

Ellsworth splits with BW  
to share MBC throne

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INSIDE *this* WEEK:

RF blanks Wausau West  
to continue winning ways

SPORTS  
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## Mabel Rohl recovering from 'life saving brain surgery' after Easter Sunday crash

By Andrew Harrington

On April 20, Easter Sunday, Mackenze, 46, John, 16, and Mabel Rohl, 19, were struck by another vehicle at the intersection of Highway 10 and County Road QQ. John and the four passengers of the other vehicle suffered no injuries in the crash, but Mackenze suffered a broken nose and Mabel was airlifted to Regions Hospital after being ejected from the car.

"Mabel is still in the Neurology ICU but continues to make improvements. She has a long road ahead of her but she continues to make baby steps in the right direction. They call her 'the miracle girl' here. She battled through a lifesaving brain surgery and continues to defy

the odds in her recovery. She has overcome so much and improving quickly and working hard to get better and get home. She is strong, determined, stubborn and sometimes her sassy personality comes out and keeps us all going," Mackenze Rohl stated on April 26.

Through it all, the family is leaning on each other to get through it one day at a time.

"This is the kind of situation that you never think will happen to your family until it does. We have four kids: Liz, who [is] a junior at UW-Stout, Mabel a sophomore at UWRF, Jeanne a senior at Prescott and John a sophomore at Prescott. We are all

See ROHL, Page A-3



The community is rallying around the Rohl family after Mackenze, Mabel and John were in a crash Easter Sunday. Photo courtesy of Amy Hildebrandt Facebook post



## WOODWORKING Again

BY DAVE WOOD

### Leah Gavin

We are all saddened to hear of the tragic death of Leah Gavin, River Falls pharmacist and very truly a pillar of the community: an intelligent, warm and wise woman who embodied the creed of service to others.

I was surprised and honored to get a call from her son Ben asking if I would write this column about Leah. We do have some common history: Both of our ancestors were pioneers who strove to establish a city in Whitehall, 100 miles from here, where Leah's father clerked in the local drug store and also served as a Boy Scout Master, trying to instill in all of us little hoodlums the same values that have impacted Leah's impeccable character.

When her great-grandfather Samuel arrived from Broz, Holland, and worked milking cows for my great

grandad, he was visited by Elder Squires, a Baptist evangelist who used acrobatics to try to convert the Dutchman. When he finished his last handstand down the manure bespattered alleyway, Speerstra delivered this reply: "Ja, ja, religion is yus' fine in it's place—as long as you don't take it too seriously."

Which only emphasizes, I believe, that Leah's beneficence was all go and no show.

Here's a story that shows how the Speerstra character shines through Leah's public service: As the new century dawned, a young Peter Speerstra asked my great uncle Jim if he'd help him get his silo filled. Jim was busy as a carpenter but took time off to help out the young farmer. The silo filled, Peter asked what Jim wanted for pay. "Not a thing," said Jim,



Leah Gavin

"but sometime down the road when another young farmer is in trouble, remember this and help him out."

Jim Wood found his chance to "Pay it Forward" when the Depression hit. My father had taken over his widowed mother-in-law's farm, a herd of 20 Guernseys.

See GAVIN, Page A-5



Leah Gavin, celebrating her 65th birthday at Freeman Drug, was named the 2021 Citizen of the Year by the River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. Contributed photo

## RF's Leah Gavin leaves behind loving legacy

Beloved pharmacist dies after home accident

By Sarah Nigbor

Editor's note: In November 2022, I had the privilege to interview Leah Gavin about Freeman Drug's 150th anniversary. Gavin died Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at Regions Hospital in St. Paul surrounded by family as a result of injuries sustained

after a fall at home. In her memory, we are reprinting the article that tells so much about what kind of person Leah was and her lasting impact on River Falls.

For a full obituary, turn to Page B-5.

See LEGACY, Page A-5

## Ellsworth's 'State of the Village' showcases new developments

By Sarah Nigbor

ELLSWORTH — Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce members heard a "State of the Village" update from Village President Becky Beissel and Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Brad Roy at the April 24 member meeting.

Beissel said being an elected official was not on

her radar, "not even a little bit," but the Design Ellsworth initiative in 2018 "kind of lit a fire." Working alongside community members on their vision of Ellsworth's future inspired her. She was elected a trustee in 2020 and village president in 2021, an office she's held since after two re-elections.

The village hired Roy,

who worked in the Pierce County Land Management department for 17 years, as the administrator/clerk-treasurer in 2022.

"It's been kind of a whirlwind, but I think we're starting to see good results," Roy said.

The village board updated its comprehensive plan in 2022, which is a plan Roy

refers to constantly. Almost 1,000 people had a hand in forming it, through surveys, listening sessions and meetings. Beissel said while the state requires the village to update its plan every 10 years, it's not just going to sit on a shelf getting dusty.

In 2024, the village board worked on implementing downtown design guide-

lines, which are guidelines on things such as building materials, window sizes, etc. that help define what a downtown should look like. To that idea, the board also plans to implement a façade improvement program, but funding is not yet in place for it. It may be changed to a

See ELLSWORTH, Page A-10

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ELLSWORTH *Area News*

Ellsworth Prom: A Night in the Jazz Age



Adam Capatske (left) and Gabe Albarado were voted Most Hilarious by their peers as part of the Ellsworth High School 2025 Junior Prom Court. Photo courtesy of Kate Acker



The Ellsworth High School 2025 Prom Court celebrated “The Roaring Twenties: A Night in the Jazz Age” as this year’s theme. The dinner and dance took place at the Little Log Cabin at Hastings’ Pioneer Village. Photo courtesy of Kate Acker



The 2025 Ellsworth Prom Court, selected by their peers, was crowned Saturday, April 27. Pictured are (not in order): Gabe Albarado, Oliver Truttman and Madi Allie (voted Most Hilarious); Claire Matzek and Julia Boyle (voted Class Sweethearts); Ben Baker, Hayden Turner and Cole Keenan (voted Friendliest Juniors); Adam Capatske and Olivia Gilbertson (voted Most Sociable); Lexi Marks and Jack Stoltenberg (voted Perfect Pair); and Jerry Johnson and Parker Lampman (voted Best Dressed). Students selected Jerry Johnson as Prom King and Lexi Marks as Prom Queen. Photo courtesy of Kate Acker

Ellsworth Chamber welcomes Pawlikowski Consulting



Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce members welcomed Matt Pawlikowski of Pawlikowski Consulting LLC to the chamber family with a ribbon cutting Thursday, April 24 at the monthly member meeting. Pawlikowski brings over a decade of experience in IT planning, project management, and smart strategic technology solutions—helping businesses streamline operations and focus on the important aspects of running their business. To learn more about his services, visit <https://pawlikowski.consulting/> Photo courtesy of Jenny Funk

Ellsworth Senior Center weekly events

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

Come and join the **Pool Players** every Monday and Friday from 1-4 p.m.

**Euchre Card Players** are meeting 1-3 p.m. Thursday, May 8 and Thursday, May 22. Beginners are welcome and encouraged to come.

Katrina will provide **Foot Care** for a fee on Thursday

May 15 (six-week) beginning at 9 a.m. Call the Senior Center for more information or to schedule an appointment.

**Game Day** is set for 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, May 6. We will gather for fun, group games and conversation. This will be the last game day until next fall.

**Discover Together Tuesday** is at 11 a.m. May 13. Join author, lecturer and researcher Chad Lewis for an engaging presentation on “Wisconsin Gangster History.”

Discover the fascinating and untold stories of the notorious gangsters who sought refuge in Wisconsin. In this captivating presentation, Lewis explores which infamous criminals hid out in the state, the secret locations they frequented, and the intriguing reasons why Wisconsin became a popular haven for some of America’s most notorious figures. This historical journey promises to shine a light on a thrilling chapter of Wisconsin’s past. A luncheon

will follow, sponsored by the Ellsworth Senior Center and the Friends of the Ellsworth Public Library.

The **Balanced Wellness Presentation with CJ Young** will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 21. Please note that we are having a change of location. We will be meeting at Country Fit (273 N. Morse St.) for all future wellness presentations. CJ will be using her Tanita computer to read our personal Body Composition

Readings following her presentation. CJ will present a wellness topic followed by some group exercises to help maintain our balance and strength.

**Celebrating Seniors Gathering** will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 27 – please note the day change. All future Celebrating Seniors Gatherings will be held on the last Tuesday of the month. In honor of Memorial Day, Julie Huebel from the Pierce County Historical As-

sociation will be presenting some stories she has discovered about some of our local veterans. Come join us in honoring their memory. Cake and ice cream will be served following the presentation.

Unless otherwise stated, all events are at the Ellsworth Senior Center, located at English Lutheran Church (229 W. Main St., Ellsworth).

*Submitted by Phyllis Beas-trom*

Join the Wildflower Walk and Community Science Activity

ELLSWORTH - Nature lovers of all ages are invited to take part in a Wildflower Walk and Community Science Activity at 4:30 p.m. May 6, meeting at the Cairns Woods trailhead at the end of W. Cairns St., behind Evergreen Estates in Ellsworth.

Participants will enjoy a guided walk through the beautiful Cairns Woods in search of blooming wildflowers and other natural wonders. Along the way, you’ll learn how to contribute to important scientific research by documenting the plants and wildlife you encounter—right here in your own community. No prior experience is needed, just a curiosity for nature and a willingness to explore.

“Community science is a powerful way for everyday people to help scientists understand our changing environment,” said Caroline Herfindahl, Youth Service Librarian and Programming Coordinator at EPL. “This walk is a great opportunity to connect with nature and make a real difference.”

Please wear sturdy footwear and be prepared to walk on uneven terrain. A smartphone is helpful for those interested in trying out nature observation apps like iNat-



uralist or Seek, but it’s not required.

Whether you’re a seasoned naturalist or simply looking for a relaxing afternoon outdoors, this free event is a perfect way to connect with your community—and the environment.

For more information about this event and other upcoming activities, stop by

the library or visit [www.ells-worthlibrary.org](http://www.ells-worthlibrary.org).

*Ellsworth Public Library is committed to supporting diversity, inclusion, and well-being within the communities we serve. Call us at 715-273-3209 about making your library services and experiences safe and welcoming.*



The Ellsworth FFA Veterinary Science team of Emma-Rae Hines, Maddie Bowen, Peyton Berg and McKenna Edgar earned first place at the State FFA Vet Science competition in Madison. Contributed photo

Ellsworth FFA Vet Science team places 1st at state

According to Ellsworth FFA Advisor Katie Christenson, April is a month of judging contests for FFA, and their chapter had several teams that qualified for state.

This year, for the first time ever, Ellsworth FFA had a team win a state CDE contest: The Veterinary Science team, comprised of McKenna Edgar, Peyton Berg, Maddie Bowen and Emma-Rae Hines. They will compete

and represent Wisconsin at the National FFA Convention next fall. Individually, Edgar placed first, Berg placed 12th, Bowen was 13th and Hines was 32nd.

Other results include at area CDEs include:

**Ag Sales:** McKenna Edgar, Chase Plummer, Joe Emery and Ben Baker, who placed 13th on April 11.

**Horse Judging:** Lillie Rewolinski, Gretta Rewo-

linski, Ellie Holst and Rayha Tober, who placed seventh April 11. Lillie Rewolinski placed third individually.

**Livestock Judging:** Breana Blanch, Lily Huppert, Trevor Doherty and Landyn Gaard placed 15th on April 25. Lily Huppert placed 27th individually.

*Submitted by Ellsworth FFA*



AROUND the county

CVTC board votes to publish proposed 25-26 budget

Expenditures down nearly 5.3 percent

EAU CLAIRE – Chippewa Valley Technical College District Board approved publishing the proposed 2025-26 budget during its meeting on Thursday, April 24. The Board will host a public hearing and final budget approval at the meeting in May. The budget calls for total expenditures of \$109,773,451, a reduction of 5.27 percent from the 2024-

25 revised budget due mainly to fewer planned capital project expenses. General fund revenues are projected to be \$67,614,298, down 0.38 percent from 2024-25. An estimated five percent increase in property values will decrease the mill rate of 1.86 percent from \$66.28 per \$100,000 of property value to \$65.05. While the mill rate is decreasing, the

overall amount estimated to be collected throughout the district via the tax levy is \$28,766,602, up 3.05 percent from the previous year, though the tax levy will not be set until the October 2025 meeting.

Submitted by Chippewa Valley Technical College

Small segment of US 63 in Pierce County to close to traffic Monday

Closure, one of two planned for project, necessary to complete culvert, bridge work

US 63 east of Ellsworth will be closed to traffic Monday, May 5 between US 10 and 590th streets for the removal of a culvert, and traffic will be detoured via US 10 and County DD. This work, anticipated to take place from May 5-19, is part of a resurfacing project that also begins Monday on US 63 from US 10 east of Ellsworth to WIS 29 East in Pierce County. The pavement on this segment of US 63 is showing signs of deterioration. To address this and other issues, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is planning to:

- Remove 1.25 inches of the existing pavement and place 3.25 inches of new asphalt pavement
- Replace the decks on the bridges carrying US 63 over the south fork of Lost Creek, Lost Creek and a branch of the Rush River
- Replace culverts, gravel shoulders and guardrail
- Clean ditches
- Place new pavement markings

During stage 2 of construction, US 63 will be closed for the rehabilitation of bridges over the south fork of Lost Creek between County DD and 570th Avenue, Lost Creek between County G and County N and a branch of the Rush River between 760th Avenue and County J. Traffic will be detoured via Wis 65 and County J, and the work tentatively is scheduled from May 19-Aug. 4. During stage 3, US 63 and side roads will remain open to traffic, but US 63 will be reduced to a single lane controlled by flagging during work. Milling and paving is expected to start between US 10 and 610th Street and continue to the east junction of WIS 29. This work is tentatively planned from Aug. 4-Sept. 25. Construction is scheduled for completion in late September. The prime contractor is holding two stakeholder meetings to go over the proposed work, schedule and traffic impacts, including detours. The first was at 5 p.m. April 28, and the other is scheduled for 5 p.m. Monday, May 12; both will be at the Martell Town Hall, W5581 800th Ave., Spring Valley: For more information regarding traffic impacts, transportation news and improvement project updates in Wisconsin’s Northwest Region: Follow us on Twitter: @WisDOTnorthwest Visit the region’s 511 website: projects.511wi.gov/region/northwest/ Visit the project’s construction website: projects.511wi.gov/nwr9/ Motorists are reminded that using handheld cell phones in Wisconsin work zones is illegal. Alerts and updates provided via these sites are not intended for use while driving. When driving, your focus should always be on driving.

Submitted by WisDOT

‘Transparent Watercolors’ exhibit – A 40-Year Journey in Art

ELLSWORTH – The highly anticipated *Transparent Watercolors* exhibit by artist Brian Doolittle opens May 2, 2025, and will run through July 30, 2025. This exhibition marks a significant milestone in Doolittle’s 40-year artistic journey, showcasing a collection of stunning transparent watercolor paintings that span four decades of personal reflection and creative exploration. The exhibit will be hosted at Ellsworth Public Library. An artist reception will be held 6-7:30 pm. Tuesday, May 13. In this exhibition, Doolittle offers viewers a deep dive into his artistic process, revealing how his work has evolved since 1985. Each painting captures a range of locations and memories, starting with those from his childhood in Ellsworth, Wis., and expanding over time as he traveled as an art teacher. Drawing inspiration from the natural world and his own life

experiences, the exhibit offers a unique perspective on the landscapes that have shaped him both personally and artistically. As Doolittle reflects on his process, he states, “Drawing is the first form of writing. We, all as small toddler children, draw. With or without color.” This simple yet profound observation underscores the importance of art as a language of expression that transcends words. His transparent watercolors are created by sketching scenes on location in a short 20–30-minute period, followed by applying layers of transparent watercolor at home. This method of working—often on multiple pieces at once—allows the paint to breathe, evolve, and develop depth and complexity with each additional layer. Throughout the exhibit, visitors will see how Doolittle’s subject matter has expanded over time, from childhood memories of fish-

ing trips with his grandfather to the landscapes encountered on his travels. His journey as an artist reflects a deep connection to the places and people that have shaped his worldview. The paintings themselves are a testament to his evolving understanding of nature, light, and the passage of time. Doolittle, a Pierce County native, grew up in Ellsworth, Wis., and is deeply rooted in the landscape of the area. He holds a degree in Art Education K-12 from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, a Master’s degree from Winona State University, and has studied at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis School of Art & Design. Throughout his career, Doolittle has continued to study and develop his craft, creating works that are both personal and universally relatable.

Submitted by Ellsworth Public Library

Grow Up, Not Out: Free vertical gardening webinar and craft activity with expert Melinda Myers

ELLSWORTH – Looking to make the most of your gardening space this spring? At 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, join the Ellsworth Public Library for a free live virtual webinar with nationally known gardening expert and author Melinda Myers, who will share smart and stylish ways to grow your garden up with vertical gardening. This interactive event—offered in partnership with Wisconsin Public Libraries and We Energies—will introduce creative techniques for growing flowers and edibles vertically to maximize space, screen unsightly views, and even improve your home’s energy efficiency. Learn how vertical gardens can help



Melinda Myers

shade air conditioners, walls, and patios, all while bringing beauty and function to your landscape or container garden. Following the presentation, participants are invited to stay for a fun vertical gardening-themed craft activity.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask Myers their gardening questions during a live Q&A session. Can’t make it live? The webinar will be recorded and made available for on-demand viewing on the Milwaukee Public Library’s YouTube channel. Whether you’re a seasoned gardener or just getting started, this is a unique opportunity to learn from one of the best—and spark some inspiration for your own outdoor space. Reserve your spot today and let your garden grow sky-high! Submitted by Ellsworth Public Library

St. Croix Valley Foundation expands environmental grants

\$225,000 available to support environmental efforts

HUDSON — On Earth Day, the St. Croix Valley Foundation announced the return of its Environmental Grant Program, designed to protect and restore the region’s natural assets. Thanks to a generous anonymous donor and a growing community of supporters who care deeply about the St. Croix Valley, this year’s program will offer nearly six times more funding. In 2025, \$225,000 in grant funding is available to support environmental education, access and inclusion, volunteer engagement, and the protection and restoration of the region’s natural resources and character. Launched just one year ago, this grant program was created to ensure that the environmental needs of the Valley are met—now and for generations to come.

“Place-based philanthropy is at the heart of what we do, and the Environmental Fund is a powerful example,” said Angie Pilgrim, Vice President of Community Impact at the St. Croix Valley Foundation. “This collaborative of dedicated donors has made the environment a clear priority. Their shared commitment and generosity are fueling meaningful investments in our waterways, habitats, and the

people and programs that will steward this beautiful region for generations to come.” Grants are open to non-profit, governmental, tribal, educational, or religious organizations—or to programs that partner with a qualifying fiscal sponsor. Eligible applicants must serve communities in SCVF’s six-county service area: Chisago and Washington counties in Minnesota, and Burnett, Polk, St. Croix, and Pierce counties in Wisconsin. Two types of funding are available: General Operating Support (\$5,000–\$25,000): For organizations located in the SCVF’s six-county region whose core mission is environmental protection and education. Program Support (\$500–\$10,000): For environmental or non-environmental organizations to fund hands-on, inclusive, and community-based environmental programming. Applications must be submitted by June 20, 2025. Grant recipients will be notified in July. To apply or learn more, visit [scvfoundation.org/grants](https://scvfoundation.org/grants). The Environmental Grant Program is made possible by the St. Croix Valley Environmental Fund, an

endowed field of interest fund established in 2021 by Jim and Judy Freund. Dozens of individuals, families, and organizations have already contributed, with new gifts continuing to grow the fund’s impact. “Environmental grants are one more way we connect local generosity with local need,” said Pilgrim. “From rivers to rain gardens, outdoor classrooms to policy advocacy, these grants are helping shape a more sustainable and resilient future across the St. Croix Valley.” Join us in investing in what matters—our environment, our future, and the place we all call home. The St. Croix Valley Foundation serves a six-county region spanning Washington and Chisago Counties in Minnesota and Polk, Burnett, St. Croix, and Pierce Counties in Wisconsin. Partnering with donors, local community affiliates, and nonprofits, the foundation stewards and grows endowments that fuel vital programs—today and for generations to come. Through strategic grantmaking and strong community partnerships, the St. Croix Valley Foundation is helping build a more vibrant, resilient, and generous region.

Trimbelle fire destroys home, deemed a ‘total loss’

Staff report

TOWN OF TRIMBELLE – Firefighters were able to save three dogs from a house fire Sunday in the town of Trimbelle. Ellsworth Fire was dispatched to a structure fire at 2:52 p.m. April 27 at N5715 800th St. When they arrived, fire was showing through the roof, which had partially collapsed, on a single family

single-story home. The occupants weren’t home at the time of the fire, but firefighters freed three dogs from the residence. Pierce County property records list the homeowner as Maya and Patrick Besanson. Crews worked for about 2.5 hours to extinguish the flames, but the home was deemed a total loss. The Red Cross is assisting the residents, who were displaced. The cause of the fire is unde-

termined at this time. Ellsworth Fire utilized MABAS Division 156 to request assistance from River Falls Fire Department, Prescott Fire Department, United Fire and Rescue, Spring Valley Fire Department and Allina EMS. Ellsworth Fire was also assisted on scene by the Pierce County Sheriff’s Office, Pierce County Dispatch Center and Ellsworth EMS.

Rohl

from Page A-1

very busy in the spring as Liz plays softball for UW-Stout, Mabel just started an internship at Ag Partners in Ellsworth, Jeanne plays softball at Prescott and John is a member of the Prescott Trap team so our lives are chaotic but fun! Then it all came to an abrupt stop last Sunday. We were heading home from Easter church service at St. Joseph’s chatting about the day’s events as we were having Liz’s Stout softball team and family over for an Easter meal and egg hunt on the farm when the crash occurred. My family has been in a bit of a blur this past week trying to deal with Mabel and her condition while just going through all the emotions and impacts of the aftermath. My main focus is on Mabel who is receiving excellent care Regions in the Neuro ICU. “I can’t say enough about the doctors, therapists and nurses helping her get the care she needs to heal and recover. They are truly amazing and I know she is getting the best care available. The rest of my family have leaned on the support of family, friends and the community to help us through these hard times. It is the most difficult thing to go through having a family member be critically injured but watching Mabel fight and battle these past few days has motivated us to carry on and do what Mabel would want us to do. “I can’t thank the Prescott Fire Department, EMT workers and sheriff department [enough] in helping us through the scariest moment of our lives. If it wasn’t for the emergency workers, I can’t care to imagine what would have happened,” Mackenze Rohl stated. Mackenze said the prayers

have been felt, and while they hesitated to receive support from the community originally, they are extremely appreciative of all they have received. Family friend Amy Hildebrandt, the owner of Ridgetop outside of Prescott, connected with the family to set up a donation opportunity for the Rohls. Donations can be brought to the Ridgetop, Venmo’d to AmyHilde with a message of “Rohl Fund” so Hildebrandt can ensure what the funds are for (Hildebrandt requested people type the 2291 confirmation code because there are fake accounts going around using the family photos), dropped off at St. Joseph Parish School in Prescott or given to Madison Hildebrandt. “When Amy contacted me about her plans I was very hesitant. We are the ones who like to help others not the other way around. It really is easier to give than to receive! A few people said it’s your turn to receive help so let others help you. Having so much help and community support has been amazing. We are completely amazed at the support, well wishes, gifts, prayers and do-

nations people have given us. It really does help lessen the burden and we appreciate it more than anyone will ever know! People have been so gracious and we appreciate them all so much. I’m not sure how we will ever be able to repay them but we just want everyone to know how much it means to all of us. My workplace St. Joseph’s Parish School has been wonderful in helping me be at Mabel’s side and I appreciate my fellow staff members so much for all they do to help out. Our family has been so helpful in every aspect of this journey and we are beyond grateful. Thank you to all the staff at PHS in helping Jeanne and John get through everything too! This community has something special and it is amazing to see everyone step up to help those when they need it most. Keep the prayers coming because I am watching them work every single day in Mabel’s recovery,” Mackenze Rohl stated. A Caring Bridge site with frequent updates on Mabel’s health is available at <https://www.caringbridge.org/site/89171118-206e-11f0-8341-874a2e2749d8>

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VIEWPOINTS

Evers, GOP lawmakers talking about a tax deal



Something very unusual is happening at the Capitol: Dem Gov. Tony Evers and top legislative GOP leaders have had discussions about a budget deal on tax cuts.

While there have been compromises during Evers' tenure, big compromises via personal discussions between the governor and Republican leaders have been rare.

But this year the meetings hold promise because of the big projected budget surplus and all the uncertainty in Washington, DC.

Evers on April 22 said while he's open to negotiating a tax cut deal with GOP legislative leaders, any agreement would have to be part of the two-year state budget — not standalone legislation.

Evers said reaching a deal would be "tough" because of his demand it be done through the state budget that is now before the Legislature. GOP legislative leaders have said they prefer a tax cut signed into law before taking up the budget.

"I mean, first of all, we're somewhat apart on what we want to do with taxes, but yeah, it has to be part of the budget," Evers told reporters at an Earth Day event in Waunakee. "We just can't do things one way and then, you know, just do taxes and then do spending, we have to look

at it together. That's the way it's done every time that I've been governor, and I think just about every time. So a separate bill is not something I would support."

WisPolitics first reported in mid-April that Evers met with Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, R-Oostburg, and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, in person recently and discussed a possible agreement on a tax cut.

Evers on April 22 said the conversation was productive and staffers for the three elected officials have met at least one since those initial talks.

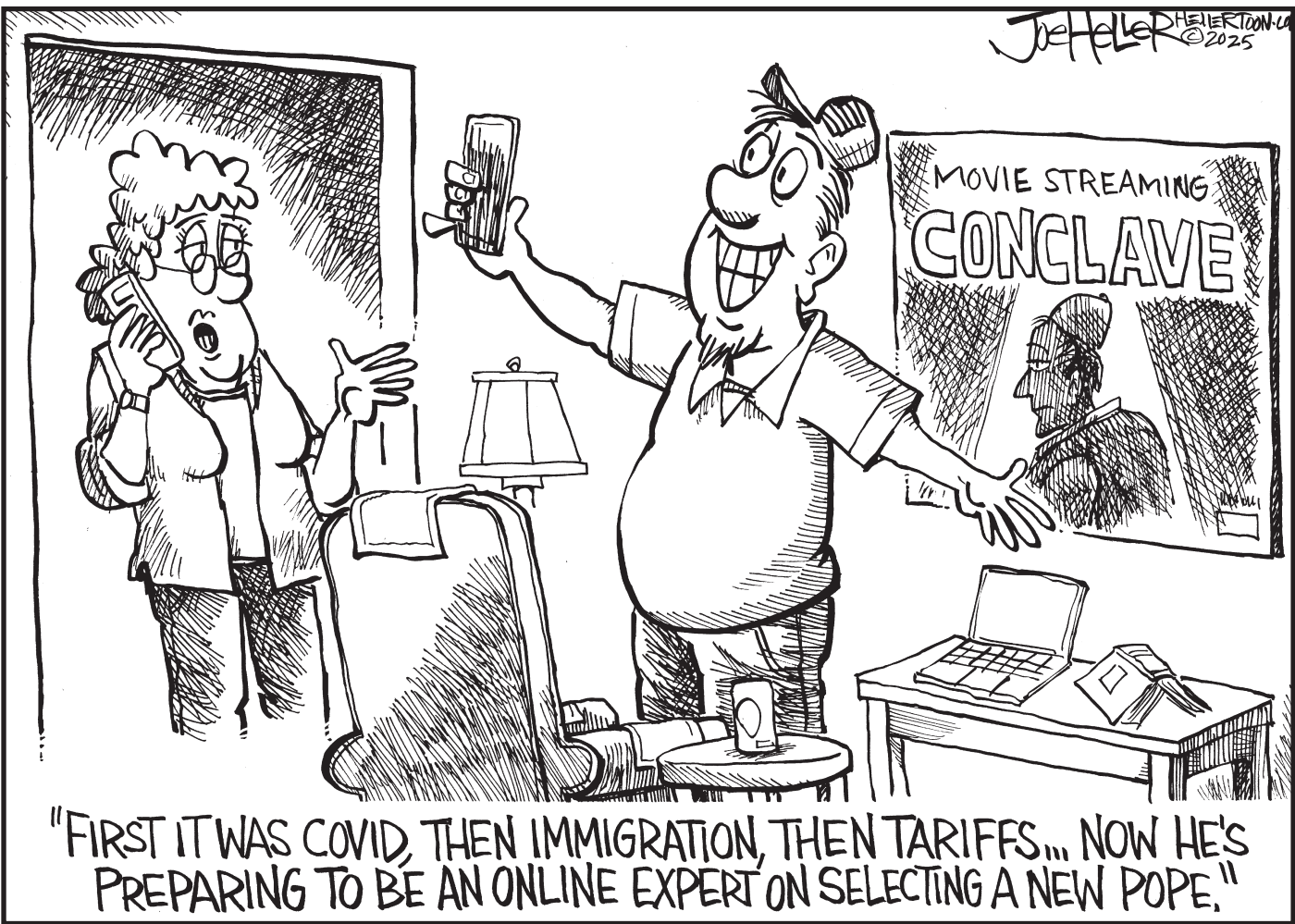
In a media availability ahead of the Assembly floor period, Vos didn't rule out including the tax cuts in the state budget, adding he'd like further negotiations with the governor.

