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The fire chief offers guidance as crews prepare to enter a town of Cady farmhouse Saturday, Jan. 28. Submitted photo

## Family escapes town of Cady house fire

**Staff report**

TOWN OF CADY – A Cady Township couple fled their rented farmhouse mid-morning Saturday after a passing motorist on nearby Hwy. 29 alerted them to an apparent chimney fire. Within minutes, flames had spread to the roof and nearby bedroom, prompting a response by at least six area departments before the blaze was extinguished.

St. Croix County dispatchers alerted Spring Valley and United Fire departments to the blaze, two miles east of town, about 10:30 a.m., Jan. 28. Weather conditions were described as 2 degrees with light easterly winds.

The first-arriving sheriff's deputy described heavy smoke coming from an upper window and the chimney area.

Spring Valley Fire quickly requested a mutual aid response that eventually brought engines, tenders, ambulances, support equipment and personnel from

See FIRE, Page 8



Ellsworth High School Class of 2020 alumna Raye Schmalstig learns how to tan a hide at Green University in Montana. Photo courtesy of Raye Schmalstig

## From EHS grad to wilderness therapy Windwalker

*Schmalstig's journey to learn primitive skills*

**By Sarah Nigbor**

When Class of 2020 Ellsworth High School graduate Raye Schmalstig was in fifth grade, she read "My Side of the Mountain," a book about a boy who survives in the Catskill Mountains of New York. The book struck a chord with her, one that's been echoing through the years and could not be ignored.

The Beldenville native has followed her heart and now works in the wilderness of the western United States as a Windwalker/field guide for a wilderness therapy organization. She spends up to 15 days at a time in the wilderness, away from cell phones and modern conveniences, using primitive skills to live off the land and to teach others nature's healing ways.

See RAYE, Page 9



Several people lined up to speak at the Pierce County Board meeting's public comment time on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Photo courtesy of Martin Kretzmann

## County Board approves Matthy's 4% raise 12-5

**By Sarah Nigbor**

The Pierce County Board Jan. 24 voted 12-5 to approve a 4% wage increase for County Administrator Jason Matthy's, despite several citizens asking for an investigation into what they say is Matthy's misconduct in dealing with Pierce County Sheriff's Office personnel issues.

Matthy's has come under fire recently after a transcript from a phone call between him and retired Chief Deputy Steve Albarado, which Albarado recorded on a sheriff's office-issued cell phone, was released in an affidavit filed by retired Sheriff Nancy Hove's attorney in a civil case Pierce County brought against Hove Nov. 7 for allegedly violating county personnel policies. Judge Ramona Gonzalez dismissed the case in December, but several citizens have expressed outrage at the content of the phone call, which County Board Chair Jon Aubart said was taken out of context.

See PC BOARD, Page 9

## To keep or not to keep environmental impact fee

*Council approves BoJon's liquor and beer license*

**By Sarah Nigbor**

RIVER FALLS – The River Falls City Council Jan. 23 debated whether or not to keep an environmental impact fee and fund related to the city's former landfill, but ultimately chose to leave them as is.

Aldersperson Jeff Bjork asked the council to consider reducing or eliminating the fee, which is 63 cents per household monthly. Since its inception in 1995, the fee has been reduced three times, from \$2.41 to \$1.81 in 1996, down to \$1.27 in 2003, and finally to 63 cents in 2007. The 1995 ordinance states the fee is meant to finance landfill remediation costs necessary for the protection of public health, safety and welfare.

The city operated a landfill on 16 acres southwest of town off County Road FF from 1962-1976. The DNR has required landfill and groundwater testing since

See RF COUNCIL, Page 12



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## AROUND *the county*

# Wausau woman awaits sentencing on 2020 car crash death

By Sarah Nigbor

A 25-year-old Wausau woman pleaded guilty last week to two felony counts related to a car crash that killed an 81-year-old Ellsworth woman in February 2020.

McKenna Jene Fell, formerly of La Crescent, Minn., pleaded guilty to felony homicide by intoxicated use of vehicle and felony injury by intoxicated use/vehicle Jan. 25 in Pierce County Circuit Court. Felony homicide by use of vehicle with PAC, felony homicide by negligent operation/vehicle and felony injury by use of vehicle with PAC charges were dismissed.

Fell, who was 22 at the time of the crash, was booked into Pierce County Jail until her May 4 sentencing hearing, scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Prosecutors are asking for five years in prison and seven years of extended supervision for count one and two years in prison and three years of extended supervision (concurrent) for count two. The victims' family requested Fell be ordered to perform 100 hours of community service per year in a nursing home or similar facility when on extended supervision. They also asked she be ordered to maintain full-time work, school, treatment, or volunteering and attendance to victim empathy



McKenna J. Fell

courses and impact panels.

According to the complaint:

Pierce County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a two-vehicle crash at 5:28 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020 at US Highway 63 and County Road Y in the town of Martell (Wiff's Corner). Dispatch advised two people were unconscious and one vehicle was on fire.

When police arrived, debris was scattered across the roadway and a group of people stood near a silver Buick Envision. A woman, identified as Dorothy Nelson, 81, Ellsworth, was trapped in the passenger seat and unresponsive. Her husband, Gerald B. Nelson, 90, Ellsworth, was in the driver's seat. He was moving and talking to those gathered around the vehicle.

