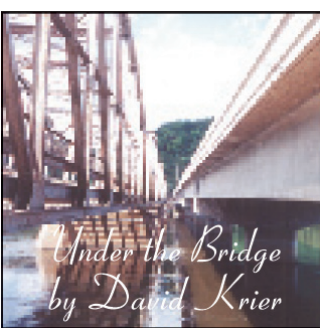


# The Boscobel Dial

VOL. 150—NO. 21 BOSCOBEL, WISCONSIN THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022 \$45 PER YEAR IN WISCONSIN, SINGLE COPY \$1.25



**PEOPLE** are still buzzing about the still-unnamed meteor that flashed and boomed its way through our skies the evening of April 14<sup>th</sup>, scattering pieces of its celestial body across a swath of Southwest Wisconsin farmland centered around Livingston. The subsequent meteorite fragments discovered in the area have been examined by faculty members at the UW-Madison Geology Department and deemed authentic. Among the UW researchers involved in the meteorite investigation is Dr. John Valley, Charles Van Hise Professor of Geosciences.

~May 6, 2010

**WHAT CAN WE SAY** about the sacrifices made by our local rescue squad members that hasn't already been said? From late-night runs to deadly accident scenes, to educational presentations to our children—they work tirelessly and devotedly toward keeping us safe. Their reward is a personal, not a monetary one. So this week—National Emergency Medical Services Week—and every week, we say thank you for your dedication and devotion. Perhaps we should let them speak for themselves, in the following item submitted by members of the Boscobel Rescue Squad:

~May 20, 2010

**MOREL** mushrooms have been difficult to find so far during this cool spring, but that should change in the coming days after above normal temperatures earlier in the week. That would certainly be good news for the organizers of this weekend's 29<sup>th</sup> annual Morel Mushroom Festival in Muscoda. Muscoda puts out the red carpet for this event, with a carnival, ball tournaments, art fair, effigy mound tours, plenty of tasty eats and a Sunday afternoon parade down Wisconsin Avenue to close out the weekend.

~May 12, 2011

**IN DECEMBER** of 1861, the French landed in the Mexican port city of Veracruz under the pretext of collecting Mexican debts from the newly-elected government of democratic President Benito Juarez. However, Napoleon III had no intention of simply collecting his loot and going home. He detested the United States and had long-term plans for our neighbor to the south. Napoleon III not only sent thousands of what were then the most modern troops in the world, he also sent a Hapsburg prince named Maximilian to rule the new Mexican empire. The French were not afraid of anyone, especially since the United States was embroiled in its own Civil War. But the natives had different ideas.

~May 12, 2011



## Graduating seniors honored at Boscobel High School

Graduating seniors at Boscobel High School were honored with the placement of senior portrait yard signs in front of the school. A graduation ceremony has been scheduled for Saturday, May 28 beginning at 11 a.m. The last day of school for the Seniors was yesterday, May 24 and the rest of the student's last day is next Thursday, June 2.

Photo by Chandler Brindley



CHANDLER BRINDLEY

## Meet our summer writer

By CHANDLER BRINDLEY

You'll probably recognize my voice as an on-air personality and news reporter at WRCO in Richland Center.

I have always wanted to work in media, so I am excited to be continuing my media career journey as a print reporter this summer for The Boscobel Dial.

I can thank my parents for my interest in media. I grew up listening to all the local country radio stations whenever I traveled with my mom on shopping or dentist trips. I would also watch my dad spin his old 78 records jamming to Steve Miller and The Allman Brothers Band. Watching the local news on TV was a constant every morning during my childhood before school and every night after baseball, football, or basketball practice.

On Wednesday nights my dad would insist that we pick up a Dial to see what "Dial Dave" had to say each week. I was the only 10 year old I knew who read the Dial every week.

I love to talk! Just ask any of my teachers. Never did I ever want to be a talk show host, but if you were to ask my friends, they might say that I qualify. I took the radio route instead.

I graduated from Boscobel High School in 2018 and continued my education at UW Platteville-Richland earning an Associates of Arts and Sciences degree in December of 2020. I now call the Fox Valley home for nine months out of the year where I'm majoring in Radio-TV-Film and minoring in Multimedia Journalism at UW-Oshkosh.

When I am not reporting, I enjoy watching or listening to the Packers, Badgers, and Brewers. One of my fondest memories as a teen is traveling into Madison for Badger football games at Camp Randall with my dad after playing high school football the night before. I am also a music fan, country music being my favorite, and surfing the internet for nonsense which I am now told in college will "rot my brain."