Vos said he had a "good discussion" with the governor and he's hoping to meet again. He said he knows they can't get a tax cut without seeing Evers' priorities.

"The goal, again, is to try to find something that can actually get across the finish line," Vos said. "I think the governor realizes that we're not going to spend any more money unless we have the ability to reduce taxes and help folks get by with inflation."

Meanwhile, LeMahieu declined to go into what he's discussed with Evers and Vos. In the past, he advocated for targeting the third-highest tax bracket for a cut, while Vos has focused on exemptions for retirement income.

"We think it's best for the



state of Wisconsin to get a budget passed and provide tax relief," LeMahieu said. "We'll continue to try to work with the governor."

Senate Minority Leader Diane Hesselbein, D-Middleton, said she supports having discussions on tax cuts. Still, she urged caution amid economic uncertainty at the national level.

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau in January projected the state would finish the current fiscal year with a \$4.3 billion surplus before seeing another \$1.85 billion in tax collections over the 2025-27 budget.

But the Department of Revenue recently reported income and sales tax collections in

March were down compared to the same month a year earlier. They are the two largest sources of tax collections for the state.

"The tariffs and the chaos and the confusion coming out of Washington, D.C., right now, I'm not sure we're going to be able to do as much as Republicans thought in the beginning," Hesselbein said.

Evers also dismissed Vos' criticism of the state Supreme Court upholding his veto to increase per-pupil school aid for 400 years.

Vos, R-Rochester, last week said the veto amounts to a 400-year property tax increase for Wisconsinites.

But Evers argued "noth-

ing's changed" when it comes to the budget-making process.

"We have a budget that takes care of that issue," Evers said. "We believe that there is sufficient money to increase some areas, especially education, but also to make sure that property taxes for the average property taxpayer stays the same. And so all we have to do is work together and start talking about it, we can't just take one piece and say, 'Oh, this is going to screw everything.' We have to look at it in total, and ... that's what the process is about, and hopefully we can get it going."

Evers made the comments during an Earth Day celebration at Governor Nelson State

Park. He spoke alongside members of his administration to honor the day founded by former Gov. and U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson.

He noted skepticism about climate change and environmental issues at the federal level.

"This is our way to say, you know, you can 'drill, baby drill' if you want, but we're going to take care of our parks, and we're going to make sure that we are environmentalists as a state," Evers said, citing a common catchphrase of President Donald Trump.

For more, go to [www.wispolitics.com](http://www.wispolitics.com)

LETTERS to the Editor

Be involved with SV School District

To the editor,

I would first like to thank those taxpayers in the Spring Valley school district who voted for me in the April 1 election. Since I was not elected to the board, I have a few items for the taxpayers of our school district to get involved with. Attend at least one school board a year to hear what is going on. Please contact the superintendent, one of the principals, or a school board member if you have any questions regarding the education of our students or the financial spending of our school district. Their contact information may be found at [https://www.springvalley.k12.wi.us/staff\\_directory](https://www.springvalley.k12.wi.us/staff_directory).

Since I served on the Sprig Valley Community Task force this past fall, the meetings I attended were very educational. Did you know that with both referendum questions passing, the company who "helped" with the campaign now receives 14% of the referendum monies or \$2 million? This money was built into the total \$13.1 million referendum numbers. Did you also know that in referendum question #2 by "Adding competition track at main school with field events and grass field for physical education and football practice" DID NOT

include fencing, lights, spectator stands, bathrooms, concessions? This will be an additional cost of \$2-3 million. Hopefully the school district will do fundraising for these items to be completed so the track can be used to host meets.

A big thank you to Larson Valley Construction for their donation of a new roof for the Syverson Pool building, which was one of the items on the #2 referendum question. Thanks to the #1 referendum question passing, the new bus garage will hopefully be built on land currently owned by the school district and the 27-year-old Middle/High School building will get updated with the mechanical and electrical systems. Why these haven't been updated in the past 10 years, I do not know. But I do know that the Department for Public Instruction and the State of Wisconsin, house and senate, need to do a better job in communicating and getting state funding to schools in a timelier manner.

I appreciate the teachers and staff in the Spring Valley District and thank you for your help in educating the students. As the district's mission statement says, "Our vision is to provide a caring, respectful, challenging and equitable environment, in partnership with the community, that will enable all of our students to become responsible citizens."

I ask that you stay informed and involved with our school district by attending school board meetings and have your concerns voiced and any questions you have answered.

Beth Ingli  
Spring Valley school district taxpayer

Who are we protecting anyway?

To the editor,

As a concerned local, I've noticed the DOB's and addresses of the arrested individuals in the daily jail log have been removed this year. But why?

I understand the need to protect privacy and keep

people safe, but these are not the people we need to be protecting. I want to know who they are, where they came from and where they live. As Pierce County residents, we should be given right to the information in order to protect our own families and be given the right to be aware of potential threats.

The minute they are arrested, their rights to anonymity are stripped and the public's rights to knowing that vital information should be displayed.

Thank you for the consideration.

Carrie Cremin  
River Falls

Not enough words to thank Leah Gavin

To the editor,

I'm writing to share a few words of praise and mourning for Leah Gavin, who we lost on April 22. In her many years at Freeman Drug in River Falls Leah truly befriended our community and gave helpful, personalized service to all who came to her.

Whether providing up-to-date information on vaccines or pointing a customer to the least expensive medication alternative, Leah always made us feel cared for and cared about. If you needed only two pills for a procedure, she'd cut two pills from a pack and charge accordingly. I'm sure that many considered her advice as valuable as that of their general practitioners. She was that informed and that caring.

The last time I saw Leah I told her how much it meant to me that she was here for us all. In her modest way, this hard-working woman seemed to shrug off my praise as if it were extravagant, but I was sincere. For that matter, I think she deserved thanks as extravagant as we could make them. Leah, you were one of the people who make River Falls a great place to live. We could never have thanked you enough.

Thomas R. Smith  
River Falls

ASK THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR –  
“I Want My Gold Teeth Taken Out!”

"I want my gold teeth taken out!"

Believe it or not, this is something I hear at least a dozen times a year—whether from those making pre-arrangements or families planning a cremation. Some say it jokingly, others very seriously. One common reason? "They cost me a lot of money!"

Gold used in dental work is measured in karats, like jewelry. Higher karat means purer gold—but also softer and less durable. That's why most dental gold is mixed with other metals to form an alloy. So, while gold crowns and fillings may have cost thousands, their actual scrap value is often far less than expected. And many gold teeth are actually gold-plated, which holds virtually no value for scrap.

Now for the important part: Funeral directors are not dentists. We're not trained, licensed, or equipped to remove teeth or implants. If you hear of someone using tools like channel locks to pull a tooth—please know that's not just cringeworthy, it's potentially illegal.

If a family insists on retrieving gold teeth before cremation, a licensed dental professional—such as an oral surgeon—must be brought in to perform the removal. It's not that we're being difficult; we're simply upholding the ethical standards of our profession.

Another question I often get is what happens to things like metal rods, bolts, pins, or artificial joints after cremation. These are not removed beforehand (doing so would be invasive and unnecessary). After the cremation process, any remaining metal parts are separated and properly recycled.

At O'Connell's, we do not keep proceeds from this recycling. We believe it is unethical to profit from any part of the human body. Instead, we request that all proceeds from the recycling company go directly to local nonprofit organizations that serve and support our communities.

These include:

- American Legion Posts in River Falls, Ellsworth, Prescott, and Baldwin
- Local senior centers
- Local community foundations
- The Lions Club of Ellsworth
- River Falls Sunshine Fund
- St. Bridget's Catholic Church Hardship Fund

We're proud to support these organizations, many of which directly impact the lives of families we serve.

If a funeral home can't clearly explain where recycling proceeds go—it's worth asking questions. That should be a red flag.

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Written by Mike O'Connell

the JOURNAL

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Beth Ingli  
Spring Valley school district taxpayer

Who are we  
protecting  
anyway?

To the editor,  
As a concerned local,  
I've noticed the DOB's and  
addresses of the arrested  
individuals in the daily jail log  
have been removed this year.  
But why?  
I understand the need to  
protect privacy and keep

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# FROM THE *Editor's Desk*

BY SARAH NIGBOR

## Symbols of hope

I believe birds are messengers from God. They always appear in my life when something big is brewing and I'm convinced they are trying to tell me something. After all, birds in their effortless flight and proximity to the heavens, have often been seen as messengers of God. The dove not only brought Noah the olive branch, signaling the end of the flood, but was a symbol of the Holy Spirit during Jesus' baptism.

My brother Nick died nine years ago on April 23. He was 15 years my senior and lived with cerebral palsy, plus other health issues. He was the son of my dad and his first wife. My dad died when I was 2 and I didn't learn I had a brother until I was 18. That's another story for a different day. I never met him because when I first learned of his existence, I had no idea where to begin finding him. That was before easy internet searches and at that point, I'd met no one in my dad's family yet. That came when I was 20. I later learned that because of his disabilities, Nick lived in a group home somewhere in northern Minnesota, but I had no idea where. I didn't know if he would be able to understand who I was. I was scared if I reached out, if I even could find him, that I would be an unwelcome disruption in his life. I finally found him when I read his obituary in the Duluth newspaper. He had died

before I ever got to meet him. He was 51 years old.

The first time I met him was saying goodbye to him in his coffin. He looked like the mirror image of photos I've seen of my dad. Red hair and all.

On that quiet spring day in the Iron Range of Minnesota, the rugged land from which my dad's family hails, I tried to fathom how cruel life could be. I finally found my brother, but he was gone. It was too late. I would never know him and he would never know me. I remember walking out of the church after the service, I felt a weight across my shoulders like a lead blanket. I felt like a failure. Why hadn't I tried harder to find him? Why was his existence kept from me all those years? Why didn't anyone tell me about him? Why did I feel so alone?

The funeral was held in a quiet country church on a pristine northern lake. As I stared across the water, a bright red Cardinal chirped at me from a nearby pine. He was quite insistent that I admire him and I felt a small smile creep onto my face. The little bird strutted back and forth and kept looking at me. As I walked closer, he didn't fly away. I don't know how long I sat there staring at him, but he felt like the friend I needed at that moment.

For years after Nick's death, each spring, an insistent, chatty Cardinal and

his mate would build a nest in a shrub right outside my sunroom window, where my desk sits. The little bird would often look in the window and trill at me, visiting several times a day while I worked. I always felt a huge sense of peace come over me when he was outside my window. Was it Nick sending me a message? Or maybe it was my Grandpa, who loved the little red birds. He was my best friend. He provided such comfort with his smooth crimson feathers and cheery call.

Recently, a beautiful, brilliant Bluebird with a rosy pink chest has been fluttering outside that same sunroom window. He goes from window to window, singing and preening, for hours at a time. It's almost like he's trying to get in the house. He's been here, with his mate, for over a week now and he's like an old friend. Snuggles the cat doesn't appreciate him, but I do.

My friend Em Loerzel, who is Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) and founder of The Humble Horse, was visiting my grandparents' and mother's home with me last week. As we were saying goodbye, a bluebird was in the old maple out front, trilling and flying in figure eights. It was a beautiful sight, a symbol of hope and new beginnings, which are on the horizon. Stay tuned.

customers. Gavin separates herself from the chains by focusing on what she does best.

"We don't do junk, we don't do cosmetics, toys," Gavin said. "The only excess things we have are cards and local books, because we like to promote local artisans and writers. We don't make any money off the local offerings. I don't feel like that is right. We provide individual service. I go out there and measure people for stockings, wrist braces, knee braces, help them pick out over the counter meds."

Customers will frequently find Gavin on the floor, discussing people's medications, symptoms and medical history. She shows people how to use walkers and how to put on their compression stockings.

Customer Inez Arman was extremely grateful when Gavin came out to her car to give her husband a COVID-19 shot. Another man, who was 100, would come down every couple of weeks to get his Vitamin B12. He'd park out back, beep the horn and staff would go out to attend to him.

"It's a huge thing to get in and out of the car for some people," Gavin acknowledged.

Her Main Street location works, but some people have taken business elsewhere because Freeman doesn't have a drive-up. But that's not necessary.

"We do deliveries," Gavin said. "People can beep their horn or call us at the back door and we'll run it out. I don't feel not having a drive up has handicapped us, because we go right out to the cars and explain things if it's something new for the patient."

One item Gavin would love to have is a wider counter, but she'd rather spend money on paying her employees.

"It's more important for me to pay my help than to remodel," she said about the store. "We don't need that. We keep it clean and we've got good service and good people. That's the important thing."

### Changes

Working at Freeman's since 1965 (minus her early jobs in Baldwin and at the hospital), Gavin has seen many changes in the pharmacy business. One of the biggest has been the use of computers.

"Now we don't have to type labels," she laughed. "In-

## Gavin

from Page A-1

But he had no bull. Dad worked with Pete Speerstra at the local creamery, and he knew that Pete had several young bulls for sale, so he asked Pete if he could purchase one "on time."

Out on the Speerstra place dad examined several candidates. "Take your pick," said Pete.

"How much for this one?" Dad asked.

Pete leaned into his pitchfork and told Dad about Uncle Jim and the free silo filling way back when. "So," he said, "with 20 heifers and no bull, I'd say you're a young farmer in a heap of trouble, and I'm glad to have the chance to pay back a good deed."

Can you see how this story fits the bill of a tribute to the magnanimity of Leah Gavin? She who would take the time and effort to help anyone out who needed some help—like hand delivering prescription medications to clients who were homebound or just forgot to pick up their order before closing time.

I met for coffee with Leah and Ron's sons: Ben

surance is filed right off the computer instead of writing out forms and sending them in, which is very tedious."

Regulations have gotten tougher and more complex, with more information wanted by insurance companies.

"We have to report so many things," Gavin said. "They pull all of the narcotic information every day off of our computers. When we do COVID shots, we have to send those to the state every day. Paxlovid, an anti-viral for Covid, we have to send in verification of doses (the government pays for it). All of this within the last 10 years. We can look up anybody's narcotic usage and see their history on a government site. The government has a lot more rules and regulations. It's burdensome but justified."

Small businesses face many challenges and Freeman is no exception, even with exceptional customer service. The insurance companies pay the pharmacy little, which definitely affects the store's bottom line.

"It's very hard to stay in business because of how little the insurance companies pay," Gavin admitted. "We are going to put out a list of insurance companies that we won't accept next year, because we're losing money on scripts."

Even though Freeman's hasn't made her wealthy, that's never what it's been about for her and husband Ron, who worked at UW-River Falls.

"Neither one of cared that we didn't make the big bucks," Gavin said. "Life was more about staying in town and making sure we were available for the children (they have two sons, Ben and Tim). We could have made more money working in the Cities, but we would have spent more time on the road. It was more important to be local and involved."

Gavin has served as a Sunday school teacher, a Scout leader, a volunteer pharmacist at the Pierce/St. Croix County Free Clinic, and has volunteered for school committees and church committees at Ezekiel Lutheran Church.

Another challenge, this one more frightening, that Gavin has faced is being robbed.

"I can tell when someone walks in the door if they're a drug seeker or not," Gavin said. "We've had three break-ins/armed robberies over the years."

One man came into the store dressed entirely in black with a black mask. He carried a pop bottle containing gasoline which he poured all over the floor. He held the clerk and a lighter and demanded narcotics or he'd torch the building. It was terrifying, she said.

The same man came back a couple of weeks later. The business was in the process of installing cameras, after the last incident, but they weren't

and Tim, who agreed in the same voice that Leah more than fulfilled her duties as a mother, a businesswoman, a binder of family values, and a defender of traditions, without being a pain in the neck about her ideals.

"It's hard to believe all that she did," said son Tim. Ben added that she was there in all ways for the family, along with everyone she cared for in the community. Not one to relinquish any duties, she told Ben recently that he became a daytime baby-basket resident of the pharmacy when he was just two weeks old so mom could be both mother and pharmacist.

There were tears and smiles about her beloved grandchildren teaming up at the sewing machine or the lefse griddle to preserve longstanding family traditions including the Easter egg hunt at Grandma and Grandpa's that took place just last week.

Or Leah and Ron's hunting for rare glass doorknobs for a home restoration project that seemed always to be in progress.

The boys concurred that their parents were a real team, often working side by side on projects like strip-

ping and refinishing antique furniture or restoring and getting an old Model A Ford running.

So how does "paying it forward" work in Leah Gavin's life? Despite the insult to the evangelist, Leah's Uncle John became a Lutheran minister—i.e. another family member serving the flock. And when RF's old bookstore folded, Leah immediately became a bookseller, handling dozens of titles written by local authors.

And when it made sense to her, this remarkable woman determined to play it *backwards*. With her impeccable modesty and good sense, she kept the old name of Freeman's and displayed many of its original furnishings, so one couldn't forget its glorious old-fashioned history—including the improbable visit from President Kennedy in 1960.

Visitation and Celebration of Life for Leah will all occur at Ezekiel Lutheran Church River Falls.

Visitations are May 5, 4-8 p.m. and May 6, 10 a.m.-noon. The service will follow the May 6 visitation.

The full obituary can be found on page B-5 and at <https://bakken-young.com/leah-gavin-04-22-2025/>

## Legacy

from Page A-1

Not many businesses these days can say that they've been around for more than a century, let alone 150 years. In November, Freeman Drug will celebrate 150 years in business with a week-long celebration. Customers are invited to stop in for cake, prize drawings, giveaways and commemorative pottery created by Ben Gavin.

The pharmacy has a rich history in the community (see timeline) and is the oldest continuous business in River Falls, said pharmacist and owner Leah Gavin. She herself began working for the drug store in 1965 when she was just a kid. She and her family moved to River Falls into a home on Hillcrest Street in 1962, built by Glen Cox.

"Jerry Belisle was a partner (in Freeman Drug) and died in 1962," Gavin said. "That's when Dad (Seth Speerstra) bought in."

Speerstra grew up on a farm in Whitehall, while Gavin's mother's father was a pastor in western Minnesota and eastern South Dakota. Her mother went to work in Whitehall as a lab tech at the hospital, where her dad was working the drug store. He went to school in Madison, and he worked all over, including Mondovi, Superior, Stillwater, St. Paul, and Hudson for Mickelson's. They finally settled in River Falls.

As a young woman, Gavin served as a clerk, swept the floor and cleaned at Freeman Drug. Soon the tedious task of typing medication labels was given to her.

"They saved the nursing home labels until I got home from school," Gavin recalled. "Roger Hammer made sure I knew how to type. In my senior year, I graduated early (in 1970) and went down to the pharmacy to do the bookwork."

River Falls kids in the 1960s and 1970s often flocked to the pharmacy to get their baseball cards. People also flocked to the soda fountain, gathering together to hear the town news and visit with friends.

Gavin decided to attend pharmacy school at the University of Minnesota and committed to a five-year plan, commuting from River Falls. About 20% of her class was

women. She didn't notice any kind of gender discrimination in her field until she began working.

"When I got out to work, people would say 'I want to talk to the man,'" she said. "They didn't want to talk to me. They wanted a man pharmacist. Of course, that's all changed now. It's mostly women pharmacists now."

While in school, she worked at Hillren's nursing home (the Lutheran Home building). Freeman Drug and another pharmacist in town, Wayne Nelson, had a pharmacy at the nursing home where they dispensed unit dose medications each day.

"At one point, there were three pharmacies in town," Gavin said. "I kind of grew up in the business and I liked the people. You learn so much on the job."

Her younger sister is a pharmacist as well, but lives in California with her husband.

Upon graduation, Gavin began her official career at an independent pharmacy in Baldwin called Rasmussen's followed by working at the hospital pharmacy in River Falls. In 1982, her dad and Ivan Iverson ended their partnership and he needed help.

"Dad was working the store alone and it was just too much for him," Gavin said. "So I quit the hospital and went down to the store."

She became a full partner in the business in 1988.

### The secret to longevity

People like going into Freeman's because of the hometown, caring atmosphere, Gavin said.

"I've always had a very good crew, very good people working for me," Gavin said. "We do a lot of things that nobody else does."

Those things include home health, durable medical, rentals, wound care, compression stockings and wraps, compounding lab (making a finished product from the raw ingredients), and more. They make individual dosage forms for people for whom nothing else will work and they work with infants and animals. They carry topicals that can't be found anywhere else, including hormone therapy topicals.

"The board is always full and my compounders are always busy," Gavin said.

Freeman's employs almost 20 people who take pride in providing custom care to their

functioning yet. After the robbery, Gavin sprang into action.

"I chased the guy," she said. "I thought to myself 'He's not going to do this to me twice.'"

In a scene that sounds like it's from a movie, Gavin chased the man into the parking lot behind the police station, where she grabbed him by the pants. He was wiggling out of them when someone opened a truck door and the guy ran into it. He was arrested.

Another time, someone broke in the back door but left DNA everywhere; the security cameras identified him. Freeman Drug now has more security measures in place to guarantee employees' and product safety.

"You have to be prepared but it can't frighten you. Life goes on," Gavin said.

### Volunteering

When she's not chasing criminals down the street, Gavin can often be found performing volunteer work.

In 2007, Dr. Bob and Mary Johnson founded the Free Clinic of Pierce & St. Croix Counties to provide free, primary health care to low-income, uninsured residents. Bob Johnson was a physician at River Falls Medical Clinic and Mary Conroy-Johnson was a registered nurse at RF Area Hospital and chair of the Kinnickinnic Health Foundation.

Bob Johnson approached Gavin for her help as a volunteer pharmacist when one of her partners was leaving, so at first, she wasn't sure she could commit to a new cause.

"But when he said what he was doing, I couldn't say no," she said. "I said I'd be glad to do the pharmacy, but I asked that he let me do it my way, which I needed a computer so I could have records for all the patients. We opened in 2008."

At first the response was tremendous, Gavin said.

"We had to cut it off at 25 patients per night," she said. "Right now, it's much less. We have social workers on staff to help people fill out Obamacare forms online.

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WEATHER *Forecast*

|        |         |                                                                                   |               |                                                                                   |     |
|--------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Thu 01 | 59°/42° |  | Cloudy        |  | 24% |
| Fri 02 | 58°/37° |  | Partly Cloudy |  | 12% |
| Sat 03 | 68°/45° |  | Partly Cloudy |  | 6%  |
| Sun 04 | 78°/52° |  | Sunny         |  | 4%  |
| Mon 05 | 76°/55° |  | Partly Cloudy |  | 16% |
| Tue 06 | 81°/54° |  | Partly Cloudy |  | 10% |
| Wed 07 | 77°/53° |  | Partly Cloudy |  | 11% |

ST. CROIX COUNTY *Fail Log*

**Monday, April 21**  
**Yasmeen Caballero**, 23, St. Paul, by Hudson police, possession of methamphetamine.  
**James Frederick Knudsen**, 50, Fowlerville, Mich., by SCSO, disorderly conduct, resisting or obstructing an officer, battery or threat to judge, prosecutor or law enforcement officer.  
**Frank Julius Romano**, 43, New Richmond, by SCSO, OWI-third.  
**James Thomas Rowe**, 36, New Richmond, by NR police, misdemeanor bail jumping (two counts).  
**Amy S. Johnson**, 54, New Richmond, by SCCC, sentenced, serving 51 days.  
**Andrew James Hibbard**, 33, New Richmond, by NR police, misdemeanor bail jumping, disorderly conduct.  
**Cory James Davey**, 44, Arden Hills, Minn., by SCSO, warrant.  
**Amara Marie King**, 24, Hudson, by SCSO, warrants.  
**Michael Anthony Slicer**, 37, New Richmond, by SCSO, felony bail jumping.  
**Kyle Harold Bronstad**, 37, Rice Lake, by SCSO, resisting or obstructing an officer, felony bail jumping (two counts), warrant.

**Tuesday, April 22**  
**Etoya Patterson-Pleas**, 27, Chicago, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Wendy Faye Wilson**, 46, Deer Park, by Woodville police, operating while revoked.  
**Matiss Zevalds**, 32, Hollywood, Fla., by Wisconsin State Patrol, operating commercial motor vehicle without valid CDL.  
**Danial Atherton Hess**, 36, Oakdale, Minn., by SCSO, warrant.  
**Alexander Oscar Waalen**, 28, Lexington, Minn., by SCSO, warrant.  
**Adrian Gomez Sanchez**, 19, Hudson, by Hudson police, forgery, resisting or obstructing an officer.  
**Yoni B. Ruiz Perez**, 29, Hudson, by Hudson police, resisting or obstructing an officer.  
**Marco Diaz Diaz**, 24, Hudson, by Hudson police, drink open intoxicants in motor vehicle – passenger, resisting or obstructing an officer, forgery – writings or objects.  
**Eduardo Diaz Gomez**, 21, Hudson, by Hudson police, forgery – writing or objects, possession of cocaine/coca, drink open intoxicants in motor vehicle – driver, misdemeanor bail jumping.

**Wednesday, April 23**  
**Jesus Diaz Diaz**, 35, Hudson, by SCSO, operate without valid license (third).  
**David Sarango Ulloa**, 21, Hudson, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Jacob Ronald Lewis**, 38, Baldwin, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Spring Michelle Doornink**, 51, Woodville, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Brandon Lee Sellers**, 28, Amery, by SCSO, sentenced, serving six days.  
**Yevhen Kutsyi**, 41, Seattle, Wash., by Wisconsin State Patrol, operating commercial motor vehicle without valid CDL.  
**Cody Justin Hauth**, 36, Hudson, by Hudson police, possess drug paraphernalia, probation hold, possession of cocaine/coca (second+).  
**Jonathan Moreno Galicia**, 23, Woodbury, Minn., by North Hudson police, OWI-first.

**Thursday, April 24**  
**Christopher Paul Merrill**, 49, Webster, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Timothy Edward Johnson**, 60, Amery, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Clayton Allan Everson**, 39, Spring Valley, by Hudson police, credit card – fraudulent use (12 counts).  
**Marquavious D. Irving**, 36, Somerset, by SCSO, physical abuse of a child – intentionally cause harm.  
**John Scott Butterfuss**, 25, Glenwood City, by SCSO, operating while revoked.

**Friday, April 25**  
**Chase Gerald Kohl**, 40, River Falls, by SCSO, probation hold, warrants.  
**Alicia Grace Motzko**, 39, Eau Claire, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Russell David Jensen**, 38, Somerset, by Somerset, warrants.  
**Joshua Mark Berkesch**, 25, address not listed, by Hudson police, OWI-first.  
**Trenten John Marson**, 22, Wilson, by SCSO, domestic disorderly conduct.  
**Jeremy Mathew Sinn**, 50, Minneapolis, by SCSO, sentenced, serving four days.  
**Alex John Ellertson**, 39, River Falls, by Probation & Parole, probation hold, possession of THC.  
**Marcus Engebretson**, 57, Rogers, Minn., by SCSO, OWI-fourth.  
**Matthew S. Herman**, 42, New Richmond, by NR police, probation hold.  
**Kailee Ann King**, 22, West St. Paul, Minn., by SCSO, warrant.

**Saturday, April 26**  
**Lukas Allan Jaeger**, 39, address not listed, by SCSO, OWI-third.  
**Jesse James Rudau**, 34, New Richmond, by NR police, criminal damage to property, domestic disorderly conduct.  
**Justin Larry Sommer-vold**, 25, address not listed, by Hudson police, OWI-first.  
**Jose Alfredo Sanchez Hernandez**, 26, Hudson, by Hudson police, misdemeanor or bail jumping, forgery – writings or objects, operate without valid license (second).  
**Kathryn Anne Hessefort**, 43, Hudson, by warrant.  
**Aaron John Moore**, 29, New Richmond, by SCSO, felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping (three counts), criminal damage to property, domestic disorderly conduct, domestic battery.

**Sunday, April 27**  
**Edgar Garcia Becerril**, 17, Hudson, by Hudson police, domestic disorderly conduct, domestic battery, possession of narcotic drugs, possess drug paraphernalia.  
**Elden T. Holldorf**, 36, Wilson, by SCSO, felony bail jumping, domestic disorderly conduct.  
**Osborn Voorhees**, 29, Baldwin, by Hudson police, warrant, possession of THC, felony bail jumping, possess drug paraphernalia.  
**Lucas Peter Aguirre**, 45, New Richmond, by NR police, criminal damage to property, domestic battery (two counts), false imprisonment, domestic disorderly conduct (two counts).  
**Robert D. Ramberg**, 65, Hudson, by SCSO, domestic battery, domestic disorderly conduct, go armed with firearm while intoxicated, intimidate victim/use or attempt force, resisting or obstructing an officer.  
**Dakota Ray Mulroy**, 31, Elmwood, by Hudson police, OWI-third.

**Monday, April 28**  
**Bobby D. Salas**, 43, Hudson, by Hudson police, probation hold, misdemeanor bail jumping, domestic disorderly conduct, felony bail jumping, domestic strangulation and suffocation.  
**Jilliam Marie Salas**, 36, Hudson, by Hudson police, domestic disorderly conduct, neglecting a child.

PIERCE COUNTY *Land Transfers*

The following property transfers were recorded by the Pierce County Register of Deeds April 21-25.

**Monday, April 21**  
**Adam V. Ripley to City & County Credit Union**, N8018 747th St., Lot 1, in NW-NE and SW-NE, Section 13, Town of River Falls.

