

\$1.50

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Ladysmith, Wisconsin 54848

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Total loss No insurance for fire Page A2 **Boys-Girls Game** OLS rallies ahead of big weekend Page A11 Tournament time OLS welcomes area teams Sports

Two questions on April 5 ballot

School kicks off referendum vote campaign

By Luke Klink

Ladysmith school officials kicked off, Monday, an informational campaign to vote in an upcoming April 5 referendum.

One referendum question asks for permission to sell \$21 million in capital bonds to help fund building improvements. It will include replacing major building systems that Huenink said.

outlived have their useful life, safety and security, ADA improvements, upgrades of classroom sizes and acoustics, a gym expansion to accomlarge modate group events, physical educa-

tion and community activities, and roof replacement at the middle and high school campus. This plan also includes a roof replacement at the elementary school.

I'm sure.'

John Huenink, vice president and director of education for the Madison construction company Kraus-Anderson, told those at the meeting the funds will make a substantial positive impact on Ladysmith school facilities.

"It is going to go a long way,"

It is just time to give the school some *TLC and appreciate* what we have. – Ladysmith School

District Administrator Laura Stunkel

> which makes its debt cap \$29 million outstanding at any one time.

It would cost about \$50 million to replicate the current LMHS campus, according to Michael Clark, a direc-A second question asks for per- tor with Baird Financials, which is advising the district on the referendum. State law bars the district from taking on this much debt. "The caps prohibit this much new borrowing," Clark said. With state laws blocking debt needed to build an entirely new school, district officials instead are focused on improving what they believe is still a high quality campus.

State law caps school district borrowing at 10 percent of a district's total equalized property valuation. The total equal-

ized property valuation for the Ladysmith School District is \$290 million,

FIRE DESTROYS HOME — Three area fire departments respond Saturday morning to a home fire at N3620 Strom Rd., town of Grant. The Ladysmith Fire Department was the first called, requesting mutual aid assistance from Bruce and Weyerhaeuser fire departments. The home and its contents have been declared a total loss. The owner did not have insurance. Story on page A2.

News photo by Luke Klink

Cost high to clean up 5R Processors waste

By Luke Klink

Officials project it will cost up to \$2.5 million to clean up hazardous electronics waste illegally disposed by 5R Processors when it was operating in Rusk County and other parts of the state. That is the amount being earmarked in a new bill recently introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature that seeks to make an appropriation and clean up after the now-defunct electronics recycler. This bill requires the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to contract with third parties to perform any necessary assessment, collection, transportation and disposal of cathode ray tube glass and related waste generated from activities undertaken by 5R Processors and located at properties in Rusk, Price or Washington counties that are not owned by 5R Processors or its successors.

company in the electronics recycling business. The company utilized six locations in Wisconsin, including those in Ladysmith, Catawba, Glen Flora and West Bend, as well as one location in Tennessee, to store electronics it had collected. 5R is now out of business, but it has left behind millions of pounds of unprocessed and partially processed CRT glass and other electronics-related ers paid 5R, through the manufacturertake-back program, over \$9.6 million to recycle e-waste, including CRTs containing leaded glass.

According to court documents, 5R used a de-manufacturing technique whereby electronic equipment was taken apart manually and the parts sorted into commodities which then could be resold. 5R took in computer monitors and televisions that contained CRTs, which were broken down and the glass separated between "clean glass" that was sold as a commodity and "funnel glass" that had lead in it. Until 2011, 5R shipped the leaded CRT glass to vendors that were allowed to handle it, and 5R was charged for the disposal.

drum and Beth Meyers.

Petrowski's new bill creates a new continuing appropriation of \$2.5 million from the segregated Environmental Management Account for this purpose. The balance in that account is projected to be \$33.8 million at the end of fiscal year 2022, and the expenditure of these funds will not impact the federal maintenance of effort requirements from the American Rescue Plan Act funds. The bill was referred to the Legislature's Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, which held a public hearing on Monday, Jan. 31. Appearances were made by Petrowski, Rusk County Administrative Coordinator Andy Albarado and Ladysmith City Administrator Alan Christianson. Providing written testimony were Jessica Wildes and Mark Piotrowicz, both of the city of West Bend in Washington

mission to exceed state revenue limits by \$600,000 annually over each of the next five years to help fund operational costs. This will support needs such as staffing to support students, staff costs, student services and general maintenance.

