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RF burglary ring cracked, two charged in connection

Staff report

A River Falls couple has been arrested in connection with a string of burglaries in the city that amounts to more than \$30,000 in stolen property.

Dylan James Nestor, 32, Askov, Minn. (formerly of River Falls) was ordered to pay \$1,000 cash bail March 13 in Pierce County Circuit Court on felony theft – movable property (>\$10,000-\$100,000), felony burglary – building or dwelling, felo-



Dylan James Nestor

ny theft – movable property > \$2,500-\$5,000 and felony bail jumping. If convicted, he faces up to 12.5 years



Kearie Dawn Schwisow

in prison and/or fines up to \$25,000.

His girlfriend, Kearie Dawn Schwisow, 27, Riv-

er Falls, posted a \$10,000 signature bond March 18 in Pierce County Circuit Court on felony theft – movable property (as party to a crime) and felony burglary – building or dwelling charges.

According to the complaint:

River Falls police were dispatched at 7:08 a.m. Feb. 23 to the 1100 block of South Wasson Lane for a possible burglary. Officers had been called to the property the day before for a similar complaint. The property owner

stated that someone had entered storage buildings after 8 p.m. Feb. 22 and before 7:08 a.m. Feb. 23 and stolen his 1976 Ford F100. The property owner stated that all buildings had been locked.

Police could see that someone had entered another nearby property of someone who was out of town. The door had been forced open, but police were unaware at that time if anything had been taken. The main door and

See BURGLARY, Page A-9

Prescott railroad featured on new train cam

By Sarah Nigbor

PRESCOTT – For a Perham, Minn., man, trains have a mystical draw that can't really be explained. He loves everything about them, even the sound of them rumbling past his home in the night.

"Trains just have an allure that I can't really figure it out. It's the most amazing thing," said Rich Luth. "I have talked to so many people about it. It just amazes me. Some people find them to be bothersome. I live right on the train tracks (in Perham). My bedroom is right at the back of my house. I find them to be rather soothing to be honest with you, unless there is a train driver that is really heavy-handed with the horn. Sometimes that will wake me



A new train cam has been installed on the deck of Scab's Place in Prescott overlooking the lift bridge. You can view it at ottertailchannel.com Photo courtesy of Rich Luth

up. I don't even notice them sometimes. Some are pretty quiet. You can't hear them. There is just something mag-

Luth's love of trains has led him to Prescott and other railroad towns throughout Minnesota where he has stationed his rail cams, which are viewable on his Otter Tail Channel on YouTube. The mission of his venture is to install cameras along the Northern Transcon Railroad and its subdivisions to not only entertain viewers who love trains as much as he does, but to serve as a replacement for the loss of ATCS.

What is ATCS? It's a system of railroad equipment designed to ensure safety by monitoring locomotive and train locations, providing analysis and reporting, automating instructions issued

See TRAIN CAM, Page A-12

Rush River Brewing celebrates 20th anniversary

Credits 'tremendous' community support for success

By Sarah Nigbor

RIVER FALLS – Rush River Brewing Co. is turning 20 and will celebrate the milestone Saturday, April 20 with a party to remember.

Co-founder Nick Anderson said he's "kind of low key about anniversaries but it should be fun. It coincides with the Bluegrass Festival. We will have bands, a couple of food trucks, promoting Rush River and Rush River brands."

To "celebrate their old age," they brewed a Canadian Dark Ale (Black IPA), which has hints of chocolate and roasted malts. The celebration coincides with the River Falls Bluegrass, Bourbon & Brews festival, so the brewery will host the Johnson Brothers from 2:30-4 p.m. followed by Chris Silver and the Fish Heads from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Benny's Big-foot BBQ will be serve food from 4-9 p.m.

Anderson is an original founder of Rush River Brewing. He operates the business

with his brother, Stephen Anderson, friend Betsy Enstrom and head brewer Brett Bakko. His winding route to River Falls is an interesting one that took him from the Twin Cities to Washington back to the Midwest.

Anderson moved to Seattle after graduating from St. Olaf College. He planned to pursue a degree in medicine to become a doctor.

"However, I started homebrewing and caught the bug bad," Anderson said. "I sent out a resume to all breweries in the state of Washington. I got one response and that was for a keg washing position at Mac & Jack's Brewery in Redmond, Wash."

He started washing kegs there and eventually worked his way up to a brewing position. One of his friends, Dan Chang from Milwaukee, took over his keg washing job and also eventually moved up to a brewing position.

"We wanted to try to do it for ourselves," Anderson said.

The pair moved back to

the Twin Cities where they met Robbie Stair, owner of the Mud Pie Restaurant in Uptown Minneapolis.

"I rented an apartment from him above the Mud Pie and we became friends," Anderson said. "We started our first brewery in Maiden Rock (near the Rush River). Robbie had a home and pole barn there and we turned his pole barn into our first brewery."

They grew slowly and deliberately, offering draft beer only those first three years. As the business grew, they realized they needed a larger space.

"Out of the blue, we got a call from the St. Croix EDC and they thought that we should move to River Falls," Anderson said.

So they did, in 2007 with the goal of adding a bottling line. They set up shop at 990 Antler Court, next to the current River Falls Police Department. Things went so well that in 2015 they decided to open a taproom.



Rush River Brewing taproom, located at 990 Antler Court in River Falls, features 16 rotating selections. Photo courtesy of Rush River Brewing

See RUSH RIVER, Page A-11

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AROUND the county

Watch for Adopt-A-Highway crews on Wisconsin roadsides

Volunteers remove tons of trash and recyclables each year

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is reminding drivers to stay alert and give space to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, who routinely collect trash and recyclables along state highways.

“Each year, Wisconsinites generously take time out of their schedules to pick up trash and recyclables along the roadside,” WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson said. “Last year, we saw a phenomenal increase in participation in the Adopt-A-Highway program as nearly 15,000 volunteers helped clean Wisconsin roadsides. We are grateful for their commitment and pride to keep our state beautiful, yet we still urge all drivers to properly dispose of trash.”

In 2023, Wisconsin Adopt-A-Highway groups collected 180 tons of trash and recyclables. Nearly 15,000 volunteers helped pick up trash last year, which is a significant increase from 11,000 volunteers in 2022. WisDOT encourages more people to get involved. Our interactive map shows highway segments maintained by Wisconsin’s 3,000 Adopt-A-Highway groups, but more than 2,300 miles of state highway are still available for adoption.

Adopt-A-Highway workers are asked to clean up their assigned two-mile state highway segment at least three times per year. County highway crews gather the bagged materials for proper disposal. Automated forms on the Adopt-A-Highway website streamline reporting cleanup efforts. As part of the program, WisDOT furnishes safety vests, highway worker signs, a safety training video, trash bags, and two permanent signs identifying the group. Each group must provide one adult supervisor for every five or six volunteers. Groups do not work in dangerous areas like medians, bridges or steep slopes.

WisDOT reminds drivers to buckle up, put the phone down and follow speed limits on Wisconsin highways, especially when these volunteer groups are working along the roadside.

Learn more at wisconsin-dot.gov/adoptahighway and watch a video about the Adopt-A-Highway program.

Submitted by WisDOT

Federal emergency food and shelter supplemental funds available in St. Croix and Pierce counties

St. Croix County and Pierce County have been awarded federal funds from the Department of Homeland Security under Phase 41 of the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. St. Croix County has been awarded \$13,456 and Pierce County has been awarded \$11,403 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the area.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and consists of representatives from the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; United Jewish Communities; National Council of Churches of Christ; The Salvation Army; and United Way Worldwide. The board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs around the country.

A local board for each county, chaired by Steve McCarthy, Executive Director of United Way St. Croix Valley, will meet to determine how the funds will be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs operated by local service organizations. The St. Croix County and Pierce County meetings will take place via Zoom on a to be determined date between May 14-May 16, 2024.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, the local governmental or voluntary organizations chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government; 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds; 3)

have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capacity to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a volunteer board. Informal organizations such as food pantries that do not meet these requirements may apply by using a fiscal agent. Qualifying organizations are urged to apply.

New public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Hannah Fenstermacher at 715-377-0203 ext. 108 or Hannah.fenstermacher@unitedwaystcroix.org. Past recipients will be contacted. The deadline for applications to be received is May 8, 2024.

Submitted by United Way

Earth Households Reading at River Falls Public Library April 25

RIVER FALLS – In observance of Earth Week the River Falls Public Library will host an environmentally themed reading of poetry and prose on Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. The reading is named after Gary Snyder’s translation of the word “ecology” as “earth household.” Featured readers are Maureen Ash, Thomas R. Smith, and Ted Tollefson, with an open mic to follow.

Maureen Ash, River Falls, has loved horses, being outside, and writing about both for most of her life. Her memoir, *Holding the Lines: Horses, Hard Work, Love, and Potatoes*, was published in late 2023. It’s about her family, their farm, and the horses who powered it. Maureen also writes poems and bakes bread.

Thomas R. Smith has published many poems on environmental themes, as well as a prose book called *Poetry on the Side of Nature: Writing the Nature Poem as an Act of Survival* (2022). He helped celebrate the first Earth Day in River Falls as a student in 1970. His poems

often observe and record the natural history of the Kinnickinnic River near River Falls.

Ted Tollefson has served as a Unitarian Universalist minister in Minnesota and Wisconsin since 1980. His first book of poems, *Household of Joy*, was published last year. He’ll have a new book of poems coming out next fall. He lives with his wife Kristen and dog Boomer in Frontenac, Minn. and still preaches occasionally at the UU Society of River Falls. For him poetry is often a prayer to the spirits of place.

Open mic participants will be invited to read favorite Earth-themed poems of their own or written by others. Feature readers will have their books available to purchase after the reading. This event is free and open to all.

Submitted by Thomas R. Smith

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Elmwood HS announces Top 5



Elmwood High School has announced the Top 5 students in the Class of 2024. They are pictured with the staff member deemed the most impactful on them. It’s an annual tradition for that staff member to announce their inclusion in the Top 5. Pictured are (front, from left) Valedictorian Riley Bechel, Salutatorian Ryan Rupakus, Cori Wood, Morgan Sailer and Rocklyn Robey; (back row) Mike Birtzer, Kristel Boyer, Taylor Wallace, Sara Asher and Holly Galbreath. Photo courtesy of Elmwood School District

Members of GROWW celebrate veto of bill threatening local control

Legislation supported by Big Ag lobbying groups threatened to undermine local governments’ ability to pass ordinances applying to large livestock operations

On March 29, GROWW (Grassroots Organizing Western Wisconsin) joined community groups across Wisconsin celebrating a decision by Gov. Tony Evers to veto Assembly Bill 957 and protect a cornerstone of Wisconsin communities’ local control.

This bill, supported by industry lobbying groups, would have prohibited certain local ordinances relating to corporate agriculture practices, particularly Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (known as CAFOs). Grassroots organizers across the state warned the bill threatened to strip away key local control relating to industrial agriculture in Wisconsin communities. During the March Senate committee hearing, lobbyists from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and Venture Dairy Cooperative repeatedly asked senators to prohibit legal ordinances passed in three Wisconsin counties and six towns which aimed to mitigate local costs and impacts of large livestock operations. Towns in multiple Wisconsin counties have been studying similar ordinances.

Seeing the bill as an attack on local control, members of GROWW and other organizing groups across Wisconsin flooded the governor’s office with messages opposing the bill. In the span of a week, more than 650 people across the state sent messages to Gov. Evers, and on March 29, he heeded demands and vetoed the legislation.


“In rural Wisconsin, we value our local control,” said Phil Verges, a farmer in the Town of Gilman and Vice Chair of GROWW’s board. “As a farmer and town board member, we needed this veto. Locals need the power to hold expanding livestock factory farms accountable for their impacts on roads, property values, air and water quality, and more. Current state regulations have failed to protect communities all across Wisconsin, so it’s vital for local communities to have the ability to be involved in writing our own rules.”

At the same time as our communities celebrate the veto from the governor’s desk, lobbying groups are finding other ways to strip away remaining industry oversight. Currently pending, lawyers from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) are challenging Wisconsin DNR’s authority to regulate livestock operations that spread millions of gallons of raw manure over thousands of acres of land. Attorneys from WMC’s Litigation Center argue that, regardless of risk to residents and local resources, livestock operations can’t be subjected to regulation until after they have been caught releasing waste into waterways. This pending lawsuit is a blatant attempt to remove all regulation of industrial agriculture operations.

Large, high concentration livestock operations have well documented economic drawbacks for rural communities. In the face of industry pressure, tools like local ordinances are some communities’ best options to protect their roads, property values, natural resources, and rural way of life. In the face of continued industry pressure, this victory marks a crucial step in the ongoing fight to preserve Wisconsin communities.

GROWW is a grassroots organization based in western Wisconsin. We build power in our communities and create the change we need for all of us, no matter the color of our skin, how much money we have, or who we love. Together, we work toward a future where we all make ends meet, live with dignity, and have a voice in shaping the decisions that impact us. We began our work in 2019 as Pierce County GrassRoots Organizing, and grew out of the name as we began to organize with communities in seven Western Wisconsin counties: Barron, Buffalo, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and Saint Croix. To get connected or learn more about GROWW, visit us at GRO-WW.org, on Instagram at @GrowWisconsin, or on Facebook at Facebook.com/GROWWisconsin.

Submitted by GROWW



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VIEWPOINTS

Another big election for school spending issues



The spring election of 2024 was another winner for school spending issues, showing voters are willing to spend on education in their local districts.

Voters approved more than \$956.5 million of the \$1.4 billion on the ballot for school districts across the state in the April 2 spring election, according to a WisPolitics review.

That's more than voters approved in the past three April elections, which ranged from about \$530 million to \$864.2 million, according to data provided by Wisconsin Policy Forum. But it's still less than the \$1.7 billion approved in 2020, which included a \$1 billion referendum in the Racine Unified School District.

The \$1.4 billion in school spending requests was the third-highest districts have sought in a single election since 2000, behind the more

than \$2 billion in November 2022 and \$637.6 million on the ballot in 2023.

The biggest ask on the ballot was the \$252 million referendum for the Milwaukee Public Schools district. That narrowly passed despite a more than \$400,000 opposition campaign by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce.

WisPolitics compiled a list of referendums that passed by using a combination of online county election results, a list of results provided by the Wisconsin Education Association Council and local media reports.

Some of the other big approvals included:

- \$113.7 million for the New Richmond School District for additions, maintenance needs and renovations at Starr Elementary, Paperjack Elementary and New Richmond Middle School.
- \$62.5 million for the Freedom Area School District for districtwide facility improvements.

But voters rejected \$102.3 million for the Mukwonago School District as 54% of voters opposed providing the funds to build a new middle



school, demolish Park View Middle School and renovate elementary schools to create spaces for four-year-old kindergarten. That was the third-highest ask.

Other top rejections included:

- \$54.5 million for Shawano School District for facili-

ties improvements at Hillcrest & LEADS Charter School, Olga Brener Intermediate School, Shawano Community Middle School and Shawano Community High School. The referendum failed by fewer than 100 votes.

- \$38 million for Osceola School District for an addi-

tion to Osceola Intermediate School, remodeling at the intermediate school and Osceola Middle School, and renovation or demolition of all or part of Osceola Elementary school and site restoration.

For more go to www.wispolitics.com.

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ten 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.

Fiscal Facts: School Referenda Passage Rates On Pace to Decline

Voters across Wisconsin approved 62 of the 103 school district referenda held in this year's spring elections, the February primary and April general election.

If fall 2024 referenda fare similarly, the 60.2% approval rate would be the lowest in an even-numbered year since 2010. This spring also saw a total of 10 referenda held in February and the 93 held in April, the most ballot questions for spring elections since at least 2000.

To raise property taxes above the state-imposed revenue limit, a school district board can approve a ballot question asking voters to fund new ongoing operating costs such as teacher salaries, or to authorize borrowing for a one-time capital project such as a new school.

This analysis looks at school referenda held in even-numbered years -- when presidential or midterm elections are held -- because odd-numbered years tend to have lower turnout elections, fewer school referenda, and lower passage rates.

This spring, more districts asked to increase property taxes for operations rather than capital needs. This may be a sign of financial stress from inflation, state caps on their revenues, declining enrollment, and the expiration of federal pandemic aid.

Voters in 56 districts approved one or more referenda, 21 of which will allow districts to borrow for capital projects and raise property taxes to pay off the debt. The remaining 41 will allow districts to raise levies to boost

their operations.

With 103 referenda this spring, 2024 is already shaping up to be a year with an unusually large number of ballot questions. In 2022, there were 166 total school referenda -- the most since 2001 -- with 82 held in the spring. These increased numbers in 2024 indicate that many districts in Wisconsin are feeling financial pressure today, and turning to voters to address at least part of their challenges.

Yet as districts' requests for additional revenue have intensified, voter support for these requests appears to be waning. Voter approval rates of school district referenda hovered around 50% for most of the late 2000s and early 2010s. Starting in 2012, however, voters approved referenda in greater numbers,

with the passage rate peaking at 89.7% in 2018. Over the past several years, however, approval rates have trended downward.

No doubt, many voters have experienced financial challenges of their own due to inflation. They may also be less inclined to support referenda for their local district after being asked in some cases to do so only a few years prior.

At the same time, voters are still approving referenda in large numbers and amounts, at rates that -- while lower than a few years earlier -- are higher than much of the 2000s and 2010s. Whether they will continue to do so is a question that should be top of mind for school leaders and state policymakers.

This information is a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state's leading resource for nonpartisan

state and local government research and civic education. Learn more at wispolitycforum.org.



REP. WARREN PETRYK'S Column

REPRESENTING WI STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 93

Enhancing our great outdoors

Spring is in full swing, which means it's the ideal time for us Wisconsinites to enjoy nature. From cruising down ATV/UTV trails to exploring state parks like Hoffman Hills and the Chippewa River State Trail, residents have many options to enjoy nature. As a Chippewa Valley representative, I believe we must continue to support a number of natural gems that contribute to Wisconsin's \$7.8 billion outdoor economy. That is why I voted to support the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. This

program sets aside funds to match local fundraising efforts, thereby preserving our natural areas, protecting critical habitats, and ensuring water quality.

Because of my support, this program has been used to benefit a variety of spots in our area. For example, the restoration of natural habitats and outdoor boating access on Lake Pepin. It has also been used to purchase 70 acres of land to help expand Elk Creek Bottoms in the town of Spring Book. It was also used to improve infrastructure, such as

the Downtown Riverwalk Trail in Eau Claire, Rod and Gun Park, and the acquisition of land in Mount Simon and McDonough Park. In total, over 130 Stewardship grants have been awarded in the current 93rd Assembly District, and I hope to see more.

Another way to enjoy our state is to explore our incredible ATV/UTV trail system. The Chippewa Valley, known for its natural beauty, which provides nearly 23 miles of ATV trails through the Chippewa County Forest alone, includes challenging hills, valleys, lakes, ponds, and scenic vistas. That is why the state budget I supported prioritized funding and law enforcement positions for ATV/UTV trails to ensure the safety of riders and nearby recreationalists. Additionally, the budget included a doubling of ATV/UTV project aids, which assist counties and municipalities with trail development and maintenance.

This session, I also worked to help restore the Kinnickinnic River, which requires

the removal of an aging dam in the City of River Falls. However, because of the way state law was written, this project might not have received the necessary state support to proceed. That's why I introduced Senate Bill 140, which passed with bipartisan support and became law this session. With the new law, we've taken a significant step forward in the restoration project, cementing western Wisconsin's reputation as a premier recreational destination.

Wisconsin is the most beautiful state to live in, and I am proud of our investments to support keeping public spaces open and maintained for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors from other states. As the weather warms, I hope you'll take time to enjoy our state parks and trails, as well as the outdoor opportunities made possible by years of prudent public-lands investment. To learn more about what is available in our state, visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>

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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.
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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.



FROM THE *Editor's Desk*

BY SARAH NIGBOR

News deserts are blooming

In Minnesota by the end of the month, eight community newspapers will close: the *Hutchinson Leader*, *Litchfield Independent Review*, *Chaska Herald*, *Chanhassen Villager*, *Jordan Independent*, *Shakopee Valley News*, *Prior Lake American* and *Savage Pacer*.

According to a column by newspaper publisher Reed Anfinson, their owner is an out-of-state investment firm/hedge fund that stripped them of their revenue and staff before deciding to close them all together. This is troubling on many levels: the loss of people's livelihoods, the loss of newspapers that have operated for over a century in their communities, the loss of a local news source, leaving behind an information void or a news desert.

In these communities, who will inform voters about local candidates for school boards, city councils and county boards? Who will keep an eye on local government and help citizens understand the impact of local decisions? Who will tell the inspiring and unique stories of local citizens that otherwise might not be told? How will citizens be able to identify crime trends through police reports, or know who is living down the street from them? Who will tell the stories that people need to know?

I agree with Anfinson when he asks where is the outrage from the public? In his words, "Where is the demand for federal and state actions supporting community newspapers? We suspect that too many believe the internet will provide their news. They are disastrously wrong."

I think that is even more apparent after witnessing the most recent Ellsworth Village Board and Pierce County Board meetings on the anaerobic digester proposal and judicial facility. I mean no offense to people speaking at public comment. But many of them had gotten their "news" and "facts" from ridiculous comment threads on Facebook. If that is people's main source of news, I am afraid for our society. I highly doubt a lot of fact-checking occurs there. Here's an example:

On one post about a summer school offering, one commenter was trying to convince people that Taylor Swift is the anti-Christ and that Ellsworth Community School District is trying to forward her evil agenda by offering a music/art class featuring the famous pop

star. Watch out.

Social media can have its blessings, but again, I agree with Anfinson when he says we live in an "internet world that has fractured society into warring social and political clans. Death threats, misinformation and ridicule are more common than harmony, compromise and enlightenment. Lies gain power and the truth is harder to find."

That was made clear during at least one Ellsworth Village Board meeting. Insults were hurled from the crowd toward the village president, clerk/administrator-treasurer and this newspaper. What is the point of insulting others in what is supposed to be a place for civil discourse? Do people think if they insult someone enough they'll be shamed into thinking the same way as them? That makes me want to walk away from someone. I also spoke to one elected official, who declined to be named, who was in tears due to threats to their children if they voted a certain way. Is that what our society has become? If you don't agree with me, I will hurt you?

I feel sad for the people in those Minnesota towns because their local news source is about to be gone. A lot of times, we "don't know what we got until it's gone." That almost happened here when the Pierce County Herald merged with the Red Wing Republican Eagle and the River Falls Journal, Hudson Star-Observer and New Richmond News were combined into one. Our Journal staff is small but we try our best to cover our local communities so people know what's going on in their own backyards.

Some people think Facebook, Instagram, X, Snapchat or TikTok are the places to get news. Do these companies and their "content creators" report on how daycare shortages are affecting local residents and employers? Do they let residents know the issues being studied by the local school board? Do they do hours of research to find out the history behind a proposed courthouse project? The answer is no. Social media usually provides opinions from anyone with a pulse, entertainment and bits and pieces of national news taken from news stations and - you guessed it - newspapers.

If you value democracy, accountability, civic education, the First Amendment, accuracy - then please support your local news sources.



MY *View*

BY JOHN MCLOONE

Weekend adventures

It was an interesting weekend. If anyone would have asked me a few days ago what the odds would be of me doing these things on back-to-back days, I would have said one in a million.

I should have bought a lottery ticket, apparently, because the stars lined up. What's your guess? Where was John?

If you guessed "spent the day at Mall of America on Saturday" and "Sunday afternoon on a farm," you hit the jackpot!

As of Friday, plans were for me to do little to nothing on Saturday. I was worn out from the eclipse and was just looking forward to doing what you're supposed to do on a Saturday. Sunday, we had plans for a late lunch that involved two of my favorite things: food and our grandkids.

When my wife and I reconnected following our Friday workdays, that blueprint was thrown in the blender. We both have some devices with

technology issues that could only be handled at an Apple store. Phone support wasn't solving the problems. The nearest Apple store? Mall of America. I was able to make a late morning appointment, and we were on our way early.

I remember the excitement of going to Mall of America back when people were excited to go to malls. It was a big deal to load the kids up for a full day of adventure. I didn't have that same feeling this time.

We made it to our destination without any problems and apparently the Mall of America isn't a real popular spot in the morning. We parked in the front row, figured out how to get into the building and meandered to our destination. We had a couple hour wait while the nice technicians worked their magic, so we were able to do some more meandering. I remember the first time we went to MOA. We only had two kids, and my wife was doing some serious shopping. I took the stroller and did the

meandering I like to do. Mind you, this was pre-cell phone. If you wanted to find someone, you had to look for them. My wife found us. Me and the kids were having lunch at Hooters.

Hooters hadn't opened up yet on this visit.

All tech crises were solved, and we were out the door just when the crowds were showing up.

Sunday was another day of adventure. People apparently pay money just to go into farms. I never thought I'd pay \$13.50 to walk through a barn for an hour. I can cross that one off my bucket list, apparently. The afternoon was pleasant though. I had one experience there that I'll remember for the rest of my life, and that alone was maybe worth the price of admission.

I parked on a bench when the rest of our gang was taking in the agricultural activity of a 3-year-old going down on a slide. Up and down. Over and over. There was a couple seated behind me. The woman was way too excited when the little kid they were accompanying would get to the bottom of the slide each time. In my thinking, you can show excitement once, maybe even twice. But let's face it, when you're at the top of the slide, the only thing you can do is go down.

Anyway, after about 15 minutes, this woman directed her husband to go get her a water. He objected, because only the manure smell was free on this farm. Water was expensive. She pressed him on it.

"You gotta go get me a water. The Windsor's kicking in."

And that was the exclamation point to a weekend I will always remember.



WOODWORKING *Again*

BY DAVE WOOD

Adventures de toilette

We have recently made the self-indulgent purchase of a Toto toilet, which provides a heated seat, a warm water spigot which can be aimed and activated to take care of things toilet paper is designed for. At least it's environmentally friendly!

I'm so old that my first experience with bowel relief precedes any comfortable experience with Brit Thomas Crapper's invention of the flush toilet. As a young boy, I resided with my parents on my Grandma Back's farm. Our whole tribe used an unpainted outhouse, without so much as a half-moon carved into its wall. I was always puzzled why Blanch Whipple, mother's fancy cousin from Eau Claire returned from a trip to said outhouse and giggled when she reported to the family, "When I finished, I reached back of me to activate the flush lever, but there was no flush lever there!"

A few years later we moved to a fancier farm where the outhouse was painted white with blue trim, to match our house. The outhouse was festooned with Morning Glories (blue, of course). Frosting on the cake: this monument to civility was a "three-holer," one of which was lower than the other two to accommodate my toddler's frame. When the Morning Glories faded and the snow came, we retreated to the house and used a container my father called a "thunder mug."

Years later, after grad school and smitten with my new bride and the idea of being somewhat Bohemian, we purchased a rundown farm near my hometown, complete with a run-down outhouse. I painted it inside and out, cut a hole in the wall, inserted a plastic stained glass window from Menard's, installed a Northern Tissue dispenser to supplement an old Monkey Ward catalog and a book shelf which I stuffed with back issues of the New York Review of Books (I'm something of a snob) and at Ruth's hygienic request (she's from Chicago), a pail of barn lime with dipper.

Almost every summer, we'd shuck our hippie togs and spend a month in Europe, figuring it would be luxurious to enter the Crapper Era. But when we checked into the Olympia Hotel in London's Sussex Gardens, we soon learned that a trip to its one-per-floor Crapper cum Bathtub required four-buckle overshoes after 12 other tenants had made use of its leaky plumbing. Plumber Mike Hawkins, where were you when duty called?

Things got better in a Swiss-run hotel in the shadow of the Arc de Triomphe which boasted a bidet in every room. Unfortunately,

ly, we were from Wisconsin and didn't know how to use one. So we headed for the rentable shower down the hall, mindful of movie director Billy Wilder's telegram to his wife back in U.S. after she asked him to buy her a bidet while he was in Paris. His reply: "Dear: Bidets too costly. Suggest you stand on your head in the shower."

Our next adventure de toilette in Munich was more frightening than relieving. One might call our hotel "Goebbels Platz," for the curt desk clerk bore a startling resemblance to the late German Minister of Propaganda. Breakfast began at 7 and ended at 8. "Nein latekommer," barked the clerk. After a hard pumpernickel roll and chickory rather than coffee (more evidence of Teutonic leanings!), I headed for the shower, which unlike the earlier iterations was huge and full of the hotel's naked tenants. The showers were all on and the water—I think it was water—came out of the ceiling, and my imagination went wild. I quickly dressed and beat it next door to the Lowenbrau brewery hoping it would be open for a breakfast mug of golden goodness.

Next stop, the Hotel Margutta just off the Piazza del Popolo in Rome. Friendly. Sweet rolls rather than a tiny biscotti for breakfast. Just one drawback. The shower head was located directly above the commode which you had to sit on while showering in order to "lave your oozy locks." (see John Milton's "Lycidas").

