 841 N. Grant St. The child was alert when police arrived.

Police checked on a man at 8:48 p.m. in the 300 block of East Wall Street who was hearing voices and possibly suicidal. He declined help from law enforcement or a hospital.

Wednesday, April 3
Benjamin Charles Johnson, 40, Beldenville, was arrested for operate without valid license (second within three years) and a probation hold after a traffic stop for speeding at 1:34 p.m. at Maple and Grove streets.

At 5:43 p.m., police received a complaint of a homeless person at 157 E. Main St. No action was taken. Officers responded to a minor crash at 6:40 p.m. at 158 Evergreen Estates St. involving **Barbara Jean Cook**, 68, Ellsworth. The vehicle had minor damage to the rear

bumper. Police were called at 7:25 p.m. to 321 S. Piety St. where a man said he had been kicked out. Officers learned his roommates wanted privacy in the common area and had asked him to leave the room. The parties agreed to remain civil for the evening.

Officers responded to a domestic at 8:16 p.m. at 511 Vincent Lane. A woman was extremely intoxicated and refused to speak to law enforcement at first. Nothing physical happened and the parties were separated.

Thursday, April 4
 Theft of money from an ATM was reported at 2:36 a.m. at 218 N. Broadway St. Police responded to the break-in in progress and the suspects fled on foot eastbound from CCF Bank. Police believe they were picked up by someone in a vehicle on Main Street. The suspects were wearing dark hoodies with black facemasks. Officers are asking residents in that area to check their doorbell or security cameras for any footage from 2-3 a.m. April 4. The fleeing vehicle may have out-of-state plates and be a rental vehicle.

At 11:11 a.m., a man reported someone had entered his vehicle at 144 S. Plum St. and taken two flashlights and a pair of binoculars. He had seen a red vehicle with Minnesota plates park behind his vehicle and leave when he was walking back to it.

Police assisted EMS at 7:31 p.m. at 463 E. Wall St. with a man possibly having a mini stroke. He was alert and talking when they arrived.

Friday, April 5
 Police assisted EMS with a medical call at 12:15 p.m. at Ellsworth Elementary (445 S. Piety St.)

Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash at 12:38 p.m. at Maple and Spruce streets. **Daniel Mark DeGross**, 50, Ellsworth, was stopped waiting to make a left turn onto Spruce Street when **Brittney Christine Witzke**, 45, Bay City, rear-ended him.

Police were dispatched to a home alarm at 12:39 p.m. at 466 W. Nelson St. An open door was found. No one was found inside.

Vanessa Renee Olson, 26, River Falls, was arrested for a probation violation at 1:08 p.m. at 310 W. Main St.

At 2:29 p.m., Public Works Department employees found vandalism at the Summit Park (100 W. Grove St.) concession building. Someone had written "I Love JKR," "Hi" and "I love every" with a crayon.

Police provided mutual aid at 9:13 p.m. at a home on 610th Street where a possibly suicidal male reportedly had a shotgun. When police arrived, he was back inside and no longer had a gun in his possession. Police assisted deputies as needed.

Police received a noise complaint at 10:29 p.m. at 170 S. Chestnut St. Officers could hear the music from the road. The resident agreed to turn it down.

Saturday, April 6
 At 1:27 a.m., a man knocked on a squad window and reported a woman was following him near Wall and Main streets. The person behind him was about 50 feet away and was picked up by someone in a vehicle.

Officers were dispatched at 2:07 a.m. to a loud music complaint at 170 S. Chestnut St. The music could be heard outside the residence. The resident was warned. Police received a third complaint at 3:18 a.m. and a fourth at 3:55 a.m. The music could be heard from the intersection of Church and Chestnut streets. **Landon Wade Gilbertson**, 24, Ellsworth, was cited and told to turn the music off.

At 2:55 p.m., police responded to a residence in the 1200 block of Mikel Street to take a suicidal male into custody. He was transported to Winnebago on an emergency detention.

Sunday, April 7
 While traveling south on Overlook Drive at 6:19 p.m., a vehicle sparked and started on fire. The owner, who had recently purchased the vehicle, believe it was caused by faulty spark plugs or wires. At 6:30 p.m., while the owner tried to get the vehicle home, it started on fire a second time near 358 W. Main St. The owners were able to put the fire out.

PIERCE COUNTY Marriages

The Pierce County Clerk issued the following marriage licenses in March 2024.

William Anthony Green, 63, town of Trenton, and **Schelle Kerfoot Barr**, 62, Woodbury, Minn.
Roman Clemence Huppert, 74, Prescott, and **Mary Ann (Resong) Sands**, 72, Prescott.
Brian Octavius Walker, 48, Gainesville, Fla., and

Shannon Lea Feuerhelm, 48, Baldwin.

Nicholas Charles Thiry, 47, Elmwood, and **Brenda Jean (Hofacker) Krogstad**, 45, Elmwood.

James Nicholas Roy, 39, River Falls, and **Tiffany Marie (Klatt) Bieszki**, 38, River Falls.

Ramon Guerny Curtis, 60, River Falls, and **Sheryl Marie (Wesely) McLaughlin**,

62, River Falls.
Kevin James Szemborski, 36, River Falls, and **Kimberly Ann Schopper**, 31, River Falls.
Robert Kenneth Kammerer, 40, town of Oak Grove, and **Crystal Lorraine Nelson**, 38, town of Oak Grove.
Nathan Richard Roschen, 23, Farmington, Minn., and **Morgan Diane Rubin**, 25, Eagan, Minn.

PIERCE COUNTY Divorces

The following divorces were finalized in Pierce County Circuit Court in March 2024.

Nicole Marie Adams, 51, Prescott, and **Anthony Paul Adams**, 53, Prescott.
Katelyn Marie Christiansen, 30, Ellsworth, and **Brandon Charles Christiansen**, 29, Ellsworth.

Mallorie Rose Daleiden, 37, Ellsworth, and **Daniel Shawn Daleiden**, 39, River Falls.

Jane Ellen Freeborn, 54, Red Wing, Minn., and **Dane Craig Freeborn**, 51, River Falls.

Bridget Ann Johnson, 50, Spring Valley, and **Matthew Benjamin Johnson**, 46, New Richmond.

Cassandra Ann Lee Schilling, 32, Ellsworth, and **Michael Gene Schilling**, 33, Bay City.

PIERCE COUNTY Classified Ads

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RIVER FALLS Police Department Reports

The following incidents were reported to River Falls Police Department March 7-22.

Thursday, March 7

At 11:03 a.m., police were asked to check on a man at 315 River St. His neighbor thought he'd heard him fall in the night but hadn't heard anything since. When police entered the apartment, they found it to be disheveled with trash on the floor, but the resident wasn't home. They reached him later and he said he was fine. His case was referred to the Pierce County ADR.

Police were dispatched at 1:37 p.m. to 930 S. Main St. for a domestic. Neighbors heard a couple fighting and a possible slap. When officers arrived, a man exited the apartment crying, carrying bags of belongings. He said he and his girlfriend had been arguing about his alleged involvement with another girl. He admitted to preventing his girlfriend from leaving when she wanted to, and said she bit his arm. A witness said he heard the man screaming and yelling most of the time. Officers forwarded domestic disorderly conduct charges for both to the district attorney's office.

At 4:24 p.m., officers responded to 126 S. Third St. for a fraud complaint. A man said person posed as one of his friends on Snapchat and offered him an investment opportunity. The man placed \$500 on two prepaid cards and sent it to the scammer, who then accessed his debit card and driver's license info. Transactions taking place in Las Vegas were showing up on his bank account. He was advised to notify ic3.gov of the identity theft.

Police were called at 4:23 p.m. to QT Nails (107 N. Main St.) for a wallet theft. A woman stole a customer's wallet that had been sitting on the counter by the window. The suspect, later identified as **Krystal Elizabeth Alwin**, 42, Hudson, on surveillance video, set her purse on top of the wallet, then took both as she left. The wallet contained \$160 in cash, gift cards, a driver's license, student ID and debit card. Hudson police pulled her over at 10:08 p.m. She eventually admitted to taking the wallet and told officers they would find the ID and debit cards in a bathroom stall at the Oak Park Heights Walmart. The cards were recovered and given back to the victim. Alwin was arrested for felony bail jumping, theft and a probation hold and transported to Pierce County Jail.

Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash at 5:40 p.m. at River Falls High School (818 Cemetery Road) between a 2017 Subaru Forester, driven by a 16-year-old River Falls juvenile, and an unknown vehicle. While the Subaru was driving through the parking lot at approximately 5 mph, a white sedan driven by a female backed into the side of her vehicle from a parking space at 3:10 p.m. and fled the scene. She did not see the license plate nor what type of vehicle hit hers. The Subaru had functional damage. No injuries were reported.

A 17-year-old Prescott juvenile was cited \$187 for possess drug paraphernalia and \$187 for possession of THC after a traffic stop at 6:05 p.m. at Third and Walnut streets.

Friday, March 8

At 1:20 p.m., a 16-year-old River Falls High School student was cited \$73.60 for minor possessions or purchases of tobacco/nicotine and suspended from school for one day. The teen said the vape belonged to a friend and admitted using it.

At 1:34 p.m., a Theta Chi Fraternity (650 Sycamore St.) resident reported vandalism to the fraternity's "party bathroom" that occurred Feb. 9. Two people had written swear words in black marker on the walls, clogged the toilet and caused water to hit the ceiling and leak onto the floor. The residents failed to follow up with police or provide photos of the damage.

At 2:36 p.m., a Chippewa Falls resident reported damage to his vehicle that occurred while it was parked at St. Croix Gas (415 S. Second St.). While he was working on the new Sci Tech building between 6:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., someone had smashed the side mirrors on his vehicle. There are no suspects.

Officers responded at 6:49 p.m. to a residence in the 100 block of West Cascade Avenue to pick up a 13-year-old juvenile for Municipal Court. They located the juvenile at

Glen Park.

At 7:33 p.m., a complainant reported the theft of a \$500 Arctic backpack cooler from outside the back door of 715 S. Main St. The complainant said he'd left the cooler outside the back door while he was inside with friends. When he went to grab a beer, he noticed the cooler was gone. It also contained keys for a Chevy. There are no suspects.

Saturday, March 9

Officers were dispatched at 5:13 p.m. to a domestic at 611 Jefferson St. **Carter D.R. Orpen**, 21, River Falls, was highly intoxicated and was being verbally and physically aggressive with both his parents. When police arrived, Orpen's father, who was bleeding from the nose, was holding him down on the floor. Orpen vomited a black substance and was transported to the hospital by EMS. His family told police he had been drinking for two days and hadn't eaten or slept. He went after his mother and head-butted his father in the nose. When his brother tried to break up the fight, Orpen squeezed him around the neck. After being medically cleared at the hospital, Orpen was arrested for strangulation and suffocation (domestic) and disorderly conduct (domestic) and transported to Pierce County Jail.

Sunday, March 10

Police responded to a fight in progress at 3:24 a.m. at Main and Elm streets. Two men said they were attacked by **Bradley William Sigfrids**, 22, Hudson, when they came out of Shooter's Pub. He came at them and started swinging, saying he wanted to "talk to someone he didn't know." As they held him down on the ground, one of them got punched in the face. Sigfrids, who was highly intoxicated, was cited \$187 for disorderly conduct.

Officers were called at 3:58 p.m. to 979 Falcon Drive for an intoxicated woman who wasn't supposed to be drinking due to an open court case. **Lisa Ann Rydland**, 56, River Falls, admitted to drinking vodka and knowing she wasn't supposed to. She was arrested for misdemeanor bail jumping and transported to St. Croix County Jail.

Police were dispatched to a hit-and-run crash at 9:06 p.m. at Griffey and Short streets. An unknown vehicle struck a legally parked 2013 Ford Fusion, owned by **Pamela M. Konieczka**, Rier Falls, and fled the scene at 8:30 p.m. The Ford had functional damage. No injuries were reported.

Monday, March 11

At 12:50 p.m., a man called police on himself at 555 N. Main St. for having suicidal and homicidal thoughts. He said he was hearing voices that were telling him to cut himself and others with a sword. He had run out of his medication and requested transport to Hudson Hospital.

At 2 p.m., a woman requested a welfare check on her mother, who she thought might be staying at the Radisson (100 Spring St.) Her mother had missed a 1 p.m. court appearance and credit card statements showed she had checked into the hotel. **Lisa Ann Rydland**, 56, River Falls, was arrested for a warrant and transported to St. Croix County Jail. She registered a PBT of .304.

Police responded to a two-vehicle crash at 3:08 p.m. at Main and Pomeroy streets between a 2018 Chevy Cruze, driven by **Madison Michelle Klintworth**, 22, Roberts, and a 2007 Honda Fit, driven by **Amber Lee Moore**, 46, Minneapolis. Both vehicles were stopped in traffic on Main Street for the Quarry Road stoplight. Klintworth rear-ended Moore when traffic began moving forward. Both vehicles had minor damage. No injuries were reported. Klintworth was cited \$124 for automobile following too closely.

At 8:22 p.m., police were called to O'Reilly Auto Parts (1668 Commerce Court) for an unwanted person. A man had walked into the closed store through the back door. He had a garbage bag, charger and laptop with him. He told employees he had left his iPad there, but soon fled the store wearing an O'Reilly cap he had taken; first he threw down a \$20 bill he said was for the hat. Police found him running behind the strip mall area and detained him. The investigation revealed **Christopher Curtis Markert**, 34, Minneapolis, had come to town with a 36-year-old male

acquaintance March 8, who was visiting family. The man's car broke down at McDonald's, so they got a room for the night at Country Inn. The man took an Uber back to the Cities the next day and AAA towed his vehicle to White Tail Ridge Auto. Markert remained in River Falls, loitering in and around Country Inn until he was asked to leave due to his odd behavior. He also spent time going in and out of multiple businesses over the next few days (BP, McDonald's, White Tail Ridge Auto, O'Reilly Auto Parts), where he was suspected of stealing multiple items. Police believe had had been staying in his friend's car parked at White Tail Ridge Auto. Along with several charging cables, phones and toiletry items, police found THC chocolate and a pen with a crystalline residue (meth) in Markert's possession. They learned one phone had been stolen from Markert's ex-boyfriend in Minneapolis after tracking him down. Markert had also given different names to several employees at local businesses; police believe he was trying to steal parts from O'Reilly to fix his friend's car in order to take it. Markert was arrested for receiving stolen property, entry into building/construction site/room, theft, possession of THC and possession of methamphetamine; officers transported him to St. Croix County Jail.

Officers were dispatched at 10:20 p.m. to a fight in progress at Positive Alternatives (2860 Williams Ave.) A 14-year-old was arrested for battery and disorderly conduct after attacking another 14-year-old and pulling out a large chunk of her hair. EMS transported the victim to the hospital. The next day, the suspect was transported to a juvenile detention center in Eau Claire.

Tuesday, March 12

At 3:30 p.m., a resident at 1063 E. Cascade Ave. reported a fraudulent loan taken out in her name for \$3,750 made payable to Trinity Bible College in North Dakota. The loan was under the name Morgan Swenson with a Blaine, Minn. address. Police followed up with the woman who lives at the address, and she said her daughter Morgan goes to Trinity Bible College. They had taken out a loan in the fall, but couldn't locate it under her daughter's information. They agreed to have the mistake figured out.

Wednesday, March 13

Officers were dispatched at 1:11 a.m. to a residence in the 300 block of West Johnson Street for a juvenile who had run away an hour prior. The 14-year-old was mad a friend couldn't stay overnight and kept trying to leave the house after having his phone and internet taken away. He returned the next day.

At 11:34 a.m., a Positive Alternatives (2860 Williams Ave.) employee reported property damage caused by a 14-year-old March 8. The teen began kicking and punching walls when she couldn't have her cell phone. The damage cost \$500 to repair. The teen was charged with criminal damage to property.

Police were notified at 4:50 p.m. of a hit and run crash that occurred sometime overnight March 11. An unknown vehicle had side-swiped a 2022 Ford F150, owned by **Laurie Spielman**, River Falls, while it was parked in front of 518 N. Winter St. The truck had minor damage with red paint transfer.

Friday, March 15

At 8:14 a.m., officers were dispatched to the corner of Cedar and Second streets for a 3-year-old girl standing outside with no jacket or adult nearby. A passerby took the child to the Allina Ambulance Hall (403 N. Second St.) There was a language barrier, but the child was happy with ambulance staff watching cartoons and eating snacks. Police located the child's home a block away on Second Street. The door was ajar to the apartment and a woman was sleeping inside. She said she was sick and had fallen asleep while watching the child, whose parents were at work. The child was eventually returned to her parents and a visit with Pierce County Human Services scheduled.

At 9:15 a.m., a student at River Falls High School (818 Cemetery Road) reported \$60 in cash and a credit card had been stolen from his wallet, which had been in an unlocked locker the day before while he was at track prac-

tice. He noticed a Play Station transaction on his account at 3:30 p.m. that day for \$154.24, which the bank blocked.

Police were asked to conduct a welfare check at 9:04 a.m. on a man living at 962 Leroy Court. He didn't answer the door or multiple phone calls when his ride arrived to take him to the airport. River Falls Fire came and assisted in getting a door open. A 73-year-old man was found deceased face down on the bed. The St. Croix County Medical Examiner found nothing suspicious about the death and released his body to the nursing home while his family was notified.

Officers responded at 9:13 p.m. to Mariachi Loco (456 Spruce St.) for a theft complaint. A 20-year-old man said he had dropped his wallet while eating there and surveillance video shows a man picking it up, looking at him and not returning it. The thief was identified as **Jerry R. Matejka**, 67, River Falls. Police located Matejka at his residence. He returned the wallet to police, but said he'd found it empty. He later admitted to stealing the \$453 in cash inside and using \$404 of it to pay his phone and electric bills. He then threw the rest of the wallet's contents out his vehicle window. He was cited \$250 for theft - movable property.

Saturday, March 16

Officers were called at 8:24 a.m. to 1355 Sunshine Ave. for a bond violation. A man and woman who are not supposed to have contact with one another after a domestic were found sleeping in a vehicle. They said they had slept there overnight after consuming alcohol. The man was told to walk home while the woman called a valid driver to move her vehicle. A felony bail jumping charge was forwarded to the district attorney's office.

Police responded at 2:56 p.m. to Kwik Trip (1200 S. Main St.) where a man had stolen a Dr. Pepper and chicken sandwich. Employees confronted him and he relinquished the pop before leaving on foot toward Dick's. He was not immediately identified.

Sunday, March 17

Shawn Michael Krasky, 43, River Falls, was arrested for a Department of Corrections warrant at 3:33 p.m. at

1011 State St. Officers transported him to Pierce County Jail without incident.

Tuesday, March 19

Police were dispatched to an unwanted person complaint at 7:26 p.m. at 416 Pierce St. A woman had been letting her ex-husband stay there so he wouldn't be homeless after being kicked out of a sober house, but wanted him to leave after finding him passed out and a bag of cocaine. When police arrived, they saw **John Edward Ayer Fullerton**, 62, Maple Plain, Minn., hide something in a garage bin. He admitted it was a crack pipe. Officers also found baggies of cocaine and drug paraphernalia around the house. They transported Fullerton to the hospital for medical clearance since he was intoxicated. He was arrested for possession of cocaine/coca and possess drug paraphernalia and taken to Pierce County Jail.

Thursday, March 21

Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash at 10:44 a.m. at Main Street and Quarry Road between a 2006 Lexus GX, driven by **Timothy Allen Wallace**, 75, Stillwater, Minn., and a 2016 Ram Promaster, driven by **Patrick Dean Forrest**, 61, Eau Claire. Forrest rear-ended Wallace when he slowed for traffic at the intersection. Forrest said Wallace slowed suddenly and he couldn't stop in time. The Lexus had functional damage while the Promaster was towed due to disabling damage. Neither driver reported injuries. EMS transported passenger **Angela Mary Wallace**, 75, Stillwater, Minn., to Hudson Hospital with possible injuries. Forrest was cited \$124 for automobile following too closely.

At 11 a.m., a business owner at 125 N. Main St. reported a woman had stolen 94 jewelry charms worth over \$500 from her store on March 19. She provided officers with camera footage. The case is under investigation.

Police responded at 3:34 p.m. to Kwik Trip (1536 Cemetery Road) for a theft that had occurred at 12:50 p.m. A man had been wandering the store, eating items and taking others without paying, including a cake donut, a Little Buddy FTN, milk, a Whatchamacallit candy bar, two cheese bread sticks, pepperoni rotini and a Trolli candy, for

a total of \$21.30. The man left in a white Nissan Pathfinder; police are attempting to contact the vehicle's registered owner.

Owen Michael Rose, 19, Cottage Grove, Minn., was cited \$187 for possess drug paraphernalia after a traffic stop for speeding at 10:48 p.m. at Main and Johnson streets. Due to smelling marijuana, police searched the vehicle and found a THC vape.

Friday, March 22

After receiving numerous driving complaints about a red station wagon around town, police located the vehicle at Valley View and South Fork drives at 12:19 p.m. The driver, **Jonas Ezekiel Trujillo**, 42, Minneapolis, told officers he was in town for a kitchen remodel and was looking for an address. Officers could smell alcohol on his breath and asked him to perform field sobriety tests. After failing the tests and registering a .168 BAC, officers located alcohol shooters on the vehicle floor, along with marijuana shake. While at the hospital for a blood draw, Trujillo preached religion at officers and nurses and told them they were all going to hell. He accused people of rape, lying, stealing and shoving things up their butts. He said Jesus is going to throw a bomb on everyone and kill them. He was arrested and cited \$200.50 for operate without valid license, OWI-fourth, and making terrorist threats. Officers transported him to Pierce County Jail, where he continued his religious tirade on jail staff.

At 3:02 p.m., a resident at 663 Sycamore St. reported a theft they believed occurred the night of March 15. Someone had gone into a residence, possibly through an unlocked door, and taken bottles of alcohol, an Apple Mac Book Pro laptop (\$1,000), two hockey jerseys (\$200) and a Ping 3W golf club (\$50). At the time the theft is believed to have occurred, one roommate was home and asleep upstairs.

Cecily Ann Schmidt, 19, River Falls, was cited \$187 for possession of THC after a traffic stop for a burnt out headlight at 11:15 p.m. at Main and Foster streets. Schmidt was a passenger in the vehicle, which smelled of marijuana. Inside police found marijuana shake and a joint, which Schmidt claimed to own.