School officials say the referendums will have no impact on the school district's mill rate, noting the new debt would be taken on as old debt from the last referendum 20 years ago is paid off.

A handful of district parents attended the first of three planned informational meeting. The comments were mostly positive, supporting the proposals.

District resident Terry Carter, a former school board member, asked how much money the district has spent on Ladysmith Middle & High School since the building was constructed in the early 1970s.

"Over 50 years, how much have we spent?" Carter said. "We would have built two new schools with it

A recent facility assessment, however, identified many pressing issues.

Classrooms throughout the building are undersized, lack flexible space for both large and small group learning and have acoustical issues that impact student learning. There is a lack of gym space for middle school and high school students and a lack flexible furniture for student collaboration. There are also aging floors, ceiling and cabinets.

Infrastructure and building-wide systems have exceeded their service

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REFERENDUM INFORMATION - Ladysmith School District resident Terry Carter (foreground) asks officials how much money the district has spent on building improvements since Ladysmith High School was built in the early 1970s

- News photo by Luke Klink

5R Processors is a former Wisconsin

materials. CRT glass contains significant amounts of lead and is considered hazardous waste

Before the advent of flat screen TVs and monitors that do not contain lead, crushed CRT glass had value as a recyclable item and could be sold to vendors. However, once the newer screen technology came online, CRTs lost all value and 5R had to pay money to downstream vendors to dispose of the leaded CRT glass.

5R's customers included large public and private entities. These custom-

Senate Bill 890 was introduced by Wisconsin Senators Jerry Petrowski, Robert Cowles, Janet Bewley and Duey Stroebel. The bill is cosponsored by Wisconsin Assembly Representatives Jim Edming, Rick Gun-

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Michael Perry grew up near area, now lives in New Auburn Best selling author to perform in Ladysmith

By Luke Klink

As Flambeau Valley Arts Association continues celebrating its 50th season, the local arts organization welcomes a New York Times bestselling author, humorist and playwright for a Ladysmith appearance.

Michael Perry bills himself as a bestselling author, humorist, singer/songwriter and intermittent pig farmer.

Raised on a small Midwestern dairy farm just north of New Auburn, he baled hay, cleaned calf pens and helped dad with the logging

Then, for five summers starting at 16, Perry worked on a ranch in Wyoming in order to pay for college. He received a nursing degree, then detoured into writing.

"All this time - from the age of four — I was reading piles and piles of books. I helped with the farming and the logging, but my brothers would tell you it was pretty clear I wasn't gonna be a farmer or a logger," Perry said. "But it never occurred to me that a kid from Chippewa County, barely a mile from the Rusk County line, could write a book.'

"Thankfully," Perry says, his seventh grade teacher and one of his college professors encouraged him to write. But he was out of college and working as a nurse before he got serious about it.

"I wrote piles of magazine articles and a bunch of books," Perry said. One of them, "Visiting Tom," made it on the New York Times bestseller list. It was #21 for one week, then disappeared.



PERFORMS FRIDAY — Best-selling author Michael Perry will perform this Friday as the 50th anniversary season continues for the Flambeau Valley Arts Association. Perry bills himself as a New York Times bestselling author, humorist, singer/songwriter, intermittent pig farmer. He lives with his wife and two daughters in rural Wisconsin. The show has been moved to the Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

"It was like I played minor league baseball for years, got called up for one game with the Brewers, then went back to the minors," Perry said. "But the kid who read all those books when he should have been shoveling silage never even dreamed he'd get even that one game! I'm very grateful. It's been a good life. Not famous, just making a living doing something I want to

Perry had been scheduled to appear in Ladysmith in March of 2020, the week the schools shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Flambeau Valley Arts Association offi-

do.'