Back in the US, Ruth and I decided to try out the new Thai restaurant in North Minneapolis. I ordered my meal, then asked the waitress to direct me to the toilet. "Follow me to the kitchen," said the fetching Siamese cutie. Once there, she shoved the huge mobile butcher block aside to reveal a trapdoor with a ring opener. She flung open the floor door to reveal a stationary ladder into the basement and said, "It's down there!" I obediently climbed down to discover a plywood platform upon which stood a plywood outhouse-type structure. There was no carved halfmoon, but I tried the door anyway and found a porcelain throne by Kohler that actually had water in it, plus a chain hanging from the ceiling. Pull it and it flushed. Just like in Europe!

This last experience makes me think that for an old guy like me, maybe the purchase of a Toto is not so self-indulgent after all!

Dave would like to hear from readers, especially if they have a tale or two about a toilet. Phone him at 715-426-9554.



SENATOR JEFF SMITH'S *Column*

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S
31ST DISTRICT

School Safety Office on life support

This legislative session could've been better, but there was one glimmer of hope. The Office of School Safety (OSS) at the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) was a bright spot for lawmakers this past session.

In February 2018, the Parkland, Fla. school shooting occurred. The nation was shocked once again by yet another tragic and horrific school shooting; 17 children were killed that day and another 17 were injured with wounds and horrific memories they will carry for the rest of their lives.

In less than a month after Parkland, Republicans and Democrats in Wisconsin from the Senate and Assembly came together and passed 2017 Assembly Bill 843, which was signed into law by then Gov. Scott Walker (R). Throughout the years of senseless violence, this was the one of the few times we've seen swift and responsive action against gun violence. The newly created OSS was funded with \$100 million for a grant program geared toward helping schools make updates and perform training for school district personnel. Sadly, though, only one full-time position was created to staff the office in its infancy.

Fast forward to spring of this year, and now, the OSS is run by 14 full-time staff and they are doing incredible work to keep schools safe. However, the funding for the OSS was set to run out in December of last year, so we needed to act fast to keep the OSS afloat. Thankfully, strong bipartisan sup-

port from lawmakers helped Assembly Bill 1050 pass through both houses of the legislature and it was signed into law by Gov. Tony Evers (D) as 2023 Wisconsin Act 240 on March 28, 2024.

While providing the OSS with the funding they needed to stay in operation was a step in the right direction, it essentially just puts a Band-Aid on the problem. The bill funds the OSS until Sept. 30, 2025. Normally, we could all agree this was a great action by the legislature and we could laud our efforts, pat each other on the back and say it was a job well done. While Wisconsin sits on billions of dollars in surplus funding, it feels like less of a win and more like putting the program on life support.

Since 2020 when the 24/7 "Speak Up, Speak Out" tip-line started at the OSS, staff have responded to over 10,000 contacts in Wisconsin schools, including 196 tips concerning planned school attacks. Additionally, there were 223 tips for guns and other weapons from schools that resulted in violence intervention and prevention situations for schools. Countless school district personnel and local law enforcement

professionals have utilized the OSS for protecting our schools.

It should come to no one's surprise when most people were shocked to learn the OSS has only been funded until September next year. The work they are doing is making a serious impact for Wisconsin schools and their achievements have been remarkably quiet. Quiet is good, but we need to make sure people know how important their work is for all our students, school professionals and our communities as a whole.

The Office of School Safety is an excellent service and it deserves more than short-term funding offering no guarantees after Oct. 1, 2025. I fully expect Gov. Evers to include more funding for this program next year when we begin the budget process in earnest leading up to its final approval in June.

Sen. Smith represents District 31 in the Wisconsin State Senate. The 31st Senate District includes all of Buffalo, Pepin and Trempealeau counties and portions of Pierce, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson and St. Croix counties.

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WEATHER Forecast

Thu 18	53°/33°		Mostly Cloudy	15%
Fri 19	48°/30°		Partly Cloudy/Wind	2%
Sat 20	48°/29°		Partly Cloudy	3%
Sun 21	56°/37°		Mostly Sunny	5%
Mon 22	60°/37°		AM Showers	30%
Tue 23	59°/40°		Partly Cloudy	24%
Wed 24	64°/43°		Partly Cloudy	12%

ST. CROIX COUNTY Jail Log

Monday, April 8
Susan Marie Sauve, 39, Princeton, Minn., by SCSO, child neglect – exposure to controlled substances.
Cassandra Lyn Mrotz, 36, Apple Valley, Minn., by SSO, sentenced, serving 240 days.
Erik Nikolas Graham, 26, South St. Paul, Minn., by Probation & Parole, probation hold.

Tuesday, April 9
Antonio Hernandez Lopez, 20, address not listed, by Hudson police, OWI-first.
Steven Wesley Johnson, 39, Roberts, by SCSO, domestic battery, domestic disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property, possession of THC.
Dion Marcel Henderson, 44, Chicago, by Hudson police, possess drug paraphernalia, Hennepin County (Minn.) warrant.
Michael Shawn White, 41, Baldwin, by Baldwin police, Green County (Mo.) warrant.
Danial Atherton Hess, 35, Forest Lake, Minn., by Hudson police, retail theft – remove anti-theft.
Jennifer Skye Bild, 50, Forest Lake, Minn., by Hudson police, possess drug paraphernalia, manufacture/distribution or delivery of fentanyl.
Maxwell John Meurett, 25, St. Paul, by SCCC, warrant.

Wednesday, April 10
Roy Wayne Fulson, 40, Hudson, by Hudson police, misdemeanor bail jumping.
Bradley Charles Schultz, 29, Oak Park Heights, Minn., by SCSO, warrant.
Vallard Mickael Logan, 43, River Falls, by RF police, probation violation, felony bail jumping.
Joseph Michael LaPlan-

te, 40, Maplewood, Minn., by SCSO, warrant.
Jacob Gerald Shilts, 29, Dodge Correctional Institution, Phoenix, Md., by SCSO hold for SCSO.
Alonzo Dashawn Bittner Madsen, 23, Hudson, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Jorge M. Seraquive Guaman, 26, Hammond, by SCSO, operate without valid license (third).
Michael Charles Proctor, 25, New Richmond, by NR police, possession of child pornography by person under age of 17.
Justin A. Flohr, 40, Rice Lake, by SCSO, hold for SCSO.

Thursday, April 11
Woodstrom-Helfand, 21, by SCSO, OWI-first.
Mayra Katherine Contento Gualan, 21, River Falls, by Hudson police, operating while revoked.
Justin Daniel Kohoutek, 42, Somerset, by SCSO, operating while revoked.
Tyler Lloyd Scobey, 24, Houlton, by SCCC, operating while revoked.
Kyle Norman Hartman, 53, Hudson, by Hudson police, OWI-seventh/eighth/ninth, resisting or obstructing an officer, operating while revoked, felony bail jumping (two counts).
Nolan Michael Craner, 37, New Richmond, by NR police, misdemeanor bail jumping (two counts).
Jennifer Rebecca Kohl, 46, Hudson, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Sara Ann Jarchow, 40, Clear Lake, by Hudson police, resisting or obstructing an officer, felony bail jumping.
Amanda Lee Everson, 34, New Richmond, by Pro-

bation & Parole, probation hold.
Riley Richard Potter, 31, New Richmond, by SCCC, maintain drug trafficking place, possess with intent/deliver prescriptions, possession of THC, possess drug paraphernalia.
Sonyia Marie Placencia, 31, New Richmond, by NR police, misdemeanor bail jumping, resisting or obstructing an officer, disorderly conduct.
Elizabeth A. Palo, 56, Prescott, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.
Jorge Sarango Gonzalez, 25, Hudson, by SCSO, warrant.

Friday, April 12
Roumer Donazal Jr., 26, Cottage Grove, Minn., by SCCC, sentenced, serving three days.
Hector Santamaria Castillo, 30, Coon Rapids, Minn., by SCCC, sentenced, serving three days.
Bennie Uranus Stafford Jr., 61, Eau Claire, by SCCC, warrant.
Monte Grant Solsvig, 47, Hudson, by SCSO, warrant.
Jacob Nicholas Dahl, 43, Cottage Grove, Minn., by SCSO, sentenced, serving three days.
Lester W. Langness, 57, New Richmond, by SCSO, sentenced, serving four days.
Jamillah Ishmael Kyles, 50, St. Paul, by SCSO, warrant.

Saturday, April 13
Daniel Alfred Noll, 23, address not listed, by RF police, OWI-first, operate firearm while intoxicated, carrying a concealed weapon.

Sunday, April 14
None

PIERCE COUNTY Jail Log

Monday, April 8
Blaine Arlie Anderson, 73, Maiden Rock, by Ellsworth police, strangulation and suffocation, battery, theft – movable property, disorderly conduct, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
Drew Daniel Hintz, 22, River Falls, by UW-River Falls police, entry into/onto building/construction site/room, released on \$5,000 signature bond.
Scott Ray Holmes, 44, St. Paul, by Wisconsin State Patrol, possession of THC, possess drug paraphernalia, released on \$500 signature bond.
Cody Nathaniel Hoyer, 36, Faribault, Minn., by PCSO, take and drive vehicle without consent, misappropriate ID info – obtain money, credit card – theft by acquisition, released on \$25,000 signature bond.
Carter Lee McPherson, 28, Sandstone, Minn., by Department of Corrections, probation violation.
Jackie Lynn Onsum, 47, River Falls, by RF police, OWI, released.
Coco Merveille Pierre, 40, Woodbury, Minn., by PCSO, extradition.
Orlando Sanchez Hernandez, 28, Rice Lake, by PCSO, misdemeanor bail jumping, operate without valid license, released on \$10,000 signature bond.
Nicholas Anthony Schultz, 39, homeless, by PCSO, failure to appear warrant.

Tuesday, April 9
Lucas John Edward Armstrong, 48, Welch, Minn., by PCSO, OWI, sentenced.
Kristin Leigh Baum, 36, homeless, by Department of Corrections, probation violation.
Mason Lee Hutter, 43, Ellsworth, by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, felony bail jumping, released on \$5,000 signature bond.
Michael Edward Rohl, 57, Stockholm, by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, released on \$500 signature bond.
Terrence Leshawn Stephney, 43, Stillwater, Minn., by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping, violate foreign protection orders, operate without valid license, false emergency 911 call.
David Joseph Timlin, 44, Ellsworth, by Ellsworth police, probation violation.
Tanya Jean Veal, 42, Rochester, Minn., PCSO, possess drug paraphernalia, probation violation.

Wednesday, April 10
Madison Lee Waldron, 26, Prescott, by Prescott police, disorderly conduct, released.
Troy Charles Hanson, 40, Mindoro, by Jackson County Sheriff's Office, hold for other county.

Thursday, April 11
Darrick James Fox, 39, River Falls, by PCSO, posses-

sion of child pornography, sentenced.
Jamison Andrew Miller, 41, St. Paul, by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, bond reinstated, released on \$5,000 signature bond.

Friday, April 12
Ervin Lee Davidson, 31, St. Paul, by PCSO, possess drug paraphernalia, released.
Travis Wayne Marty, 22, Elmwood, by PCSO, OWI, sentenced.
Ayden Timothy Peterson, 18, Prescott, by Prescott police, second degree sexual assault/use of force, intimidate witness/conspiracy, child enticement – cause mental/bodily harm, false imprisonment, disorderly conduct.
Shillites Michel-la Sanders, 25, St. Paul, by PCSO, resisting or obstructing an officer, possession of THC, possess drug paraphernalia, released.
Eli Felix Rave, 32, Histon, by PCSO, house for other county.

Saturday, April 13
Joseph Thomas Cottrell, 22, River Falls, by RF police, disorderly conduct.
Daryale Donte Harris, 28, Apple Valley, Minn., by Prescott police, felony bail jumping.
Shawn Michael Krasky, 43, River Falls, by RF police, extradition.

Sunday, April 14
None

PIERCE COUNTY Accident Reports

Deputies responded to a motorcycle crash with injury at 3:55 p.m. Saturday, April 13 on County Road O near 480th Avenue in the town of Trimbelle. A 2023 Indi-

an Scout, operated by **Flint Tun**, 37, Maplewood, Minn., was traveling southbound on County Road O when he lost control and struck a guardrail. Ellsworth Area

Ambulance transported Tun to Regions Hospital in St. Paul with undisclosed injuries. Ellsworth Fire Department also assisted at the scene.

ELLSWORTH Police Department Reports

The following incidents were reported to Ellsworth Police Department April 8-14.

Monday, April 8
At 3:48 a.m., a caller requested a person be removed from 404 High Point Drive and said they had been previously trespassed. Police could find no record indicating the person had been trespassed. No action was taken.
At 9:43 a.m., police received a request for assistance in a property pickup/stand by and keep the peace at 136 N. Beulah St. Arrangements were made for a woman to pick up her property.
Possible or attempted fraud was reported at 11:57 a.m. at 610 E. Main St. A woman noticed a \$1 charge from Cenex on her debit card. Management said it was a service fee.
Police and Pierce County Human Services responded at 12:36 p.m. to Ellsworth High School (323 W. Hillcrest St.) for a mental health emergency. A plan was put into place and the student released to a parent.
Officers were dispatched at 9:57 p.m. to a home in the 400 block of East Wall Street for an out-of-control teenager. The juvenile agreed to calm down. Police confiscated drug paraphernalia items sitting out in plain view. Officers returned to the residence to mediate between parent and juvenile at 11:13 p.m. Deputies requested a welfare check at the residence at 7:07 a.m. April 9, but no contact was made.

Tuesday, April 9
A parent called police at 8:18 a.m. to report his daughter had had her nose pierced by a friend in the bathroom the day before at Ellsworth High School (323 W. Hillcrest St.) He did not consent to the piercing and wanted police to take action. The juvenile said she gave a friend permission to do it with a kit she had purchased. Officers told the father they could not take action.
David Joseph Timlin Jr., 44, Portage, was arrested for a Department of Corrections warrant after a traffic stop at 9:02 a.m. at Cairns and Ev-

Wednesday, April 10
Officers assisted county deputies with an interview at 7:29 a.m. at Chestnut and Warner streets.
Police assisted EMS with a possible stroke patient at 3:43 p.m. at 237 Kruger Lane.
Officers conducted a welfare check at 7:51 p.m. at 193 Kruger Lane.

Thursday, April 11
Officers received an animal complaint at 1:26 p.m. at 651 E. Main St.
Police were dispatched to a civil matter at 3:43 p.m. at 627 W. Main St. The complainant had hired another person to complete their taxes, but they were never finished or returned. Police could not reach the hired individual by phone or at home.
Officers assisted county deputies with a loud, single shot heard at 10:54 p.m. at W6856 490th Ave., Ellsworth. Nothing was found.

Friday, April 12
At 6:33 a.m., police were dispatched to 880 W. Crest Lane for a young man without a shirt trying to get in the front door. Police arrived and saw him trying to open the door. He was removed by gunpoint. Once contact was made, police determined the male was special needs and released him to his mother.

ergreen Estates streets and transported to Pierce County Jail.
Police assisted EMS at 11:58 a.m. at 265 W. Hollywood St.
At 12:37 p.m., suspicious activity was reported on county property near the Pierce County Recycling Center and highway shop at 707 N. Brown St. A man reported a white tarp (a possible shelter) in the tree line about 200 yards to the west. The county was notified.
A student was found with a THC vape at 1:18 p.m. at Ellsworth High School.
A suspicious vehicle was reported parked behind McDonald's (159 W. Main St.) at 6:36 p.m. The vehicle pulled away when police arrived.
At 7:36 p.m., a woman reported a package arriving damaged at 466 W. Nelson St. She was informed it was a civil matter.

Saturday, April 13
A woman fell on the sidewalk at 10:43 a.m. near 368 W. Main St. and hit her head, causing a baseball sized lump. She refused EMS transport.
Police responded to a fight in progress at 11:44 a.m. at a home in the 400 block of East Wall Street. Charges were referred for a juvenile and adult male.
Officers assisted EMS at 2:39 p.m. at 260 E. Main St.

Sunday, April 14
Police were dispatched to a noise complaint at 12:47 a.m. at 170 S. Chestnut St. Police didn't find the volume to be unreasonable and advised the resident to keep it down.
Officers assisted county deputies with a crash at 3:27 a.m. at Highway 10 and 490th Street.
Police responded to Pizza Arcade to look for a missing Hager City juvenile at 11:08 a.m. The juvenile was not found. The juvenile had last been seen on Friday at school. The juvenile was located later in the day.
Officers assisted firefighters at a house fire at 1:07 p.m. at 467 W. Spruce St. According to Ellsworth Fire, the fire was contained to a bedroom area in the basement. The homeowner was home at the time of the fire and was able to evacuate when he noticed smoke. There were no injuries, but there was minor smoke damage throughout the house. The cause is under investigation.

PIERCE COUNTY Land Transfers

The following property transfers were recorded by the Pierce County Register of Deeds April 8-12.

Monday, April 8
Maple Tree Holdings LLC to Larson Valley Properties LLC, Lots 9 and 10, Block 6, Original Plat, Village of Spring Valley.
Wade Warren Bergner to Christopher Wold, Lot 4, part of NE-SE and SE-NE, Sec. 9, town of Maiden Rock.
Michael G. Schilling to Noah Whalen, Lot 6, Bennett Plat, Village of Bay City.
Ryan E. Wright to The Bicker Family Trust, Lot 6, Southgate Development, Village of Ellsworth.
Thomas C. & Beth Hirsch to Blake M. & Chelsey L. Skogen, Lot 14, Great Rivers Addition, City of Prescott.
Gary B. Lukes to Jack R. Hannack, a parcel in NW-NW, Sec. 8, Village of Spring Valley.

Tuesday, April 9
Marvin F. & Dell Jane Kannel to Jason A. Kannel, SW-SE, Sec. 24, town of El Paso.
Wade & Amber Fusco to

Danita Rummel, Lot 2, in E ½ of NW, Sec. 19, town of River Falls.
Ryan S. Casper to Michael G. Hines, Outlot 180, Assessor's Plat, Village of Ellsworth.

Wednesday, April 10
None
Thursday, April 11
Gary R. Crabtree to Sophie Bassett, Lot 9, Pleasant View Addition, Village of Ellsworth.
GMTZ LLC to C&J Builders Inc., Lot 43, Southpointe First Addition, City of River Falls.

Mary C. Webb to Michael J. Shields, Lots 5 and 6, Block 3, Nordrum's Addition, Village of Elmwood.
Wendell William Lawin Estate to Cheryl Kirchner, Unit 225, Eagle Point at the St. Croix, City of Prescott.

Friday, April 12
Phyllis Kerg to Douglas L. & Mary L. Johnson Trust, Lot 7 and east 30 feet of Lot 8, Block, 7, Nordrum's Addition, Village of Elmwood.
Thomas W. & Arlene Soderberg to LTE 21160 LLC, Lot 98, College View Fourth Addition, City of River Falls.

PIERCE COUNTY
Classified Ads

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Looking for an experienced CNA, or personal care worker to provide shower assistance to an elderly gentleman 1 or 2 times per week. Must be able to communicate effectively with the client and family. Must be reliable yet flexible. 715 293-2195 Andrew.

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PIERCE COUNTY Sheriff's Office Reports

The following incidents were reported to the Pierce County Sheriff's Office April 8-15.

Monday, April 8

At 8:32 a.m., a woman was arrested at the Pierce County Courthouse (414 W. Main St.) for outstanding warrants.

At 9:39 a.m., police were notified of a traffic hazard created by cable crews with lanes blocked and no signage on Highway 72 near Elmwood. Officers responded and saw the appropriate signage.

Police assisted EMS with a medical call at 11:47 a.m. at W5980 760th Ave., Beldenville.

Officers were called at 12:01 p.m. to assist Wisconsin State Patrol with a vehicle search at Highway 63 and 320th Avenue, Hager City.

Police were dispatched to a verbal dispute at 1:16 p.m. at W11154 840th Ave., River Falls. The male agreed to leave the residence for the evening.

Deputies were notified of a traffic hazard created by contractors working without flaggers at 2:53 p.m. on Highway 72 near Elmwood. They were warned.

At 4:11 p.m., a deputy followed a complainant to N7130 810th St., Beldenville to see if her son was still on the property. He was not located.

Deputies assisted with a vehicle removal at 7:10 p.m. at S135 Newman Ave., Spring Valley.

Officers checked on a suspicious vehicle at 7:45 p.m. near E345 Highway 29, Spring Valley. The driver said he was just hanging out in the area.

A caller reported a noise complaint at 10:28 p.m. at 127 W. Wilson Ave., Elmwood. The caller cancelled police while they were en route.

Police checked on a suspicious car parked at 10:58 p.m. at 445 S. Piety St., Ellsworth. All seemed to be in order.

Tuesday, April 9

Deputies assisted River Falls police at 1:35 a.m. at 177 Highway 65, River Falls. Deputies assisted

Prescott police at 6:27 a.m. at 945 Canton St.

Officers were dispatched to active domestic at 6:31 a.m. at W4419 Highway 29, Spring Valley. Police gathered information from those on the scene.

At 7:55 a.m., police responded for a semi that had struck a stop sign and street sign while making a turn at 620th Avenue and Highway 10, Prescott. The vehicle was located.

At 9:24 a.m., police spoke to a complainant about missing papers at 208 W. Winter Ave., Elmwood.

At 11:25 a.m., a man reported that someone had fraudulently listed his home for sale at W7617 170th Ave., Hager City. He bought the home in November.

A hunting dog was found at 11:42 a.m. at W11788 840th Ave., River Falls.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at 12:47 p.m. at N1211 Fifth St., Bay City. The caller didn't want the vehicle parked in front of the generator. The registered owner was advised.

At 2:43 p.m., a man who appeared for court at 414 W. Main St., Ellsworth, was arrested for a St. Croix County warrant and turned over to St. Croix deputies at the county line.

Officers assisted Ellsworth police at 6:36 p.m. at 159 W. Main St.

Deputies were called to a domestic disturbance at 8:01 p.m. at N2112 County Road K, Hager City.

While checking on a disabled vehicle at 8:32 p.m. at County Road VV and Highway 35, Hager City, police saw drug paraphernalia in plain view. The woman was arrested for possess drug paraphernalia and a probation hold.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at 9:51 p.m. at 530th Street and 730th Avenue, Spring Valley. Nothing was located.

Wednesday, April 10

Officers were dispatched to a possible DNR hotline violation at 1:19 a.m. at N1705 860th St., Hager City. The information was passed onto the wardens.

Several cattle were found in a yard at 7:21 a.m. at N5824 10404th St., River

Falls. The complainant was able to secure them all and was working on finding the owner.

At 9:20 a.m., a motorist flagged down police to report he had struck a dog near 790th Street and Highway 29, River Falls. The dog caused damage to the vehicle's front quarter panel. Police spoke with all involved parties and gathered information.

Police checked on a vehicle pulled to the side of the road at 9:51 a.m. at Highway 29 and 850th Street, River Falls. The driver was making a call before going to work down the road.

At 10:23 a.m., police were called to help with the removal of a vehicle at S135 Newman Ave., Spring Valley. No contact was made.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at 11:16 a.m. at W1952 370th Ave., Maiden Rock. Nothing was located.

Deputies responded to a suspicious activity report at 12:18 p.m. at W3419 850th Ave., Spring Valley. Nothing was located.

Police responded to a civil issue at 1:31 p.m. at S139 Newman Ave., Spring Valley. The complainant didn't answer the door or phone.

Officers assisted at the scene of a grass fire at 1:50 p.m. at N4765 1065th St., Prescott.

Police were dispatched to a noise complaint at 3:55 p.m. at 306 E. Race Ave., Elmwood. The suspect as warned.

Deputies were notified of a runaway juvenile at 11:12 p.m. at an 810th Avenue home near River Falls. The juvenile returned home the next day.

A caller reported lasers being shone at airplanes at 11:28 p.m. at W7145 148th Ave., Bay City. The source of the laser was not found.

Thursday, April 11

A business alarm went off at 12:06 a.m. at W6454 Highway 35, Bay City. It was an employee.

Police responded to a medical call at 9:33 a.m. at N6364 Highway 35, Bay City. An ambulance transported a woman to Mayo Hospital in Red Wing.

At 11:24 a.m., police responded to a suicide at-

tempt at a home on 145th Avenue in Hager City. A person was transported to the Red Wing hospital.

At 5:35 p.m., a complainant reported his mailbox had been hit at W7830 Highway 35, Bay City. There are no suspects.

A possible missing 8-year-old child was reported from a home in the 100 block of May Avenue in Elmwood. The child was located at a friend's house.

Officers responded to a possible domestic at 6:58 p.m. at N3739 Highway 35, Prescott. A female party left for the night.

Deputies assisted Prescott police and Allina EMS with a medical at 7:31 p.m. at 168 Linden Road.

At 10:50 p.m., a caller reported hearing a gunshot in his driveway at W6856 490th Ave., Ellsworth. Nothing was located.

Friday, April 12

Deputies assisted River Falls police at 12:06 a.m. at N7317 820th St., River Falls.

Police pulled over a vehicle for operating left of center at 12:56 a.m. at Maple and Ray streets in Ellsworth. The driver was arrested for OWI and cited for operating left of center line.

At 2:33 a.m., police saw an occupied vehicle parked at N1620 County Road VV, Hager City. The vehicle smelled of marijuana and was searched.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth police at 6:36 a.m. at 880 W. Crest Lane.

Officers assisted fire personnel with a grass fire at 11:45 a.m. at W11986 570th Ave., Prescott.

At 12:09 p.m., a woman reported seeing a juvenile outside her residence at W11652 570th Ave., Prescott, crying. The juvenile said she was fine and missed her parents.

At 3:45 p.m., a caller reported a construction crew parked in front of a residence at W1157 Maryann St., Spring Valley. Nobody was parked there when police arrived.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth Fire at 4:42 p.m. at a grass fire at W7941 County Road KK, Ellsworth.

A man was trapped under a structure at 5:06 p.m. at

W5518 Highway 29, Spring Valley.

An unwanted subject was reported at 5:16 p.m. at W10299 Highway 10, Prescott.

Saturday, April 13

A caller reported cattle in the roadway at 2:51 a.m. at Highway 29 and County Road W, River Falls. None were located.

Police assisted a female with entering her home at 10:53 a.m. at N7317 820th St., River Falls.

Vandalism was reported at 10:56 a.m. at 450th Avenue and 530th Street, Ellsworth. A stop sign had been sawed off halfway up and removed. The town chair was notified.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth police with a juvenile issue at 11:45 a.m. at a home in the 400 block of East Wall Street.

Suspicious activity was reported at 12:05 p.m. near County Road M and 1031st Street, River Falls.

A caller reported a motorcycle in the ditch at 12:32 p.m. near County Road C and 170th Avenue, Hager City. Nothing was located.

At 12:59 p.m., an off-duty Hudson K9 officer reported a vehicle in the ditch at Highway 35 and 830th Street, Hager City. The driver was detained and the vehicle searched after the K9 alerted. The man was allowed to continue on his way after getting some gas.

Officers responded to a motorcycle crash with injury at 3:57 p.m. at County Road O and 480th Avenue, Hager City. EMS transported a man to Regions Hospital in St. Paul.

Deputies assisted River Falls police and EMS with a medical call at 7:47 p.m. at 151 Sunwood Valley Lane.

Deputies assisted Prescott police in trying to locate a woman who had been screaming at 9:41 p.m. near Highway 35 and 1240th Street. The woman wasn't located.

Police responded to a motorcycle crash at 10:33 p.m. at Highway 63 and County Road K, Ellsworth. The driver refused EMS transport.

Deputies assisted EMS with an intoxicated person at 10:43 p.m. at N1602 County Road VV, Hager City.

Sunday, April 14

Deputies assisted RF police at 2:01 a.m. at 657 N. Main St.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth police at 2:49 a.m. at County Road C and Main Street.

A theft was reported at 3:09 a.m. at W9806 Highway 35, Hager City.

Police responded to a single-vehicle rollover at 3:24 a.m. at Highway 10 and 490th Street, Ellsworth. The driver was arrested for OWI-second and transported to a hospital with undisclosed injuries.

Deputies assisted with a fire in a field caused by a minor vehicle crash at 12:50 p.m. at County Road CC and 370th Avenue, Maiden Rock. A tire came off a trailer.

Officers were dispatched to a possible rolling domestic at 4:33 p.m. at 410th Avenue and County Road C, Ellsworth. A woman was cited for possession of THC and possess drug paraphernalia.

Suspicious activity was reported at 8:24 p.m. near 419 Pine Ave., E., Plum City. Nothing was located.

Deputies assisted Prescott Fire with a grass fire at 8:44 p.m. at Highway 10 and 560th Avenue (west intersection), Prescott.

A man agreed to turn down loud music at 8:56 p.m. at 127 W. Wilson Ave., Elmwood.