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PRESCOTT Police Department Reports

The following incidents were reported to Prescott Police Department April 1-8.

Monday, April 1

Anthony Michael Myers, 24, Champlin, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 9:52 a.m. at Cherry Street and Highway 10.

At 5:04 p.m., police observed multiple dogs close to the street at 1225 Ash St. Police advised people at the residence of the incident.

Tuesday, April 2

A hit and run was reported at 5:45 a.m. at UNFI (1000 Eagle Ridge Drive). The driver, **Roberto Pascual Juan**, 51 Independence, fled the scene but was apprehended later and cited for hit and run - unattended vehicle.

Edward Lee Melstrom, 51, Ellsworth, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 1:40 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

Suspicious activity was reported at 3:31 p.m. near 880 Walnut St. Nothing suspicious was found.

Brianna Joy Kalinoff, 18,

Woodbury, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 9:39 p.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets.

Keith Francis Riffle, 52, West Des Moines, Iowa, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 10:13 p.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets.

A vehicle alarm was going off at 10:22 p.m. near 1805 Canton Road. The vehicle was secure. Police attempted contact at the residence without success.

Wednesday, April 3

Thomas Lee Doege, 71, Montgomerly, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 8:19 a.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets.

Officers responded to an illegal dumping complaint at 12:19 p.m. at 206 N. Locust St. Several boxes contained items likely donated to the church.

Anders Philip Ryden, 21, Minneapolis, was cited for speeding and warned for no proof of insurance after a traffic stop at 3:46 p.m. at Oak Street and Highway 10.

Daisy Cynthia Schetnan,

17, Northfield, Minn., was cited for fail/stop at stop sign after a traffic stop at 5:01 p.m. at Canton and St. Croix streets.

Thursday, April 4

Officers assisted Ellsworth police and Pierce County Sheriff's Office with tracking suspects after an ATM theft at 2:45 a.m. at 218 N. Broadway St.

A caller reported a bail bond violation at 1:29 p.m. at 334 Court St.

Officers assisted a bus driver with a student who had a necklace stuck between her teeth at 3:40 p.m. at Jefferson and Dexter streets. The student was taken home per the parents' request.

At 7:47 p.m., an officer witnessed a vehicle parked near Ash and Young streets where graffiti had taken place recently. The driver said he stopped to use his phone.

Friday, April 5

Dustin Donald Young, 24, Beldenville, was cited for operating motor vehicle

without proof of insurance and display unauthorized vehicle registration plate after a traffic stop for a broken tail light housing at 6:07 a.m. at 302 S. Lake St.

Alexander Jacob Lawson, 33, Ellsworth, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 9 a.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

Holger Eulogio Solis, 32, Minneapolis, was cited for speeding and operate without valid license after a traffic stop at 9:28 a.m. at Lawrence and Jefferson streets.

Officers responded at 3:56 p.m. to 104 Broad St. for a medical call. The subject had multiple warrants.

Arthur James McCoy, 44, Minneapolis, was cited for operating while revoked after a traffic stop at 7:50 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

Police were dispatched to a suspicious activity complaint at 10:28 p.m. at 150 Front St. People were moving furniture into a trailer, including the building manager. Everything was fine.

Officers observed an open door at 10:29 p.m. at

1391 Canton St. No one was in the building. Police left a voicemail for the key holder, who called back and said a lock box should have been on the door. The lock box was not there.

Saturday, April 6

Mikolaj Adam Borkowski, 22, Prescott, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

An unwanted subject was reported at 4:04 a.m. at 879 Helen St. Officers gave him a courtesy ride to the Point.

A missing person was reported at 7:52 a.m. at 723 Henry St. It turned out the man's vehicle had broken down and he got a ride to Minnesota. He was fine.

An officer took custody of a dog at large at 6:59 p.m. near 535 Pearl St. The dog's owner retrieved the dog and received a warning.

A vehicle theft was reported at 9:08 p.m. in the 200 block of Orange Street. The complainant called back and said she found her vehicle parked elsewhere.

Richard Merle Chorlton,

56, Hastings, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 10:55 p.m. at Broad and Cherry streets.

Mason Michael Schaefer, 18, New Hope, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 11:08 p.m. at 180 Broad St.

Sunday, April 7

Bill Frank Brush, 67, Prescott, was cited for operate without valid license and operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance after a traffic stop at 9:44 a.m. at 1215 Henry St.

Damage to a door frame was reported at 11:45 a.m. at 800 Canton St.

At 2:45 p.m., police were called to 1391 Canton St. for an open door on a storage unit. The building was cleared and no signs of forced entry found. The key holder arrived and performed a walk through as well, finding nothing unusual.

Officers responded to a civil matter at 11:58 p.m. at 760 Washington St.

PIERCE COUNTY Accident Reports

Deputies were called at 2:53 p.m. March 12 to a one-vehicle crash on Highway 63 just north of 825th Street in the town of Trenton. A 2020 Ford Edge, driven by **Michele Cortinas Huybers**, 46, Hampton, Minn., was heading south on Highway 63, left the roadway and struck a guardrail, coming to rest in the west ditch. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. EMS transported Huybers to Red Wing Mayo with suspected minor injuries. She was cited for OWI and operate without valid license.

Police responded to a one-vehicle crash at 8:46 p.m. March 15 on 452nd Street just south of 120th Avenue in the town of Maiden Rock. A 2013 Chevy Equinox, driven by **Jada Mae Skulski**, 23, Bay City, was heading north on 452nd Street when it crossed into the other lane, entered the west ditch and struck a tree. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Skulski reported no injuries.

Officers were called at 9:45 a.m. March 17 to a two-vehicle crash at Highway 29 and County Road CC in the town of Gilman between a 2009 Ford Explorer, driven by **Julie Lynn Moritz**, 44, Menomonie, and a 2022 Jeep Cherokee, driven by **Thomas Nolan Gunderson**, 83, Spring Valley. Moritz was heading west on Highway 29 while Gunderson was heading east. Moritz was turning southbound onto County Road CC and didn't see Gunderson, colliding with him in the eastbound lane. Moritz said she was grabbing her phone to send a voice text to her child and didn't see Gunderson approaching. Both vehicles were towed due to disabling damage. EMS transported Moritz to Mayo Hospital in Menomonie with suspected minor injuries. She was cited for inattentive driving. EMS transported Gunderson to Western Wisconsin Health in Baldwin with suspected minor injuries.

Deputies were dispatched

at 12:45 a.m. March 18 to a one-vehicle crash on County Road G just west of Highway 72 in the town of Spring Lake. A 2017 Ford Fusion, driven by **Timothy Raymond Phares**, 42, Eau Claire, was traveling east on Highway 72, crossed the center line and collided with a guardrail on the north side of the road. He came to rest facing eastbound. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. EMS transported him to Mayo Clinic Health System - Red Cedar in Menomonie with suspected minor injuries. He was cited for OWI and failure to keep vehicle under control.

Police were called at 12:51 a.m. March 19 to a two-vehicle crash on Highway 10 just west of 760th Street in the town of Trimble between a 2015 GMC Sierra, driven by **Harley Nathan Cykowski**, 20, Ellsworth, and a legally parked 2008 Koma backhoe, owned by Mattison Cotractors, Knapp. Cykowski was traveling eastbound on Highway 10, crossed the center line and went around "road closed" signs and cones. He entered a construction area, passed a trailer and dump truck and struck a backhoe's bucket. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Cykowski reported no injuries; he was cited for OWI and fail/obey traffic sign/signal - work area.

Officers responded to a one-vehicle crash at 2:43 p.m. March 21 on 690th Avenue one-third mile west of Highway 65 in the town of River Falls. A 2005 Ford F350, driven by **Arnold Scott Draper**, 59, River Falls, was heading west, entered the ditch and overturned while trying to get back onto the road. The truck had minor damage but was towed. Draper reported no injuries. He was cited for OWI-fourth and failure to keep vehicle under control.

Police were called at 10:31 p.m. March 21 to a two-vehicle

crash on Highway 29 just east of Van Buren Road in Spring Valley between a 2011 Chevy Cruze, driven by **Wyatt William Schultz**, 18, Spring Valley, and a 2016 GMC Yukon, driven by **Angeline Elizaeth Vodnik**, 49, Spring Valley. Schultz was traveling eastbound on Highway 29, lost control due to the snowy conditions, crossed the center line and struck a guardrail, coming to rest in the westbound traffic lane. Vodnik was traveling westbound on Highway 29 and attempted to avoid Schultz, but struck his driver's side door, crossed the centerline, and drove into the south ditch where she struck a set of trees. Both vehicles were towed due to disabling damage. EMS transported Schultz to River Falls Area Hospital with suspected minor injuries. EMS transported Vodnik to Western Wisconsin Health in Baldwin with possible injuries. Vodnik was cited for OWI-first.

Deputies were dispatched to a one-vehicle crash at 12:10 a.m. March 22 on 450th Street just south of County Road G in the town of El Paso. A 2006 Chrysler 300, driven by **Trenton Lain Taylor**, 21, Bay City, was heading east on County Road G, ran off the road to the right and entered the south ditch. After failing to get back on the road, Taylor jumped the culvert and overturned, coming to rest in a field to the east. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. EMS transported Taylor to Western Wisconsin Health in Baldwin with suspected minor injuries. He was cited for OWI and failure to keep vehicle under control.

Officers responded at 4:03 a.m. March 22 to a one-vehicle crash on County Road BB just south of 890th Avenue in the town of Gilman. A 2022 Toyota Camry, driven by **Logan John Harvey**, 20, Maiden Rock, was traveling south on County Road BB when it lost control, entered the west ditch and came to rest. The vehicle had minor damage.

Harvey reported no injuries.

Deputies were called at 2:27 p.m. March 24 to a one-vehicle crash on County Road A one mile south of 370th Avenue in the town of Salem. A 2010 Cadillac SRX, driven by **Wyatt Marshall Holt**, 25, Plum City, was heading north on County Road A. Holt said he moved over in his lane to give a vehicle heading southbound more room as road conditions were not good. Holt was unable to come back into the roadway, entered the ditch and struck two directional signs and a tree. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Holt reported no injuries.

Police responded at 7:02 a.m. March 25 to a one-vehicle crash on Highway 65 just east of 920th Street in the town of River Falls. A 2013 Mazda CX9, driven by **Samuel Willis Chatt**, 34, River Falls, was heading south when it crossed the center line, entered the northbound ditch, rolled and came to a stop. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Chatt reported no injuries. He was cited for failure to keep vehicle under control.

Deputies were called at 11:09 a.m. March 25 to a one-vehicle crash on Highway 35 four-tenths of a mile east of 1100th Street in the town of Oak Grove. A 2014 Lexus IS, driven by **Michael Argyle Holway**, 62, Eagan, Minn., was traveling southbound, left the roadway and went into the wet ditch. It came to rest on its roof. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Holway reported no injuries.

Officers were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash at 3:21 p.m. March 25 on Highway 65 just east of 740th Street in the town of Trimble between a 2003 Ford F150, driven by **Zachary Joseph Peterson**, 19, Ellsworth, and a 2005 Chevy Trailblazer, driven by **Todd Mitchel Longsdorf**, 58, Hager City. Both vehicles were heading north on Highway 65 when Peterson began to stop

to allow a vehicle in front of him to turn southbound onto 740th Street. Longsdorf struck him from behind. The Ford had functional damage while the Trailblazer was towed due to disabling damage. No injuries were reported. Longsdorf was cited for automobile following too closely.

Deputies responded to a two-vehicle crash at 7:32 a.m. March 27 on Highway 29 just north of County Road B in Spring Valley between a 2015 Ford Eclipse, driven by **Peter William Wienke**, 65, Spring Valley, and a 2013 Freightliner snowplow truck, driven by **Jeremy Lynn Webb**, 47, Spring Valley. Both vehicles were heading eastbound on Highway 29. Wienke said he couldn't see the turn signal with the plow's other flashing lights. He overtook the plow on the left side of the road because he thought the plow was going to turn right onto County Road B. The plow had their signal on to turn left onto Mary Lynn Drive. The plow driver didn't see Wienke trying to pass and they collided, causing damage to the front mounts on the plow truck. The Ford had functional damage. No injuries were reported.

Police were dispatched to a one-vehicle crash at 8:12 p.m. March 27 on 290th Street one-quarter mile south of County Road I in the town of Gilman. A 2014 GMC Sierra, driven by **Michael Keith Keasling**, 35, Spring Valley, was traveling southbound when Keasling reached into the rear of the vehicle, ran off the road to the right and struck a tree. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Keasling reported no injuries.

Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash at 6:02 a.m. March 28 on Highway 35 one-third mile south of 410th Avenue in the town of Diamond Bluff between a 2008 Pontiac G5, driven by **Ronald Joseph Vonbargen**, 50, Red Wing, Minn., and 2017 Toyota Camry, driven by **Michael Grant Cochran**, 64, Prescott.

Vonbargen was northbound on Highway 35, while Cochran was southbound, negotiating an uphill, left-hand curve covered in ice and snow. Cochran lost control and sideswiped Vonbargen's vehicle, which sustained minor damage. Cochran's vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. No injuries were reported.

Deputies responded to a snowmobile crash with injuries at 7:22 p.m. Friday, March 29 in the town of Gilman. A 2005 Polaris Indy 500, operated by **Chelsea Gilles**, 35, Spring Valley, was operating in a field and lost control. Gilles has a 4-year-old passenger on the snowmobile with her. Life Link Helicopter transported Gilles to Regions Hospital in St. Paul with undisclosed injuries. Spring Valley Ambulance transported the juvenile to Regions Hospital as well with undisclosed injuries. Elmwood Fire Department and Spring Valley Fire also assisted at the scene.

Officers responded to a three-vehicle crash at 12:12 p.m. March 31 at County Road V and 650th Street in the town of Hartland between a 2018 Subaru Forester, driven by **Emily Patrice Zander**, 32, Rochester, Minn.; a 2013 Chevy Cruze, driven by **Laurel Leah Mason**, 79, Ellsworth; and a 2020 Dodge Ram 1500, driven by **Chace Michael Kinneman**, 34, Bay City. Zander was eastbound on County Road V, while Mason was at a stop sign traveling north on 650th Street. She didn't see Zander and pulled out into the intersection, where they collided. Once struck, Zander continued eastbound and struck Kinneman, who was stopped at a stop sign while traveling westbound. All three vehicles were towed due to disabling damage. Mason reported suspected minor injuries but was not transported. Zander and Kinneman each had three passengers in their vehicles, none of whom reported injuries.

Code enforcement: River Falls has taken proactive approach

By Sarah Nigbor

RIVER FALLS - Tyler Galde, planning and engineering technician, updated the River Falls City Council recently on how code enforcement is going in the city.

In June 2021, the council approved the transition from a reactive approach to a proactive approach in code enforcement, Galde explained.

"Meaning instead of waiting until somebody calls us about a violation, we're being more proactive in trying to find those violations and get those taken care of before we get a phone call from somebody," he said.

City staff didn't want the transition to be abrupt, so it has taken about two years to implement the following steps: g

Adopted a code enforcement manual in 2021, which is a set process for how code enforcement cases are handled.

.5 FTE added to support code enforcement in 2021.

Ordinance modifications

approved by city council in 2022.

Implemented code compliance through internal GIS software and built an app for staff to use when out and about in the field.

Education and outreach has been important so the transition wasn't abrupt (articles in River Falls Reader, sent out letters to local businesses and nonprofits, etc.)

Regular monitoring (staff members takes an hour or two on a Friday to drive through a section of town looking for violations)

"We have found quite a few violations doing this, and we were able to get those taken care of before we got a phone call from an upset resident," Galde said.

Ordinance updates approved in August 2022 related to parking, public nuisance, residential rental uses, signage, enforcement procedures and expanded ordinance language.

"What this did was eliminate gray area within our city code and made things more enforceable," Galde said.

"For example, in our nuisance code, we now have a pretty robust list of items that you cannot just store in your yard. Before, it was pretty open for interpretation."

Galde said working with people is important to the city, so they work to build relationships with residents, to have empathy and to understand compliance barriers.

"Typically, when a code enforcement case gets to a second or third letter in our process, there's typically some sort of compliance barrier. Something that we're not seeing is stopping them from coming into compliance," Galde said. "Whether it's time, money, mental or physical health, disabilities. If we can develop some sort of relationship and learn about those things, learn what is preventing them from coming into compliance, we can better help them by giving them extensions if we're making progress or getting them in touch with local organizations to help with cleanup, whatever it may be."

From 2021-2023, the city has seen a 52% increase in code violations, the vast majority of which can be attributed to the updated sign ordinance. Each sign in the right-of-way is considered an individual violation. General nuisances are the number 2 violation (couches in the front yards, appliances left outside, piles of wood laying around, etc.)

Other business

The South Wasson Lane reconstruction, a Wisconsin DOT managed project, is scheduled to bid in May for a mid-summer construction start. The project will include a roundabout at the intersection of Cascade and Wasson, new curb and gutter on South Wasson Lane, new high-capacity storm sewer and stormwater treatment systems, a new multi-use trail, and improved lighting.

After a closed session concerning City Administrator Scot Simpson's annual performance evaluation, the council voted 5-1 in favor of his employment agreement

with Alderperson Jeff Bjork voting against.

Part-Time Office Assistant Wanted

Are you a detail-oriented individual with a knack for organization and a passion for contributing to a dynamic team environment? We are seeking a part-time office assistant to join our team. If you have a solid understanding of computer systems, proficiency in dictations, and a flair for advertising, we want to hear from you!

Responsibilities:

- Assist in maintaining office organization and efficiency.
 - Handle dictations accurately and efficiently.
- Support advertising efforts through input and execution.
 - Perform general administrative tasks such as filing, data entry, and scheduling.

Requirements:

- Proficient in computer operations
- Strong organizational skills with an eye for detail.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
 - Ability to handle dictations effectively.
- Creative thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- Prior experience in office administration or related field preferred but not required.

If you're ready to take on a rewarding part-time role where you can utilize your skills and make a meaningful contribution, we want to hear from you! We look forward to hearing from you!

Please submit your resume and a brief cover letter outlining your relevant experience and why you're interested in joining our team to: **Jeff Hines at info@hinesauctionservice.com**



RIVER FALLS Area News



Ann and Manley Olson have endowed a scholarship that will provide \$1,200 annually to an elementary education major attending UW-River Falls, with a preference that the recipient be a Hudson resident. The scholarship is named for Ann's mother, Blanche Hansen Nygard, and her aunt, Meta Hansen, UWRF alums who had long, successful careers as educators. *Contributed photo*

Leaving a legacy: New scholarship at UWRF will assist aspiring teachers

Scholarship named for two Hudson sisters, longtime educators

RIVER FALLS – The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has received funding for a new endowed scholarship designed to benefit students from Hudson with a love of education.

The Blanche Hansen Nygard and Meta Hansen Elementary Education Scholarship will provide \$1,200 annually to an elementary education major attending UW-River Falls, with a preference that the recipient be a Hudson resident. The scholarship is named for two former Hudson residents, sisters who attended UW-River Falls, where they earned education degrees and then spent their careers as educators.

Scholarship donors Manley and Ann Olson said the award is intended to help students from the sisters' hometown carry on their legacy of teaching students. In addition to this scholarship, the Olsons fund three other scholarships at UW-River Falls.

Blanche Hansen Nygard was Ann's mother and Meta Hansen was her aunt. Both

received their degrees from UW-River Falls and went on to long teaching careers.

Nygart taught in Hudson but was forced to resign once she married, as female teachers could not be married at that time. When her husband died unexpectedly, she returned to teaching and taught the children of some of her former students. Hansen was a teacher and school principal in Minneapolis for more than 40 years.

"I can think of no better way to honor their dedicated careers than to encourage other Hudson students to become teachers," Ann said of the endowed scholarship.

The Olsons met while they were students at UW-River Falls. Manley, '59, was a member of the Falcon varsity basketball team. He went on to a long and successful career at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minn. He also served for many years on the UW-River Falls Foundation Board of Directors.

The Olsons first estab-

lished the education scholarship in 2015 and have funded it annually before deciding to make it an endowed fund, which ensures it will provide educational opportunities going forward.

The scholarship ties directly to the important role that teacher education has played at UW-River Falls, which was founded 150 years ago as a teaching college, said Rick Foy, assistant chancellor for university advancement.

"The education program remains a well-regarded and critical program in supplying high quality teachers to the St. Croix Valley and beyond," Foy said. "UWRF provides a perfect location for Hudson graduates interested in pursuing a degree in elementary education. It's wonderful to have this meaningful incentive available to students. We thank the Olsons for their long-time and generous commitment to UWRF students."

Submitted by UW-River Falls



Members of the River Falls Rotary Club, including Scott Morrisette, Terry McKay and Linda Yde presented the 2024 Burger Battle award to Tarnation Tavern staff. *Submitted photo*

Tarnation Tavern wins 2024 Burger Battle!

RIVER FALLS – We're excited to announce that this year's winner of the 2024 River Falls Rotary Burger Battle is Tarnation Tavern!

This was one of the tightest battles we've ever seen with Tarnation beating out last year's winner, Lazy River, by less than .034 average points! Congratulations Tarnation Tavern on being voted the BEST burger in town with the Smash burger, featuring Gouda, lettuce, bacon, Nashville aioli, maple bacon BBQ and onion tangles.

Here are a few fun facts about this year's battle:

There were seven participating restaurants during the 2024 Burger Battle, including Juniors RF, Lazy River Bar & Grill (2023 winner), Paddy's Pub & Boxy House, Tarnation Tavern, Tattersall Distilling, The Table on Main and West Wind Supper Club.

1,377 burgers were served (based on ballots returned) over a two-month period

The most burgers served at one location was 219 at Tarnation Tavern

Close to \$17,000 was raised to support the River Falls Rotary Club's mission of enhancing opportunities for youth and creating a better world for all through community focused projects

We would also like to thank each of our participating restaurants for their extreme generosity. Because of them, this was another successful River Falls Rotary Burger Battle!

Submitted by River Falls Rotary

'Workout of the Day' event to honor fallen military

RIVER FALLS – Area residents of all ages are invited to participate in an April 27 "Workout of the Day" event honoring fallen military members. Called Manion WOD, the annual nationwide event was started in memory of Travis Manion, a Marine 1st Lieutenant who was killed in Iraq on April 29, 2007, along with all others who have fallen in service to the country.