Fell, who had been driving a red Kia Rio, was pinned inside by her dash and steering wheel column. She was in and out of consciousness, according to bystanders, and

had to be extricated from the vehicle.

A witness, who had been heading north on Highway 63, said Fell had been behind him for quite some time. He described her driving as erratic; he said she was swerving all over the road and going varying speeds. Near Wiff's Corner, she swerved into the oncoming lane and struck the Nelsons' Buick head on, which was heading south on Highway 63.

Dorothy Nelson was declared dead at the scene. An ambulance transported Gerald Nelson to Regions Hospital in St. Paul with serious injuries, while a Lifelink Helicopter took Fell there with serious injuries as well.

During the investigation, police found several opened White Claws in the passenger seat, plus several that had rolled onto the pavement. An empty prescription bottle of Fluoxetine was also located in the center console area. EMS told police Fell smelled of intoxicants. She still had a wristband on from Gundersen Hospital.

Fell's blood alcohol content level, taken by a blood draw at the hospital, registered a .228.

Gerald Nelson was in the hospital for eight days. He died one year later in March 2021.



"Almost, Maine" cast members Ethan Hayes, Ellsworth, and Lee Schauer, River Falls. Photo courtesy of Lori Peterson

## Stagehand's "Almost, Maine" opens on Feb. 10

SPRING VALLEY – The Spring Valley Stagehands Theater production of "Almost, Maine," a play by actor John Cariani, opens a week from Friday at 7 p.m. at the Spring Valley Theater.

The show exposes viewers to the relationship entanglements, ups and downs of a variety of people in the mythical town of Almost, Maine. The characters of Almost, Maine are as varied as the folk who live in many small towns. There's Steve, a man with congenital analgesia who can't feel pain; Rhonda, a tough woman softened and stripped bare by love; Jimmy, a man who needs to move on from a former relationship; Dave, who takes up adult ed art to woo the woman he loves; Sandrine, a woman who runs into her former long-term boyfriend the night before her wedding; Pete and Ginette, who discover that love literally does make the world go around; Phil, a hardworking man trying to balance time at the mill and time at home; a Waitress who unknowingly steps into a romantic twist of fate; a star high school athlete who stayed in Almost while many did not; East and Glory, who discover what it means to have someone who loves you put a broken heart back together; Marvalyn, a woman who

is helping another think through hurt and fear finds a way through her own pain; Lendall, a man faced with his long-term girlfriend's desire to end their relationship; Hope, a woman struggling to find her place in the world and coming back home to Almost to find it; Marci, a woman in a lonely marriage trying to celebrate her wedding anniversary; Chad and Randy, whose friendship is challenged by revelations about relationships; and Gayle, who learns that love comes packaged in many different ways, and not always in the ways we think it should or would be.

There's a message in each vignette – some funny, some hopeful, some sad, and some a mix of all the emotions relationships can and do bring.

Plan now to join the Spring Valley Stagehands for this charming midwinter's tale – the perfect play for the long, dark days of winter! Show dates are Feb. 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 at 7 p.m.; and Feb. 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased by going to [www.svstagehands.org](http://www.svstagehands.org) or at the door.

Submitted by Lori Peterson, Spring Valley Stagehands



Smoke can be seen billowing from a house fire at N4650 110<sup>th</sup> St., Menomonie late Saturday afternoon. The home was declared a total loss. Photo by Sarah Nigbor

## Elmwood Fire battles house blaze

*Home deemed a total loss*

By Sarah Nigbor

TOWN OF WESTON – Elmwood Fire responded to a house fire at N4650 110<sup>th</sup> St., Menomonie, in which two dogs died late Saturday afternoon. The home was deemed a total loss, with walls caving in shortly after crews' arrival.

Elmwood Fire Chief Collin Gilles said no one was inside the single-family home, located in a remote area north of Elmwood near Weston, at the time the fire started. The cause is under investigation.

Gilles said the homeowner was in another farm building when he came out and noticed smoke coming from the house. Dunn County property tax records list the owners as Tom and Angel Neubauer.

"The structure was fully engulfed when crews arrived with flames exiting heavily from every window," Gilles said. "Due to the remote nature of the area we had tenders (water trucks) from Spring Valley Fire, Menomonie Fire, Durand Fire, United Fire, Ellsworth Fire, and Glenwood City Fire. We also requested assistance with manpower from Spring Valley and Menomonie initially and later Durand Fire was requested to assist with more manpower."

Crews were on the scene for about five hours, Gilles said. They were able to keep the fire from spreading to other buildings. The family is displaced but has another home they can occupy for the time being. According to

the family's Gofundme page, organized by family friend Beverly Boyer, Tom Neubauer had just celebrated his last chemo treatment the day before. The fundraising page can be found on Gofundme under the title "Tom & Angel Neubauer Home Fire."

With temperatures hovering near zero, Gilles said cold weather always presents a challenge when fighting a fire.