Monday, April 15

Police checked on a suspicious vehicle at 12:32 a.m. at W4857 Highway 35, Bay City. The vehicle was unoccupied and all seemed to be in order.

Deputies responded to a garage fire at 6 a.m. at N7218 810th St., River Falls.

A complainant reported a discrepancy in a driveway issue at 8:29 a.m. at 50th and 20th streets, Elmwood. The caller said an old driveway was used to build a new driveway and he wished for it to be documented in case of a civil suit. He was advised to document damage using his phone.

A couple of names were found etched in a bathroom door at 10:36 a.m. at 315 W. Race Ave., Elmwood.

PIERCE COUNTY Court Reports

Initial appearances

Blaine Arlie Anderson, 73, Maiden Rock, posted a \$10,000 signature bond April 8 on felony strangulation and suffocation, battery, theft – movable property, and disorderly conduct charges. A status conference is scheduled for 1:45 p.m. May 13.

Beau William Barrett, 23, Prescott, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$500 signature bond April 8 on a possession of THC (as party to a crime) charge. A status conference is slated for 10:45 a.m. May 14.

Drew D. Hintz, 22, River Falls, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$5,000 signature bond April 8 on an entry into/onto building/construction site/room charge. A status conference is set for 1:30 p.m. May 20.

Scott Ray Holmes, 44, St. Paul, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$500 signature bond April 8 on possession of THC and possess drug paraphernalia charges. A status conference is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. May 14.

Alexander V. Hooper, 55, Elmwood, posted a \$10,000 signature bond April 8 on

a felony possess firearm – convicted of out-of-state felony charge. A preliminary hearing is slated for 10:30 a.m. May 28.

Karla Yossiani Jalil Roca, 28, River Falls, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$300 signature bond April 8 on an operate without valid license (second within three years) charge. A status conference is set for 8:30 a.m. Aug. 21.

Roxanna Fay Linder, 42, Ellsworth, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$1,000 signature bond April 4 on battery (domestic abuse) and disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charges. A status conference is scheduled for 11:15 a.m. May 3.

Brooklyn Louise McCabe, 26, Hudson, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$10,000 signature bond April 8 on misdemeanor bail jumping and resisting or obstructing an officer charges. A status conference is set for 4 p.m. April 22.

Marcus Anthony Lee Meyer, 26, Prescott, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$500 signature bond April 8 on a possession of THC (as party to a crime) charge. A status conference is set for 11

a.m. May 14.

Vanessa Renee Olson, 26, River Falls, posted a \$10,000 signature bond April 8 on a felony neglecting a child (no harm and child < 6 years or disability) charge. A status conference is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. May 20.

Ryan Steven Pederson, 22, Prescott, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$500 signature bond April 8 on a possession of THC (as party to a crime) charge. A status conference is slated for 11:15 a.m. May 14.

Kimberly S. Torres, 25, St. Paul, posted a \$10,000 signature bond April 8 on felony possession of electric weapon and felony possession of narcotic drugs charges. A preliminary hearing is set for 11 a.m. May 23.

Closed cases
Blake Edward Halverson, 31, River Falls, was sentenced to one year in jail (294 days credit) and ordered to pay \$718 in unpaid court costs at an April 4 sentencing hearing on a probation revocation. Halverson had been convicted of criminal damage to property (repeater) June 16, 2022 and sentenced to two years of probation.

The charge stemmed from a Feb. 27, 2022 incident.

Joseph Foster Hinton, 19, Hudson, was convicted of resisting or obstructing an officer and fined \$443 April 8. A misdemeanor bail jumping charge was dismissed. The charges resulted from a June 15 incident.

Jennifer Lynne Javner, 33, River Falls, was convicted of resisting or obstructing an officer (repeater) and criminal damage to property (repeater), sentenced to one year's probation, fined \$886 and ordered to pay \$203.61 in restitution (with a 10% surcharge) April 4. Misdemeanor bail jumping (repeater) and disorderly conduct (repeater) charges were dismissed. The charges stemmed from incidents Jan. 1 and Feb. 13 in River Falls.

Jeanette Deltrese Lee Kolpin, 25, Eau Claire, was convicted of felony take and drive vehicle without consent April 3, sentenced to 1.5 years in prison and two years of extended supervision, fined \$518 and ordered to pay \$2,160.80 in restitution (plus a 10% surcharge). Felony second-de-

gree recklessly endangering safety, felony criminal damage to property, felony vehicle operator flee/elude officer, felony bail jumping and operating while revoked (alcohol related) charges were read in but dismissed. The charges resulted from a June 8, 2022 incident.

Lindsay Elizabeth Pascenti, 45, River Falls, was convicted of felony possession of methamphetamine and neglecting a child (specified harm did not occur), sentenced to two years of probation and fined \$961 April 3. Felony maintain drug trafficking place, felony possession of methamphetamine and possess drug paraphernalia charges were dismissed. The charges stemmed from a Dec. 6 incident.

A misdemeanor bail jumping charge against **Kristian Joseph Peterson**, 42, Spring Valley, was dismissed April 3. The charge resulted from a Dec. 20 incident.

Coco Merveille Pierre, 40, Woodbury, Minn., was convicted of felony possession of methamphetamine, sentenced to two years of

probation and fined \$518 April 8. A possess drug paraphernalia charge was dismissed. She also waived extradition to Washington County, Minn., where she is charged with felonies. The charges stemmed from incidents Sept. 1, 2021 and April 8.

Travis Stanlee Taylor, 25, Bay City, was convicted of possession of THC and fined \$500 April 4. A possess drug paraphernalia charge was dismissed. The charges resulted from a July 12 incident.

Deferred cases

Kristian Joseph Peterson, 42, Spring Valley, pleaded guilty to and entered into a deferred judgment of conviction agreement on a disorderly conduct charge April 3. The charge stemmed from a Sept. 19 incident.

Michael Stuart Young, 41, Ellsworth, pleaded guilty to and entered into a deferred judgment of conviction agreement on a disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charge April 3. The charge resulted from a Jan. 7 incident in Ellsworth.

PIERCE COUNTY Traffic and Forfeitures

Livio Vinicio Andrade Andrade, 34, Spring Valley, operating while suspended, \$200.50.

Jordan Nicole Averill, 24, Emerald, speeding, \$200.50.

Faith Nicole Battin, 20, River Falls, vehicle operator fail/wear seat belt, \$10; operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance, \$10.

Stephen Michael Bielinksi, 44, Menomonie, trout fishing – fish with non-artificial bait/hook/lure, \$192.75.

Aria Jamie Branch, 31, St. Paul, non-registration of vehicle/auto, \$175.30.

Jacqueline Noel Brenner, 42, River Falls, speeding, \$225.70.

Lillian Marie Burke, 18, Ellsworth, operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance, \$10.

Jack Thomas Decheine,

23, River Falls, non-registration of vehicle/auto, \$175.30.

Gage Anthony Dreiling, 23, Milaca, Minn., fish without license, \$222.90.

Timothy Lee Elmer, 18, Rosemont, Minn., speeding on city highway, \$175.30.

Erica Anne Frahm, 43, Ellsworth, non-registration of vehicle/auto, \$175.30.

Jeffrey Charles Goodwin, 64, Red Wing, Minn., speeding, \$175.30.

Shannon Marie Grayes, 30, Hudson, vehicle operator fail/wear seat belt, \$10.

Shannon Marie Hassing, 51, Plum City, speeding, \$200.50.

Theodore Paul Hassing, 19, Plum City, deposit or discharge solid waste on public or private property, \$200.50.

Drew Jacob Henson, 18, vehicle operator fail/wear

seat belt, \$10; operating a motor vehicle without insurance, \$200.50.

Allen Joseph Kealii Holzgrove, 23, Burnsville, Minn., speeding, \$175.30.

Scott Michael Hotchkiss, 36, Red Wing, Minn., operate ATV or UTV without valid registration, \$232; illegally operate ATV or UTV on/in vicinity of highway, \$232.

Tyler Ronald Johannsen, 31, Maiden Rock, operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance, \$10.

Peter James Johnson, 34, Cottage Grove, Minn., operate UTV without valid safety certificate, \$232; operate ATV or UTV without required headgear, \$162.70.

Wylie David Jones, 26, Ellsworth, vehicle operator fail/wear seat belt, \$10.

Gage James Korf, 27, Ells-

worth, speeding, \$175.30.

Jason Archie Kuk, 42, Arkansaw, operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance, \$10.

Joshua Robert Larson, 42, Minneapolis, speeding, \$175.30.

Juan Carlos Macas Chunch, 33, Spring Valley, speeding on city highway, \$175.30.

Aiyana Sol Machado, 41, St. Paul, speeding, \$175.30.

Craig Mark Nelson, 38, Champlin, Minn., fish trout without state trout stamp, \$182.70.

Heidi Elizabeth Nybroten, 30, St. Paul, speeding, \$175.30.

William Arthur Oberdeck, 53, Woodbury, Minn., operate vehicle without park admission sticker, \$162.70.

Alexavier Robert Palmer, 21, River Falls, vehicle pas-

senger fail to wear seat belt, \$10.

Rebecca Ann Palmer, 42, Prescott, speeding, \$175.30.

Susan Ruddell Ramonat, 65, Chippewa Falls, fish trout without state trout stamp, \$192.70.

Landin John Ramstad, 17, Red Wing, Minn., speeding, \$200.50.

Megan Marie Rein, 19, Hastings, Minn., speeding, \$200.50.

Rachel May Schillinger, 43, Spring Valley, speeding, \$175.30.

Maxwell James Seipel, 28, Cottage Grove, Minn., operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance, \$10.

Kara Nicole Shary, 17, Spring Valley, speeding, \$225.70.

Zoey Marie Shaub, 30, Wyoming, Minn., operating

motor vehicle without proof of insurance, \$10.

Edward C. Simes, 52, Amery, speeding, \$175.30.

Matthew Allen Stewart, 35, Cottage Grove, Minn., operate ATV or UTV without required headgear, \$162.70; operate UTV without valid safety certificate, \$232.

Hunter Bradley White, 22, Elmwood, transferee fail/apply new vehicle title, \$175.30; operating a motor vehicle without insurance, \$200.50.

Paul Todd Zemke, 62, New Richmond, speeding, \$175.30.

Landyn Andrew Zepczyk, 18, River Falls, illegally construct, use or fail/remove or attach name/address or DNR # to unattended tree stand, \$232.

RIVER FALLS*Police Department Reports*

The following incidents were reported to River Falls Police Department March 22 through April 1.

Friday, March 22
A 16-year-old River Falls juvenile was cited \$98.80 for underage drinking and another 16-year-old River Falls juvenile was cited \$98.80 for speeding on city highway and \$98.80 for underage drinking after a traffic stop for speeding at 11:49 p.m. at Cascade Avenue and Main Street. The teens admitted to drinking with one teen's brother in Hudson. Overall, police found nine empty Twisted Tea cans in the vehicle, along with nicotine vapes. The teens were taken to their homes and released to their parents while the vehicle was parked. The driver registered a BAC of .02.

Saturday, March 23
James Christopher Angelo, 36, Hudson, was arrested and cited \$961 for OWI and \$961 for operating with PAC after a traffic stop for speeding at 2:33 a.m. at Main Street and Quarry Road. When police pulled Angelo over, he hit the curb and parked partially on the sidewalk. He smelled of alcohol and admitted to drinking vodka Red Bulls at Broz. After field sobriety testing, he registered a .129 BAC. He was arrested and released to a sober party while his truck was parked at Kwik Trip.

Jeraun James Carter, 31, River Falls, was arrested for a Ramsey County warrant at 2:35 p.m. at 215 Foster St. He was transported to Pierce County Jail without incident.

At 6:31 p.m., a Dick's Hometown Liquor (1141 S. Main St.) employee reported a man had stolen a six-pack of Coronas, placed them in his backpack and left with the merchandise when confronted. He is a regular customer who comes in frequently and pays with change. He was described as short, in his 30s and balding with a short beard.

Sunday, March 24
Police responded at 9:53 a.m. to Positive Alternatives (2860 Williams Ave.) for a drug complaint. A 15-year-old admitted to smuggling in THC vapes into the group home after a home visit. These were turned over to police, along with the vaping device and a USB cord used to power it. The teen was charged with possession of THC. A 17-year-old juvenile was charged with possession of THC and purchase or possession of cigarettes or tobacco products by person under 18.

Officers were dispatched to a one-vehicle crash at 2:59 p.m. on Highway 35 just south of Division Street. A 2010 Dodge Dakota, driven by **Justin Dodge Gasparas,** 19, Florence, was driving northbound near the Division Street overpass when it lost control on the icy road, collided with the guardrail end and crash. The truck was towed due to disabling damage. No

injuries were reported. Police responded to a two-vehicle crash at 2:48 p.m. at Main and Pomeroy streets between a 2017 Dodge Charger, driven by **Zachary Thomas Anderson,** 22, River Falls, and a 2003 Cadillac Seville, driven by **Harold D. Henson,** 74, River Falls. Henson disregarded a no left turn traffic sign and turned left out of Ace Hardware onto Main Street, where he struck Anderson, who was heading north on Main Street. Both vehicles had minor damage. No injuries were reported. Henson was cited \$98.80 for fail/obey traffic sign/signal.

Mira Nathalie Lenzen, 20, River Falls, was arrested and cited \$98.80 for speeding, \$187 for possession of THC and \$187 for possess drug paraphernalia after a traffic stop for speeding at 3:15 p.m. at Main and Park streets. Inside her vehicle, which smelled of marijuana, police found baggies of marijuana, Raw Bud wrap cones and THC vapes.

At 6:23 p.m., a Holiday (302 S. Main St.) employee reported a younger man for stealing Icebreakers gum. He raised suspicion when he put a candy bag in his pocket, then put it back. The case remains under investigation.

At 7:22 p.m., a 14-year-old was found to have a THC vape cartridge at Positive Alternatives (2860 Williams Ave.) She was charged with possession of THC.

At 8:55 p.m., police pulled over an ATV leaving the Subway parking lot on Paulson Road. The driver, who was 15, said he and his brother were heading home to rural Roberts. The boys' father was contacted and asked that they be allowed to drive the ATV home, since he had no way of trailering it home. The boys were informed there are no ATV routes in River Falls. A DNR warden will follow up on the case.

Monday, March 25
Police responded at 6:25 p.m. to Positive Alternatives (2860 Williams Ave.) for a 14-year-old runaway. Staff said she had been shoveling the back deck and could not be found. At 11:18 p.m., they found her in another resident's bedroom. She had been hiding the whole time. **Octaviss Shavance Norwood,** 51, River Falls, was arrested for a warrant at 8:13 p.m. at 1485 Wildcat Court and transported to Pierce County Jail without incident.

Tuesday, March 26
Police were notified of a hit and run at 10:31 a.m. on the Highway 35 southbound ramp at North Main Street. An unknown vehicle had struck an exit sign. Tire tracks led through the snow to the sign, like the vehicle had been pulled toward the ditch while exiting onto Main Street. At 2:30 p.m., police took a possible misdemeanor bail jumping complaint concerning a juvenile being asked to return cell phones to a person

on which a no contact order is in place. Police documented several conversations and accounts from the people involved, one of whom was charged with contributing to truancy.

Officers responded to a one-vehicle crash at 5:11 p.m. in the parking lot of 1777 Paulson Road. A 2017 Ram 1500, driven by **Kolten Shane Meyer,** 18, River Falls, was exiting the parking lot. Due to slippery conditions and a brake issue, Meyer couldn't stop, hopped the curb and struck a privately owned stop sign. Meyer left the scene but reported the crash. His vehicle had minor damage and the sign was knocked down. No injuries were reported.

At 7:42 p.m., a Kusilek Street resident reported fraud. His wife had received threatening emails and sent \$15,000 to an unknown person through Bitcoin. This had happened three times before and the couple had lost a total of \$48,000. The woman was advised to report to police when she is threatened instead of sending money because it's a scam. The case remains under investigation.

At 10 p.m., police were dispatched to the 600 block of Pine Ridge Terrace for a group of juveniles throwing rocks at houses and kicking doors. They were last seen running east on Pine Ridge toward Pearl Street. Police identified a 13-year-old suspect in a surveillance video donkey kicking a door. He was cited \$187 for disorderly conduct.

Wednesday, March 27
Joshua Allen Calverley, 38, River Falls, was arrested and cited \$250 for operating while revoked (alcohol related) after a traffic stop at 8:33 a.m. at Hamilton Drive and State Street. He was booked and released.

Officers responded at 9:32 a.m. to a two-vehicle crash at Cemetery Road and Knollwood Lane between a 2007 Pontiac Vibe, driven by a 17-year-old River Falls juvenile, and a 2015 Chevy Equinox, driven by **Bonnie Mae Ogilvie,** 74, River Falls. The juvenile was going through the roundabout when Ogilvie, who was heading east on Cemetery Road, merged into the roundabout and struck him. She said she didn't see him. When she struck him, his vehicle spun out and hit a pedestrian sign on Knollwood. The Vibe had functional damage while the Equinox had minor damage. No injuries were reported. Ogilvie was cited \$98.80 for fail to yield right-of-way in roundabout.

At 9:41 p.m., members of the Pierce County Emergency Response Unit were dispatched to W3373 County Road G, Elmwood, for an intoxicated man who had a gun. He had fired multiple shots and potentially barricaded himself. **Justin Michael Wink,** 33, Elmwood, was taken into custody without incident.

Police were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash at 4:26

p.m. in the parking lot of River Falls Area Hospital (1629 E. Division St.) between a 2023 Chrysler Pacifica, driven by **Kerrie Christine Been,** 43, Hammond, and a 2021 Ford Escape, driven by **Jamie Lynn Partyka,** 36, River Falls. Been was leaving the hospital property, stopped at a stop sign at Division Street. Partyka was behind Been, waiting to exit also. Partyka through Been was moving forward, so moved forward and rear-ended her. Both vehicles had minor damage. No injuries were reported.

Officers were notified of a hit and run crash at 6:27 p.m. that had occurred between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the parking lot of CVTC (500 S. Wasson Lane). A 2017 Subaru Legacy, driven by **Haley Ann Stewart,** 18, River Falls, had backed into a legally parked 2016 Nissan Altima, owned by **Olivia G. Johnson,** River Falls. Stewart said she didn't realize she had hit the Altima, which had minor damage. Johnson's vehicle had no damage. No injuries were reported.

Thursday, March 28
At 10:43 a.m., a woman reported a hit and run crash that had occurred at 7:40 a.m. in the drop-off line at Greenwood Elementary (982 E. Division St.) A 2010 Kia Optima, driven by **Mark R. Hudnall,** 50, River Falls, rear-ended a parked 2012 Ford Fusion, driven by **Christine E.A. Neeley,** 42, River Falls. After briefly speaking with Neeley, he left the scene without giving her his name or information. She took a video of him leaving, so police were able to see his license plate. Her vehicle had minor damage while Hudnall's had no damage. Hudnall was cited \$187 for hit and run - unattended vehicle. Hudnall said he would have given Neeley his information if she had asked for it.

At 11:48 a.m., Pierce County Board Supervisor **Michael Kahlow** (District 6), 64, River Falls, reported to police that challenger **Brady Verne Penfield,** 20, Waunakee, was distributing literature stating that Kahlow is a "disgraced former UWRF professor who was forced into retirement in 2022." Kahlow said he retired of his own volition after 30 years of service to the university and that Penfield's statements were a violation of Wis. Stat. 12.05, False Representations Involving Elections. He provided photos and proof of the literature distributed. The case remains under investigation.

Police responded to a two-vehicle crash at 3:47 p.m. at Main Street and Mound View Road between a 2014 Ford Fusion, driven by **Abigail Anne Miller,** 20, River Falls, and a 2015 Chevy Traverse, driven by **Ty Alexander Dorvinen,** 23, River Falls. Both vehicles were traveling northbound on Main Street and slowing for traffic in front of them when Miller struck Dorvinen from behind. She said she looked over at a vehicle stopped on Mound

View Road and thought they were coming forward. The Fusion was towed due to disabling damage while the Traverse had minor damage. No injuries were reported. Miller was fined \$111.40 for inattentive driving.

Officers were notified of a hit-and-run crash at 3:55 p.m. that occurred in the Dollar General (320 N. Main St.) parking lot. A 2004 Ford Taurus, driven by **Jeremy Michael Vadner,** 31, New Richmond, backed up quickly and struck a legally parked 2015 Honda Accord, owned by **Stacey A. Matter,** River Falls, before fleeing the scene. A witness saw the crash and informed the owner. Police located Vadner at 1460 Cemetery Road, where he admitted to the crash. He was cited \$187 for hit and run - unattended vehicle and \$250 for operating while revoked (alcohol related). Both vehicles had minor damage. No injuries were reported.

Police responded to a two-vehicle crash at 5:25 p.m. at Main Street and Cemetery Road between a 2011 Toyota Rav4, driven by **Tammy Marie Chacon,** 44, River Falls, and a 2016 Chevy Cruze, driven by **Jolene Jennifer Robinson,** 48, Prescott. Chacon was traveling east on Cemetery Road, turning left onto South Main Street. Robinson was heading south on Main Street and struck Chacon in a T-bone style manner. Robinson had run a red light. EMS transported both drivers to River Falls Area Hospital with possible injuries. Two juvenile passengers with Chacon, ages 15 and 9, were not injured. Both vehicles were towed due to disabling damage. Robinson was cited \$98.80 for operator violate red traffic light.

A 5 p.m., a 19-year-old transgender person reported an incident at Glen Park (355 Park St.) They said they were at the park longboarding and waiting for a friend. When the 15-year-old juvenile arrived, she had two friends with her, both 15. They were threatening to beat them up, banging on their vehicle and windows. They were able to lock the door and drive away but were quite shaken up from the incident. They said the juveniles had tried to beat them up before. Police located the three juveniles at 6:20 p.m. near Winter and Falls streets. One boy was cited for disorderly conduct.

Officers were notified of a juvenile runaway at 5:30 p.m. in the 500 block of North Pearl Street. A 15-year-old, involved in an incident earlier at Glen Park, had come home; her father said she wasn't supposed to be out, so he took away her phone. She then ran away from the residence. She was located at a home in the 300 block of West Johnson Street and went home with her parents. St. Croix County Human Services was informed.

Saturday, March 30
Police were dispatched at 9:18 a.m. to DeSanctis Park (1625 DeSanctis Place) for a

fight in progress. A woman walking her dog (on a leash) said she was surrounded by off-leash dogs. When she yelled at the owners to get their dogs, one woman, **Kylie Ella Krom,** 27, River Falls, called her a "Karen" and grabbed her phone out of her hand when she tried to take a photo of the off-leash dogs. In the process, the woman was struck in the face and could be heard in a video asking, "Why did you hit me?" Krom admitted to walking her dog off-leash and not following the city's rules. She was cited \$187 for disorderly conduct and \$98.80 for dog running at large - leash required.

At 9 p.m., police met with a complainant at Family Fresh (303 S. Main St.) who reported someone had taken \$258.94 from her Door Dash account. She identified a 34-year-old North Branch (Minn.) man as a suspect. The case is under investigation.

Monday, April 1
Officers were notified of a one-vehicle crash that occurred at 8:45 p.m. March 30 in the Chapman Drive roundabout. A 2024 Subaru Impreza, driven by **Vincent Lee Burger,** 31, River Falls, exited Highway 35 into the Radio Road/Chapman Drive roundabout. Burger intended to take the third exit to cross Highway 35. Prior to exiting the traffic circle, Burger left the roadway, hopped the curb and struck a signpost/wrong way traffic sign. The vehicle sustained disabling damage and was towed from Burger's home. No injuries were reported.

Lilly Janine Bonin, 19, River Falls, was cited \$98.80 for dog or cat running at large at 10:02 a.m. at Falls and Division streets. Bonin said the dog slipped out while she was sleeping.

Police were dispatched at 10:24 a.m. to River Falls Area Hospital (1629 E. Division St.) for an intoxicated man in the waiting room who was there with his wife for an appointment. Staff said the man kept wandering around into place he shouldn't and was crying in the waiting room. The woman told staff she thought he had been drinking and asked for staff to arrange a ride home for them. **Steven Nelson Chezick,** 67, had a hard time walking and smelled strongly of alcohol. He told officers a sober ride was coming to pick him up. While still in the parking lot, the officer saw Chezick back a Suburban quickly out of a parking space and take off over a curb into the opposite traffic lane. He ran a stop sign near the hospital main entrance, accelerated up the hill and turned east onto Division Street, where he pulled over. He refused to get out of the vehicle and had to be escorted out. He performed field sobriety tests at the police station, where he also registered a .193 BAC. He was arrested and cited \$961 for OWI and \$961 for operating with PAC and transported to St. Croix County Jail.

PRESCOTT*Police Department Reports*

The following incidents were reported to the Prescott Police Department April 8-14.

Monday, April 8
Officers responded to a vehicle vandalism complaint at 6:03 a.m. at 1435 North Acres Road. **Megan Marie Albarado,** 30, Prescott, was cited for fail/stop at stop sign after a traffic stop at 7:32 a.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

Dustin Daryl Rusert Felix, 37, Winona, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 3:49 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

Officers received a harassment complaint at 4:12 p.m. at 653 Pine Ridge. Police called the company and determined the call was a spam caller.

People were complaining of a suspicious vehicle and garbage at 4:18 p.m. at Pearl Street and Highway 10. Police found no garbage; the man stated he would move. **Brent Gordon Goodell,** 41, Prescott, was cited for operate without valid license and operating motor vehicle without insurance after a traffic stop at 7:33 p.m. at 1120 Highway 10.

Angel Obed Mazariegos Alvarado, 33, Richfield, Minn., was cited for operate without valid license and op-

erating a motor vehicle without insurance after a traffic stop for an out headlamp at 8:21 p.m. at Cherry Street and Highway 10.

Police checked on a suspicious vehicle at 10:14 p.m. at Dexter Street and Hill Ridge Court. The man said he'd move on.

Tuesday, April 9
David Micheal Berglind, 43, River Falls, was cited for operating a motor vehicle without insurance after a traffic stop for speeding at 6:10 a.m. at Oak and Lake streets.

Officers assisted Homeland Security with a search warrant at 6:15 a.m. at 945 Canton St.

Riley Owen Oesterreich, 27, River Falls, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 6:34 a.m. at Oak and Lake streets.

Michael David Kostlick, 65, Williston, ND, was cited for unsafe lane deviation and warned for speeding and following too closely after a traffic stop at 6:51 a.m. at highways 10 and 29.

At 9:24 a.m., an officer spoke with a citizen about a trespassing/harassment complaint at 120 N. Gibbs St. **Theresa Lee Jorke,** 44, Prescott, was cited for truancy (parental responsibility) at 11:55 a.m. at 125 Elm St. N. **Carlos Mate Sackitey,** 47,

Cottage Grove, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 10:12 p.m. at Cherry Street and Highway 10.

Wednesday, April 10
Manuel de Jesus Lopez Perez, 20, St. Paul, was cited for operate without valid license after a traffic stop at 1:57 a.m. at Jefferson and Walter streets.

Manuel Hernandez Vazquez, 21, Hudson, was cited for operate without valid license and operating a motor vehicle without insurance after a traffic stop at 4:02 p.m. at highways 10 and 29.

At 6 p.m., a caller reporting a group of juveniles throwing rocks by the train bridge. The officer warned them for their behavior.

Police responded at 7:15 p.m. to 1345 Ash St. for an unwanted person. **Madison Lee Waldron,** 26, Prescott, was arrested for disorderly conduct and cited for trespassing.

Thursday, April 11
Andrew Joseph White, 36, Prescott, was cited for vehicle operator fail/wear seat belt, inattentive driving, unreasonable and imprudent speed, failure to notify police of accident and hit and run - unattended vehicle after striking two parked cars at

2:21 a.m. at Gibbs and Helen streets.

Megan Marie Fiedler, 26, River Falls, was cited for non-registration of vehicle after a traffic stop at 2:46 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

At 3:37 p.m., police were notified of a person who refused to leave Boat Drinks (117 Broad St.) Officers walked the person outside and waited for SmartRide to pick them up. The driver knew him and took him home.

Friday, April 12
Curtis Ronald Bartells, 64, Jordan, Minn., was cited for operating with no proof of insurance and warned for speeding after a traffic stop at 5:50 a.m. at 1109 Jefferson St.

Raymond Robert Finne, 45, River Falls, was cited for operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance and warned for speeding after a traffic stop at 7:41 a.m. at Campbell Street and Willow Lane.

A motorcycle theft was reported at 11:24 a.m. at 730 Hilton St.

Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash at 2:54 p.m. at 408 Lake St. No injuries were reported.

Police were dispatched at 10:49 p.m. to 353 Locust St. S. for a disorderly subject. It

was determined to be a miscommunication.

Saturday, April 13
Daryale Donte Harris, 28, Apple Valley, Minn., was arrested for a violation of court restrictions at 2:33 a.m. at 117 Broad St.