**Tuesday, April 22**  
**Michael C. Rowland to Kathleen M. Pilney**, 563 Washington St., Lot 13, Rocky Branch First Addition, City of River Falls.  
**KCSwan Holdings LLC to US 10 Real Estate LLC**, W01299 US Highway 10, part of the east 350 feet of the SE-SW, Section 11, Town of Oak Grove.  
**Gordon P. Knutson to Knutson Family LLC**, xxx County Road J, 67.6 acres, N ½ of SW, Section 21, Town of Martell.  
**Jerry Knutson to Knut-**

**son Family LLC**, N7409 County Road J, SW-SW, Section 21, Town of Martell.

**Wednesday, April 23**  
**Huppert Estates LLC to Brunner Creative LLC**, N3976 750th St., Lot 2, located in SW-NE and NW-NE, Section 1, Town of Trenton.

**Thursday, April 24**  
**Michael D. Maxson to Greg A. Bargrain**, xxx 290th Avenue, 1 acre, Outlot 1, located in SE-SE, Section 13; Govt. Lot 1, Section 24, Town of Diamond Bluff.  
**Go-Al Ventures LLC to Karla I. & Jason J. Hanks Kunzweiler**, 1868 Kristy St., Lot 53, Stone Brook Townhome Community Third Addition, City of River Falls.

**Friday, April 25**  
**Karen J. Seifert to Lisa L. Flynn**, N4730 US Hwy. 63, part of SW-NW, Section 25, Town of Trimble.

**Luke C. Dahler to Theresa Froesch**, 230 N. Bourbon Circle, Lot 17, Hines Valley View Addition, Village of Ellsworth.  
**Choice Real Estates Services LLC to Nicholas Kician**, 201 Flora St. N., southeasterly 57 feet of Lot 7, Block 34, Copp & Maxson's Second Addition, City of Prescott.  
**Cudd Brothers Development LLC to Kellen & Elle Langer**, N5141 and N5127 738th St., Lots 29 and 30, Wildflower Addition, Town of Trimble.  
**William F. Holst III to Charles P. Minter Trust**, xxx 290th Avenue, 80.6 acres, SW-NE, NE-NW, Section 19, Town of Diamond Bluff.  
**Alexander E. Miller to Perfect Home Leasing of Wisconsin LLC**, 296 Nicole Lane Unit C, Unit 4C in East River Meadows Condominium, City of River Falls.

ELLSWORTH *Police Department Reports*

The following incidents were reported to Ellsworth Police Department April 21-27, 2025.

**Monday, April 21**  
Police received a shoplifting complaint at 4:13 p.m. at 181 E. Main St. **Ashley Rose Blodgett**, 33, Ellsworth, was cited for theft and trespassing from the store.  
Officers assisted Pierce County with a possible overdose at 6:16 p.m. at W7377 Highway 10.  
At 7:44 p.m., police received a dumping complaint at 707 N. Brown St. The subject was unaware he couldn't leave things there and removed the couch he left.  
A business alarm went off at 9:55 p.m. at 312 Industrial Road. The building was secure. Police returned for another alarm at 11:55 p.m. All the doors were secure.

**Tuesday, April 22**  
Officers responded to another false alarm at 12:58 a.m. at 312 Industrial Road.  
Police assisted EMS at 9:23 a.m. at 301 N. Maple St.  
At 6:16 p.m., police received a complaint of someone going door-to-door to sell roofing and general construction contracts near Beulah and Kinne streets. A man with the company Dabella wasn't aware he needed a sellers permit.  
Police conducted a welfare check at 8:05 p.m. at 440 E. Pleasant Ave. Everyone was fine.  
At 8:31 p.m., someone stole \$35-\$40 of product at 456 W. Main St.  
**Joseph Allen Farris**, 17, Ellsworth, struck a building at 9:20 p.m. at 264 W. Main St.  
Police checked on an alarm at 11:31 p.m. at 312 Industrial Road. All doors were secure.  
Officers assisted Pierce County Jail staff with someone pulling on the lobby doors at 11:42 p.m. at 555 W. Overlook Drive.

**Wednesday, April 23**  
At 1:32 p.m., police assisted a man with a property

retrieval at 112 Evergreen Estates St. The resident wanted the exchange to happen on Friday.  
**Laura Lasha Dodd**, 32, Prescott, was arrested for a probation hold at 1:44 p.m. at 310 W. Main St.  
At 3:06 p.m., police received word that a stop sign had been knocked over at Maple and Elm streets. Public Works was notified.  
A missing child was reported at 8:44 p.m. at 163 W. Warner St. The child returned before police arrived.

**Thursday, April 24**  
Police found a vehicle alarm going off at 3:44 a.m. at 137 N. Oak St. The vehicle was secure and appeared to be fine, but it had false plates on it.  
A loose dog was found at 8:47 a.m. at 101 N. Maple St. It was returned to its owner, **Randi Mae Piper**, 35, Ellsworth, who was then arrested for Department of Corrections and St. Croix warrants.  
At 12:29 p.m., a caller reported a suspicious person near mailboxes at Cairns and Evergreen Estates streets. No one was found.  
At 12:46 p.m., a theft was reported at 181 E. Main St. Charges weren't pursued, but the woman was trespassing from the store.  
Police were called at 3:11 p.m. to 1303 Debra St. for someone who had died.  
**Kristyn Kayla Renier**, 18, Oronoco, Minn., drove away from 456 W. Main St. with the gas pump still attached to the vehicle at 8:14 p.m. The workers advised they have replacement nozzles. The vehicle had no damage.

**Friday, April 25**  
**Jackson James Merrill Jr.**, 18, Ellsworth, was cited for possession of a vape on school grounds at 9:34 a.m. at 323 W. Hillcrest St.  
**M. Dean Wiesender**, 89, Ellsworth, was cited for failure to obey traffic sign after his vehicle became stuck in the mud in the construction zone on North Grant Street at 10:56 a.m. He had to be

towed out.  
At 2:02 p.m., a resident at 437 W. Nelson St. reported her ex-husband pulled up in front of her house and threw property into her yard. Police spoke to him and he said she'd left clothes at his house. He said she needed to have everything out that day. He was advised to stay away from her house.  
Officers assisted Pierce County with a domestic at 4:27 p.m. at County Road DD and Highway 10.  
**Julian Perez Campo**, 34, Ellsworth, was cited for operate without valid license and operating motor vehicle without insurance after he struck a parked car at 5:22 p.m. at 157 E. Main St.  
Police conducted a welfare check on someone who was crying at 9:43 p.m. at 454 High Point Drive.

**Saturday, April 26**  
Police assisted EMS at 10:52 a.m. at 271 E. Summit Ave.  
Police assisted EMS at 5:03 p.m. at 141 S. Maple St.  
At 6:19 p.m. a complainant reported damage to both the driver's and passenger's mirrors of a vehicle at 445 S. Piety St.  
Officers assisted PCSO with a disorderly arrestee at 6:45 p.m. at 555 W. Overlook Drive.

**Sunday, April 27**  
**Emily Jo Miller**, 21, Elmwood, was arrested for OWI after a traffic stop for crossing the center line at 3:09 a.m. at highways 10 and 63.  
Suspicious activity was reported at 4:10 a.m. at 463 E. Wall St.  
At 11:24 a.m., a woman at 136 N. Beulah St. reported that her husband smashed out her vehicle window after he assaulted her at a bar. Pierce County deputies arrested him.  
At 8:37 p.m., police spoke with a subject regarding civil issues with neighbors at 293 E. Summit Ave. They advised they were in the process of moving.

PIERCE COUNTY *Traffic and Forfeitures*

**Kevin Marvin Biese**, 19, Greenleaf, underage drinking/possession, \$263.50.  
**Segundo Eliceo Chachipa Cando**, 24, Minneapolis, operate without valid license, \$200.50.  
**Ashland Rose Carden**, 20, Barneveld, underage drinking/possession, \$263.50.  
**Jordy Ismael Chapa Lozano**, 28, Ellsworth, deviation from designated lane, dismissed.  
**Donna Marie Christiansen**, 55, Ellsworth, non-registration of vehicle/auto, \$175.30.  
**Kyndra Jade Clark**, 18, Ellsworth, truancy, \$175.30.  
**Michael Lyle Girard**, 59, Oakhill Correctional Institution, Oregon, disposal of junked unregistered vehicles, dismissed; storage of junk, dismissed.  
**Audina Aremi Gomez Lopez**, 24, Hudson, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, dismissed.  
**Derek Robert Grossman**, 19, Pittsville, underage drinking/possession, \$263.50.  
**Bradley Keith Johnson**, 54, Ellsworth, use automated or elevated feeders, \$137.50.  
**Dane Joseph Luchterhand**, 19, Granton, underage drinking/possession, \$263.50.  
**Andrew Joseph Mogck**, 31, Minneapolis, by operate without carrying license, \$277.80; non-registration of vehicle/auto, dismissed.  
**Dean Jan Arend Penterman**, 18, Thorp, underage drinking/possession, \$389.50.  
**Maisy Joy Roed**, 22, Ellsworth, dog at large, \$263.50; municipal – unlicensed dog, \$263.50.  
**Paige Elaine Scharpen**, 19, Bay City, speeding,

PIERCE COUNTY *Accidents*



This semi overturned after the driver's load shifted on Tuesday, April 22 on State Road 35 in the town of Oak Grove. Photo courtesy of PCSO

Police were called to a single vehicle crash at 8:41 a.m. Tuesday, April 22 on State Road 35 near 468th Avenue in the town of Oak Grove. A 2017 Volvo semi trailer, driver by **Segundo Guaman Landi**, 44, Fridley, Minn., was traveling southbound on State Road 35 when the load shifted and he lost control of the truck, entering the ditch. Allina EMS transported Guaman Landi to Regions Hospital in

St. Paul with undisclosed injuries. Prescott Fire, Prescott Police, Allina EMS and Pierce County Highway Department assisted the Pierce County Sheriff's Office at the scene.  
Deputies were dispatched at 9:51 p.m. Friday, April 25 to a single motorcycle crash with injury on County Road S near 290th Street in the town of Maiden Rock. A 2000 Harley Davidson, operated by **Kolten Bongard**,

28, Pepin, was traveling northbound on County Road S when he lost control and entered the ditch. Bongard was not injured in the accident. His passenger, identified as **Tabitha Breland**, 30, Boyceville, was transported by Plum City Ambulance Service to Mayo Hospital in Red Wing, Minn. with undetermined injuries. Plum City Ambulance Service and the Lund Fire Department assisted PCSO at the scene.



PIERCE COUNTY *Sheriff's Office Reports*

The following incidents were reported to Pierce County Sheriff's Office April 21-28, 2025.

**Monday, April 21**  
A business reported a shoplifting complaint at 8:11 a.m. at 600 First St., Plum City.  
At 9:09 a.m., police checked the area for a suspicious person who walked through the complainant's yard near S501 Van Buren Road, Spring Valley. They were not found.  
Police conducted a welfare check on an individual at 9:20 a.m. at W8108 760th Ave., River Falls. The person was fine.

At 11:49 a.m., police took a complaint of a person shoplifting at 1003 First St., Plum City. Charges will be referred to the district attorney's office.

At 11:55 a.m., a caller reported picking up a stray dog at County Road A and Highway 35 near Maiden Rock. The township responded to collect the dog.

A caller reported a vehicle parked on private property at 1:31 p.m. at W3546 Highway 35, Maiden Rock. The vehicle's owner was advised to move it.

At 3:33 p.m., police spoke with two people at W12143 846th Ave., River Falls, about a civil two-person purchase of a lawnmower. The complainant will be contacting the civil court.

At 3:55 p.m., deputies assisted Plum City Public Works in attempting to speak to a person at 501 Main St.

A caller reported suspicious activity at 4:18 p.m. at 154 Gibbs St. S., Prescott.

Deputies and Ellsworth police were dispatched to a possible drug overdose at 6:11 p.m. at W7377 Highway 10, Ellsworth. EMS transported the patient to a hospital.

Deputies were dispatched to an animal complaint at 7:47 p.m. near N1754 County Road U, Plum City. Police spoke with the town chair who said the animals had been put back in their enclosure; he was going to follow up with their owner.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth police with an alarm at 9:59 p.m. at 312 Industrial Road.

Officers assisted River Falls police with a warrant arrest at 10:43 p.m. at 1450 S. Wasson Lane.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth police a second time with an alarm at 11:56 p.m. at 312 Industrial Road.

**Tuesday, April 22**  
Deputies assisted RF police with suspicious people at 1:36 a.m. at 203 W. Park St., River Falls.  
At 8:29 a.m., a resident at N5910 County Road QQ,

Prescott, reported receiving a suspicious phone call from an unknown number. No personal information was given.

At 8:41 a.m., police responded to a one-vehicle rollover of a semi at Highway 35 and 468th Avenue, Prescott, with injuries and road blockage.

A caller reported a loose dog in the roadway at 10:46 a.m. on Highway 29 near River Falls. Police did not locate it.

Police identified, located and cited a shoplifting suspect at 12:11 p.m. after an incident at W6396 Highway 35, Bay City. The person was also trespassed from the store.

A caller reported finding a lamb at 2:29 p.m. at N4246 County Road K, Ellsworth. They were able to connect with the lamb's owner.

Deputies assisted the Department of Revenue at 3:04 p.m. at W4890 Highway 29, Spring Valley.

At 3:05 p.m., a caller reported a missing vehicle from the company fleet at W7145 148th Ave., Bay City. The vehicle is believed to be missing from March from the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport. The complainant was advised to contact the police there.

Police responded to a shoplifting complaint at 4:20 p.m. at 600 First St., Plum City. The suspect had been spoken to the day before about a similar incident. They were arrested for retail theft.

At 4:46 p.m., police were dispatched to a harassment complaint between a landlord and former tenant at W9537 570th Ave., Ellsworth. Officers answered questions the complainant had about applying for a restraining order.

Deputies assisted the DNR with a trespassing complaint at 6:45 p.m. near 490th Street and 730th Avenue, Spring Valley. Trespasser were located and verbally warned.

At 7:37 p.m., police received an anonymous complaint of a man yelling at a dog at N1431 747th St., Hager City. No one was located.

At 11:42 p.m., police responded to 555 W. Overlook Drive, Ellsworth, for a suspicious man just released from jail. He was given a courtesy ride to his residence.

**Wednesday, April 23**  
Police responded to a two-vehicle crash without injuries at 4:35 a.m. at N1090 825th St., Hager City. One person was cited for unsafe passing.

At 8:20 a.m., police spoke with multiple parties regarding a harassment complaint at 907 Main St., Plum City. The school and parents

agreed to a resolution for all involved.

Officers responded to a noise complaint at 8:59 a.m. at N1431 747th St., Hager City. Multiple vehicles and people left after the caller reported the incident and police couldn't reach the homeowner.

An officer stood by at 10:03 a.m. while Xcel Energy swapped out meters at N3103 170th St., Plum City.

Police stood by and kept the peace while a man gathered belongings at 11:30 a.m. at N4369 530th St., Ellsworth.

Police checked the area for illegal dumping at 11:40 a.m. near 320th Avenue and Highway 35, Hager City, but found nothing noteworthy.

At 12:27 p.m., police spoke with a caller at N5529 610th St., Ellsworth, about cattle carcasses that were dumped.

Police responded to a verbal argument at 3:12 p.m. at N7075 950th St., River Falls. A resolution was reached.

Officers received an animal complaint at 5:44 p.m. at N7967 County Road CC, Spring Valley.

A fire department training burn was called in at 5:53 p.m. at N2728 110th St., Spring Valley.

Deputies assisted the DNR with a traffic stop at 6:08 p.m. at Highway 29 and 900th Street, River Falls.

At 8:43 p.m., a caller reported seeing a suspicious vehicle near the quarry at N2042 County Road VV, Hager City. Nothing was located.

**Thursday, April 24**  
At 12:30 a.m., police checked on a man walking on the side of the road at Highway 63 and 490th Avenue, Ellsworth. He declined assistance and refused to identify himself.

At 6:44 a.m., police responded to N4853 1100th St., Prescott, where a vehicle's doors were left open and a wallet on the ground. Police made contact with two hunters who didn't have permission to park there but had permission to hunt on the other side of the road.

Deputies assisted Prescott police with a traffic stop at 7:22 a.m. at 1175 Jefferson St.

Deputies assisted RF police at 7:57 a.m. at 511 S. Wasson Lane.

At 9:23 a.m., a caller at W11721 503rd Ave., Prescott, reported issues with a contractor.

At 1:11 p.m., fraud over the computer was reported at W821 Silver Fox Drive, Spring Valley. The complainant had taken a large sum of money from the bank, bought gift cards and provided the information to a third party.

At 8:27 p.m., a caller re-

ported a person possibly locked in the trunk of a moving vehicle near N1090 825th St., Hager City. The vehicle was not found; however, police called the suspected victim and they were fine.

**Friday, April 25**  
Police conducted a welfare check at 7:50 a.m. at W1709 850th Ave., Spring Valley. A safety plan was put into place.

Deputies were notified of a business alarm at 8:17 a.m. at N1620 County Road VV, Hager City. It was a false alarm.

At 8:59 a.m., officers were informed of an argument over ownership of a dog at N1435 810th St., Hager City.

Officers assisted a farmer in rounding up a loose cow at 11:43 a.m. at W5944 County Road V, Bay City.

Deputies and a citizen removed a tree from the roadway at 11:48 a.m. at 1126th Street and 840th Avenue, River Falls.

At 2:24 p.m., a vehicle was reported to have run off the road and caused property damage at Highway 29 and a county road near Prescott. The driver left the scene, but later came back. They were cited for operating a motor vehicle without insurance.

At 2:34 p.m., police were dispatched to a woman not breathing at W12240 850th Ave., River Falls. She was confirmed to be deceased.

Deputies were asked to check at residence at 2:34 p.m. at 437 W. Nelson St., Ellsworth, for a person involved in an incident in Ellsworth. They were not located.

Police responded to a verbal domestic occurring in a moving vehicle at 4:23 p.m. at County Road DD and Highway 10, Ellsworth. After speaking with the parties, they felt comfortable leaving together.

Deputies assisted Spring Valley police at 5:36 p.m. at First Street and Newman Avenue, Spring Valley.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth police at 9:45 p.m. at 454 High Point Drive, Ellsworth.

Officers were dispatched to a motorcycle crash at 9:51 p.m. at 290th Street and County Road S, Maiden Rock. The operator was arrested for felony bail jumping, OWI-first and operating after revocation (alcohol related). EMS transported the passenger to the hospital with undisclosed injuries.

**Saturday, April 26**  
At 12:34 a.m., police received a complaint of underage alcohol consumption outside a residence at W457 310th Ave., Plum City. No one was outside the residence and everything appeared to

be fine.  
At 7:52 a.m., a man who had been trespassed from 1003 First St., Plum City, showed up at a business before they were open. He told officers he didn't understand what "trespassed" meant. He was told not to return to the business as he is not allowed to go there.

Police spoke to two parties involved in a dog attack at 9:58 a.m. at 147 W. Race Ave., Elmwood. One dog got away from its owner and attacked another dog. No injuries were reported.

At 11:12 a.m., a caller complained of motorcycles speeding at county roads C and V near Ellsworth. Police didn't locate them.

At 11:27 a.m., police found people attempting to take rocks owned by BNSF Railroad at Highway 35 and 985th Street, Hager City.

They were advised of the law and told to move along.

At 11:54 a.m., police saw a vehicle with a no trespass order parked at W5900 Highway 35, Hager City. The vehicle smelled of marijuana. The operator was cited for possession of THC and released.

Spring Valley Fire reported they would be performing a controlled burn on 50 acres north of N4743 290th St., Spring Valley at noon.

Police were notified of a fire alarm at 12:20 p.m. at W12693 735th Ave., River Falls. They were advised to cancel.

Officers collected information and video footage about a burglary not in progress at 1:56 p.m. at W7905 170th Ave., Hager City. The suspect was not located.

A driver was arrested for OWI after police respon5715 800th St., River Falls. ffffed- to a driving complaint at 5:09 p.m. at 241 N. Broad St., Prescott.

Deputies conducted a welfare check at 8:12 p.m. at W8079 150th Ave., Hager City. An ATL was sent out to surrounding counties after police spoke with the complainant.

Deputies assisted RF police at 11:23 p.m. at 800 E. Cascade St.

**Sunday, April 27**  
Police were notified of a suspicious vehicle at 2:08 a.m. parked near Highway 63 and 320th Avenue, Hager City. The occupants had stopped to talk.

At 2:46 a.m., officers found a vehicle in the ditch at N1090 825th St., Hager City. The driver was arrested for OWI and possess drug paraphernalia. They were also cited for operate without valid license and possess open intoxicant in motor vehicle.

A missing black Lab was reported at 3:01 a.m. at

N1574 County Road VV, Hager City.

Deputies assisted UWRF police with a welfare check at 3:04 a.m. at 800 E. Cascade Ave.

A caller reported ongoing harassment at 10:54 a.m. at W3162 650th Ave., Spring Valley.

A caller reported a domestic that occurred the night before at 11:45 a.m. at W7409 Highway 65, Beldenville. A man was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct and battery.

Deputies assisted Ellsworth Fire with a fully engulfed house fire at 2:50 p.m. at N5715 800th St. Ellsworth. They helped remove three dogs from the home.

At 3:21 p.m., a caller reported two loose dogs running near 300 Court Road, Plum City.

At 5:34 p.m., a man who had received multiple trespassing warnings was cited for trespassing at 1004 First St., Plum City.

Deputies assisted Wisconsin State Patrol with a vehicle search at 6:16 p.m. at County Road OO and Highway 35, Hager City.

Police were called for an intoxicated subject at 6:43 p.m. at N673 825th St., Hager City. Police escorted a woman being asked to leave off the property. She had a ride home.

At 8:16 p.m., police responded to a single vehicle crash at 1170th Street and Highway 10, Prescott, in which the driver was reported to be unconscious. When officers arrived, the vehicle was on fire and the driver had fled on foot. He was later located and issued citations.

At 8:30 p.m., a caller complained of barking dogs at N4493 1055th St., Prescott. Police were all tied up on another call.

A horse escaped its pasture at 9:50 p.m. at N3678 County Road CC, Maiden Rock. The owner was notified.

**Monday, April 28**  
Deputies assisted Ellsworth police at 2:03 a.m. at 454 High Point Drive.

A woman flagged down an officer on patrol at 3:33 a.m. near County Road V and 730th Street, Hager City. She reported her intoxicated stepson had wandered off in the storm. He was found and brought home.

At 8:04 a.m., a man reported a motorcycle crash that occurred days earlier at W9852 290th Ave., Hager City. A woman had been injured.

At 8:28 a.m., a caller reported finding two dogs at N5477 610th St., Ellsworth.

PRESCOTT *Police Department Reports*

The following incidents were reported to Prescott Police Department April 18-24, 2025.

**Friday, April 18**  
**Justin Michael Alderman**, 36, St. Paul, was cited for non-registration of vehicle after a traffic stop at 9:08 a.m. at 570th Avenue and Jefferson Street.

**Kaija Jo Anderson**, 47, Lake City, Minn., was cited for non-registration of vehicle after a traffic stop at 9:30 a.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Lynn Marie Thompson**, 65, Bay City, was cited for operator make illegal right turn on red after a traffic stop at 11:39 a.m. at Highway 10 and Dexter Street.

**Jonathan Sebastian Walker**, 48, Prescott, was cited for operator make illegal right turn on red after a traffic stop at 12:01 p.m. at Orrin Road and Dexter Street.

**Deborah K. Subak**, 67, Nelson, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 5:36 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Alex David Schaak**, 27, Bloomington, Minn., was issued a written warning for fail/display vehicle license plates after a traffic stop at 7:43 p.m. at 236 Broad St.

**Ashley Nicole Radcliff**, 35, Prescott, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 8:01 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Marylee Carol Romens**, 48, Prescott, was issued a written warning for speeding after a traffic stop at 8:35 p.m. at Walter and Locust

streets.

Officers responded to a barking dog complaint 8:51 p.m. at 900 River Terrace St. The owners returned to the house while the police were there; the dogs were let inside and quieted down. They were verbally warned.

**Matthew John Stanton**, 46, Woodbury, Minn., was issued a written warning for parking opposite the flow of traffic at 9:32 p.m. at Monroe and Washington streets.

**William Nathaniel Dunbar George**, 45, Minneapolis, was issued a warning for operate motor vehicle without two headlights and operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance after a traffic stop at 11:24 p.m. at Broad and Cherry streets.

**Taylor Nicole Sibinski**, 31, Kellogg, Minn., was issued a warning for speeding after a traffic stop at 11:59 p.m. at 570th Avenue and Jefferson Street.

**Saturday, April 19**  
At 1:48 a.m., a caller couldn't find his truck and thought it was stolen. Police helped him find it at 114 Broad St.

At 12:12 p.m., police spoke to someone at 1081 Monroe St. who was concerned about a mailbox being broken into. The mail was still in it and no mail was missing. It appeared the mailbox hadn't been locked after mail delivery.

Police checked on a suspicious vehicle at 1 p.m. at 515 Jefferson St. People had pulled over to look at a map.

At 2:42 p.m., police checked on a suspicious

parked next to new construction at 1400 N. Acres Road. No one was around.

**Macey Mae Johnston**, 31, Maiden Rock, was arrested and cited for operate without valid license and operating a motor vehicle without insurance after a traffic stop at 3:11 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Kae Doh Soe**, 18, St. Paul, was issued a warning for fail/display vehicle license plates after a traffic stop at 4:32 p.m. at 515 Jefferson St.

**Cody Robert Sullivan**, 26, Hager City, was cited for non-registration of vehicle after a traffic stop at 5:19 p.m. at Warren and Jefferson streets.

At 7:11 p.m., police warned the residents at 594 Hillside Drive for leaving their dog unattended and off leash.

**Austin Don Manore**, 31, Ellsworth, was issued a warning for speeding after a traffic stop at 7:26 p.m. at 570th Avenue and Jefferson Street.

**Luke Matthew Larson**, 26, Eagan, Minn., was issued a warning for speeding and no tail lamp/defective tail lamp - night after a traffic stop at 9:43 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Tasia Justine Kohler**, 22, Onalaska, was cited for operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance and speeding after a traffic stop at 11:28 p.m. at 236 Broad St.

**Sunday, April 20**  
**Eric Richard McMillan**, 51, Hastings, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 8:29 a.m. at Monroe and Helen streets.

**Diane Marie Kammerude**, 69, Ellsworth, was cited for operator make illegal right turn on red after a traffic stop at 9:21 a.m. at Highway 10 and Dexter Street.

**Joseph Frank Clark**, 65, Woodbury, Minn., was issued a warning for speeding after a traffic stop at 5:28 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Tricia Ann Hall**, 48, Cottage Grove, Minn., was issued a warning for speeding after a traffic stop at 9:11 p.m. at Eagle Ridge Drive and Highway 10.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at 9:50 p.m. at 1813 Canton Road.

Officers responded to a noise complaint at 9:56 p.m. at 1531 James St. The suspect stopped making noise before the start of quiet hours.

**Monday, April 21**  
Officers observed an open garage and vehicle door at 1:26 a.m. at 665 Flora Square. The owner left them open by accident.

**Daniel Paul Caven**, 46, Woodbury, Minn., was issued a written warning for speeding after a traffic stop at 10:19 a.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets.

**Sharon Ann Marley**, 55, Ferryville, was issued a written warning for speeding after a traffic stop at 10:59 a.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets.

**Miriam Zeferino Rosendo**, 27, Minneapolis, was cited for operate without valid license and issued a written warning for speeding and operating motor vehicle

without proof of insurance after a traffic stop at 11:08 a.m. at 252 Broad St.

**Natalie Marie Warnacutt**, 35, Duluth, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 2:28 p.m. at Broad and Orange streets.

Officers were dispatched to a suspicious vehicle at 4:18 p.m. at 154 Gibbs St. S.

**Tuesday, April 22**  
**Caitlyn Marie Keyes**, 21, Larsen, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 7:03 a.m. at Cherry Street and Highway 10.

Officers conducted a welfare check at 10:06 a.m. at 554 Pine Ridge. The subject was fine.

**Thomas Robert Auchampach**, 18, River Falls, was issued a written warning for loud and unnecessary noise after a traffic stop at 2:40 p.m. at 110 Court St.

**Robert John Myhre**, 56, Ellsworth, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine possess drug paraphernalia and cited for operating left of center line after a traffic stop at 11:06 p.m. at 1200 Henry St.

**Wednesday, April 23**  
**William J. Shaw**, 39, Hager City, was cited for non-registration of vehicle after a traffic stop at 5:46 a.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Adriana Deanne Florin**, 20, Cottage Grove, Minn., was issued a warning for fail/display vehicle license plates after a traffic stop at 7:12 p.m. at 570th Avenue and Jefferson Street.

**Jose Manuel Rios Cer-**

**vantes**, 54, Brooklyn Center, Minn., was issued a warning for speeding after a traffic stop at 9 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Ryan Lee Brandle**, 50, Prescott, was issued a warning for operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance after a traffic stop at 9:57 p.m. at Eagle Ridge Drive and Highway 29.

**Thursday, April 24**  
**Steven Michael Duhrman**, 37, Maiden Rock, was issued a warning for speeding after a traffic stop at 12:53 a.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Cameron Malery Crockett**, 32, Cottage Grove, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 4:45 a.m. at 570th Avenue and Jefferson Street.