"The cold weather is always challenging with running water and our pumps and crews getting cold, but all went well," Gilles said. "We have one aging truck that had experienced two failures but were remedied by crews on scene. Rural roads and remote areas are always more challenging to get crews to this type of scene in a timely fashion and to continue supplying enough water needed for a house fire."

The Weston Township plow truck was also on scene for several hours sanding the roads so tenders could turn around safely.



Hudson Hot Air Affair representatives present new balloon banners for downtown Hudson to the City of Hudson. Pictured (from left) are Mike Mroz, Hudson Director of Public Works & Parks and Hot Air Affair representatives Ruth Peterson (back), Michele DeLong (back) and Amanda Hein (front). Photo courtesy of Deanna Grigus

## Hot Air Affair brings balloons to Hudson

HUDSON – New street banners will welcome visitors to Hudson when the Hudson Hot Air Affair winter festival and hot air balloon rally starts this weekend (Feb. 3-5). The Hot Air Affair volunteer committee coordinating the event has purchased the colorful banners going up soon in downtown Hudson.

Hot Air Affair will welcome over 30 hot air balloons to the 2023 rally. The balloons are scheduled to participate in morning launches at 7:35 a.m. Feb. 4 and 5 (with cooperation from Mother Nature) and there is an additional balloon launch at 3 p.m. Saturday.

This year there will be a rare treat, with a special display of three hand painted balloons by Charly Markert, a world-famous artist who has painted 50 balloons during his career.

The popular Moon Glow/Field of Fire is at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. The public can view inflated hot air balloon envelopes light up like giant lanterns. With windy conditions, the event becomes a Field of Fire when the pilots set up their baskets and burners to light up the sky with flames. The Hudson United

Methodist Church, 1401 Laurel Ave., will offer shuttle service during the Moon Glow from 5-8:30 p.m. They are accepting free will donations for shuttle service/parking. You are invited to stop inside the church for hot chocolate and a treat from 5-8:30 p.m.

In addition to the balloon events, the weekend is packed full of activities including the Torchlight Parade, pancake breakfast, the marketplace and craft fair, a food drive, the smooch board competition, bean bag tournament, the St. Croix River Dunk, bingo, The Moonlight Cabaret, a Bloody Mary Crawl, a fat bike race, kids' ice fishing and more.

The Hot Air Affair is made possible through the support of many local sponsors including WESTconsin Credit Union, who is returning as the corporate sponsor.

Visit the Hot Air Affair website to learn about the upcoming event activities at [HudsonHotAirAffair.com](http://HudsonHotAirAffair.com) or view event listings on Facebook and Instagram.

Submitted by Hudson Hot Air Affair Committee

## Correction

Miller Rogers of Whole Earth Food Coop in River Falls donated the 400 cookies to the Ellsworth Public Library grand open-

ing celebration on Monday, Jan. 23. The Journal had the incorrect name listed. We apologize for and regret the error.

# VIEWPOINTS



## SENATOR JEFF SMITH'S Column

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S 31ST DISTRICT

### You deserve representation you can trust

Last week those of us elected by voters to represent you in various offices, including the State Legislature, took the oath of office to begin our service. The oath I gave, as stated in our Wisconsin constitution, went like this: "I, Jeff Smith, swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Wisconsin, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office of State Senate to the best of my ability. So help me God."

Before the start of the first session day, all members elected this past November formally take that same oath in an honorable ceremony. On Inauguration Day, there is a lot of good feeling within the Capitol. It's a time of celebration and fellowship, surrounded by family and well-wishers. It is my hope that this feeling of camaraderie can last beyond that single day.

There is often disagree-

ment on how to deliver on the promise of moving "Forward," as our state motto says. Disagreement can be constructive when it leads to compromise, yielding decisions that make us a stronger state and union. When elected officials betray your trust and ignore our purpose of service, we find ourselves locked in partisan bickering that gets us nowhere.

In times where the people's elected representatives show little progress and voters don't see any agreement or compromise, it can be easy to lose the trust you may have had when you cast your ballot in November. In fact, it seems that the common belief is that it is normal for our elected bodies to only squabble and point fingers rather than work toward accomplishing anything.

When elected officials lie to constituents it reflects on every one of us. Take the egregious example happening in New York, where the person who won a congress-



sional seat from Long Island lied about his education, religion, family background and more to get elected. Too often the reaction is to shrug, scowl and accept his behavior as normal. It is easy to become discouraged, falling into the expectation that you can't trust any legislator on the state or national level because they "all lie" anyway.

Of course it isn't fair to judge every person in elected office based on one miscreant. Too often we highlight exceptions to the rule, even when those exceptions are not representative of the

vast majority. We hear about those who commit fraud, when most of us are honest and straightforward. It is those who do not behave as expected that get outside coverage and social media shares. We don't get to know much about the people who just do what they were hired to do and stay out of trouble. It may even be the case in your workplace that one bad apple reflects badly on everyone else diligently doing their jobs.

I say all this so you might judge your elected officials from either side of the aisle

with discretion and give us a chance to prove that most of us really do serve with good intent. At the same time, we have the opportunity at the start of a new session, right after we swore an oath to serve our state, to hold onto the trust you might have in our abilities to do the job expected of us.