- Michael Perry photo cials are pleased to be able finally reschedule that performance.

Perry also will be speaking earlier on Friday with Ladysmith High School juniors and seniors. He plans to "shoot the breeze" about what it's like to make a living as a writer and performer, and how growing up in rural Wisconsin milking cows and logging helped him get there. He also will be sharing some photos of where his writing career has taken him.

"To have someone of Perry's stature here in Ladysmith and work with our students is a real plus for Flambeau Valley Arts and our com-

munity, said FVAA President Karen Ek. "Friday's audience will, no doubt, be well entertained with Perry's take on life in rural Wisconsin and will look for his books at their local library or bookstore."

Michael Perry will perform at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11, in the Our Lady of Sorrows Church. The venue was changed due to heat issues at the Ladysmith Middle & High School auditorium.

Perry lives with his wife and two daughters in rural Wisconsin, where he serves on the local volunteer fire and rescue service and has a handful of chickens.

He hosts the nationally-syndicated "Tent Show Radio" and performs widely as a humorist. His live humor albums include Never Stand Behind A Sneezing Cow and The Clodhopper Monologues. He tours with his band, The Long Beds, and lives online at www.sneezingcow. com.

Perry's best-selling memoirs include Population 485, Truck: A Love Story, Coop and Visiting Tom.

Population 485 subsequently was adapted for the stage.

His book Montaigne in Barn Boots explores the work of the French philosopher and essayist, Michel de Montaigne. It was published in 2017. Perry developed an interest in Montaigne's work while recuperating from a kidney stone, when he did research into his condition and saw references to Montaigne, who also suffered from that malady.

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Looking Back Compiled by John Terrill

10 YEARS AGO (2012)

The Canadian National Railroad was seriously considering putting back into the service the line from Ladysmith to Almena to service a frac sand processing plant that was being proposed. The line had not been used in years, but it had never been abandoned.

Rusk County Forestry Administrator Paul Teska met with members of the Josie Creek Archers to discuss concerns about logging on the site of an archery range at Josie Creek Park. The parties agreed to look at ways of harvesting trees that still would preserve the integrity of the archery range.

The lack of sufficient winter snow had left snowmobilers without trails to ride. No trails in Rusk County were open.

The mammography department at Rusk County Memorial Hospital was remodeled in memory of Kathy Miller, who died from breast cancer in 1997.

20 YEARS AGO (2002)

A 20-year-old Chippewa Falls motorist was charged with intentionally hitting and killing sheep that had wandered onto Wis. 40 north of Bruce in the early morning hours of Dec. 8.

The greater Flambeau School community raised \$14,725 for a student who recently underwent a liver transplant.

Revie Sorey, offensive guard for the Chicago Bears, talked to Mount Senario College students and the the general public.

Two vehicles parked in the lot at the Broken Arrow Tavern were damaged when a semi truck lost control when it tried to stop for a car ahead of it during a heavy snowfall and veered into the lot.

Randy Kurth was cutting downed and damaged trees in Greenwood Park, with park board approval, and hauling the logs to 16th Street with his horse, Duke.

The Gilman Girls and Ladysmith Middle School won the OLS 8th grade basketball tournament.

30 YEARS AGO (1992)

More than 180 tickets had been sold for the annual chamber of commerce banquet. Gov. Tommy Thopson was the featured speaker.

The Wis. Dept. of Natural Resources received notice from Noranda Mineral that it was to begin collecting data needed to seek permits for a mine in the Town of Lyme in Oneida County.

A meeting was called to consider expansion of services and handicapped accessibility for the City & County Library in Ladysmith.

40 YEARS AGO (1982)

The Jaycees presented the Outstanding Community Leader Award to outgoing Ladysmith Mayor Ron Evert. Ladysmith High School band teacher John Telitz was named Outstanding Educator. Lee and Sophie Riphenburg

60 YEARS AGO (1962) St. Mary's Hospital received a fed-

eral grant of \$291,000 to build a new 50-bed nursing home. Total cost of the proposed facility was \$760,000. The Goodrich Lumber Co. of Wey-

erhaeuser burned to the ground. In addition to consuming the buildings, the fire destroyed two trucks.