I grew up here in Boscobel, and I am excited to learn a little more about the place that I call home. Along the way I will share with you what I learn.

I am looking forward to reporting on some of the events that take place and meeting the people that make the place that I call home so special.

*The ablest writer is only a gardener first, and then a cook: his tasks are, carefully to select and cultivate his strongest and most nutritive thoughts; and when they are ripe, to dress them, wholesomely, and yet so that they may have a relish.*  
 ~Augustus William Hare and Julius Charles Hare, Guesses at Truth, by Two Brothers, 1827

## Jail understaffed in Grant County

# Problem is statewide, according to sheriff

By JOE HART

The Grant County jail is short on jailers. Sheriff Nate Dreckman reported that he's trying to fill three positions on a staff of 16, a vacancy rate of nearly 20 percent. It's been a year since the jail, which currently houses 45 inmates, most of them local, has been fully staffed.

"There's stress," Dreckman said of the staff. "They're being asked to do more with less."

So far, the department has not had to resort to mandatory overtime, but voluntary overtime rates are up, Dreckman reported, and the overtime budget is taking a hit. He's hired a few part-time college students to lock and unlock doors from the master control room, a position that has no contact with prisoners. Some of the deputies who were promoted from the jail to the Sheriff's Department pull shifts in the jail to help.

Dreckman worries that the starting pay, at \$20.85 an hour, is not keeping pace with current wages in comparable jobs. "I'm trying to get the pay up, but it's a government agency and the wheels turn slowly. We're doing our best to try and be competitive, but it's a challenge," he said.

Overtime pays time-and-a-half, and although Dreckman said he trying to ease the crunch without using it, the annual overtime budget is taking a hit this year.

If you want a career in law enforcement, however, the

jail can be a spring-board. "It's a good building block," said Ben Wohland. There's no specialized work experience or required credentialing to get your foot in the door, and the Sheriff recruits his staff from the ranks of the jailers. "If you show good character and you excel at the job, we will send you to the law enforcement academy," he said. Wohland is a success story: He attended last summer and was hired as a deputy a few months back. He starts field training this month.

Grant County isn't the only place where jailers are in de-

mand, according to Dreckman, who is also the president of the Badger State Sheriffs' Association, an organization that provides training and resources for the state's sheriffs' departments and serves as a lobbying organization in Madison.

"It is a statewide problem with some jails even having to shut down portions of the jail due to staff," he said. "Based on the percentage of staff we are short we are right in line with the issues that many other counties are experiencing."

The high security Wisconsin Secure Facility Program in

Boscobel faces even higher shortages. There, the vacancy rate is just under 40 percent.

In real life, unlike Hollywood, one of the most important characteristics of a jailer is compassion, according to Dreckman. "We hire for attitude," he said. "Compassion, empathy, calm. People with high integrity and the ability to talk to people."

For Wohland, that's one of the job benefits. "You're dealing with someone having a really hard time," he said. "At the end of the day, you can really feel like you are helping."

## A watery grave

# New green cremation taking off

By CHANDLER BRINDLEY

Imagine a cremation process so environmentally friendly that you could drink a glass of the water that just dissolved your loved one.

That's the promise of water cremation, or "alkaline hydrolysis," a process of disposing of human remains that's catching on as an alternative to traditional burial or heat cremation.

For one local family, water cremation was an obvious choice. "Flame cremation sounded like a horrible procedure with the high temperature and the fire," said Greg Davis of Boscobel, who recently laid his father to rest in September 2021. "We found water cremation to be a little more of a personal thing," he said.

How does it work?

In a nutshell, water cremation speeds up the natural process of decomposition, according to Dean Fisher, former director of the donated body program at UCLA and the Anatomical Bequest program at the Mayo Clinic, and a funeral director who helped the Davis family with their water cremation.

Fisher explained that the body is placed in a tank of water that contains potassium hydroxide, a naturally occurring alkaline compound.

"We are trying to take what happens naturally in the ground using 5 percent potassium hydroxide," he

explained, compared to about 2 percent in the dirt of a burial plot. "The remainder of the tank is filled with 95 percent water."

Heat, and sometimes pressure and agitation, help dissolve soft tissue, leaving bone fragments and a neutral liquid called effluent.