That's why I'll do all I can to be open to legitimate and reasonable debate of ideas. Not all ideas are universally accepted as good ones. That is why ideas deserve a chance for public hearing and discussion. Once we start with

that attitude, we may have a chance to hold onto the congeniality we felt on the first day we took our oath.

Thank you for your trust in me as your state senator. Throughout this year, I'll continue to update you on legislative happenings, and my door is always open. Email me at sen.smith@legis.wisconsin.gov, call my office at 608-266-8546 or drop in to the Capitol if you're in Madison. I hope to hear from you as we begin another year of working on behalf of you, the citizens of the great state of Wisconsin.



## REP. WARREN PETRYK'S Column

REPRESENTING WI STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 93

### Chairing the Assembly Workforce Development and Economic Opportunities Committee

Over 100,000 job opportunities are available right now on [www.JobCenterOfWisconsin.com](http://www.JobCenterOfWisconsin.com), and employers are looking to hire. One of the reasons our state's supply chain is still constricted is because of these vacant positions. This hinders our state's ability to move commodities, slows down our economy, and puts obstacles in the way of clients and companies.

To combat this issue, we must reform and refocus our state government programs to give them a stronger emphasis on re-employment. As Chair of the Assembly Workforce Development and Economic Opportunities Committee this session, addressing this issue will be one of my top objectives. As Chairman, I'll keep working with everyone in the state to find innovative answers to the workforce problems we face.

This includes re-introducing the Stronger Workforce Initiative that we passed last session. Part of this package included reforming the unemployment insurance program to ensure that it assists people in Wisconsin in finding their next job. To do this, we need to mandate that the Department of Workforce Development match workers with suitable job offers each week and provide financial incentives to companies to hire people who have been out of work for a long time. In

order to ensure that money is available to those who lost their jobs due to no fault of their own, we must also ensure that the state strives to eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse in the program.

In addition, I was also named to the Committee on Labor and Integrated Employment. This committee has previously looked into providing resources for those with disabilities so they can find and keep jobs in our state. We can achieve this by continuing to fund initiatives like Project SEARCH, which has a proven track record of helping young adults with disabilities find employment while attending school. I'm thrilled that western Wisconsin businesses like the Mayo Clinic, Walmart, and River Falls Area Hospital are actively taking part in this fantastic program.

The Committees on Energy and Utilities, Financial Institutions, Insurance, and Veterans and Military Affairs are among the other committees I was assigned to this session. I'm looking forward to participating in these committees to solve challenges in our community, like making sure we have access to a reliable electrical network for our homes and businesses and also easing the transition of returning veterans from military to civilian life.



## ST. CROIX EDC

BY BILL RUBIN  
SCEDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Rodeo advocacy in Madison

Wiki says George Strait is one of the most influential and popular recording artists of all time. His authentic cowboy image and back-to-roots sound earned him the title, King of Country Music.

One of Strait's best known songs is *Amarillo by Morning*. It's a tale of a rodeo cowboy and his life on the road. The song goes, "Amarillo by mornin", up from San Antonio. Everything that I got is just what I've got on. I ain't got a dime, but what I've got is mine; I ain't rich, but Lord, I'm free. Amarillo by Morning, Amarillo's where I'll be."

There is no evidence, however, that Strait ever spent any time inside the state capitol in Madison. Maybe his entourage passed through Madison's beltline in the middle of the night, but the tour bus was not sighted inside Capitol Square, framed by the capitol and a series of one-way streets.

Meanwhile, about four hours northwest of downtown Madison is the St. Croix Valley. Residents and businesses in St. Croix, Polk, and Pierce counties enjoy an exceptional quality of life and

pro-business advantages. Two of the three counties, St. Croix and Pierce, are included in the federal definition of the 15-county Twin Cities Metro Area. Polk County may be added to the metro area in the near future. The 3.75 million residents of the Twin Cities include a few rodeo cowboys, trailers, bucking stock, and wannabe urban cowboys.

A metro area encompassing two states is not without confusion. Does Minnesota claim St. Croix and Pierce? St. Croix and Pierce claim nothing west of the pristine St. Croix River. Wisconsinites have long said, "Nice place to visit, but (fill-in-the-blank with a metro punchline)." The late Kitty Rhoades of Hudson proudly called her legislative district *Wisnesota*. Former State Rep. Dean Knud-

son, also from Hudson, reminded capitol colleagues he represented the most populated area of the state, in reference to the Twin Cities metro area. Take that Milwaukee. You too, Madison.

Growing regions like the St. Croix Valley invariably have long lists of wants and needs. Many require assistance from legislators in Madison. Those needs include funding for transportation projects, broadband, health and human services, and even a modernization of how state aid is distributed to units of local government in the form of shared revenue.

About this time each year, civic-led advocacy groups begin their respective treks to Madison. Examples include Superior Days and the Chippewa Valley Rally. In the fall, La Crosse promotes Oktoberfest in the Capitol. All pound their drums and this includes folks with the St. Croix Valley Legislative Day effort, whether individually or as a group. The St. Croix Valley has great senators and representatives. Several have earned leadership roles in key committees, but they cannot do it alone. They need civic groups to spread the word and pound the drum.