More than 100 items had been donated for the March of Dimes auction to be broadcast on WLDY.

Eileen Dahlstrom was the 1962 D.A.R. winner at Ladysmith High School

Janet Mujwid and Richard Fortuna were queen and king of the Weyerhaeuser High School Snow Ball.

Collins Grocery was featuring a \$1 special. For a buck you could buy all the fixings for a salad: a head of lettuce, a large stalk of celery, a bag of carrots, a tube of tomatoes and a pint of salad dressing

70 YEARS AGO (1952)

Highway commissioner Harold Iverson announced he would step down from that position April 1 to take a job in private industry.

A crowd of 500 gathered at the Mt. Atlanta ski hill during its second week of operation.

Mrs. George LaTour, 85, who with her husband settled on a farm two miles from Weyerhaeuser in 1887, died. She was a native of Ontario, Canada.

Tony and Ladysmith were to play a benefit game for the March of Dimes. The Tony Tornadoes were one of the best small town teams with a 14-1 record. Players included Jack Christman, Walter Albrecht, Dan Meyers, Allen Hebard, Martin Wicik, Charles Baughman, Don Dahlquist, Bob Barta, Harvey Burch and Jim Stanton. Players for the Ladysmith Lumberjacks were Ellis Pattinson, Bill Ludvik, Dick Morgan, Jim Olson, Ricky Steckel, Gary Frick, Bob Taylor, Will Kuettel, Bob Peterson, Jim Buchholz, Charles Tennessen, Bradley Goffin, Arden Fenander, Victor Kuerschner and Roger Tinder.

The Saturday matinee at the Miner Theatre featured Roy Rogers in "Trigger, Jr.," the "Law of the Badlands," a short feature, "Room and Bird," and chapter 10 of the "Flying Discman."

80 YEARS AGO (1942) The Badger Bomber Fund in Rusk County collected more than \$2,300, according to Carroll Graves.

The county protection council appointment members to the following subcommittees: Air Raid Wardens, Police Auxiliary Foremen; Drivers Corps and Rescue Fire Auxiliary Foremen, Bomb Squads and Road Repair Crew.

Rusk County's Red Cross war fund drive netted \$875, short of the goal of \$3,100.

Car owners were encouraged to turn in their old license plates for salvage. Retired Ladysmith druggist H.A. Dimock turned in his plates dating back to 1911, the first year he owned a car. The post office was accepting registrations from aliens from Germany, Italy and Japan. They were to receive identification cards Ladysmith stores instituted a voluntary plan for restricting the sale of sugar. Formal rationing, limiting each person to 12 ounces per week, wasn't expected for several weeks.

ated by Kenneth and Carroll Graves, bought the building on Miner Avenue owned by the Pioneer National Bank and most recently occupied by Lake Superior District Power Co.

Among the features at the Unique Theater in Ladysmith was Edward G. Robinson in "Smart Money."

100 YEARS AGO (1922)

A hearing was held to look into charges that a Southside School kindergarten teacher in Ladysmith whipped one of her students.

The Pioneer National Bank purchased the Fritz property on the south side of Miner Avenue in Ladysmith. The frame building had been occupied by the Cozy Cafe and Calkins Jewelry Store.

Judge Glenn H. Williams decided a case over ownership of a wolf that had been wounded by one party and killed by another. The party that wounded it was awarded damages.

Railroad traffic between Ladysmith and Superior had been increasing, and two or three new train crews were at work. Roadmaster A.J. Collins was working to keep the line open for traffic during the recent cold and stormy weather.

The Fountain Campbell sawmill in Ladysmith started its season's cut. The mill was running two 10-hour shifts per day.

George Preston, a Spanish American War Veteran, told the story about fellow war veteran who applied for the job of cook at a lumber camp near Stanley. The foreman wanted to know what experience he had and whom he had cooked for. The former serviceman said he cooked for Admiral Dewey. The foreman responded, "Who did Dewey run camp for?"