Paul Vincentville, 33, Lindstrom, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 10:38 a.m. at Warren and Jefferson streets.

Brian Andrew Voveras, 48, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 11:17 a.m. at Jefferson and Walter streets.

George Andrew Felt, 23, Hastings, Minn., was cited for a stop sign violation after a traffic stop at 3:10 p.m. at Wacota and Jefferson streets.

Misti Renelle Allen Binsfeld, 54, Eagan, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 3:22 p.m. at Warren and Jefferson streets. Police performed a welfare check at 4:06 p.m. at 655 Dexter St. S. A woman was upset over an argument.

Officers were dispatched at 7:46 p.m. to a home in the 600 block of Laura Street for a threat. The case is pending.

Angel Ivan Ramirez Martinez, 26, Apple Valley, Minn.; **Cody William Gray,** 23, Burnsville, Minn.; **Andrew William Haeffner,** 24, Minne-

apolis; and **Aidyn Chad Softich,** 18, Apple Valley, Minn., were each cited for passing in a no-passing zone after four traffic stops at 9:18 p.m. at Jefferson Street and Highway 35.

An officer attempted to pull over a sportbike at 10:16 p.m. at Orange and Court streets. The bike took off over the bridge into Minnesota, at which time the officer terminated the pursuit.

Sunday, April 14
Brandon Timothy Shull, 30, Hastings, Minn., was cited for operating left of center after a traffic stop at 1:56 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

Melissa Baartman Mork, 57, Plymouth, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 3:21 p.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets.

Griffin Mosher Christenson, 18, Blaine, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 3:47 p.m. at Jefferson and Dexter streets.

Police were dispatched for a suspicious vehicle at 6:06 p.m. at 1005 Eagle Ridge Drive. The vehicle was gone when police arrived. They located it at the Event Center (1449 Orrin Road).

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity receives \$500,000 in federal funds

Sen. Tammy Baldwin helps secure money for affordable housing

By Sarah Nigbor

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity has received \$500,000 to support construction of affordable workforce housing in Pierce County, thanks to efforts by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D).

In this year's annual funding package, Sen. Baldwin worked to include \$500,000 in direct support for St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity to assist in building affordable homes to support workforce needs in a rapidly growing region of the state. Housing costs are rapidly rising in this region, she said.

"For our communities to grow and thrive, housing needs to be within reach for Wisconsinites," said Sen. Baldwin. "I was proud to deliver direct support to expand affordable housing opportunities in Pierce County, lowering costs for Wisconsinites and ensuring more families can live comfortably in Western Wisconsin."

"Policymakers, program designers, advocates and implementers must collectively mobilize resources to build sustainable, affordable housing and significantly impact our critical lack of inventory. This award starts that process," said Kristie Smith, Executive Director of St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity. "We are thankful to Senator Baldwin's office, and the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies for recognizing this immense need. This investment in affordable housing is also an investment in generational wealth building and opportunities for more of our neighbors who can change their lives through home ownership."

Smith said SCVHH is one of two Habitat for Humanity

affiliates in the state to receive the award.

"A family should never pay more than 30% of their income on a home. Yet, nearly 1 in 6 families pay half or more of their income on housing in this country. The cost of housing in neighborhoods across western Wisconsin leads our state. Data from the Wisconsin Realtors Association shows that Pierce County median homes sales price in 2011 was \$135,000," said Gina Moe-Knutson, St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity Board President and WESTconsin Realtor. "A decade later that number was \$285,950 and last month it climbed to \$325,000. This Congressionally Districted Spending funding is targeted to increasing housing inventory in Pierce County through the work that Habitat is doing to build sustainable, affordable housing in our communities."

While housing costs have jumped significantly, cost of living/salary increases have not kept up. Smith said available housing inventory is significantly reduced based on the number of home sales.

"So, you've got rapidly increasing median home sales prices with fewer homes available on the market – causing a dramatic challenge for entry level/workforce housing opportunities," Smith said. "The median home sales price in the first quarter of this year was \$335,000. Compared to first quarter in 2007, which was \$175,000 and ten years ago (2014 -1st Quarter) at \$124,500 the numbers reflect the changing marketplace. If you look at numbers just since the start of Covid, when housing demand tightened rapidly, the median home sales price in 2019 before the pandemic was \$225,000 in the county. In 2020, that

same number was \$249,500 and in 2023 that number was \$312,000."

Smith said as more seniors are staying in larger homes where they raised their families, entry level (starter homes designed for young people entering the housing market) opportunities are decreasing.

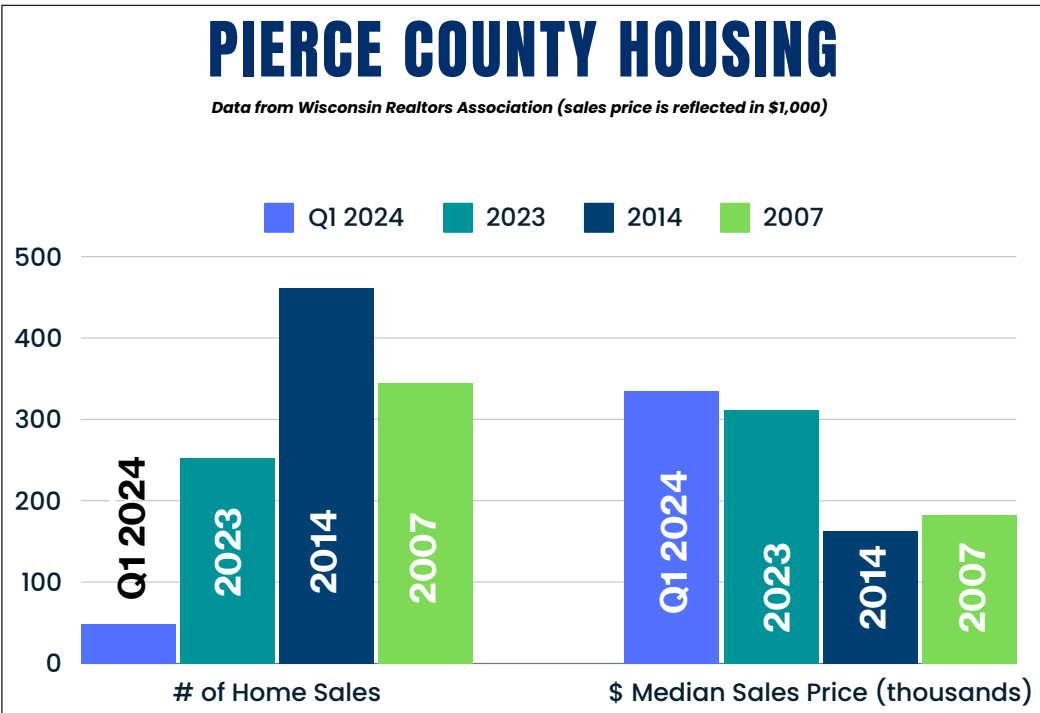
"The main reason seniors are staying in their homes is due to the cost to buy something else. The equity they'd built over the years can't support current market rates," Smith said.

Because Habitat's mission is to help people with safe, affordable housing, it supports a second forgivable mortgage so that a homeowner buys the house they build at fair market value, but their first mortgage is 30% of their income.

"In Pierce County, the Area Median Income (AMI) is \$124,900," Smith said. "Our income guidelines are set at 40-80% of AMI. Actual salary range then is impacted by how many people will occupy the home."

Smith said workforce housing is the biggest issue for employers in the county.

"Without housing, a teacher can't live in the community where his/her school is located. Nor can a healthcare worker, or the local shop owner. Affordable housing is a part of the solution. We are talking with municipality leaders throughout the county to think creatively about solving this crisis together," Smith said. "We're exploring new technologies to increase housing capacity while reducing the overall costs to homeownership. A very specific issue for rural communities comes in the form of usable/available land to build. When agricultural land is made available for affordable housing, infrastructure costs like roads, sewer and



This graph taken from Wisconsin Realtors Association data shows both number of homes sold by year as well as median sales price (in \$1,000). Low inventory plus high costs are adding to the challenges communities are facing as they look to the future. Graph courtesy of Wisconsin Realtors Association

water significantly increase the cost to do this work. Smith made clear that healthier outcomes are associated with safe, affordable homes. As an example, more than 21% of kids with asthma have mold in their homes, she said. Habitat for Humanity has done lots of research on the correlation of health and stable, affordable housing.

She provided a few stats:

Providing access to stable and affordable housing improves health and reduces health care costs. Among households with low incomes, moving into more affordable and stable housing was associated with 18% fewer emergency department visits and 20% more primary care visits, which combined equate to a 12%, or approximately \$580, decrease in Medicaid health care expenditures from the previous year.

Removing physical haz-

ards and improving the safety of homes leads to better health for children and the elderly. Removing asthma triggers, such as pests and mold, from homes, coupled with community case management, resulted in decreased health care use and improved quality of life for children. Repairs and modifications to homes, coupled with home visits by a health care provider, resulted in a 30% improvement in the ability of older adults with low incomes to perform daily activities.

Living in homes in low-poverty neighborhoods or neighborhoods with access to healthy foods can improve physical health and healthy eating.

This grant will be used to increase housing inventory in the county. Smith said Habitat is exploring new technologies to reduce the overall cost to build. In River Falls, in May, they will build a mod-

ular home.

"We also include sustainable building technologies, like solar panels, to help lower utility costs, and insulated cement forms and additional strapping to increase resiliency and protect homes from the damage associated with changing climate impacts like straight line wind and powerful rain and hail," she said.

The availability of affordable housing in the same villages, towns and cities where people work curtails long commutes, keeps people from moving away and offers more time for residents to play active roles in their communities, Smith added.

To learn more from the Healthier Together Pierce & St. Croix Counties 2022 Housing Data, visit <https://infogram.com/1px03evd7p-wjip6tqxp7g991g5cn0pey-j55?live>



Members of the Mahn family gathered in August 2023 at the building site on Lucas Lane in Ellsworth to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new chapel. Photo by Sarah Nigbor

Mahn Family Funeral & Cremation Services celebrates new chapel

By Sarah Nigbor

ELLSWORTH – Mahn Family Funeral & Cremation Services hosted an open house and ribbon cutting with Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce members Wednesday, April 3 to celebrate the completion of the new facility in the Crossing Meadows Business Park.

The funeral home/chapel, located at 587 W. Lucas Lane, is just under 8,000 square feet.

"Our chapel can seat over 100 people and the community room/reception room can accommodate about 100 people," said Vice President Joe Mahn. "We hope that people

find it a welcoming, spacious facility with convenient off-street parking. It is all one level and handicap accessible."

The facility is open and able to serve families now. Mahn said they don't have set office hours yet but are available 24/7 to answer the phone and assist with any questions. They can schedule times to meet at the Ellsworth location as well.

Mahn Family Funeral & Cremation Services also has locations in Red Wing, Rochester, Zumbrota, Lake City and Pine Island, Minn. They chose to expand to Ellsworth after many community members reached out to them asking

them to expand their services. Mahn and several staff members are licensed in both Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Mahn finds being a shoulder that families can lean on in difficult times to be rewarding. He is also thankful for the community's warm welcome and support.

"To know that you're really making a difference is really helpful," Mahn said. "When times are tough, you know that your job matters and you're helping them through the hardest times of their lives. That helps me get up every day."

To learn more, visit www.mahnfamilfuneralhome.com.



The April 3 open house at Mahn Family Funeral & Cremation Services new Ellsworth chapel featured tours of the facility, built at 587 W. Lucas Lane. Photo by Jack McLoone



Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce members celebrated the grand opening of the Mahn Family Funeral & Cremation Services Ellsworth chapel on Wednesday, April 3. Photo by Jack McLoone

Burglary

from Page 1

another north door were still open and the suspect had unlocked the door when leaving.

The police detailed a sequence of events that started with the suspect forcing open the main entrance door on one building, where it was unknown right away if anything was taken. After opening another door in another part of the building, the suspect went to another property and tried to pry open the door without success. That door was then kicked open; police could see a shoe print left on the door (the same print from a previous case). The door was badly damaged and estimated to cost \$300 to replace. The suspect then tried opening a large sliding door (the locking mechanism was unlatched and three tires moved), but couldn't because it was frozen shut. The suspect then took a key from

a Ski-Doo 600 snowmobile. Police found a yellow tool outside the building that was taken into evidence.

At the next building, the suspect knocked down an outside flood light above the main entrance. Officers located a soft black tool container outside the building and could see the suspect had pried pen the southwest door to enter the building, causing damage to the door. They found a large pry bar just inside the door. The suspect then opened the overhead building door and unlocked the main entrance door, stole a Wisconsin collector license plate (valued at \$100) and the 1976 Ford F100. The overhead door was left open.

Police investigation revealed the properties had been burglarized two consecutive nights. Along with the restored Ford, a 4-wheeler and snowmobile had also been taken, totaling more than \$30,000. Other smaller items had also been taken.

Police were notified of a

string of vehicle break-ins that had occurred on the UW-River Falls during the same time frame. Multiple windows had been broken and property stolen. By communicating with Shakopee, Minn. police, River Falls investigators learned that Nestor had been actively stealing from vehicles. He had also been arrested for similar offenses in River Falls in November 2023.

Shakopee officers provided River Falls police with a video/photos of Nestor and his girlfriend, Schwisow, driving a 2020 Buick Enclave. They had been seen together at a pawn shop in Duluth, Minn., on Feb. 13. At 2:58 p.m. Feb. 22, cameras on Woodbury, Minn. captured the Buick pulling a trailer with a red four-wheeler and gray snowblower (from the RF burglary) on it.

Police located the Buick parked at Schwisow's residence in the 500 block of South Wasson Lane on Feb. 23. Officers met with Schwisow and her parents, who consented to a search of the Buick.

Schwisow confirmed she was with Nestor in the Buick when he was towing the trailer. She also confirmed Nestor's presence in River Falls on Feb. 21-22. She said he had taken her vehicle Feb. 21 to meet with his probation officer and had the vehicle from 2:30-10:30 p.m. that day.

After he picked her up from work, she drove him to his home in Askov, Minn. When Nestor drove on Thursday, they were towing the trailer with the four-wheeler, she said. They picked it up in Hammond and took it to Nestor's home, where he stayed while Schwisow went home to River Falls. She said when she questioned Nestor about the trailer that he told her it was "legitimate." He told her he was selling the four-wheeler for someone he knew.

In the Buick, police found several Milwaukee power tools, a pry bar, a trailer hitch, a black book bag and miscellaneous tools. One of the Wasson Lane victims confirmed the power tools were his,

along with antique oil cans. In the center console, investigators found a VIN tag for the stolen F100 pickup.

Other possible burglary-related items found in the car included pry bars, screwdrivers, rubber gloves, a JBL speaker, a plastic bag of change, Milwaukee power tools, oil cans, the VIN tag, a winch, an iPhone, and check books for another man.

Police were able to recover the F100 in the 700 block of St. Croix Street. On Feb. 24, police learned several vehicles and campers had been broken into near the F100's recovery location and appeared to be related to other burglaries around River Falls.

At 6:35 p.m. Feb. 25, a 2013 Ford Focus was stolen in River Falls. At 9:35 a.m. Feb. 27, Minneapolis police arrested Nestor, who had the Ford Focus in his possession. He was transported to Hennepin County Jail. River Falls investigators located a stolen chainsaw from the Wasson Lane burglaries in the Focus, along

with multiple other items.

In a second interview with Schwisow, officers confronted her about providing false information about her whereabouts. Images show Schwisow's vehicle in and around the Twin Cities with and without the trailer, which means Schwisow would not have had enough time to take Nestor to Askov as she had said. She admitted she had lied but refused to provide any clear answers on where she and Nestor had taken the stolen property.

In a separate case, Nestor was ordered to pay \$1,000 cash bail in Pierce County Circuit Court Dec. 5 on felony misappropriation ID info – obtain money, felony forgery – writing or objects, felony receiving stolen property, felony possession of narcotic drugs, theft of mail and criminal damage to property charges.

His next court appearance is an arraignment scheduled for 10 a.m. May 7. Schwisow is set to appear at a preliminary hearing at 1 p.m. May 3.

ELLSWORTH*Area News*

Cheese Curd Festival named #3 Best Specialty Food Festival

The Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival has been recognized as the #3 Best Specialty Food Festival in the USA Today's 10Best Competition.

Kim Beebe, an Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce executive team member and Cheese Curd Festival Committee member, sat down with the Journal for a Q&A on the recognition.

How does it feel for the Cheese Curd Festival to be recognized as the #3 Best Specialty Food Festival in the USA Today's 10Best Competition?

We're thrilled and honored to have the Cheese Curd Festival named the #3 Best Specialty Food Festival in the USA Today's 10Best Competition! It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of our committee, membership and volunteers, as well as the incredible support from Cheese Curd Festival guests.

Being recognized on a national level reaffirms our belief in the uniqueness and quality of our festival. We couldn't be prouder to showcase the delicious flavors and vibrant culture of the Cheese Curd Capital of Wisconsin! We're excited to continue spreading the cheesy joy to even more visitors in the future!

What do you believe sets the Cheese Curd Festival apart from other specialty food festivals?

What sets the Cheese Curd Festival apart from other specialty food festivals is that we are the official Cheese Curd Capital of Wisconsin and thanks to our world renowned Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, our town has been given this claim to fame.

However, we know it takes more than curds alone so our focus is celebrating not just cheese curds, but also the rich cultural heritage and community spirit of Ellsworth. Our festival isn't just about indulging in delicious food (although that's certainly a highlight!), it's about creating unforgettable experiences for our attendees, supporting local businesses, and giv-

ing back to our community through initiatives like our Festival Volunteer Program.

From the abundance of cheese curds and creative cheese curd dishes and tasting experiences, to the entertainment lineup and intimate location in our East End business district, the Cheese Curd Festival is something special and unique. The combination of food, lively atmosphere, and genuine small-town community spirit that makes our festival stand out among the rest.

Can you provide some insight into the process behind the festival's nomination and selection for this prestigious ranking?

The nomination and selection process for the Cheese Curd Festival's recognition in the USA Today's 10Best Competition was both rigorous and exciting. Initially, a panel of experts curated a list of top food festivals from across the country. Once the panel narrowed the list of nominees to 20, it was up to readers to cast their votes and determine the final rankings.

The competition was stiff, and the Cheese Curd Festival had some major competition, competing against nationally recognized and infamous festivals such as Maine Lobster Fest, Waikiki's Spam Jam, Chicago's Windy City Smokeout, and Picklesburg in Pittsburgh.

We watched the leaderboard closely throughout the voting processing and saw the Cheese Curd Festival advancing up the board to #2, and at times even #1! We thank our dedicated supporters and community members who rallied behind us. Ultimately, it was their overwhelming support and enthusiasm that secured our spot as the #3 Best Specialty Food Festival in the nation, making this recognition all the more meaningful and special to us.

How do you think this recognition will impact the festival's future, including attendance and community engagement?

Receiving this kind of national recognition is inval-



Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival celebrates not only delicious cheese, but the culture and heritage behind the tasty morsel. Photo courtesy of Cheese Curd Festival Committee

able. We could only dream for the kind of budget that would pay for this kind of earned media! Being named #3 Best Specialty Food Festival in the nation validates the hard work that goes into the event by so many people and also shines a spotlight on our festival, attracting even more attention and interest from both local residents and visitors alike.

We anticipate that this heightened visibility will lead to increased attendance as people from across the region are drawn to experience the festival firsthand. Additionally, we expect this recognition to strengthen the sense of pride and excitement among community residents, businesses, and volunteers.

What are some of the key attractions or highlights of the Cheese Curd Festival that you think contributed to its success in the competition?

There are several things that set the event apart. Obviously, cheese curds top the list. They have a bit of a cult following, and the fact that we make them right here in Ellsworth is huge for cheese curd fans.

Attendees also enjoy the wide array of unique and creative cheese curd dishes. From sweet to savory, people like trying all the different cheese curd food offerings. They also enjoy experiencing

all the foods at the festival in new ways, which is why our tasting events, like Craft & Curd and the Cheese Block Party, are so popular.

The location of the event is also a big draw. Attendees are always commenting on the intimate space, friendly people, and overall vibe of the event. The Festival Volunteer Program that supports local non-profit organizations, also resonates with attendees and fosters a sense of pride and connection to the festival.

Overall, I would have to say it's this combination of the delicious food, the unique location, lively entertainment, and genuine community spirit that has contributed to the Cheese Curd Festival's success. The festival showcases the hospitality of our community!

How does the festival showcase the unique flavors and culture of Ellsworth, particularly in relation to cheese curds and dairy products?

At the Cheese Curd Festival, we go beyond just celebrating cheese curds—we offer a diverse range of tasting experiences that showcase the unique flavors and culture of the region, particularly in relation to cheese and dairy. Our Block Party cheese tasting, provide attendees with an immersive journey through Wisconsin's rich dairy heritage by interacting with cheese ex-

perts who share the stories behind over 30 different artisan cheeses. At Corks & Kegs, guests can indulge in unlimited sampling of regionally crafted beer, wine, and hard cider, many sourced from within a 40-mile radius of the festival, all while mingling with fellow enthusiasts. Craft & Curd Paired takes the experience a step further, as local breweries compete to create the perfect brew and cheese curd flavor pairing, allowing attendees to act as judges in this intense competition. And for those with a sweet tooth, our Milk & Cookie Pairing and Ice Cream Tasting events are delicious and fun for all ages. Through these tasting experiences, the Cheese Curd Festival celebrates our region's foods and pays homage to the agricultural heritage that has shaped our community for generations.

Can you share any memorable moments or experiences from past festivals that you believe contributed to the festival's positive reputation?

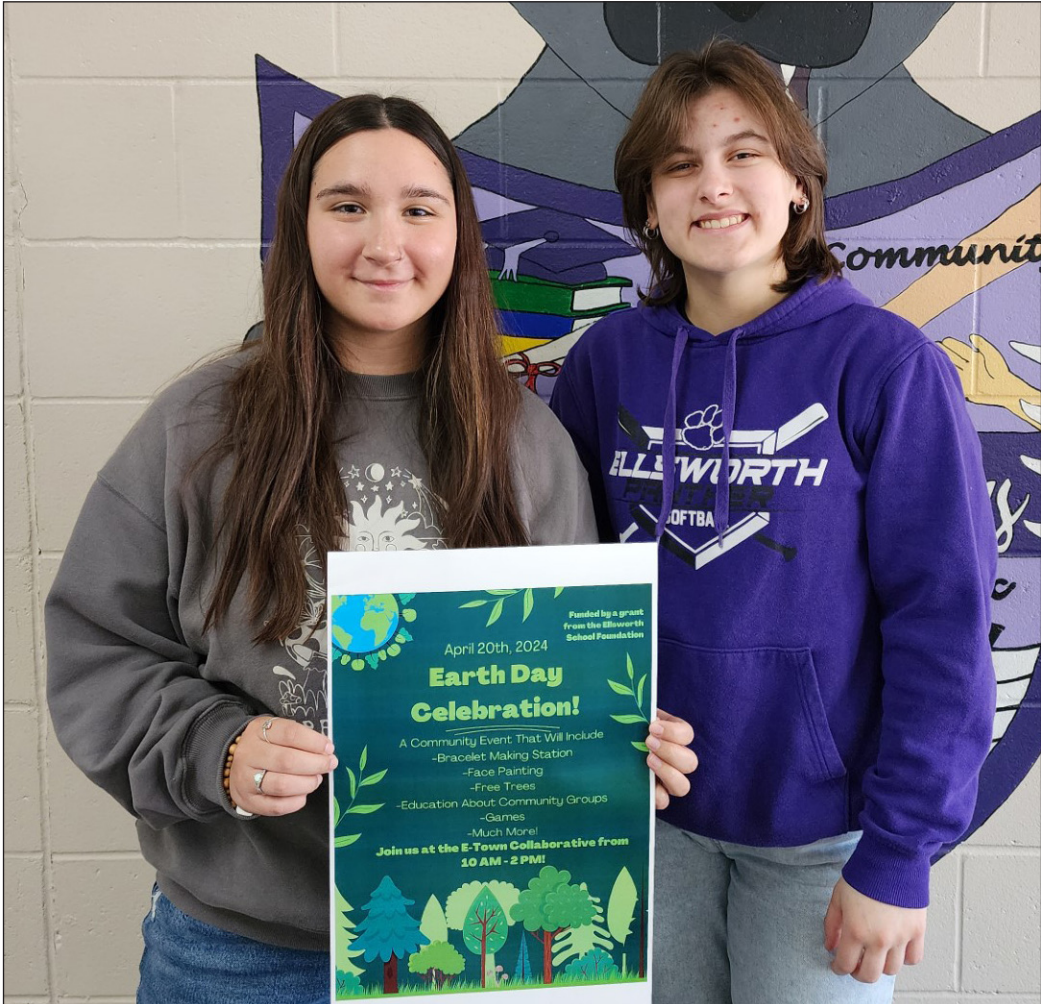
For the Cheese Curd Festival Committee, the little things are big things. It's the details and unique touches that make a lasting impression on attendees. Attendees arrive on the shuttle buses and the first thing they see is a big welcome display. They always stop for a selfie. We have a festival mural—everyone grabs a marker and adds their creative touch. They stick a pin in the map to show how far they've traveled to be here for the event and are shocked to see every continent (except for Antarctica) represented! The kids playing with the straw bales and corn in the kids' playland area, laughing and in a moment of pure joy. Competing in the Cheese Curd Eating Contest, because even if you don't win, you get to say you tried. Those are the moments people remember and hold on to after they head home.

How does the festival contribute to the local economy and community development in Ellsworth?

The Cheese Curd Festival plays a pivotal role in contributing to the local economy and community development in Ellsworth in several ways. The festival serves as a major economic driver by attracting visitors from near and far, who in turn patronize local businesses such as restaurants, shops, and accommodations, stimulating spending and generating revenue for the community. The event's economic impact is estimated by the Wisconsin Department of Tourism each year to be \$2.55 million. Additionally, the festival provides a platform for local artisans, vendors, and businesses to showcase their products and services, fostering entrepreneurship and supporting the growth of small businesses within Ellsworth. Proceeds from the festival are reinvested back into the community through initiatives such as the Festival Volunteer Program, which supports local non-profit organizations and contributes to the overall well-being and vitality of Ellsworth. The Cheese Curd Festival not only celebrates the rich culture and culinary heritage of our town but also serves as a catalyst for economic growth, community engagement, and development in Ellsworth.

What message would you like to convey to attendees, sponsors, and supporters of the Cheese Curd Festival considering this achievement?

As we celebrate this achievement, we are reminded of the number of people in our community who make this event possible and have helped it grow into what it is today. To our committee, sponsors, members, volunteers, supporters, and guests, we thank you for the role you play making the event possible each year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to this year's festival on June 21 and 22, 2024, as we continue to create unforgettable memories and celebrate the delicious flavors and vibrant culture of Ellsworth.



Ellsworth High School seniors Maya Bueso (left) and Josie Pechacek show the poster for their April 20 Earth Day event, to be held at E-Town Collaborative. Photo by Sarah Nigbor

EHS seniors plan Earth Day event

By Sarah Nigbor

ELLSWORTH – Community service and volunteering is an important curriculum component at Ellsworth High School, as evidenced by the number of service learning projects completed by students.

Seniors Maya Bueso and Josie Pechacek have planned an Earth Day event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at E-Town Collaborative (259 N. Broadway St.) The duo is excited about the variety of activities to be offered.

Attendees can look forward to nature-themed face painting, picking up free trees from Pierce County Land Conservation Department, a reading event hosted by Ellsworth Public Library,

games, a land conservation water display, bracelet making station for kids, planting station, refreshments, and community organization booths (Ellsworth Dog Park Committee, Ellsworth Trails, E-Town Arts and Ellsworth Community School District Foundation).

This is Bueso's fifth service learning project. She wanted to tackle more hours and asked Pechacek to join her. The girls dived into planning the event, rounding up participants and researching what trees would be best for this region (to give away for planting).

"I think it's important to be environmentally aware of pollution and littering," Bueso said. "The event is to promote education toward

things like that."

Pechacek has experience with projects such as hosting a tennis camp and coordinating Ellsworth Gift Box, but she said this is one of the more complicated events she's taken on.

"We arranged it and will have to find more people to fill in spots," Pechacek said. "We are waiting to see if a beekeeper would be willing to participate too."

The event will also feature door prizes such as gardening tools, stainless steel water bottles, garden gloves, kids garden kits, and reusable grocery bags.

The event was made possible by a \$1,000 grant from the Ellsworth Community School District Foundation.

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 25 and 1 p.m. Thursday, May 9. 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.

