

## STUDENT: Communities are coming together to support Cody Oliver in his recovery journey

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for each adult. Some families buy season passes, but Fossum said there was a donation box at the games that night to accept additional funds from those ticket holders and anyone else who chose to give money.

The principal said it was important to remember that the original idea came from the students, themselves.

"I don't know if the families [from Prairie Farm and New Auburn] know each other," Fossum said. "I think it was just

an exchange of information among students, kids taking care of each other. People [from outside Prairie Farm] have done things for us in the past, when we've had tough times. I think it's a neat thing about our rural area."

In a social media post accompanying the photo, three New Auburn administrators had similar comments about the gesture made by Prairie Farm.

The donations are an "example of the true giving and supporting nature of Northern Wisconsin," said a joint statement from Dr. Lee

Bush, interim superintendent, Jim Reif, principal, and Dan Kevan, athletic director.

"You are a shining example of what athletics and education should be about. It is not about ESPN and highlight dunks. It is about taking care of your teammates and neighbors, but most of all it is about helping up your opponent when they fall down."

The New Auburn administrators said that Oliver Cody, son of New Auburn School District residents Louise and Josh Cody, was making progress in his recovery.

## REFERENDUM: The referendum will appear on voters' upcoming April 4 ballot

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and maintenance vehicles, some approaching 20 years old.

The public relations campaign culminates an effort that began nearly one year ago, when a task force of school employees, citizens and students began its work with Madison, Wis.-based Nexus Solutions on district needs and priorities.

An estimated 450 citizens responded to the survey.

District Administrator Joe Leschisin said that after the task force completed its work, a second consultant (Slinger, Wis.-based School

Perceptions) conducted a survey last fall to test public reactions to the task force proposals.

"The survey showed an extremely high level of support for the district and some of our proposed projects," Leschisin said Tuesday, March 14. "Our Facility Task Force used these survey results to not only develop the plan for the April 4 referendum, but also to assist them with future planning."

The referendum will appear as follows on the April 4 ballot:

Shall the School District of Cameron, Barron County,

Wisconsin be authorized to issue under Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$6,100,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school facility improvement project consisting of: building systems, infrastructure, capital maintenance improvements at the Middle and High Schools; secure entrance improvements and main office remodeling at the Elementary, Middle and High Schools; school bus and district vehicle replacement; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures, and equipment?

## RESOURCE: The library has a designated area for patrons looking for dementia care info

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the Calhoun Memorial Library CDCRC comes in.

Patrons looking for dementia care information at the CDCRC will find what they are looking for in a specific location in the library. They will not have to search through all the bookshelves to find information about dementia care. The CDCRC will be continuously changing based on new dementia care research and materials which are being made available to caregiving consumers. The following is a list of items, some which are now available and others that will be added in the future:

- Information provided by the Barron County Aging and Disability Resource Center and Alzheimer's Association including brochures, local programs/presentations, information on transportation aids, dementia information courses, local support group meetings, and demen-

tia education for businesses and law enforcement.

- Dementia care books, dementia education books, children's books about dementia in the family, National Health publications on dementia.

- Multimedia materials including DVDs about dementia care and handling various behaviors, nature DVDs with non-complex video, simple exercise DVDs for those with dementia.

- Personal dementia activity packets including picture books with farm animals, farm equipment, construction equipment, flowers, birds, wildlife, local history photo books, fidget blankets, fidget boards, simple puzzles, sensory activities, robotic pets, and cuddle pets.

Director Emily Resendiz already has several packets ready for patrons to check out. To make it easier for a caregiver to choose the most helpful activity packet,

Emily has included a written description of what is included in each packet and how it might help someone with dementia. The packets are featured at the check-out desk and in a special area in the library dedicated to the Dementia Care Resource Center. The staff have been educated about the packets and can help patrons find the dementia related materials and information they are looking for.

Resendiz has reported very positive feedback from the first few packets that have been checked out. Patrons are thankful for the informative books and activities suggested in the packets. They are appreciative of the printed materials provided with the packets describing what is in the packets, how to use the items, and the purpose of the activity for someone with dementia.

The CDCRC project came about after Jim Adams,

local Chetek resident and Community Educator for the Alzheimer's Association, heard Heather Wiarda, Director at the Amery Public Library, describe the services they were offering for people in the area who were caring for someone with dementia, and it occurred to Jim that we could do a similar thing in Chetek.

After making a visit to the Calhoun Memorial Library and talking the idea over with Library Director Emily Resendiz, she asked Jim to write a proposal for a Chetek Dementia Care Resource Center (CDCRC) to be housed in the library. Based on Jim's personal experience with his spouse's Lewy Body Dementia, his work with the Alzheimer's Association, Barron County Aging and Disability Resource Center, and as a support group facilitator, he prepared a proposal which included a list of books, activity ideas, and other items useful to

dementia caregivers. The proposal included resources where the items could be purchased, the cost, and how each item could be helpful to a dementia caregiver. After briefing Emily on the proposal, it was presented to the library board, and approved.

It takes many people to implement a project such as the CDCRC. Special thanks to Library Director Emily Resendiz, and the staff at Calhoun Memorial Library, the Library Board, Heidi Adams, daughter-in-law of Jim Adams for her donation of cuddle pets, Roxie Janecke, for donating several beautiful fidget blankets, Sharlene Bellefeuille of the Alzheimer's Association, and Alisa Lammers, Caregiver Specialist, at the ADRC, who supplied much of the information about dementia and caregiving, Ginny Schimmel of Chetek, for her help with proposal writing, many others who have

donated dementia caregiving books, and the Jim Adams family, who provided startup funding for this project, in memory of Jim's wife Diane Adams.

The Calhoun Memorial Library is honored to provide this service to their patrons.

The project is ongoing, and new material will be added to the resource center on a regular basis. To continually improve the effectiveness of the CDCRC, each packet checked out includes a short survey asking patrons to give feedback on how useful the packet was and what improvements they might want to see. It is hoped that the Chetek Dementia Care Resource Center will serve as a model for other libraries in the area and even statewide. The need for information about dementia and dementia caregiving is increasing dramatically as the local population ages, and the library is taking an active part in meeting this need.

**St. Pat's Pub Crawl**

**Saturday March 18th**  
**12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

1. Register at Gilligans at 12:00 p.m. purchase a "passport" punch card for \$5
2. Visit Participating locations and stamp your passport.
  - Gilligans
  - Lakeside Cantina
  - Caddy Shack
  - Chetek Lanes
  - Joe's Bar
  - Sassy's
  - Phill's
  - Fostbite's
3. Return to Gilligans by 6p.m. and turn in completed passports for chance to win swag, door prizes, and gift cards. Must be present to win.

**Shuttle Bus available**  
 voluntary contribution

**Prize for best dressed individual**

**Karaoke w /DJ Jake**  
 7 p.m. at Gilligans  
 DJ at 8 p.m. at Phill's