**Benjamin Anton Swedzinski**, 24, Hastings, Minn., was arrested for possession of THC, possess drug paraphernalia, passing in a no-passing zone and operate without valid license after a traffic stop at 7:17 a.m. at 1175 Jefferson St.

A hit and run was reported at 10:45 a.m. at 328 Lake St. The striking vehicle fled into Minnesota.

**Orland Thomas Olson**, 81, River Falls, was cited for illegal dumping at 11:17 a.m. at W12000 620th Ave.

**Dee Hai Ler**, 29, Storm Lake, Iowa, was cited for operate without valid license after a traffic stop at 1:55 p.m. at 570th Avenue and Jefferson Street.

A squad crash was reported at 9:22 p.m. at Orrin Road and Campbell Street.



# RIVER FALLS*Police Department Reports*

The following incidents were reported to River Falls Police Department March 19-24, 2025.

**Wednesday, March 19**  
Police were dispatched at 12:43 a.m. to Kwik Trip (1536 Cemetery Road) for a possible drunk driver who had stumbled to her car. Police located the vehicle and followed it north on Highway 65. It took the off ramp to Main Street then turned onto the on ramp leading back to southbound Highway 65, all while swerving in its lane. Police pulled the vehicle over before it got back onto Highway 65. The driver, identified as **Lakeisha L. Christopher**, 39, St. Paul, had an orange substance all over her hands which she said was food. She said she was heading to her boyfriend's house after drinking at Johnnie's. She at first refused to do field sobriety tests and asked if her boyfriend could pick her since she wasn't a "threat," but then consented to the tests. Police weren't able to get sufficient breath for a breath test, so applied for a warrant for a blood draw. While in the squad, Christopher muttered she wouldn't be in this mess if her "white ass farmer boyfriend" had just picked her up. She was booked, cited \$986 for OWI and released to her boyfriend.

At 10 a.m., a River Falls resident reported fraud on his credit card after using it at the Black Rooster Restaurant in Hudson. A charge for \$1,000 spent at Victory Fire-

works in Ellsworth appeared on his card. He was able to report the fraud immediately and get reimbursed. He recalled seeing a Victory Fireworks employee at the restaurant while he was there.

**Thursday, March 20**  
Officers were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash at 1:12 p.m. at Winter and Maple streets between a 2020 Jeep Grand Cherokee, driven by **Laura Ann Johnson**, 64, River Falls, and a 2015 Subaru Legacy, driven by **Adyn Lee Lewis-Feeney**, 23, River Falls. Johnson was traveling northbound on Winter Street. When she came to the Maple Street intersection, she failed to yield the right-of-way and struck Lewis-Feeney's vehicle, which was traveling east on Maple. Johnson's vehicle had minor damage, while Lewis-Feeney's vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Neither driver nor passenger **Madison Danielle Mahmoud**, 18, River Falls, reported injuries. Lewis-Feeney was cited \$124 for operating while suspended; Johnson was cited \$98.80 for fail/yield right/way from stop sign.

At 2:02 p.m., police were dispatched to a verbal argument between two people in the Culver's (1109 N. Main St.) parking lot. After allegedly almost colliding in the Walgreen's parking lot, two drivers pulled into the Culver's parking lot. A 26-year-old woman said the 52-year-old driver of the other vehicle

called her a b-word after she slammed on her brakes and honked at him. She said he then followed them to Culver's where he got out of the car and threatened to beat up her 30-year-old passenger. After reviewing video footage and speaking to the manager, a disorderly conduct charge for the aggressor was sent to the district attorney's office for review.

At 2:30 p.m., police received a call about 15-year-old boys harassing a 15-year-old girl by making phone calls from a restricted number, asking her for nude photos and calling her derogatory names. Police spoke to the suspects, who denied any wrongdoing. They were warned of strict repercussions if the behavior continued.

**Friday, March 21**  
Police responded to a theft at 1:57 a.m. at Shooter's Pub (107 E. Elm St.) A man had left to go smoke a cigarette, but left his bag, medical supplies, wallet, ID and a \$65 bar tab unpaid. Police located the suspect, **Austin Blair Nygaard**, 25, River Falls, walking with two other people near 1350 S. Wasson Lane. He was highly intoxicated and said he didn't have money to pay the tab. He was told to pay the tab by the next day or charges would be pressed. Police gave him a courtesy ride home and returned his belongings. The next day when police learned the tab hadn't been paid, they called Nygaard, who went down to

the bar to pay the tab. Both he and **Jacob Tyr Corbin**, 22, River Falls, were trespassing from the bar.

At 2:03 a.m., a woman reported finding a medium-sized brown, black and white dog loose in Heritage Park (232 W. Maple St.) Police transported Bandit, a common runaway, back to his home on Third Street. His owner, **William Michael Temme**, 58, River Falls, was fined \$98.80 for dog running at large.

At 10:33 a.m., police were dispatched to Hoffman Park (547 Hanson Drive) for a runaway juvenile complaint. A mother said she and her 16-year-old son had an argument at their residence around 8:30 p.m. March 18. He packed a bag of clothes and took off on an electric scooter. She hadn't seen him in several days and no one knew where he was. He returned home at 10:30 p.m. March 24.

**Saturday, March 22**  
Police were dispatched to a theft at 1:10 a.m. at 515 E. Cascade Ave. The complainant said his former roommate had stolen two bottles of Versace and Prada cologne, valued at \$300, while moving out the night before. Police attempted to contact the suspect by phone without success.

Officers were called at 3:54 p.m. to Positive Alternatives (2860 Williams Ave.) for an out-of-control juvenile throwing things at the office glass, where the staff had locked themselves. Staff

advised the 13-year-old had damaged walls, doors and furniture during a fit. The boy was arrested for damage to property and disorderly conduct and brought to the police station. This was the fourth incident involving the teen in one month.

Police responded at 8:40 p.m. to Positive Alternatives, where a 15-year-old juvenile had run away. The girl had returned from a walk in the park very angry. She was directed to call her grandma as part of her safety plan, but had left instead. Police found her on the sidewalk near Meadows Park. She said other residents bully her and she doesn't believe the staff cares about her well-being. Police convinced her to speak with Northwest Connections.

**Sunday, March 23**  
A stray dog was located at 4:27 a.m. at 432 N. Second St. The dog was taken to the police kennel. His owner, **William Michael Temme**, 58, River Falls, was cited \$98.80 for dog license required and \$98.80 for dog running at large. Police have had frequent complaints of the dog running loose and unattended.

**Monday, March 24**  
**Shelly Marie Campeau**, 47, River Falls, was arrested and cited \$200 for operate without valid license (second within three years) after a traffic stop at 12:02 a.m. at Cascade Avenue and Main Street. She was also arrested for felony bail jumping and

taken to Pierce County Jail.

Officers were called to a two-vehicle crash at 3:57 a.m. on Steelhead Drive just north of Greenwood Valley Drive between a 2011 Buick Lucerne, driven by **Christopher Gene Taylor**, 25, Ellsworth, and a legally parked 2011 Dodge Ram, owned by **Jeremy E. Munger**, River Falls. While attempting to drive around the parked Dodge, Taylor's front passenger side wheel became stuck and Taylor wasn't able to turn the vehicle, so he struck the truck, causing functional damage all along its side. Taylor's vehicle had to be towed due to disabling damage. No injuries were reported.

Police were dispatched to a threats complaint at 8:20 p.m. at 115 S. Fourth St. A man reported his upstairs neighbor had threatened to "cut" him and "gut him like a fish." The two men were having issues around the use of a shared garage. The suspect had installed a lock on the garage and moved equipment without permission. While walking across the street, the victim said his neighbor followed him and accused him of stealing his TV. He had also been banging on the complainant's windows. The suspect refused to come to the door, though police could see a phone peeking around a corner through a window. While in the area, police saw the apartment's lights turn on and off but no one would answer the door. The case remains open.

# PIERCE COUNTY*Fail Log*

**Monday, April 21**  
**Jordan Tyler Shutes**, 37, Stockholm, by PCSO, OWI, sentenced, released April 22.

**Tuesday, April 22**  
**Angel Ignacio Alatorre**, 35, River Falls, by River Falls police, probation violation, resisting or obstructing an officer.

**Jaime Maclean Fuss**, 40, Plum City, by PCSO, retail theft – intentionally take, released.

**Brandon Scott Langel**, 34, Hudson, by RF police, felony bail jumping; possess drug paraphernalia to manu-

facture, compound, convert, produce, or store methamphetamine; entry into/onto building/construction site/room, probation violation.

**Brandon Dean Ottum**, 39, Alma, by Buffalo County, house for other county.

**Wednesday, April 23**  
**Laura Lasha Dodd**, 32, Prescott, by Ellsworth police, probation violation, released on April 26.

**Robert John Myhre**, 56, Ellsworth, by Prescott police, possession of methamphetamine, possess drug paraphernalia, released on

\$10,000 signature bond.

**Dylan Edward Stoeklen**, 20, Hudson, by PCSO, failure to appear warrant, bond reinstated, released.

**Sierre Sharae Williams**, 20, Plano, Texas, by PCSO, misappropriate ID info – harm reputation, theft – movable property, released on \$750 cash bond.

**Thursday, April 24**  
**Alexa Rae Hill**, 26, River Falls, by RF police, manufacture/deliver cocaine, child neglect – exposure to controlled substance, released on \$10,000 signature bond.

**Randi Mae Piper**, 35, Ellsworth, by Ellsworth police, failure to appear warrant, probation violation.

**Friday, April 25**  
**Kristin Leigh Baum**, 37, Plum City, by Department of Corrections, probation violation.

**Joshua Lee Glasby**, Prescott, by PCSO, OWI, operating with PAC, released.

**Frank Earl Whitcomb**, 48, Prescott, by Prescott police, OWI.

**Saturday, April 26**  
**Kolten James Bongard**,

28, Menomonie, by PCSO, felony bail jumping, operating while revoked, OWI.

**Leopoldo Torres Pozo**, address not listed, by PCSO, OWI, released.

**Sunday, April 27**  
**Kyle Michael Brown**, 45, Ellsworth, by PCSO, battery, disorderly conduct (two counts), criminal damage to property, strangulation and suffocation.

**Zander Harold Egan**, 19, Sherwood, by RF police, disorderly conduct, released.

**Zander Harold Egan**, 19, Sherwood, by RF police, dis-

orderly conduct, intimidate victim/threaten force.

**Christina Lynn Lay**, 38, River Falls, by RF police, disorderly conduct, battery.

**Emily Jo Miller**, 21, Elmwood, by Ellsworth police, OWI, released.

**Manases Pablo Silvano**, address not listed, by PCSO, OWI, possess drug paraphernalia, released on cash bond.

**Gregory Maurice Schommer**, 54, Prescott, by Prescott police, OWI.

# PIERCE COUNTY*Court Reports*

**Initial appearances**  
**Landon Jon Alexander**, 46, St. Paul, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$10,000 signature bond April 21 on misdemeanor bail jumping, operate without valid license (third within three years) and possess drug paraphernalia charges. A plea/sentencing hearing is set for 9:30 a.m. Aug. 8.

**Rigoberto Ayohua Cuaquehua**, 37, Baldwin, posted a \$5,000 signature bond April 21 on felony possession of methamphetamine (as party to a crime), felony possession of narcotic drugs (as party to a crime) and operate without valid license (second within three years) charges. A status conference is slated for 1:30 p.m. May 30.

**Andrew John Bauman**, 58, River Falls, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$10,000 signature bond April 21 on operating while revoked (alcohol related) and ignition interlock device tampering/failure to install/violate court order charges. A status conference is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. June 3.

**Maria Guadalupe Garcia Palacios**, 27, Ellsworth,

posted a \$5,000 signature bond April 21 on felony possession of methamphetamine (as party to a crime) and felony possession of narcotic drugs (as party to a crime) charges. A status conference is slated for 2 p.m. May 30.

**Justin M. Haroldson**, 37, River Falls, posted a \$10,000 signature bond April 21 on a felony bail jumping charge. A hearing is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. May 8.

A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of **Amanda R. Hildebrandt**, 41, River Falls, who missed an April 21 initial appearance on an operate without valid license (third within three years) charge.

**Heather Ann O'Leary**, 55, Ellsworth, posted a \$5,000 signature bond April 18 on a felony theft – movable property – special facts charge. A preliminary hearing is slated for 8:30 a.m. May 1.

**Devin John Severson**, 35, River Falls, posted a \$10,000 signature bond April 21 on felony bail jumping and felony possession of THC (second+ offense) charges. A status confer-

ence is set for 3:30 p.m. May 7.

**Closed cases**  
**Oscar Stanley Amaya**, 35, River Falls, was convicted of operate without valid license (second within three years) and fined \$443 April 17. The charge stemmed from an April 1, 2024 incident.

**Jordy Ismael Chapa Lozano**, 28, Ellsworth, was convicted of operate without carrying a license and fined \$277.80 April 16. The charge resulted from an Oct. 6, 2024 incident.

**Quinten Roy Colsen**, 47, Staples, Minn., was convicted of felony possession of methamphetamine April 21, sentenced to two years of probation and fined \$518. A possess drug paraphernalia (repeater) charge was read in but dismissed. The charges stemmed from an Oct. 10, 2024 incident.

**Franklin Orland Contento Lapo**, 46, Cottage Grove, Minn., was convicted of OWI-second April 16, sentenced to 10 days in jail, fined \$1,529 and ordered to undergo an alcohol assessment and install

an ignition interlock device system after a 12-month driver's license revocation. An ignition interlock device tampering/failure to install/violate court order charge was read in but dismissed. An operating with PAC-second charge was dismissed. The charges resulted from a Feb. 27, 2024 incident.

**Audina Aremi Gomez Lopez**, 24, Hudson, was convicted of operate without carrying a license and fined \$277.80 April 16. The charge stemmed from a July 20, 2024 incident.

A felony bail jumping charge against **Shawn Billy Goulette**, 45, Hager City, was dismissed April 18. The charge resulted from a Sept. 6, 2024 incident.

An entry into/onto building/construction site/room

charge against **Drew D. Hintz**, 23, River Falls, was dismissed April 16 upon completion of a deferred judgment of conviction agreement. The charge stemmed from an Oct. 29, 2023 incident.

**Manuel Maria Japon Contento**, 53, Ellsworth, was convicted of operating while revoked (alcohol related) April 16 and fined \$443. An ignition interlock device tampering/failure to install/violate court order charge was dismissed. The charges resulted from a Sept. 21 incident.

**Dylan James Kelly**, 38, New Richmond, was sentenced to 281 days in jail (time served) and ordered to pay unpaid court costs (\$518) and restitution (\$4,630) at a probation re-

vocation sentencing hearing April 21. Kelly had been convicted of felony theft – movable property in 2023 and sentenced to probation, which was revoked Feb. 18. The charge stemmed from a Jan. 6, 2023 incident.

**Darrel Leo Peterson**, 51, Ellsworth, was convicted of battery (domestic abuse) April 17 upon revocation of a deferred judgment of conviction agreement, sentenced to one year's probation and fined \$543. Misdemeanor bail jumping and disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charges were read in but dismissed. The charges resulted from incidents July 16, 2023 and Oct. 6, 2024.

# Peterson named dean of College of Arts and Sciences at UW—River Falls

RIVER FALLS—The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has named Karl Peterson as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) after a national search. Peterson has served as interim dean since January.

"Dr. Peterson brings valuable expertise and a record of achievement to the deanship, positioning both himself and the College of Arts and Sciences for ongoing success," said Interim Provost Wes Chapin. "He rose through the faculty ranks, being promoted to full professor, and has had progressively more responsible leadership positions throughout his career, including serving as department chair, associate dean and interim dean."

Peterson joined UWRF in 1999 and has served as a faculty member and chair of the Chemistry and Biotechnology Department, associate dean and interim dean.



Karl Peterson

He has been recognized with multiple awards, including the Distinguished Teaching Award and CAS awards for service, teaching and advising.

For nearly a decade, Peterson has been a staunch advocate for the university's new Science and Technology Innovation Center (Sci-Tech). He has provided vital contributions as part of the SciTech Design Leadership Team, ensuring faculty and department priorities have

been conveyed throughout the design process. He has also developed important business collaborations resulting in tangible external support for the new facility, which will also be home to the new University Business Collaboration Center.

Peterson shared his enthusiasm for the future of both the college and the university and will continue to utilize his encouraging leadership approach in his new role.

"I'm looking forward to providing stability to CAS and UWRF as we chart the shared course forward."

Peterson earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Iowa State University. He will begin his new role June 1.

Submitted by UW-River Falls

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# RIVER FALLS Area News



## FROM HORSEPLAY to Heroes

BY GREG PETERS

### ‘Personal Jesus’ Patti Lindquist

This week’s “Horseplay and Heroes” column is going to be the written version of taking the scenic route to tell the story. It will take longer, but you’re going to read some things not typically viewed in a normal interstate concrete newspaper story. Looking at the map, the journey from butt darts to President John F. Kennedy to the best nine calorie-saving secret ever will take us down some winding roads. It’s time to fill the tank with callous and soul. Personal Jesus-type soul. Life on the road can be tough, but that’s why radios were invented.

The first time I went into a bar, sans parents, was in Destin, Fla., in 1991. The place was called “Night Town.” There were neon lights everywhere. People looked like zombies dancing in cages. The female bartenders’ hair had matching electric teasers, like their hands gripped a malfunctioning blender wire sending shockwaves through their follicles. The male bartenders wore tank tops. Girls may have noticed their steroid-fed muscles. I saw the skin-rage of acne on their back. Depeche Mode’s “Personal Jesus” was playing with an electronic head-pounding thump. The bass was vibrating the walls. The lyrics were undetectable, with the exception of one line, and even that sounded like donkey bray as the dancing zombies yelled in unison “reach out, touch me.” I felt like Pinocchio on Pleasure Island. The only difference between Destin’s Night Town and Disney’s disturbing Pleasure Island were Z cavaricci pants replacing donkey tails. There were mirrors everywhere and hundreds of eyes fixated on themselves. The place was bursting at the seams but empty, without soul, at the same time. The employee turnover rate was higher than they were with white powder on their noses from their last bathroom break.

The irony of Depeche Mode’s “Personal Jesus” song is the lyric is actually “reach out, have faith.” I never knew that until I heard

Johnny Cash sing his cover version of it last week. I was sitting in Johnnies Bar in River Falls talking with Patti Lindquist about her job when I heard it. Lindquist was tending bar at Johnnies, something she’s done full-time for over 38 years. If you reach out and go to Johnnies, have faith Patti Lindquist will be there from 9 to 5 now four days a week. She switched to days after a hip replacement five years ago.

“I know I started in February of 1987 because my younger sister graduated that year and the Twins won the World Series,” said Patti.

“Patti loves watching and talking sports,” said former Johnnies 26-year co-worker, Anne Zezza. “She’s an incredible listener and she has a beautiful soul. She literally would do anything for anybody.”

The song “Personal Jesus” is about how any person we meet can help answer our prayers, “Someone to hear your prayers, someone who cares, your own personal Jesus,” sings the song.

Anne Zezza would still be working at Johnnies with Patti, but her husband, Jamie, was diagnosed with ALS a couple years ago. The Zezzas sold the family pool business and Anne is taking care of Jamie.

“Patti was the first one at my house with Jamie,” said Anne. “She always calls and checks in on me. I just frickin’ love her. She always keeps the conversation spicy.”

“Feeling unknown and you’re all alone, flesh and bone.” Personal Jesus.

“I always joke that I’m dead inside,” said Patti, “because I hardly ever cry. I don’t know if that’s good or bad?”

“Patti can talk to anybody and she likes to push your buttons,” said Anne. “The reason she can get away with saying stuff to cranky customers that other people can’t is because she loves you. She’s just jabbin’. For her, a jab is fun and out of love and people know that.”

If there is one story that



Patti Lindquist has tended bar for over 38 years at Johnnies Bar. Photo courtesy of Johnnie’s Bar

encapsulates Patti Lindquist at Johnnies it was from about 15 years ago, according to legend.

“So, these five guys are having their beers and I know all of them,” said Patti. “They appear to all be drinking Miller 64’s (64 calorie beer).”

One of the guys says, “Patti, we’ll have another round.”

“So, I bring them five more 64’s,” said Patti. “And my friend’s brother says, ‘Link, I’m drinking a Bud 55 (55 calorie beer).’”

“I told him, ‘Whatever, Jay,’” replied Patti rolling her eyes.

Patti then moved on to other customers and returns to her five health-conscience stallions and their Miller 64’s.

“Jay is still pouting and I say, ‘Are you serious, Jay?’ So, I grabbed his beer and took a drink of it and gave it back and said, ‘there, now it’s a 55. Are you OK now?’”

Johnnies’ owner Dave Dintemann snickered like Muttley the Dog from the Hanna-Barbera “Wacky Races” cartoon when he heard Patti’s productive way of shaving nine calories off a beer for a customer.

“Oh, I’ve heard that one plenty of times,” said Dintemann. “Before I started working here in 1997, I was afraid of her, but Patti is the one that got me the job at Johnnies when Tim (Linehan) owned it. She puts on a tough persona, but she’s a total softy. Once you’re in, you’re in. Getting in is the key.”

“You’re not going to believe this,” Patti said quietly, “but I grew up painfully shy.”

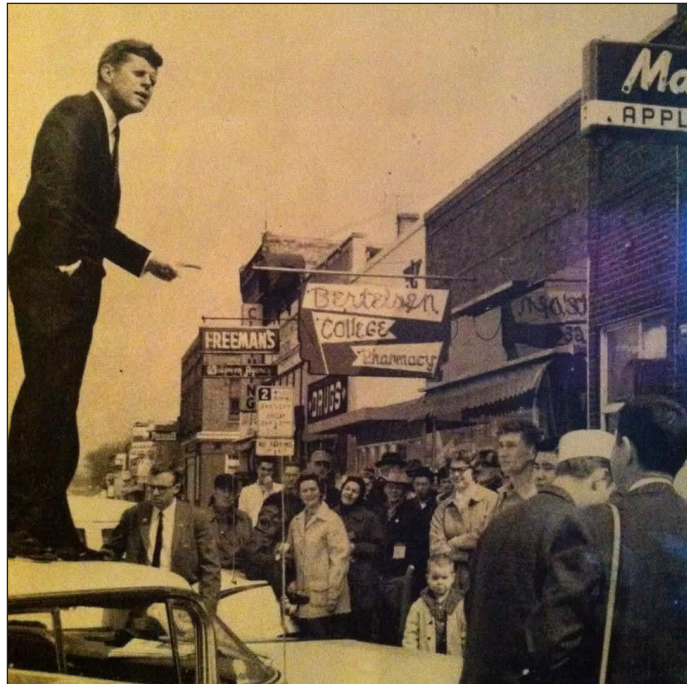
The decades of bartending forged an emotional armor for her. It also gave her the mental callous to shed bad days and cranky customers like a cocoon for almost 40 years.

“It’s so cliché, but it really is the people,” said Patti. “You deal with people you don’t like and learn to forget why you don’t like them and you get excited and happy when you see the good ones come in.”

Focus on the good. Patti’s glass is half full.

“Things on your chest. You need to confess. I will deliver. You know I’m a forgiver. Reach out, touch faith.” Personal Jesus.

The annual River Falls pub crawl has come and gone



Patti Lindquist’s older brother passed away when he was 14 years old. Lindquist cherishes a Life Magazine photo of him at age four standing by the hood of a car on Main Street in River Falls in March 1960 when John F. Kennedy was campaigning for the presidency.

this month. Johnnies Bar has been closed on that particular night since 2018.

“There was a hole in my wall,” said Dintemann. “The urinal was broken and so was a toilet. I told my wife we’re never going to be open this night again. Let’s have a fun employee night instead of a bad one.”

Dintemann was true to his word. On “Pub Crawl Night,” Johnnies has their employee appreciation Christmas party in April. They’ve done trivia, scavenger hunts, and games.

“Patti excels at butt darts,” said Anne. “She is the queen of butt darts.”

“She went up and made it on her first try both times we’ve had that game,” said Dintemann of the Wisconsin-wedged stack of quarters drop while walking over a cup on the ground.

Speaking of Wisconsin, Patti Lindquist is born and bred River Falls. Her older brother died when he was 14 years old. Patti has a picture of her brother framed in her house of when her brother was 4 years old and standing by the hood of a car when John F. Kennedy was campaigning for president in River Falls in March 1960.

“I’m told the picture was

in Life Magazine,” said Patti. “That picture is the only thing I’d grab if the house was burning. It’s my favorite thing ever.”

Father Jerry Harris, former priest at St. Bridget Church, was having his retirement party at Johnnies Bar a few years ago. Patti threw on a T-shirt ready to go to work, forgetting her priest would be in her presence that day.

“I had on a ‘Not Today, Satan,’ T-shirt,” said Patti. “I walked into the church on Ash Wednesday and lightning didn’t strike me, so I guess I’m OK.”

“Reach out, touch faith.” Personal Jesus.

Every October for the past 20 years, Patti organizes a par 3 golf tournament at Clifton Highlands to raise money and bring in bags of food to the River Falls Food Pantry. The tournament doesn’t have a name, they draw random winners with random partners.

“It’s just random fun. That’s my way and that’s how I do it,” said Patti.

A random person in this random town can be a random personal Jesus.

Reach out. Touch Faith.

## Public comment policy heads back for revisions

By Andrew Harrington

RIVER FALLS — The River Falls School Board dealt with proposed updates to the public comment policy April 21, eventually opting to bring it back for a first reading with revisions at the next meeting.

The board discussed whether or not they should limit public comment topics to agenda items only. Ultimately, as part of the proposed policy, anything that involves the district may be discussed.

“In our practice, we feel like there’s two pieces with public participation,” Superintendent David Bell said. “One is to speak on an agenda topic. The other might be to bring something up.”

The board also mentioned potentially opening public comment to people beyond district parents and residents, but Bell expressed some concerns of allowing people from completely outside the district to speak on political beliefs on either side. Under the current policy this was not the case, but the recommended update is to limit who speaks.

“[Political public comments] which I think we should very intently listen to for our stakeholders, but I do get concerned about it becoming something that it’s not designed to do which is to inform the work of the board,” Bell said.

Board President Stacy Johnson Myers said this would not mean people from outside the district cannot speak at the meetings whatsoever, as they can become part of the agenda if there is a reason for it. Vice President Alan Tuchenhagen said politicizing a non-partisan group is a worry; however, he would approve of already elected officials representing River Falls to come in and address the board.

“I’m worried about candidates coming and making statements in front of the board,” Tuchenhagen said.

Another member disagreed, feeling candidates should be allowed to introduce themselves to see what issues are facing the district.

Other proposals from the policy included the total public comment window being limited to 30 minutes unless the board approves an extension, no one being allowed to speak more than once and allowing the presiding officer to have some power of keeping decorum and waiving rules when necessary. During the meeting the board opted to strike the 30-minute limit.

Board members ultimately decided to review the policy again to clarify some of the questions and debates surrounding it. Clarifying that staff members living outside the district can address the board as well as grandparents to students were a few points

mentioned.

Bell said the approval of the proposed policy was recommended by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, and he plans to help design what exactly the policy will look like in the coming month. Due to the number of changes they are looking at, the policy will return for a first reading.

#### Other business

Meal prices for the 2025-26 school year were approved with a handful of increases. Elementary breakfast was increased by \$0.10 to \$1.80 and increased at the MS/HS level by \$0.05 to \$1.90. Lunch was increased at all levels by \$0.10, moving to \$2.95 for the elementary and \$3.25 for MS/HS. Adult breakfast and lunch were increased by \$0.05 each, moving to \$3.05 and \$4.85. The milk price remained the same at \$0.55. Each of the prices had increased (except for milk) at least once prior to the April 21 approval since the 2022-23 school year.

The board reviewed election results from the April election. Incumbents Lindsey Curtis and Mike Miller were the lone two candidates running and both retained their seats. Curtis received 6,329 votes, Miller 6,288 votes and write-ins received 181 votes.

Approved the sending of letters of intent to retain staff and letters of nonrenewal.

## Senior housing facility development plan cleared by council

By Andrew Harrington

RIVER FALLS — The council heard the first reading of a petition to annex land at Powell Avenue and Woodridge Drive from the Town of Troy to the City of River Falls with plans for development.

Senior Planner Harley Mehlhorn presented the annexation petition. In the future, the plan is for the annexation of 7.28 acres of land off of Powell Avenue with plans of developing a 24-unit twin home development.

“Notably, this is not a request for development, and no formal plans are part of this particular request before you tonight,” Mehlhorn said. “If the property is annexed, plans for future development would be reviewed for conformance with city ordinance at that time.”

Only properties that have requested to be a part of the annexation are annexed by the city. The property would be zoned residential and is surrounded by already residentially zoned property. The May 13 city council meeting will feature a second reading and disposition to determine if the property will be annexed.

There was another site development item on the agenda April 22, as a development plan for the Sycamore Two project off of Sycamore

Street was approved. Included in the plan is a 24-unit senior living memory care facility and an additional eight units of independent living patio townhomes.

“The proposed site consists of five total buildings, that being a ~17,000 sq. ft. memory care facility and four 3,500 sq. ft. ‘villa’ buildings, each containing two units of the aforementioned ‘independent living’ townhomes. All proposed buildings are single-story,” city documents state.

The resolution was packaged with the discontinuance of right-of-way on East Charlotte Street in order to convert a portion of the street to a private drive for the site.