The Workout of the Day (WOD) fitness challenge consists of a 40-meter run/walk and 29 squats executed for seven rounds. The 29 squats represent the 29th day, the 400 meters represent the fourth month, April, and

the seven rounds represent the year, 2007, the date Manion lost his life. Local organizer retired Army SgtMaj Mel Hoffman notes that participants spanning a wide level of physical ability are encouraged to take part. They can run, ruck (carry backpacks) or walk; the squats can be done with weights or without; teams are encouraged – for example, a team of seven might each take one round, relay style.

The WOD will take place at the River Falls High School starting at 9 a.m. on the 27th. Hoffman points out that this is a community and family-friendly event. Participants of all ages are en-

couraged to attend. Those who register and donate to the Travis Manion Foundation will receive commemorative T-shirts. For more information and to pre-register, go to <https://www.travismanion.org/events/manion-wod/2024-tmf-river-falls-chapter-and-tmf-pathfinder-club/>

The Pathfinders are a River Falls-based leadership/character development program with military flair led by SGM (retired) Mel Hoffman, the American Legion Post 121 Honor Guard Commander.

Submitted by River Falls American Legion Post 121

2023 Officer of the Year honored

Annexation may bring new neighborhood, housing for autistic adults

By Sarah Nigbor

RIVER FALLS – The 2023 Officer of the Year was honored at the March 26 River Falls City Council meeting: Steven Thomas. Chief Gordon Young touted Thomas for promoting the department's missing statement, which is "protecting with courage and serving with compassion."

Thomas served with the United States Air Force. He was hired as a reserve officer in 2009 and became full-time in 2013. He has been commended by his peers and his supervisors for his positive attitude, his ability to build strong relationships within the department and with other law enforcement agencies, and especially with the community.

"He has a calming, caring demeanor while in stressful and very dangerous situations, especially throughout this year," Young said. "He's described by his supervisors as a genuine, positive influence to those that he works with."

In 2023 he received recognition from his peers, supervisors and the community in a particularly high-stress search warrant, Young said. The search warrant supervisor described Thomas's response to a non-compliant subject as quick thinking, "using tools that he never thought could be used in such a situation, with an appropriate reaction to a fluid situa-

tion in keeping with the high standards that he has and our agency has," Young said.

Thomas has served as a mentor for many young officers and is an outstanding field training officer, emergency vehicle operations course instructor, evidence room technician and honor guard member, Young said.

"Within the past year he's been to too many funerals within our region serving in that capacity," Young said of Thomas' honor guard duties.

Mayor Dan Toland presented Thomas with a plaque to a standing ovation. His wife and two children were present as well.

Annexation

The city council will vote on an annexation at its April 9 meeting concerning 22.66 acres in the town of River Falls south of Larson Park.

Assistant Director of Community Development Emily Shively said Luke and Andrea Chaffee and Kevin and Cynthia Haskins have submitted an annexation request for two parcels adjacent to Highway 29 to annex and rezone to R-2 Multiple Family (medium density).

"An annexation petition is a request from a landowner to have their properties become part of the City of River Falls," Shively said.

Annexation petitions typically occur when a property is adjacent to city boundaries; utilities such as water and sewer are available



River Falls Mayor Dan Toland presented 2023 Officer of the Year Steven Thomas with a plaque at the March 26 River Falls City Council meeting. *Photo courtesy of City of River Falls*

to serve new development; and a landowner is working with a developer who would like to create new housing or places for new jobs and services consistent with the city's comprehensive plan.

The city is not reviewing any specific development proposals for the area at this time, Shively said. However, the property owners are working with a developer who would like to build a new neighborhood on the property consisting of 31 single family home lots and a 53-bed supportive housing facility for adults with autism.

No official application has been submitted yet, but a design concept has been provided. The existing home at N8118 Highway 29 would remain and become integrated into the new single-family neighborhood.

Other business

During public comment, town of Clifton resident and representative for the River Falls Alliance for the Homeless Dana Linscott said nearly 200 citizens are willing to provide resources to homeless people in River Falls. He accused Toland and RFPD for turning a blind eye to the



Chief Gordon Young with 2023 Officer of the Year Steven Thomas. *Photo courtesy of City of River Falls*

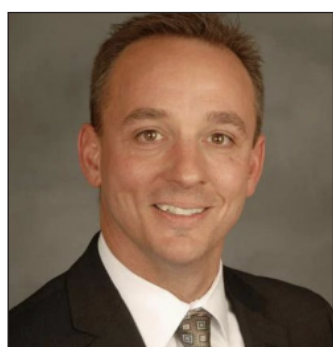
problem and ended by saying, "Please fix this."

River Falls American Legion
Veterans Serving Our Community

JOIN US FOR OUR **Awards & Recognition Banquet**

APR. 13 Honoring Youth, Community and Legion Members
Social Hour at 5:00 p.m. • Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
TICKETS: \$22. AVAILABLE AT THE POST, FREEMAN DRUG OR AT THE DOOR
701 N MAIN STREET • RIVER FALLS WI 54022
715-425-7362 • americanlegionpost121.org

ELLSWORTH Area News



David Grambow



Brian Nadeau



Brian Seguin

Ellsworth supt. search narrowed to 3

The Ellsworth Community School District Board of Education has selected three finalists for the position of School District Superintendent. Final interviews will be conducted on April 16, 2024. The new superintendent will begin duties on July 1, 2024.

David Grambow is currently the Assistant Superintendent of the Hudson School District. After serving as a general and special education teacher for 13 years, Dr. Grambow began his career in educational administration as an elementary principal for three years at Willow River Elementary School in Hudson before becoming the district's Learning Services Associate Director. After serving two years in that role, Grambow accepted a position as System Improvement Director for a year before beginning his current position as Assistant Superintendent in 2014. Dr. Grambow has a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from UW-Whitewater, a Master of Science degree in Education from Winona State University, and a Doc-

torate in Educational Leadership from the University of St. Thomas. Grambow earned his special education licensure at the University of St. Thomas, his principal licensure at UW-River Falls, and his superintendent licensure at St. Mary's University in Minnesota.

Brian Nadeau became the Superintendent and 6-12 Principal for the Plum City School District in 2021. Before his current position, Nadeau held administrative positions as the PK-12 Principal in the Clayton School District, Assistant Principal in Tomah Middle School, and Dean of Students for Hudson Middle School. Before becoming an administrator, Nadeau was a middle school science teacher for 15 years working initially in the New Richmond School District and later becoming a member of the Viking Middle School staff in the Baldwin-Woodville Area School District. Nadeau completed his superintendent certification at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and his principal licensure program

at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn. His Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Secondary Education was earned at UW-River Falls.

Brian Seguin has been the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction in the School District of the Menomonie Area since 2011 after serving as the High School Assistant Principal and Academy of Achievement Principal in the Portage Community School District for five years. Prior to becoming a principal, Seguin taught high school marketing and business classes for two years in the Ashland School District and six years in the Waunakee Community School District. Seguin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing Education from UW-Stout and a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Cardinal Stritch University. He completed his superintendent certification at Viterbo University in La Crosse.

Submitted by Ellsworth Community School District



SUPERINTENDENT'S Column

BY BARRY CAIN

Thank you to the community

As I am sure many already know, the school district's facility referendum passed with 1,463 votes in favor of the referendum and 1,341 votes opposed at the April 2 election.

The process of bringing referendums to the voters is something that we take very seriously. This referendum was the result of a months-long facility study that identified our most pressing needs within the buildings and within our curriculum. Along with this, we conducted a community survey that provided us with valuable information about the general

feelings of our community regarding various projects.

At the core of our processes is the fundamental goal to bring only what we feel is truly needed in order to provide the support of our operations and to continue to provide quality facilities for our students, staff, and community. All this information together ultimately led to the project brought to the district residents that we felt best represented what the public was most likely to support.

The second phase of our work will now begin as our staff, architects, construction managers, and communi-

ty partners work to finalize the plans over the coming months. We will be sure to provide everyone with updates on our progress as we move toward the first construction projects beginning in the late spring of 2025.

We are truly looking forward to the day that these projects are completed and we will work hard to be sure the projects are a source of pride for our community. Thank you to all our residents for your continued interest in our schools and dedication to making our schools the best they can be!



VILLAGE PRESIDENT Column

BY BECKY BEISSEL

Charting a path forward

In recent times, the call for Village Board members to "listen to the residents" has echoed persistently throughout Ellsworth. Yet, amidst these demands lies a perplexing question: which segment of our community should we prioritize listening to? This question underscores the complex mix of opinions, beliefs, and perspectives that form the fabric of our village. With every issue that surfaces, whether it pertains to taxation, community development, or policy making, the voices we hear range from staunch advocates to vehement opponents, with countless landing somewhere in between.

As nice as it would be sometimes, the pursuit of consensus remains an unattainable goal. Even within the closest circles of companionship, be it friends, family, or spouses, complete agreement is a rarity. Thus, expecting unanimity from any community, full of varying backgrounds, experiences, and expertise, is both impractical and unattainable.

Yet, amidst this chorus of differing voices lies an invaluable asset: diversity of thought. It is this very diversity that serves as the melting pot for new ideas and inno-

vations to emerge. In celebrating our different opinions, we see the potential for transformative change, paving the way for a vibrant and resilient community. But we must remain respectful of each other's ideas and opinions. Do not vilify someone for having a different perspective than you. Let us spend more time listening to one another instead of evaluating one another. This is where the magic can happen.

Admittedly, navigating controversial issues can evoke a sense of negativity and friction, where consensus appears non-existent. However, amid the turbulence, when it feels like we can't agree on anything, I like to believe there are fundamental truths that we can all connect on:

Our profound love for our community. This serves as a common thread that binds us together. We are driven by a collective desire to witness Ellsworth flourish, to see it evolve into prosperity and vitality.

Our deep care for our children - their safety, happiness, and future success. Ensuring a nurturing environment where our youth can thrive, learn, and grow is paramount.

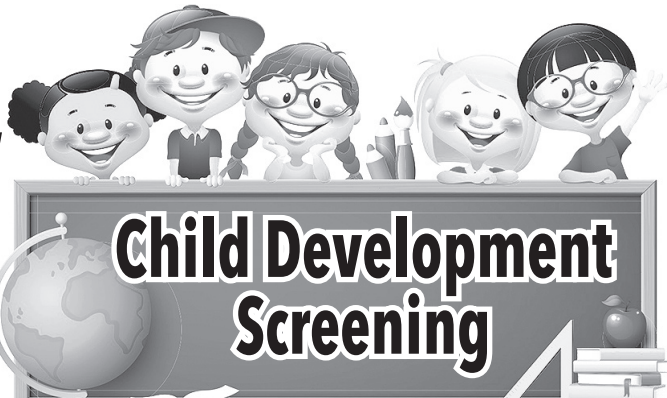
Our appreciation for the business community. This underscores our recognition of their pivotal role in driving economic growth and strength. Their contributions, offering essential goods, services, and experiences, enrich our village.

Our commitment to respect and kindness. Upholding these values fosters a community where individuals feel valued, appreciated, and included, promoting a culture of mutual respect and understanding among all residents of our community.

In essence, while discord may momentarily cloud our collective vision, it is through embracing the richness of our differences that we chart a path forward. Let us cherish the mix of voices that contribute to the betterment of our community, for this is where our strength truly lies. As we navigate the complexities of governance and community discourse, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering a culture of dialogue, understanding, and respect.

Together, we shall continue to work towards the vibrancy of Ellsworth, ensuring a future that is inclusive, kind, and prosperous for all!

Ellsworth Community School District



The Ellsworth Community School District will hold its last child development screening (ages 3, 4 & 5 years old) day on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at the Ellsworth Elementary School.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to learn about your child's development in speech/language, gross motor, fine motor and play skills. During the screening your child will participate in a playgroup where social, communication, motor and early learning skills will be observed. In addition, your child's vision and hearing will be screened.

Appointments are required.

For an appointment or if you have questions please call Tina Hallock at 715-273-3912 or hallockt@ellsworth.k12.wi.us.

PIERCE & PEPIN COUNTY 2024 SPRING CLEAN SWEEP HAZARDOUS WASTE & PHARMACEUTICAL COLLECTION EVENT



Saturday, April 20th
8:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Pierce County Recycling Center
707 N. Maple St./Hwy 65 N. Ellsworth WI

Free of charge to Pierce and Pepin County Households & Farms (However, a charge may be applied for Large Loads of Household Hazardous Waste/Paints)

Farmers • Businesses/Institutions Must Pre-Register by Monday April 15, 2024 Call: (715-273-3092)

Call in advance if you have

- over 500 lbs of hazardous waste
- more than (3) drums of hazardous waste
- rusted deteriorated containers
- loose pesticides needing to be containerized

CLEAN SWEEP HAZARDOUS WASTE ITEMS

Garage & Workshop

- Adhesives
- Auto Repair Products
- Battery Acid
- Chemicals
- Cleaners/solvent based
- Gasoline/Oil Mixtures/Other Fuels
- Non-Automotive Fluids
- Paints (Latex paints can also be dried out & placed in your trash)
- Sealers (wax-shellac-varnish)
- Stains
- Thinners/Strippers/Removers

Kitchen & Bathroom

- Cleaners/solvent-based
- Disinfectants
- Floor Care Products
- Removers (nail polish-hair)

Home & Garden

- Aerosol Cans/full
- Chemicals
- Cleaning Solvents
- Fungicide
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Pesticides
- Poisons (lye-mothballs)
- Polish (furniture-metal-shoe)
- Stump Remover

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Household Garbage
- Explosives/Ammunition
- Radioactive Materials
- Infectious/Sharps Wastes
- Biological Wastes
- Foam Insulation Cylinders

FREE PHARMACEUTICAL COLLECTION EVENT

Being held in conjunction with the Pierce County Spring Clean Sweep Event

ALL Businesses/Institutions Must Call Ahead: 715-273-3092

Accepting:

- Household Prescriptions
- Over The Counter Meds
- Pet Medications
- Empty your medications into a bag for collection at event
- Black out personal information on original container and place in your trash

Not Accepting:

- Needles or other medical sharps

Ellsworth Senior Center activities

The Ellsworth Senior Center would like to invite all senior citizens ages 50 and greater to the following events to be held at the senior center:

Come and join the **Pool Players** every from 1-3 p.m. every Monday and Friday.

Euchre Card Players will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 11 and 1 p.m. Thursday, April 25. Beginners are welcome and encouraged to come.

Our **Balanced Wellness Presentation with CJ Young** from Country fit will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 17. "Unlocking the Fountain of Youth:" the benefits of an active lifestyle and behavioral modifications using the "SMART" method to make lasting changes. She will be bringing along her Tanita computer to read our personal Body Composition Readings. We will also be doing some group exercises to help maintain our balance and strength.

Celebrating Seniors

Gathering will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24. Pierce County Highway Commissioner Chad Johnson will present information on present and future highway projects, new programs and other interesting information. Cake and ice cream will be served following the presentation.

Katrina will be providing **Foot Care** Thursday, May 2 (six-week schedule) and Tuesday, May 28 (eight-week schedule) beginning at 9 a.m. Please call the Ellsworth Senior Center at 715-273-5873 for more details and to make an appointment.

Unless otherwise stated, all events are at the Ellsworth Senior Center, located in the basement of the old Ellsworth Public Library (312 W. Main St.) Please park in the back parking lot and enter through the back door.

Submitted by Activities Director Janelle Braund

HUNTING LEASE Wanted

Seeking wooded land in Pierce or adjoining counties to lease for bow/gun deer season. 1 Year or Multiyear, insured and responsible hunter.

CALL JON AT 715-441-2772



PRESCOTT Area News

Legion Post 61 joins Prescott Chamber



Prescott Area Chamber of Commerce members held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Prescott American Legion Hall recently to welcome the legion as a new member. In attendance for the event was the American Legion Honor Guard, American Legion and Auxiliary members, SAL, and many Prescott Chamber of Commerce members. Chamber President Chad Steger of First National Bank of Prescott and Jerry Klasen, Commander of Prescott American Legion, cut the ribbon. Following, visitors toured the hall and enjoyed a light lunch. Photo courtesy of Commander Jerry Klasen

PHS celebrates Trimester 2 honor roll

Prescott High School has released its A and B honor rolls for Trimester 2 of the 2023-24 school year. Congratulations students!

A honor roll

Freshmen: Kyra Dix, Brady Engeldinger, Cassidy Hanson, Payge Haupt, Andrew Henrich, Lilly Hillebrand, Kennedy Holub, Caleb Jeter, Colby Jeter, Landon Johnson, Chase Kinney, Collin Kosmalski, Carter Larsen, Miles Malm, Maddison Middleton, Samuel Nance, Delaney Nelson, Macy Reiter, John Rohl, Emma Schmitz, Diego Vega Gudiel, Lillian Vesperman, Karlee Wall, Tylar Whaley.

Sophomores: Isaac Akey, Addyson Allsop, Zoe Anthony, Jacob Barker, Emelia Berg, Ruby Bernick, Madison Blomquist, Nora Boles, Emilie Cook, Kaylee Enochson, Cara Fiedler, Makaria Haas, Cady Hillebrand, Natalee Huppert, Calen Jackson, Addison Kellogg, Zachary Matzek, Amanda Miller, Gavin Miller, Olivia Most, MaKenna Ogilvie, Zachariah Ogren, Sophia Perez, Talli Roth, Hannah Schommer, Emelyn Schulte, Bailey Spencer, Abigail Stubbe, Corbin Theis, Brooklyn Threinen, Alexandra Tibayan, Amber Van Loon.

Juniors: Riley Andersen, Aidan Anthony, Caiden Arnston, Jessica Benjamin, Theodore Bernick, Jocelyn Billeter, Marisa Cogan, Noah Collins, Deitrich Eich, Aubryn Ennenga, Lydia Feran, Sydney Herr, Claire Hince, Nicole Hudak, Katelyn Huppert, Tessa Johnson, Sophia Kapsh, Ashley Keller, Jack Kreager, Cooper Langer, Lander Macejkovic, Daisy Marek, William Markert, Gabriella Matzek, Clare Murphy, Evelyn Nance, Ellie Nawrocki, William Packard, Caden Peterson, Luke Peter-

son, Camryn Rickers, Henry Rohl, Jeanne Rohl, Blakelie Schommer, Robyn Smith, Kelsey Sterud, Mackenzie Sterud, Lois Teerling, MaKenna Williamson, Rory Zuehlsdorf.

Seniors: Alayna Allsop, Stella Anger, Micah Benner, Ava Budworth, Gracia Doyle, Ava Franco, Anastasia Harrington, Mackenzie Hegland, Cullen Huppert, Ian Leask, Ava Lockard, Tyler Marko, Cecelia Meier, Lane Meyer, Noah Miller, Abigail Overland, Joshua Peterson, Lila Posthuma, Megan Richter, Sophia Ripley, Delana Rowe, Grace Ryan, Tessa Schmidt, Breckin Schommer, Kianna Severson, Marissa Shelstad, Clinton Sizemore, Katressa Syverson, Nolan Thomley, Bridget Van Loon, Faith Van-Holbeck, Alessandra Warp

B honor roll

Freshmen: Rowan Bauman, Emma Bohlman, Isabella Britton, Abigail Brock, Shannon Erickson, Kaitlyn Flannigan, Grace Foy, Dylan Francis, Violet Henderson, Kendall Johnson, Quinn Justen, Alyssa Kaeder, Logan Lubich, Amber Maier, Gavin Peters, Chase Pettersen, Case Platson, Riley Renteria, Broderick Ripley, Leo Rohl, Parker Skeesick, Reese Stanton, Emmett Stoeckel, Isabel Thoen, Griffin Westberg.

Sophomores: Alexander Adams, Jacob Chesney, Owen Kashieca Etter, Gwyneth Fabul, Jaylen Fleming, Brooklyn Goehring, Willaim Haeg, Matthew Haessly, Andaria Henderson, Makenna Hildebrandt, Cayden Johnson, Ruby Johnson, Charlette Kellogg, Lily Kern, Cole Kinneman, Evan Kochendorfer, Nolan Leask, Andrew Lesso, Lucas Maier, Maddisen Mastel, Eyan Miller, Max Monteith, Callie Nechkash, Violet Otto, Micah

Overland, Gannon Powers, Afton Reuter, Cayden Riley, Tanner Rossen, Andrew Russell, Kobe Russell, Isabeal Soderbeck, Broderick Stutz, Brody Temmers.

Juniors: Culley Anderson, William Bastian, Hunter Dearborn, Maxwel Dearborn, Aidan Dorau, Brooke Engeldinger, Caroline Foy, Leah French, Bianca Gangi, Elijah Hobbs, Joel Kendall, Dominic Kromanaker, Lucy Lamb, Jordan Mann, Isabelle Metz, Scarlett Miller, Hailey Murphy, Kendra Ogilvie, Dain Pechacek, Natalie Ptacek, Tyler Reiter, Grayson Riley, Ken Ryan, Claire Schommer, Syrenna Taylor, Barrett Temmers, Samuel Vesperman, Ethan West, Davis Wudarski, Alissa Zerneke.

Seniors: Evan Akey, Lilly Bourdages, Kyle Cogan, Rhiannon Fabian, Rhishelle Fabian, Braelyn Fleming, Jamie Fortney, Anika Fredericks, Chloe Heldman, Owen Henderson, Taylor Holub, Nina Jones, Bayla Langer, Lacey Nechkash, Lincoln Neumann, Austin Oie, Avery Patridge, Kaylin Rein, Mason Schommer, Jayden Seleski-Ezinkwo, Elisa Sterud, Cecelia Swanson, Gavin Thoen, Alaena Tutor, Dallas Wallin.

Submitted by Prescott High School

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CLUB Student of the Week

The Prescott Community Club Student of the Week for April 3 was Prescott High School freshman Dominic Weise, nominated by band teacher Jason Canfield.

“Dominic is involved in our HS Garage Band,” Canfield said. “He is always eager to play music and is found nearly every morning before school playing guitar outside of the band room, returning to play during his lunch time, then again for Garage Band at the end of the day. Dominic simply enjoys playing music. He is always enthusiastic, curious, respectful, kind and willing to help others. It is great to see such dedication, especially being so intrinsically motivated to learn. I believe music will always be a passion of his. We have so much talent in our bands, having students like Dominic involved makes our jobs exciting and very rewarding!”