The process takes three to five hours and the remaining bone fragments are dried and cooled after the process. Powdered, the bones replace the ash that is then sent back to family members, according to Fisher.

A "green" process

A key selling point for water cremation, which uses no fossil fuels, is as an environmentally friendly alternative to other forms of burial.

"Instead of burning the body at 2,000 degrees, we are gently dissolving the body away. In the end, there is no DNA left and the water is completely sterile," said John Hughes, owner and funeral director of Hughes Funeral Alternatives in St. Louis, Missouri.

"It is not a combustion process," Hughes said. "We are not using open flames and its 100 percent mercury free. It cuts electricity usage by 66 percent overall and is 95 percent better for the environment or 18 times less the carbon footprint because nothing is getting released into the atmosphere and environment," he said.

Body augmentation—pace-

(See CREMATION, Pg. 2, Col. 1)

## ATV/UTV bridge crossing opens

By JOE HART

As this issue went to press, city officials were hopeful that the new ATV/UTV crossing over the Wisconsin River would be open for public use for the holiday weekend. If you see signs posted, their hopes came to fruition. If the route is not posted, it will not yet be legal to cross the bridge.

The crossing took a lot of inter-departmental collaboration, according to City Administrator Misty Molzof. Wisconsin Department of Transportation officials initially said nix to

recreational vehicles crossing the bridge, but Boscobel officials persisted. In the end, it took multiple meetings with ATV/UTV riders' groups, elected officials, and local and county agencies to get a green light on the crossing, Molzof reported.

Heads up to drivers: With the new routes come new speed limits on and past the bridge. Watch for the signs, and remember to share the road with other vehicles, whether ATV, UTV, motorcycle, bicycle, or horse-and-buggy.

### Early Deadline for Memorial Day

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Monday, May 30, there will be an earlier deadline for the June 2 issue of the Boscobel Dial.

Advertisers and correspondents are urged to get ads and news copy into the office by Friday, May 27 by 3 p.m. News and copy will be accepted up to 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 31, but earlier material will be appreciated and also more certain of publication. The paper will be printed and mailed at the usual time.

The office will be closed Memorial Day.



HEALTHY FEELS LIKE catching up with friends



Small moments. Better health.

GUNDERSEN BOSCOBEL AREA HOSPITAL AND CLINICS





**Books for Boscobel Elementary School**

Master Ray Saint, owner of Boscobel Family Martial Arts & Wellness Center, presented free books to the first and fourth grade classes at Boscobel Elementary School. These books provide meaningful charger lessons such as, good manners, honesty, responsibility, friendships, following rules, protecting our environment, staying healthy and staying safe, among other valuable traits. "As a major sponsor of these books from the Ambassador book company, along with other local sponsors, I believe that today's children are tomorrow's leaders and we must invest in their learning," said Saint. Pictured (l. to r.): Master Ray Saint, Sydni Layton, Finley Harris, Karsyn Layton, Brielle Childs and Ms. Sharyl Kay, Boscobel Elementary School Guidance Counselor.



After the water cremation process, bones left over which can either be given to the family, or crushed into an ash like powder for the burial ceremony. Below is the tank used for water cremation that is filled with water and 5% potassium hydroxide where the body is placed for and the tissues are softly dissolved.



**CREMATION**

Continued from Page 1

makers, replacement hips, and other potentially toxins—can remain in the body for later removal, whereas traditional cremation requires these to be removed prior to burning to avoid air contamination.

Fisher stressed that the water left over at the end of the process is clean. "In Los Angeles, we tested the water 30 times with all the tests coming back safe. They finally gave us our water permit acknowledging that it was alright for us to dump the water from this process into the wastewater sanitation system," he said.

It takes just under 300 gallons of water to dissolve the body, according to Fisher—about the same amount that the average U.S. household consumes in a day, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Not legal in Wisconsin**  
According to Fisher, alkaline hydrolysis is "taking off." Four midwestern states have legalized the process including Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, and Missouri according to Green Cremation, a Texas-based funeral home advocating for the process.

"It is gaining traction," Fisher said. "There are 22 states that have approved it."

In Wisconsin, alkaline hydrolysis was part of a bipartisan bill that was introduced to the Wisconsin legislature in 2019. The bill did not pass, leaving the Alkaline Hydrolysis cremation process illegal in Wisconsin.

"I actually helped draft the bill for it in Wisconsin," said Jimmy Olson, a spokesperson for the National Funeral Directors Association. "It passed through the Senate, and it went over to the Assembly," he said. Olson reported that opposition from Catholic lobbying groups helped kill the bill.