Council approved a \$109,586 purchase for a new 120 KW portable generator for well 4 (adjacent to the Sycamore water tower) from Wolter. The amount additionally covers cords to plug in Well 4 and the city lift

stations. They also approved \$88,825 to Monarch Paving Company to restore the Wastewater Treatment Facility parking lot.

Alderperson Jeff Bjork asked what costs and time the city would lose to prepare for Monarch to pave. Water/Wastewater Superintendent Dean Seemuth said the Streets Department of the city will pull out the current pavement and do some prep work before Monarch comes in. Seemuth did not have an amount of man hours or cost estimation for the project.

The mayor and council also designated May 10 as World Migratory Bird Day, acknowledged Police Appreciation Week from May 11-17, recognized the UWRF women’s hockey team for winning the Division III National Championship hosted in River Falls and recognized Professional Municipal Clerks Week from May 4-10.

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PRESCOTT

Area News

Gleam & Glow Prescott Prom



Prescott’s Gleam and Glow themed Prom, held Saturday, April 26, was a night of casino games, dinner and dancing aboard a St. Croix River cruise. Pictured is the 2025 Prom Court (from left): Wyatt Wrisky, Liam Haeg, Andrew Lesso, Toland Macejkovic, King Silas Stancer, Queen Colbie Neckhash, Ruby Bernick, Lily Kern, Amanda Miller and Talli Roth. *Contributed photo*



Silas Stancer and Colbie Neckhash were named Prescott High School's Prom King and Queen Saturday, April 26 at the grand march, held at the Prescott Performing Arts Center. *Contributed photo*

Senior Gathering Place events

PRESCOTT – Spring has sprung! School proms are in full swing, baseball games are occurring everywhere, and I even heard the sound of lawn mowers! It’s time to put away the winter shovels and snowblowers.

Coming activities:

**Wednesday, April 3:** An extra Wednesday in April, so another day to play Euchre at 12:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 1:** “HAPPY MAY DAY!” Pickleball players meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Prescott Intermediate School gym. At 10 a.m., come to Gathering Place for Hooks and Needles; bring

your own project. At 1 p.m., join us for a performance by the Prescott High School Garage Band; this should be a fun time.

**Friday, May 2:** Memory Café meets from 10-11:30 a.m. at the First National Bank Community Room, lower level.

**Tuesday, May 6:** Pickleball players meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Prescott Intermediate School gym. At noon, come to the Gathering Place for lunch. Taco Bar provided; you can bring chips, veggies, or dessert. At 1 p.m. come and hear from the local businesses, AIM JOY and the

Pizza Arcade.

**Wednesday, May 7:** Come play Euchre at 12:30 p.m. or Bridge at 1 p.m.

Prescott Senior Gathering Place is open to all seniors aged 55 years and older. We are located at 1220 St. Croix St. at Prescott Middle School. Come to Door 5, where there is lots of parking available. Regular hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. with occasional morning hours.

All are welcome.

*Submitted by Janet Cleary*

Ellsworth

from Page A-1

more general “rehab” program in order to include interior improvements as well.

In 2025, the village completed an outdoor recreation plan.

“The main driver for this was that we could not apply for any DNR grants for any kind of improvements without it,” Beissel said. “The fact that the village never had one really held them back from any potential funding sources.”

And currently underway, the village is working on solidifying its strategic plan, which will outline the village’s mission, vision, strategies, goals, values and tactics.

**Finances**

In 2025, the village passed a balanced budget with an 8% reduction, Roy said. The budget has decreased by 15% over the past three years. This is the first year that the budget has truly been balanced, Roy said, as reserves were used to balance shortfalls in the past.

“That’s a good plan when your reserves are healthy, but that can’t support those practices anymore. A lot of cuts were made. I don’t know how much else we can cut,” he said.

At the next village board meeting, elected officials will look at a new fund balance policy and its criteria. The current fund balance is \$786,041, which is 28% of revenue.

The mill rate is calculated by dividing the total taxes needed by the total assessed value of the community. Ellsworth’s current budget of \$3,359,321 stems from a mill rate of 0.01749603, which is lower than many surrounding communities including Baldwin, Durand and River Falls. This includes all portions of taxes, such as the school district, tech college, village and county; the village’s portion of a tax bill is about 30%. The state sets the limits on the total taxes a municipality can collect.

“It’s walking that fine line of making those improvements that we need to make without taxing people out of their homes,” Beissel said.

**Water and sewer utility rates**

Roy shared the water utility had been operating in the

red since 2017, and the sewer since 2019. The village had to dip into its general fund to cover the shortfalls.

“Costs are up 40%, but rates have only increased 9.3% since 2007 (simplified rate cases),” Roy said.

The Fire Protection Charge was also shifted from being part of people’s tax bills to their utility bills. This is a mandated charge from the Public Service Commission that covers the cost of the extra water capacity that firefighters need to fight fires while not disrupting water service to other people’s homes.

“There are two options: the village can pay for it out of the tax levy, or it can go to each user through the water utility,” Beissel said. “We made the change this year to put it onto the user.”

This also includes tax exempt properties, such as schools and churches. The village was paying about \$220,000 out of its general budget each year for this charge.

“Any tax-exempt entity wasn’t helping to pay for that,” Beissel said. “In an effort to be fair, if you put it onto each utility user and each property owner, this is a more fair option.”

Beissel stressed that the village staff and board do not decide the amount for water rates – that falls to the PSC.

“We negotiate with the PSC on what the rates need to be,” Beissel said.

“It’s one of those things that has to happen once in awhile, but nobody wants it to,” Roy said. “We never want to let it fall behind to the extent that it has before. The goal is to make future increases smaller and more manageable.”

**Reinstated impact fees**

Impact fees are one-time charges collected from builders at the time of building permit issuance. They are designed to offset the cost of public infrastructure and services. After a pause by previous boards (who hoped to spur development by waiving them), the village reinstated impact fees in 2023 to take advantage of this funding tool.

The money goes toward parks, the library, police, the water utility, etc. It’s set aside in its own account, with state guidelines on how and when it needs to be spent. The recent Gerard apartment project put

\$50,000 of impact fees into the village coffers, Beissel said.

**Housing**

According to a study Beissel referenced, two area communities were going to see a population decrease if they kept on the same path as far as housing development: Ellsworth and Durand. In the last 10 years, Ellsworth has seen 2-4 new houses per year.

The village has been working hard to attract developers to town, not only to help increase the tax base but to provide much needed workforce housing to those who live here. Projects include:

Old junior high will bring 29 units in two 12-unit apartment buildings, one single family, two twin homes. Market rate.

MeadowLark Eco Apartments, 54 units, out in Crossing Meadows. Some low-income and market rate.

Habitat for Humanity (six units on Panther Drive, Southgate – bought 17 acres from Kruger-Thoner)

Workhorse concept would include 27 units on 10 acres by the golf course. The company is working on the concept design to present to the village.

High Pointe would provide 21 units of villa-style housing at the end of Alexander Avenue.

The Pinnacle concept would bring 59 units to the Klaas property off Maple Street. There are some concerns about access and streets that would need to be addressed. New village engineer MSA is planning to conduct a traffic analysis.

“We all get really used to the neighborhood we live in,” Beissel said, who lives near the proposed Pinnacle development. “Some of these lots were planned to have the housing there when the streets were put in.”

**Economic Development**

For years, Tax Increment District 7 (Crossing Meadows) was distressed because it wasn’t bringing in enough tax revenue to pay its bills (such as putting in the infrastructure, etc.) This was another way reserves were drained, Roy said.

The village has created a new TID 13 (with the blessing of other taxing jurisdictions), which includes the empty lots in the Crossing Meadows Business Park and on the east side of the highway.

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CLUB

Student of the Week

The Prescott Community Club Student of the Week for April 30 is Prescott High School junior Gavin Miller, nominated by physical education teacher Jordan Hansen.

“Gavin is one of the hardest workers during weight training class and has seen a lot of improvements in his numbers during these short four weeks,” Hansen said. “He is one of the leaders of his class and continues to work on his leadership qualities by showing up at Wednesday mornings leadership meetings. During weight training class Gavin has given his best effort and is one of the last in the weight room to make sure everything is picked up. Over the last week he has shown that not only can he

lead himself but transitioning his leadership into serving others. This last week Gavin has been holding others accountable to make sure they are giving their best in the weight room. I am happy to elect Gavin Miller as student of the week!”

Gavin is the son of Lacey Mahoney and Pat Mahoney. The honor roll student works at Ptacek’s IGA and participates on the track and field, basketball and football teams.

He enjoys fishing, being outdoors, hanging out with friends, lifting, sports, staying busy, traveling, watching shows and movies and playing video games. He hopes to one day attend a trade school or two-year technical college.

“I am leaning towards an



Gavin Miller

electrician or HVAC right now,” Miller said. “I have plans to travel the world and have dreams to renovate houses.”

*Submitted by Prescott High School*

Mahn Family Funeral Home was the first business to build in the park in a decade, opening last year. Currently in the works are a new Loberg Law Office building, MeadowLark Eco Apartments, the High Pointe and Workhorse concepts, and Kwik Trip in 2026. Beissel credited Roy with encouraging Kwik Trip to come to Ellsworth, by showing them the new housing proposed in that area and letting them know that lots were starting to sell again.

As for the old junior high site at 254 S. Chestnut St., the village created TID 12 after the village purchased the dilapidated eyesore in 2022. They received a \$150,000 Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation grant toward the demolition costs, which topped \$1 million. However, the old building was only bringing in \$917 in taxes annual. That number will be increased to \$100,000 annually. While the money collected will go into the TID for 12-15 years to repay the village for its development costs, after that the homes there will bring in more than \$40 million in tax revenue over the next 50 years.

The village has also begun replacing the sewer lines along North Grant and South Piety streets (a \$5 million project) and repairing sidewalks for safety.

**Big goals**

The village has big goals

for the year, starting by finishing its strategic plan by early summer. The village board also hopes to implement the outdoor recreation plan and create park plans. They want to market and redevelop the former historic library building at 312 W. Main St. but their hope is to make sure it’s protected and used well, Beissel said.

The Grant/Piety construction project should be completed by October and this summer, residents will see resurfacing projects occurring on Industrial Road and Plum, Church, Warner and Nelson streets. The village is also working on creating a sidewalk improvement inventory list, which is one of the top-rated needs by the community in the comprehensive plan.

The village received a \$1.575 million Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP) grant, which will be used to fund the reconstruction of streets, sidewalks, curb and gutter, and stormwater systems on Wall and Morse streets. This project also includes plans for water and sewer upgrades, along with the addition of new streetscaping. Additionally, the village is expanding the project to include Broadway Street, using \$400,000 in funds from TID 8.

The goal is to make the East End attractive to businesses. Beissel described it as a walkable neighborhood next to one of the area’s main tourist attractions, the Ellsworth

Creamery.

Quality of life is “the everyday experience of living in Ellsworth – how connected, safe, supported and inspired our residents feel,” Beissel said.

The village provides infrastructure, planning and long-term vision

Civic organizations bring energy and heart through events, initiatives and volunteerism

The School District nurtures young residents and supports family life.

Business and the chamber create experiences, economic stability and third spaces (library, bars, restaurants)

**Challenges/opportunities**

Façade Improvement Program funding

Infill project (vacant lots on existing infrastructure

TID 10 (Check Inn motel to empty lot in front of Nilssens, in a deficit)

Current village facilities: Village Hall: either invest in and update, basement of new library

Staffing: added a new police patrol position, may need more growth

Growing revenues

Park improvement funding – impact fees won’t be enough

Beissel ended by asking village residents to speak up when they’re in support of things, not just when they’re against something on the agenda at board meetings.

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## Ellsworth splits with BW to share MBC throne

By Andrew Harrington

Ellsworth and Baldwin-Woodville entered a week where they would battle twice with 4-0 conference records, sharing the top spot in the Middle Border. The first game did not go as planned with the Blackhawks jumping to a 13-3 lead, and despite Ellsworth's best effort at the plate, holding on to win 16-12 April 22. They swiftly bounced back two days later, shutting down the Baldwin-Woodville offense on their way to a 7-2 win.

The home game had a disastrous start, with seven Baldwin-Woodville runners crossing the plate in the top of the first. Aliza Acker entered the circle in relief with the bases loaded and nobody out in the first down 3-0, a tough situation for anyone to get out of. Walks were an issue in the inning, with five Blackhawks

getting a free pass.

Acker hit two homers at the plate, driving in five runs to help the Panther offense that put up a fight, but a Blackhawk six-run second inning was enough to distance Baldwin-Woodville.

"We didn't help our pitchers out [in the field]," Head Coach Tom Diercks said. "We hit the crap out of the ball."

The Panthers had 15 hits as a team, with four coming from sophomore Aubrey Bauer and four others piling on two hits.

Ellsworth then hit the road Thursday for the rematch. With the Middle Border Conference scheduling every team to meet twice in the same week, teams get a chance to get their revenge right away. Ellsworth did just that, winning 7-2 after Acker had a shut-down pitching performance.

Seniors Delaney Johnson

and Aaliyah Huppert hit homers and a 2-2 day from Acker with three stolen bases manufactured a few extra runs.

"If our pitching is on, we're a tough beat," Diercks said. "They'll be right in the mix for everything. For conference and through the playoffs, they'll be tough."

Ellsworth's senior class of Karli Gutting, EmmaJo Meier, Johnson, Huppert and Acker simply produces, filling the most crucial positions with a ton of production. It's not just on the field, though, as Diercks raved about their multiple leadership styles.

"They're positive. They don't get down on the other girls," Diercks said. "They're willing to teach and help at all times."

Acker's confidence at the plate was on full display, hitting 4-4 for the week with five intentional walks, two homers, five runs batted in

and five runs scored. With a week at the plate like that one, Diercks said it carried over to her pitching.

"It just gives you that confidence. Gives you just a good feel," Diercks said. "She was just on fire... She had her control back, pitched with velocity."

Diercks mentioned a key to Acker flourishing is the success of Huppert, because if the batters surrounding Acker are hitting, they have to go right at her with strikes.

"When they respect [Huppert], they can't pitch around Aliza," Diercks said.

Ellsworth is now 9-2 on the year with a 5-1 conference record, stuck in a three-way tie with Baldwin-Woodville and Somerset. They get two cracks at Somerset now, facing them April 29 and May 1 to stay in the mix or separate themselves from the pack.



Panther freshman Brinklee Graetz lines up to make a play at shortstop April 22 against Baldwin-Woodville. Photo by Andrew Harrington



Wildcats swarm Dylan Paulson after scoring a perfectly placed deep shot into the back of the net. Photo by Andrew Harrington



Olivia Doerre controls the ball in a 3-0 win over Wausau West on April 25. Photo by Andrew Harrington

## RF blanks Wausau West to continue winning ways

By Andrew Harrington

RIVER FALLS — River Falls girls soccer was looking to make a statement coming out of the 2024 season with a State Tournament appearance. Thus far the Wildcats are well on their way to reaching the top, holding onto a record of three wins, one loss and two draws on the year.

Most recently, River Falls took to the pitch to take on Wausau West at home Friday night, coming away with a 3-0 win.

"We saw a lot of growth. We were humbled a little bit last week with our result at D.C. Everest, and I think a lot of factors came into play. Bottom line, we just came out flat, and it's going to happen over a long season,"

Head Coach Charles Conley said. "Four of the previous six goals we gave up were on transition goals, so we worked on some defensive transition stuff, and I thought our defense played phenomenal."

The 4-0 loss to D.C. Everest a week prior was a tough one to swallow considering it was the team's first loss, but it served them well, shining

a light on many areas to improve. They did not watch the film from the matchup, considered it a fluke and moved on.

Conley said goalkeeper Addie Johnson made one difficult save and was kept clean by her fellow defenders for the remainder of the match.

Senior captains Kaelin Jallowitz and Hanna Cook were

given a tall task of replacing all-star defenders Maggie Johnson and Emily Van Ausdal who left a gaping hole in the lineup after graduating a year ago. The two were wide backs last year, and Conley threw them into a new role. "They've just been willing to roll with the punches," Conley said. "We've just asked them to try some things and work on some things, and

they've been completely open to it... With the way they've kept our keeper clean, the way they've been starting to really organize the back and take charge has been fun to watch."

Conley has noticed the two have become more and more confident stepping up into plays when the

See SOCCER, Page B-9

## Platson plunked, Pechacek parsimonious against SCC Panthers

By Greg Peters

If Prescott senior Cole Platson does not have a nickname yet, his fellow Cardinals could start calling him "Hughie." Hughie Jennings played Major League Baseball for six different teams from 1891-1912 and one more year in 1918. Hughie was inducted, posthumously, into the Hall of Fame in 1945, but he is most known for holding the all-time MLB season and career records for being hit by a pitch. Ole' Hughie was hit 51 times in 1896 and 287 times over his 22-year playing career. If Hughie Jennings is the King of Knocked-down, Platson is the Prince of Plunked.

Last Tuesday in Prescott for a Middle Border Conference baseball game against St. Croix Central, Platson had a baseball burrowed in his back by Panther pitcher Eli Babler in the bottom of

the sixth inning.

After Platson was pegged and he began trotting to first base, he looked toward his dugout, held up three fingers and said, "That's three times!"

It was a bittersweet bruised smirk for Platson, as his epidermis would resemble the Cardinal maroon on his jersey Wednesday morning.

Platson has been pegged four times in 10 games this season. If those totals are extrapolated over Hughie Jennings' 154-game record-setting MLB season, Platson would have 61 stitching tattoos.

Platson did score a run in the bottom of the third on a single by senior Aidan Dorau. That was all starting senior pitcher Dain Pechacek would need.

Pechacek, who is 4-0 this season on the mound, was mixing in a mid-80's (MPH)



Cole Platson was doing his best impression of Major League legend Hughie Jennings. Platson was plunked three times on Tuesday against SCC. Photo by Greg Peters

fastball to go along with a curveball and slider. Sixty-five of his 86 pitches were for strikes.

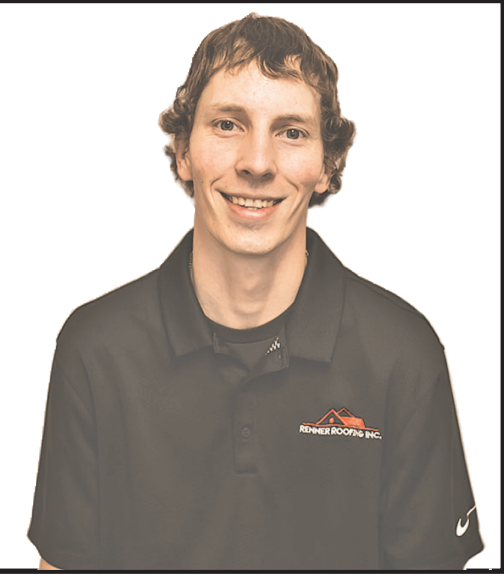
"I threw both of them (curveball and slider) re-

ally confident today," said Pechacek. "I just throw pitch by pitch. I guess I don't really think about the stats."

See BASEBALL, Page B-9



Dain Pechacek pitched a complete-game shutout with 11 strikeouts against the Panthers. Photo by Greg Peters





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# The view from a different angle: The lens of a coach’s wife

By Greg Peters

Julie Ryan looks through a different lens than most fans watching Prescott High School baseball games. It’s not because she’s had a bird’s eye view as the Cardinal team photographer the last four years. It’s also not because she grew up a couple blocks away from Fire Hall Field in Prescott.

“I could hear every batting practice from where I lived growing up. It was just up that hill,” said Julie pointing straight east while standing near Fire Hall Field’s first base dugout after a recent Prescott win.

Julie grew up playing softball and graduated from Prescott in 1997. She had a young teacher named Mr. Jeff Ryan while attending Prescott High School. He was coaching JV baseball and girls’ basketball right out of college. His classroom walls were covered with presidential campaign posters from the past and he encouraged his students to speak their mind as it related to politics and world events. Jeff Ryan takes his teaching profession seriously. From



Coach Ryan’s wife, Julie, talked about the importance of sharing her husband’s time with the team and their story of raising a transgender teen. Photo by Greg Peters

U.S. History to civics to First Nations History for college credit, the classroom is truly the diamond of his professional eye. The baseball diamond comes a close second, though.

Jeff Ryan was named the head baseball coach in 1999 and, in his first season at the helm, he helped guide Prescott to a state finals runner-up title. A year later when Julie graduated from college, she ran into her former teacher. She remembered the political and sports discussions.

The conversation between the two was as easy as a fastball right down the middle.

The lens Julie Ryan looks through at Fire Hall Field is through the eyes of a coach’s wife. Jeff Ryan is now in his 27th year as Prescott Head Baseball Coach. He and Julie have been together for 25 of those years.

“Baseball isn’t just in baseball season,” said Julie. “It’s year ‘round. Jeff is constantly doing stuff for the kids. Everybody wants his time and he always gives it.”

“The greatest gift we can give anybody is our time,” said Jeff. “If you make the decision to teach and coach, your day goes from 7:30 (a.m.) to 9:30 or 10 (p.m.) a lot of days.”

High school coaches like Jeff Ryan are becoming dinosaurs. He’s been coaching and teaching a total of 36 years. Many coaches in the area will tell you they begin coaching because they love the sport. They continue, or discontinue, coaching because of the people. More and more often, pressures from parents and the number of hours required are two fists throwing body blows.

The fun fact that the hourly compensation of a high school coaching stipend hovers around 15 cents may make any coach’s spouse question the commitment.

“It’s not the 1950’s anymore,” said Jeff. “The responsibilities of parenthood and married life suffer when you’re coaching. I understand why a lot of coaches don’t stay in it that long because it’s taxing.”

“Jeff is a good winner and a good loser,” said Julie. “I’m the one that takes it hard.”

“You can’t do this (coaching profession) unless you have the support of your family,” said Jeff. “It’s important to have a confidant and Julie is that for me. I do feel bad because I am sacrificing family time and it’s not easy to do.”

“I can share Jeff because he’s teaching these guys what life is about,” said Julie. “It’s about being kind and being a good human whether you’re on the field, in the community, or in the classroom.”

Jeff has two children from a previous marriage and he and Julie have one son, Ken, together. Ken is a senior at Prescott this year, but at the

beginning of fifth grade, everyone knew him as “Ken-na.”

“He told us we needed to call him Ken and from there, we supported him,” said Julie.

Shortly thereafter, as biological puberty was trying to set in, Ken developed an eating disorder for close to two years.

“Ken went from 120 pounds to 70 pounds in four months,” said Julie, “I wouldn’t wish an eating disorder on anyone. It was awful. As a parent, you just feel so helpless.”

When Ken was in middle school and started wearing different clothes and cut his hair, he served as the Cardinal bat boy.

“There was one player on the team named Cody Rohl that talked and texted Ken and was so kind to him,” said an emotional Julie. “He still texts him and calls him to this day.”

As Julie continued, the tears took a detour around the corners of an emerging smile. “Cody is this thin version of Jeff and what he does for people,” said Julie as she let a giggle escape. “Thank

God people like Cody and Jeff are teachers because the world needs them.”

Acts of kindness, especially at the right time, can be a life-saving gesture.

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, 82% of U.S. transgender teens have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide.

Ken has had top surgery and has been on hormones for two years.

“That has also been life-saving for him,” said Julie.

Ken and Jeff live and breathe politics. Jeff and Julie are living and breathing baseball right now as the Cardinals are off to an 8-2 start to the season.

The Jeff Ryan-led Cardinal baseball teams have garnered 12 conference titles and a state championship in 2012, but as fun as it is to win from Julie Ryan’s camera lens angle, she’s focused on a bigger picture.

“Wins and losses really don’t matter,” said Julie, “it’s what you learn in between.”

# Cardinals finding improvement one course at a time

By Andrew Harrington

The Spring Valley/Elmwood/Plum City boys golf team started the year a bit slow, posting a combined 224 on nine holes, but have lowered their score every single event and are now nearing where they want to be.

After the 224, SV/EPC has scored 209, 207 and, most recently, 401 on 18 holes. The scores have not yet yielded a breakout team placement; however, they are digging themselves out of the bottom spot in the standings and moving up little by little.

“We’ve been getting better and better each match,” SV/EPC Coach Tyler Anderson said.

Sophomore Chase Glaus and freshman Ruger Peavey have led the way for the team thus far, battling back and forth for the team’s top score. Glaus shined at the April 22 conference meet in Spring Valley, posting a 41 to place fourth on the day.

Having a freshman and sophomore at the top gives fans a high hope for the future, but it also comes with some inconsistencies as they establish themselves.

“Both of them show signs of being really solid golfers,” Anderson said. “A little bit of inconsistency with both of them, and I think that’s just the fact of both of them being young, and they haven’t played a lot of golf.”

Trailing the underclassmen have been juniors Darik Stoffel and Maxx Wittmer, so the SV/EPC top four can remain intact next year. Anderson said they are on the right track, and some early season struggles are starting to be patched.

“It’s been a little bit of both with inexperience and weather,” Anderson said. “We had one or two practices on the actual golf course before our first match.”

As the year goes on, Anderson hopes to see the short game improve. If everyone can take a couple strokes per round out



The Spring Valley/Elmwood/Plum City 2025 boys golf team. Photo courtesy of SV/EPC Golf

of their score with made putts and improved chips, that can add up in a hurry.

“Definitely our short game around the greens. We’ve really struggled chipping and putting,” Anderson said. “One day we look really good around the green, the next day not so good... Short game is kind of what makes or breaks your golf game.”

# Prescott Baseball teaches next generation



The Prescott High School baseball team and coaches held a free youth clinic Saturday, April 26 at Firehall Field. More than 80 children participated, receiving free coaching tips on hitting, fielding, pitching, baserunning and more. Contributed photo

# Around the County: Prescott baseball to play for conference’s top spot

By Andrew Harrington

**Baseball**

Prescott went 3-0 on the week, beating St. Croix Falls 5-4 and St. Croix Central 4-0 and 2-0. Prescott is now a game out of the top conference spot at 4-2 with an overall 8-2 record. The Cardinals play Altoona twice in the coming week with the top Middle Border Conference spot on the line.

Ellsworth split two games against Amery, losing 14-10 before winning 12-2. The 22 runs were notable for a Panther squad that has now reached double-digit runs in three consecutive games. Ellsworth is 5-6 on the year with a 2-4 conference record.

River Falls fell to 5-2 after a tough week, losing 8-0 to Champlin Park and 15-11 to Eau Claire Memorial.

After beating EPC 7-2 Monday, Spring Valley lost 5-4 to Elk Mound and 11-1 to Mondovi. The Cardinals are 5-3 overall and 3-2 in Dunn-St. Croix play. EPC finished the week with a 7-1 loss to Boyceville and a 2-0 loss against Glenwood City.

**Softball**

As the conference’s lone 4-0 squads, Ellsworth and Baldwin-Woodville did battle for a pair of games. Ellsworth got out to a slow start at home and could not rally in a 16-12 loss, but bounced back to win 7-2 on the road.

The two are now in a three-way tie with Somerset for the top spot.

Prescott is right behind the trio at 4-2 in conference, splitting with Altoona with an 11-6 win and 9-6 loss.

River Falls dropped a pair to Hudson 8-3, 10-9 to fall to 5-8 overall and 1-5 in Big Rivers play.

EPC had a busy week going 2-2. The Wolves beat Alma Center Lincoln 16-11 and Glenwood City 3-0 and lost to Boyceville 11-1 and Regis 12-2. The squad is now 4-7 overall and 2-5 in conference.

Spring Valley had a tough week, losing 9-4 to Durand-Arkansaw, Elk Mound 10-0 and Mondovi 13-3 and

is still searching for a first win.

**Boys Golf**

River Falls took on two Big Rivers Conference meets on the week. First, the Wildcats took second in Chippewa Falls with a score of 149. The Wildcats then took fourth in Rice Lake, but were just two strokes out of second with a 152.

Ellsworth and SV/EPC competed at the Whitetail Invitational at Colfax, where Ellsworth scored a 362 and Spring Valley scored a 401, placing them in 11th and 17th of 18 teams.

**Track and Field**

Ellsworth competed at

Durand-Arkansaw, placing eighth of 10 girls teams and eighth of 10 boys teams. Prescott attended the Elk Mound Invite, taking fifth of six in the boys standings and sixth in the girls’.

The River Falls boys took fifth of nine at the Rice Lake invitational with the girls taking seventh. The Wildcats were also present at the UWEC Distance Night, picking up some big wins.

At the Clear Lake Invitational, Spring Valley finished eighth of 12 teams in the girls’ standings and ninth for boys. EPC competed in Colfax with Colin Manor winning the 800- and 1,600-meter races, Brewer Link taking the high jump and long jump

crowns, Aurora Sampair winning the pole vault, Allison Sauve winning the triple jump and Alexis Thalacker winning the 800.

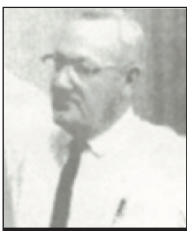
**Boys Tennis**

River Falls lost 5-2 to Aquinas and 7-0 to Big Foot during a 0-2 week. Ellsworth also went 0-2 on the week, losing 7-0 to Eau Claire North and 6-1 to Wausau West.

**Girls Soccer**

River Falls soccer took back to the pitch and won in dominant 3-0 fashion over Wausau West on Friday night. The Wildcats are now 3-2-1 on the year with a 1-0-1 conference record.





# SHOTS *from the Hip*

BY CRIPE OLSON

The Prescott Cardinal softball team enters the week ranked #4 in Division 3 in the most recent Wisconsin Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association state rankings. The Panthers of Ellsworth are ranked #5 in Division 2.