Dominic is the child of Luke Weisse and Desiree Weise. He participates in track and field, cross coun-



Dominic Weise



Carter Allen

try, trap shooting and Ski & Snowboard Club. He enjoys playing music, camping, fishing and hiking. He hopes to one day become a musician/songwriter and/or carpenter.

The Prescott Community Club Student of the Week for April 10 is Prescott High School junior Carter Allen, nominated by teacher Dylan Larsen.

“Of all my students, Carter shows the most consistent effort day-in and day-out,” Larsen said. “He’s

friendly and engaging to his teachers and his peers. Once, he volunteered to help another student organize all their work to turn in; this was no small task and Carter helped without a single complaint. I can count on Carter for a smile and a ‘can do’ attitude.”

Carter is the son of Joseph Allen. He works at Dollar General and enjoys cars. He plans to attend CVTC in the future.

Submitted by Prescott High School

O’Connell supports Prescott American Legion



O’Connell Funeral Home of Prescott presented a \$500 donation to the Prescott American Legion Post 61 last week. On hand to receive the check from Mike O’Connell was Commander Jerry Klasen and members of the Honor guard. (From left): Norm Johnson, Terry Budworth, Perry Eggers, Commander Jerry Klasen, Mike O’Connell, Neil Riley, Don Slaten and Funeral Director Austin Mahanke. Submitted photo

We earned it ... Thanks to you!

We are proud to be named an AMERICAN STAR CERTIFIED AGENCY

Our customers have recognized us as an American Star Certified Agency - an honor that affirms our commitment to “Excellence in Customer Experience.” You work hard for your dreams. You deserve an insurance company that works just as hard to protect them.

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VACANCY

School District of Spring Valley
Spring Valley, WI

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Full-time year-round position
starting June 1, 2024

Duties include: Perform all custodial and maintenance tasks on a daily basis along with the custodial team; Must occasionally be available to work on weekends and holidays to respond to urgent needs; Assess buildings, pool facilities, grounds, and equipment for needed repairs; Order materials and supplies; Train, schedule, and oversee all custodial maintenance staff; Must be physically able to climb ladders, bend, and lift up to 50 pounds at a time.

To receive an application, email to personnel@springvalley.k12.wi.us or visit www.springvalley.k12.wi.us or call 715-778-5551.

**Application Deadline:
April 23, 2024**





JOE PEINE
joe@piercecounjournal.news

Section B • April 10, 2024



Britta Link got the start for Elmwood-Plum City in their loss against the Cardinals in Spring Valley. Photo by Joe Peine



Evah Butts comes in ahead of the play at the plate in the Cardinals' 8-4 victory over the Wolves on Thursday in Spring Valley. Photo by Joe Peine



The play at second is not in time as Addison Nelson slides in safely in Spring Valley's 8-4 win over Elmwood-Plum City. Photo by Joe Peine

Cardinals take down Wolves in home opener

By Joe Peine

The Spring Valley Cardinals softball team defeated the Elmwood-Plum City Wolves in their home opener on Thursday by a score of 8-4. It was a game that was both closer and more of a blowout than it seemed. As the away team, Elmwood came to bat first, but got sat down in order by Cardinal hurler Maddie Shafer.

Spring Valley answered with what looked like was going to be a much bigger inning than it was.

After an opening strikeout for the Cardinals, they put four straight girls on base. Unfortunately for the home team, they took their second out on a fielder's choice, and the Wolves secured the final out after pitcher Britta Link induced a groundball and escaped the inning still tied 0-0.

The second and third innings were essentially carbon copies of each other; the Wolves went down 1, 2, 3 while Spring Valley got a run in each frame.

First, with one out in the second inning, Danika Schmitt delivered a single, and two batters later, Evah Butts knocked her in with a single of her own.

Then a walk, a single and a walk loaded the bases for Reese Vivoda to start the third inning. She answered the call with an RBI single to put Spring Valley up by two. However, with two outs and the bases juiced, EPC was able to retire the side without any further damage as Link induced another infield grounder for the final out.

The Wolves got on the board with a sacrifice by Lexi Snapp in the top of the fourth after Hannah Fesenmaier and

Link both walked. That's all they ended up with though, and the game moved into the second half with Spring Valley up 2-1.

That score didn't hold very long as Addie Nelson, Butts and Megan Harvey all scored in the bottom of the frame, and then the Cardinals scored three more in the bottom of the fifth, with Schmitt, Nelson and Butts all coming around to make it 8-1 after five.

The Wolves made it interesting late, plating Fesenmaier and Adda Ingli in the sixth and Abby Krings in the seventh, but ultimately, they couldn't dig themselves out of the hole they found themselves in. Thus, the Cardinals went on to win their home opener with a final score of 8-4.

Link struggled with control in her first start of the

season for the Wolves with eight walks in four innings, but her four strikeouts are encouraging. The top of the Wolves' lineup did most of the heavy lifting in this one offensively as shortstop Bechel finished going 2-4, center fielder Fesenmaier went 1-2 with a walk and two runs scored and catcher Riley Ginsbach went 2-3 with an RBI.

For the Cardinals, Shafer pitched a complete game, allowing three earned runs on seven hits and three walks. While that's more traffic on the bases than she might've liked, her stuff was electric, garnering 12 total strikeouts in seven innings of work.

Shafer's opening day win was facilitated by Butts, Harvey, Schmitt and Nelson all scoring two runs apiece. Butts and Harvey posted identical lines and filled

out the box score going 2-3 with a walk and an RBI to go along with their two runs scored.

Head Coach Amy Shafer was understandably pleased with her team's win.

"Maddie Shafer pitched a great game, getting more than half of our outs in strike outs. She is our top arm this season, and I expect she will pitch most, if not all, of our conference innings this year," Shafer said. "We did well getting the bat on the ball. It's early in the season so I expect our hitting to improve more each game and to not leave so many runners on base."

Coach Shafer says they will be focusing on specific defensive situations and more aggressive baserunning in the coming practices in the hopes of limiting errors in the field, getting into scoring

position offense and manufacturing opportunities to get more runs across home plate.

Wolves Head Coach Paige Saniter recognizes that her team made some mental mistakes in this one but says she's confident the girls will improve as the season goes on.

"We are young, and I have tossed some girls into new positions. We are working hard and learning every day, and we were a lot more confident at the plate," Saniter said. "Base running and situational defense is going to be our main focus going forward."

Saniter says she encourages the girls to watch higher level softball, and she's been trying to lay the expectation of thinking about the play ahead.

See **SOFTBALL**, Page B-2

Spring Valley outscores EPC 9-1 in commanding victory

By Joe Peine

The Spring Valley Cardinals defeated the Elmwood-Plum City Wolves by a score of 9-1 on Thursday in Spring Valley. In a game where they got down early, the Wolves' pitching settled down and the defense tightened up in the middle innings.

Diego Schmitt got the start for Spring Valley in this one and got through the top of the lineup without issue. The rest of the team helped his cause in the bottom of the first as the offense put up a crooked number early, taking advantage of errors by the Wolves, plating four and taking a commanding lead.

A pitcher's duel ensued between Schmitt and Wolves' starter Brett Lifto, and the score stayed stagnant until the bottom of the fourth when the red birds got another one across, increasing their lead to 5-0. The wheels really came off for Elmwood-Plum City in the bottom of the fifth as errors abounded, and Spring Valley plated three more to make it 8-0.

The Cardinals would add on an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth in what looked to be the makings of a shutout. However, the Wolves sent two pinch hitters to the plate in the final inning, and they combined to score their only run.

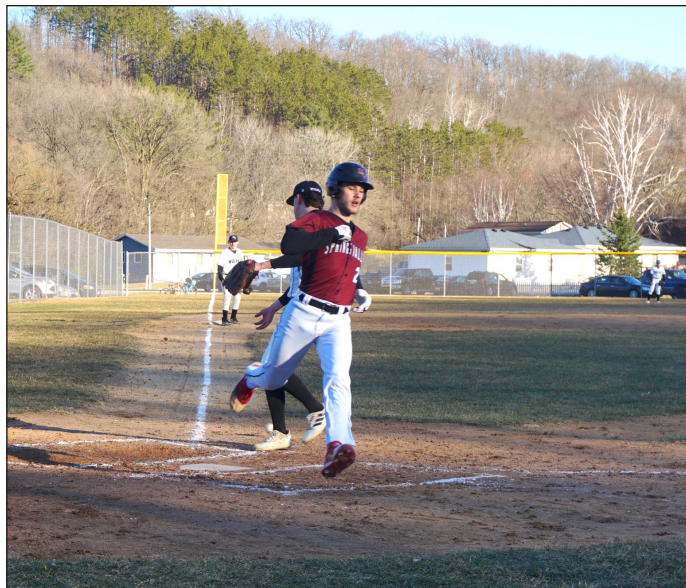
Brewer Link came into the game in the top of the seventh and drew a walk. Two batters later, Brett Kopp got a clutch hit and put EPC on the board. That's all they would get though, and the game would end with Spring Valley taking a 9-1 victory.

It's the beginning of the season, and there's a lot of baseball left to play, but if there were two bugaboos for the Wolves it was strikeouts and fielding errors.

Head Coach Cory Brathall says Lifto pitched well, and



Diego Schmitt logs a great performance with four shutout innings of work and nine strikeouts in Spring Valley's home opener against the EPC Wolves. Photo by Joe Peine



Will Biggs crossing the plate in the Cardinals' 9-1 win over the Wolves in Spring Valley on Thursday. Photo by Joe Peine

the other guys played better ball as the game went on.

"Brett Lifto only gave up one hit in his four innings of work. A couple defensive miscues in the first inning led to giving Spring Valley some extra outs, leading to them scoring 4 and making Lifto throw a bunch of extra pitches which lead to him not going as deep in the game as we would have liked," Brathall

said. "Our defense got better as the game went on, and we played a clean few innings."

Coach Brathall says they need to work on their plate discipline, first and foremost after this performance.

"Offensively Dylan Zielinger went 2-3 with two hard hit singles and Brett Kopp had a ringing pinch

See **BASEBALL**, Page B-3

Golf Preview

Early spring gives area golf teams a head start

By Joe Peine

The Prescott Cardinals will tee off their Middle Border Conference golf season on Monday in Altoona. With the weather improving, casual players may find themselves beginning to look wistfully at clubs. Meanwhile, the Prescott golf team has already been practicing and will be hitting the links this week for their first competition of the year.

More has changed with the team than the freshmen and seniors as erstwhile Head Coach Jay Bartsch departed the program in the off-season after 22 years. In his place, seven-year veteran assistant coach Scott Hamilton will be taking the helm.

"This will be my eighth year coaching golf but first as the head coach," Hamilton said. "I played golf in Ellsworth in high school during one of the most competitive stretches they've had and was on JV the year they won the State Championship in 2000 and Varsity the two years following where we made runs to the Sectional Tournament each year. I've played golf since around second grade and still enjoy playing when I can."

Coach Hamilton says the biggest change for the team this year beyond skippers will be the expansion of their schedule to include more tournaments.

"We are going to Reedsburg for a tournament in mid-April and also got into a two-day event at Troy Burne and White Eagle, which are two of the premier courses in our area," Hamilton said. "We are also getting our roster numbers back up from post-COVID where we saw a really big dip down into the 7-8 range, where this year we have 15 boys currently



Prescott Cardinal golfer Tyler Reiter returns for his junior season and is a favorite contender for overall conference medalist. Journal file photo



Wildcat Will Benedict is a senior this year and will be one of the leaders of the team. Journal file photo

signed up. This will help our future and also bring more competition at practice for JV and varsity spots."

Last year Prescott had a fairly successful season, shooting some of their lowest team scores in years with a 176 average.

"Many years that would be enough for a top half finish in our conference but recently the MBC has been very competitive," Hamilton

said. "We ended up seventh last year. Amery won the conference and made it to the State Tournament, and they return much of their team from last year. After that though this year I feel we could push for a Top 3 finish or better."

Tyler Reiter was Prescott's #1 golfer last year and earned an All-Conference spot. He

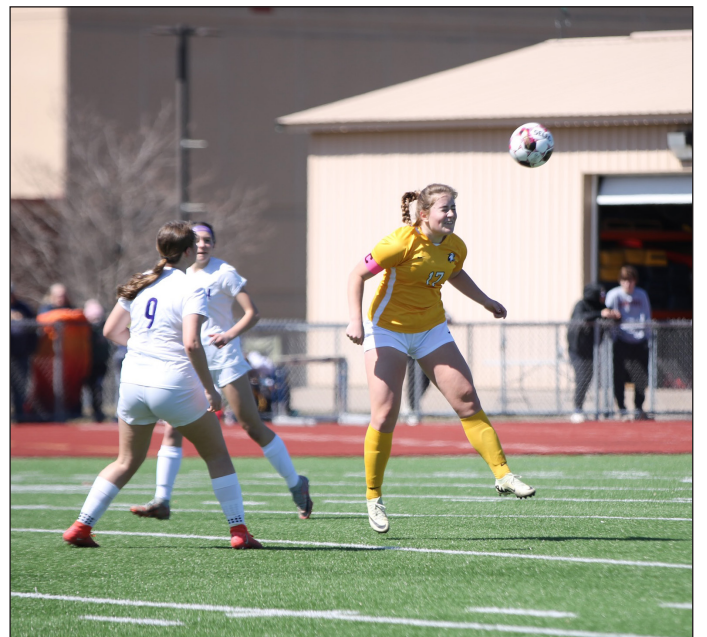
See **GOLF**, Page B-9



Freshman goalie Neva Espanet has taken the reins for the Wildcats this season, and she's given up just one goal in three games. Photo courtesy of Tania Gray



Senior Bell Skow returns healthy this season for River Falls after missing the end of last year with a broken arm. Photo courtesy of Tania Gray



Lillia Gray shoots for the net in the first place Wildcats' 1-0 loss on Saturday, their first of the year. Photo courtesy of Tania Gray

Wildcats' soccer seeking ticket back to state

By Joe Peine

The River Falls Wildcats girls' soccer team lost 1-0 against Onalaska in their home opener on Saturday.

River Falls had their chances in Saturday's game, namely with the ball loose in front of an unguarded net near the end of a 0-0 first half of play, but they ultimately came up short for the first time this season, falling to 2-1. Even so, they still reside in a first-place tie with Hudson in the Big Rivers with two victories a piece.

This also marks the first goal freshman Neva Espanet has allowed this season. Originally, the Wildcats veteran goaltender was set to play for them, but she will miss the entire year with an ACL

tear, setting up Espanet for a featured role on the varsity squad in her freshman year, a challenge that she has met almost without flaw in the early goings.

Another new face within the program is Adam Koger who rejoins the program after a few years away. He also took over as head coach of the boys' team last fall.

While some things are different, others stay the same as Charles Conley returns this year for his 14th season as head coach. During this timeframe, the Wildcats have been wildly successful, boasting an overall win loss record of 175-56-29 to go along with three conference titles, most recently in 2022.

"I think there has only been one season since 2010 that we

haven't finished in the Top 3. I wasn't the coach for the first one, however we have four conference titles in the last 14 seasons," Conley said.

That said, Coach Conley says they are going to have to play really well game in and game out to get a fifth BRC Championship.

"I think there are easily six teams that can qualify for the Top 4, we cannot afford to take a day off," Conley said. "I strongly believe we have the talent to win the BRC, but we have to get our offense in sync and get healthy."

The Wildcats played Onalaska on Saturday without first team All-BRC Forward Kraly Walker who makes a big impact in their gameplay; Conley says they might have the best back line in the con-

ference next to Hudson.

River Falls lost three seniors in the offseason but only one starter.

"We like the experience we bring back and think we can outperform last year's team, or at least that's our hope. Almost every starter returned, and we will get Campbell Skow back from a broken arm. She missed the second half of last season," Conley said. "This is the best team we have had since 2022, good mix of youth and experience to lead the way."

After being off all winter, and with only three training sessions on the field, Conley says they have been rusty in their attack.

"It is a process to hit our stride by mid-season or so and then really make a strong

run. I like how we played the first two games; good to get some competition prior to the really tough opponents, but then it also can allow for a false sense of security to set in," Conley said. "We were a little sloppy in a few areas on Saturday and will have the opportunity to improve this prior to Thursday. I think we really controlled play a lot against Onalaska, but for the second year in a row, they hit a pretty fluky goal. We held them to only a few shots, so it was a really outstanding defensive effort and gives us a lot to build on moving forward."

Coach Conley says the goal is the same as usual this season, to compete for a Big Rivers Conference title and be there at the end to compete

for a trip to state.

"We have earned nine straight Regional Championships and 13 out of the past 14 seasons, and we have been to 10 of the last 13 section final games," Conley said. "We are really determined to get over the hump this year and get back to Milwaukee for the first time since 2018. One game at a time. We have some things to accomplish prior to Thursday, and after that we will go from there."

The journey towards those team goals continues this week when they host Eau Claire Memorial on Thursday at 7 p.m. and continues on Saturday when they travel to De Pere for the Green Knight Invite, which begins at 8 a.m.

Sports News and Notes

Ellsworth Wrestling Hall of Fame announces 2024 inductees

By Joe Peine

The Ellsworth Wrestling program announced this year's Hall of Fame selections this week, and they are Mark Matzek, Jerad Erlandson and Chuck Foy.

Each of these men have been a big part of the Panthers Wrestling tradition and continue to reside in Ellsworth to this day.

Matzek says he is competitive nature, and his love for sports drew him into the Ellsworth wrestling program. His oldest brother Dennis carted Mark and his younger brother Tim all over the region to wrestling tournaments as youth and as cadets and juniors.

The commitment of the parents and the rise of Ellsworth wrestling in the late 1990s helped Matzek to win the 112-pound state title in 1999, which ended a 14-year state title drought for Ellsworth. A year later, he won the 125-pound state title along with his teammates Jeremy Gunderson and Josh Erlandson. This only got better when the team won the program's first dual meet team state title a week later.

Overall, Matzek earned his stripes as a two-time state champion, three-time All-American and two-time national champion for the Auggies. He was also a three-time Scholar All-American. After college, he joined the coaching staff at his alma mater as an assistant before taking over as the head coach of their program in 2008. His teams placed second in the nation three times, third in the nation, and were the NCAA team champions in 2010.

Since moving back to Ellsworth with his wife Jessica and taking over the helm for the Panthers' wrestling program, the team has placed second as a team at state three times and has won the team title twice in back-to-back years in 2016 and 2017.

Jerad Erlandson punched his ticket to the Ellsworth Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2002 when he earned his way to state and wrestled his way into winning the Individual



All 16 Middle Border Conference Scholar Athlete award recipients. Submitted photo

State Championship.

Erlandson's wrestling career began in grade school when he would go on the road with his family and friends for wrestling tournaments. Over time, he developed a unique wrestling style with his signature leg riding/crab riding move that set him apart from the competition and could best be described as "creative" or "unconventional."

By the time he reached the high school level, he was ready to shine. Erlandson made his varsity debut as a freshman at 125 pounds where he was a force to be reckoned with, never once finding himself on the junior varsity roster. Despite a slight setback in 2000 with a broken jaw, Jerad Erlandson bounced back and returned just in time for the team state tournament, which resulted in a team championship.

Highlights of his high school career include becoming an Individual State Champion in 2002 at 135 pounds, racking up a record of 127-20, winning the Sectional Championship in 2002, and clinching four Regional Championships from 1999 to 2002. He also served as team captain in 2002 as well, which was his senior year.

He went on to wrestle some in college but returned to open Clyde's Corner Bar and Grill in Beldenville with his wife, Sara Gutting.

Chuck Foy was one of Ellsworth's first state place winners in the class of 1972.

He wrestled on the varsity team for four years under Kirby Symes from 1968-1972. During that time, he won four UWRF invite championships, three conference and regional championships, two sectional championships and took sixth in the state tournament.

"I was coached by Kirby Symes, Dave Amdahl, and Tom Madison. Under the tutelage of those men, and spending a lot of time in that small, smelly wrestling room, I learned many life lessons that after 56 years stick with me today," Foy said. "Kirby was quite a guy to be around. He didn't pull any punches about how he felt. Even with us young guys."

Foy says one of the funniest things the guys in the room ever saw was the big Symes trying to work on the mat with the skinny 95-pound version of himself on some leg positions, which he says "must have been quite a sight."

"I did have the opportunity a couple years before he died to contract some remodeling on his home. I got to have lunch with him and his wife Ty just about every day for a couple weeks," Foy said. "I was fortunate to have a son who had an interest in wrestling, so that kept me involved with Panther wrestling for quite a few more years. At the 2023 Ellsworth Invite, I was watching my son coach for another team while I was holding my grandson, his son, in the stands. Truly a full circle moment."

Life after wrestling has been typical, according to Foy. Post secondary schooling, employment in the construction management/contracting field, 46 years of marriage to his wife Deb, two children, five grandchildren, and now semi-retirement.

"I want to thank the Association for this honor and will fondly remember it for the rest of my days," Foy said.

Ellsworth Scholarly Athletes

Seniors Molly Janke and Logan Brand of Ellsworth were chosen to represent their school as Middle Border Conference Scholar Athletes at a banquet held at St. Croix Central High School this past week.

Every year, MBC member schools select one male and one female senior to receive recognition. Students must have a minimum of four varsity letters and a 3.5 GPA to be eligible, and the 16 conference nominees, their friends and family are all invited to the event where they deliver speeches on what participating in high school athletics has meant to them.

The MBC Male Scholar Athlete for 2024 from Ellsworth is Brand, who is a two-sport athlete that has earned a total of five letters in football and basketball while maintaining a 3.6 GPA. He is also an active member in 4-H, FFA, NHS, Math League and Senior Council, so he truly understands the impact that



Molly Janke was recognized for her athletic and scholastic achievements at an award ceremony and banquet in Hammond. Photo courtesy of Ellsworth Community School District



Logan Brand being recognized for his academic and athletic achievements with an award at a banquet in Hammond. Photo courtesy of Ellsworth Community School District

being involved can have on his future.

Next year, Brand will attend Iowa State University to major in Agricultural Business.

This year's 2024 MBC Female Scholar Athlete from Ellsworth is Janke, who is a decorated three-sport athlete and has earned a total of 11 letters in Tennis, Basketball and Softball while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

She has participated at the state tennis meet and received Middle Border All Conference Awards as an individual in basketball, tennis, and softball.