One long-time participant of the St. Croix Valley's advocacy effort insists he's working on a tune even the King of Country Music would admire. It has the working title, *Madison in My Rear View Mirror*. If Strait's rodeo character can make it to Amarillo, then *Wisnesota's* brave souls can safely return to the St. Croix Valley's twinkling lights after six hours in the capitol. Wish them luck.

Good news for Strait fans. He'll be playing at American Family Field in Milwaukee this June after a two-decade absence. No word if his play list includes *Madison in My Rear View Mirror*.

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## FROM THE Editor's Desk

BY SARAH NIGBOR



## WOODWORKING Again

BY DAVE WOOD

### The polar plunge craze

Cold water immersion, aka polar plunging, is gaining popularity throughout the nation, including our area, as a way to reduce stress, anxiety and depression or improve circulation and sleep. It's also been touted as a way to increase mental toughness.

In River Falls, a group called Kinni Dippers regularly meets and plunges into the icy waters of the Kinnickinnic River, or the Trim-belle, Rush or wherever they can. They recommend talking to your physician before embarking on cold water immersion, because as with anything, there are risks involved.

I'll admit I'm intrigued. I haven't taken the plunge yet myself, but as someone with circulation issues and who provides herself on being mentally tough, I'm debating joining the craze. If I try it and hate it, I never have to do it again. Plus, I know I like saunas and this seems to go along with them.

My father was 100% Finnish and if you know anything about Finns, you know they love their saunas. And for Pete's sake, don't pronounce it as "saw-nah." The correct pronunciation is "sow-nah," like you're saying "how." If you want to tick off a true Finn, pronounce sauna "saw-nah." In Michigan's UP, I've seen fights almost break out over the correct pronunciation when some outsider said it incorrectly (I have Finnish friends who live there). I am very glad to point out when people say it the wrong way, so beware.

My dad grew up in the Iron Range of Minnesota, a land abundant with Finnish names and faces. My grandpa, Ero, lived until the ripe

age of 95 and he was a believer in the power of sauna. It was not unusual for him to sit in a sauna and jump into a northern Minnesota lake any time of the year. Maybe that's why he lived so long. He also swore to drinking a nip of brandy daily (when I turned 21 he told me tough Finns drink it neat, yuck), swigging coffee (yum!), running up and down his basement stairs multiple times a day and doing countless push-ups for exercise. In his 80s. No joke.

While I might not be keen on running up and down my steep basement stairs, I can get on board with brandy, coffee and sauna. My husband and I have been mulling over the idea of building our own sauna. I dared him to take a hot shower this weekend and jump in the snow for practice, but he looked at me like I'd lost my marbles. He knew I'd do it if he dared me, so he didn't. He worries too much.

My parents divorced when I was a baby and my dad died when I was 2. I didn't connect with my grandpa and that side of the family until I was 20. While I've learned a lot about them over the years and developed relationships with them, a part of me will always feel like it's missing because I did not get to know my dad. I am just glad I got to know his dad, my grandpa Ero, who taught me about walleye fishing, saunas and being proud of my Finnish heritage. I can still hear his soft Finnish accent and see his eyes twinkling. He died in 2014.

So in his memory and my dad's, maybe I'll give this cold water immersion dipping a try. But there better be a sauna nearby.

### My vow to vent less

Well, we're already ankle deep into 2023 and your scribe from River Falls has yet to announce his New Year's resolutions. After a rather tense discussion with S.W.M.B.O. (SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED) about my rather flammable temper ("Dearest, please don't scream, holler and swear about the little things that upset you. Most of those upsets have nothing to do with me, so please, my pet, don't burden me with reciting them to me at the top of your lungs!")

B.W. has a point. Too often I recite my trivial complaints to the public, which, I must admit evokes criticism from even my close friends, who say things like "Geez, Woody why don't you say how you really feel?"

So, in a sincere attempt to improve my savage public image, I hereby pledge that I will not permit myself to blow my stack as it were to things that have heretofore incurred my rancor. I vow to remember the sad tale of the poor young novice wishing to join a convent of silence, whose sister superior put her on probation for three years enjoining her to speak only two words at the end of each of those years.

After one year of hoeing turnips at the convent farm, she met with Sister Superior who asked her how she felt about her experiences in the turnip patch.

"Too hot!" replied the young woman. Another 12 months passed and Sister Superior asked the girl how she found her accommodations, especially her bed.

"Too hard!" replied the young woman. Twelve months passed in the third and last year of her novitiate and she entered the office of Sister Superior, who asked her what she thought of the convent experience. "I quit!" said the young woman.

"Y'know," replied the older woman, "This doesn't surprise me. Ever since you arrived three years ago, it's been bitch, bitch, bitch."

So here are a few of my complaints that I pledge I will never again vent in public or at home.

I will never again blow my stack over President Trump's appointment to postmaster general. As soon as this gentleman, who I have heard tell, has significant investments in non USPS delivery systems, took office, he removed from the River Falls Post Office's parking lot, a boon to all disabled persons in its delivery process, one of two postal drops which enables us to send mail without entering the office.