Senior catcher and Concordia-St. Paul recruit Leah French heads into this week with an eye-popping batting average of .550 for the Cardinals. The four-year varsity letter winner has clubbed six home runs and is among the Middle Border Conference leaders in several offensive categories. Senior pitchers Dain Pechacek and Cole Platson each threw complete game shutouts last week against conference leading St. Croix Central. Last Tuesday Pechacek tossed a two-hitter and struck out 11 as he improved to 4-0 on the season with an ERA of 0.00. The

left-handed throwing Platson followed up with a three hit, nine strike out gem of his own against the Panthers in his shutout and helped the Cardinals move to within a half game of first place Altoona.

Speaking of Cole Platson, the three-year letter-winner was hit by pitch three times while facing St. Croix Central Panther and Kenosha-Parkside bound Eli Babler. It reminded many Cardinal fans of the 2004 season when junior Justin Tobias was remarkably hit by pitch 17 times during the season. An all-conference pitcher and infielder, Tobias played college baseball at St. Olaf.

Approximately 80 youngsters participated in Saturday's 25th Annual Free Youth Clinic at Firehall Field. Participants worked on drills focusing on the fundamentals of pitching, infield, and outfield,

and hitting during the six-hour event. Ranging in age from 5-12, all youngsters received a free clinic T-shirt and lunch courtesy of the Prescott High School baseball team and coaches.

The Cardinal baseball team is ranked #11 in the first statewide poll of the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association. Fellow Middle Border Conference team Somerset is listed as Honorable Mention.

Hats off to volunteers Jim Schommer, Charlie Block, Brady Randolph, Dennis Gagnier and Greg Erickson for all their hard work in getting Firehall Field ready for games this spring. Additionally, a big round of applause to Michelle Keiper Boogren for resurrecting the Firehall Field Botanical Garden. Boogren spent the better part of three days pulling weeds, planting flowers, and adding mulch to

the garden bed adjacent to the field. Brava Ms. Boogren for all your hard work.

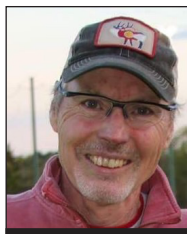
From the WIAA. The member schools of the WIAA passed four amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Eligibility and Conduct at the 129th Annual Meeting in Stevens Point last week. After voting down a similar proposal last year, the members voted 293-108 to approve the proposed Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) language, making Wisconsin one of more than 40 states that permit student-athletes to enter into NIL opportunities. Another big change: coaches of all sports can now hold voluntary practices almost all of June and July, expanding summer training options across all WIAA sports — except football, which has specific restrictions. And any fan or spectator that was ejected is now required to complete the free online NFHS Sportsmanship Course available on the NFHSLearn.com website. The completed course certificate must be submitted to school officials before attending any future home athletic events.

From the Wisconsin De-

partment of Natural Resources: The DNR reminds anglers the 2025-2026 general inland fishing season will open statewide Saturday, May 3. Wisconsin is home to more than 15,000 inland lakes, 42,000 miles of perennial streams and rivers, 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and 260 miles of the Mississippi River. Good luck anglers. The DNR also reminds outdoor enthusiasts as the weather warms and people across the state begin spending more time outside, be bear aware and take steps to prevent potential conflicts with black bears this spring. Every spring, Wisconsin's estimated 24,000 black bears emerge from their winter torpor and leave their dens in search of food and potentially new territory. These explorations sometimes cause unexpected interactions between black bears and the public. Bears are normally solitary forest animals, but their powerful sense of smell can lead them into urban areas in search of food, especially in the spring and fall.

Headshaker of the week. Well, it's official. The WIAA membership has

agreed to allow high school coaches to hold "optional" unlimited practice with athletes during the summer months. Sure, there are a handful of restrictions, but the long, slow march toward specialization, brought to you by AAU, will continue to get worse. For larger schools like Oak Creek, Stevens Point, Sun Prairie, and Hudson, the effects will be minimal. For schools in lower divisions, where "sharing athletes" is not only commonplace but essential, the effects could be devastating. Of course, the WIAA will remind member schools these contact days will be "optional." Sure they will be. It's like having an "optional practice" during the season. It's sort of like a wife saying to her husband "You don't have to get me anything for Valentine's Day." Yeah right. Hopefully head coaches and their assistants at smaller schools will recognize the dangers of such a policy change. All it will take is one rogue coach with a selfish agenda to do real damage to a high school athletic department. Allowing unlimited coaching contact during the summer? It's a headshaker.



# OUTDOOR *Tales and Trails*

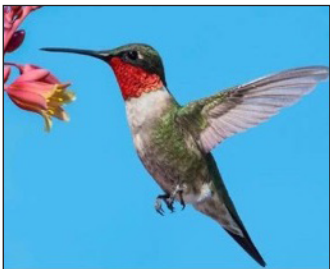
BY DAVE BECK

## The greatest things of Spring

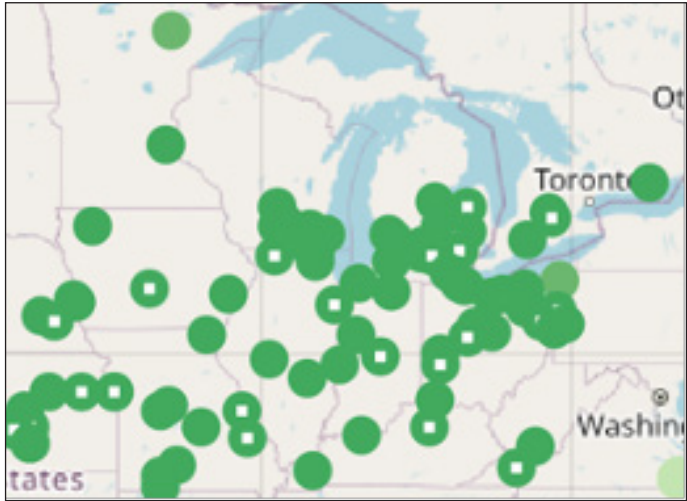
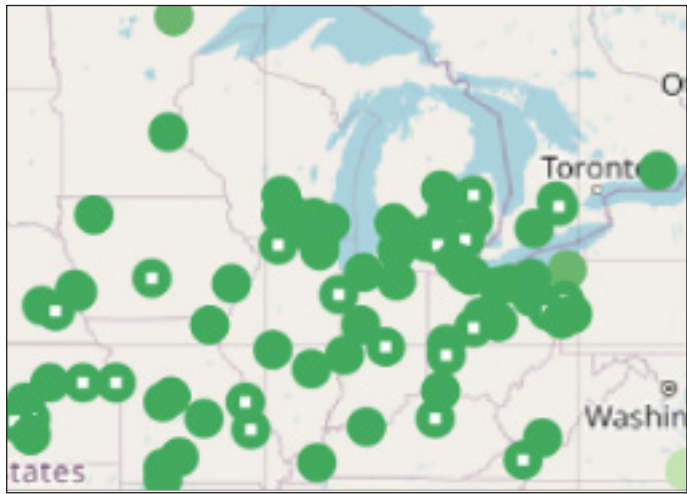
As I sat down to "pen" today's article I did so with the idea that I wanted to celebrate the greatest days of the outdoor calendar year: when spring has sprung. From that seedling of an idea, I found myself surfing the net and

came across a great resource: Journey North. It's a terrific site where people from around the country log their observations of nature's first sightings and thus create a great migration and growing season resource. The qual-

ifier is that there are a few days of lag time from when materials are submitted to when the paper comes off the press and hits newsstands and mailboxes. With that in mind, the green dot first sightings are a little behind.



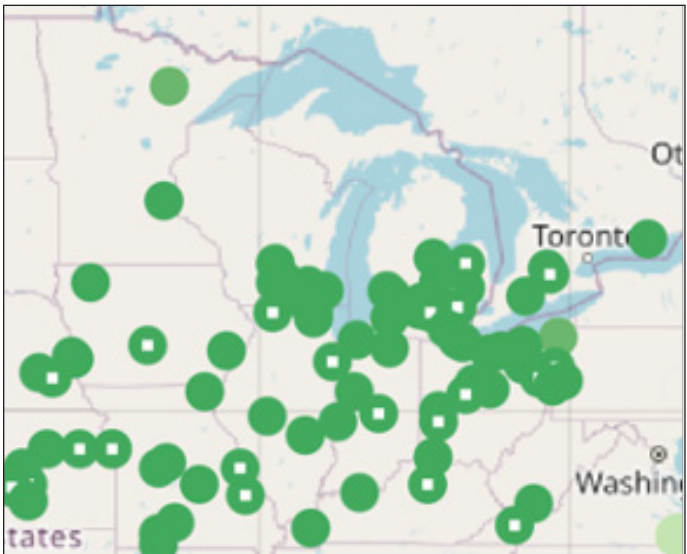
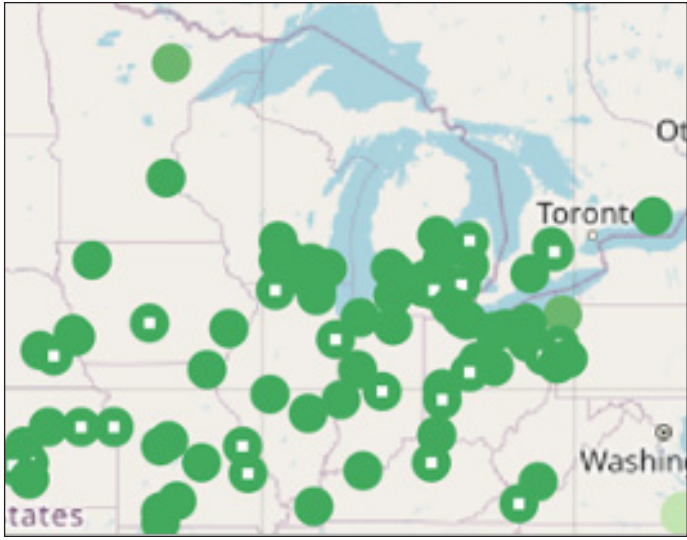
**Hummingbirds**  
Hummingbirds are just getting here. My unscientific and casual observations tell me that they arrived on or maybe just after the orioles showed up.



**Orioles**  
I have a soft spot for orioles in that they were my mom's favorite bird. No matter how busy she was raising one great son (me) and five average children, she always had time to take care of her orioles.



**Loons**  
Since I don't live on a lake I never really noticed when they arrived. All I know is when I start lake fishing, they are already there and I like it. If a loon entered a contest for the greatest outdoor call, I would say that it would have a great chance to win.



**Monarch butterflies**  
Monarch butterflies that we enjoy here in the summer will be the great grandfathers and grandmothers of the butterflies we will welcome back next year. It's the craziest and coolest migration and life cycle ever.

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

Pierce County JOURNAL

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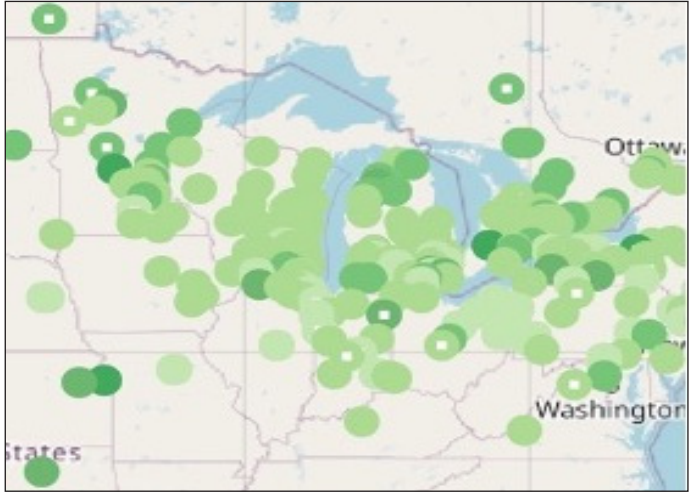
Ellsworth's Aliza Acker is the Pierce County Journal Athlete of the Week sponsored by Ptacek's Family Market. In two games last week, Acker was 4 for 4 with two homeruns, five RBI, and five runs scored. Acker was also intentionally walked five times during the two-game span. She also picked up the win in the circle against Baldwin-Woodville on Thursday, pitching seven innings and allowing just two runs while striking out six batters. Acker is batting .595 on the season with 30 RBI. Ptacek's Family Market owner Pat Ptacek says, "Be an athlete, Aliza!"



**Milkweed**  
I don't really have a lot to add about milkweed other than heads up, here it comes. If you need a reason to leave it alone, it's a host plant for monarchs.



**Robins**  
Robins are an early ar-river here in Wisconsin. It's for good reason that the old saying goes something like "a robin's back sees three snowfalls."



**Tulips**  
Tulips are awesome in that when they decide it's time, they seem to go from just a sprout to full grown in a matter of hours.



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# OBITUARIES

## Leah Gavin Speerstra 1952-2025

Leah Alice Speerstra was born in Mondovi, Wis. to parents Seth and Irene (Domke) Speerstra on the 8th of August, 1952. Slightly over a year later, Leah was blessed with a younger sister and her best friend for life, Judith. Both Speerstra daughters were baptized by their grandfather, Rev. Edward E. Domke. During Leah's early years, the young family relocated from Mondovi, Wis. to Superior, Wis., then to St. Paul, Minn., followed by Hudson, Wis., before finally establishing their home in River Falls, Wis. in 1962. This is when the family began their relationship with Freeman Drug. Seth and Irene were dedicated parents and unwavering supporters of their daughters' aspirations. Given that Seth was a Pharmacist and Irene was a Medical Technologist, it was no surprise to anyone that Leah and Judy would both become remarkable contributors to the fields of Pharmacy and medicine during their careers.

During her childhood, she relished excursions to connect with her large family throughout Massachusetts, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. It's said by those who knew her that from an early age Leah's warmth and cheerful demeanor were captivating. Leah had close relationships with her grandparents, aunts and uncles. She frequently reminisced about her treasured moments with childhood friends and working as a teen at Freeman Drug alongside her father. Leah graduated from River Falls High School in 1970. Leah pursued her higher education at both the University of Wisconsin – River Falls and the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. After obtaining the necessary licenses in both Minnesota and Wisconsin, she dedicated herself to her profession as a pharmacist.

Since the 1970s, Leah has devoted countless hours to sharing her expertise, knowledge, and enthusiasm with the community of River Falls and its neighboring regions including the Village Pharmacy in Baldwin, Crown Heart Pharmacy in Ellsworth, Micklesen Drug in Hudson, River Falls Pharmacy Services, River Falls Hospital Pharmacy, River Falls Ben Franklin Pharmacy, and, of course, Freeman Drug. Leah has been an owner of Freeman Drug since her father's death in 2008. Due to the commitment of the pharmacists who preceded her, Leah has continued the legacy of Freeman Drug, which has been family-owned for more than 150 years. Anyone who knew Leah knew that she had an unwavering commitment to equitable healthcare access. She was an advocate for continued education, having authored many letters of recommendation for aspiring pharmacists. In collaboration with other members of the community, Leah dedicated her time to the establishment and ongoing support of the Free Clinic of Pierce and St. Croix County. An example of Leah's love for her community is evidenced in her leadership of the Freeman Drug team to obtain and administer COVID vaccinations when the world was still quarantined. Leah has a

substantial list of accolades, including from the American Association of University Women as a 'Role Model for Equity,' and she was named River Falls Citizen of the Year on two occasions (2012 and 2021). Her family knows for certain that Leah's impact on the community has been immeasurable.

It is no surprise that Leah's professional gifts are only a fraction of who she was as a whole person. To Ronald Gavin, she has been his anchor, his partner and beloved bride. The two married on the 1st of July in 1972 in a wedding officiated by her grandfather, surrounded by their closest family and friends. The two built a life together that they cherished, sharing common interests and goals. Through each chapter of their 52 years together, Ron and Leah remained deeply in love. Having a family of her own was a dream of Leah's, and she took on the role of mother with all her heart. Ron and Leah were blessed with two sons, first Benjamin in February 1978, and then Timothy in July 1980. Leah's faith in God never wavered, and she was thrilled that her sons were both baptized by her grandfather, Rev. Edward E. Domke. Ron and Leah have been members of Ezekiel Lutheran Church for decades, where Leah served in many roles. If her sons were interested in something, Leah moved every obstacle to ensure they were given the chance to pursue their happiness and passions. The River Falls Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts knew the Gavin family well for many years, which will be cherished memories for her family. Leah and Ron were instrumental in both Ben and Tim achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, just as her father Seth did in his youth.

Ron and Leah took many trips to see relatives including the Domke's, Speerstra's, Gavin's, and Kealy's. Often, Leah and Ron found a way to carve out a connection to their family history as well as American history no matter the destination. A treasured retreat for Leah has been the canoe trip down the Namekagon River with family and friends. Many people can recall a time they saw Ron and Leah riding around River Falls in one of the multiple restored Model A's automobiles. When at home, Ron and Leah are known as a safe spot to land. Thanks to the pool installed in the 1990's, Ben and Tim can recall numerous summer days spent having friends over for shenanigans with Leah looking on with pride. No matter how long it had been since Leah had seen you, she greeted everyone with a hug and a smile.

There are three humans on this earth that have the honor of calling Leah by her most valuable title: Grandma. In 2009, Tim married the love of his life, Sarah (Johnson) Gavin. Together, Tim and Sarah have three children named Davis, Eloise, and Sylvia. Leah's ultimate joy in life came about in those moments with her grandchildren. Whether reading them a book, doing a craft, baking a dessert, or teaching them life skills – Leah could not get enough. She was as invested in her grandchildren as she was as a mother: always there with love. The family will carry on many traditions that are rooted in Leah's influence: the annual pumpkin carving night, Halloween trick or treating, building gingerbread houses,



es, passing the Christmas stockings, and races in the swimming pool followed by eating corn on the cob on the deck. Leah found joy in showering her grandchildren with love, gifts of affection, encouragement, and family mottos, including "always save room for dessert." She had great pride in the fact that her grandchildren are all baptized (wearing the family heirloom of a bonnet crocheted by her grandmother Amelia Domke) and know the love of Jesus Christ.

Leah died on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 surrounded by family at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minn. Her departure to Heaven was an echo of her lifetime here on earth. Those who love her will find comfort in the belief that she was greeted with the grandest welcome of family, friends, beloved pets, and thousands of kind souls she has blessed with her care. May Leah Gavin rest in peace and live on in our hearts for eternity.

Leah is survived by her adoring spouse, Ronald Gavin, sons Benjamin Gavin, and Timothy (Sarah) Gavin, sister Judith (Tom) Brosz, in-laws Nancy Gavin, Tom (Karen) Gavin, Jerry Gavin, Andrew Gavin, and Eugene "Gene" Gavin. Leah will live on in her grandchildren: Davis, Eloise and Sylvia. Leah will be missed by an extensive list of uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and her chosen family of Freeman Drug.

Leah is preceded in death by her father Seth, mother Irene, and infant siblings as well as her in-laws Joseph and Katherine Gavin, brother-in-law Daniel Gavin, sister-in-law Karen Gavin, and sister-in-law Diane Gavin.

All services for Leah Gavin will be held at Ezekiel Lutheran Church, including a visitation on from 4-8 p.m. Monday, May 5. Funeral services and ceremonies to celebrate the life of Leah Gavin are set for Tuesday, May 6, 2025 with a second visitation from 10 a.m. to noon and funeral service at noon. A luncheon will be held after the services. A private burial will be held at a later date for the immediate family.

Memorials preferred to the following organizations that meant something to Leah and her family: Free Clinic of Pierce and St. Croix County; Croix Valley Chordsmen; Ezekiel Lutheran Church Mission to Haiti; and Animal Ark Minnesota.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; May the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26  
Arrangements are with Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services.



## Audrey Gilbertson 1934-2025

Audrey Gilbertson, 90, of Hager City, died Friday, April 11, 2025, at the Neighborhoods at Brookview in Brookings, SD. She was born on May 29, 1934, in Ladysmith, Wis. to Frank and Lillian (Morris) Russ. She received her nursing degree from Northwestern University. On Sept. 24, 1955, she was united in marriage to the love of her life Wayne A. Gilbertson. She worked as a nurse, homemaker and was a wonderful mother. Audrey was a member of the Pierce County Historical Association and the Bay City American Legion Auxiliary.

What brought her the most joy was spending time with friends and family, especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was

also deeply involved with the Pierce County Historical Association, serving on the board of directors, spending countless hours cataloging donations and sharing her knowledge of the area. She was also an avid fan of Diet Coke.

Audrey is survived by two sons, Jay (Bonnie) Gilbertson of Brookings, SD and Jeff (Pam) Gilbertson of Eden Prairie, Minn.; three grandchildren, Peter (Carolyn) Gilbertson, Alexander Gilbertson and Kelli (Alex) Dorosz; four great grandchildren, Jack, Audrey, Marit, Olivia along with numerous nieces and nephews, all who will forever hold her memory in their hearts. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Wayne in 1999 and two brothers, John and Peter Russ.

A visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, May 31, 2025, at the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Ellsworth Chapel in Ellsworth. Burial will be at a later date at the



Bay City Cemetery. Memorial contributions to the Pierce County Historical Association are encouraged.



## Beverly Bauer 1939-2025

Beverly J Bauer, 85, of Prescott, Wi, passed away on Monday, April 21, 2025, at United Hospital, St. Paul, Minn. She was born in Grand Forks, ND to Ernel and Margaret Bratvold.

Bev worked many years at APGI, first as a grader and eventually she became operator of the company's state-of-the-art automated packaging system—the first of its kind in the Red River Valley. Though she worked hard, it was never to climb a ladder or chase a title—it was so her family could take special vacations, make memories, and live moments they'd cherish forever. Everything she did was for those she loved. Family was her world, and she was its heart.

She found her greatest joy under the sun—camping at the lake, soaking up the warmth in Florida during winter months, or simply sitting for hours outside on a deck (any deck). Bev had a sparkle in her eyes that reflected her spirit—radiant, warm, and full of life.

She had a deep love for adventure and a passion for shopping, especially in search of the perfect dress or pair of shoes. Her door was always open, her home always full of laughter and stories. Her sense of humor was infectious, and her collection of jokes was legendary—she always had one more story to tell.

She was a sweetheart in the truest sense of the word, her kindness was boundless, and her gentle heart touched everyone who met her. The light of her personality often arrived before she did, and that light will never go out in the hearts of those who knew her.

Bev's legacy is one of love, laughter, and the simple, beautiful moments that make a life extraordinary. We will miss her deeply, but we are forever grateful for the time we had, the memories we shared, and the example of unconditional love she gave us all.

Bev was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Lloyd, and brothers Richard and Duane Bratvold. She is survived by children Joyce (Steve) Mireault, Brenda Bauer (Keith Hepner), and Randall (Heather) Bauer, 11 grandchildren, 23



great-grandchildren, sisters Marlys Johnson (Dennis), Lois Srnsky (Bob), Janet Little, Cheryl Froseth, brothers Kenny and Gordon Bratvold, her beloved companion and best friend Dennis Donath, her extended family of brothers and sisters through marriage, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Visitation: 9:30-10:30 a.m. with a 10:30 service on Saturday May 3, 2025, Sharon Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND. Arrangements by Roseville Memorial Chapel, Roseville, Minn. and Dahl Funeral Home, East Grand Forks, Minn.

## Margaret 'Muggs' Bredahl 1944-2025

Margaret "Muggs" Bredahl, age 81 of River Falls, WI died peacefully on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at Kinnick Health and Rehab in River Falls, Wis. Muggs is survived by her daughter, Michelle (Wayne Huhnke) Bredahl; grandchildren, Sierra (Jordan Guy) Huhnke and Quinn Huhnke; siblings, Roger Sather, Sr., Karen (John) Hamilton, Lorin (June) Sather; sister-in-law,

Betsy Sather; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, Palmer and Florence (Owens) Sather; husband, Darwin Bredahl; son, Timothy Bredahl; brothers, Jerry Sather and infants Ronald and Charles Sather; nephew, Roger Sather, Jr.; and great-nephew, Joshua Gunderson.

A Celebration of Muggs' Life will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 11 am at Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services (805 E. Division St., River Falls, WI.) Visitation will also be on Monday, May 12, 2025 from 9-11 a.m. at the funeral home. Arrangements are with Bakken-Young Funeral



## Myrna Larrabee

Myrna Jean Larrabee, age 86, of Ellsworth, passed away peacefully at her home on April 24, 2025.

A funeral service for Myrna

na was held at noon Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at English Lutheran Church, 229 W. Main St., Ellsworth, WI. A Visitation was prior to the service.

Services are entrusted to the O'Connell Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Ellsworth. For fur-

ther information, please visit [www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com](http://www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com) or call 715-273-4421.



## PUBLIC Notice

**STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY**  
**Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing**  
**Case No. 25CV88**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF Rachael Alethea Linn**  
**By (Petitioner): Rachael Alethea Linn**  
**NOTICE IS GIVEN:**  
A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:  
**From:**  
[First] Rachael  
[Middle] Alethea

[Last] Heitland  
**To:**  
[First] Rachael  
[Middle] Alethea  
[Last] Linn  
**Birth Certificate:**  
[First] Rachael  
[Middle] Alethea  
[Last] Heitland  
**IT IS ORDDRED:**  
This Petition will be heard in the Circuit court of Pierce County, State of Wisconsin.  
Judge's Name: Elizabeth Rohl  
Place: Pierce County Court-house, WEST Courtroom 414 West Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011  
Date: June 4, 2025  
Time: 8:45 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-273-6741 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

### IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

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

WNAXLP 4 30, 5 7, 14



**Mahn Family**  
Funeral and Cremation Services

*Ellsworth Chapel*

**Construction is Complete!**

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

**715-941-5021**

587 Lucas Ln., Ellsworth, WI • [www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com)



OBITUARIES

Peggy Wells-Steinmetz 1913-2025

Peggy Joyce Wells-Steinmetz was born to Robert and Pearl Smith on Nov. 21, 1931 at their home in Troy Township, River Falls, Wis. She was welcomed by her sister, Vi, and brother, Bob. Being the youngest she was both loved and teased. She was affectionately referred to as “Turd” because they thought she was a cute little turd, always on the move.

Her early years were carefree and full of adventure on the farm. Many days were spent with her “Auntie Mama” as she called her Aunt Lola who lived down the road. From the beginning Peg embraced learning and her creativity was evident. She loved crafting and learned skills like knitting and crocheting at an early age.

Peggy’s formal education began at Glover Station School and as she would tell you, “She didn’t do very well.” Peg was always very social and her poor performance was probably due to being the only one in her class. It wasn’t long, however, that her long-time friend joined her and by grade 2 her study habits and performance began to improve. Education has always been important to Peg which led to receiving a degree in Education from Wisconsin State College at River Falls in 1953. Later earning her Master’s Degree in 1972 from UW-RF. Upon graduation, Peg jumped right into action and began her career teaching at the Ames Lab School for two years. She then moved to Greenwood Elementary School and taught first grade for 14 years. This opened the door to seven years as the District Reading Coordinator and 13 years as the Greenwood Elementary Principal. After she retired, she supervised student teachers for the University of Wisconsin at River Falls for seven more years.

As many of you might already know, Peg’s life was full of awards and accolades. She was the first female principal in River Falls as well as being the first female elected to the River Falls Golf Club Board of Directors. She also served as President of the Northwestern Wisconsin Educators Association and was well respected by her peers. But the thing she loved most was being recognized for her love of children-always doing what was best for them. Every family member sitting here will attest to this fact... when we mention we are related to Peg, someone will always say that she was their favorite teacher.

Education was important to Peg, but her family was where she found her joy completely fulfilled. Upon graduating from college in 1953, Peg married the love of her life, Bill Wells. To make things even more ex-

citing, in one week, she had married Bill, got her teaching degree and became mother to 4-year-old, David. She obviously did a great job with motherhood because one day David affirmed, “Piggy, you make great ketchup.” Then one day David went to school and announced for show and tell that the carpenters came and his mom was pregnant. A few months later Tim was born. The family was thrilled and stretched in ways that only adding another child could do. But like every other task before, Peg approached these new challenges with joy and energy, filling every moment with memorable experiences. With two children now, days were busy and rewarding but times were hard. Tim recalls his dad fretting one day while paying the bills and he heard him say “Damn, where’d the money go?” Without skipping a beat, Tim defensively responded, “Mom didn’t take it, she’s asleep on the couch!” Money or no money, the family created memories and life went on. Then, tragedy struck and Bill passed away at the age of 43 from cancer, leaving the family heartbroken. Yet again, life continues and Peg fills the void. She loved playing bridge, golf, and crafting, but most of all enjoyed socializing. Her friendships were filled with good clean fun. And fun she had. She would organize their events and late into her retirement she gathered her fellow retired educators to get away at the lake. Speaking of the lake, this also was a favorite spot for Peg. Laughter, silly games and songs, celebrations and family get togethers were a huge part of her life. When Peg was in charge there was never a dull moment.

She was also involved with her PEO group as well as a church crafting group which she headed. Her philanthropic affiliations included the Marshfield (Wisconsin) Cancer Research Clinic.

On June 7, 1975 she married again to Vern Steinmetz, and her family grew overnight but even till her last days, her devotion was always to her boys, David and Tim and their families.