The Soo Line was offering a special rate for the auto show in Minneapolis. 110 YEARS AGO (1912)

Earl Osborne, who formerly was associated with Osborne & Clark lumber yard in Ladysmith, married a socialite in Minneapolis. The wedding made the front page of the "Minneapolis Tribune.

For the convenience of ladies waiting for trains, the Soo Line put four new rockers in the passenger depot Ladysmith.

The Ladysmith "News-Budget's" Linotype machine was not working, forcing printers to handset type for the newspaper.

The Unique Theater was using a licensed film service. A new screen had been installed and moving pictures were sharp.

Freshmen domestic science students at Ladysmith High School were to prepare and serve a four-course meal. The tudents were Frances Hadden, Laura LaBerge and Ruth Hogston.

Ladysmith was still in the running for the state basketball tournament. Ladysmith, Ashland, Rice Lake and Bar ron were making a determined effort to beat out Superior, the only team that had represented the northern division at the state tournament the past eight vears.

5R: Processors cleanup could cost \$2.5 million

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County in far southeastern Wisconsin.

While most of the legal matters that arose from the situation have been resolved, what's left behind is millions of pounds of electronic waste without a responsible party to clean it up. While this burden might ultimately fall on local governments and taxpayers, this would be a very unfair and perhaps unmanageable outcome," Petrowski stated at the hearing.

Petrowski told the committee his office worked with the DNR to make this proposal as simple as possible for them to administer.

"I really believe this is the best available solution to a bad situation," Petrowski said. "We've looked at a lot of ways we can solve this, and there really isn't a good one.'

The lead glass mostly from picture tubes is broken into pieces, stored in tote bags, in semi trailers and on warehouse floors, according to Petrowski. In some cases local governments have not received rent payments from 5R for years as the company went bankrupt about 5 years ago.

"To accept the liability for that, they don't have the money to do it. A lot of these local governments are stressed for funds, especially when you deal in the far northwoods, there aren't a lot of opportunities there to accomplish this," Petrowski testified.

Christianson told the committee the city's economic development budget is very limited recently between \$40,000 and \$60,000 annually with continuing efforts to find employers to fill vacant spaces, create workforce housing and improve aging utility infrastructure.

'An expense of this magnitude put on the city taxpayers would certainly be a burden," Christianson said. Albarado told the committee the

problem is not one the county neither created nor asked for, but it is one the county not must unfortunately contend with.

"We were hopeful that the actions pertaining to 5R would resolve the situation and address the waste, but it appears that is not going to happen," Albarado said.

Albarado noted the financial burden, adding the trailers remain parked on city and county property.

'It is not the type of expense that a local government or municipality anticipates or has the budgets for," Albarado said.

"Disposing of waste like this is not generally within that scope of work Ion economic development efforts to advance the local economy], nor is it within the scope of work for the services the county delivers to its residents. Having to dispose of these items would be a burden on both of our local residents," Albarado said.

5R's owners and operators have been the subject of federal criminal prosecution for federal and state hazardous waste violations and other crimes.

containers; (2) hiding the containers free enterprise. He asked what the by putting them inside semi-trailers and locking the trailer doors; (3) moving the containers to the back of the warehouse and stacking other pallets in front of them, making it impossible for regulators to see the boxes or inspect them; (4) storing the containers at a warehouse on Artisan Drive in Glen Flora, Wisconsin (known as the "Sunshine Building"), and not disclosing the existence of this warehouse, or its contents, to state regulators or R2 auditors; (5) storing the containers at 5R's plant in Morristown, Tennessee in two warehouse spaces that did not have electricity or power, and which were referred to by 5R employees as the "dark side" and the "dark-dark side;" and (6) providing the state regulators with inaccurate inventory and shipping records for the leaded glass.

Moss also pleaded guilty to a conspiracy with others to defraud the IRS in the collection of employment taxes and income taxes for 5R and two other related companies, Wisconsin Logistic Solutions (WLS) and Pure Extractions. Moss and others failed to truthfully account for and pay over to the IRS all of the federal income taxes withheld from employees and FICA taxes due and owing to the United States for 5R, WLS and Pure Extractions, totaling \$858,101.29.