Discovering Together Tuesday will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 14. Stuart Stotts, author, musician, and educational presenter will join us virtually to share the story of Lutie Stearns. Lutie co-founded the Traveling Libraries of Wisconsin in the late 1890s and spent years afterward traversing the state, bringing books and

spreading the gospel of reading. Lutie was a powerful advocate for every community providing literature to enrich the lives of its citizens. You will be inspired by her story and will come away newly committed to the power of libraries to build a kinder and more equitable society. A meal sponsored by the Ellsworth Senior Center and the Friends of the Ellsworth

Public Library will follow the presentation.

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

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RIVER FALLS *Area News*

City annexes 22 acres from Town of River Falls

By Sarah Nigbor

RIVER FALLS – The River Falls City Council voted unanimously April 9 to annex 22.66 acres from the Town of River Falls and zone it R-2 Multiple Family.

The annexation petition, submitted by Andrea and Luke Chaffee and Kevin and Cynthia Haskins, includes two parcels adjacent to Highway 29 south of town/Larson Park. A developer has expressed interest in building 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.

During public comment, 805th Avenue resident Mike Miraldi asked the council to consider zoning it R1, which he said was more in keeping with the character and value of the properties adjacent to the two parcels, particularly

on the south side. He also felt the R1 designation would be “more respectful due to the sweat equity property owners have put into their properties to maintain the character and value.”

Aldersperson Sean Downing asked City Administrator Scot Simpson why city staff was recommending R2 versus R1 zoning.

“The R2 is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. We just finished the process of engaging the community in future land use planning, what they see for as a vision of the community and as a result of that, the R2 classification would be more consistent with the Comprehensive Plan,” Simpson said. “In particular, this is adjacent to a planned unit development and some higher density just across the street. It has proximity to a park and we’re looking for ways as a community to build reasonable density into areas and so R2 seems to be a fit in staff’s mind given those factors.”

He added that in Focus River Falls, staff heard res-

idents’ request to address housing needs and adding density is a way to do that.

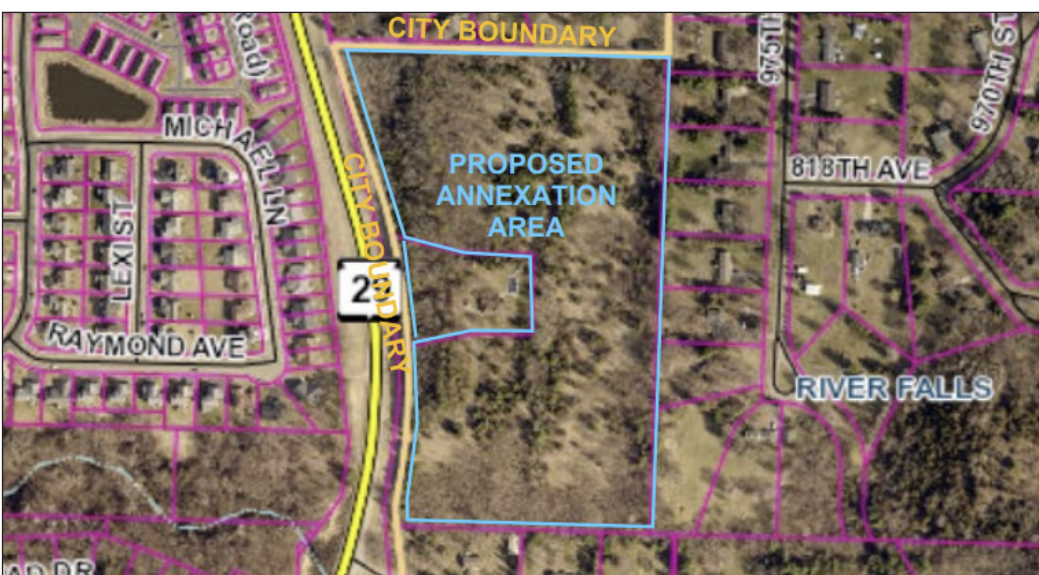
“Where there’s opportunities for infill housing, in this case it’s kind of surrounded by existing development, it’s an infill project, it makes sense to us to do some density, and it’s R2, so it’s not a high density classification, it’s a medium density classification,” Simpson said. “A lot less opportunities to add more supply, for people to get housed, if you go with R1.”

Aldersperson Diane Odeen agreed it’s the right zoning move.

“One of our most pressing needs is affordable housing, small housing, denser housing ... that’s an issue that’s affecting not only our community but nation-wide,” she said.

Elections

During public comment, Downing commented on the national trend of not enough people running for local office. According to the Wisconsin Policy Forum, 52% of 188 cities and villages are av-



The River Falls City Council voted April 9 to annex two parcels totaling 22.66 acres from the Town of River Falls south of Larson Park. Map courtesy of City of River Falls

eraging zero to one candidate per election.

“A vibrant democracy does require different people stepping up, sacrificing their time and family commitments to be a part of this,” Downing said. “I just want to highlight that because I think often times we get sucked into the national election cycle and we spend a lot of time thinking

about that. We probably don’t think about the way we conserve elected spots locally.”

Clerk Amy White said 41% of registered voters voted in River Falls April 2.

Other business

Mayor Dan Toland reappointed Michael Metro to the River Falls Public Library Board through July 2027 and

Amber Bjork to the Utility Advisory Board through May 2027.

The city proclaimed April 26, 2024 as Arbor Day. River Falls has been a Tree City USA Community since 1994.

The city designated April 15, 2024 as Purple Up Day in honor of military children residing in River Falls.

RF School Board celebrates Wildcat Pride, FFA

By Sarah Nigbor

RIVER FALLS – The River Falls School Board meeting March 25 focused celebrating successes within the district.

Board member Mike Miller presented a Wildcat Pride Award to River Falls Lions Club members for their support of the district’s schools and students.

“The Lions have displayed the willingness to care, support and love our students with scholarships for diabetic students to attend Camp Needlepoint, vision screenings for all of our elementary students, financial support to students in need of glasses and mental health support, and sponsored motivational speakers for students,” Miller said.

He presented a second Wildcat Pride Award to Meyer Middle School students and staff for being chosen as a 2024 State School of Character. “Your impressive ability to succeed at character devel-

opment has had a significant impact on academic achievement, student behavior and the school climate within the community,” Miller said to Principal Mark Chapin, who accepted the award.

Next, River Falls High School freshmen FFA members spoke about the history and significance of the FFA Creed, which helps establish the organization’s collective vision and goals with the intent of providing purpose and direction. Written by E.M. Tiffany, an agriculture professor at University of Wisconsin, in 1928 and officially adopted by the National FFA organization in 1930, one of the first activities for new FFA members is to memorize the FFA Creed.

“This short, five-paragraph creed has transformed many a shaking, nervous freshman into a confident and articulate FFA member,” Luther said.

After their recitation of the creed, Board President Stacy Johnson Meyers called their

performance “very impressive.”

Personnel

The board approved the following personnel changes:

Hiring Kara Reich as a part-time long-term substitute physical therapist for March 4 through June 4 (for MiKayla Sanocki).

Hiring Heather Vogel as a part-time long-term substitute physical therapist for March 4 through June 4 (for MiKayla Sanocki).

Hiring Melissa Fierro as a full-time long-term substitute eighth grade math teacher at MMS for March 8 through May 24 (for Lindsay McLain).

Hiring Reagan Stocker as a full-time limited term substitute school counselor at RFHS March 11 through June 7.

Hiring Annabel Reimers as a full-time long-term substitute first grade teacher at Westside Elementary School March 13 through May 31

(for Alyssa Schluessler).

Hiring the following short-term, on-call substitute teachers: Myah Olson, Katherine Keehr, Savanna Frie, Carissa Nelson, Heather Lane, Michael Stoskopf, Even Pechacek.

Resignation of full-time RFHS school counselor Emma Fowler at the end of the school year.

Resignation of River Falls Public Montessori full-time special education teacher Molly Chapman at the end of the school year.

Resignation of full-time Rocky Branch kindergarten teacher Lauren Thomforde at the end of the school year.

Resignation of seventh grade MMS math teacher Riley Sutton at end of the school year.

Retirement of full-time Rocky Branch kindergarten teacher Rita Sommerfeldt after 32 years of service.

Retirement of full-time Rocky Branch fourth grade teacher Pam Friede after 33

years of service.

Retirement of full-time MMS seventh grade math teacher John Witt after 34 years of service.

Retirement of full-time MMS health teacher Lisa Lockie after 35 years of service.

Other business

River Falls High School principal Kit Luedtke spoke about RFHS’s building goal of making sure kids are college and career ready. He highlighted the recent successful career fair where students practiced interviewing with potential employers.

Renaissance Charter Academy Principal Chris Silver spoke about his building’s goal of understanding basic financial concepts and developing a financial plan for the future. Students have been learn how to fill out a 1040 tax form the old-fashioned way and buying and insuring a vehicle.

MMS Principal Mark

Chapin spoke about his building’s progress on rolling out standards based grading next year.

Superintendent Jamie Benson said construction on referendum projects should mostly begin in Summer 2025.

A new English Language Arts curriculum has been selected for grades K-5 after 11 months of collaboration. The committee chose “Collaborative Classroom” for the following reasons: Teachers know students as readers, consistent lesson structures, targets small group phonics to mastery (K-2), emphasizes word study, allow for focus on effective literacy instruction, strong vocabulary instruction; students are talking, reading and writing about texts; practices social skills to promote characteristics of a learner, effectively guides students through the process of writing, and more.



Rush River Brewing, located at 990 Antler Court in River Falls, features a large taproom, outdoor pergola and spacious lawn. Photo courtesy of Rush River Brewing



When Rush River Brewing moved from Maiden Rock to River Falls 17 years ago, they began a bottling line. Photo courtesy of Rush River Brewing

Rush River

from Page 1

“Originally the plan was just to be like a Willy Wonka’s factory, have a truck come, pick up the beer and go away with it,” Anderson said. “The margins of the taprooms are growing very quickly and it became a necessity.”

They switched gears from being a production only brewery to focusing more on the taproom experience. At the time he co-founded Rush River Brewing, Minnesota was their biggest market. There were five breweries whereas how there are more

than 200, Anderson said.

“We kind of changed our motivation from being a production brewery to kind of focusing more on the taproom. That’s been the big focus in the last five years,” Anderson said. “Things have changed a lot and we’ve kind of had to shift our business operation. Now we’re more focused on the taproom more than anything.”

They distribute kegs and bottles throughout eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. The taproom features 16 rotating options with something for everyone.

“We are always coming up with new things. We have three new beers that we’re waiting to put on. All English style ales. We have something for everybody. Light beer, sour beer, several IPAs,

Unforgiven Amber Ale is our flagship, barrel aged stuff in collaboration with Tattersall,” Anderson said.

Twenty years of brewing have given Anderson and his brewers ample time to experiment and create new flavors and brews.

“We have a lot of infusions of our beers and a lot of that comes from Brett and James,” Anderson said. “Time has been on our side. We’ve had a lot of time to experiment.”

“When we got into it, we were not heavily financed. We did things slowly and steadily because we did not have big money behind us. The goal was to grow slowly and become a part of the community. We are really blessed to have a wonderful community behind us. They

have been tremendous and I think we just fit right in.”

Anderson thought about going to the Twin Cities when they moved from Maiden Rock, but felt River Falls made more sense.

“Wisconsin is a good beer-drinking state and they support their own local businesses,” he said. “We’re in a great spot with the great metropolitan area near us. This is where we wanted to be. I am quite pleased.”

Rush River has made an effort to cultivate partnerships with local food trucks, artisans and vendors as evidenced by the number of events hosted at the taproom. Classic car shows, live music, indoor and outdoor markets, and other events are common at Rush River, making for a family-friendly

atmosphere.

“We are blessed to have a big outdoor area with the pergola, the large lawn and plenty of indoor space as well. That’s the goal, is to try to keep the place filled at all times with whatever we can do,” Anderson said.

“We host private and public events. We’re wide open for everything.”

Rush River Brewing Co. is located 990 Antler Court, River Falls. Visit <http://rushriverbeer.com/> to learn more.



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PRESCOTT

Area News

Prescott City Council disagrees over controversial

Small Box Discount Store Ordinance

Mayor's vote breaks tie in split vote

By Danielle Boos

At the April 8 regular Prescott City Council meeting, alderperson disagreed on an amendment to city code dealing with small box discount stores.

Aldersperson Dar Hintz said the addition will offer some guidelines such as making sure stores are 7,000 feet apart, have a customer service number available for complaints, and a dedicated area offering lean proteins and healthy greens, etc.

"These are just some ways that we can address the Family Dollar, the Dollar General. My personal opinion is that they offer many positive things as far as cheaper prices for residents who live on a very limited budget; however, there has to be some sort of balance," she said. Aldersperson Bailey Ruona said further definitions may be needed. Aldersperson Pat Knox said he feels it is too detailed and "we're somewhat legislating our way to discourage businesses." Ruona added it will be hard to enforce and create complications. City Administrator Matt Wolf said Prescott would be the second city in the State of Wisconsin to have an ordinance like this and that since it is relatively new, it has not been tested in court cases.

As the council discussed complaints from residents and the possible future ramifications of the ordinance, Knox expressed his opinion.

"I don't like saying that we don't want a business. If the business wants to take the chance and invest in our community and then if people don't like it, then they don't have to shop there. But to start saying we don't want stuff, I think it sets a bad precedent and that's just where I sit on it. I would not approve this. I would vote no."

Aldersperson John Peterson motioned to approve the ordinance to a second



Aldersperson Pat Knox (left) expresses his concern over discouraging businesses from coming to the City of Prescott while Aldersperson Maureen Otwell (center) and Aldersperson Bailey Ruona (right) agree. Photo courtesy of Prescott Community Television

reading with a second from Hintz. Peterson, Hintz and Aldersperson Lindsey Owens voted to approve while Ruona, Otwell, and Knox voted against the ordinance. With a rare split vote, Mayor Robert Daugherty broke the tie by voting to approve the first reading of the controversial ordinance.

Highway 10

Wolf updated the council on the highway agreement with the Department of Transportation. The DOT is planning to reconstruct, mill and repave US Highway 10 past the 29 and 10 intersection and State Highway 35 up to Wacota Street. Wolf reminded the Council that the DOT is requiring the city to sign a financial and maintenance agreement.

"Ultimately what we have decided is to move forward with those agreements," he said.

He added that financially it would be a cost share for the city of \$238,000.

"A majority of this is due to the sidewalk that was previously discussed going up State Highway 35, also a portion of sidewalk on State Highway 29 as well," he said.

The cost includes the mill and overlay of the parking

downtown for which the city is responsible for maintaining.

Ruona, Knox, and Otwell said they tried numerous times to negotiate with the DOT and find a path forward with them. They are frustrated as they also reached out to many state representatives.

"It's the big guy versus the little guy honestly. We have to basically take responsibility for maintaining that highway for X amount of years," said Ruona.

"This maintenance agreement is basically a passing the buck from Madison to pay for this on the State DOT program onto the municipalities. So, any tax break that occurred on your state income taxes is now going to be added to your city taxes to cover this," he said.

He added that in a city the size of Prescott, they don't have the equipment to do this.

Ruona said the council is trying to do right for the city, and they want the sidewalk up to Freedom Park or further if possible and they want to make it safer for children to cross the street in that area. In order for that to happen, the city has to enter into this contract with the DOT.

"On that note I would make a motion to approve,

the plan is for a resident project representative to be onsite when work is being done. Ruona questioned if the city is paying for the lodging and transportation mileage.

"Yes, it is not to exceed cost," said John Strand via cellphone. "So, it includes time, labor and expenses."

He further explained that he doesn't anticipate lodging, but it would need to be covered in the agreement if the need arose.

"It's just interesting, I have not seen it laid out like that in a contract before," Ruona remarked.

Paving projects

Monarch Paving Company was awarded the bid for the 2024 mill and overlay of Cherry and Monroe streets and Willow Lane for \$235,627.40. Wolf said he reached out to five companies but only received one bid.

"The bids that did come in were substantially lower than what the projects were estimated at," said Wolf.

The city will pay for Monroe Street and Willow Lane out of reserves from the Capital Fund. "However, we would be reimbursing that from interest earned on our 2023A bond that we've accumulated for Locust, Elm and Washington Street, once that project is finished," he explained.

He added that for Cherry Street the funds would be coming out of Tax Increment District #4.

"Since interest rates have gone up, we've received a substantial larger amount of interest earnings from various revenue that we have that we're using to invest instead of having to take out debt," Wolf said.

Other business

The city entered into a 36-month renewal agreement with Computer Integration Technologies, Inc. for IT managed services at a price of \$1044 per month. Wolf said while the agreement is \$300 lower per month, they will now be charged for service hours on a monthly as use basis.

The council approved the first reading of zoning

ordinance amendment that changes the 25-foot rear yard setback to a zero rear yard setback for a C1 District unless it's a non-fire proof construction; then it would have to meet the minimum 10-foot building code requirement.

With the Prescott Public Works Department taking on more internal projects, Wolf said PWD asked to trade in the current excavator for a large size excavator and purchase a John Deere 325G Compact Track Loader. The Finance Committee recommends purchasing the items instead of leasing. The price for the equipment with the trade in comes to \$125,643.36. Wolf said they city has an unaudited restricted balance in the Capital Fund of \$383,258 that would be used to purchase these items. The council unanimously approved the purchase agreement with Midwest Machinery Company for \$125,643.

"This expense does wind up saving us money in the long run on work that has to be done on roads and water things and stuff like that," Knox said.

To the applause of his fellow council members, Daugherty commended Knox for his years of service as Ward 5 representative. He chose not to seek re-election in April.

He stated, "Council Member Patrick Knox has displayed true dedication to his position, outstanding leadership, sincere concern for all citizens of the City of Prescott, and devotion for the common good of Prescott. Now, therefore, upon motion duly made, seconded and passed by a majority vote; be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Prescott as follows: Patrick Knox is commended for the years of dedicated service you have given to the City of Prescott and its residents. We all wish you great health and success in all endeavors."

Daugherty also commended Ruona for her years of service as an at large alderperson and repeated the same proclamation used for Knox. She ran as a write-in candidate but was defeated by Michael Gerke.

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CLUB

Student of the Week

The Prescott Community Club Student of the Week for April 17 is Prescott High School sophomore Amanda Miller, nominated by physical education teacher Jordan Hansen.

"Amanda is always great to have in class," Hansen said. "She brings a positive attitude and a smile every day. Currently she has weight training class and gives her best effort in everything we do. Recently Amanda had gotten an injury during track and was unable to participate in a major portion of our daily activ-

ities. Instead of sitting on the sidelines, Amanda has found ways to help the class out by recording data during out sprint days. Amanda's work ethic and willingness to help when injured has earned her the Community Club Student of the Week."

Amanda is the daughter of Kathy Miller and Scott Miller. The honor roll student plays club volleyball and is a member of the PHS volleyball and track teams. She plans to attend a four-year college to study marketing and advertising.



Amanda Miller
Submitted by Prescott High School

PHS announces 2024

Prom Court!



Congratulations to Prescott High School's 2024 Prom Court who include (back, from left): Caidan Arnston, Teddy Bernick, Owen Bayer, Deitrich Eich and Brandon Kinneman; (front, from left) Nicole Hudak, Jeanne Rohl, Katie Huppert, Lois Teerling and Bianca Gangi. The Grand March and Coronation will take place on Saturday, April 27. Photo courtesy of Prescott High School

Train cam

from Page 1

to a train crews authorizing specific train movements, detecting blind spots and other hazards.

Luth explained ATCS as a radio signal released by a train as it goes by, which could be picked up by radio and converted to a display showing where a train is going, the track it's on, etc. However, the Federal Communications Commission made radio operators change radio frequencies and they can no longer pick up the ATCS signals.

"Originally, I was approached because I am a ham radio operator and I live right on the train lines," Luth said. "Most of my property is BNSF property."

For years he monitored train locations using ATCS, so when the FCC made its rule change, he was upset. He decided to put up a camera in April 2018. The rest is history.

"I found out very quickly that there's a lot of train fans out there, so I put up another (in Wadena, Minn. in September 2021)," Luth said.

He has since added cameras in Richville, Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, St. Cloud, Staples, and Little Falls, Minn. Prescott's, which was installed last week on the Scab's Place deck pointing toward the lift bridge, is the latest. Luth has 16 live cameras on his Otter Tail channel and one livestream on Rumble.

"The neat thing about Prescott, is that it is a PTZ

(pan, tilt, zoom) cam," Luth said. "It can move around 360 degrees. It can show the marina, both bridges, the entrance. We're not stuck in that position. When something goes through, we can follow whatever goes through. It's not just an IP cam that's pointing in one direction at all times."

Luth said he relies on viewers to do what he does. Once a top videographer for motorsports in Minnesota, an auto accident a couple years ago forced him to give up filming. He now focuses on his train cams.

"Viewers help with almost everything that we do. We keep a log of all of the trains that go by all our cams. There is a log on Prescott that just started today," Luth said Wednesday, April 10. "What type of train, engine number, type of cargo, number of cars, we count how many axles."

The Prescott train log can be viewed at www.prescott-tlog.net.

"We kind of do this for safety's sake," Luth said. "That is what the train fans like. We also have a database where I put a link on the log and you can click on that link and find out where the train was manufactured and when. I've been working on that database since 2018 and it has almost 20,000 entries. On our chats we have a bot that helps us (a night bot), and it knows the weather in every single county in the US."

Luth works with a network of 10-15 views that help him keep the logs. His latest expansion into Prescott was due to viewer suggestions. He is also looking to

install a train cam in Hastings.

"I'm looking for someone that has a good view in the Hastings area," Luth said. "I contacted Al at Scab's Place. One of the nice things about what we do is we don't charge a sponsor fee. I pay for the equipment and installation."

Luth's channel has between 12,000 and 13,000 subscribers. He believes if businesses are kind enough to loan him electricity and internet to run his cameras, he can advertise their logo for free.

"The camera is like running three 80-watt light bulbs," Luth said. "The payoff is well worth it for them because they're getting a minimum of 90,000 views a month."

Luth loves Prescott because it's so picturesque. Since making the Prescott cam live one week ago, he's had at minimum 10 viewers on at one time.

"As people get to know where the camera is, that number is only going to grow," Luth said. "I didn't have the proper adaptor for the microphone. That will get hooked up soon. When they can hear that train going over the bridge, people are just going to flock to it."

Luth is always looking to expand his train cam network and is actively seeking appropriate locations for additional installations. If interested in providing information about a potential location, email him at trainfannow@gmail.com

The Prescott train cam and others can be viewed by visiting ottertailchannel.com



JOE PEINE
joe@piercescountyjournal.news

Baseball Around the Horn: Featuring Head Coach Jeff Ryan's 400th win

By Joe Peine

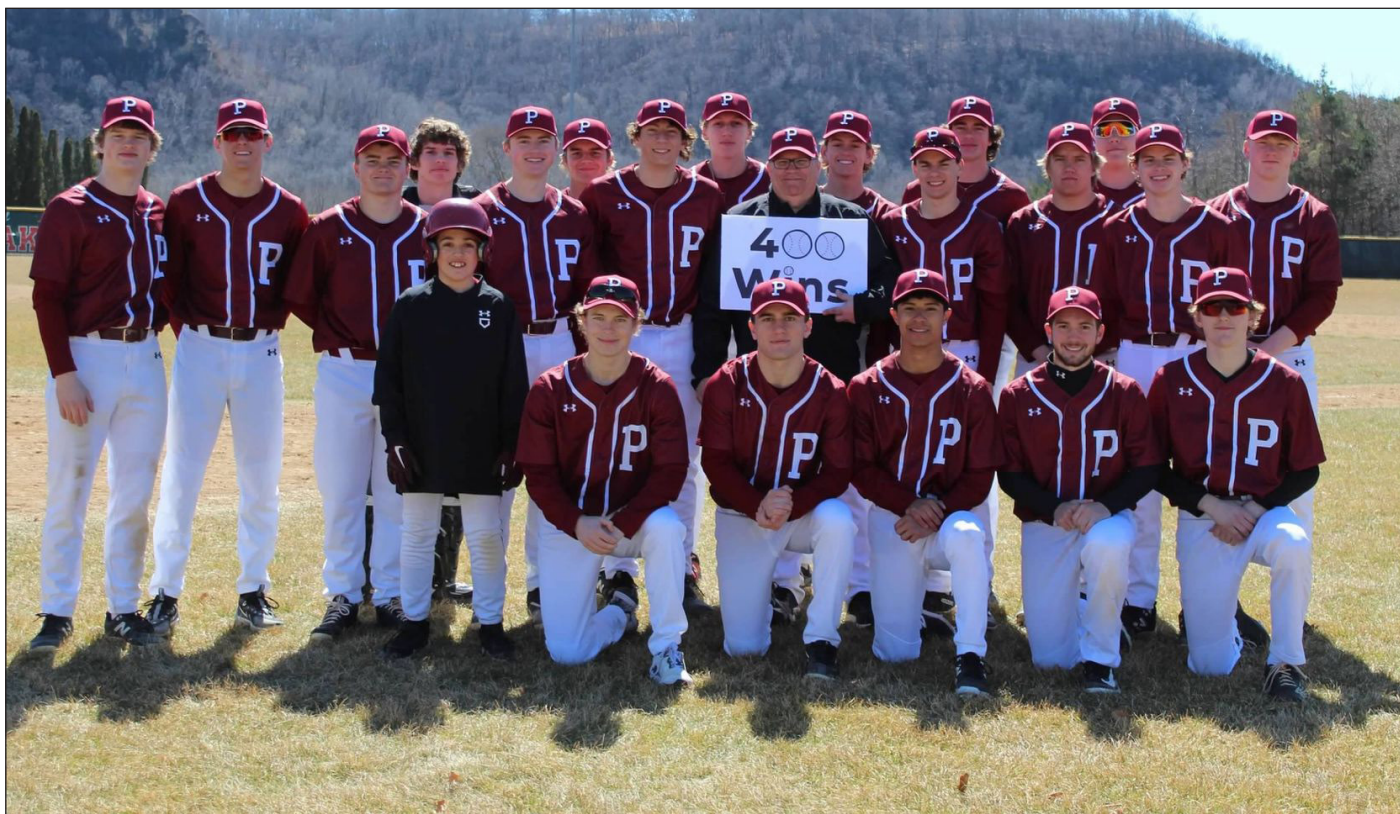
The Prescott Cardinals baseball team improved to 5-0 this week, winning three straight and securing Head Coach Jeff Ryan's 400th career victory.

It was a big week for Cardinals baseball but an even bigger week for the program as Ryan earned his 400th career win as skipper. Already a Wisconsin Coaches Hall of Fame alumni, Ryan says he's had a lot of help along the way.

"I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with a lot of great players in my 25 years as head coach - 26 if you count the no season Covid year - and have had very, very loyal and committed Assistant Coaches in Brad Matzek who has been with the program for 27 years and Duane Miller who has been here for 20 years," Ryan said. "Also, I was extremely fortunate to work for nine years as an assistant under Hall of Fame Coach Steve Block. His knowledge and incredible attention to detail gave me an opportunity to learn from one of the best."

In total, there have only been 22 coaches in Wisconsin Baseball History that have won 400+ games, and now Ryan is one of them.

After defeating the Somerset Spartans in back-to-back games, once at home on Tuesday 3-2 and once on the road on Thursday 6-2, they



Jeff Ryan earned his 400th win as the head coach of the Prescott Cardinals Baseball Club in the win over Lake City. Ryan becomes the 22nd coach in the history of Wisconsin high school baseball to win 400+ games. Ryan took over for Steve Block in 1999 and is in his 26th year. During Ryan's career, the Cardinals have won 12 conference championships, 10 regional championships, two sectional championships, one state runner-up, and one state championship in 2012. Photo courtesy of Prescott High School

moved on to defeating the St. Croix Falls Saints 13-6 in an away game on Saturday which became Ryan's 400th win. This achievement came on the back of a monster statistical performance from the Cardinals against the Saints where they recorded 13 runs on 11 hits, eight walks and no errors.

Mason Schommer led the way with two doubles, three runs, two RBI, two walks and a stolen base. Barrett Temmers and Cole Platson

also had multi-hit games and swiped a bag, while Cullen Huppert reached base four times on three walks, a single and two runs. Platson also helped the Cardinals on the mound, pitching five shutout innings, albeit with some control issues as he allowed five walks to go with five hits.

Other notable pitching performances this week include Drew Pechacek's four innings of one-run ball and Max Monteith's three innings

of one-hit ball on Thursday. Additionally, Huppert threw a masterful game on Tuesday, only allowing two unearned runs on two hits and two walks to go along with a whopping 10 strikeouts over six innings of work.

Next up for the Cardinals is a three-game week beginning with back-to-back Middle Border Conference games against the St. Croix Central Panthers. The first of these comes on Tuesday at home in Prescott, and the

second is on Thursday in Hammond, both at 5 p.m. The last game of the week is at Mondovi on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Ellsworth

The Ellsworth Panthers went 2-2 last week, beating Alma-Pepin at home 8-0, losing to the Altoona Railroaders on Tuesday and Thursday 11-0 and 9-8, and then finally defeating the Otters in Luck on Friday 16-6.