Janke will also graduate this spring as the school leader in points, steals, assists and rebounds in basketball. She is one out of only 15 athletes in the state to earn Academic Elite Honors from the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association and has earned All-State Recognition in basketball two years in a row. She has been selected to play in the WBCA All-Star Game this summer.

Next year, Janke will be attending UW-La Crosse and will major in Exercise Science and is playing basketball for the Eagles.

Softball

from Page B-1

"I'm trying to get them to tell themselves their options as our pitcher readies for the next pitch. Like, the runners here and here, so if it's hit slow, go here. If it's hit hard, go here.

If it's hit right to me, throw there," Saniter said. "It's just about that mental preparation and how that saves you precious time on plays. I'm really waiting on one girl that will be willing to step up and lead our defense with communication and aggression."

Link and Krings are their top two pitchers this year.

Saniter says they both are working hard to improve their games, and she's confident in their abilities.

"Overall, I'm really looking forward to working with this group of girls," Saniter said. "They are fun, hard-working, and determined to learn. It will be a fun season."

With this win, Spring Val-

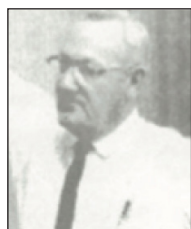
ley moves to 3-1 in the early goings of the season, and they will look to build on their early success with a full slate of road games this week. First up is a trip to Colfax to play the Vikings on Monday, then they play the Hilltoppers in Glenwood City on Tuesday before finally wrapping things up on Friday when they travel to

Balsam Lake to play the Unity Eagles on Friday. First pitch for all those games is at 5 p.m.

With this loss, Elmwood-Plum City falls to 0-2 on the season after having two of their first four games cancelled or postponed due to weather. Mother Nature permitting, they will look to right the ship this week with a

two-game split home and road slate.

Week 2 play begins on Monday in Plum City for the Wolves' home opener when they host the Durand-Arkansas Panthers, and then continues Thursday when they travel to Mondovi to play the Buffaloes. First pitch is at 5 p.m. for both contests.



SHOTS from the Hip

BY CRIFE OLSON

Head Softball Coach Nick Johnson outscored Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau and St. Croix Falls by a combined score of 26-2. The Cardinals pounded Redbird and Saints pitching and the pitching duo of Ella Stewart and Gabby Matzek silenced G-E-T and St. Croix Falls hitters as the Cardinals won in convincing fashion.

Sophomore pitcher Max Monteith picked up his first career varsity win in game one of last Saturday's doubleheader against host Lake City. Monteith, along with Ian Leask and Dain Pechacek provided five innings of scoreless relief in the Cardinals' 3-2 win over the Tigers. Run scoring singles by Owen Bayer, Cole Platson, and Will Rohl in the top of the six gave Prescott a 3-2 lead. Pechacek struck out the side in the bottom of the seventh to preserve the win. In game two, Joaquin Magee, Nik Welter, and Cullen Huppert each had two hits as the Cardinals outscored Dover-Eyota by a score of 10-7. Platson picked up the win in relief with Nolan Thomley garnering the save. Huppert scored three runs in the victory as the Cardinals, after a three-year weather-related and Covid-caused hiatus, returned to the tournament. The formidable Middle Border Conference schedule begins this week for the Cardinals.

Peter Brookshaw will return to Fargo-Moorhead to play with the Redhawks this summer. The 2018 Cardinal grad and two-time 1st Team All State selection is considering playing winter ball as well this year.

Hat off to junior and sophomore catchers Joaquin Magee and Brody Temmers. The Cardinal catching combo did a yeoman's job behind the plate, each receiving for four different pitchers, including left and right-handed pitchers. Temmers threw out two would-be base steal-

ers and Magee went 2-4 in game two. Both signal callers earned game balls in their varsity debuts.

Junior Dain Pechacek's pitching line on Saturday: 3 IP, 0 Runs, 0 Hits, and 6 strikeouts. Impressive.

Another tidbit from last Saturday's Lake City Invitational Tournament. This season the Cardinal baseball team welcomes statsmen duo of Jason Bayer and Dusty Schommer. Both 1994 Cardinal alumni, Bayer and Schommer were members of the WIAA Division 2 State Championship team. That season, Jason Bayer's father, Gary, was the statistician for the team. And today, Jason Bayer's son Owen is a player on the team. Word is Jason's father Gary is already providing pointers and other sorts of guidance on the ins and outs of stat keeping.

Megan Gilles and the University of Minnesota Duluth women's track and field team opened their 2024 outdoor campaign last Saturday competing in the Wartburg Select Invitational in Iowa. The 4x100m relay team Megan Gilles, Jacqi Rae, Kate Fitzgerald, and Jordan Grell combined for a 48.45 and finished in second. Gilles also grabbed a silver in 400m hurdles finishing with a personal best time of 1:03.65. The Bulldogs finished fifth in the 13-team invitational meet. Gilles is a 2020 graduate of Prescott High School.

A big thank you to Bruce Platson, Brady Randolph, and Chuck Block for their extensive volunteer work at Firehall Field last week. The volunteer trio installed turf along the batting cage for hitting drills and repaired fencing above the dugout. Also, a hearty handclasp to Chris Anfang from Anfang Asphalt Plus for allowing CAB Company to use a roller for the infield.

From the WIAA: The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, in co-

operation with Rural Mutual Insurance, has chosen the recipients of the team Sportsmanship Awards for the 2024 winter State Tournaments. The winners of the prestigious sportsmanship recognition are Lakeside Lutheran in boys' basketball, Cuba City in girls' basketball, Cumberland in team wrestling, West Bend West in gymnastics, the Sun Prairie West Co-op in girls hockey and Tomahawk in boys hockey. The award is presented to one school and community in each of the state team tournaments that exhibits exemplary sportsmanship. Recipients are determined by the sportsmanship displayed by athletes, coaches, cheer and support groups, mascots, bands and spectators.

Headshaker of the week. Speaking of sportsmanship, Cardinal baseball fans, players, and coaches noticed the sophomoric behavior in two dugouts last Saturday. Incessant nonsensical chanting and yelling emanated from the dugout in game one, followed by the same, along with barnyard profanity in game two of Saturday's doubleheader. Amazingly, an umpire admonished the Dover-Eyota dugout during game two for their continual catcalling and flowery language. Bravo! Perhaps this same umpire should work some games in western Wisconsin where idiotic, immature screaming and taunting from the dugout is quite commonplace, including baseball teams in the Middle Border Conference. What makes matters worse is "adult" coaches act with complicity and do nothing. Any team, coaching staff, and school should be embarrassed when an umpire, during the middle of a game, has to scold a group of players and coaches for lack of dugout decorum. It's a headshaker.



OUTDOOR Tales and Trails

BY DAVE BECK

A late winter diversion

Before I jump ahead into the spring fishing and turkey hunting seasons I want to recap the trapping season, specifically beaver and otter.

My trapping roots go back to a time and place a long way from today and Pierce County. My first exposure was at age ten, trapping in Vernon County as my dad's assistant. He was a muskrat trapper and I more or less stayed out of the way while he ran his trap line. After a two-year apprenticeship I struck out on my own and trapped a modest number of critters. I caught just enough to call myself a trapper which was a title that I was proud of.

Fast forward a lot of years and miles when I found out that I had two otter trapping tags. I've been after fishers for a few years now and there's not much about that form of trapping that I can convert to water trapping. I knew there was some crossover between trapping otters and beavers, but my experience was very limited. To fill in the blanks I studied up via YouTube. The next thing was scrambling to find traps, jumping into my hip boots with both feet, and setting the traps.

After I got the "how to" part down it was a matter of "where to." I was pretty jacked up when the first trap produced the first beaver. Even though my original motivation was to fill my otter tags, I quickly learned that bagging a beaver was much easier. Eventually I filled my otter tags making the trapping days even more special. I had all my traps pulled on Easter Sunday, ending the season which I considered a success as well as an awesome late winter diversion, but there was one more thing that I had to do.

I saved a large amount of beaver meat after skinning and processing my catches because it's pretty good fisher bait and I wanted to



I strapped on my waders to give otter and beaver trapping a try this winter. Photo by Dave Beck



I slow-cooked this beaver meat in my crock pot for about 10 hours with some soup. Photo by Dave Beck

make crockpot beaver which I heard tasted pretty good. I decided to cook it for myself to find out if the rumors were true, that beaver meat had the taste and texture similar to a hot beef sandwich.

I set up our extra crockpot in the garage, added the beaver meat along with one can of French Onion Soup and one can of Beefy Mushroom Soup. After cooking for 10 hours on low, supper was ready. As expected, the meat literally fell off the bone without any prodding. I made two sandwiches to try "the other dark meat" - one with barbe-

cue sauce and the other with horseradish sauce. It didn't taste exactly like a famous Gaslight hot beef sandwich, but it was pretty good.

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@piercecounytjournal.news Also, check out OTT content on Instagram @thepiercecounytjournal

Baseball

from Page B-1

hit double late in the game scoring Brewer Link, but our offense needs to be better. We can't strike out 12 times in a game and expect good things to happen," Brathall said. "Schmitt pitched well for them, so hats off to him, but the combinations of bad at bats and some errors early on was too much to overcome."

For the Wolves to be better, Brathall says they need to be ready to play from the opening pitch to the final out, and that just comes with more games and more experience.

"I'm excited to get in a groove with getting consistent games, and I truly believe a lot of good baseball is in this team's future," Brathall said.

Spring Valley's offense was led by two multi-hit performances. First baseman Bartko led the team offensively going 2-4 with a triple, two runs, two RBI's and three stolen bases. Centerfielder Cade Stasiak had a similar line, pairing two singles with two runs and three stolen bases.

The Cardinals pitching also had a good night as starting pitcher Schmitt turned in a stellar performance, going four strong innings, only allowing two baserunners and striking out nine. Then Kaden Robelia came in for the final three innings, allowing just a single run on three hits and a walk while striking out five.

Getting the win is obviously the most important part, but Spring Valley's Head Coach Brandon Walczak says there are things they need to clean up if they want to compete for a place at the top of the conference.

"We fielded the ball well when given opportunities and made some nice plays," Walczak said. "I think our base running was what needs most improvement as we made a few mistakes, and I would have liked to see us take advantage of more opportunities that other teams give us."

The Cardinals have only



Brett Lifto pitches a solid game, but unfortunately errors behind him and strikeouts at the plate sunk the Wolves in their tilt against the Cardinals on Thursday. Photo by Joe Peine

had five outdoor practices thus far, so it's understandable that the defense is still a bit of a work in progress after so much time off.

"A majority of our practices coming up will focus on things like first and third situations, holding runners on, situational awareness, run downs, relays, fielding and hitting," Walczak said.

The progress they hope to make isn't just on fielding; Coach Walczak says their hurlers need to work on some things as well.

"Our pitchers pitched well, but I would like to see them get into less 3-2 counts and stay ahead of batters. They both pitched well and were pretty consistent in throwing strikes, but both had a few lulls in being able to throw competitive pitches in or around the zone," Walczak said. "Obviously it's early in the year and it was a good starting spot for both. I'm not sure if we will necessarily have a 'number one' this year. We have about seven guys in our roster that I'd feel confident in to put them on the mound."

That said, Walczak says he feels like Schmitt has shown the most consistent ability to throw strikes, maintain his composure and throw all pitches competitively, although the other guys are coming along, getting more accurate and confident.

"The guys I will be lean-

ing on this year as both starters and relievers are Diego, Kaden Robelia, JT Bauer, Will Biggs, Cade Stasiak, Trevor Forster, and Caleb Bartko. My hope for all of them is to build consistency in throwing strikes, have the ability to throw competitive pitches around the zone, be able to locate all pitches and throw consistent off-speed pitches," Walczak said. "These guys have grown as pitchers since last year and even within the last three weeks. I'm looking forward to seeing the growth of these guys as the season continues."

The Cardinals' season will continue with a full week of baseball as they play two games on the road and one at home.

First, they travel to Colfax on Monday to play the Vikings, and then they head to Glenwood City on Thursday to play the Hilltoppers. Finally, they return home on Friday to host the Somerset Spartans. First pitch for each of those games is at 5 p.m.

Elmwood-Plum City also has a busy slate of games, hosting two and going on the road for one. On Monday, they host the Durand-Arkansaw Panthers, and then the Cadott Hornets come to Elmwood on Tuesday. Their last game of the week is on Thursday when they will travel to Mondovi to play the Buffaloes. First pitch for those games is at 5 p.m.

Community CALENDAR

Every Tuesday Among Friends, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 110 S. Third St., River Falls. A social respite program serving seniors residing in Pierce and St. Croix counties who are facing memory changes or physical limitations. Trained staff supervise socializing and fun, engaging activities in a safe environment. Learn more at amongfriendsrf.com or 715-293-2561.

Friday, April 12 Relay For Life River Falls-Pierce County, 5-11 p.m., River Falls High School (818 Cemetery Road, River Falls). Everyone is invited! 4:30-5:45 p.m. survivor check-in (spaghetti meal is free for survivors!), 5 p.m. team setup begins, 5-8 p.m. spaghetti dinner (donation-based), 6 p.m. opening ceremony, 6-10 p.m. silent auction, 9 p.m. luminaia ceremony, and 10:45 p.m. closing ceremony.

Sunday, April 14 Sunday Brunch, 9 a.m. to noon, River Falls Moose Lodge (620 N. Clark St.) Hosting a fundraiser for Town & Country 4-H. Buffet includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash-browns, pancakes, French toast, biscuits and sausage gravy. Kids 5 and under eat free.

Art Reception for Judy O'Neill, 2-4 p.m., Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center River Room (200 Monroe St., Prescott). Come meet the artists and enjoy some snacks.

Wednesday, April 17 Coffee with the Superintendent, 7 a.m., River

Falls School District Office (852 E. Division St.) Join Supt. Jamie Benson for coffee and conversation!

Saturday, April 20 Earth Day Celebration & Spring Park Clean-Up, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center (200 Monroe St., Prescott). Presentations on how to make container pollinator gardens and birding, vendors, animals, and a park clean-up with great people!

Earth Day Celebration! 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., E-Town Collaborative (259 N. Broadway St., Ellsworth). Community event with free trees, face painting, bracelet making station, education about community groups, games and much more!

Storyteller Pati Kachel, 2-4 p.m., St. Paul's United Church of Christ (W5706 Highway 72, Ellsworth). Kachel will tell the real-life story of Corrie ten Boom, who saved more than 800 people during the Nazi occupation of her country. Kachel, an international storyteller, has been telling stories about significant women of faith for more than 40 years. Bring items for the food pantry as admission; desserts will be served following the program. Call 715-273-3118 for more information.

St. Francis 'Gone Country' Gala, St. Francis School (244 W. Woodworth St., Ellsworth). Support St. Francis School at the 18th annual gala. Dust off your cowboy boots and hats! Live music by Chaunte Shayne. Doors open at 5 p.m. for live music, dining, raffles, games,

silent and live auctions and a pledge drive.

Thursday, April 25-Saturday, April 27 Spring Community Garage Sale, River Falls Moose Lodge (620 N. Clark St.) Held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 25 and 26, 9 a.m. to noon April 27. Indoors, free parking and lots of good deals. Hosted by the Women of the Moose #1159 with matching funds by Royal Neighbors #5052.

Friday, April 26 United Fire & Rescue Smelt Fry, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (or until gone), Baldwin American Legion (410 Maple St., Baldwin). All you can eat smelt, beans, coleslaw, chips, bread, and beverages. Free will donation; proceeds go toward the Baldwin Station Equipment Fund.

Sunday, April 28 'Just Sing,' 3 p.m., Ezekiel Lutheran Church (202 S. Second St., River Falls). A free concert by the Pierce County Ecumenical Choir. A free-will offering to support local charities will be taken. Refreshments to follow.

Tuesday, April 30 Pierce & St. Croix Counties Deer Advisory Council, 6 p.m., River Falls Public Library (140 Union St.) Be a part of the conversations on this year's holiday hunts, extended archery seasons and antlerless deer quotas. The County Deer Advisory Council will review public input and make its final recommendations for the 2024 deer hunting seasons.

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OBITUARIES

David Pickard 1948-2024

David Bradford Pickard passed away on March 28, 2024 after a brief illness. He was born in Duluth, Minn. on Jan. 20, 1948 and grew up in Clearbrook, a small town in northern Minnesota. After high school he attended college in Michigan where he studied architecture. This is where he first got started in the construction business, eventually meticulously building million-dollar homes in Michigan and Illinois, and beautiful homes for his aunt and uncle in Minnesota and Georgia, one being on the north shore of Lake Superior.

His main interests were carpentry, site-seeing/traveling the US, visiting state and national parks and canoeing/camping, relaxing around a "clean" campfire with a "properly chilled" Budweiser.

Besides trips with his Life Partner Ginny, David organized many "cousins" canoe trips on the Namekagon, St. Croix, Snake, Chippewa and the Black River, camping on sandbars. He also supported the "Great River Rumble" canoe group on their trips on the Mississippi River on which Ginny and her friend Mary canoed several sections from St. Cloud to St. Louis. At times David ran the Safety Boat and assisted with gear.

David and Ginny made several trips for weddings and family celebrations to Buffalo, NY, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He also enjoyed reading adventure and historical books and watching Jeopardy with Ginny, seeing who could yell out the answer first. He was an avid Minnesota Vikings and Twins fan.

David is survived by his Life Partner Ginny Gartman, brothers Bruce (Angela) Pickard and John (Linda) Pickard, sisters Annette (Ted) Hildebrandt and Laurie (Herb) Grover, aunt Jean Smith, uncle Maurice



(Sally) Pickard, aunt Merlin Schroeder, and many nephews, nieces and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents Hugh and Margaret Pickard, aunt Virginia Briggs, and uncle John Paul Carson. Arrangements are with Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services.



130 N. Grant St., 54011.



Ernie Maier 1939-2024

Ernie Paul Maier passed away on March 28, 2024, in Jacksonville, Fla. at the age of 84, due to heart disease and complications from Parkinson's Disease. He was the eldest son of Herman and Cecilia Maier of Ellsworth, Wis. Ernie held a BA in psychology from Northeastern University and an MBA from Boston College. He enjoyed a 35-year career with 3M Company, be-

ginning as a sales representative. He lived in Brussels for four years, involved in marketing for 16 countries for the Abrasives Division and traveling extensively. He retired as an International Marketing Director.

He was married for almost 60 years to the former Susan Feist, whom he met in Cincinnati early in his sales career. He was the father of Paula, Pat and Kathryn, and the grandfather of three. He was the brother of Jerome, Francis, Norm, Joann, Terry, and Mary and Rita (deceased). Ernie traveled the world with Susan and enjoyed many happy hours sailing on the Missis-

sippi out of Lake Pepin, and skiing in Europe and the US. He loved attending plays in London's West End. He was a strong proponent of education, had a beautiful singing voice and was known for his great sense of humor.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 4 at St. Bridget Church, 211 E. Division St., River Falls, WI with visitation starting at 10 a.m. A private interment will be held at St. Mary's Big River in River Falls. Please visit his online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

LeRoy Lundgaard 1951-2024

LeRoy Oscar Lundgaard, age 72, of Hager City, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on March 30, 2024 at Deer Crest Assisted Living in Red Wing, Minn.

LeRoy was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He shared 50 beautiful years of marriage with his devoted wife, Ella (Ray) Lundgaard. LeRoy was a loving father to his children, Cindy (Nathan) Geske and Chris (Christina) Lundgaard. He leaves behind a legacy of love and wisdom to his grandchildren: Grant, Cecilia, and Louis Geske, as well as Ryan, Remy, and Rowen Lundgaard. LeRoy is further survived by his brother Galen (Laurie) Lundgaard, as well as other family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Esther Lundgaard, brothers Gary and Arlen, and niece Olivia.

LeRoy enlisted in the United States Air Force and did a tour of duty in Vietnam, after which he graduated from Eau Claire Tech and then pursued a career as a diesel mechanic. He worked for many years at UPS, was a dedicated member of the IAM union and the Ellsworth American Legion, where he found camaraderie

and fulfillment in his work.

Beyond his professional endeavors, LeRoy was a man of many talents. He found joy in woodworking, often spending hours in his workshop crafting beautiful creations. From handcrafted headboards for his children and grandchildren to intricate wooden bowls and furniture pieces, LeRoy's creativity knew no bounds.

An avid traveler, LeRoy embarked on numerous memorable adventures, with trips to California, Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, the Grand Canyon, and Bozeman, Montana among his favorites. Whether exploring the natural wonders of the national parks or enjoying the simple pleasures of camping and working on his lawn, LeRoy embraced life with enthusiasm.

In addition to his woodworking and travel pursuits, LeRoy greatly enjoyed his audio equipment, and listening to country music filled many an hour. He was also an avid collector of books, always eager to expand his knowledge and understanding, particularly of woodworking.

Above all, LeRoy will be remembered for his gentle demeanor, loving nature, and soft-spoken wisdom.

LeRoy Oscar Lundgaard leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and cherished memories that will forever be treasured by his family and friends. May his spirit live on in the hearts of those who were



fortunate enough to know and love him.

On Monday, April 29, 2024 inurnment will be held at Fort Snelling National Cemetery at 10:15 a.m. along with full military honors. A Celebration of Life will be held that day from 4-8 p.m. at the River Falls American Legion, 701 N. Main St., River Falls, WI. A short ceremony and sharing of memories will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Memorial and cremation services are entrusted to the O'Connell Family Funeral Home of River Falls, www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com, 715-425-5644.



James Gelo

James Gelo, age 76, of Hopkins, Minnesota and formerly of River Falls, Wisconsin, passed away on April 8, 2024, at Our Lady of Peace

Hospice in St. Paul, Minnesota.

A funeral service for James Gelo will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at O'Connell Funeral Home-River Falls. There will be a visitation starting at 1 p.m. until the start of the service at the

funeral home. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery in River Falls, Wisconsin. Services are entrusted to the O'Connell Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services of River Falls.

Bonnie Borchert

Bonnie Borchert, age 78, of Menomonie, formerly of Ellsworth, passed away on April 4, 2024, at Aspirus Medford Hospital in Medford following a brief illness.

Graveside service for Bonnie Borchert will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 10 at Maple Grove Cemetery in Ellsworth.