Dennee, 66, a Phillips resident, was sentenced in January 2021 by U.S. District Judge William M. Conley to five months in federal prison, followed by a three-year term of supervised release, for conspiracy to store and transport hazardous waste without required permits and manifests, in violation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Dennee pleaded guilty to this charge in October 2020.

Co-defendant Thomas Drake, then 81, signed a plea agreement to this charge in December 2019, with counsel providing medical records his client suffers from dementia. A competency exam was scheduled. Drake died in April 2021.

Finally, co-defendant Kevin Shibilski, a former democratic Wisconsin State Senator who lives in Merrill, was indicted by a federal grand jury in September 2020. The indictment against Shibilski included a hazardous waste storage charge, as well as eight counts of wire fraud, and conspiracy to defraud the IRS by not paying employment and income taxes. This federal criminal case remains open.

A federal civil case filed by Shibilski against his former business partners was dismissed, but he is now seeking civil damages in a circuit court case.

Shibilski alleges 5R business leaders used false books and records to lure investors for their waste recycling company, 5R Processors Ltd. Court filings claim, "Shibilski was a victim of a group of fraudsters who duped him into investing in 5R Processors by falsifying books and records which hid hundreds of thousands of dollars in DNR can do without going through the legislature.

"Here we have a case of private business is going to be ripping off the taxpayers to fix this terrible mess," Wirch said. "This is just a shameful ripoff of the taxpayer."

The hazardous waste was not spilled on soil, so there is no cleanup needed there, officials at the hearing said.

Wildes, the communications and economic development director for the city of West Bend, told the committee 5R Processors is the owner of record for 133 Oak Street, a dangerous and contaminated 105,000 square foot facility on a 7-acre parcel located in the heart of downtown West Bend. The site is surrounded by single-family homes and the Eisenbahn State Trail.

"Since 5R Processors acquired the site in October 2014, serious safety violations immediately followed. A Conditional Use permit granted in January 2015 to allow for solid waste collection, a recycling center, and retail sales was revoked after the organization neglected to meet building, fire and zoning codes. The facility ceased operations and, shortly after, became completely abandoned by 5R Processors," Wildes said.

No taxes or assessments have been paid for this property since 2015, and there is \$133,179.84 in outstanding back taxes and charges, according to Wildes.

The City of West Bend performs regular site safety checks which often result in our city staff boarding windows or doors to keep hazardous contents safely secured inside. The building has no heat or fire protection. In the last five years, the City of West Bend Police Department responded to 272 calls for service to the property. From trespassing, vandalism, drug use, sexual offenses, and other suspicious and illegal activities, this is a seriously dangerous and concerning property.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has placed a lien or deed affidavit/notice at this site associated with environmental cleanup obligations or costs. The DNR's Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System website currently lists 60 actions and 38 documents related to environmental investigations of this property dated from 1988 to 2021

"This site contains high volumes of hazardous chemicals and waste that could be accessible and threatening to the health of trespassers. The DNR and contracted parties are needed to perform the necessary assessment, collection, transportation, and waste disposal at this facility," Wildes said. "This legislation will enable the City of West Bend to move forward in collaboration with the DNR to remediate this dangerous brownfield site, giving it a chance for future development."