"We have had conversations with the Catholic Church in Wisconsin before about this, and they dislike it similar to flame cremation," Olson said. "They believe that the body should remain whole and placed directly in consecrated ground."

"Things have changed over the years and will continue to change," Olson said. "I think eventually this will be legal in Wisconsin."

*To man only does anything pass away. To the creating mind and to such as can approach sufficiently near it, is one eternal present. Outward forms addressed to our organs pass away...*  
~Henry James Slack (1818–1896), *The Ministry of the Beautiful*, "Conversation I: The Cavern," 1850

**Southwest Wisconsin COVID-19 scoreboard**

as of May 23

COUNTY	Vaccination doses			COVID tests (increase over week)			COVID deaths
	1	2	Booster	Positive	Probable	Negative	
Grant	51.3	48.5	27.8	11,299 (+64)	1,745 (+14)	not reported	134
Green	65	62.7	39.3	9,059 (+43)	550 (+5)	not reported	47
Lafayette	58.5	55.7	31.3	3,381 (+19)	378 (+2)	not reported	26 (+1)
Iowa	70.4	67.8	41.2	5,165 (+36)	308 (+1)	not reported	26
Crawford	58.6	56.4	31.9	4,000 (+17)	325 (+4)	not reported	28
Richland	59.7	57.6	35.4	3,690 (+16)	337 (+5)	not reported	40
Vernon	55.8	54	33.9	5,984 (+23)	301 (+5)	not reported	9
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>1,455,196 (+8,741)</b>	<b>199,612 (+1,256)</b>	<b>not reported by DHS</b>	<b>12,966 (+37)</b>

**CDC COVID-19 COUNTY COMMUNITY LEVEL:**

**Medium (mask if high-risk):** Green, Iowa, Richland, Vernon  
**Low (test if exposed or have symptoms):** Grant, Lafayette, Crawford

**TESTING SITES:**

- Platteville:** UW-Platteville Hugunin Hall (Tuesdays/Thursdays 8 a.m.–4 p.m. — UWP students, faculty and staff only), Hartig Drug, Walgreens,
- Lancaster:** Grant County Health Department, Hometown Pharmacy, Hartig Drug
- Boscobel:** Boscobel Pharmacy, InHealth Community Wellness Clinic
- Cuba City:** Hometown Pharmacy
- Dodgeville:** Iowa County Health Department, Upland Hills Health, Walgreens, Hometown Pharmacy
- Fennimore:** Hartig Drug
- Gays Mills:** Ocooch Mountain EMS
- Muscoda:** Hometown Pharmacy
- Prairie du Chien:** Hartig Drug, Walgreens
- Richland Center:** Center Pharmacy, Richland County Ambulance Service
- Spring Green:** Spring Green Fire/EMS
- Viroqua:** Vernon County Health Department, Walgreens

**VACCINE SITES**

- Platteville:** Southwest Health, Hartig Drug, Walgreens, Walmart
- Cuba City:** Hometown Pharmacy
- Lancaster:** Grant Regional Health Center, Hartig Drug, Lancaster Veterinary Clinic, Grant County Health Department (by appointment), Lancaster Hometown Pharmacy
- Boscobel:** Gunderson Boscobel Area Hospital & Clinics, Boscobel Pharmacy
- Fennimore:** Hartig Drug, Gunderson Fennimore Clinic
- Muscoda:** Gunderson Muscoda Clinic, Muscoda Health Center
- Dodgeville:** Iowa County Health Department, Upland Hills Health, Corner Drug Hometown Pharmacy, Walgreens, Walmart
- Prairie du Chien:** Mayo Clinic Health Systems Franciscan Medical Center, Hartig Drug, Walgreens, Walmart
- Richland Center:** Center Pharmacy, Richland Hospital Clinic, Walmart
- Spring Green:** Spring Green Fire, Spring Green Medical Center, River Valley Clinic
- Soldiers Grove:** Kickapoo Valley Medical Clinic
- Viroqua:** Hirsch Clinic, Vernon County Health Department, Walgreens, Walmart, AMI La Crosse-McIntosh Library
- Westby:** Bland Clinic

SOURCE: Department of Health Services, CDC.gov

**News From Boscobel City Administrator**

City of Boscobel Administrator report:

What have we heard from citizens regarding what Boscobel needs? Affordable Housing, more employees to fill positions, higher paying jobs, something for the kids to do, a new school, to fill our empty storefronts, a clothing store, and to bring back Events on Wisconsin Avenue. How do we pursue these, and which one is more important? These are questions your local elected officials are tasked with answering. Not only do the direct administration which way to proceed, but we have to figure out a way to fund these improvements. We have to market ourselves and be attractive to developers.