Which one? The short one, of course, which means you cripples must attempt to insert mail into slots of the TALL drop, which usually results in failing to hit the mark unless we're driving in Dodge Ram four-door pickups, leaving the elderly who drive in retro sedans with our letters flying all over the slushy parking lot. It also bugs me that President Joseph Biden has failed to take advantage of his privilege to relieve the General of his office.

I've pledged the following before, but this time I swear I'll keep my mouth shut about Hollywood's doing remakes of classic movies when the originals were almost always better. Isn't there enough brainpower out there to create something new and fresh? "State Fair," for instance has been filmed four times. C'mon, glamor guys, Iowa isn't that interesting. And what about replacing Frederick March's Norman Maine with Kris Kristofferson in the third remake of "A Star is Born."

What really pops my cork about such recasting is that it's now common in TV, to which I am addicted. My favorite food show is "The Kitchen." It's not that the recipes are so brilliant; it's the cast of four who mix it up every morning, who make wonderful chemistry together. Iron chef Geoffrey Zakarian, sandwich king Jeff Mauro, Ohio hillbilly Kathy Lee Biegel, Sunny Anderson, and the Mexican firecracker, Marcela Valladolid.

Imagine my chagrin to find out that Marcela was replaced by yet another Iron Chef, Alex Guarnaschelli. In two years she managed to ruin the show with her lame recipes and crude interruptions of co-hosts. Alex obviously knew the words, but not the music.

But I don't have to fuss and fume about Alex. She's left to do her own show, "Alex vs. America," in which she competes against three different chefs from all over the country. And back in harness was the firecracker, Marcela, from south of the border charming her colleagues on "The Kitchen"—now in its 30<sup>th</sup> season. "Alex Vs. America" disappeared after its first.

Come to think about it, I never had time to publicly complain about Alex. But I thought and thought about how bad she was. Maybe that's the way to keep my mouth shut: stew about it until I'm sick of listening to myself? Any other techniques, readers? My marriage could depend on this!

Dave would like to hear from you. Phone him at 715-426-9554.

## LETTERS to the Editor

### How many more will leave?

To the editor,

In regards to the Jason Matthys article. This isn't a "witch hunt" as someone else stated. A "witch hunt" would be when someone didn't do something wrong. Like Nancy. Obviously, Jason has done very wrong. Giving back all the PTO hours to Mr. Albarado, approx. \$35k, when people working for the county with family members with CANCER going on FMLA, have to use all their PTO. They don't get it back. It is disgusting.

Jason once said, "I will never take a percent raise higher than patrol." Yeah right. The

amount of times this man has backdoored people on their pay at the county, yet his is raised by \$5,000. We have problems. Jason is doing bad business. Don't forget, "I have people for that" when the Sheriff's Office loses 165 years of experience in the last year, six people, 4 of them to pay. Yet Jason gets 4%. The board should be ashamed. How many more will leave?

Jessica Richards  
Bay City

### Move Cheese Curd Festival to fairgrounds

To the editor,

I feel we should really consider and take a hard look at moving the Cheese Curd Festival to the Pierce County Fairgrounds.

Reasons are:

There is A LOT more space to spread out vendors/people.

There is a nice covered band shelter and gazebo located there with benches.

The entire fairgrounds is ADA handicap accessible. This makes it safe for everyone to get around the event.

This also includes ADA handicap accessible restrooms on site.

There are covered, enclosed buildings if weather were to become a problem.

EMS would be able to get into this site quickly with their entire rig and all equipment if needed.

There is enough adequate parking there without clogging all of our city streets

People wouldn't have to deal with waiting for buses and parking issues in the East End.

It is very hazardous having parking on a state highway. People park on side roads and with little children running around, visibility and safety for roads is NOT safe.

It does not make sense to jam up the entire east end of Ellsworth for an entire weekend.

Also, it is NOT fair for the homeowners on Wall Street who are forced to park elsewhere for 2.5 days for this event.

I know there are a lot of people who would go to this event locally, however, the parking

is so unbearable that people stay home, plus it is not easy for elderly people or people with physical impairments to get into and out of that East End Park.

Think of how we could grow this event and get more vendors with all this space.

Prices to rent the Pierce County Fairgrounds for three days (approximately \$1,100):

Grounds rental base fee, three days, \$218  
Picnic shelter and gazebo, three days, \$218  
Kenny Hines Exhibit Building, three days, \$434

Electricity, three days, this gets read before and after the event, approximately \$100

Consumables would be billed at cost after event (toilet paper, hand towels, soap, etc.), three days, approximately \$100

Total: \$1,070  
Base fee includes grounds maintenance, use of restrooms, parking, and access to grounds.

Also includes use of ALL tables, chairs, picnic tables that the fairgrounds owns.

Please consider moving this event. Thank you,

Betty & Dennis Nelson  
Tom Bowen  
Jackie Slocum  
Dan Klaustermeier  
Kathi Jensen  
RoseMary Matzek  
Jan Johnson  
Ellsworth residents



## BACK Home

BY CHRIS HARDIE

### Hearing from a Hardie look-alike

There are quite a few Chris Hardie's in the world – or at least a few others that share the same name.

Years ago when social media was new, I sought a few out and we exchanged some messages.

But other than sharing a name, we were miles or even countries apart and had little in common.