Peg was a devoted mother, wonderful mother-in-law, and beloved grandmother and great-grandmother. Her grandchildren recall singing songs with her and doing many crafts like paper plate Easter bunnies and food projects such as Rudolph Sandwiches and Apple Smiles. They remember fun times at the cabin, riding in her red convertible with the top down in Arizona, Halloween games while trick-or-treating, piles of Christmas gifts, her dressing up as Miss Frizzle, playing the Farkle Dice game (with Grandma’s rules) and so many more memories. They treasure the individual photo albums and scrapbooks she made for each of her 12 grandchildren.

Peg lived in River Falls her whole life, mostly across the street from where she worked. Her grandchildren have fond memories of the house on Eighth Street and will never forget the hot tub



and all the celebrations experienced there. She moved to Golf View for a time, wintering in Arizona and finally landed at Wellhaven/Bay Harbor of River Falls where she spent several years until moving to her heavenly home on April 21, 2025.

To sum up Peg’s life, I’m sure we could all say that Peg was the most generous, carefree, authentic person we all knew. Peg was Peg and never let what people thought of her dictate her behavior. She was so much fun and our minds can barely contain all the memories she created. Her quips and quotes are spoken often and her costumes will forever be etched in our hearts. The joy she spread to everyone is like dandelion puffs blowing in the wind. Finally, Peg, we turn to you now to say THANK YOU. We are who we are because you have touched our lives in a way no one else could. We will forever love you and are so grateful for a life well lived.

Peg is survived by son David (Sherri) Wells and son Tim (Wanda) Wells; grandchildren Joshua (Ashley) Wells, Lindsey (Nando) Herrera, Tessa (Nelson) Leacraft, Samuel (Rachel) Wells and Valerie (Zach) Mohr; sister-in-law Kay Smith and many great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Peg is preceded in death by her parents Robert and Pearl Smith, husband Bill Wells, brother Robert J. Smith, sister Violet Ebers, mother-in-law Betty Wells, sister-in-law Margaret Michaelson-Dibble, brothers-in-law Fred Wells and Richard Wells and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Free Clinic of Pierce and St. Croix Counties, River Falls Cancer Center, River Falls Food Pantry or the River Falls Our Neighbors Place Backpack Program. We would also like to plant a tree in Peg’s honor at Wells Park in River Falls.

A Celebration of Peggy’s Life will be held on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church (110 N. Third St. River Falls, WI.) Visitation will also be on Friday from 9-11 a.m. at the church. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery in River Falls. Arrangements are with Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services.



PUBLIC Notice

Street Address: 230 S. Main Street, Elmwood, WI 54740  
Tax Key No. 122-01027-0200

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

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

Chad Koranda  
Sheriff of Pierce County, Wisconsin

Codilis, Moody & Circelli, P.C.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
(414) 775-7700  
50-22-00363  
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.

TOWN OF TRENTON BOARD MEETING NOTICE  
7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 1st 2025  
at the Trenton Town Hall  
W7926 250th Ave Hager City, WI

Agenda  
1) Call to order  
2) Fill the vacant 1st supervisor seat for the current term  
3) Adjourn  
All agenda items are posted for discussion and possible action by the Town Board  
Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, please contact the Town Clerk Steve Thoms, W8074 147th Ave Hager City WI, 715-792-5218 or Trenton-clerk@bevcomm.net  
Notice is further hereby given that a majority of the Plan Commission may be present at the foregoing Town Board meeting for purposes of gathering information over which the Plan Commission has decision making responsibility. This may constitute a meeting of the Plan Commission pursuant to State ex Rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board, 174 Wis.2d 553, 494 N.W.2d 408 (1993), although the Plan Commission will not take any formal action at this meeting. Dated this 24th Day of April 2025. Steve Thoms-Clerk

WNAXLP 4 30

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY

Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing

Case No. 25CV86

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF Rigley Jesse Elbert

By (Petitioner): Claire Margaret Elbert

By (Co-Petitioner): Zachary Steven Elbert

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

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

From: [First] Rigley [Middle] Jesse [Last] Elbert

To: [First] Rigley [Middle] James [Last] Elbert

Birth Certificate: [First] Rigley [Middle] James [Last] Elbert

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Pierce County, State of Wisconsin: Judge’s Name: Elizabeth Rohl Place: Pierce County Courthouse, WEST Courtroom 414 West Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011 Date: June 4, 2025 Time: 8:30 am

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-273-6741 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

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

WNAXLP 4 30, 5 7, 14

APPROVED MINUTES OF PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Tuesday April 15, 2025 • 9:00a.m. Full meeting minutes, resolutions and ordinances can be viewed at www.co.pierce.wi.us or in the County Clerk’s Office, 414 West Main St., Ellsworth. 715-273-6744.

Meeting called to order by Chairperson J. Aubart at 9:00 a.m., in the County Board Room at the Pierce County Courthouse & via Zoom. A quorum was established with roll call by County Clerk J. Feuerhelm acknowledging 15 supervisors present & 2 excused (J. Johnson, S. Bjork). Also attending were: Jason Matthys-Administrative Coordinator, Brad Lawrence-Corp Counsel, Greg Weaver-Data Analyst, Allison Preble-HR Manager, Wanda Kinneman-Insurance Coordinator, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, Ayslinn Snyder-Public Health Director, Andy Pichotta-Land Management Director, Kerry Feuerhelm-Clerk of Court, John Worsing-Medical Examiner, Kathy Fuchs-Treasurer, Christine McPherson-EM Director, Tiffany Meyer-Ellsworth Librarian, Francis Schellhout-Wisconsin DOT, Sherry Quamme-Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission, Jack Zabrowski-WI MRRPC, Sarah Nigbor-PC Journal, Danny Akenson-resident. Wendy Town of River Falls resident. Adopt Agenda: Motion by D. Auckland/D. Bergseng to adopt the agenda as presented; motion carried unanimously. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Supervisor B. Barringer. Public Comment on Issues Not Related to Agenda Items: Supervisor D. Bergseng asked if issues suggested in a letter from a constituent would come before the Board. Chairperson J. Aubart responded that it would need to be brought through the pertinent committees first. Supervisor M. Pittman stated that he attended a movie titled “A World Without Cows”, & encouraged others to watch it as well. Supervisor N. Gulbranson informed the Board that many businesses & others are being affected by recent reductions in Medicaid. He encouraged those with questions to contact pertinent staff in Human Services & Public Health. Supervisor B. Barringer expressed concern about public financing authority & Pierce County being complicit with anything of that nature. Discuss/Take action: On 2025-2026 County Board Meeting Dates. Proposed dates were presented by the County Clerk & reviewed by Board members. Motion by J. Kosin/M. Kahlow to approve 2025-2026 County Board meeting dates as presented; motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Discuss/Take action: On 2024 Annual Reports pursuant to §4-4(B) Pierce County Code. Supervisors previously provided with copies of 2024 Annual Report of departments. J. Matthys informed the Board that these were shared on Google Drive & that hard copies were also available. Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to accept the 2024 Annual Reports provided by the various departments; motion carried unanimously. Election of Committees: Chairperson J. Aubart announced an election for the Land Management Committee, 2 Citizen members; Term 04-2025 04/2028; suggested nominees were Eric Sanden & Jeff Holst. Supervisor N. Gulbranson nominated Dr. Eric Sanden & Jeff Holst. Chairperson J. Aubart called for other nominations; none given. Motion by M. Kahlow/N. Gulbranson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for E. Sanden & J. Holst; motion carried unanimously. Eric Sanden & Jeff Holst duly elected as Citizen members to the Land Management Committee. \*All legislation except rezoning ordinances may be acted upon on the first reading at the Organizational Meeting.\* RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION Resolution No. 25-01: Memorial to Daniel J. Reis Resolution read by County Clerk J. Feuerhelm commemorating the life & service of former County Board Supervisor Dan Reis. Motion by M. Kahlow/J. Kosin to approve Resolution 25-01 as presented; motion carried unanimously. Resolution No. 25-02: Amend Fees for Services of County Medical Examiner and Deputy Medical Examiner Motion by M. Kahlow/M. Pittman to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. J. Worsing explained that this was an annual resolution to amend fees. He further explained that fees are allowed to be increased by the annual cost of living increase index. He added that if fees are not addressed each year, the County or ME cannot increase

fees for increased costs in previous years. Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to approve Resolution 25-02 as presented; motion carried unanimously. Resolution No. 25-03: Approve Municipal Agreement Fee Increase for Commercial Driver’s License Testing Program Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. W. Kinneman explained that the costs in providing this service have gone up. The current fee structure is \$35/ participant & \$55 for first year employees. The recommendation is to increase to \$50/ participant & \$75 for first year employees. Motion by M. Kahlow/J. Kosin to approve Resolution 25-03 as presented; motion carried unanimously. Resolution No. 25-04: Authorize the Use of Opioid Settlement Funds for Parent Recovery Cafes, Drug Disposal Bag Purchase, and Family Centered Treatment-Recovery. Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. A. Snyder explained how the drug deactivation & disposal bags neutralize the active chemicals in the drugs. J. Krings provided a written summary explaining that the Opioid Ad Hoc Committee has recommended three projects for Pierce County’s use of opioid settlement funds. They are as follows: 1) Parent Recovery Cafes; small group meetings that are safe spaces where parents & caregivers can talk about the challenge of raising a family & being in recovery. 2) Detera Drug Deactivation & Disposal Bags; studies have found that providing drug disposal bags increases the likelihood of proper drug disposal. 3) Family Centered Treatment/ Recovery; the Human Services Dept. has been providing this service for three years & has had great success. Additional intensive substance use recovery components will be added to the in-home therapy model. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended up to \$55,000 annually for three years but once the program is up & running costs are expected to decrease. Motion by M. Kahlow/A. Clafin to approve Resolution 25-04 as presented; motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Resolution No. 25-05: Adopting the Pierce County all Hazards Mitigation Plan Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. Wendy from Town of River Falls questioned if efforts were being made to collaborate with other counties to demand & reestablish FEMA. Supervisor M. Pittman expressed concern about the title of the resolution stating “all hazards mitigation plan” but within the resolution it indicates “natural hazards”. C. McPherson stated that the plan is necessary in order to qualify for grant funding, but could be revised moving forward. Motion by M. Kahlow/M. Pittman to approve Resolution 25-05 as presented; motion carried unanimously. Resolution No. 25-06: Urging Governor Evers and the Wisconsin Legislature to Support the County Courts Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. K. Feuerhelm explained that this legislation urges Governor Evers & State Legislators to support county courts. Courts across the State are advocating for an increase to the State’s Circuit Court costs payments from an 80%/20% split in favor of the State to an even 50%/50% split. Also, to increase the amount counties may retain from fines/forfeitures, as well as explore additional funding for circuit courts. She stated Pierce County Courts has struggled for years to keep qualified attorneys, guardian ad litem, & interpreters because of increased costs to provide such services. Motion by M. Kahlow/M. Pittman to approve Resolution 25-06 as presented; motion carried unanimously. Resolution No. 25-07: Ratify Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) Sheriff’s Department - Jail Subunit Collective Bargaining Agreement, with attachment (Jail Tentative Agreement) Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. Supervisor M. Pittman questioned the “tentative agreement” language on these two resolutions. Chairperson J. Aubart explained that these bargaining units have ratified their respective contracts & this is the last step in the process. Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Bergseng to approve Resolution 25-07 as presented; motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Resolution No. 25-08: Ratify Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) Sheriff’s Department - Patrol, Investigators Subunit Collective Bargaining

PUBLIC Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 25 PR 20

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RODNEY A. PEARSON MARCH 16, 2025

PLEASE TAKE xNOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth May 30, 1947 and date of death March 16, 2025 and was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 599 North Maple St., Apt. B, Ellsworth, WI 54011. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is August 1, 2025

5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, 414 W. Main St., Ellsworth, WI 54011, Room 201..

FORM COMPLETED: Jens H. Loberg ADDRESS: Loberg Law Office, LLP 359 W. Main Street Ellsworth, WI 54011 TELEPHONE: (715) 273-5072 BAR NUMBER: 1086839

WNAXLP

Case No. 2022CV000036 STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT PIERCE COUNTY

Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Plaintiff,

v. Mark Nehring, et al.

Defendants. NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE

By virtue of a judgment of foreclosure made in the above-entitled action on June 8, 2022 in the amount of \$160,174.05, I will sell at public auction, located at the main entrance of the Pierce County Courthouse, 414 W. Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011, on

May 27, 2025

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

LOT 11 AND 12, BLOCK 11, ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF ELMWOOD, PIERCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN.



Agreement, with attachment (Patrol Tentative Agreement) Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to suspend the rules & waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. Motion by M. Kahlow/M. Pittman to approve Resolution 25-08 as presented; motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND CONSIDERATION Resolution No. 24-33 To Support the Designation of the Mississippi River Trail within the Limits of Pierce County Supervisor M. Pittman asked Francis Schelfhout-Wisconsin DOT if the Town of Isabelle revised their plan to include using Town roads as an alternative to the Highway 35 corridor. Mr. Schelfhout stated that they did not change the plan from what was originally proposed. Motion by M. Kahlow/J. Kosin to approve Resolution 24-33 as presented; motion carried with 14 in favor & 1 opposed (M. Pittman). Resolution No. 24-34: To Amend the Land Management Department Fee Schedule. Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Auckland to approve Resolution 24-34 as presented. Motion by M. Pittman/D. Bergseng to amend the Resolution to amend page 1 of Exhibit A under Zoning Permits/Agricultural Uses to add Principal Structure greater than 40,000 sq. ft. & Accessory Structure greater than 40,000 sq. ft. with a fee of \$1,000 each. Supervisor M. Pittman expressed concern about user fees for larger agricultural structures & felt that others paying fees or taxpayers should not have to pay for any additional costs relating to these types of structures. Supervisor B. Barringer concurred with the additional fee for larger ag structures. Supervisor N. Gulbranson questioned if the additional fee being proposed was aligned with associated staff actual costs. Chairperson J. Aubart expressed belief that Land Management Director A. Pichotta was able to estimate the actual costs for such fees. A. Pichotta indicated that the Dept. could likely justify the higher fee being proposed. Supervisor M. Kahlow expressed concern about micro-managing recommendations that are brought forth through the committee structure. Supervisors D. Puhrmann & J. Aubart concurred. M. Pittman called for the question; no objections made. Motion to amend failed by roll call vote with 4 in favor (N. Maxwell, B. Barringer, M. Pittman, D. Bergseng), & 11 opposed (A. Claffin, N. Gulbranson D. Auckland, D. Puhrmann, J. Kosin, K. Sampson, J. Ashbach, C. McCarty, M. Kahlow, A. Mathison, J. Aubart). Motion to approve Resolution 24-34 as presented carried unanimously by voice vote. ORDINANCES FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION: None. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND CONSIDERATION: None. Appointments: Chairperson J. Aubart announced the following appointments: Solid Waste Management Board: Scott Bjork (County Board member) - 3 yr. term; April 2025 to April 2028. Also, Chase Kinneman & Nate Hagens (citizen members) – 3 yr. terms; April 2025 to April 2028. Motion by M. Kahlow/D. Puhrmann to confirm the appointments of Scott Bjork, Chase Kinneman & Nate Hagens to the Solid Waste Management Board; motion carried unanimously. Future agenda items: J. Matthews announced that anything recommended out of the Finance & Personnel Committee could be presented. He added that a proposed tower replacement project could be one thing considered. Next meeting date: May 27th, 2025; meeting at 7 p.m.; County Board Room, Courthouse Annex. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. by motion of J. Kosin/N. Gulbranson; motion carried unanimously.

WNAXLP 4 30

APPROVED MINUTES OF PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Tuesday - March 25, 2025 • 7:00 p.m. Full meeting minutes, resolutions and ordinances can be viewed at [www.co.pierce.wi.us](http://www.co.pierce.wi.us) or in the County Clerk's Office, 414 West Main St., Ellsworth. 715-273-6744. Meeting called to order by Chairperson J. Aubart at 7:00 p.m., in the County Board Room at the Pierce County Courthouse & via Zoom. A quorum was established with roll call by County Clerk J. Feuerhelm acknowledging 16 supervisors present & 1 excused (M. Kahlow). Also attending were: Jason Matthys-Administrative Coordinator, Brad Lawrence-Corp Counsel, Greg Weaver-Data Analyst, Julie Brickner-Finance Director, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, Julie Krings-Human Services Director, Ayslinn Snyder-Public Health Director, Andy Pichotta-Land Management Director, Nick

Andrews-Elmwood Librarian, Francis Schelfhout-Wisconsin DOT, Sherry Quamme-Wisconsin Mississippi River Parkway Commission, Larry Quamme-WI MRPC, Kay Kashian-El Paso resident, Mary Wise-resident, Kaitlyn Doolittle, Tom Webb-Va-Orden representative, Sarah Nigbor-PC Journal. Adopt Agenda: Motion by D. Bergseng/K. Sampson to adopt the agenda as presented; motion carried unanimously. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Supervisor J. Kosin. Public Comment on Issues Not Related to Agenda Items: • Supervisor N. Gulbranson informed the Board that a letter was distributed relating to Medicaid. He encouraged those with questions to contact Human Services Director Julie Krings. M. Wise expressed concern about Ridge Breeze dairy & large farming operations. Elmwood Librarian N. Andrews reported on activities & events that have happened or are ongoing at the Elmwood, Plum City, Prescott, & Ellsworth libraries. Resident K. Kashian expressed deep concern regarding Ridge Breeze Dairy & the lack of regulation for large manure storage units, to include the lack of a secondary confinement plan. Election of Committees: Chairperson J. Aubart announced an election for one citizen member to the Human Services Board. He added that HSB has recommended Michelle Hansen to replace Paula Lugar for a term from 04/2023 to 04/2026. Chairperson J. Aubart called for nominations for the Human Services Board citizen member. Supervisor N. Gulbranson nominated Michelle Hansen. Chairperson J. Aubart called for other nominations; none given. Motion by M. Pittman/S. Bjork to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for M. Hansen; motion carried unanimously. Michelle Hansen duly elected as a Citizen member to the Human Services Board. RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION Resolution No. 24-33 To Support the Designation of the Mississippi River Trail within the Limits of Pierce County Motion by N. Gulbranson/S. Bjork to suspend the rules to waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. S. Quamme distributed a new addition of the Great River Road Wisconsin travel guide highlighting that Pierce County is featured on page 15. She explained that each county involved has informational page. F. Schelfhout reviewed the steps taken thus far, adding that all municipalities in Pierce County along the River have adopted a resolution in support of this effort. One exception was noted in the Town of Oak Grove. He noted that, though it would have been nice to have all municipalities support this effort Oak Grove was not necessary because the route only follows State Highway 35. Supervisor M. Pittman expressed concern about a portion of the route in the Town of Isabelle & asked if alternative town roads were considered from a safety perspective. F. Schelfhout stated that Isabelle was given optional routes that included town roads but chose the Highway 35 corridor in their decision to support. No action taken. Resolution No. 24-34: To Amend the Land Management Department Fee Schedule. Motion by N. Gulbranson/S. Bjork to suspend the rules to waive reading of resolution; motion carried unanimously. A. Pichotta explained the Dept. of Land Management has periodically updated its fee schedule but has not done a comprehensive revision in a number of years. Staff & the Land Management Committee have reviewed staff time spent on the issuance of the various permits and other approvals, and have also reviewed fees charged by neighboring counties, in determining proposed new fees. The proposed fee schedule is intended to ensure that permit fees are competitive and are reflective of the staff time required for their issuance. Supervisor M. Pittman asked about user fees for agricultural structures & if a fee could be added for larger agricultural structures. A. Pichotta responded explaining that there is not such a fee proposed in the current fee structure but could be added. Supervisor M. Pittman requested that something be added for the Board to consider at the second reading of the resolution next month. No action taken. RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND CONSIDERATION: None. ORDINANCES FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION: None. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND CONSIDERATION: None. Apointments: Chairperson J. Aubart announced the following appointments: Board of Health: Reappointment of Citizen members Sharon Schulze & Peter Carr; Term 04/2025 - 04/2028.

Confirmation by County Board required per 251.03 (2) Wi. Stats. Motion by S. Bjork/A. Claffin to confirm the appointment of Sharon Schulze & Peter Carr to the Board of Health; motion carried unanimously. Information Services Committee: Cyndi Kern as Citizen member to replace Paula Lugar, effective immediately; Term 04/2022 – 04/2025. Also, Liz Gunderson & Cyndi Kern as Citizen members to 3-year terms; Term begins 04/15/2025 -04/2028. Future agenda items: Second reading for above resolutions. Also, resolutions to approve municipal agreement fee for CDL testing program, amend Medical Examiner fees, adopting County all hazards mitigation plan, urging Governor Evers & Legislators to support county Circuit Courts, & ratifying two collection bargaining agreements. Also, the presentation of Department Annual Reports. Next meeting date: April 15th, 2025; day meeting at 9 a.m.; County Board Room, Courthouse Annex. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. by motion of M. Pittman/S. Bjork; motion carried unanimously.

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH BOARD MEETING May 5, 2025 6:00pm 130 N. Chestnut St. Lower-Level Boardroom (East Rear Entrance) Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89010185341?pwd=4mtLebH0AuAHSbR6cYsYahbZPcCUuE.1> Meeting ID: 890 1018 5341 Passcode: 921425

**AGENDA**  
1. Call to Order  
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
3. Public comment on non-agenda items  
**Consent Agenda:**  
4. Review/Approve payments and deposits  
5. Review/Approval of Village Board Meeting minutes 4/7 and 4/15  
6. Community Development Authority minutes 4/17  
7. Plan Commission Meeting minutes 4/21  
8. Finance, Purchasing, Buildings Committee minutes 4/22  
9. CSM Approval for Habitat for Humanity on Lot 1 of CSM Vol 11 Pg 81 on Panther Drive  
10. Site Plan Approval for two multifamily dwellings by C&E Wurzer located at 254 S. Chestnut St  
11. Final Plat Approval for a residential development by C&E Wurzer located at 254 S. Chestnut St.  
12. Approval of the lease agreement for the Wisconsin DNR Forester's office located in Village Hall  
New Business:  
13. Discuss/Possible Action on Village Tree Program, presented by EHS/Capstone students  
14. Discuss/possible action on Resolution 2025-05 Providing for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025A, of the Village of Ellsworth, Wisconsin  
15. Discuss/Possible Action on Resolution 2025-06 Village Fund Balance Policy  
16. Discuss/Possible Action on establishing a Village Driveway Permit and process  
**Reports:**  
17. President's Report  
18. Department Head Reports: Department activity/ update  
a. Chief of Police  
b. Director of Public Works  
c. Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Office  
d. Library Director  
**Closed Session:**  
19. The board will adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.  
a. 254 S. Chestnut St. – C&E Wurzer Developer's Agreement  
b. TID 13 – Workhorse Land Development Developer's Agreement  
The meeting will reconvene into open session to take or announce action, if any and if appropriate, and to consider other agenda items.  
**Adjournment**

WNAXLP 4 30

**Diamond Bluff Town Board Meeting CHANGE IN MAY MEETING DATE**

The Diamond Bluff Town Board, Pierce County, Wisconsin, will hold their May Board meeting on **Thursday, May 15th, 2025 (INSTEAD OF THE NORMAL SECOND THURSDAY) at 7:00PM at the Diamond Bluff Town Hall.** Watch for an agenda notice in next week's paper.

WNAXLP 4 30

**Ellsworth Community School District**  
**445 S. Piety Street**  
**Ellsworth, WI 54011**

April 30, 2025

(715)273-3900

The Personnel Committee of the Ellsworth Community School District will meet on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. in the Ellsworth Community School District Office. THE AGENDA: Employee Group Compensation and Benefit Proposal Recommendations, EES Proposal for Dean of Students position, Project SEARCH Part Time Custodial Position. The meeting will move to 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.

1. Individual Employee Compensation and Benefits Requests

Return to open session. Adjourn. A quorum of the board may be present.

WNAXLP 4 30

**TOWN OF CLIFTON Board Meeting**

The Town of Clifton Board will meet on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the Clifton Town Hall, corner of FF and QQ. Agenda: call to order, approval of minutes, public comment, building permits, Discuss/action on: Town Hall project, 2025 road work, RFR-FA contract update, checks, adjourn. The Clifton Board of Review will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025 from 7-9pm at the Clifton Town Hall. For questions regarding Board of Review, contact Clerk Kris Johnson.

Submitted by Kris Johnson  
Clifton Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP 4 30

**TOWN OF RIVER FALLS**

The following River Falls Town Meetings will meet on Monday, May 5, 2025, beginning at 6:30 P.M. at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770th Ave. **6:30 P.M. – Plan Commission** Agenda: Minutes; Comments & Requests; Zoning Administrator Report ; Discuss Proposed Rezone from A-2 to Light Industrial Zoning from the Town of River Falls, W9015 770th Avenue; Discuss Proposed Conditional Use Permit for Peter and Ruth Stern, W8468 760th Avenue; Discuss and Analyze Impact Fees; Update on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Ordinance; Discuss Plan Commission Structure and Meeting Times; A quorum of Town Board members may be present. 8:00 P.M. Regular Board Meeting

**AGENDA**  
Call to order  
Consider for approval or other action:

1. Approve Agenda  
2. Minutes from April 21, 2025, Regular Board Meeting  
3. Financial/Fire Call Report  
4. Public Comments and Requests  
5. Zoning Administrator Report  
6. Plan Commission Report  
7. Approve Purchase of Roads Department Tractor and Truck  
8. Discuss Town Board Meeting Start Times  
9. Approve Changes to Stop Signs at 1020 th Street and 879 th Avenue  
10. Discuss Town Hall Security  
11. Discuss and Approve Bids for Hauling Breaker Rock and Crushed Rock to 850th Street  
12. Discuss Soldier's Graves Upkeep Program  
13. Discuss and Approve Rural Fire Association Contract  
14. Board and Staff Communications  
15. Future Agenda Items  
16. Audit and Pay Bills  
17. Adjourn

Action may be taken on any agenda item. This agenda is subject to change. Some agenda items may be taken up earlier in the meeting, or in a different order than listed. The posted notice at the Town Hall is the primary notice. Meeting notice posted on the Town's website [www.riverfallstown.com](http://www.riverfallstown.com), at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770th Avenue, River Falls, WI and at the River Falls Town Shop, N7750 State Road 65, River Falls, WI. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting who requires special accommodation because of a disability should contact the Clerk's office, at 715-629-8240 or email [clerk@riverfallstown.com](mailto:clerk@riverfallstown.com), at least 72 hours before the meeting begins so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Sarah Meyer, Clerk  
WNAXLP 4 30

**School District of River Falls Educational Program Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, May 5, 2025 - 6:00 PM**

PIERCE COUNTY JOURNAL

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**District Office, 852 E Division Street, River Falls, Wisconsin 54022**  
**Official agenda notices will be posted at Ptack's, 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](http://www.rfsd.k12.wi.us).**  
**A quorum of the Board may be present for information-gathering purposes only.**

**CALL TO ORDER; MAN- NER OF PUBLIC NOTI- FICATION OF MEETING; HEARING OF VISITORS OR DELEGATIONS; INITIAL READING OF POLICY 341.1 DISTRICT EARLY LITER- ACY PROGRAM; EARLY LITERACY REMEDIATION PLAN; INITIAL READING OF POLICY 345.46 - GRADE 3 TO GRADE 4 PROMOTION; INITIAL READING OF 361.2 SELECTION OF LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER MATERI- ALS; INITIAL READING OF 361.2 - RULE PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF LI- BRARY MEDIA CENTER MA- TERIALS; INITIAL READING OF 361.1 SELECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERI- AL; PROPOSED/SUGGES- ED ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR AND FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM MEETING AGENDA(S); SCHEDULE NEXT EDU- CATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING; ADJOURN**

*This preliminary agenda is prepared early in order to meet publication timelines for the area newspapers. Changes to the agenda may occur. If so, those changes will appear on the final agenda at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. The final agenda can be viewed on the district's website: Menu>- School Board>Board Meetings> Agendas & Meeting Minutes>View Board Meeting & Committee Agendas & Minutes.*

WNAXLP 4 30

**CITY OF RIVER FALLS NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that there will not be a City of River Falls Plan Commission meeting on May 6, 2025. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 3, 2025.

Posted: April 24, 2025  
Published: April 30, 2025

WNAXLP 4 30

**STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY**

**Order Setting Time to Hear Petition for Administrator and Deadline for Filing Claims (Formal Administration)**

**Case No. 25PR18**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Margaret M. Driscoll January 17, 2025**

A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:

The decedent, with date of birth April 20, 1938 and date of death January 17, 2025 was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 745 Sycamore St., Apt 126 River Falls, WI 54022

THE COURT ORDERS

1. The Petition be heard at the Pierce County Courthouse 414 W. Main Street, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, before Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner Elizabeth Rohl on May 20, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.  
  
2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is July 23, 2025.  
  
3. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse 414 W. Main Street, Ellsworth, Wisconsin.  
  
4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgement.  
  
5. Publication of this notice is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

Form completed by: Jens H. Loberg  
Address: Loberg Law Office, LLP 359 W. Main Street Ellsworth, WI 54011  
Telephone Number: 715-273-5072  
bar Number: 1086839

WNAXLP 4 17, 24, 30

**THE STATE OF WISCONSIN To Defendants All Stars**

**General Construction LLC and Thomas Skulski: Case No: 2025CV000033 Case Code: 30301 SUMMONS**

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiffs named above have filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within forty-five (45) days after , 2025, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is 414 West Main Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011 and to Gregory J. Duncan, Plaintiffs' attorney, whose address is 811 1st Street, Suite 201, Hudson, Wisconsin 54016. You may have any attorney help or represent you. If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within forty-five (45) days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. Arthur, Chapman, Kettering, Smetak & Pikala, P.A.