One way we can do that is through Tax Increment Finance Districts. What is a Tax Increment Finance District, or sometimes called a TIF or a TID. A TIF is an economic development tool for a specific geographic area within the community. This tool allows municipalities to pay for the necessary infrastructure in a development without creating a burden upon the entire tax base. For example, if we need roads, water, sewer, and electric in order to spur development in an industrial park to

get jobs for the community, we can set up a TID and use the tax revenues for building that infrastructure. When a TID is created, there are many notices as required by state statute that are published and posted prior to any approvals at the Plan Commission level or even the City Council.

Public meetings are imperative in a democracy, and all of our meetings are open to the public. When are the meetings, and how do I know what is going on are often questions asked. Meeting Agendas are posted on the City Website, window at City Hall, Window on the rear entrance to the Library, and at the Post Office on the bulletin board. Often meetings are posted on Friday the week before, and for sure are posted at least 48 hours prior to a meeting pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes. If you would like copies of the Agendas via email, please request that either via email to cityadmin@boscobelwi.us or by calling me at (608) 375-5001 ext. 100.

Streets: The City Engineer/Director of Public Works, Mike Reynolds, has written a grant for the 2023 Streets Improvements Project and we are hopeful that we will be successful in obtaining some

grant funds to assist with the project. Which Street? We are planning on reconstruction of Airport Road East from Park Street to Chestnut Street, and Chestnut Street South from Airport Road South Gray Street.

Fireman's Park Ball Diamond: We will be setting a date for the opening ceremony of the Fireman's Park Ball Diamond and hope you will be able to join us. There is still time to get your tickets for the Boscobel Babe replica, so hurry into City Hall to get yours before it is too late!

City Administrator / Clerk / Treasurer: Election Mailings: We have seen an increase in election mailings over the last couple of weeks. It is imperative to pay attention to whom the mailing is coming from. If it is from WI Elections Commission, or City Clerk Misty Molzof, and it is an official election mailing, you should

see a stamp on the envelope that says "Official Election Mailing". During state and federal election years, you will see voter registration forms mailed out by various agencies as well as absentee ballot request forms. Please make sure you know what you are filling out and who you are mailing it back to for updating your voter information. You can always check your voter information at MyVoteWI.gov.

Upcoming Meetings: Board of Appeals, Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 12:00 pm (noon).

\*\*City Hall and Utilities will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2022 in honor of Memorial Day. We wish you all a safe holiday!

Misty D. Molzof,  
City of Boscobel  
Administrator



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**The Boscobel Dial**  
901 Wisconsin Ave.  
Boscobel, WI 53805  
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Fax (608) 375-2369  
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**Memorial Day Program**  
**Monday, May 30, 2022**  
10:30 a.m.  
Blue River Community Building

**Memorial Day Program**  
**Boscobel Veteran's Memorial\***  
**(Southview Road behind Peoples State Bank)**  
**Monday, May 30, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.**  
Welcome  
Invocation/Memorial Day Prayer  
Star Spangled Banner.....High School Chorus  
Poem: With Gratitude And Honor  
America the Beautiful.....High School Band  
Poem: Requiem .....  
Veterans Honored  
Armed Forces Medley  
Tolling of the Bell .....Theresa Brewer  
Firing Squad Taps  
**Bring Your Own Chairs**  
*\*If weather presents a problem, we will move to the Boscobel High School.*

**THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**  
NATIONAL POPPY DAY™  
**Celebration of National Poppy Day**  
**Friday, May 27, 2022**  
**Honor the fallen and support the living**  
*Wear a poppy to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and support the future of veterans, active-duty military and their families for generations to come.*  
The tradition of wearing a poppy dates back to 1920, when it became the memorial flower of The American Legion Family. The American Legion Auxiliary has used poppies for many years to raise awareness and support for our nation's veterans, active-duty service members and their families.  
This year, The American Legion Family is continuing to bring attention to this symbolic flower by calling upon all Americans to honor the fallen and support the living on National Poppy Day, May 27, 2022.