But I have yet to meet anyone who says they look like me. Having the same name is one thing, but I pity the poor fella that has a mug similar to mine.

There are some who believe everyone has a doppehgänger (which in German

means double goer). The belief is that there is an exact but usually invisible replica of every person or animal.

Enter Rodger Urbanek of De Pere, Wis.

Rodger read my column "Turn thankfulness into gratitude" that was published Dec. 21 in the Wrightstown Area Spirit. That column included my remembrance of Thanksgivings as a child and memories of my grandmother's fondness for visiting.

He sent me a note saying: "I agree with you about 'visiting seems to be a dying vocation.' Electronic diversions have taken over. Just go to the barber shop, no one talks anymore. They just look at their electronic devices."

I had written that column after Thanksgiving and included a photo of me holding a buck I had shot on the farm the opening weekend of gun deer season.

The photo is what caught Rodger's attention.

"What I really wanted to talk about is the picture of you and that beautiful white-tail buck. It seems that we are doubles. Everyone I show your picture to thinks it is me. Thought you might want to know."

I replied to Rodger, thanking him for the note. Of course I was intrigued, so I also asked him to send a photo.

Rodger did that and more, actually attempting to replicate the hunting photo of me. "I think we really do look alike," he wrote.

I am certainly not an expert in genetics and heredity, although I did get a C in college biology where we studied the subject. I remember the work of Gregor Mendel,

a Czech who was the first to lay the ground for the science of genetics in the 1800s. And many of the men in my family have what my father called the "Roseland bump," a nob on our ear that he says came from his great-grandmother's side of the family.

According to a study from the Josep Carreras Leukemia Research Institute in Barcelona, Spain, there are people who look alike but have no family connection.

Researcher Manel Esteller recruited 32 people with look-alikes and asked the pairs to do a DNA test, fill out questionnaires and had their photos put through facial recognition programs. Half of the pairs had similar scores to identical twins identified using the same software. Those also had more genes in common than the 16 other pairs.

Turns out that it was just random chance that the genetic variants of the faces matched up. With about 20,000 chromosomes and 8 billion people, odds are that the combination is bound to happen.

I have not come across any Urbaneks in the Hardie family tree, so maybe we share some genetic variant. Some would say my genes are mutations.

Rodger, you have my deepest sympathies.

Chris Hardie spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and publisher. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won dozens of state and national journalism awards. He is a former president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Contact him at chardie1963@gmail.com.



For More Information,  
Call / Text  
Susan Sanders  
at  
715-448-0411

PLUM CITY AMERICAN LEGION

## Buffet-Style Fish Dinners

Feb. 10 • Feb. 24 • March 10  
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Plum City, Wisconsin

Serving from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

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# WEATHER Forecast

Thu 02	13°/-17°		Partly Cloudy	7%
Fri 03	4°/2°		Mostly Cloudy	6%
Sat 04	29°/14°		Cloudy	24%
Sun 05	26°/16°		Partly Cloudy	7%
Mon 06	32°/21°		Cloudy	24%
Tue 07	24°/8°		AM Clouds/PM Sun	14%
Wed 08	24°/17°		Partly Cloudy	24%

# ST. CROIX COUNTY Jail Log

**Monday, Jan. 23**  
**Ryan Roger Gullette**, 42, New Richmond, by Baldwin police, probation hold.  
**Sharice Lynnea Donovan**, 42, Somerset, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Javon Alex Brown**, 38, Brooklyn Center, Minn., by SCSO, warrant.  
**Angel P. Tene Guaman**, 36, Roberts, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Michael Kenneth Lee**, 45, Woodville, by SCSO, go armed with firearm while intoxicated, first-degree recklessly endangering safety, disorderly conduct, intentionally point firearm at person.

**Tuesday, Jan. 24**  
**Crystle Joy Morrow**, 37, Plum City, by NR police, carrying a concealed weapon.  
**Lucas Jon Ische**, 41, River Falls, by NR police, felony bail jumping, possession of methamphetamine, probation hold.  
**Alisa Marie Price**, 41, River Falls, by Hudson police, possession of methamphetamine, felony bail jumping, possession of THC, possess drug paraphernalia.

**Wednesday, Jan. 25**  
**Anderson Lee Jacobs**, 47, River Falls, by Hudson police, felony bail jumping, operating while suspended.  
**Paul David Nickerson**, 56, address not listed, by SCSO, sentenced, serving 12 days.  
**Ronald Charles Heidvoegel**, 35, Somerset, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Joseph William Heroff**, 27, Baldwin, by SCSO, probation hold.  
**Timothy Michael Decker**, 38, St. Paul, by Hudson police, possess drug paraphernalia, warrant.  
**Amanda Christine Warfel**, 38, River Falls, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Michael Christopher Dox**, 48, River Falls, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Quintin Suh Daddii**, 30, Tomah, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Allen C. Glorvigen**, 55, Webster, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Pedro Gutierrez Gomez**, 22, Hudson, by SCSO, operate without valid license (second).  
**Danny Minga Sarango**, 22, Hudson, by SCSO, operate without valid license (second).  
**Emmanuel Chukwudi Nduka**, 53, Maplewood,

Minn., by SCSO, sentenced, serving 180 days.  
**Robert Arthur Larsen**, 38, Prescott, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Trent Michael Brinker**, 23, Woodville, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**William Michael Temme**, 56, River Falls, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Devin Lee Connor**, 42, Deer Park, by SCSO, municipal writ, resisting or obstructing an officer, felony bail jumping (two counts), warrants, probation hold.  
**Mohamed Hussein Jama**, 44, Minneapolis, by SCSO, OWI-fourth.