Dated: April 8, 2025 s/Gregory J. Duncan  
Gregory J. Duncan (#1082488)  
811 1st Street, Suite 201 Hudson, Wisconsin 54016  
P: (715) 386-9000  
F: (715) 808-8083  
[gjduncan@ArthurChapman.com](mailto:gjduncan@ArthurChapman.com)

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs Ben Hagar and Megan Hagar*

WNAXLP 4 16, 23, 30

**STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT Pierce COUNTY**

**WESTconsin Credit Union**

**Plaintiff, Case No. 25CV35 v. Code No. 30301**

**Hunter Alton Francis Robertson XYZ Unknown Defendant, Defendants.**

**PUBLICATION SUMMONS**

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN To each person named above as a Defendant: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis for the legal action. Within 40 days after April 23, 2025, of receiving this Summons, you must respond with a written Answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an Answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The Answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is Clerk of Circuit Court, Pierce County Courthouse, 414 W Main St, PO Box 129, Ellsworth, WI 54011, and to Plaintiff's attorney, whose mailing address is PO Box 1473, Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-1473. You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not provide a proper Answer within 40 days after April 23, 20245, the Court may grant Judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A Judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. Dated this 15th day of April, 2025.

Bates Legal Group, LLC, Attorney for WESTconsin Credit Union

By:       /s/ Attorney Justin J. Bates  
Justin J. Bates  
State Bar No. 1066128

PO Box 1473  
Wausau, WI 54402-1473  
(715) 843-5599

WNAXLP 4 23, 4 30, 5 7



PUBLIC

Notice

CITY OF RIVER FALLS,  
WISCONSIN  
COMMON COUNCIL PRO-  
CEEDINGS

April 8, 2025

Mayor Toland called the meet- ing to order at 6:30 p.m.

**City Council Members Present :** Todd Bjerstedt, Jeff Bjork, Sean Downing, Scott Morrissette, Nick Carow, Alys- sa Mueller, Diane Odeen

**Staff Present :** City Admin- istrator Scot Simpson, City Attorney Chris Gierhart, Sergeant Logan Dohmeier, Community Services Director/ City Clerk Amy White, Utility Director Kevin Westhuis, Community Development Director Amy Peterson, Con- servation and Parks Manager Brooks Ostendorf.

The pledge of allegiance was said.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 25, 2025 Meeting. Minutes **MSC Downing/Morrissette move to approve the min- utes. Unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:** **MSC Bjork/Bjerstead move to approve the bills. Unani- mous.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, PETI- TIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** Taylor Stevens. – Stevens asked for Council support in creating a community response team and partner- ship with CARES, NAMI and GROW to reduce the stigma around mental health and suicide prevent. Michelle Hansen. – Hansen spoke about the need for local mental health services. Molly Miller. – Miller talked about the community re- sponse team and her interac- tions with members of Council and their shared enthusiasm for increase support for those with mental health. Troy Kusilek. – Kusilek spoke about the potential future bike trail behind Riverside Dr. and privacy, biker safety and dis- tance of trail near his property as his primary concerns. Neal Jensen. – Jensen ex- pressed concerns about lack of information, and he would like to see the residence more involved in the trail expansion process. Jason Schrank. – Schrank indicated he shares the senti- ments of the last two speakers but added the bike trail will be a wonderful addition to the community. He would like to be able to work with the City to have the trail further back from the property than 50 feet.

Megan Hausch, Event and Program Manager for the River Falls Chamber of Com- merce and Tourism Bureau began her presentation by introducing the new CEO, Rosa Magnus. Hausch pro- vided Council with information on the Chamber sponsored signature festivals for 2025 including: Bluegrass. Boun- bon and Breads, River Falls Days, Bacon Bash, and River Dazzle. Hausch thanked City Council for their supports and the River Falls public works teams for the success of the signature festivals.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Resolution No. 6959 Approv- ing 2025-2027 Agricultural Leases Resolution Approving the First Amendment to the Memoran- dum of Understanding with Kinnickinnic Off-Road Cyclists →→***pulled by Downing*** Resolution No. 6960 Appoint- ing Brooks Ostendorf as City Forester

**MSC Morrissette/Bjerst- edt move to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6961 Approv- ing the First Amendment to the Memorandum of Under- standing with Kinnickinnic Off-Road Cyclists (KORC)

Councilmember Downing encouraged KORC to develop Whitetail Ridge, Hegland Drive as their main entry point. Councilmember Downing expressed concern with the 50 feet setback and recom- mended an increase in the setback, as a rule, to 75 feet. He encouraged City staff and KORC to work together to achieve it.

**MS Downing/Mueller move to approve the resolution.**

Councilmember Morrissette expressed his faith in KORC. He does not agree to creat- ing a distance designation but ask that KORC make an effort to create the trail as far back from the residences, as possible.

Mayor allowed KORC board members Josh Walter and Katrin Alverson to speak. They indicated they have every intention of working with the City to create the bike trail. They will continue to be good neighbors. They thanked the Council for their continued support.

Councilmember Bjork indicated the 50 feet is the minimum and trusts KORC will make the best decision to be non-evasive.

KROC members agreed and are excited to expand the already great trail system they have.

Administrator Simpson clarified that the item before Council does not include a hard number setback. The distance will be determined by topography and the available use of land in areas where the bike path will be put in. Admin- istrator provided a reminder that the City does not have a system in place to automati- cally notify residents of park projects.

Council and the Mayor had some additional conversation to clarify if an amendment to the resolution was necessary. It was decided to go to a vote on the originally presented resolution.

Councilmember Bjerstedt inquired about process and if the amendment will come back to Council for vote again.

Administrator Simpson indicat- ed it is not likely to come back unless a financial decision needs to be made. Park and Board is the decision maker.

Councilmember Bjork asked if the City has a separate line item to track costs associated with the trail.

Administrator Simpson ex- plained there is no budget line item to track specific costs for this property and reminded Council, we don't spend 10 cents to track a nickel.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESO- LUTIONS** Resolution No. 6962 Approv- ing Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau Request for City Assistance for Special Events **MS Mueller/Odeen to ap- prove the resolution**

Councilmember Bjork asked the residents know what the events are costing them.

Councilmember Morrissette provided an explanation that the Chamber is the City's designated tourism bureau, current practices and use of room tax to offset the charges. Administrator Simpson pointed out the estimated cost was provided in the Council packet. He reminded Council there will be further discus- sion regarding special event requests at an upcoming workshop where they can provide staff guidance.

Resolution No. 6963 Approv- ing Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau Request for Noise Control Exemption for Special Events

**MSC Mueller/Bjerstedt to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6964 Approv- ing Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau Request for Open Container Exemption

**MSC Mueller/Bjork to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6965 Approv- ing Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau Request for Street Closure for Special Events

**MSC Mueller/Downing to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

**REPORTS:** Comptroller Report General Fund revenues through the end of March were \$3,722,263, or 27.8% of total budgeted revenues for the year. Revenues in March included \$36,444 in building permits and \$31,000 in miscellaneous (insurance for police squad loss) and \$35,000 grant revenue. Expenditures through the end of March were \$2,859,251 or 21% of total budget expendi- tures for the year. As of March 31, 2025, net revenues over expenditures were \$863,012.

Administrators Report Administrator Simpson express his gratitude for the service provided by outgoing councilmember Mueller.

**Mayor's Good News** Mayor Toland announced the opening of the Hoffman Park Campground. He congratulat- ed the UW-River Falls wom- en's hockey team for winning its second straight Division III national championship. Mayor Toland shared his enthusiasm for the return of college base- ball as the UW-River Falls baseball program held its first game on March 28.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Conservation and Parks Man- ager Ostendorf read the Arbor Day Proclamation.

**Mayor's Appointments** Mayor Toland appointed

Laurie Larsen and Holly Jones to the River Falls Housing Au- thority Board through Decem- ber 2029.

**MSC Morrissette/Odeen to approve the Mayor's ap- pointments. Unanimous.**

**MSC Bjerstedt/ Mueller move to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted, Amy White, Community Ser- vice Director/City Clerk

WNAXLP 4 30

**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 14, 2025 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 ad- dress 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 22, 2025 , at the Village Hall, 130 N. Chestnut St. (Lower level board room, East rear entrance), 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

1. 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.
2. After the first meeting of the board of review and before the board's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to ap- pear before the board of review may contact or provide infor- mation to a member of the board about the person's objection, except at a session of the board.
3. 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 ob- jection, 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 sched- uled 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.
4. 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 objec- tions 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 speci- fied 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.
7. The board shall hear upon oath, by telephone, all ill or dis- abled persons who present to the board a letter from a physi- cian, surgeon, or osteopath that confirms their illness or disabil- ity. 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.
8. No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone, or contest the amount of any assess- ment 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 rea- sonable estimate of the length of time the hearing will take. Notice is hereby given this 24th day of April, 2025.

Brad Roy  
*Village Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer*  
WNAXLP 4 30

VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH NOTICE

On April 7, 2025, a resolution was offered, adopted and ap- proved by the Village of Ellsworth, Pierce County, Wisconsin (the "Municipality"), whereby the Municipality authorized and directed the issuance and sale of up to \$1,585,722 Sewerage System Revenue Bonds, Series 2025. The closing on these Bonds was held on April 23, 2025. A copy of all proceedings had to date with respect to the authorization and sale of said Bonds is on file and may be examined in the office of the Village Clerk. This Notice is given pursuant to Section 893.77, Wisconsin Stat- utes, which provides that an action or proceeding to contest the validity of such municipal financing, for other than constitutional reasons, must be commenced within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this Notice.

Dated: April 23, 2025.  
VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH , WISCONSIN  
Brad Roy, Village Clerk  
WNAXLP 4 30

TOWN OF RIVER FALLS  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

A joint public hearing will be held by the Town of River Falls Town Board and Plan Commission at 7:30PM on Monday, May 19, 2025, at the River Falls Town Hall, W9015 770th Ave. The purpose of the Hearing is to take comment on a proposed Re- zone from A-2 to Light Industrial Zoning from the Town of River Falls, W9015 770th Avenue. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Details on the plans are available by email zoning@riverfallstown.com or 715-307-0564,Don Rode- wald, Zoning Administrator

WNAXLP 4 30, 5 7

Notice of Application for Retail “Class B” License to Sell Intoxicating Liquors

The Town Board of the Town of Diamond Bluff, Pierce County, Wisconsin, April 25, 2025

The undersigned applies for retail “Class B” license to sell at the premises described in the application blank, in the Town of Diamond Bluff, County of Pierce and State of Wisconsin, from the date of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, unless sooner revoked, intoxicating liquors, as defined by section (8) of Section 125.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes at a retail subject to the limitations imposed by Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin Statutes and all acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, and hereby agrees to comply with all laws, resolutions, ordinances and regulations, state, federal or local, affecting the sale of such liquors, if license be granted to the undersigned.

Nauti Enterprises, LLC  
Tracy Mullenbach

WNAXLP 4 30

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Town of Diamond Bluff, Pierce County

Notice is hereby given that the **Open Book for the Town of Diamond Bluff**, Pierce County, Wisconsin, shall be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025, 3-5 PM, at the Diamond Bluff Town Hall, Diamond Bluff.

- Local property owners may examine the property tax roll and consult with the Town Assessor, Lisa Meyer, (715) 505-4059, lm.assessor@gmail.com during this Open Book session.

Notice is hereby given that the **Board of Review for the Town of Diamond Bluff**, Pierce County, Wisconsin, shall hold its first meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2025, 5-7 PM, at the Diamond Bluff Town Hall, Diamond Bluff.

- If you wish to appeal your assessment, first discuss your concerns with the Town Assessor during Open Book (above), or by directly contacting the Town Assessor, Lisa Meyer, at (715) 505-4059 or lm.assessor@gmail.com. Questions and concerns can often be addressed without a Board of Review Appeal.

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

1. 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.
2. 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 infor- mation to a member of the board about the person's objection, except at a session of the board.
3. 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 sched- uled 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.
4. 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 circum- stances, 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 proceed- ings 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.
5. When appearing before the board of review, the object- ing 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.
6. 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 Town of Diamond Bluff 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 infor- mation in the discharge of duties imposed by law or the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is pro- vided 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 rea- sonable estimate of the length of time the hearing will take.

Todd Mehrkens  
*Town Clerk*  
dbclerk@bevcomm.net  
www.diamondbluffwi.gov

WNAXLP 4 30

▲

TOP-TO-BOTTOM

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PUBLIC

Notice

NOTICE AND RESCISSION OF MARRIAGE LICENSE FOR CAUSE

Notice Date: Day: Sixteen.      Month: December      Year: 2024 CE

Angie Hoven,  
Pierce County Register of Deeds  
414 W Main Street, PO Box 267  
Ellsworth, WI 54011

In reply to: “PIERCE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS VOL. 28 PG 229 STATE OF WCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE GROOM NAME Jason Robert HUSBY DATE OF BIRTH December 01, 1977 PLACE OF RESIDENCE Wisconsin Pierce Prescott STATE OF BIRTH Wisconsin FATHER NAME Robert T. Husby MOTHER NAME Janet A. Kohler BRIDE NAME Meggan Jeanne Tapp BRIDE BIRTH SURNAME Tapp DATE OF BIRTH December 07, 1975 PLACE OF RESIDENCE STATE Wisconsin Pierce, Oak Grove, Iowa FATHER NAME Gary D. Tapp MOTHER NAME Kathy M Price GROOMS SIGNATURE Jason Robert Husby BRIDE SIGNATURE Meggan Jeanne Tapp LICENSE NO. 7854 ISSUED BY COUNTY CLERK SIGNATURE Julie A. Brickner, Deputy DATE ISSUED January 28, 1998 ISSUING COUNTY Pierce DATE OF MARRIAGE February 7, 1998 WHERE MARRIED COUNTY Pierce CITY VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP Oak Grove OFFICIANT SIGNATURE Rev. John W. Beckfelt WITNESS TO CEREMONY Bridget R. Brantner OFFICIANT NAME SIGNATURE Rev. John W. Beckfelt Big River Wis. WITNESS TO CEREMONY SIGNATURE Jonathon S. Little OFFICIANT TITLE Pastor OFFICIANT MAILING ADDRESS W10137 570 Ave., River Falls, WI 54022 REGISTRAR SIGNATURE Connie L. Olson DATE RECEIVED February 12, 1998 DATED February 25, 1998 Connie L. Olson Register of Deeds Vol. 28 Page 229”

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I, Meggan, a sentient moral being, Rescission the original including every copy, bearing my signature, “PIERCE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS VOL. 28 PG 229 STATE OF WCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE GROOM NAME Jason Robert HUSBY DATE OF BIRTH December 01, 1977 PLACE OF RESIDENCE Wisconsin Pierce Prescott STATE OF BIRTH Wisconsin FATHER NAME Robert T. Husby MOTHER NAME Janet A. Kohler BRIDE NAME Meggan Jeanne Tapp BRIDE BIRTH SURNAME Tapp DATE OF BIRTH December 07, 1975 PLACE OF RESIDENCE STATE Wisconsin Pierce, Oak Grove, Iowa FATHER NAME Gary D. Tapp MOTHER NAME Kathy M Price GROOMS SIGNATURE Jason Robert Husby BRIDE SIGNATURE Meggan Jeanne Tapp LICENSE NO. 7854 ISSUED BY COUNTY CLERK SIGNATURE Julie A. Brickner, Deputy DATE ISSUED January 28, 1998 ISSUING COUNTY Pierce DATE OF MARRIAGE February 7, 1998 WHERE MARRIED COUNTY Pierce CITY VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP Oak Grove OFFICIANT SIGNATURE Rev. John W. Beckfelt WITNESS TO CEREMONY Bridget R. Brantner OFFICIANT NAME SIGNATURE Rev. John W. Beckfelt Big River Wis. WITNESS TO CEREMONY SIGNATURE Jonathon S. Little OFFICIANT TITLE Pastor OFFICIANT MAILING ADDRESS W10137 570 Ave., River Falls, WI 54022 REGISTRAR SIGNATURE Connie L. Olson DATE RECEIVED February 12, 1998 DATED February 25, 1998 Connie L. Olson Register of Deeds Vol. 28 Page 229” including every copy, bearing my signature, Meggan, for cause.

I willingly, knowingly, voluntarily, intentionally and intelligently perform this act and deed.

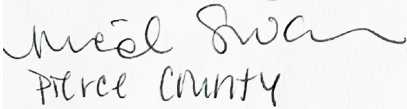
I made a mistake Requesting, Providing Information, Signing, and Presenting the original “PIERCE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS VOL. 28 PG 229 STATE OF WCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE GROOM NAME Jason Robert HUSBY DATE OF BIRTH December 01, 1977 PLACE OF RESIDENCE Wisconsin Pierce Prescott STATE OF BIRTH Wisconsin FATHER NAME Robert T. Husby MOTHER NAME Janet A. Kohler BRIDE NAME Meggan Jeanne Tapp BRIDE BIRTH SURNAME Tapp DATE OF BIRTH December 07, 1975 PLACE OF RESIDENCE STATE Wisconsin Pierce, Oak Grove, Iowa FATHER NAME Gary D. Tapp MOTHER NAME Kathy M Price GROOMS SIGNATURE Jason Robert Husby BRIDE SIGNATURE Meggan Jeanne Tapp LICENSE NO. 7854 ISSUED BY COUNTY CLERK SIGNATURE Julie A. Brickner, Deputy DATE ISSUED January 28, 1998 ISSUING COUNTY Pierce DATE OF MARRIAGE February 7, 1998 WHERE MARRIED COUNTY Pierce CITY VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP Oak Grove OFFICIANT SIGNATURE Rev. John W. Beckfelt WITNESS TO CEREMONY Bridget R. Brantner OFFICIANT NAME SIGNATURE Rev. John W. Beckfelt Big River Wis. WITNESS TO CEREMONY SIGNATURE Jonathon S. Little OFFICIANT TITLE Pastor OFFICIANT MAILING ADDRESS W10137 570 Ave., River Falls, WI 54022 REGISTRAR SIGNATURE Connie L. Olson DATE RECEIVED February 12, 1998 DATED February 25 Connie L. Olson Register of Deeds Vol. 28 Page 229” Therefore I now repent of my sin.

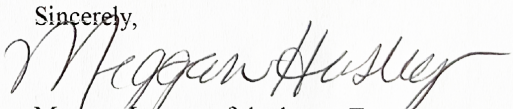
“My son, if you be: Have become guarantor for your friend, Have shaken hands in a pledge for a stranger, Have been snared by the words of your own mouth, Have been caught by the words of your own mouth- Do this at once, my son, and deliver yourself, For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go, humble yourself, and urge your friend. Give no sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids. Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hunter's hand, And like a bird from the hand of the trapper.”<sup>1</sup>

“He who is guarantor for a stranger suffers harm, But one who hates shaking hands in a pledge is safe.”<sup>2</sup>

I RESERVE ALL OF MY RIGHTS WITH EXPLICIT RESERVATION AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

NICOLE SWANSON  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

  
Pierce County  
2.23.2024 Expired

Sincerely,  
  
Meggan Jeanne, of the house Tapp  
c/o N5770 1000<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ellsworth, Wisconsin [54011]

<sup>1</sup> Proverbs 6 verses 1 through 5, The Scriptures, published by Institute For Scripture Research (PTY) LTD South Africa P.O. Box 1830 Northriding 2162 South Africa

<sup>2</sup> Proverbs 6 verses 1 through 5, The Scriptures, published by Institute For Scripture Research (PTY) LTD South Africa P.O. Box 1830 Northriding 2162 South Africa

Attachment: “PIERCE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS VOL. 28 PG 229 STATE OF WCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE GROOM NAME Jason Robert HUSBY DATE OF BIRTH December 01, 1977 PLACE OF RESIDENCE Wisconsin Pierce Prescott STATE OF BIRTH Wisconsin FATHER NAME Robert T. Husby MOTHER NAME Janet A. Kohler BRIDE NAME Meggan Jeanne Tapp BRIDE BIRTH SURNAME Tapp DATE OF BIRTH December 07, 1975 PLACE OF RESIDENCE STATE Wisconsin Pierce, Oak Grove, Iowa FATHER NAME Gary D. Tapp MOTHER NAME Kathy M Price GROOMS SIGNATURE Jason Robert Husby BRIDE SIGNATURE Meggan Jeanne Tapp LICENSE NO. 7854 ISSUED BY COUNTY CLERK SIGNATURE Julie A. Brickner, Deputy DATE ISSUED January 28, 1998 ISSUING COUNTY Pierce DATE OF MARRIAGE February 7, 1998 WHERE MARRIED COUNTY Pierce CITY VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP Oak Grove OFFICIANT SIGNATURE Rev. John W. Beckfelt WITNESS TO CEREMONY Bridget R. Brantner OFFICIANT NAME SIGNATURE Rev. John W. Beckfelt Big River Wis. WITNESS TO CEREMONY SIGNATURE Jonathon S. Little OFFICIANT TITLE Pastor OFFICIANT MAILING ADDRESS W10137 570 Ave., River Falls, W 54022 REGISTRAR SIGNATURE Connie L. Olson DATE RECEIVED February 12, 1998 DATED February 25, 1998 Connie L. Olson Register of Deeds Vol. 28 Page 229”

cc: Fr. William Brenna (in place of Beckfeldt); W10137 570th Ave, Ellsworth, WI 54022  
cc: Jason Husby; N5770 1000th St., Ellsworth WI 54011  
cc: Jonathan Little; 6620 Perry Circle, Lincoln, NE 68516  
cc: Janet Ptacek; 303 Gibbs Street, Prescott WI 54021  
cc: Gary & Kathy Tapp; W9794 570th Ave, Ellsworth WI 54011  
cc: Kerry Feuerhelm, Pierce County Clerk of Courts; PO BOX 119, 414 W Main Street , Ellsworth, Wi 54011

WNAXLP 4 30, 5 7, 14

City of River Falls names Justin Wilson as New Fire Chief

RIVER FALLS – The City of River Falls has appointed Justin Wilson as its new chief of the River Falls Fire Department, effective May 19, 2025.

A longtime River Falls resident, Wilson has served as a volunteer firefighter with the RFFD since 2013. He most recently served as captain with the department, a position he’s held since 2019.

“Having called River Falls home for the past 20 years, I’ve come to appreciate the wonderful community we have here. During my twelve years with the River Falls Fire Department, I’ve witnessed firsthand the unique bond and sense of family within our department,” Wilson said. “I’m eager to continue contributing to our department’s leadership while working alongside our dedicated team to ensure the safety of our River Falls community.”

Wilson was part of a hiring process that included candidates from across the country. The River Falls Police and Fire Commission directed the hiring process and officially confirmed Wilson as the next Fire Chief on April 21.

As fire chief, Wilson is



Justin Wilson has been selected as the new River Falls Fire Chief, effective May 19, 2025. Photo courtesy of Tyler Mason

tasked with overseeing a department comprised of over 50 volunteer firefighters. He’ll work closely with City staff and will be instrumental in helping navigate the department through the upcoming \$10 million investment in the fire station.

“We’re thrilled to have Justin serve as the next fire chief here with the City of River Falls,” said City Administrator Scot Simpson. “Justin knows this department well and has the respect of the fellow firefighters he has served alongside during his tenure with the River Falls Fire Department. I’m confident that he will be a great leader for our dedicated

firefighters.”

Wilson was named the Firefighter of the Year in 2018, at which time then-chief Scott Nelson noted Wilson’s leadership qualities and added that Wilson brought people together.

Prior to assuming the role as Fire Chief, Wilson worked as the Director of Professional Services at a software company based in Minneapolis. He earned an Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree in Fire Protection from Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, Wis.

Submitted by City of River Falls

Community

CALENDAR

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 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 [amongfriendsrff.com](http://amongfriendsrff.com) or 715-293-2561.

**Wednesday, April 30 Dia de los Libros/Day of the Child,** 4-5:30 p.m., Ellsworth Public Library (388 W. Main St.) Join for a fiesta celebrating children, books, culture and stories. Play carnival games, make crafts, listen to bilingual stories and meet the Wayfinder princess. Every child will take home a new book!

**Beginning Quilting: Make a Table Runner (Class 3),** 6 p.m., Ellsworth Public Library (388 W. Main St.) Get inspired by our Mystery Quilts display and then join us for a Beginning Quilting class! You will learn the basics of cutting, piecing, sewing and quilting while making a table runner. All materials are provided free of charge. Registration is required. Sign up today! Space is limited.

**Thursday, May 1 Teen Meet-up,** 6-7:30 p.m., Ellsworth Public Library Makerspace (388 W. Main St.) For kids ages 12+. Enjoy waffles with fresh hot toppings, fidgets and make your own escape room!

**Friends of the Library Meeting,** 6-8 p.m., Ellsworth Public Library Meeting Room (388 W. Main St.)

**Climate Resistant Yards,** 6:30 p.m., River Falls Public Library (140 Union St.) or online. Learn from horticulturist Diana Alfuth how to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment that will last throughout weather and temperature changes. Learn how to prep your yard for planting and choose plants and other structures.

**Saturday, May 3 National Play Outside Day.** The goal is simple: Get your friends and family to play outside together. Learn more at the 1000 Hours Outside Challenge website: <https://ellsworthlibrary.org/1000-hours-outside/>

**Salad Luncheon & Quilt Show,** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Elmwood Auditorium (323 W. Winter Ave., Elmwood). Adults are \$10, ages 5-12 are \$5. Proceeds will go toward improvements to the dining

room kitchen. Sponsored by Elmwood Enrichment Council.

**Ruby’s Pantry,** 9:30-11 a.m., Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (W7725 Highway 10, Ellsworth). Each food share is \$25 cash (no credit cards, debit cards or checks). Exact change appreciated. No financial or resident requirement. Anyone who eats is eligible!

**Coffee & Conversation with Village Board,** 9-11 a.m., Elmwood Public Library (111 N. Main St.) Informal conversations with the village president and board members.

**Prescott American Legion Chicken Fry,** 4:30-8 p.m., Prescott American Legion Hall Post 61 (710 Pearl St.) All you care to eat fried chicken with all the fixings. Takeout orders available 4:30-7 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 6 Cairns Woods Wildflower Walk & Community Science Activity,** 4:30 p.m., Cairns Woods, Ellsworth. Discover the hidden beauty of Ellsworth’s very own Cairns Woods—home to a stunning variety of Wisconsin’s ephemeral spring wildflowers!

Join Miss Caroline for a guided walk through this local woodland sanctuary. As we explore, you’ll learn how to identify native wildflowers and contribute to community science efforts by documenting your findings using the iNaturalist and Seek apps. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature, contribute to real scientific research, and enjoy the fleeting wonders of spring. Perfect for all ages—come ready to explore!

**What to bring:** Sturdy shoes (trail may be uneven) A smartphone (optional but helpful) Curiosity and a love of nature!

**Wednesday, May 7 Vertical Gardening Webinar & Craft Activity with Melinda Myers,** 6:15-7:30 p.m., Ellsworth Public Library Makerspace (388 W. Main St.) Join gardening expert Melinda Myers for a free webinar on vertical gardening techniques to maximize space, improve energy efficiency, and beautify your landscape. Learn how to grow flowers and edibles vertically, plus tips for shading air conditioners and walls. Following the presentation, stay for a vertical gardening craft and a live Q&A

session.

**Thursday, May 8 Hope for Earth Monthly Meeting,** 7 p.m., St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center (1091 Sutherland Ave., River Falls). All are welcome! Visit [hopeforearth.org](http://hopeforearth.org)

**Saturday, May 10 Knot Alone,** 10 a.m., El Paso Bar & Grill (W4277 County Road G, Ellsworth). You are not alone. Knot Alone is a monthly gathering of widowed women coming together to share stories, offer support, and find comfort in fellowship. Whether you’re looking for connection, encouragement, or simply a place to feel understood, you’re warmly invited to join us for conversation over coffee in a caring space. Brought to you by Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.

**Storyteller Patti Kachel,** 2 p.m., St. Paul’s United Church of Christ (W5706 Highway 72, Ellsworth). Storyteller Patti Kachel will entertain you with “Father Knows Best, But Mother Knows Better.” This amusing presentation is open to the public, for all ages, at no cost; however, donations of items to the Pierce County Food Pantry will be appreciated. Dessert will follow the program.

**Beyond the Mat Banquet,** 4:30 p.m., Ellsworth Rod & Gun Club (W3930 Highway 72, Ellsworth). Join the fun and come to eat great food, win some prizes and help raise funds for new equipment such as mats, warm-up gear, and singlets for the Ellsworth Wrestling program. Tickets available on the Facebook event page.

**Sunday, May 11 Artist Reception,** 2-4 p.m., Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center (200 Monroe St., Prescott). Meet artist Gabrielle Magin. Light refreshments will be served.

**Thursday, May 15 Bethel’s Basement Blessings,** 2-7 p.m., Bethel Covenant Church (W8405 County Road KK, Ellsworth). Whether you’re looking for clothing for the whole family, outerwear, baby items, household essentials, linens, toys, or more, we invite you to come and shop for free items—no strings attached. Donations of gently used items are always welcome! Please contact the church office at [bethelcov@gmail.com](mailto:bethelcov@gmail.com) for drop-off times.