Memorial donations made in Bonnie's name can be mailed to the funeral home.

Funeral services entrusted to the O'Connell Family Funeral Home of Ellsworth;



Construction is Complete!

We're here to help with all your cremation, funeral and preplanning needs.

715-941-5021

587 Lucas Ln., Ellsworth, WI • www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com

PUBLIC Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
PIERCE COUNTY

Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration) Case No. 24-PR-24

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Michael G. Holt

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

- An application for informal administration was filed.
 - The decedent, with date of birth March 14, 1960 and date of death October 09, 2023 was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of PO Box 127, N1022 385th Street, Maiden Rock, WI 54750.
 - The application will be heard at the Pierce County Courthouse, 414 W. Main Street, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201, before Honorable Elizabeth Rohl, Probate Registrar, on May 15, 2024 at 2:30 pm.
- You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
- The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 2, 2024.
 - A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, PO Box 97, 414 W. Main Street, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.
 - This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-273-6752 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Form completed by: Attorney Jon D. Seifert Seifert & Schultz, SC Address PO Box 206, Durand, WI 54736

Telephone Number 715-672-8938 Bar Number 1001425

WNAXLP 3 27, 4 3 10

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
PIERCE COUNTY

Case No. 2023CV000128

Nationstar Mortgage LLC Plaintiff, v. Estate of Wesley Eitel Defendant.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a judgment of foreclosure made in the above-entitled action on January 8, 2024 in the amount of \$336,673.76, I will sell at public auction, located at the main entrance of the Pierce County Courthouse, 414 W. Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011, on

April 23, 2024

At 9:00 AM, all of the following described premises, to wit:

LOT 37, PLAT OF KNOLLWOOD IN THE CITY OF RIVER FALLS, PIERCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

Street Address: 1779 Windflower Street, River Falls, WI 54022 Tax Key No. 276-01310-0337

THE PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AS IS AND SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL REAL ESTATE TAXES, SUPERIOR LIENS OR OTHER LEGAL ENCUMBRANCES.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK or CERTIFIED FUNDS, payable to the Clerk of Courts (10% down payment at sale, balance due within ten (10) days of Court approval; down payment to be forfeited if payment not received timely). Buyer must comply with minimum bidder qualifications as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 846.155. Buyer to pay applicable Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Tax in addition to the purchase price.

Chad Koranda Sheriff of Pierce County, Wisconsin

Codilis, Moody & Circelli, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff (414) 775-7700 50-23-00524 NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.

WNAXLP 3 27, 4 3 10

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
PIERCE COUNTY

Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration) Case No. 24-PR-24

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- You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.
- The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 2, 2024.
 - A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, PO Box 97, 414 W. Main Street, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.
 - This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-273-6752 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Form completed by: Attorney Jon D. Seifert Seifert & Schultz, SC Address

PO Box 206, Durand, WI 54736 Telephone Number 715-672-8938 Bar Number 1001425

WNAXLP 3 27, 4 3 10

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH BOARD MEETING March 28, 2024 6:30pm 130 N. Chestnut St. Lower Level Boardroom (East Rear Entrance)

Members Present: President Beissel, Trustees Borner, Hines, Neeley, Bench, Anderson, and Schutz. Staff Present: Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Brad Roy, Attorney Bob Loberg. Many members of the public in attendance in-person and virtually

MINUTES:

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by President Beissel

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

2. Public comment on non-agenda items. The following comments were received regarding the proposed Bigadan Digester:

Carrissa Hanson - Conflict of Interest questions; Mark Christopherson - lack of benefits to the community; Charise Mindler - possible health effects, responsibility of the Board, possible sale of facility, and vote to serve the whole community; Sean Hall - concerns about an article in the paper, fire protection costs, and decorum of the Board; Lori O'niel - questioned why in the Village and timeline for vote; Melinda Fenstrom - concerns about the proximity to Ag Partners and possible catastrophes; Chad Verville - the Denmark tours were not adequate.

3. The Board will adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(e) De-liberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public

funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. MSC Hines/Schutz to adjourn to closed session. Roll Call Vote. Unanimous. No action was taken.

4. Adjournment. MSC Schutz/Bench to adjourn. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Brad Roy, Administrator Clerk-Treasurer

WNAXLP 4 10

TOWN OF TRIMBELLE

The Annual Meeting for the Town of Trimbelles will be held on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Trimbelles Town Hall (N5310 800th Street, Ellsworth, WI) The Annual Meeting agenda was published last week and notices posted. The monthly meeting for the Town of Trimbelles will be held on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 immediately following the Annual Meeting scheduled to start at 6:30 in the Trimbelles Town Hall (N5310 800th Street, Ellsworth, WI) Monthly meeting summary:

- Call to order.
 - Roll call.
 - Approval of minutes.
 - Treasurer's report.
 - Road work report.
 - Public comment.
- Brief comment from the public regarding items not on the agenda. Items may be submitted for future agendas.
- The board will act on Operator's Licenses.
 - The board will act on Driveway Permits.
 - The board will appoint a Comprehensive Plan Committee.
 - The board will address the complaint from Dick

Rohl Jr. about a clean-up on an adjacent property.

- Correspondence.
- Bills (review/approve payments).
- Next meeting date with any future agenda items.
- Adjourn.

The summary supplements the Town's Official meeting notice. Information was current when submitted but may be subject to change. An Official Town Meeting notice will be posted at the Town Hall, Pierce Pepin Electric Cooperative and Courtesy Auto. Any updates will be posted at least 24 hours in advance.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Kees, Clerk

WNAXLP 4 10

TOWN OF MARTELL

The next regular meeting for the Town of Martell will be held on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the town hall, W5581 800th Avenue, Spring Valley, WI. Summary Agenda: Approve minutes from March 12th, 2024 Meeting, Approve minutes from March 26th, 2024 Special Town Meeting, Approve treasurer's report, Approve payment of bills, Discuss road work, Employee's report, Discuss Maintenance and Repair Issues, Discuss and approve driveway permits, Read correspondence, Presentation on Intersection of Co. Road Y and U.S. Highway 63, Discuss and take action on liquor licenses, Discuss and take action on change for financial software for Town. Set date for next meeting, Open for discussion, Adjourn

This summary supplements the Town's Official meeting notice. Information was current when submitted but may be subject to change. An Official Town Meeting Notice will be posted at the Town Hall, the Pierce County web page and the Martell, WI, Recycling Center.

WNAXLP 4 10

PUBLIC Notice

2023 Consumer Confidence Report Data ELLSWORTH WATERWORKS, PWS ID: 64802397

Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Dlaim ntawv tshaabzu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.

Water System Information

If you would like to know more about the information contained in this report, please contact Bradley Vick at (715) 273-4742.

Opportunity for input on decisions affecting your water quality

Ellsworth Village Hall @130 North Chestnut Street. Monthly Board Meetings are on the First Monday of the Month @6:00 P.M.

Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's safe drinking water hotline (800-426-4791).

Source(s) of Water

Source ID	Source	Depth (in feet)	Status
2	Groundwater	718	Active
3	Groundwater	553	Active
4	Groundwater	800	Active

To obtain a summary of the source water assessment please contact, Bradley Vick at (715) 273-4742.

Educational Information

The sources of drinking water, both tap water and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally- occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

Definitions

Term	Definition
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HA and HAL	HA: Health Advisory. An estimate of acceptable drinking water levels for a chemical substance based on health effects information. HAL: Health Advisory Level is a concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk
Term	Definition
	and may require a system to post a public notice. Health Advisories are determined by US EPA.
HI	HI: Hazard Index: A Hazard Index is used to assess the potential health impacts associated with mixtures of contaminants. Hazard Index guidance for a class of contaminants or mixture of contaminants may be determined by the US EPA or Wisconsin Department of Health Services. If a Health Index is exceeded a system may be required to post a public notice.
Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system, or both, on multiple occasions.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MFL	million fibers per liter
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfectant level goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
mrem/year	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/l	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt	parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter

ppq	parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter
PHGS	PHGS: Public Health Groundwater Standards are found in NR 140 Groundwater Quality. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.
RPHGS	RPHGS: Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standards: Groundwater standards proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The
Term	Definition
	concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.
SMCL	Secondary drinking water standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. The SMCLs do not represent health standards.
TCR	Total Coliform Rule
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Detected Contaminants

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
HAA5 (ppb)	DBP1	60	60	1	1		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	DBP1	80	0	1.1	1.1		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	DBP2	60	60	1	1		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	DBP2	80	0	2.9	2.9		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2		0.078	0.013 - 0.078		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4		0.2	0.1 - 0.2		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NICKEL (ppb)	100			1.6000	1.5000 - 1.6000		No	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel and alloy products.
NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm)	10	10		5.18	0.00 - 5.60		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SODIUM (ppm)	n/a	n/a		44.00	2.40 - 44.00		No	n/a

Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	# of Results	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.1500	0 of 20 results were above the action level.		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	# of Results	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	2.40	0 of 20 results were above the action level.		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

PFAS Contaminants with a Recommended Health Advisory Level

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950. The following table list PFAS contaminants which were detected in your water and that have a Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standard (RPHGS) or Health Advisory Level (HAL). There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed the RPHGS or HAL. The RPHGS are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk and are based on guidance provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Contaminant (units)	Site	RPHGS or HAL (PPT)	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)
PFBS (ppt)		450000	1.40	0.00 - 1.40	
PFHXS (ppt)		40	1.00	0.00 - 1.00	
PFHXA (ppt)		150000	0.50	0.00 - 0.50	
PFOS (ppt)		20	0.53	0.00 - 0.53	
PFOA (ppt)		20	0.79	0.00 - 0.79	

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

PUBLIC Notice

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Table with 4 columns: PFOA AND PFOS TOTAL (ppt), 20, 1.32, 0.00 - 1.32

Radioactive Contaminants

Table with 9 columns: Contaminant (units), Site, MCL, MCLG, Level Found, Range, Sample Date (if prior to 2023), Violation, Typical Source of Contaminant

Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides

Table with 9 columns: Contaminant (units), Site, MCL, MCLG, Level Found, Range, Sample Date (if prior to 2023), Violation, Typical Source of Contaminant

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Table with 4 columns: Contaminant (units), Level Found, Range, Sample Date (if prior to 2023)

Additional Health Information

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than 6 months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

WNAXLP 4-10

Pierce County Highway Department

Public meeting for 1005th Street Bridge Replacement in Pierce County

The Town of Diamond Bluff is conducting a public involvement meeting to discuss the bridge replacement project on 1005th Street over the Wind River in Pierce County.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2024 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Diamond Bluff Town Hall, W9870 290th Ave, Hager City, WI 54014.

The purpose of the project is to maintain a safe roadway crossing of 1005th Street over the Wind River. Proposed improvements include:

- Existing bridge replacement with a reinforced concrete flat slab structure.
Minor roadway approach work.
Minor channel correction of the Wind River under the proposed bridge
Ditch improvements on the north end of the proposed bridge.

Construction is scheduled for the summer of 2025.

Adjacent property owners are encouraged to attend the meeting. Citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing and require an interpreter may request one by contacting Chad Johnson at least three working days prior to the meeting.

For more information, contact: Chad Johnson, Pierce County Highway Commissioner, 621 W. Cairns St., PO Box 780, Ellsworth, WI 54011, 715.273.5096, chad.johnson@co.pierce.wi.us

WNAXLP 4 10

Ellsworth Community School District 445 S. Piety Street Ellsworth, WI 54011 (715) 273-3900

The Board of Education of the Ellsworth Community School District will conduct a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Ellsworth High School Library. The school board along with members of the superintendent search interview teams will meet to review the schedule and the interview procedures that will be followed for the evening.

- 1. The interview and consideration of candidates for the position of district administrator, wage consideration, and selection of candidate for the position of district administrator.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Action on any decision taken in closed session, if any, and if appropriate. ADJOURN

WNAXLP 4 10

CITY OF RIVER FALLS WISCONSIN UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS APRIL 15, 2024

The public may view/listen to the meeting by: Calling Toll Free: 1-844-992-4726, access code: 263 109 66632 event password: 41524

CITY OF RIVER FALLS Organizational Meeting of the Common Council Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

The public may view/listen to the meeting by: Calling Toll Free 1-844-992-4726, access code: 263 173 92296

- Visiting the web link: https://tinyurl.com/rfcom41624
Viewing the City's YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofriverfalls

- 1. Call Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Swearing in Ceremony with Oaths of Office given to: a. Mayor b. Alderperson - At Large c. Alderperson - At Large d. Alderperson - District 4

- 5. Election of Common Council Officers by Common Council: a. President b. Comptroller

- 6. Appointment of Deputy Comptroller by Comptroller

- 7. Appointment by Mayor of Parliamentarian

- 8. Election of Council Member by Common Council to: a. Plan Commission (Note: Mayor is Chairperson)

- 9. Appointment by Mayor (Confirmed by Council) of Council Members to: a. Historic Preservation Commission b. Library Board c. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board d. Design Review Committee e. Utility Advisory Board f. Housing Authority g. River Falls Creates Public Art

- 10. Appointments of Other City Officials a. City Attorney

- 11. Resolution Designating Public Depositories for Public Monies Held by the City of River Falls

- 12. Resolution Designating Official Newspaper

- 13. Review of Bylaws

- 14. Report on Organizational Updates

- 15. Motion to Cancel Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting; June 11 and July 9

- 16. Set Council Meeting Dates for: Board of Review - May 28, 6:15 p.m. (Meet to adjourn) Board of Review - July 30, 4-6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Post: 4/1/2024 City Hall; Publish: 4/10/24

WNAXLP 4 10

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT PIERCE COUNTY

Case No: 24CV20 Case Classification: 30303 Other-Contracts 30106 Intentional Tort

Kevin Blatz and Kayla Blatz N6180 745th Street Ellsworth, WI 54011 Plaintiffs

All Star Construction, LLC Registered Agent Thomas Skulski W7835 135th Avenue Hager City, WI 54014

and Thomas Skulski W5813 130th Avenue Bay City, WI 54723

Defendants

PUBLICATION SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN to the above-named Defendants:

Within 40 days after February 14, 2024, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802, Stats., 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 this Court, whose address is Clerk of Circuit Court, 414 W. Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011, and to Heywood, Cari & Anderson, S.C., Christopher M. Anderson, the Plaintiffs' attorney, whose address is 816 Dominion Drive, Suite 100, P.O. Box 125, Hudson, WI 54016.

You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not provide a proper response within 40 days, the Court may grant a judgement against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, or you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgement maybe be enforced as provided by law. A judgement awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment of wages or seizure of property.

Dated this 29th day of March, 2024.

Christopher M. Anderson, WI Bar #1041095

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY Order Setting Time to Hear Petition for Administration and Deadline for Filing Claims (Formal Administration) Case No. 24PR26

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TERRY J. KING DOB: 5/26/1958 DOD: 2/12/2024

A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:

The decedent, with date of birth May 26, 1958 and date of death February 12, 2024, was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N1850 Cty Rd U, Plum City, WI 54761

THE COURT ORDERS:

- 1. The Petition be heard at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth Wisconsin, Room 203, before Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner Hon. Elizabeth Rohl, on May 14, 2024 at 2:00 pm

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

- 2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 9, 2024.

- 3. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.

- 4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgment.

- 5. Publication of this notice is to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

FORM COMPLETED: Roger M. Hillestad ADDRESS: 308 Third Avenue West Durance, WI 54736 TELEPHONE: (715) 672-8955 BAR NUMBER: 01011487

WNAXLP 4 10 17 24

Town of Kinnickinnic Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00pm

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, Electors of the Town of Kinnickinnic are invited to attend the Annual Meeting, Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Kinnickinnic Town Hall. It is time to give your ideas and input.

WNAXLP 4 10

TOWN OF ISABELLE

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Isabelle board will hold its Annual meeting April 16th at 6:00pm at the Red Wing Airport Terminal building. The monthly board meeting will immediately follow the Annual meeting. Agenda: Road projects, pay bills.

Julie Erickson, Clerk

WNAXLP 4 10

TOWN OF EL PASO Public Hearing and Meeting Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE is given to all persons in the Town of El Paso that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall (N5325 450th St. Ellsworth) to solicit comments on a Conditional Use Permit application from Dennis Bjornstad of type "Nonconforming Structure Expansion" proposed to be located at W4215 County Road G., Ellsworth, Town of El Paso, WI. The plan is to have living quarter and a garage.

All persons interested are invited to attend this hearing and be heard. Written comments are also welcome.

Immediately following the public hearing, the Plan Commission of the Town of El Paso will meet at the town hall with agenda as follows:

- 1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Statement of Public Notice
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Agenda Items
a. Discuss/Take Action: Plan Commission recommendation to the Town Board for county issued Conditional Use Permit application from Dennis Bjornstad of type "Nonconforming Structure Expansion".
6. Adjourn

Sherri Heise Clerk, Town of El Paso Secretary, Town of El Paso Plan Commission

WNAXLP 4 10

TOWN OF DIAMOND BLUFF

Notice of Public Information Meeting

A Public Information Meeting will be held about the upcoming project to replace Bridge P-47-0054, on 1005th Street, over the Wind River, in the Town of Diamond Bluff, in Pierce County, Wisconsin. This meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18, from 5:30-6:30 PM, preceding the April Town Board and Annual Meeting.

Notice of Town Board Meeting

The Town Board of the Town of Diamond Bluff, Pierce County, Wisconsin, hereby provides its written notice and an agenda of the public meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Diamond Bluff for Thursday, April 18th, 2024 at 7:00PM at the Diamond Bluff Town Hall. The Town Chairperson has provided communication of this public meeting to the official town newspaper. The public may provide comments to the town board if the presiding officer notes on the agenda and upon recognition a period of public comments.

Agenda: Call to order, Roll call of Board Members present, Approval of minutes from previous meeting, Approval to pay claims as presented, Treasurer's Report, Correspondence and communication, Township Road Update, Sea Wing Park Committee, Informal public comment time, Agenda items for next meeting, Next meeting date, Adjournment.

For Diamond Bluff Town information: www.diamondbluffwi.gov

Notice of Diamond Bluff Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Town of Diamond Bluff will be held on Thursday April 18, 2024, following the completion of the April Town Board Meeting.

Annual Meeting Agenda: Call meeting to order, Minutes of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, Set the date for the 2025 Annual Meeting of Town of Diamond Bluff, Report on 2023 Town Business, 2023 Financial Report, Open Forum, Adjournment

For Diamond Bluff Town information: www.diamondbluffwi.gov

WNAXLP 4 10

PUBLIC Notice

Town of Kinnickinnic Comprehensive Plan Vision Session Wednesday, April 17, 2024 5:30pm-7:30pm

A Vision Session discussing the Comprehensive Plan Update of the Town of Kinnickinnic will meet Wednesday April 17, 2024 at 5:30-7:30pm at the Town Hall, 1271 County Road J River Falls. *

AGENDA VISION SESSION AGENDA

- 1. Introductions 5:30 pm
2. Presentation - Discussion
a. Plan purpose and process 5:40 pm
b. Transportation 5:50 pm
c. Utilities & Community Facilities 6:00 pm
d. Agricultural, Natural, & Cultural Resources 6:10 pm
e. Economic Development 6:20 pm
f. Intergovernmental Cooperation 6:30 pm
g. Housing 6:40 pm
h. Land Use 6:50 pm
i. Issues & Opportunities - Implementation 7:10 pm
3. Closing 7:20pm

*Town Hall is handicapped accessible.
**The Town Board and Plan Commission members may attend, should a quorum appear, an agenda item will be subject for approval at a future TB meeting.

WNAXLP 4 10

TOWN OF EL PASO Annual Meeting and Monthly Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting for the Town of El Paso will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall (N5325 450th St., Ellsworth). The 2023 Financial Report is completed and available for inspection.

- Annual Meeting Agenda:
1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Statement of Public Notice
4. Approve Minutes of 2023 annual meeting
5. Public Comments
6. Agenda Items
a. Discuss/Take Action: Approve 2023 Financial Report
b. Discuss/Take Action: Motion by electorate for borrowing emergency funds if needed
c. Set 2025 Annual Meeting date
7. Adjourn Annual Meeting

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the monthly Town Board meeting will be convened with agenda as follows:

- 1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Statement of Public Notice
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Plan Commission Minutes
6. Reports
a. Treasurer's Report
b. Road Maintainer's Report
7. Public Comments
8. Agenda Items
a. Discuss/Take Action: The Town is accepting bids for mowing the Town Hall grounds. (Please mark outer envelope "bid".)
b. Discuss/Take Action: Road Work
c. Discuss/Take Action: ARIP program
d. Discuss/Take Action: ARPA Funds designation
e. Discuss/Take Action: Window blinds
f. Discuss/Take Action: Operator's License (if received)
9. Audit Bills
10. Correspondence and Communications
11. Future Agenda Items
12. Next Meeting Date
13. Adjourn

Sherri Heise, Clerk

WNAXLP 4 10

School District of River Falls Regular Board Meeting Monday, April 15, 2024 6:00 PM District Office, 852 E Division Street, River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

Official agenda notices will be posted at Dick's Fresh Market, the Public Library, and the 1st Nat'l Bank.

The complete agenda and approved minutes will be posted under "School Board" at www.rfsd.k12.wi.us.

1. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 PM IN THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

- 2. MANNER OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF MEETING
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. HEARING OF VISITORS OR DELEGATIONS
5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
A. Wildcat Pride Awards
1. Cindy Holbrook
2. Bob Casey
B. Superintendent, Administrative, and Student Representative Reports
1. Administrative Reports related to Building-Level SMART Goals 2023-24
a. Rocky Branch and Westside Elementary
2. Superintendent Report
C. School Board Election Report - April 2, 2024
6. ACTION ITEMS
A. Approval of Minutes, bills, and recommended employment
B. Approve the School Forest Handbook
C. Consideration and/or Action to approve April 1, 2024 Educational Program Committee recommendations
D. Consideration and/or Action to approve April 8, 2024 Finance & Facilities Committee recommendations
E. Consideration and/or Action to approve April 8, 2024 Personnel Committee recommendations
F. Approve the second reading of revised School Board Policies 522.1 Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace and 523.3 Employee Assistance Program
G. Proposed/suggested items for the next regular and future Board meeting agenda(s)
H. Schedule next Board/Committee meetings
I. CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNING TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WIS. STAT. SEC. 19.85(1) (C), WHICH PERMITS CONVENING IN CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE EMPLOYMENT, PROMOTION, COMPENSATION OR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION DATA OF ANY PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OVER WHICH THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY HAS JURISDICTION OR EXERCISES RESPONSIBILITY, TO DISCUSS THE RESIGNATION OF AN EMPLOYEE AND TO DISCUSS 2024-25 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.
7. CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION
8. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION AND AFFIRM ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION IF NECESSARY
9. ADJOURN

1. Administrative Reports related to Building-Level SMART Goals 2023-24
a. Rocky Branch and Westside Elementary
2. Superintendent Report
C. School Board Election Report - April 2, 2024
6. ACTION ITEMS
A. Approval of Minutes, bills, and recommended employment
B. Approve the School Forest Handbook
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F. Approve the second reading of revised School Board Policies 522.1 Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace and 523.3 Employee Assistance Program
G. Proposed/suggested items for the next regular and future Board meeting agenda(s)
H. Schedule next Board/Committee meetings
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7. CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION
8. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION AND AFFIRM ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION IF NECESSARY
9. ADJOURN

WNAXLP 4 10

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRESCOTT BOARD OF EDUCATION Work Session & SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 10th, 2024 5 pm High School Library, 1010 Dexter Street, Prescott, WI 54021

The Special Meeting of the Prescott School Board will include:
1. A Working Session, followed by
2. A Special Business Meeting followed by
3. A Closed Session under exemptions 19.85(1)(c) & (f) Room A117

#1 WORKING SESSION: 5:00 pm. The School Board holds Work Sessions to study issues in more depth. No formal action is taken during Work Sessions. Work Sessions are open to the public.

- 1) Call to Order (subject to Section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes) by Board President
2) Roll Call
3) Topics for Action
A) Suspend Robert's Rules of Order
4) Next steps after a failed operating levy
A) Board will begin with the two pie charts examining \$650K budget adjustments in process
B) Board will discuss categories and rubric to prioritize reductions for fall 2024.
i) Examine a list of services not required but presently provided for reduction or cuts
ii) Examine the impact of declining enrollment and class size targets required to increase above normal parameters.
iii) Review open Positions with recommendation to remain open or delayed process
iv) Programs that are not required by state law
v) Discuss reclassification of job categories
5) Topics for Action
A) Resume Robert's Rules of Order
6) Entertain a Motion to begin Special Business meeting

#2 SPECIAL BUSINESS

MEETING follows work session

- 1. Consider the motion not to purchase a new bus for the 2024-25 School Year.
2. Consider a motion to end all non-required bus routes, i.e., Town busing within a 2-mile radius except for identified hazard zones of Prescott Schools.
3. Consider ending the ongoing contract with St. Joe's for Food Service Operations
4. Consider a motion to eliminate C-Team Athletic for the 2024-25 School year

#3 CLOSED SESSION

- 1. The Board will consider a motion to convene in Closed Session under exemptions 19.85(1)(c)(f) at 5:30 pm in PHS Room 117A
a. Wis. Stat. §§ 19.85 (1)(c) and (f): Board consideration of administrations recommendations of nonrenewal, and performance evaluation of licensed staff including the preliminary consideration of discontinuing the employment of a member of PSD Staff and considering promotion, compensation, and performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.
i. Administrator_1
ii. Administrator_2
iii. Administrator_3
iv. Superintendent Contract concession
v. Preliminary vote on non-renewals of Prescott Licensed Staff
vi. Acceptance of retirement per handbook emergency waiver
2. Motion to adjourn from closed session to open session
3. Motion to adjourn from open session

Upon request to the Superintendent submitted twenty-four (24) hours in advance, the District shall make reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, for a disabled person to be able to attend this meeting.

The agenda, as noted above, was sent more than twenty-four hours before the meeting date. Due to this fact, the agenda published in the Pierce County Journal may have been revised after delivery to the newspaper. The most up-to-date agenda information is also available on the school district website: https://www.prescott.k12.wi.us/district/agendas-minutes.cfm

WNAXLP 4 10

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRESCOTT BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, April 17th, 2024 6 pm

Followed by a Closed Session under exemptions 19.85(1)(c) Room A117 High School Library, 1010 Dexter Street, Prescott, WI 54021

RECORDINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE FRIDAY FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING

- 1. Call to Order in Open Session Subject to section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes @ 6:00 p.m.
2. Adopt Agenda
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Recognition of Visitors
a. Recognition of visitors at Board Meetings is intended for individuals in the community to address the School Board and to speak to issues that may be forthcoming in the Board Meeting. The Prescott School Board will not respond to any questions or remarks of the visitors but may direct the administration to contact the visitor following the meeting.
5. Good News Around the District
a. Student Representative
b. Administrative Team
c. Superintendent Update
6. School Business Consent Agenda
a. March 20th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
ii. Finance Report
iii. Non-licensed personnel hires, resignations, retirements, employment change of non-licensed staff
iv. Acceptance of PI 9.06 self-evaluation of non-discrimination and equality of educational opportunity
v. Annual Football Summer Trip to Holmen
vi. Accept receipt of Tanya Holub and Pat Blocks signed and notarized Official Oath (EL-154)
b. Consider Hires, res-

ignations, retirements, employment change of licensed staff

c. Consider clarification of the Superintendent Contract for 2024-25.

d. Varsity Baseball team overnight trip

e. Varsity Football overnight trip (Superior Area)

f. Consider First Reading of Updated or New Board Policies: NEOLA updates and changes

i. PO 6320: Purchasing

ii. PO 6325: Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds

iii. PO 6611: District-Supported / Sponsored Student Activity Accounts

iv. PO 8431: Preparedness for Toxic Hazards

g. Nominate CESA11 Delegate

7. Information and Discussion

a. Update on Health Partners HC and Dental renewal rates for the 2024-2025 School Year. A review for extending the contract beyond the final year will be discussed.

b. Operating levy update and actions taken on April 10th Special Meeting of the Board

c. WIAA NIL Update

d. Update on Varsity Track Community Access and summer construction-Activities Director

e. Completion of Bond Defeasance and taxpayer savings on April 3rd, 2024

8. Recognition of Visitors

9. The Board will consider a motion to convene in closed session under the following exemptions at Prescott High School Room A117

a. Wis. Stat. §§ 19.85 (1) (c) Dismissal, Considering promotion, compensation, and performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility

i. Board notice of additional preliminary non-renewals

ii. Non-Licensed non-renewal notice

10. Adjourn from Closed Session back into Open Session

11. Adjourn from Open Session

Upon request to the Superintendent submitted twenty-four (24) hours in advance, the District shall make reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, for a disabled person to be able to attend this meeting.

The agenda, as noted above, was sent more than twenty-four hours before the meeting date. Due to this fact, the agenda published in the Pierce County Journal may have been revised after delivery to the newspaper. The most up-to-date agenda information is also available on the school district website: https://www.prescott.k12.wi.us/district/agendas-minutes.cfm

WNAXLP 4 10

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 24PR27

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Gary Leland Leonard Jr

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

- 1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 7-4-1958 and date of death 1-23-2024, was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W7582 490th Ave, Ellsworth, WI 54011.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 7-15-2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, 414 W. Main St, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.

FORM COMPLETED: ADDRESS: TELEPHONE: BAR NUMBER:

WNAXLP 4 10 17 24

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY Order Setting Time to Hear Petition for Administration and Deadline for Filing Claims (Formal Administration) Case No. 24PR26

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TERRY J. KING DOB: 5/26/1958 DOD: 2/12/2024

A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:

The decedent, with date of birth May 26, 1958 and date of death February 12, 2024, was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N1850 Cty Rd U, Plum City, WI 54761

THE COURT ORDERS:

- 1. The Petition be heard at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth Wisconsin, Room 203, before Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner Hon. Elizabeth Rohl, on May 14, 2024 at 2:00 pm
2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 9, 2024.
3. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.
4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgment.
5. Publication of this notice is to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

FORM COMPLETED: Roger M. Hillestad ADDRESS: 308 Third Avenue West Durance, WI 54736 TELEPHONE: (715) 672-8955 BAR NUMBER: 01011487

WNAXLP 4 10 17 24

Meeting Notice TOWN OF OAK GROVE April 16: Town Board

The next meeting of the Oak Grove town board will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16 to follow the annual meeting. (The April 15 board meeting has been rescheduled.) Meetings are held at the Oak Grove town hall, located at N4939 1100th St., 54021. Members of the public are welcome.

Agenda: 1) Call to order and roll call. 2) Review and approve prior minutes. 3) Public Comments: Brief comments from citizens regarding topics not on the current agenda. Items may be submitted for future agenda. No formal action. 4) Road Projects: Continue review of design plans for the 1208th St. reconstruction (spillway and adjacent roadway), scheduled for completion 2025. Review 570th Ave. project plans and progress (replacement of culvert and overlying roadway), scheduled for completion 2024. Engineering consultant slated to attend. Discuss/take action. 5) ARIP: Updates regarding grant application. 6) Ordinance 2024-01, Snowmobile Route (550th Ave.): Request by the Sno-Bees club

WNAXLP 4 10 17 24

TOWN OF MARTELL

The next regular meeting for the Town of Martell will be held on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the town hall, W5581 800th Avenue, Spring Valley, WI. Summary Agenda: Approve minutes from March 12th, 2024 Meeting, Approve minutes from March 26th, 2024 Special Town Meeting, Approve treasurer's report, Approve payment of bills, Discuss road work, Employee's report, Discuss Maintenance and Repair Issues, Discuss and approve driveway permits. Read correspondence, Presentation on Intersection of Co. Road Y and U.S. Highway 63, Discuss and take action on liquor licenses, Discuss and take action on change for financial software for Town, Set date for next meeting, Open for discussion, Adjourn

This summary supplements the Town's Official meeting notice. Information was current when submitted but may be subject to change. An Official Town Meeting Notice will be posted at the Town Hall, the Pierce County web page and the Martell, WI, Recycling Center.

WNAXLP 4 10

TOWN OF MARTELL ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting for the Town of Martell will be held Tuesday, April 16, 2024, immediately following the April monthly Town Board meeting at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall, W5881 800th Avenue, Spring Valley, WI. All town residents are invited to participate in the annual meeting.

Dale Olson, Clerk

WNAXLP 4 10

TOWN OF OAK GROVE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town of Oak Grove's Annual Meeting shall be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, beginning at 7 pm. in the town hall, N4939 1100th Street, Prescott, WI, 54021. The regular town board meeting (rescheduled from the typical "third Monday") shall immediately follow. The annual meeting provides an opportunity for the town's residents to review the prior year's business and financial reports and discuss general issues of interest or concern in an informal open forum. Eligible voters (town electors) have the option to decide certain limited issues by a show of hands or immediate tally; other votes and recommendations are advisory to the town board. (Wis. Stat. Sec. 60.10, 60.11.) All Oak Grove residents are welcome.

Andria Hayday, Town Clerk

WNAXLP 4 10

TOWN OF OAK GROVE 2024 OPEN BOOK & BOARD OF REVIEW

OPEN BOOK: Tuesday, April 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. Local property owners can examine the property tax roll and consult with the assessor at the town hall during this session. Prior to Open Book, the assessor will mail written notice to property owners regarding any land being reclassified from agricultural status as well as any property with a change in valuation. Phone Owen Assessing, 715-643-2081, or email owenassessingllc@gmail.com for more information or to discuss questions regarding your assessment. The tax roll will also be available for viewing at the town hall by appointment with the town clerk after this two-hour session (715-262-4005; townof oakgrovewi@centurytel.net).

BOARD OF REVIEW: Thursday, May 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. Oak Grove's Board of Review (BOR) convenes for its initial meeting at the town hall. If you wish to appeal your assessment: First, discuss your concerns with the assessor during Open Book or by phone or email before the BOR convenes - questions can often be answered without an appeal. To request a BOR hearing, you must notify the town clerk of your intent to do so at least 48 hours before the BOR convenes, and also file your written appeal with the BOR clerk no later than the first two hours of the BOR's first meeting. Objections must be filed in writing using the Dept. of Revenue appeals form and must include your estimated value of land and improvements, with appropriate evidence provided to support that estimate.

For more information, see the Guide for Property Owners, available on the Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue website and from the assessor or town clerk. Contact the clerk or see the town's website for the full list of requirements to appear before the Board of Review. Notices in the Journal supplement the Town's official notices, which are posted at the town hall and on the Town's website at www.co.pierce.wi.us (click Government > Municipal > Town > Oak Grove).

The Town Hall is located at N4939 1100th St., 54021.

Respectfully submitted by Andria Hayday, Town Clerk

WNAXLP 4 10

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Andria Hayday, Town Clerk

WNAXLP 4 10

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For more information, see the Guide for Property Owners, available on the Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue website and from the assessor or town clerk. Contact the clerk or see the town's website for the full list of requirements to appear before the Board of Review. Notices in the Journal supplement the Town's official notices, which are posted at the town hall and on the Town's website at www.co.pierce.wi.us (click Government > Municipal > Town > Oak Grove).

The Town Hall is located at N4939 1100th St., 54021.

Respectfully submitted by Andria Hayday, Town Clerk

WNAXLP 4 10

PUBLIC Notice

CITY OF PRESCOTT March 25, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, City Council Meeting of the Prescott City Council was held on Monday, March 25, 2024, in the Prescott Municipal Building, 800 Borner St. Prescott, WI 54021.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Daugherty called the regular City Council meeting to order, March 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present for the roll call were Bailey Ruona, Maureen Otwell, Pat Knox, John Peterson and Lindsey Owens. Dar Hintz was excused. Also present were City Administrator, Matt Wolf, Clerk, Rashel Temmers, City Planner, Carter Hayes, Police Chief, Eric Michaels and Greg Adams from Cedar Corporation. Also present were city residents.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Library Board Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2024

4.2 Health and Safety Committee Minutes – March 11, 2024

4.3 City Council Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2024

4.4 Finance Committee Minutes – March 20, 2024

4.5 Twisted Oak Sidewalk Café Approval – 2024

4.6 Approval of Closure of Elm Street from Orange Street to Kinnickinnic Street for Improvements by Market and Johnson to Prescott Intermediate School from June 3, 2024, to August 28, 2024

Ruona/Peterson motioned to approve the consent agenda. There was no discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

5.A FINANCE COMMITTEE: Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

City Administrator, Matt Wolf reviewed the Finance Committee meeting minutes from March 20, 2024. A presentation was given by Ehlers Representative, Peter Curtin, on the Water Rate Study that was approved by Council on February 13, 2023. The current plan is to move forward with submission of the water rate study to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission that the timeline for approval will be 6-8 months, which will include a public hearing. City Administrator Wolf and City Treasurer Lansing also stated that the PSC has flagged the City's use of second meter contracts, and they are currently reviewing their use. The City of Prescott has used second meter contracts since 2001, once the PSC has finished their review, they will let the City know the next steps. Staff will update the Council once there is further news. Debt Review and Future Projects were also discussed. City Administrator Wolf presented on the remaining bond proceeds from 2023A of an expected amount of \$230,285 from the Locust, Elm, and Washington Street projects. The Committee reviewed three different options. Based on the discussion they preferred to move forward with consideration of taking the funds and using them towards future mill and overlay projects to reduce or eliminate future potential borrowings. Staff will be working to update the Capital Improvement Plan and will incorporate the use of the funds into the plan for approval later through the CIP approval process. The 2024 Mill and Overlay Projects were discussed as follows: City Administrator Wolf presented the estimated interest gained on 2023A Bond of \$302,916, with staff proposing to use the interest to pay for the Monroe Street mill and overlay project. The Committee discussed and all were in favor of using the interest to remove the need for a borrowing for the project. The contract for the Mill and Overlay project is anticipated to be awarded at the April 8, 2024, meeting. No formal vote was taken as the vote for the project at Council will handle the allocation of the funds. Public Works Director, Mike Kinneman and City Treasurer, Beth Lansing, presented the request by Public Works for a trade-in of the current mini-excavator and purchase of a new skid steer on tracks due to the city taking on more projects

for street repairs and general overall maintenance throughout the City. The Committee discussed the options as presented and settled on the preference of buying the proposed equipment outright rather than lease. Also Impact Fees and the Wastewater Treatment Plant were discussed. City Administrator Wolf presented on the current state of the impact fee update and requested that Council allow staff to look at alternative companies to conduct the study. The Committee discussed approving investigating other businesses that could conduct the impact fee study update. Any proposal from companies would be brought forward to Council for consideration. City Administrator Wolf presented the need to look into options for expanding the current Wastewater Treatment Plant. A plan was done by MSA in 2010 that looked at options for future expansion, but no official expansion was ever done to add on to the plant. The Committee preferred that staff look into updating the old plan and work with engineering firms the city currently has relationships with to do the work. Staff will put together a request for proposal for review to Council.

5.B PLANNING COMMISSION – Next Meeting – Monday, April 1, 2024, at 6:00 PM
No report.

5.C PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS – Next Meeting – Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:00 PM

Alderson Ruona reviewed the minutes from the March 25, 2024, meeting. Public Works discussed the US Hwy 10 and State Hwy 35 Agreement update with the WI DOT. There is a property owner that still needs to be worked with regarding the sidewalk that is going in. For Parks items, Magee Park funds that are set aside for the blue trail construction and moving forward, staff will be working with Cedar Corporation to see what we need to do to bring this up for bid. Also discussed was the River Front Phase 2 project improvements and the Knowles-Nelson Grant. The Freedom Park shed has been tabled for now.

5.G HEALTH & SAFETY – Next Meeting – Monday, May 13, 2024, at 5:00 PM
No report.

5.H PERSONNEL – Next

Meeting – Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 5:00 PM
No Report.

6. COMMUNICATIONS & NEW BUSINESS

6.1 PUBLIC COMMENTS – The City Council will receive public comments on any issue(s) not related to agenda items. Limited discussion by the City Council may take place; however, no action will be taken on any items. This includes receiving written requests or documentation and possible action at a future meeting.

Alderson, Pat Knox, stated he would like to see Cedar Corporation put together a space needs assessment report just for the Police Department and the Fire Department. Alderson Ruona stated that at the last discussion was left that the space needs assessment was going to be just for the Police Department and the Fire Department. Ruona also stated that there have been updates done to the interior of the police building but nothing has been done structurally. City Administrator, Matt Wolf, stated that the city does not want to put money into a building that will not be here long term and would be best to put money into a long term plan. Alderson, Maureen Otwell, stated that this could go on an upcoming budget meeting agenda to get the process started. Alderson Otwell asked for an update on where requests go when someone asks for stop signs as Mr. Pulk requested at the March 11, 2024, City Council Meeting. City Administrator, Matt Wolf, stated that the city would follow the WI DOT vehicle limits regarding where stop signs would go. The Police Department put out the speed trailer to get a count on traffic and speeds of vehicles. Resident, Stuart Pulk, spoke regarding his request for placing stop signs and that school pick-up and drop-off times were his main concern.

6.2 Ordinance 01-24 To Repeal and Replace Chapter 443, Article I Junked Vehicles and Appliances – First Reading

City Planner, Carter Hayes, gave an update on the revised Ordinance. Carter stated that this is the most frequently violated ordinance in the City of Prescott. Staff has encountered challenges in enforcing this ordinance with the exception of storage for busi-

nesses. Staff has compiled a detailed ordinance comparison across 5 municipalities to re-tool the existing ordinance and improve enforcement and compliance measures across the city. Staff recommends reviewing the ordinance and move to a second reading at the April 8, 2024, council meeting. **Ruona/Knox motioned to approve Ordinance 01-24 To Repeal and Replace Chapter 443, Article I Junked Vehicles and Appliances – First Reading. There was no further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.3 Resolution 14-24 Approving the Contract for Designer, Specifications and Construction Engineering Services by Cedar Corporation for Magee Park

City Administrator, Matt Wolf, gave an update regarding Resolution 14-24. In November of 2022 the City of Prescott approved working with Cedar Corporation for submitting a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant for improvements at Magee Park through the Wisconsin DNR. This included all the phase 1 items of the concept plan for the park which was approved in February of 2022 by City Council. In total the project estimate for Magee Park was \$554,000 and the City of Prescott budgeted \$304,066 across 2024 and 2025 towards the project within the 2023-2030 Capital Improvement Plan. In February the DNR notified us that the City was approved for the Knowles-Nelson grant for a total funding amount of \$280,700. In total this brings funding for the project to \$584,766. The City has received 50% or \$140,350 up front to begin the project from the DNR. The remaining grant funds will be reimbursed once the project is closed out. Greg Adams, from Cedar Corporation, spoke regarding the proposal of the design services. There would be some additional topographic survey work needed for the parking lot and retention pond. Greg also reviewed the contract and what was all covered in the costs already and what the grant money would be used for. **Ruona/Knox motioned to approve Resolution 14-24 Approving the Contract for Design, Specifications and Construction Engineering Services by Cedar Corporation for Magee Park. No further discussion on the motion. Mayor Daugherty called for a roll-call vote; Ruona – yes,**

Otwell – yes, Knox – Yes, Peterson – yes and Owens – yes. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.

6.4 Approval of Agreement for Topographic Surveying Services by Cedar Corporation for the 2nd Phase of the Riverfront Project at a cost of \$6,300

Greg Adams from Cedar Corporation, gave an overview of the topographic survey services encompassed in the contract. The agreement with Cedar Corporation will provide for topographic surveying services to complete the design and engineering of the 2nd phase of the riverfront improvements. This will include land surveying, bathymetric surveying of the river bottom and the preliminary project management. **Ruona/Otwell motioned to approve the Approval of Agreement for Topographic Surveying Services by Cedar Corporation for the 2nd Phase of the Riverfront Project at a cost of \$6,300. No further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Organizational Meeting – Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

8. CLOSED SESSION - Closed Session per Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1)(e) "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session." to wit, discussion, and consideration of PID 271-01177-1700 & 271-01178-1900

No closed session.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ruona/Peterson motioned to adjourn the Council meeting at 6:26 p.m. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rashel Temmers
Clerk

WNAXLP 4 10

Golf

from Page B-1

returns as one of the favorites for overall conference medalist this year. He has been to the Sectional Tournament both his freshman and sophomore years and missed going to State last year by one stroke as an individual.