It was a jam-packed week

of baseball for the Panthers who won both of their non-conference games but lost both Middle Border tilts against the Railroaders.

Ellsworth's week started well behind seven shutout innings from Jack Stoltenburg to go along with just five hits and one walk allowed and seven strikeouts. He also went 2-3 with a walk at the dish.

Riley Maher also had a big game going 3-3 with a pair of doubles paired with three RBI and a run scored. Gavin Kilos also made a solid contribution with an RBI single, a run scored, a walk and a stolen base.

Things got away from the Panthers early in their game against Altoona as they gave up five runs in the first inning and gave up two more in each of the next three innings as they got routed 11-0. Ellsworth bounced back in game two of the split double header though as they rallied late to score five runs in the sixth; however, even though they outthit the Railroaders 12-9, they just couldn't get over the hump as they fell 9-8.

The last game of the week was the big one and it's one that the Panthers hope will build momentum going into next week. Ellsworth tallied five multi-hit innings in this one including Kilos and Stoltenburg's 3-4 outings and Derek Johnsons 4-6 day. Johnson also recorded the

See **BASEBALL**, Page B-9

Wildcats' track and field kicks off outdoor season

By Joe Peine

The River Falls Wildcats' track and field season has gotten off to a fast start, with the indoor portion already at an end and the first outdoor meet of the year under their belts.

The season kicked off with the Griak Meet at University of Minnesota with their varsity team earlier this month.

The top performers at that event were Quinlan Andrews, who took first place in the 800-meter event with a time of 1:56:52. Taurus Eastgate also took first in the long jump event with a distance of 21 feet, 3.5 inches. Blake Schneider rounded out the top three finishers, taking second place in the pole vault event with a height of 12 feet, 6 inches.

The boys led the way in this one, and it showed in the final results with the Wildcats' men's team placing third out of 17 teams from both Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Head Coach Kady Bauschelt says they are feeling great about where they are at early in the season.

"Many of our returning athletes are performing at or better than their finishing stats from last season," Bauschelt said. "We are very much looking forward to seeing what the incoming freshmen will bring to our team. They are a very talented group with a great work ethic."

Their final event before moving outside was held at Hunt Arena in River Falls last Saturday.

"As we finished our indoor season at UWRF, we had some standout performances by the men's 4x800 team of freshman Owen Koepke, junior Jonah Majerus, junior Ty Bauschelt, and junior Quinlan Andrews



Brooke Dusek takes first place in the long jump event at the track and field invite at Hunt Arena last week in River Falls. Photo by Joe Peine



Ty Bauschelt takes first place with a high jump of 6'2" at the Wildcats' meet in River Falls at Hunt Arena last week. Photo by Joe Peine



Charlie Burke running his last indoor relay of the track and field season as the Wildcats will now move into their outdoor portion of the year. Photo by Joe Peine

See **TRACK**, Page B-9



Gabbi Matzek pitches five innings of relief on Thursday, with one earned run on six hits and one walk in Prescott's loss to Somerset on Thursday. Photo by Joe Peine



Maria Mercord puts a good swing on the ball in the Cardinals' 6-3 loss against Somerset on Thursday. Photo by Joe Peine

Softball Around the Horn: Featuring Prescott

By Joe Peine

The Prescott Cardinals softball team played a split series against the Somerset Spartans this week, winning at home 6-2 and losing on the road 6-3.

Ella Stewart got the start in game one, quickly shutting down the Spartans in the top of the first inning. Her team helped her cause in the bottom of the frame, pulling out to a 1-0.

Prescott would continue to add on runs while inning after inning came and went with Stewart pitching a shut-

out.

Then, in the top of the fifth, an error by the red birds led to a pair of unearned runs coming across and Somerset pulled within two at 4-2. Undaunted, the Cardinals continued to add on with one more run in the bottom of the inning and two more in the bottom of the sixth.

The game finished with a complete game from Stewart, who only allowed three hits and one walk. Leah French and Kelsey Sterud were Prescott's top performers in this one with French going 2-2 with a walk and

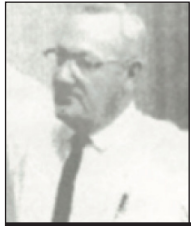
two RBI's and Sterud filling out the box score with a run, a hit, a walk, a steal and two RBI of her own. The Cardinals committed just the one error on the night.

Game two finished with almost the exact inverse of the previous one and with Somerset controlling throughout.

The Spartans jumped out to a big lead right away on Thursday in Somerset at 4-0 in the bottom of the opening inning, jumping all over Stewart in their second look

See **SOFTBALL**, Page B-9





SHOTS

from the Hip

BY CRIPE OLSON

Well done. The Cardinal baseball team has placed “RS” stickers on their batting helmets to honor longtime supporter, volunteer, and “Friend of Baseball Award” winner Ron Stark who passed away last December. A fixture at all Prescott sporting events, Stark was known throughout the community as one of Prescott Cardinal athletics biggest boosters. A former school board member, Stark was a community volunteer extraordinaire and served as a baseball statistician for several years including the 2012 state championship season. Certainly a well-earned tribute.

All three Prescott baseball teams played some long ball last week. On Thursday, Cullen Huppert’s two-run home run in the top of the first proved to be the difference as the Cardinals squeaked by Somerset 3-2. On Friday, Prescott ninth grader Carter Larsen slammed a two-run homerun against River Falls in a 14-3 win over the wildcats. On Saturday, junior Liam Flanigan smashed a round tripper in a 13-0 JV trouncing of St. Croix Falls, and Collin Kosmalski pounded a two-run home to left as the Cardinal C team defeated St. Croix Falls 20-7 in a slugfest.

UW-Whitewater Head Baseball Coach John Vodenlich won his 700th win at the helm of the Warhawk program. A common speaker at state and national baseball clinics, Vodenlich has an incredible overall coaching record of 700-221-1 at UW-Whitewater.

Pete Brookshaw attended a practice at Firehall Field this week as he readies himself for another season with the Fargo-Moorhead Redhawks. A two-time Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Associ-

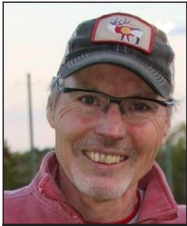
ation All State Selection and Two Time Division 2 Player of the Year, Brookshaw will depart for North Dakota next month.

From the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: The DNR reminds turkey hunters that the 2024 spring turkey season opens on April 17. The 2024 spring turkey season will run from April 17 through May 28 and includes six, seven-day periods running Wednesday through the following Tuesday. All seven turkey management zones will be open for hunting. Additionally, the Wisconsin elk hunt application period is now open through May 31. New this year, the Black River Elk Range will be open to hunting for the first time since elk were reintroduced to the state. Once widespread, elk were eliminated from Wisconsin in the 1880s due to unregulated hunting and habitat loss. Reintroduction efforts began in 1995 by releasing 25 elk into the Clam Lake Elk Range, and a second herd was established in the Black River Elk Range in 2015. The state elk population is projected to reach over 500 animals after this year’s calving season, 180 of which belong to the Black River herd.

Headshaker of the week: An unsettling trend continues in the realm of high school sports. As Woody Guthrie sang, “From California to the New York Islands, From the Redwood Forests to the Gulf Stream Waters,” anonymous letters sent to school athletic directors and administrators critical of head coaches have led to coach dismissals or resignations around the country. A myriad of studies have shown the number of coaches leaving the profession at the high school level continues to increase year

after year for any number of reasons - many of them not by the coaches’ choosing. Last week I came across a column written in April 2023 by radio sports personality Kevin Williams on “The Reason Why Coaches are Leaving High School Sports.” Here is what he wrote in part:

“**Old Days.** An athlete comes home from practice or a game and complains to parents about their coach, usually over playing time. The athlete is looking for an ally and wants some sympathy from Mom and Dad. However, what they likely find is that his parents not only take the side of the coach but say their child needs to respect the coach’s decision. The parents say work harder, don’t complain and if you don’t like it then maybe you should quit.” **Today.** On their way home an athlete texts parents that the coach yelled at them in practice because they were late. Over dinner and conversation with their child both Mom and Dad believe their child is being treated unfairly and not getting enough playing time; after all, they received some awards at the showcase camps they attended this past summer. The parent contacts the coach at home to discuss playing time. The coach tries to explain their philosophy on playing time which the parents do not accept. The next day parents request a meeting with the coach and athletic director to discuss the issue. The matter turns into a mess dividing parents and players, significantly impacting the team culture and performance. At the end of the season, the coach resigns. School posts job seeking new head coach the following week.” That’s a headshaker.



OUTDOOR

Tales and Trails

BY DAVE BECK



While walking in the woods after the last snowfall, I came upon clues that a bird of prey had gotten its dinner. Photo by Dave Beck

A scene in the snow

If a picture is worth a thousand words, I don’t have to add a single letter for this one. That being said, less is sometimes more and that’s why this week I am going to come in under my word budget.

After that last minor snowfall, I was out roaming around in the woods when I came upon a scene in the snow that was so fresh that the blood wasn’t even frozen yet. Before that, I had bumped into a horned owl that silently slipped out from the top of a tree and glided on to another perch off in the distance. No wonder they are such skilled predators mov-

ing so gracefully and making nary a sound.

Now I could not be certain that the owl I had seen was the bird of prey involved but it would be a good guess given the proximity. Had I known I was going to stumble across this scene, I would have tried to get a closer look to see if the owl was clutching a mouse in its claws.

If you take the time to examine this powerful photo to it’s the perfect example of what life and death looks like in the woods. Describing the entire scene is a task better served by someone with greater literary skills than mine. The only thing

that I can add is that whatever happened here must have been an amazing sight to see live. It’s also pretty neat to let your imagination take the clues left in the snow.

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



FROM HORSEPLAY

to Heroes

BY GREG PETERS

X marks the spot

As a parent, the best part about youth sports sure as hell doesn’t have anything to do with if my kid wins the weekend tournament or makes the A team. If you’re reading this and assume I’m the “all the kids should receive a ribbon” guy, you’d be wrong.

Watching your kids laugh and smile with their teammates can be a close second. Feeling your kid’s disappointment when something doesn’t go their way in youth sports, but they keep trying anyway and they learn perseverance, those moments rank high on the list, too. It’s still not the best part.

You see, I’m one of those guys who’s been through it all with youth sports. If you’ve ever seen the movie, “Roadhouse,” I’m kind of the Wade Garrett, the wily old crusty veteran, of youth sports. I’ve been in sixth grade “team draft” meetings where it was straight out of a Saturday Night Live skit. You couldn’t make it up even if you tried. On the flip side, with three daughters, I’ve also been lucky enough to be a part of the best youth sports has to offer.

For the self-described Wade Garrett of the River Falls’ youth sports scene, the absolute best thing youth sports has to offer is, without question, the life-long friendships you make with your kids’ teammates’ parents.

As a veteran youth sports’ parent, you’ll be able to give Google reviews, in great detail, of western Wisconsin’s best walking tacos in a Doritos’ bag and then, just like that, it’s over.

Kids play youth sports for about 7 to 8 years at most, but the parent relationships can have more staying power than the permanent marker “X’s” tattooed on the top of your hand upon paying the

entry fee to a tournament.

I am a River Falls transplant and moved to town 2005, so many of the parents I’ve met through youth sports were my first friendships in River Falls. My oldest daughter began playing tee-ball right away as a kindergartner the second year after we arrived. Rick Flood and Paul Adermann were her coaches. Luck of the draw, those two guys are good friends to this day. When my oldest daughter graduated from high school, that same tee-ball picture was plastered up on the wall in our garage during her make-shift grad party mausoleum. It’s still a mystery how Flood and Adermann willed their team to victory with a total of six kids on a tee-ball team.

I first met Dave Gerrish sitting next to him in a lawn chair watching girls’ youth soccer games. Our daughters played on the same team. Dave is an interesting character, an oxymoron of sorts, a perplexing conundrum if you’re trying to read a guy. He’s a Viking fan but he also loves the Badgers. He’s meticulous with his spending and conservative in his job as a financial planner, but liberal in his politics. His musical tastes consist of hardcore heavy metal, but he also likes 1980’s “new wave” British pop. You’re not going to find too many guys with “Five Finger Death Punch” and “Pet Shop Boys” on their playlists. You’re also not going to find too many guys who genuinely cheer for his friends’ kids as much as he does his own. Dave is a “regular” on the River Falls Sports YouTube broadcasts and plans his evenings around watching friends’ kids play high school sports.

It’s for the very same reason discussed above; the parent relationships gained

from youth sports has given him life-long friends and Dave definitely cares about his friends. His friends also care about him.

Dave was walking up his basement stairs this past Friday night to go to bed and was wearing socks. At the top of the steps, he pivoted to turn the stairwell light off and slipped on the non-carpeted steps. He took a bad fall. Maybe 99.9999 times out of 100, there would be some bad bruising or maybe a broken wrist. For a reason no one knows but God above, this particular fall caused paralysis, for now. It’s still much too early to know any final outcomes, but there will no doubt be numerous trips to the hospital for his family, as a lengthy stay is expected.

One of Dave’s daughters is on the track team. His other daughter is on the soccer team. Dave has coached many of the current Wildcat softball players in youth basketball.

The River Falls Sports Broadcasting crew will be streaming girls’ track, soccer, and softball this week trying to help raise funds to help his family. The Venmo code is: @riverfallssports-broadcasting.

100% of all proceeds from the three broadcasts and Venmo-ed donations will benefit the Gerrish family. The collective Wildcat parents are in shock right now and this is how they are helping a friend in need.

I’m not really into “Five Finger Death Punch,” but the next time I listen to them with Dave Gerrish, it will be music to my ears. The “X” in bold permanent marker we shared together on our hand at youth sports games marks the spot for a friendship that does not have an expiration day.

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 amongfriendsrfr.com or 715-293-2561.

Thursday, April 18 Cookbook Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Plum City Public Library (611 Main St.) Stop by and check out April’s cookbook (“One: Simple One-Pan Wonders” by Jamie Oliver. Find a recipe you enjoy, make it and bring it to share! Friday, April 19 **No School Movie!** 1-3 p.m., Plum City Public Library (611 Main St.) Showing the newly released “Wonka.” Popcorn provided.

2024 Demo Shoot, 8 p.m., Gas Lite Bar & Grill (W8945 Highway 10, Ellsworth). Raffle sign ups, food and drinks begin at 5 p.m., fireworks kick off at 8 p.m.

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!

Jigsaw Puzzle Contest, 1 p.m., Elmwood Auditorium (323 W. Winter Ave.,

Elmwood). Sponsored by Elmwood Public Library. You and up to four teammates will tackle a 500-piece puzzle. Fastest to complete the puzzle wins! Every team will take home their puzzle; winning team will choose an additional brand new puzzle to take home. No additional trays or sorting tools please.

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. Woodsworth 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.

Wednesday, April 24 Lunch & Learn: Genealogy, 1:30 p.m., Elmwood Public Library (111 Main St.) Julie from Pierce County Historical Association will show us how to use free resources to start or beef up our genealogical research. Learn how to leverage the free site findagrave.com to find public records of those who have passed. Snacks provided; no registration necessary.

Snack & Craft, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Plum City Public Library (611 Main St.) Join us

after school for a spring/Earth Day themed craft.

Thursday, April 25 Bingo, 3 p.m., Plum City Public Library (611 Main St.) Bingo, coffee and conversation!

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.

Saturday, April 27 Salad Luncheon, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Elmwood Auditorium (323 W. Winter Ave., Elmwood). Adults are \$10, children ages 5-12 are \$5. Door prizes; sponsored by Elmwood Enrichment Council.

Elmwood Expos Meat & Cash Raffle, 6 p.m., Kern’s Kurbside (109 N. Main St., Elmwood). Buy paddles and spin to win Sailer’s meat packages and big cash prizes.

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.

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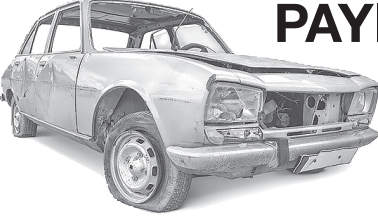
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OBITUARIES

Danny Weinzirl 1964-2024

Danny J. Weinzirl, 60, took his last breaths in the hands of his beloved spouse on March 16, 2024, at Regions Hospital in St. Paul.

Danny is survived by his son, Warren Weinzirl; daughter, Vesper Weinzirl; his life partner, Kate Krall and his kitty, Aka. Further survived by his mother, Leona; his siblings, Geralyn (Steve) O'Neill, Rosemount Minn.; Roger (Kay) Weinzirl, Eau Galle; Lynette (Kim) Wagenbach, Durand; Randy (Sue) Weinzirl, Arkansaw; Barry Weinzirl, Eau Galle, and treasured nieces, nephews, and chosen family and friends. Danny was preceded in death by his father, Norbert and his good dog, Tyler.

Born on Jan. 10, 1964, in Durand and grew up in Eau Galle, he graduated from Durand High School in the class of 1982.

He worked for his parents' dairy business and attended Vocational Technical school before moving to Denver, Colo. to pursue his dream of being in a rock band. There, he had several fond experiences and made life-long friendships. He worked as a maintenance man, a warehouse manager, and in asbestos abatement. Eventually returning to his hometown, he commuted to Red Wing and worked for Chandler Roofing.

He then established his own business, Help-n-Hand Construction. Described by his customers and neigh-

bors as "a problem solver" and "irreplaceable," he took great pride in his handyman work and always went out of his way to help people. He also had an interest in real estate, founding a rental company in Menomonie and subsequently, Krall Weinzirl Investments with his family.

He lived in Elmwood for many years before meeting Kate and joining lives in 2013. They adventured together to Bay City and into parenthood in 2017, welcoming a son, now age 6, and blessed again with a daughter in 2023, age 8 months.

Semi-retirement allowed him to spend more quality time as an admirable stay at home daddy and homemaker. The happiest days were spent inseparable, working on various family projects, making plans and having spontaneous kitchen dance parties.

Danny was an inventor and at one time applied for a patent. He was passionate about music and wrote his own songs in the 80s and lullabies for his babies. He enjoyed finding new roads on motorcycle, memories of his childhood farm, watching the Green Bay Packers, bike rides, bonfires, being a drummer, and making the best popcorn. Danny absolutely loved becoming a pilot, growing in fatherhood, late night family walks in the summer or falling snow, catching Warren at the bottom of a waterslide, Vesper falling asleep on his chest, talking and dreaming with Kate and spending long hours just laughing about their children. Most of all he loved just being at home to-



gether.

He was active on several mission trips in the past and enjoyed volunteering to decorate the church for the Christmas season. Although Catholic most of his life, he spent his last decade shifting in self-discovery. Danny very much valued finding the authenticity of God's peace and full meaning by understanding true empathy and love, acting in forgiveness, and his calling of helping people.

Danny was an organ donor and would have been so proud that he gave the gift of life to four recipients, and this honor is so fitting to his memory of being the most kind and generous of souls.

A Memorial Mass is being held for his extended family Monday, April 15, 2024, at St. Henry Catholic Church in Eau Galle.

At a later date, his immediate family will hold a funeral and Celebration of Life in accordance to Danny's wishes.



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PUBLIC Notice

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
Durand, WI 54736
TELEPHONE:
(715) 672-8955
BAR NUMBER:
01011487

WNAXLP 4 10 17 24

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

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
Durand, WI 54736
TELEPHONE:
(715) 672-8955
BAR NUMBER:
01011487

WNAXLP 4 10 17 24

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY
Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims (Informal Administration)
Case No. 24PR29

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Allen R. Wilkens

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth January 25, 1954 and date of death March 2, 2024, was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W7936 185th Avenue, Hager City, WI 54014.

3. The application will be heard at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201 before Probate Registrar, on June 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

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

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 19, 2024.

5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, 414 W. Main St, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.

6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

FORM COMPLETED:
Rory E. O'Sullivan
ADDRESS:
219 North Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022
TELEPHONE:
(715) 425-7281
BAR NUMBER:
1088644

WNAXLP 4 17 24, 5 2

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT PIERCE COUNTY
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 24PR28
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Sharrel A. Waxon

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth June 7, 1969 and date of death February 15, 2024, was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of W6629 570th Avenue, Ellsworth, WI 54011.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's

estate is July 17, 2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.

Form Completed:
Nicole Jones
Address:
219 North Main Street
River Falls, WI 54022
Telephone:
715-425-7281
bar Number:
1126385

WNAXLP 4 17, 24, 5 1

School District of River Falls Board of Education Reorganizational Meeting Monday, April 22, 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. HEARING OF VISITORS OR DELEGATIONS
4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
5. Review and signing of Official Oaths of Office
6. Board Reorganizational Activities
A. Election of Officers
B. Determine Board meeting dates, time, and location for the 2024-2025 school year
C. Determine Board Committee Structure and Various District Advisory Delegate/Representative Appointments
D. Renew Board's Legal & Liability Insurance Policy
E. Designate Bank Depositories
F. Acknowledge Board Policy/Procedure - Conflict of Interest
G. Set date for the 2024 Annual Meeting
7. ADJOURN

WNAXLP 4 17

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT PIERCE COUNTY

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing
Case No 24CV56

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF Paige Marie Freund

By (Petitioner) Paige Marie Freund

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

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

From: [First] Paige [Middle] Marie [Last] Freund

To: [First] Paige [Middle] Marie [Last] Marlatt

Birth Certificate: [First] Paige

[Middle] Marie [Last] Marlatt

IT IS ORDERED:

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

Judge's Name: Judge Elizabeth Rohl

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

Date: May 21, 2024

Time: 4:15 pm

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

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

WNAXLP 4 17 24, 5 1

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:

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.

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

WNAXLP 4 10 17 24

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD CONTRACT CITY OF PRESCOTT PIERCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Pursuant to Wis. Stats. §61.54, 62.15(1), and 62.15(1b), the City of Prescott is currently seeking quotes with the intent to award a contract to one contractor for the time, labor, materials, and tools needed to complete the construction of natural surface trails in Magee Park without advertising for bids.

This notice is given pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes which provide that no public contract with an estimated cost of more than \$5,000 but not more than \$25,000 unless may be entered into without giving a Class 1 notice under Ch. 985 before execution of said public contract. Additional information and/or copies of project maps & documents may be obtained by contacting City Planner Carter Hayes at 715-307-0427 or chayes@prescottcity.org. No contract will be executed sooner than one week following publication of this notice.

City of Prescott
Carter Hayes
City Planner

WNAXLP 4 17

TOWN OF ROCK ELM

Annual Town Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Rock Elm in the county of Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, for the transaction of business as is by law required or permitted to be transacted at such meeting will be held at the Town Hall in Rock Elm, NS412 170th Street, Elmwood, WI on Tuesday April 16 at 7:30pm.

Monica Robey, Clerk

WNAXLP 4 17

PUBLIC*Notice*

Village of Ellsworth
Notice of Open Book and Board of Review

Notice is hereby given that the OPEN BOOK to review the assessment rolls for the Village of Ellsworth is scheduled with the Village Assessor on **May 8, 2024** at the Village Hall, 130 N. Chestnut St. (Lower level board room, East rear entrance), **1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** All interested property owners can address individual assessment concerns with the Village Assessor at that time. The Assessor can also be reached at 715-834-1361 to answer any questions or concerns relating to the assessment roll.

Notice is also given that the **BOARD OF REVIEW** for the Village of Ellsworth, Pierce County, Wisconsin, shall convene for the purpose of hearing objections to property valuations on **May 15, 2024**, at the Village Hall, 130 N. Chestnut St. (Lower level board room, East rear entrance), **5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

- 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 Ellsworth 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 officer 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 12th day of April, 2024.

Brad Roy
Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

WNAXLP 4 17

Ellsworth Community School District
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
March 18, 2024, special school board meeting minutes

The Ellsworth Community School District Board of Education met on Monday, March 18, 2024, for a special school board meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Katie Feuerhelm. Members present as identified by a roll call: Susan Beck, Kurt Buckner, Gary Kressin, Steven Mark, Michael Petersen, and Katie Feuerhelm. School board candidate Mark Stoesz was also present. School board member Julie Lundstrom was absent- excused.

Cheryl Gullicksrud, WASB representative, presented information on the superintendent search process along with the logistics for the process including the first round of interviews, candidate background checks, and candidate reference checks.

The board took a break beginning at 7:05 p.m. until 7:12 p.m. at which time a motion was made by Michael Petersen, seconded by Susan Beck to move into closed session as authorized by State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) to consider the employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility with the agenda topics of selection of questions for school district

superintendent interview and review of applicant materials, consideration of applicants for possible interviews, and may select applicants to interview for the position of School District Superintendent. Roll call vote: Susan Beck- yes, Kurt Buckner- yes, Gary Kressin- yes, Steve Mark- yes, Michael Petersen- yes, and Katie Feuerhelm- yes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion was made by Susan Beck, seconded by Gary Kressin to reconvene in open session. Roll call vote: Susan Beck- yes, Kurt Buckner- yes, Gary Kressin- yes, Steve Mark- yes, Michael Petersen- yes, and Katie Feuerhelm- yes. Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting reconvened in open session at 8:17 p.m.

There was no action taken in the open session in regards to topics discussed in the closed session.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michael Petersen, seconded by Gary Kressin. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

WNAXLP 4 17

Ellsworth Community School District
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
March 11, 2024, school board meeting minutes

The Ellsworth Community School

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW
TOWN OF ELLSWORTH, PIERCE COUNTY, WI

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review for the **Town of Ellsworth, Pierce County, Wisconsin, shall hold its first meeting on WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Ellsworth Town Hall/Garage, W6058 490th Avenue.**

Please be advised of the following requirements to appear before the Board of Review and procedural requirements if appearing before the board:

- After the first meeting of the Board of Review and before the Board of Review'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 of Review about the person's objection, except at a session of the Board of Review. Open book shall occur no less than 7 days prior to the Board of Review.
- The Board of Review may not hear an objection to the amount or valuation of property unless, at least 48 hours before the Board of Review's first scheduled meeting, the objector provides to the Board of Review 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 of Review shall waive that requirement during the first 2 hours of the Board of Review's first scheduled meeting, and the Board of Review 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 Board of Review Clerk within the first 2 hours of the Board of Review's first scheduled meeting, except that, upon evidence of extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Review 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 of Review may require objections to the amount or valuation of property to be submitted on forms approved by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, and the Board of Review 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 of Review in support of the objections and made full disclosure before the Board of Review, 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 of Review 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 no later than 7 days before the first meeting of the Board of Review, the person supplies the assessor with all the information about income and expenses that the assessor requests, as specified in the Assessor's Manual under Wis Stat. s 73.03 (2a). The Town of Ellsworth 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 determines that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under Wis. Stats. s. 19.35 (1).
- The Board of Review shall hear upon oath, by telephone, all ill or disabled persons who present to the board a letter from a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice nurse prescriber certified under Wis. Stat 441.16(2) that confirms their illness or disability. No other person may testify by telephone unless the Board of Review, 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 of Review by telephone, or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the Board of Review, or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under WI Stats.70.47 (3) (a), that person provides notice to the Board of Review Clerk as 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.
- No person shall 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 enter onto property to conduct an exterior view of the real or personal property being assessed.

Notice is hereby given this 13th day of March, 2024 by Phyllis J Beaström, Town Clerk

WNAXLP 4 17

District Board of Education met on Monday, March 11, 2024, for a regular school board meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Katie Feuerhelm. Members present as identified by a roll call: Susan Beck, Kurt Buckner, Julie Lundstrom, Steve Mark, and Katie Feuerhelm. Gary Kressin was absent and board member Michael Petersen joined via telephone.

There were no acknowledgements made by the school board.

Motion was made by Susan Beck, seconded by Julie Lundstrom to amend the meeting agenda order to proceed immediately with the school district audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Kyle Gruber from Wipfli presented the school district audit for the year ending June 30, 2023, via speaker phone. He finished his presentation at 6:11 p.m. at which time Michael Petersen was disconnected via cell phone and was reconnected via speakerphone at 6:12 p.m.

Motion was made by Kurt Buckner, seconded by Julie Lundstrom to approve the February 12, 2024, school board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Julie Lundstrom presented the February 2024 financial report for school board approval. Motion was made by Susan Beck, seconded by Steve Mark to approve the February 2024 financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrators Mary Zimmerman, Olin Morrison, and Oran Nehls presented updates on the progress of the 2023-2024 building level goals at each building.

School Board Committee reports:

- The Curriculum Committee did not meet due to the cancellation of the February 26, 2024, scheduled meeting.
- The Negotiations and Personnel Committee met on February 29, 2024, regarding wage and benefits for the upcoming school year. The math coach proposal was also discussed with board consideration later in the meeting.
- The Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Committee did not meet due to the cancellation of the February 20, 2024, scheduled meeting.
- The Budget and Finance Committee met on February 26, 2024, regarding the initial budget for the 2024-2025 school year along with reviewing staffing proposals and projects under study.
- The Communications Committee did not meet.
- Clerk Kurt Buckner did not have a CESA update for school board members as the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2024.