In a letter to Petrowski, Price County Board Chairman Robert Kopisch told the state senator Price County has been involved with properties owned by 5R Processors located in the Village of Catawba in Price County due to delinquent taxes since the 2015 property tax bill. The county generally takes delinquent properties through the "In Rem" proceeding that adjudicates the rights to a particular piece of property for every potential rights holder. "However, when we become aware of any environmental issues, we assess the potential liability for the county before proceeding," Kopisch wrote. "Due to the amount of environmental waste discovered on this property and the estimated cost to dispose of it, it was determined that a clean-up of the property is cost prohibitive for the County. Therefore, we have not proceeded with the In Rem process. We would very much appreciate financial assistance from the state to properly dispose of this waste and be able return the property to the tax rolls. Therefore, we wholly support the passage of SB890 which would provide the funding to do the necessary assessment, collection, transportation, and disposal of the waste located on this site." State DNR Waste and Materials Management Program Director Brad Wolbert told the committee the department does not have an existing program that can pay for the removal oft his material. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has evaluated the sites and determined they are not eligible for EPA-funded cleanup programs. Responsibility for removing these materials and ensuring the sites are safe from hazardous substances now lies with the current owners of the properties. 'The company has no net assets and there is no realistic possibility that the restitution ordered in the criminal cases would be enough to address the sites in question," Wolbert said. "Cleaning up these properties would help to abate any environmental or public health concern and return the sites to productive use. Money appropriated under this bill would go to private contractors performing the cleanup under DNR oversight. The amount in the bill is based on third-party contractor estimates compiled by the department as a part of the federal criminal investigation, according to Wolbert. A property owner paid \$1.1 million to clean up e-scrap abandoned by 5R Processors in Tennessee.

on Conrain rece ed the Outstanding Farmer Award.

Three area fire chiefs were retiring: Harold Haasl, who had been associated with the Ladysmith department for 40 years; Fred Anderson, Jr., a Hawkins fireman since 1946; and Ben Loda, who joined the Weyerhaeuser department in 1950.

50 YEARS AGO (1972)

The Rusk County Board was scheduled to vote on a proposed addition to the courthouse. It was estimated to cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000. It was to be built onto the west side of the old courthouse. When completed, the old courthouse was to be razed.

Ladysmith's six mayoral candidates were to speak at the Ladysmith Community Club banquet in February.

Named as directors of the Pioneer National Bank were Dr. Kurt Gerken and Warren Holzem.

Racers from as far away as Minnesota competed in the sixth annual Lake Flambeau Snowmobile Derby held at the Rusk County Airport.

Dr. M.L. Whalen observed his 40th year as a physician in Bruce.

Contestants for 4-H queen were Sharon Styczinski, Beverly Peterson, Diana Kozial, Peggy Fiser, Patti Grunseth, Kathy Diehn, Enita Kazmierkoski, Janice Duza, Doris Daniels, Donna Sieja, Jeannie Hoffman and Mary Ambrose.

A free Buck Rogers Space Ship with secret bomb sight was being offered with the purchase of two containers of Morton's salt.

90 YEARS AGO (1932)

The state highway department was to rebuild Wis. 40 south of Bruce to the Chippewa County line.

Artifacts from the Revolutionary War were sought for a downtown display in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth, which was being celebrated by Ladysmith High School students.

Ladysmith Boy Scouts were observing the anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America.

W.M. Vaughan, Ladysmith clothier, advertised a "Depression sale." Men's sheepskin coats were selling for \$5.

The Sanitary Meat Market in Ladysmith was selling 5 pounds of beef steak, 10 pounds of boiling beef and 10 pounds of beef roast, all for \$2.50. The Graves Mercantile Co., oper-



The four-act play "The Rosary" was to be presented at Worden's Opera House in Ladysmith.

120 YEARS AGO (1902)

Prof. E.F. Walker of the West Superior Normal School lectured on educational subjects at Worden's Hall in Ladysmith

The Gates County Board met at Fritz's Hall in Ladysmith. A petition was received from J.C. Stubbs and 113 others asking that a new town be created out of the towns of Big Bend and Stickland. The board voted 6-2 in favor of the petition.

The Village of Ladysmith passed an ordinance for regulation of the fire department and signed a lease with Frank Edson for storing the village's fire engines and apparatus. The village board also passed an ordinance providing for construction of sidewalks on Birch Street (now Worden Avenue), Hemlock Street (now Miner Avenue) and River Street (now Lake Avenue). The village marshal was given the duty of lighting the street lamps.

The Daniel Shaw Co. was cutting ice at Flambeau.

Albert Gray, 26, a brakeman for the Chippewa River & Menomonie Railway, was instantly killed when logs rolled from a car onto him.

Bruce had a new doctor, I.D. Wiltrout.