"We lost two seniors from last year in Evan Radke and Benny Olson but look to fill those shoes with Cayden Johnson and Harris Linderholm. Cayden was our top JV player last year, and Harris is returning to the team from a year off with injury," Hamilton said. "With Sam Vesperman and Luke Kinneman returning, we have a good, experienced core returning to push for that high conference finish and first sectional appearance as a team. A few underclassmen and one senior behind them could push to maybe get some varsity matches in as well."

Hamilton says spring golf, which can definitely be a frustrating endeavor with weather, has been somewhat better this season.

"We had 60 degrees in February and snow our first week of official practice. Although, with that warmer weather and many local courses opening up early for a few weeks, it did help many of our top golfers as they were able to get out and play before the season started," Hamilton said. "Simulators are also a great technological tool we Northerners get to use now, and many of the boys were able to get some swings in on those on their own as well before the season started."

Cardinal golf fans won't have to wait long to see the fruits of this extra labor as Prescott will travel to Altoona on Monday to play their first conference meet of the season. Tee off for that event is at 4 p.m.

River Falls

With the ever-present caveat for spring sports of "depending on the weather" in full effect, the River Falls Wildcats will play their first Big Rivers

Conference meet of the season on Monday in Hudson.

Last season, the Wildcats finished in fourth place at sectionals. Head Coach Tim LaVold says they were pretty disappointed as they were hoping to compete for a State Tournament berth, but as a team, they just didn't have a very good day.

"On the positive side, Aidan Carufel advanced to the State Tournament as an individual, which was a surprise, but also highlighted what can happen with hard work and determination," LaVold said. "It was great to see him end his high school career at the state tournament."

The River Falls golf program lost three seniors to graduation last spring in Matthew Marsollek, who is currently playing college golf at UW-Parkside; Aidan Carufel, who is playing college basketball at St. Scholastica, and Austin Harer.

Returning players from last year's team are senior Will Benedict, junior Connor O'Malley and sophomore Ryan Swanson. Jaxon Flanagan lettered last season and would have returned this season, but he suffered a knee injury in hockey that will sideline him for the duration of the golf season.

With the best part of spring nigh upon us, River Falls readies themselves for their annual opening day event in the Hudson Invitational, which as usual is scheduled for the second Monday in April.

"It usually gets moved because of weather, but it's looking good that we will play it this year. Also, the first BRC meet at Eau Claire North is a little early this year, but that is because the weather is good," LaVold said. "The top golfers are all getting instruction and playing on simulators all winter, so they are used to swinging their clubs, but it does take a few weeks to really get their games going coming out of the winter season. Usually by the beginning of May everyone is playing pretty good."

Coach LaVold says they have a strong top 3 this year, and they have a few guys that have a good chance to make them a tough out for anybody

they face. He says that how far this team can go will come down to whether the other guys can step up and reach their potential.

The journey to find out whether or not the full talent of this team will be realized and can succeed in reaching the heights that last year's squad fell short of begins this Monday at Troy Burne Golf Course in Hudson.

"I am expecting that Eau Claire Memorial and Hudson will be tough again this year, so realistically competing for third place in the BRC is where I see us, but if things fall into place we could be right there battling for the title," LaVold said. "It should be a fun season."

Ellsworth

The Ellsworth Panthers boys' golf team will travel to Altoona on Monday for its first Middle Border meet of the season.

After a long winter off, the guys have had more time than usual this spring to knock the dust off their games as conference season approaches. For a Panther program that finished in the Top 3 in MBC play last season, they will be looking to build on that and climb those last couple rungs to the top.

The program as a whole is largely unchanged, and Carson Huppert is at the helm once again as head coach for another year of competitive golf play.

"Last year we did well in the conference by taking third overall," Huppert said. "That gave us an opportunity to make a state run, but ultimately, we were unsuccessful."

As with all high school sports, teams are cyclical. This rings true for the Panthers this year as they lost three of their top five golfers in the offseason.

"We have two guys coming back from last year in Thomas Tober and Trey Wittenberg, and we will be leaning on them to play at a high level and help the newcomers," Huppert said. "I think Trey has a chance to compete for an individual conference championship, and Thomas Tober is looking for an opportunity to be All-Conference."

Huppert says they will be rounding out the rest of the team with some new faces, and they still need to get out and play before he has a general idea who they might be. This situation should become clearer after the team's first meet this week.

The Panthers were supposed to kick off the season by playing in Eau Claire on Monday, but that recently got shifted to Altoona.

Spring Valley

The Spring Valley Cardinals golf team played its first meet of the season on Thursday at Valley Golf Course in Mondovi.

Head Coach Tyler Anderson is entering his fourth year running the golf program for the Cardinals, and he thinks they come into the season with a bit more experience than they've had in recent years.

With Spring Valley not having the numbers to support two golf teams, they are able to cherry pick from the entire student body for the best players it has to offer, and almost all of them have been here before.

fore.

"We had our top player Phoebe Vodnik graduate last year, but I expect a couple of players to hopefully really step up and fill her void," Anderson said. "Seniors Sam Steinmeyer and Mara Ducklow are the top returning players from last year, but we only have one player on our roster who hasn't competed at the varsity level before."

Anderson says he noticed a jump in quality of play as last year's Dunn-St. Croix golf season progressed, and he hopes to see that upward trend continue as they look to build towards competing for a conference championship.

"Last year, we definitely improved from the previous season, but there is still a lot of room for growth," Anderson said. "We jumped up a division in the postseason due to our co-op and competed with the bigger schools in Division 2. We had a couple golfers place well individually, just not quite high enough to move on to sectionals."

With the team's first round in the books, Anderson views

the team's finish as sort of hum when compared to their overall potential.

"We did okay in our first match of the season, but expectations weren't super high due to the fact that was our first time being on a golf course all season," Anderson said. "Mara Ducklow was our best score with a 51, and I thought she played really well given the circumstances. There is certainly room for growth with our whole team, and I look forward to spending more practice time on the course."

Coach Anderson says there has been a high level of anticipation and excitement from the team in advance of the season, which he says is a good sign as they look to improve on last year's fourth place finish in Dunn-St. Croix Conference play.

Looking forward, the team will play twice this week. First up is a road match at Rolling Greens in Durand, and then the Cardinals return home to play at Spring Valley Golf Course on Thursday. Tee off for both rounds is at 4:30 p.m.

HOG SALE
March 1-April 27, 2024

\$2.89 per pound hanging weight

Price includes meat, processing, smoking, and seasoning for sausage.

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PUBLIC Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN Village of Maiden Rock Pierce County

Notice is hereby given that the **Board of Review** for the Village of Maiden Rock, Pierce County, Wisconsin, shall hold its first meeting on **MONDAY, May 6, 2024 from 3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.** at the Maiden Rock Village Hall Building, N510 County Road S., Maiden Rock, Wisconsin. **Open Book** will be held on **Thursday, April 18, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the Village Hall Building, N510 County Road S., Maiden Rock, Wisconsin.

Please be advised of the following requirements to appear before the board of review and procedural requirements if appearing before the board:

- No person will be allowed to appear before the board of review, to testify to the board by telephone, or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the assessor to view the property.
- After the first meeting of the board of review and before the board's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the board of review may contact or provide information to a member of the board about the person's objection, except at a session of the board.
- The board of review may not hear an objection to the amount or valuation of property unless, at least 48 hours before the board's first scheduled meeting, the objector provides to the board's clerk written or oral notice of an intent to file an objection, except that upon a showing of good cause and the submission of a written objection, the board shall waive that requirement during the first 2 hours of the board's first scheduled meeting, and the board may waive that requirement up to the end of the 5th day of the session or up to the end of the final day of the session if the session is less than 5 days with proof of extraordinary circumstances for failure to meet the 48-hour notice requirement and failure to appear before the board of review during the first 2 hours of the first scheduled meeting.
- Objections to the amount or valuation of property shall first be made in writing and filed with the clerk of the board of review within the first 2 hours of the board's first scheduled meeting, except that, upon evidence of extraordinary circumstances, the board may waive that requirement up to the end of the 5th day of the session or up to the end of the final day of the session if the session is less than 5 days. The board may require objections to the amount or valuation of property to be submitted on forms approved by the Department of Revenue, and the board shall require that any forms include stated valuations of the property in question. Persons who own land and improvements to that land may object to the aggregate valuation of that land and improvements to that land, but no person who owns land and improvements to that land may object only to the valuation of that land or only to the valuation of improvements to that land. No person may be allowed in any action or proceedings to question the amount or valuation of property unless the written objection has been filed and that person in good faith presented evidence to the board in support of the objections and made full disclosure before the board, under oath, of all of that person's property liable to assessment in the district and the value of that property. The requirement that objections be in writing may be waived by express action of the board.
- When appearing before the board of review, the objecting person shall specify in writing the person's estimate of the value of the land and of the improvements that are the subject of the person's objection and specify the information that the person used to arrive at that estimate.
- No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone, or object to a valuation if that valuation was made by the assessor or the objector using the income method of valuation, unless the person supplies the assessor with all the information about income and expenses, as specified in the assessor's manual under s. 73.03 (2a), Wis. stats., that the assessor requests. The Village of Maiden Rock has an ordinance for the confidentiality of information about income and expenses that is provided to the assessor under this paragraph that provides exceptions for persons using information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless a court determined that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under s. 19.35 (1), Wis. stats.
- The board shall hear upon oath, by telephone, all ill or disabled persons who present to the board a letter from a physician, surgeon, or osteopath that confirms their illness or disability. No other persons may testify by telephone unless the Board, in its discretion, has determined to grant a property owner's or their representative's request to testify under oath by telephone or written statement.
- No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone, or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the board, or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under s. 70.47 (3) (a), Wis. stats., that person provides to the clerk of the board of review notice as to whether the person will ask for the removal of a member of the board of review and, if so, which member, and provides a reasonable estimate of the length of time the hearing will take.

Notice is hereby given this 10th day of April 2024
Shirley Gilles, Village Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP 4 10

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

March 14, 2024 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Village Hall,
130 N. Chestnut St. Lower
level board room
(East rear entrance)

Members Present: President Beissel, Trustees Borner, Bench, Hines, Neeley, Anderson, and Schutz.
Staff Present: Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Brad Roy
Many members of the public in attendance in-person and virtually

MINUTES:

1. Meeting called to order by President Beissel at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

President Beissel made a statement regarding the agenda item, the public hearing on that item has been closed and that there will be limited public input tonight. The intent is to hear from the DNR and to hear about the Village Denmark digester tours. Trustee Bench stated that he believes there should be another public hearing; Schutz and Hines agreed.

2. **Public comment on non-agenda items.** Lisa Olson spoke about the Design Ellsworth Plan. Richard Hines spoke about the Creamery odor and having equal support for the East End. Sean Hall commented on the Creamery odor. Larry Langer commented on the Creamery noise and noise from truck jake brakes.

3. **Discuss/take action on a request for a Special Use Permit from Ellsworth Bioenergy, agent, for property owned by the Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, a Utility (Anaerobic Digester) on Parcel Number 121-**

01152-0500 located in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼, Section 20, T26N, R17W, Village of Ellsworth, Pierce County, WI.

MSC Schutz/Hines to table the agenda item until attorney Loberg is present. Bench states he is against the motion, Borner agrees. **Hines and Schutz vote in favor, all others oppose, Motion Fails.**

Jill Schoen and Nate Willis (DNR), presented DNR permits and regulations for the proposed Digester. Schoen states that the DNR regulates discharges to the environment: air, waste streams, spills, wastewater, stormwater and erosion control, and return of product. The Board questioned about odor, industrial waste, air emissions, EPA odor regulations, and enforcement. DNR responded that there are not odor regulations, nutrient management plans, sampling requirements and limits, air permit modeling and maintenance/record keeping. The audience questioned about inspections, odor, site consideration, PFAS, permit denials, possible moratorium, property values, potential danger/fire risks, and Environmental Impact Study. DNR responded that the goal is to not deny, but to work with applicant to make a proposal compliant with regulations and that they are not aware of a digester fire in Wisconsin or of any citations.

A/C-T Roy presented the report of the Village tour of Bigadan facilities in Denmark by Roy and Trustees Borner and Hines. Three facilities were toured. The travel expenses were outlined and traffic, odor and general operations were observed. The group also spoke with neighboring property owners. The conclusion was that odor was not an issue and there were no major issues identified. Events of odor will occur, most

likely during startup. The nearby residents confirmed that odor is not an issue. Audience questioned the accuracy of the tours and neighbor interviews, possible conflicts of interest, site location, residents leaving the community, infrastructure, a possible referendum, the Village website, and Fire Department concerns and capabilities. **MSC Borner/Bench to defer action.** Schutz stated the next meeting should be at a different location. **Unanimous.**

4. **Adjourn.** **MSC Schutz/Bench to adjourn.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by Brad Roy, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

WNAXLP 4 10

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH BOARD MEETING March 4, 2024 6:00pm 130 N. Chestnut St. Lower Level Boardroom (East Rear Entrance)

Members Present: President Beissel, Trustees Bench, Borner, Anderson, Neeley, Schutz and Hines.

Staff Present: Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Brad Roy, Director of Public Works Vick, Chief of Police Ladwig, Police Sergeant Van Nocker, Library Director Meyer (virtual), Attorney Loberg (virtual)

Others Present: Kim Beebe, Dale Auckland, Todd Dolan, Brian Roemer and Peter Curtin from Ehlers (virtual), and multiple public virtually.

MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by President Beissel

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

2. **Approval of minutes – 2/5. MSC Borner/Hines to approve the minutes.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

3. **Approve payments and deposits. MSC Schutz/Bench to approve the payments and deposits.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

4. **Public comment on non-agenda items.** Schutz asked about the Ron Prindle property and an issue with an easement. A/C-T Roy responded that staff had just become aware of the issue and would work with Attorney Loberg on a solution.

5. **Discuss/Approve MRD Group invoice(s) for 254 S. Chestnut St.** A/C-T Roy presented the invoices and confirmed that CBS Squared has approved the invoices. **MSC Borner/Neeley to approve the payments.** Schutz asked if the project is within the budget, A/C-T Roy responded that there have been no budgetary overages at this time. **Unanimous.**

6. **Discuss/Approve Ehlers Water Utility Rate Study Phase 1 and beginning Phase 2.** Brian Roemer and Peter Curtin, from Ehlers, presented phase 1 of the Water Utility Rate Study. The review included analysis of revenues, expenditures, cash flow, and depreciation. The report showed that the current rates are inadequate and an increase will be necessary. The PSC rate calculation method was discussed. **MSC Hines/Borner to accept Phase 1 and move onto Phase 2.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

7. **Discuss/Approve contract with All Croix Inspections for Building Inspector and Zoning Administrator services.** Todd Dolan presented the contract and permit price increases. **MSC Borner/Neeley to approve the contract.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

8. **Discuss/Approve Senior Center Donation.** A/C-T Roy presented the \$2,700.00 donation. **MSC Neeley/Hines to approve the donation.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

9. **Discuss/Approve Pierce County Economic Development Corporation Membership and Donation.** A/C-T Roy presented the request and that the Village has typically paid \$2,700.00 which is above the listed membership level. **MSC Schutz/Bench to defer this request to another meeting and get further clarification.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

10. **Discuss/Approve Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce Cheese Curd Festival Donation.** Beissel abstains from vote and discussion. A/C-T Roy presented the request and that the Village has typically paid \$1,000.00. **MSC Hines/Neeley to approve a donation of \$1,200.00.** No further discussion. **Unanimous.**

11. **President's Report.** The President's report was presented.

12. **Committee/Commission meeting reports/recommendations.**
a. **TID Joint Review Board**

b. **Plan Commission**
The 2/5 Minutes meeting minutes were reviewed.

c. **Board of Appeals**
d. **Board of Review**
e. **ETZ**

f. **Water and Sewer**
The 2/21 Minutes meeting minutes were reviewed.

g. **Street & Sidewalk**
h. **Salary and Labor**

i. **Parks, Recreation, & Development**

j. **Finance, Purchasing, Buildings**

k. **Public Safety**

l. **Health, License, Welfare**

m. **Solid Waste, Cable TV, Special Committee**

n. **Cemetery**

o. **Community Development Authority**

13. **Department Head Reports: Department activity/update**

a. **Chief of Police presented his report.**

b. **Director of Public Works presented his report.**

c. **Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer presented his report.**

d. **Library Director presented her report.**

14. **The committee will adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.** **MSC Borner/Schutz to adjourn to closed session.** Roll Call Vote. **Unanimous.**

Crossing Meadows purchase offer

The board will remain in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

Discuss potential Ellsworth Bioenergy possible terms of any accompanying Memorandum of Understanding.

MSC Hines/Bench to reconvene into open session. Roll Call Vote. **Unanimous.** No action was taken.

15. **Adjournment. MSC Schutz/Hines to adjourn.** **Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by Brad Roy, Administrator Clerk-Treasurer

WNAXLP 4 10

TOWN OF RIVER FALLS

The following River Falls Town Meetings will meet on Monday, April 15, 2024, beginning at 6:30 P.M. at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770th Ave.

6:30 P.M. – Plan Commission Agenda: Minutes; Comments & Requests; Zoning Administrator Report; Discussion on Extra Territorial Zoning Districts; Discussion on Demolition Permit; Discussion on Town Code Chapter 17.13 and Lamar sign; Discussion on Town Code Chapter 17.07 and 17.08; Update on Comprehensive Plan Review Process; Land Use Permits Review; A quorum of Town Board members may be present.

8:00 P.M. – Regular Board Meeting

AGENDA

Call to order

Consider for approval or other action:

- Approve Agenda
- Minutes from April 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting
- Financial/Fire Call Report
- Public Comments and Requests
- Zoning Administrator Report
- Plan Commission Recommendations
- Approve 2024 Annual Recycling Report
- Committee Appointments
- Board and Staff Communications
- Committee Updates
- Future Agenda Items
- Audit and Pay Bills
- Adjourn

Action may be taken on any agenda item. This agenda is subject to change. Some agenda items may be taken up earlier in the meeting, or in a different order than listed. The posted notice at the Town Hall is the primary notice. Meeting notice posted on the Town's website www.riverfallstown.com, at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770th Avenue, River Falls, WI and at the River Falls Town Shop, N7750 State Road 65, River Falls, WI. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting who requires special accommodation because of a disability should contact the Clerk's office, at 715-629-8240 or email clerk@riverfallstown.com, at least 72 hours before the meeting begins so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Sarah Meyer, Clerk

WNAXLP 4 10

Plum City Care Center Chatter

By Noel Elsen

The wintery spring weather continued this week, but we didn't care as we stayed warm Monday morning with Monday Movers seated exercise group! Stacey and Noel led residents in gentle arm and leg exercises, all while from the comfort of our chairs. Once everyone caught their breath, Stacey tuned up the guitar for a sing-along and our lively group sang to old hits like "Buffalo Gals" and "Beautiful Beautiful Brown Eyes." After a little lunch Stacey and Noel helped residents create beautiful spoon flower art at Crafty Corner; with the snow still outside it was wonderful to see the bright spring colors of pink, green and yellow fill the dining room! Tic Tac Toss was the name of the game later in the afternoon; our huge group of players warmed up their throwing arms and it seemed we had some sharpshooters in the group! Kevin Bauer scored fourth place, Ivan Mason came in third, while Carol Bauer from the Seasons and Herb Tschumperlin tied for second. Mary Matzek was our first-place champion this week! After supper, Noel led everyone in an evening game of Bingo.

On Tuesday, we rearranged the schedule a little and had our bowling game in the morning! It was spring break this week for the kids, so we unfortunately didn't have students here to help with pin setting and scorekeeping, but that didn't stop us from having a blast. After four fun rounds, Shirley Klinski came in fourth place, we had a three-way tie for third between Carol Bauer (from the Seasons), Mary Matzek and Dorothy Pfaffe, while Janet Robelia and Jeff Halverson tied for second. We also celebrated a tie for first place: Kevin Bauer and Ivan Mason! The rest of the day continued like a regular Tuesday, with Aaliyah here after lunch to make delicious bowlfuls of buttery popcorn for our Popcorn Social. Afternoon church was a peaceful and uplifting hymn sing with Aaliyah in which she led residents in singing beautiful songs such as "How Great Thou Art" and "The Old Rugged Cross." The day ended with supper and then an evening of games with Aaliyah!

Father Jojo visited the care center on Wednesday morning to lead residents in morning Mass and everyone gathered with a grateful heart to pray together in the week leading up to Easter Sunday. Thank you to Dick Fritz for doing the readings during Mass! Later, Wanda and Roxanne were here to help several residents with voting, which wrapped up just in time for lunch. The dishes were cleared away and tables wiped clean just in time for Fruit Bingo with volunteers Harriet Rothe (calling numbers and clean up) and Irene Helmueller (set up, clean up and prize delivery). Thank you for all your help: you ladies are wonderful! Nancy Bishop was the big winner of Blackout Bingo this week, taking home the prize of \$1! The day wrapped up with our Mid-Week Social, where we snacked on crunchy potato chips and either French onion or ranch dip...yummy!

Thursday morning brought Harriet Rothe to the care center to catch us up on the latest news in the community. At our Local News and Coffee activity, she read from the local papers and shared a steaming cup of java with us! After lunch, folks chose to stick around to participate in the monthly Resident Council meeting (led by Stacey) to recap the last month and to stay informed on what's ahead on the calendar for April. This was also the time where they could bring up any issues they wished to discuss, as well as talk about what they felt was working well at the care center. Later in the afternoon, Aaliyah freshened up the ladies' nails with manicures; most everyone stuck with their "tried and true" nail color of choice, but every once in a while, we help them switch it up with a bold new look! Many of the gals also chatted with each other while they were waiting for their polish to dry. We capped off the day with supper and then an evening game of Pokeno with Aaliyah!

We prepared for the upcoming Easter holiday by coloring Easter eggs on Friday morning; Stacey and Noel decked everyone out with bunny ears and the "hoppy" helpers worked hard to decorate over 40 hardboiled eggs! Each and every resident will be gifted with a colorful egg of their own on their Easter Sunday breakfast plate. Lunch came and went, and then it was time to prepare for Happy Hour! We welcomed keyboardist Ryan Herman to the care center for our afternoon Happy Hour, which was also our monthly birthday party for all the residents with a March birthday! What better way to celebrate than with lively music and delectable vanilla cupcakes with sprinkles? The celebratory day (and week) ended with a delicious supper and then Movie Night, where we watched the family comedy "Peter Rabbit."



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