There were no registrants for public comment.

Superintendent Cain presented the personnel report for school board approval. Motion was made by Julie Lundstrom, seconded by Kurt Buckner to approve the following personnel changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Hires:

- Kevin Bruesewitz, High School Science teacher Retirement;
- Lynne Hamilton, Elementary 3rd grade teacher

Mary Hanson, High School Special Education Teaching Assistant

Anita Peterson, Elementary 3rd grade teacher

Extra/Co-Curricular: O w e n Matzek, High School JV Assistant Baseball coach

Spencer Schultz, High School Assistant Track coach

Town of El Paso, Pierce County, WI

Notice of Open Book

Pursuant to Sec 70.45 of Wis. Statutes the assessment roll for the current assessment will be open for examination (a.k.a. Open Book) on the 6th day of May, 2024 at the El Paso Government Center (N5325 450th St., Ellsworth, WI) from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Instructional material about the assessment and board of review procedures will be available at that time for information on how to file an objection and the board of review procedures under Wisconsin law.

Notice of the Board of Review for the Town of El Paso

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review for the Town of El Paso, Pierce County, Wisconsin, shall hold its first meeting on May 14, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at the El Paso Government Center (N5325 450th St., Ellsworth, WI). 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 enter onto property to conduct an exterior view of such property being assessed.
- 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. Open book shall occur no less than 7 days prior to the board of review.
- 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 no later than 7 days before the first meeting of the board of review 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 Town of El Paso 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 officer or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless a court determines before the first meeting of the board of review 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 11th day of April 2024. Sherri Heise, Town Clerk

WNAXLP 4 17 24

Derek Staley, High School Boys Assistant Golf coach
Resignation: Samantha Dunbar, High School Math teacher

Ronald Francis, High School English teacher

Courtney Langer, Elementary 4th grade teacher

Peter Senti, High School Science teacher

Motion was made by Susan Beck, seconded by Julie Lundstrom to appoint school district residents Raynee Farrell and Tracey Hines to canvass the school board and referendum election results. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Julie Lundstrom, seconded by Kurt Buckner to canvass the school board and referendum election results on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 4:15 p.m. in the Ellsworth Elementary School Community room. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Susan Beck, seconded by Julie Lundstrom to appoint school board member Kurt Buckner as the school board representative for the canvassing of the school board election and referendum results. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Cain presented the CESA #11 Services Contract for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion was made by Julie Lundstrom, seconded by Susan Beck to approve the contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously with Katie Feuerhelm abstaining from the vote.

Mary Zimmerman, Elementary

Principal/Special Education Director, presented the proposal for a math coach for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion was made by Julie Lundstrom, seconded by Kurt Buckner to approve the proposal as presented. Motion carried unanimously with Steve Mark abstaining from voting.

Superintendent Cain presented NEOLA Volume 33, Number 1 technical changes as recommended by NEOLA. As per school board policy this is an informational presentation only as technical changes do not need school board approval for adoption.

Superintendent Cain presented one technical change for school board policy #5112- Entrance Age. As per school board policy, this is an informational presentation only as technical changes do not need school board approval for adoption.

Superintendent Report

- Superintendent Cain discussed upcoming referendum related topics.
- School board member candidate, Mark Stoesz, introduced himself to the school board and audience members.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Susan Beck, seconded by Steve Mark. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

WNAXLP 4 17

OBITUARIES

Sidney Anderson 1947-2024

Sidney Anderson, age 76, from Spring Valley, Wisconsin, is singing with the angels as of April 13, 2024.

Sidney Cecil Anderson was born to Gordon and Irene Anderson on Aug. 17, 1947. He was raised in Spring Valley on the Anderson homestead farm above the Eau Galle. Sid was adventurous and daring from the beginning. Dubbed Sid the Kid, (which stuck with him his whole life because of his lively and youthful way of retaining childlike play), he was always thinking of things to do for fun, whether it was racing his horse through the meadows, bringing baby skunks in the house or sledding down the drive-

way right under a car!

He had the responsibility of milking the cows and taking care of the other farm animals even as a young boy. As a child, he would milk the cows and do the chores, run 5 miles to school, fall asleep during classes, and run home to do the chores before bed. Apparently, he loved running barefoot and even competed in track with his bare feet. As far as he knew, he still holds the record for the fastest mile on Spring Valley High School Track. His love of running continued into adulthood and he started running marathons in his 50's... for FUN! He graduated from Spring Valley High School in 1966.

Sid married his high school sweetheart (Ruth Minder) in 1969, right after he got back from his tour in Vietnam as an Army Specialist Four. Together they had three kids: Tammy

Ann (1971), Sidney Daniel (1972), and Joseph Jacob (1974) who were born while he was a lumberjack logger, which he took a lot of pride in and won many competitions.

He started and operated his own drywall and painting business, but he still loved to cut wood and chop down trees, especially the difficult ones! He cut and hauled all the logs for his own log home and with the help of his kids, he built the log home with his own hands. He is very proud of that log home with its field stone fireplace. On top of that, he worked diligently to help his son, Joe, build Joe's massive home big enough to fit all his kids, do family events, and he even lived there himself several times.

His second marriage was to Rozeanne Dean (bonus kids). They loved to travel and do mission work together.

School Board approves calendar for 2009-10

March 19, 2009

Quote of the Week:

"I make an effort to have each piece look right, and also to make them strong. I want there to be a capriciousness to it."— Artist John Turula on his pieces currently on display at the Freedom Park Learning Center

William James Gilles, on March 17 at St. Paul.
Some headlines
Journal to sponsor Mortgage Seminar
High school students testify at state capitol

25 years ago THE PRESCOTT JOURNAL April 15, 1999

School asks for \$23.8 million
New high school tops district's list

By R. E. Herman
The Prescott School Board in special session decided to ask voters for approval on four different issues in a special election set for May 18.

Three of those decisions will involve the construction of a new high school and a swimming pool that would be used by the entire community.

Pierce County moves step closer to jail levy
By R. E. Herman

The Pierce County Board took a formal step toward seeking relief from the cost of operating a new jail within the restraints of a levy freeze that was implemented prior to the construction of the jail.

The celebration is provided by Tammy Magnuson.

Come prepared to share stories, laughter and appreciation for all the joy Sid brought to your life.

We can't wait to celebrate him



A LOOK Back

15 years ago THE PRESCOTT JOURNAL March 16, 2009

Obituary: County Board member and Baldwin-Woodville High School Ag Teacher

PUBLIC Notice

Ellsworth Area Ambulance Service

The Operating Committee of the Ellsworth Area Ambulance Service will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 151 South Plum Street in the Village of Ellsworth at 6:00 pm April 22nd, 2024 Agenda items include: call to order, introduction, review and approval of agenda, review and approval of minutes, Financial report, Director's report, , staffing updates, project updates, new ambulance updates, Fall EMT class, Lifequest/EMS-MC discussion, 2024 fundraiser planning and WI Act 12 discussion. Committee may convene in closed session as authorized by Wis. Stat. § 19.85 (1) (c) as it relates to employee benefits and compensation and human resource management.

WNAXLP 4 17

CITY OF RIVER FALLS COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA April 23, 2024

The public may view/listen to the meeting by:
•Calling Toll Free 1-844-992-4726, access code: 263 456 42481
•Visiting the web link: <https://tinyurl.com/rfcc42324>
•Viewing the City's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofriverfalls>

Call Meeting to Order – 6:30 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Approval of Minutes – April 9 and 16, 2024, meeting minutes
Approval of Bills \$

*** NOTE: OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY AGENDA ITEM ***

PUBLIC COMMENT PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Public Comment
If you are unable to attend the meeting in person but would like to submit a public comment, please e-mail to the City Clerk's office (awhite@rfcity.org).

CONSENT AGENDA:

2. Acknowledgement of the following minutes:
a. BID Board – 2/13/24

- b. River Falls Housing Authority – 3/13/24
- c. Historic Preservation Commission – 4/10/24
- d. Utility Advisory Board – 3/18/24
- e. West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission – 3/21/24

- 3. Resolution Designating May 11, 2024, as "World Migratory Bird Day"
- 4. Resolution Awarding 2024 Directional Boring Contract
- 5. Resolution Approving 2024 Agricultural Lease with Joe O'Malley
- 6. Resolution to Issue a Limited Term Letter of Site Control to Cinnaire for City owned property in the Mann Valley Corporate Park

REPORTS:

7. Comptroller's Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 8. 2024 Police Appreciation Week Proclamation
- 9. 2024 Professional Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation

ADJOURNMENT

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

Posted at City Hall on 4/10/24;
Publish: The Pierce County Journal: 4/17/24

WNAXLP 4 17

CITY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

March 26, 2024

Mayor Toland called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

City Council Members Present: Todd Bjerstedt, Jeff Bjork, Nick Carow, Sean Downing,

Scott Morrisette, Alyssa Mueller, Diane Odeen

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Attorney Chris Gierhart; IT Specialist Jon Smits; Police Chief Gordon Young; Chief of Staff Jennifer Smith; City Engineer Todd Nickleski; Community Development Director Amy Peterson; City Administrator Scot Simpson; Officer Steve Thomas; Public Works Manager Erica Ellefson; Assistant Director of Community Development, Emily Shively; Officer James White; Officer Matt Miller; Senior Planner Harley Mehlhorn; Community Services Director/ City Clerk Amy White; Police Services Specialist Tricia Traynor; Senior Civil Engineer Chris Buntjer; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Management Analyst Ellen Massey;

Others present: Dana Lin-scott, others

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

MSC Morrisette/Bjork move to approve the minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills: \$1,323,148.29

MSC Downing/Bjerstedt moved to approve the bills. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The Mayor changed the order of the agenda moving the Police Officer of the Year Presentation before Public Comments.

Police Officer of the Year Presentation

Police Chief Gordon Young presented the Police Officer of the Year to Officer Steve Thomas. Young said Thomas promotes the department's mission statement to protect with courage and serve with compassion. Young noted Thomas has a calming, caring demeanor and has a positive influence on those he works with. Young spoke further about Officer Thomas' qualities. The mayor presented Thomas with the award.

Public Comment
Dana Linscott, 11395 County Road M – talked about homelessness.

PUBLIC HEARING:
Ordinance 2024-01 – An Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory from the Town of River Falls to the City of River Falls (N8118 Hwy 29 and PID 022011410640) and Applying a Zoning Classification of R-2 Multiple Family Medium Density – First Reading

At 6:48 p.m., Mayor Toland recessed into a Public Hearing. Assistant Director of Community Development Emily Shively gave a presentation about the annexation. She provided information about the annexation process, talked about the location of the annexation, factors to be considered for annexation and criteria for rezoning. She talked about the comprehensive plan future land use map, the comprehensive plan, the next steps, and the Plan Commission's favorable recommendation to the Council. Upon completion of the presentation, the mayor asked for public comment. There was none. The mayor asked if council had any questions.

Alderpersion Downing asked if Shively had contact from anyone who is not a property owner. She hasn't had anyone contact her but said there was a public hearing at Plan Commission and all the speakers were residents or property owners in the area. Downing encouraged people if they had an opinion they want to share to come to the next City Council meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgement of the following minutes: Police and Fire Commission – 1/22/2024; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 1/17/2024; Library Board – 2/5/24; Plan Commission – 11/7/23; Historic Preservation Commission – 3/13/24; Utility Advisory Board – 1/16/24; West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission – 1/25/24; 2/15/24; River Falls Housing Authority – 2/14/24

Resolution No.6871 to Award 2024 Mill & Overlay Program

Resolution No. 6872 - Amending Fee Schedule for Recreation Fees

Resolution No. 6873 - Regarding Replat of Outlot 1 to create Lot 19, St. Croix Valley Habitat

iel (1972) and Joseph Jacob (2009); his parents: Gordon and Irene; his brother Gary; his brother-in-law Jim Falde; sister-in-law Charity Preslan; and nephew Kevin Faber.

His sisters are proud to say that he was the best brother a girl could ever have! He was ready and eager to help anyone at any time with anything and he always did a good job at whatever he did.

Sid the kid will be remembered for his infectious laughter, sparkling blue eyes, hard work, big warm hands, guitar playing and singing and especially his love and devotions to God and his family. He is loved for all the joy he sprinkled everywhere he went.

A Celebration of Life Party for Sid is Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 6 p.m. at Calvary Assembly of God Church, Wilson, Wisconsin. Supper will be served following the service.

ferent issues in a special election set for May 18.

Pierce County moves step closer to jail levy
By R. E. Herman

The Pierce County Board took a formal step toward seeking relief from the cost of operating a new jail within the restraints of a levy freeze that was implemented prior to the construction of the jail.

The board passed a resolution last month that made a formal request that the State of Wisconsin excluded county jail operating costs from the tax levy rate limit.

Simpson gave an example. City Attorney Gierhart provided some details. Simpson said we are trying to find a way to be fair and equitable. The council could decide for any time land transfers they want some kind of reimbursement or sale. Gierhart provided more information. **MSC Bjork/Bjerstedt move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

REPORTS:
Comptroller's Report for February 2024
Comptroller Odeen read the following: General Fund revenues through the end of February were \$3,161,472 or 23.2 percent of total budgeted revenues for the year. Revenues in February included \$1,506,642 in general property tax and \$216,622 in state facilities revenue. Expenditures through the end of February were \$2,023,906 or 14.9% of total budget expenditures for the year. As of February 29, 2024, net revenues over expenditures were \$1,137,566.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Mayor's Appointments

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Appointment of Melissa Abdouch to replace Brandon Dobbertin through May 2026

Police and Fire Commission
Appointment of Tom Gunderson to replace Mark Sams through April 2029

MSC Morrisette/Bjerstedt move to approve mayor's appointments. Unanimous.

Proclamation Congratulating the University of Wisconsin-River Falls women's hockey team on winning the 2024 NCAA Division III Women's Hockey National Championship

The mayor read a proclamation congratulating the UW-River Falls Women's Hockey team for winning the 2024 NCAA Division III National Championship.

MS Bjerstedt/Morrisette move to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk

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CITY OF RIVER FALLS NOTICE OF NEWLY ENACTED ORDINANCE

AT ITS APRIL 9, 2024, MEETING, THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVER FALLS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE:

Ordinance 2024-01 – Annexing Certain Territory of the Town of River Falls to the City of River Falls (N8118 Hwy. 29 and PID 022011410640) and Applying a Zoning Classification of R-2 Multiple Family Medium Density - This ordinance approved the annexation of land in the Town of River Falls to the City of River Falls and applied a zoning classification of R-2 Multiple Family Medium Density to the subject property at N8118 Hwy 29.

The full text of each ordinance, adoption of which is noticed above, may be viewed on the City's website at www.rfcity.org or obtained from the City Clerk at 715-425-0900.

Published: 4/17/24

WNAXLP 4 17

CAMPUS News

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. – **Rachel Rahn**, of River Falls, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Rahn was initiated at St. Catherine University.

Rahn is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated

into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann

who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

Ripon College

RIPON – **Liz Walz**, Ellsworth, will perform in the

Ripon College Chamber Winds and Symphonic Wind Ensemble spring concert, "Retrospect and Modern Takes," Sunday, April 28. The concert will begin at 3:15 p.m. in Demmer Recital Hall, C.J. Rodman Center for the Arts. Admission is free and open to the public.

This will be the inaugural performance for the Chamber Winds. Selections will include "Suite for Small Band No. 2," by Hiroki Takahashi; "Dances from Terpsichore," by Michael Praetorius, arranged by Tohru Minakuchi; and "My Hometown," by Hayato Hirose.

PUBLIC Notice

CITY OF PRESCOTT
April 8, 2024,
City Council
Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, City Council Meeting of the Prescott City Council was held on Monday, April 8, 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, April 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present for the roll call were Bailey Ruona, Maureen Ottwell, Pat Knox, John Peterson, Dar Hintz and Lindsey Owens. Also present were City Administrator, Matt Wolf, Clerk, Rashel Temmers, and Claudia Devolk from CBS Squared, Inc. Also present were city residents.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Resident, Steve Burt, spoke regarding the river front improvement project and the sidewalk included in the WI DOT Highway 35 project to Freedom Park. Mr. Burt is concerned about the taxes going up within the city, the water rates going up and the fact that no one will use the proposed sidewalk. He stated that he is aware that money does come from grants but that goes back onto the taxpayers and the city needs to find a way to curb spending. He also questioned who the property owner was, that did not want to negotiate regarding the proposed sidewalk. Alderperson, Bailey Ruona, stated that it was his rental property. Ruona also stated that because of the non-negotiation the sidewalk would be moved out toward the roadway. Ruona stated that the city needs to look for grants to get projects done. The water rates increased in order to pay for water projects. With roads in disrepair, they have to be fixed somehow and the city needs to look for grant money. With the WI DOT Agreement, the State is controlling what is being done with the road.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1 Parks and Public Works Committee Minutes – March 25, 2024
- 4.2 City Council Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2024
- 4.3 Plan Commission Minutes – April 1, 2024
- 4.4 General Fund Balances – March 2024
- 4.5 Cash Balances – March 2024
- 4.6 Paid Invoices Report – March 2024
- 4.7 Approving the Agreement with Asphalt Plus for Parking Along Dakota

Ruona/Ottwell motioned to approve the consent agenda. Alderperson Ottwell asked about the repairs to the fire boat. City Administrator, Matt Wolf, stated that the fire boat is kept at Point St. Croix Marina in the summer and is used for issues on the river. Ottwell also asked about the grinder for the compost site. City Administrator, Matt Wolf, stated that the DNR came to the city and let us know that we were not allowed to burn at the compost site without doing an environmental study and there would be no guarantee that we would get approval due to the smoke. The city then moved to grinding and this is generally done once a year. Mayor Daugherty stated that the city looked into buying a grinder however it was not cost effective. There was no further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.

5. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

5.A FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No report.

5.B PLANNING COMMISSION – Next Meeting – Monday, May 6, 2024, at 6:00 PM

City Administrator, Matt Wolf, gave an update on the April 1, 2024, meeting. A public hearing on revisions to three Ordinances took place. First the small-box retail store Ordinance, second, correction to Zoning Ordinance 635-2 and third, correction to the number of stalls to Chapter 635 Zoning, Section 635-55G.

5.C PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS – Next Meeting – Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:00 PM

No report.

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.

Alderperson, Pat Knox, asked where progress was on the Sears property and having the packet ready for promotion. City Administrator, Matt Wolf, gave an update on the property. The city has received certification from the Excel Energy Certified Site Program and the city is going through the State Certification Program, WI Economic Certification Program, which most of this is done. The main concern is the water treatment plant that is almost at full capacity therefore we need to plan for future expansion in order to expand the business park, especially for larger water usage companies.

6.2 Ordinance 01-24 To Repeal and Replace Chapter 443, Article I Junked Vehicles and Appliances – Second Reading

Alderperson, Dar Hintz, spoke regarding the update to Ordinance 01-24. This is an update for residential and commercial properties. A violation notice would be issued first to a resident or business and then a citation would be issued after 30 days to anyone or business that did not remove said vehicles or appliances. **Ruona/Ottwell motioned to approve Ordinance 01-24 To Repeal and Replace Chapter 443, Article I Junked Vehicles and Appliances – Second Reading. This motion is for the second reading only and moved to a third reading. There was no further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.3 Resolution 15-24 Awarding the Bid for the Treatment of Well #3 to Market and Johnson in the Amount of \$3,045,000

City Administrator, Matt Wolf, updated the council on this project. On Friday, September 21, 2021, the City received a test result for Well #3 for nitrate levels totaling 12.1 mg/L. This level exceeded Wisconsin DNR standards for safe drinking water. The City of Prescott had shut off well #3 as part of a standard rotation with well #2 on September 9, 2021, and had switched over to well #2 and #4 for all water service. Since that time well #3 has not been turned back on for public use. At the November 5, 2021, City Council meeting an engineering report was approved with CBS2 to determine feasibility options of remediation. The report explored options for casing a new well in a new location, a new well at the same site, drilling the current well deeper, reverse osmosis treatment, electrodialysis reversal treatment, or connecting to an adjacent water utility. At the April 25, 2022, City Council meeting Council approved moving forward with reverse osmosis treatment at well #3 and CBS2 handling design services of the facility. To help fund the project the City Council passed Resolution 16-22 Authorizing Representative to File Applications for Financial Assistance from State of Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund on May 23, 2022. The Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, which provides affordable financial assistance to municipalities for publicly owned drinking water infrastructure projects that are needed to protect public health and achieve or maintain compliance with federal and state regulations relating to water supply, such as the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The program is a revolving loan fund that combines federal capitalization grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with state funds to provide funding to municipalities in the form of subsidized loans (reduced-interest rate loans). The City in May of 2022 tested for PFAs and found trace levels between 3-8 ppt combined in each of our wells. This is currently below the Wisconsin Safe Drinking Water standards of 70 ppt. However, the EPA has developed new proposed national standards set at 4 ppt for PFAs. These regulations are still at the proposal stage but in discussing with CBS Squared and the Wisconsin DNR the belief is they will be adopted eventually by the

State of Wisconsin once finalized by the EPA. As a result, the City also submitted for the new DNR Emerging Contaminants (EC) program that is focused on treatment for PFAs. Although the City's Median Household Income (MHI) is too high for principal forgiveness as part of the standards for the SDWLP program. The EC program did not have an MHI requirement as part of its initial rollout although that changed for 2024's program guidelines. At the June 26, 2023, the City reviewed five different design and layout options for the proposed treatment at well #3. Passing Resolution 37-23, Approving Alternate #3 Design for Submittal to the Wisconsin DNR Emerging Contaminant Program. With the following design approved: Alternate 3 – Reverse Osmosis Treatment, 1 Concentrate GAC, Building not Oversized, this option would see the RO Concentrate treated by the Concentrate GAC removing the PFAs and then sending the water back into the aquifer or to the storm sewer. On October 2, 2023, the City of Prescott received full approval from the Wisconsin DNR to move forward with reverse osmosis and GAC treatment filtration. The design for well #3 will be similar to what was approved at the June 26, 2023, Council meeting with one change. The original plan called for GAC filtration of the concentrated water from the reverse osmosis (RO) treatment. In working with Water Surplus, the designer of the water treatment products, it was determined that anion exchange rather than GAC would be a more cost-effective solution both in the short-term construction and long-term operations cost. The plan will still be to have the anion exchange remove the PFAS from the concentrated RO waste and then send the treated water to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The building expansion will add 1,369 square feet to the existing Well #3 for water treatment. The city has been notified by the DNR that we did receive loan approval from the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. Almost \$2,000,000.00 is approved for principal forgiveness or a grant. This project was then put out for bid and the city received 4 bids and the lowest bid came in at \$3,045,000.00. **Ruona/Hintz motioned to approve Resolution 15-24 Awarding the Bid for the Treatment of Well #3 to Market and Johnson in the Amount of \$3,045,000.00 with allowance of borrowing funds from Water and Sewer if needed and using loan funds to pay back the Water and Sewer. No further discussion on the motion. Mayor Daugherty called for a roll-call vote; Ruona – yes, Ottwell – yes, Knox – Yes, Peterson – yes, Hintz - yes and Owens – yes. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.4 Resolution 16-24 Approving the Contract for Professional Services by CBS Squared for Construction Administration for Well #3 Treatment Project

City Administrator, Matt Wolf, stated like any other project, the city hires a project administrator for project oversight by the engineer. This agreement is for \$301,829.00 for administration services for the next year. **Hintz/Knox motioned to approve Resolution 16-24 Approving the Contract for Professional Services by CBS Squared for Construction Administration for Well #3 Treatment Project, not to exceed \$301,829.00. Any added costs would need a change order. Alderperson Ruona asked Claudia Devolk of CBS Squared if there would be project manager on site with the contractors. Claudia stated that this would be a Resident Project Representative, and this would be discussed with the city and public works department if we want the representative on site during the project. Ruona asked what the lodging was being charged on the agreement. John from CBS Squared stated that lodging, costs, time, labor and expenses are included in the \$301,829.00. John does not believe there will be any lodging needed. No further discussion on the motion. Mayor Daugherty called for a roll-call vote; Ruona – yes, Ottwell – yes, Knox – Yes, Peterson – yes, Hintz - yes and Owens – yes. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.5 Resolution 17-24 Awarding the Bid for the 2024 Mill and Overlay Project to Monarch Paving Company in the Amount of \$235,627.40

City Administrator, Matt Wolf, gave a background on the Cherry Street and Monroe Street mill and overlay projects. In the city's capital improvement plan, there are street projects planned for

Cherry Street in the amount of \$165,000.00 and Monroe Street which includes Willow Lane in the amount of \$225,300.00, and this was put out to bid. The city only received one bid overall for these projects. The bid came in from Monarch Paving at \$89,000.00 for Cherry Street and \$146,542.00 for Monroe Street. The proposal would be to pay for the Monroe Street and Willow Lane project from the capital fund reserves and then reimburse the capital fund once the work has been completed from the interest earned from the 2023A Bond that we accumulated from the Locust, Elm and Washington Street projects once those projects are finished. The funds for Cherry Street would come out of the tax increment district #4. **Knox/Ottwell motioned to approve Resolution 17-24 Awarding the Bid for the 2024 Mill and Overlay Project to Monarch Paving Company in the Amount of \$235,627.40. Alderperson, Knox, questioned this project being paid from the loan interest on the Locust, Elm and Washington Street projects. City Administrator, Matt Wolf, stated that since the interest rates have gone up, we have gained interest earnings, where we can pay for these projects instead of having to borrow money. There was no further discussion on the motion. Mayor Daugherty called for a roll-call vote; Ruona – yes, Ottwell – yes, Knox – Yes, Peterson – yes, Hintz - yes and Owens – yes. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.6 Approval of Financial and Maintenance Agreements between the State of Wisconsin and the City of Prescott for State Highway 35 and US Highway 10

City Administrator, Matt Wolf, gave an overview of the WI DOT Agreement. On December 11, 2023, the City of Prescott received the Department of Transportation agreements for STH 35 and USH 10 projects. The current plan according to the DOT is that these projects are scheduled for 2029. Total cost share for both projects is \$238,000.00 with the majority being for a 20% cost share for a sidewalk going up STH 35 from downtown to Monroe Street at \$101,200.00 and a 100% cost for replacement of parking spots downtown at \$46,000.00. Alderpersons, Ruona and Knox stated that council members have reached out to Representative, Warren Petryk's office, 8 times regarding this project. Warren Petryk's office tried to reach out to the WI DOT regarding this project and never received a response. Ruona stated that the council did try to do the right thing but to no avail. **Ruona/Knox approved the Financial and Maintenance Agreements between the State of Wisconsin and the City of Prescott for the State Highway 35 and US Highway 10. There was no further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.7 Approval of a 36 Month Agreement between Computer Integration Technologies, Inc. and the City of Prescott for IT Managed Services

The City signed a contract for managed services for their information technology on May 25, 2021, with CIT. The contract was for 36 months at a price of \$1,304 a month and included site monitoring, network monitoring and management, endpoint monitoring and management, and five monthly service hours. The agreement with CIT ends on May 26, 2024. CIT has provided a new 36-month agreement for consideration at a price point of \$1,044 per month. Although this is a decrease in the previous agreement of \$260 per month or \$3,120 per year the key change from the old agreement to the new is CIT is switching to hourly for paying for service hours. So, instead of getting the first 5 hours each month built into the agreement, those hours will now be billed at an hourly rate for each service call. The new service arrangement will vary monthly on the overall service needs of the city. Additionally, staff will be working to get more quotes up front from CIT before moving forward with a project or IT setup. **Ruona/Hintz motioned to approve a 36 Month Agreement between Computer Integration Technologies, Inc. and the City of Prescott for IT Managed Services. Alderperson, Knox, questioned whether or not these are the people we would contact if something catastrophic would happen. Matt Wolf stated that yes, CIT would handle any issues. There was no further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.8 Ordinance 02-24 an Ordinance Adding 635-9 D. Small-Box Discount Stores – First Reading

Alderperson, Dar Hintz, reviewed the First Reading of the new Ordinance and guidelines for Ordinance 02-24. The guidelines for small-box stores will be required to be a minimum of 7,000 feet apart, ensuring that the stores offer certain dedicated areas of the store to lean proteins and healthy greens that may not be offered at other small box stores and also to ensure that there is a customer service number provided for any complaints. Alderperson, Bailey Ruona, questioned the definitions and legality of the new Ordinance. Alderperson, Pat Knox, stated that he believes this ordinance is too detailed and limiting and believes this is more discouraging than encouraging. City Administrator, Matt Wolf, stated that this ordinance was drafted by the City Attorney and any changes would need to go back to the Health and Safety Committee or the City Attorney for revisions. **Peterson/Hintz motioned to approve Ordinance 02-24 an ordinance Adding 635-9D Small-Box Discount Stores – First Reading and send to a second reading. No further discussion on the motion. Due to a split vote, Mayor Daugherty called for a roll-call vote; Ruona – no, Ottwell – no, Knox – no, Peterson – yes, Hintz - yes and Owens – yes. Mayor Daugherty broke the tie vote with a yes to move this ordinance to a second reading.**

6.9 Ordinance 03-24 an Ordinance to Amend City Ordinance, Chapter 635 Zoning, Section 635-21 I. (2) Minimum Yards – First Reading

City Administrator, Matt Wolf, reviewed Chapter 635-21 I, District Minimum Yards. In August 2023, the City completed a comprehensive amendment to the Chapter 635 zoning code. However, during the process of updating the amendments on the ecocode360 website, staff identified two unintended changes related to the C-1 district. In 635-21 I. (2), the rear yard setback for the C-1 district was not revised to reflect the required setbacks for fireproof and non-fireproof constructions. As proposed, rear yards would be required to be 10-feet for non-fireproof construction and 0-feet for fireproof construction. There were no public hearing comments relating to the proposed changes to 635-21. I (2). Plan Commission motioned to forward the proposed ordinance revisions to Council for consideration. **Ruona/ Knox motioned to approve Ordinance 03-24 an Ordinance to Amend City Ordinance, Chapter 635 Zoning, Section 635-21 I. (2) Minimum Yards – First Reading. There was no further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.10 Ordinance 04-24 an Ordinance to Amend City Ordinance, Chapter 635 Zoning, Section 635-55 G. (2) Number of Stalls – First Reading

City Administrator, Matt Wolf, reviewed Chapter 635-55 G, Number of Stalls. In August 2023, the City completed a comprehensive amendment to the Chapter 635 zoning code. However, during the process of updating the amendments on the ecocode360 website, staff identified two unintended changes related to the C-1 district. An unintentional strike-through occurred in 635-55 G., eliminating the provision exempting parcels in the C-1 District from minimum off-street parking requirements. There were no public hearing comments relating to the proposed changes to 635-55 G. Plan Commission motioned to forward the proposed ordinance revisions to Council for consideration. **Ruona/ Knox motioned to approve Ordinance 04-24 an Ordinance to Amend City Ordinance, Chapter 635 Zoning, Section 635-55 G. (2) Number of Stalls – First Reading. There was no further discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.11 Resolution 18-24 Approving the Purchase Agreement with Midwest Machinery Company for \$125,643 from the Capital Fund

City Administrator, Matt Wolf, gave a background for Resolution 18-24. The Public Works Department is taking on more street repair work that includes curb and gutter replacement, sidewalk removal and additions, and storm sewer repairs. For 2024 the Department is going to be working on Cherry Street, Kinnickinnic Street, and Monroe Street. With the additional work the Public Works Director has requested the city look at options for either leasing or purchasing a new excavator and compact track

loader and at the same time trading in our old excavator. At the March 20, 2024, Finance Committee three options were discussed and the Committee ultimately decided by a vote of 4-to-0 to move forward with purchasing the equipment with reserve funds from the Capital Projects Fund. The John Deere 60G Excavator would be purchased with a trade-in of the current John Deere 50G that has a value of \$55,788. The John Deere 325G Compact Track Loader would be a new purchase used for various tasks including street repair, storm sewer repair, parks maintenance, tree and stump removal and other tasks. With the track system the city plans to use the equipment to begin raking the beach, which has been an often requested maintenance item. Currently the City of Prescott has an unaudited unrestricted balance of \$383,258 within its Capital Projects Fund. The funds to pay for this equipment would use these reserves drawing down upon the overall balance. **Ruona/Ottwell motioned to approve Resolution 18-24 Approving the Purchase Agreement with Midwest Machinery Company for \$125,643 from the Capital Funds. Alderperson, Pat Knox, commended the Public Works Department for taking on projects that save the city money by doing a lot of the work themselves and that this purchase will pay for itself in a relatively short amount of time. Mayor Daugherty called for a roll-call vote; Ruona – yes, Ottwell – yes, Knox – Yes, Peterson – yes, Hintz - yes and Owens – yes. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.12 For Consideration to Plan Commission - Nomination of Bailey Ruona

No action taken.