A proposed new railroad, the Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls & Northeastern, was to be built to Little Falls (now Holcombe). Beyond that point the route was a secret. While residents of Gates County hoped it would extend north, it was said by people in the know that it would run east of that point (and it did).

WANTED STANDING TIMBER **10 acres or more** Red oak, white oak, black oak, maple, pine, ash and aspen. Will pay cash! Tri State Lumber Call Tom at 715-609-9795

Thomas Drake founded 5R in Wis consin in 1988 and served as the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors. Drake was responsible for overseeing all aspects of 5R's operations, including compliance with OSHA and federal and state environmental laws.

Bonnie Dennee started with 5R in 1997. She worked in various positions at 5R, including director of environmental, health, safety & certifications, and executive vice-president.

Jim Moss joined 5R in 2007, and became its president in 2010. As President of 5R, Moss was responsible for managing all plant operations.

Court documents allege that from 2011 to 2016, the defendants and others conspired to knowingly store hazardous waste such as broken and crushed CRT glass that contained lead at unpermitted facilities in Catawba and Glen Flora and Morristown, Tenn.; knowingly transport the hazardous waste without a required manifest and conceal the violations from state regulators in Wisconsin and Tennessee as well as auditors with a nationwide recycling certification program known as R2.

"It was further part of the conspiracy that as of November 2016, Moss, and other members of the conspiracy, caused 5R to accumulate and store over 1.3 million pounds of hazardous waste in the form of funnel glass and dirty glass at 5R's unpermitted facilities in Wisconsin, and over 7 million pounds of hazardous waste in the form of funnel glass and dirty glass at its unpermitted facility in Tennessee," a federal court document states.

Moss, a Ladysmith resident, now 62, was sentenced in November 2020 by U.S. District Judge William M. Conley to 18 months in federal prison for conspiring to store and transport hazardous waste without required permits and manifests, in violation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and with conspiring to evade the payment of employment taxes and income taxes to the IRS. Moss pleaded guilty to these charges. Moss started at 5R in January 2007 and became its President in 2010. As President of 5R, Moss was responsible for managing all plant operations, including shipping, receiving, trucking, sales, de-manufacturing, warehousing, accounting, and payroll.

At his plea hearing, Moss admitted to attempting to conceal the illegal storage and transport of the crushed leaded glass by various means, including: (1) changing the date labels on the

unpaid tax liabilities and ongoing environmental schemes involving hazardous waste storage.'

Shibilski is seeking millions in damages, also claiming his former partners started a competing company to steal all 5R Processors' assets including cash, equipment, confidential company data and customer lists shortly after receiving his investment funds. Shibilski's attorney alleges in exchange, "These bad actors left Shibilski with nothing but the company's debt.'

5R was registered as a collector and recycler under E-cycle Wisconsin from 2010 until 2014, when questions began to arise about its handling of CRT glass.

Petrowski told the committee he was told there area bout three companies in the state capable of taking the 5R waste. He added providing funding to the DNR to dispose of the material over providing grants to local governments was deemed the least expensive option with the greatest control and oversight.

"I would really like to thank the DNR for working with us to come up with something that hopefully will be acceptable to everyone," Petrowski said.

5R had been leasing space from local government for its operations in Rusk County. When the company went out of business, the hazardous waste it was taking in for recycling was left behind on property jointly owned by the city and county. Local governments did not take back the properties from 5R.

"These are where the company left the trailers," Albarado said. "I wouldn't say [they were using the property] gratis, but they left the trailers on common property.

Local governments, essentially, are now left with disposing of 5Rs hazardous waste in a responsible manner.

"The DNR has advised it because [the waste] is on our property it is something we have to deal with," Albarado said.

Committee Chairman State Sen. Robert L. Cowles (R-Green Bay) asked if there could be input from the Environmental Protection Agency if this proposed new state legislation and funding are the only clean-up options available.

"It would help to have that letter saying this is it," Cowles said.

Committee member State Sen. Robert Wirch (D-Somers) testified at the hearing Republican legislators often say regulation is hurting business and