6.13 Resolution 19-24 Commending Alderperson Patrick Knox for Dedicated Service to the City of Prescott

Mayor Daugherty read Resolution 19-24 Commending Alderperson Patrick Knox for Dedicated to the City of Prescott. **Ottwell/Hintz motioned to approve Resolution 19-24 Commending Alderperson Patrick Knox for Dedicated Service to the City of Prescott. There was no discussion on the motion. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.**

6.14 Resolution 20-24 Commending Alderperson Bailey Ruona for Dedicated Service to the City of Prescott

Mayor Daugherty read Resolution 20-24 Commending Alderperson Bailey Ruona for Dedicated to the City of Prescott. **Hintz/Knox motioned to approve Resolution 20-24 Commending Alderperson Bailey Ruona for Dedicated Service to the City of Prescott. There was no 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

1. Closed Session per Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1)(g) "Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved" to wit, discussion and consideration of enforcement and other options with respect to trespassing on property owned by the City by Leo's Landing and interference with the City's riparian rights. **Hintz/Ruona motioned to go to closed session. Mayor Daugherty took a roll-call vote; Ruona – yes, Ottwell – yes, Knox – yes, Hintz – yes, Peterson - yes and Owens – yes. Motion passed without a negative voice vote. Ruona/Hintz motioned to come out of closed session. Mayor Daugherty took a roll-call vote; Owens – yes, Peterson – yes, Hintz – yes, Knox – yes, Ottwell – yes and Ruona – yes. Motion passed.**

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ruona/Knox motioned to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:58 p.m. Motion passed without a negative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rashel Temmers
Clerk

WNAXLP 4 17

Baseball

from Page B-1

team’s only extra base hit with a double and also recorded a pair of steals.

In total, the Panthers had 32 batters reach base with 19 hits and 13 walks to only five strikeouts.

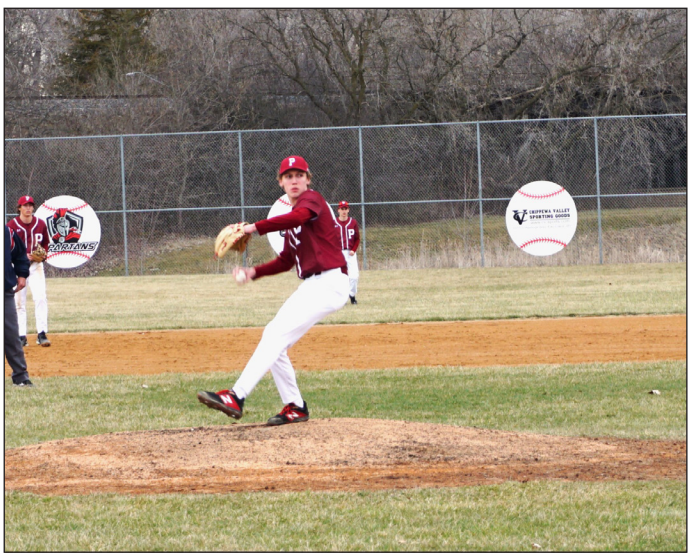
Next up for Ellsworth is a pair of Middle Border games against Amery, first at home on Tuesday and then on the road on Thursday. They then finish the week with a home game against Unity on Friday. All Panthers games this week are at 5 p.m.

Spring Valley

The Spring Valley Cardinals went 2-1 in their games this week, defeating Colfax 7-6 on Monday at home and Glenwood City on the road 11-5 on Thursday but losing to Somerset on Friday at home 19-9.

Colfax got off to an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning on Monday, but Spring Valley came back to score one in the bottom of the frame, two more in the next one and another one in the third to make it 4-2. The Vikings would rally late, taking the lead in the top of the seventh, but the bottom of the inning will be one to remember.

Trailing by a run, the Cardinals struck out and flew out to start the final frame. Down to their last out, Diego Schmitt answered the call for the red birds, delivering a two out double on a line drive to right field. Caleb Bartko then drew a walk to put two



Dain Pechacek earns the win on Thursday in Somerset as the Cardinals defeat the Spartans 3-2. Photo by Joe Peine

on and two out for Trevor Forster. Schmitt and Bartko then successfully completed the double-steal, and Colfax decided it was in their best interest to intentionally walk Forster.

Thus, with the bases loaded, two outs and the game on the line, starting pitcher JT Bauer stepped up to the plate. Schmitt proceeded to score on a passed ball, and Bartko and Forster each advanced. Bauer then worked the count to 3-0 and took the first strike looking but not the second one, delivering a single on a line drive to center field to score Bartko and take the walk-off win in dramatic fashion.

Riding that high, they made easy work out of the Hilltoppers on Thursday, beating them 11-5. Thus, with two good wins, including one definitive Dunn-St. Croix victory, under their belt earlier in the week, Friday’s 19-9 non-conference

loss to Somerset can be more easily forgotten.

On deck for the Cardinals is a home game against Elk Mound on Thursday and an away game against Mondovi on Monday. First pitch for both games is at 5 p.m.

EPC

The Elmwood-Plum City Wolves went 1-2 in their games last week, first losing to Durand-Arkansaw on Monday 3-1 and then beating Cadott on Tuesday 6-5, both at home, and then finally falling to Mondovi on the road on Thursday 8-0.

Brett Lifto was given the loss on Monday, but he pitched a solid game, earning a quality start by pitching six innings of three-run ball while racking up 10 strikeouts. He only allowed five baserunners on three hits and two walks while throwing 94 pitches, and his ERA now sits at a very respectable 3.50. He also helped his own cause at



Barrett Temmers singles and scores a run in the Cardinals’ 3-2 victory over the Spartans in Somerset on Thursday. Photo by Joe Peine

the dish as he knocked in the Wolves’ lone run on the day.

Blake Allen and Lucas Glaus also had good games for the Wolves in that tight loss, with Glaus going 3-4 and Allen going 2-3 with a walk.

The Wolves secured their first win of the season on Tuesday in Cadott, winning the one-run game. In every season, the success of a team is closely tied to winning those tight games, and if the Wolves can continue to punch in runs when they need them the most, the random 8-0 losses won’t matter as much.

Looking ahead, Elmwood-Plum City has three games on deck for this week, all of which will come at home. First up is Colfax on Monday and then Boyceville on Thursday, both at 5 p.m., and this will wrap up their Dunn-St. Croix play for the week. The Wolves’ final game of the week will come

when they host Washburn on Saturday at 11 a.m.

River Falls

The River Falls Wildcats went 2-1 this week, beating Chippewa Falls at home on Tuesday 8-7 then losing to them on the road on Thursday 5-4 before returning to First National Bank of River Falls Field for a 12-5 route of Saint Croix Central.

It was a pair of tight games against Chip this week, with both being decided by one run, eventually.

Tuesday’s game looked like it was over with Chippewa Falls leading the Wildcats 7-2 in the bottom of the seventh inning. In fact, that frame started with two straight strikeouts leaving River Falls down to their final out.

Ty Manninen then managed to work himself into a 3-0 count and got the green light and reached base by legging out an infield single.

Bryce Bevan then took the first pitch, putting the ball on the ground and almost to the exact same place, and the Cardinals’ shortstop again couldn’t make the play. This became the theme as Ben Johnson became the third straight batter to single on a ground ball towards the shortstop and loading the bases.

McQuade broke the streak by taking a 0-1 pitch to center fields, driving in two runs. Cayden Mueller then stepped up to the plate for the Wildcats and did exactly what they needed him to by homering on a pop fly to deep left field, scoring three, tying the game at 7-all and sending the game into extras.

Manninen got the call to pitch the eighth inning, allowing just one hit and striking out two.

The bottom of the frame started with perhaps the rarest hit in baseball when Olson tripled to right field. A ground out and a hit by pitch followed, putting two on, one out and a man in scoring position for Manninen. He took the first pitch for a ball, and then the game ended in sudden and dramatic fashion when the Cardinals’ pitcher balked, advancing all runners one base including Olson, who scored from third ending the game on what can only be called a “balk-off win.”

Next up for the Wildcats is a two-game slate against Eau Claire Memorial. River Falls goes on the road for the first game on Tuesday and then returns home to host them on Thursday. Both of those games are at 4:30 p.m.

Track

from Page B-1

broke our indoor school record with a time of 8:21.80,” Bauschelt said.

At that same event, Ty Bauschelt also broke the indoor 400-meter school record with a time of 0:51.75. Other highlights included the men’s high jump sweeping the competition with Ty Bauschelt taking first with a jump height of 6’2, Charlie Burke taking second for his 6’0 jump and Jacob Hutchins taking third at 5’10.

Coach Bauschelt says their aspirations for the team this season are consistent from year to year.

“We always set a few of the same goals at the beginning of each season. Number one, work towards winning conference as a team; number two, get as many athletes through to state as we possibly can and number three, give each athlete what they need to be successful during the season,” Bauschelt said. “We have over 100 athletes combined this year. Our

coaching staff is amazing, and since we have a few years together, this season feels like it is off to a very smooth start.”

With the first outdoor meets happening this past week, the real competition begins.

“Friday was a true team meet, which means we could enter six athletes in every event besides relays, and every athlete would get points for each event,” Bauschelt said. “We had some great showings from new athletes and a lot of returners competing at the level they ended with last season. We were very happy about that.”

Coach Bauschelt says they are happy with their finishes for their indoor season, and their goal is to continue to improve until they reach the only true competition on their docket, the conference championship.

“We are really trying to have athletes try different events so we have stats to make the best decision on where they will be able to help our team at conference, and then to see where we will be able to advance the

most athletes to the state meet after that,” Bauschelt said.

Notable finishes and improving scores for the boys from the indoor season include Eastgate’s personal records in both the long jump and triple jump; he took first in both. Ty Bauschelt took first in the high jump, and he and Jack Karnau both had PR’s in the 400-meter. Andrews ran a 2:00.21 800-meter for a season personal record and took first place.

Koepke has been standing out with his performances in the distance races. Finnley Halverson had a personal record in the 110 hurdles event, and new to hurdles this year is Jonah Powers, who took second on Friday. Eli Johnson had a PR and took third in the shot put, and finally, Blake Schneider took second in the pole vault.

On the girls’ portion of the competitions, Isabelle Russell and Jayla Johnson set personal records in the 200-meter, Afton Gillis PR’d in the 800-meter and the 1600-meter and Olive Halverson set hers in the 1600-meter. Elly Smith took

first in the 100-meter hurdles, and Bailee Bishop set a season record in the 300 hurdles. Octavia Heuschele and Anika Hovland placed in the pole vault, and Kennedy Berg took third in the triple jump.

With the indoor season at an end, the athletes are excited to get back to competing outside the confines of a gymnasium and an indoor track. This is where the Wildcats’ coaching staff will really get a look at what their 2024 team can do.

“The indoor and outdoor seasons are very different, so it is fun to see what the kids can really do when they get outside. Most of the upperclassmen would say they prefer outdoor because of the tight turns inside for running events,” Bauschelt said. “We are excited to see what the freshmen class is going to bring to the team too. They are a very talented group.”

The outdoor season continues for the Wildcats this week when they host the River Falls Invitational at Wildcat Field on Friday at 3:30 p.m.



The winners of the girls 4x200 event for the Wildcats’ last indoor meet. Top, from left: Abigail Treichel and Brooke Dusek; bottom, from left: Isabelle Russel and Tirfe L’Allier. Photo courtesy of the Dusek family

Softball

from Page B-1

at her in as many days. Gabbi Matzek would be called on to take the reins and work in the long relief role for Prescott from the second inning on, and she performed admirably, allowing just one earned run over the final five innings.

Somerset added on two more total, although only one was charged to Matzek as the second run was on a Cardinal error.

It was a tough outing all the way around for Prescott as they had three errors, no walks and only four hits, although they made the most of those by scoring three runs. It wasn’t enough to overcome the big first inning though, and the Cardinals fell to the Spartans 6-3.

It’s a team that Prescott knows well, and the same one that ended their pursuit of a state title last year in the sectional finals, so expectations are that the back-and-forth tug of war for these two high-powered Middle Border teams is nowhere close to being over.

Head Coach Nick Johnson says they like where they’re at, but the starting roster is going to continue to be a fluid thing.

“We still have a couple spots open. I don’t think anyone is running away with those open positions because we’ve got four girls fighting for a couple of spots, so who knows how that will play out,” Johnson said. “It’s also nice to have that problem. We feel we have 12 girls that can all play and give us good innings. So, we’ll figure it out, and they’ll all continue to get opportunities.”

After striking out 10 times on Thursday, albeit against arguably one of the best pitchers in the conference, Coach Johnson says that’s a point of emphasis after this loss.

“Tuesday, we struck out seven times, put the ball in play and made them work,” Johnson said. “Today, we have 10 strikeouts, which it’s a big deal, and we didn’t make them work defensively.”

The Cardinals are off to a bit of a rocky start, sitting at 2-2 on the season, but it’s a marathon, not a sprint, as they say. Prescott will look to get back in the win column with a four-game week ahead.

First, they hit the road to play La Crosse Logan at 4:30 p.m. Monday and Altoona on Tuesday at 5 p.m. Later in the week, they host Altoona at 5 p.m. Thursday and they finish up by playing North-

western at noon Saturday.

Ellsworth

The Ellsworth Panthers went 2-1 this week and moved to the top of the Middle Border Conference.

The Panthers played back-to-back games against St. Croix Central this past week, first defeating them at home 10-1 and then beating them on the road 8-7. They finished the week with their first loss of the season to Hudson, 8-5.

With this, the Panthers move to 6-1 season and a perfect 4-0 in Middle Border play.

Ellsworth will play a three-game slate this week, first traveling to Zumbrota-Mazeppa on Monday and then to Baldwin-Woodville on Tuesday. Their week finishes up on Thursday when they return home for part two of their split double header against the Blackhawks. All games begin at 5 p.m.

Spring Valley

The Spring Valley Cardinals went 0-2-1 this week after starting the season 3-1.

The Cardinals had a rough go around this time out, losing big to the Colfax Vikings on the road on Tuesday 10-2. They rebounded against Glenwood City, but neither team could get the bats going in that one, with the game

ending 0-0.

The last game of the slate was the real heartbreaker though. Spring Valley was up big, 5-2 in the bottom of the seventh inning, but they couldn’t close it out. The home team came back at the last second to score four and walk it off, 6-5.

The 3-3-1 Cardinals will look to put this week behind them as they prepare to host a two-game slate of Dunn-St. Croix games this week. First up is the 2-3 Durand-Arkansaw Panthers on Monday and then the 1-2 Elk Mound Mounders come to town on Thursday. Both games begin at 5 p.m.

River Falls

The River Falls Wildcats lost both of their games last week to the Eau Claire North Huskies, the first on the road on Tuesday with a final score of 6-1 and the second one at home on Thursday by a score of 8-0.

It was a tough week of Big Rivers Conference play for the Wildcats who couldn’t find an answer for Eau Claire’s pitching.

Game one was death by tiny increments as the Huskies scored one run in the second, one in the third and another in the fourth. Meanwhile, although River Falls was struggling to get runners aboard, Lily Burke singled,

then Jordan Torrez got on base on a fielder’s choice. She would later come around to score on a sacrifice by Alexis Ralston.

That would about do it for the Wildcats’ offense in this one as River Falls put a total of four batters on base with two hits, two walks and one stolen base by Morgan Kivel.

Meanwhile, the Huskies’ starting pitcher threw a complete game and struck out 18 Wildcats, yes 18. They ran into the same buzz saw in the final two innings of their home game two days later, when the same pitcher came into the game to pitch the final two innings in relief and struck out five Wildcats in six total outs. Thus, they will be happy to leave that team behind for now and focus on their coming schedule.

Next up for River Falls is a pair of games against Hudson and one against Holmen. First, they host Hudson on Tuesday, and then they play the Raiders on the road on Thursday, both at 4:30 p.m. Finally, they play in Holmen next Saturday at 10 a.m.

Elmwood-Plum City

The Elmwood-Plum City Wolves lost both their games this week, first at home to Durand-Arkansaw 5-2 and then to Mondovi on the road 11-0.

It was a tough week for

EPC Prom at Cady Acres



The 2024 Elmwood High School Prom Court (from left) Ryan Rupakus (2023 King), Tyce Thiry, Colin Manor, Lucas Glaus (2024 King), Britta Link (2024 Queen), Hailey Webb, Cadie Asher, Rocklyn Robey (2023 Queen). Prom took place Saturday, April 6 at Cady Acres. Photo courtesy of Jacob Maes Photography



Elmwood High School Prom King Lucas Glaus and Queen Britta Link crowned April 6. Photo courtesy of Jacob Maes Photography



Plum City High School's 2024 Prom Court (from left): Tim Bechel, Jacob Steele, Dylan Zeilinger, Carter McGovern, Sean Sagini (King), Olivia Pullen (Queen), Alliyah Hanaey, MaKya Kannel, Yoselin Gea and Daisy Gonzalez. Photo courtesy of Jacob Maes Photography



Plum City High School's Prom King Sean Sagini and Queen Olivia Pullen were crowned Saturday, April 6 before dancing the night away at Cady Acres. Elmwood and Plum City held their proms together. Photo courtesy of Jacob Maes Photography

Plum City Care Center Chatter

By Noel Elsen

Monday morning meant Monday Movers and our small but mighty group (led by Noel) was in fine form, exercising arms and legs. Once we all were able to catch our breath, it was on to Karaoke Sing A Long, which always draws a crowd! While residents were making beautiful music with Noel, Stacey was going up and down the hallways passing out to everyone new monthly calendars for April. A little bit of lunch and then Barb Halling assisted Noel in delivering the mail, which always puts a smile on everybody's face! The last couple of days, Easter and spring cards have been finding their way to the care center and it brings such joy to the residents when they open their mail from loved ones. It was April Fool's Day Monday, so our baking activity of "false teeth" (peanut butter and mini marshmallows on apple slices) turned into a funny photo shoot with residents, complete with goofy glasses and hilarious hats! Once the April Fool's follies calmed down, Noel brought folks together for an afternoon game of Tic Tac Toss in which Herb Tschumperlin took fourth place, Milda Bautch claimed third and Kay George place second. Kevin Bauer was the first-place win-

ner this week with a huge score of 150 points! The day concluded with supper and then bingo with Teresa Fedie and Kathy Luebker here to help with set up, clean up, passing prizes and assisting folks with playing the game. Thank you ladies!

We gently eased into Tuesday with Mass in the morning for residents, led by Father Jojo; we are ever grateful and blessed for all our faith leaders who spend their time with us. Once mass concluded and lunch was finished, Aaliyah arrived to plug in the popcorn machine and residents eagerly awaited bowlfuls of delicious popcorn! The smell of it is so strong and enticing that it doesn't take much to round up folks for the weekly Popcorn Social. Later in the afternoon, Pastor Phil from Evangelical Free stopped by for church and we were uplifted and comforted by his message, as well as hearing his wife Kim accompany hymns on the piano. Supper was soon served and then it was an evening of games with Aaliyah!

It was a windy Wednesday morning, but our bowlers were ready steady as they geared up for our weekly bowling game! This week we welcomed Ave Maria students Seth and Declan to help with pin setting and scorekeeping: thanks kids! Jeff

Halverson, Dorothy Pfaffe and Alice Brantner tied for fourth place, Ivan Mason scored third and Milda Bautch, Judy Thorn and Kay George all claimed second place. We also had a tie for first place this week: Mary Matzek and Kevin Bauer! Residents enjoyed lunch and then interested folks came back to the dining room a little bit later for afternoon Fruit Bingo, this week with seven Ave Maria students here to play the game with us. Thank you to Kathy Shingledecker for all her help with set up, clean up and passing prizes! Barb Grewe was the big winner of a \$1 for blackout this week! Once the cards and chips were cleaned up, we snacked on delectable chocolate mousse at our Mid-Week Social. Yum yum!

We were cheerfully greeted to Harriet Rothe's smiling face Thursday morning for Local News and Coffee; she read residents the newspapers and brought us up to date on the happenings around town. We appreciate and enjoy everyone who keeps us informed on the community news; we also usually have a few stories of our own to share on what's been happening at the care center! While residents were listening to Harriet, Stacey and Noel took down all the bunnies and Easter d cor but kept up a few of the colorful spring

centerpieces on the tables. After lunch the ladies assembled for an afternoon of pampering and manicures. Before you knew it, it was almost time for supper and then afterwards Aaliyah gathered folks for an evening Pokeno game!

We cranked up the polka tunes and Dart Ball kicked off our Friday morning! Thirteen residents came out, hoping to take home the title of first place while several others came out to cheer them on and watch the fun. Our fourth-place winner was Shirley Kliniski, third

place went to Kevin Bauer and Alice Brantner and Judy Thorn tied for second place! Carol Bauer from the Seasons was this week's first-place winner! Our game took us up to lunch and after the meal Barb Halling assisted Noel in delivering the mail (and smiles!) to the residents. Chef Jeff {Halverson} was back to help Noel mix up oodles of crunchy caramel puff corn at Snack Makers, with several others gathered around to "supervise!" There was even time for an impromptu game of UNO (with Stacey

turning up the classic country music) and Kay George, Janet Robelia and Alice Brantner all won themselves a round! Soon the dining room started to fill up with folks as we prepared to listen to Rich Schroeder and his guitar during Happy Hour. A yummy supper was served and then residents gathered around for the Friday night movie; this week's feature film was "Flipper." What a wonderful way to end the day (and week)!

Totally eclipsed: UWRF hosts gathering for solar occurrence

Happening not visible in River Falls; event highlights university's astronomy research

RIVER FALLS – One moment the moon nearly blotted out the sun, with only a curved sliver of light showing around the edge of the moon's dark body. Then the moon moved a bit more, completely blocking the sun's brightness.

"There, it happened. The total eclipse," Glenn Spiczak, physics professor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, said April 8 as he pointed to a laptop screen in front of him.

Unfortunately, such a clear vision of the eclipse was not possible in person in River Falls, thanks to overcast skies that spoiled onlookers' view of the total solar eclipse celebrated by people around the world Monday. Instead, Spiczak noted the eclipse occurring in Mazatl n, Mexico, shortly after 1 p.m. Central Standard Time as it played out on a computer screen.

Spiczak was joined by about 50 people outside of Centennial Science Hall hoping to see the event that was last visible from the contiguous U.S. in 2017 and won't be again until 2044.

People gathered to view the solar eclipse, some donning protective eyewear, looked skyward, hoping for the clouds

to clear and offer them a view of the much-anticipated celestial happening. Their anticipation grew as total solar eclipses happened on Spiczak's screen on locations across the U.S., moving toward River Falls.

With each eclipse, Spiczak described to onlookers the details of the events playing out on his screen. Even when a solar eclipse happens, he explained, bright light emanates from the eclipse's edges because of solar energy.

"You can get some really beautiful images when an eclipse occurs," he said.

Spiczak's affinity for all things solar system was evident during the solar eclipse, a fondness shared by UW-River Falls students studying physics and astronomy. They are involved in doing high-level research with neutron monitors in collaboration with the IceCube South Pole Neutrino Observatory at the geographic South Pole.

Last semester, one of his students conducted similar research with neutron monitors at another site in Greenland, Spiczak said. Other students are studying to what extent the moon's movement impacts the sun's cosmic rays.

"These are the kinds of



UW-River Falls Physics Professor Glenn Spiczak, seated, looks at the solar eclipse through a protective shield Monday afternoon with other faculty, staff, students and community members. Overcast skies spoiled the view for most in the upper Midwest, but the event still brought out many to Centennial Science Hall to catch a glimpse of some change in the sky and learn more about the phenomenon. UWRF/Pat Deninger photo

things that our students are conducting important research on," Spiczak said. "They are helping the scientific community make progress on some of the big issues."

Some of those gathered at UWRF to view the solar

eclipse were knowledgeable about such events, while others were simply there to experience an event that captured global attention. They spoke hopefully when the sky lightened momentarily, then were resigned to not being able to

view the solar eclipse when the clouds remained. Several mentioned the last total solar eclipse in 2017, which they were able to view on campus.

Paige Donnelly, a junior from Edina, Minn., majoring in communication sciences

and disorders, and her friend Gretchen Casper, a junior from Chicago majoring in environmental science, had planned to travel south to view the solar eclipse. They decided against that because of travel concerns prompted by so many others heading south and had hoped the clouds would part shortly after 2 p.m. in River Falls when the eclipse was occurring overhead.

Donnelly, Casper, and others noticed the sky darken a bit a couple of minutes past 2 p.m. But cloudy skies meant the solar eclipse happening overhead wasn't visible. Onlookers waited a few minutes, wishfully discussing what they were missing as some viewed another live eclipse happening elsewhere on Spiczak's screen. Then the group dispersed.

"I thought we might get lucky and see it," said Dolly Shoemaker, '97, who had traveled to campus from nearby Beldenville to view the eclipse. "I'm still glad I came. It was fun to be a part of this, and to know that other people around the world did get to see it."

Submitted by UW-River Falls