**Thursday, Jan. 26**  
**Bryce Richard Younger**, 23, New Richmond, by Hudson police, possess with intent - THC, possess with intent - psilocin, possess drug paraphernalia.  
**Diamond Lynn Diverse**, 25, Woodbury, Minn., by SCSO, warrant, probation hold.  
**Gage Kennington**, 26, address not listed, by Wisconsin State Patrol, possession of THC, possess drug paraphernalia.  
**Shane Allen Kurtz**, 42, Grantsburg, by SCSO, sentencing for SCSO.  
**Christopher S. Petros**, 47, Hudson, by SCSO, disorderly conduct.  
**Nichole Elizabeth Baker**, 37, New Richmond, by SCSO, retail theft - intentionally take.

**Codi James Walztoni**, 28, River Falls, by SCSO, domestic battery, domestic disorderly conduct.  
**Corbin William DesLauries**, 32, New Richmond, by SCSO, disorderly conduct, resisting or obstructing an officer (two counts), misdemeanor bail jumping (two counts).  
**Sasha Marie Anderson**, 43, Hudson, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Friday, Jan. 27**  
**Mark Travis Murphy**, 46, Houlton, by SCSO, possession of controlled substances near certain places, possession of methamphetamine, probation hold.  
**Michael Jacob Wrenn**, 34, Hudson, by SCSO, OWI-first.  
**Naihla Laquann Buckley**, 37, River Falls, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Alana Marie Yates**, 22, Spooner, by NR police, domestic disorderly conduct, domestic battery.  
**Cody James Peterson**, 26, Roberts, by SCSO, sen-

tenced, serving three days.  
**Bryce Paul Schoenke**, 27, Cochrane, by SCSO, sentenced, serving three days.  
**Douglas Edward Hanson**, 72, Somerset, by SCSO, sentenced, serving three days.  
**Heather C.M. Munson**, 40, New Richmond, by SCSO, warrant.  
**Benjamin Kyle Cogdill**, 34, New Richmond, by Probation & Parole, probation hold.  
**Ismail Mohamed Hussein**, 24, Minneapolis, by SCSO, sentenced, serving 30 days.  
**Michael Jon Heil**, 42, Eau Claire, by SCSO, warrant.

# PIERCE COUNTY Jail Log

**Monday, Jan. 23**  
**Lucas John Edward Armstrong**, 47, Hager City, by PCSO, two failure to appear warrants, felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping, resisting/failing to stop, operate without valid license, released on \$500 cash bond.  
**Carl Michael Balloy**, 26, Ellsworth, by Ellsworth police, operate without valid license, released on \$500 signature bond.  
**Aleisha Lyndell Downey**, 37, Knapp, by PCSO, burglary - building or dwelling, theft - movable property, released on \$10,000 signature bond.  
**Michael Kenneth Huffman**, 38, Ellsworth, by PCSO, operating while revoked, released on \$1,000 signature bond.  
**Amanda Rachelle Neuharth**, 44, Hastings, Minn.,

by PCSO, disorderly conduct, released on \$1,000 signature bond.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 24**  
 None  
**Wednesday, Jan. 25**  
**Mckenna Jene Fell**, 25, Wausau, by PCSO, homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle, injury by intoxicated use/vehicle.  
**Mason Lee Hutter**, 42, Ellsworth, by PCSO, three failure to appear warrants.  
**Thursday, Jan. 26**  
**Abby Armella Hoffman**, 39, Prescott, by Prescott police, disorderly conduct, released on \$1,000 signature bond.  
**Friday, Jan. 27**  
**Javontae Kody Bowman**, 23, Somerset, by RF police, battery, theft - mov-

able property, disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property, released on \$2,500 signature bond.  
**Saturday, Jan. 28**  
**Luke Steven Schmitt**, 32, Spring Valley, by PCSO, OWI, released.  
**Sunday, Jan. 29**  
**Trevon Lamar Dupre Ikener**, 30, River Falls, by RF police, disorderly conduct, criminal damage to property, felony bail jumping.  
**Tyler Jonathan Meerkins**, 38, Hager City, by PCSO, disorderly conduct, misdemeanor bail jumping.  
**Joseph Jerome Zappa**, 36, River Falls, by RF police, OWI, possess drug paraphernalia to manufacture, compound, convert, produce or store methamphetamine; probation violation.

# ELLSWORTH Police Department Reports

The following incidents were reported to Ellsworth Police Department Jan. 23-29.

**Monday, Jan. 23**  
 At 6:42 a.m., a man at 456 W. Main St. requested an ambulance due to being cold and shaking.  
 At 1:45 p.m., a snowplow wing struck a garage door jamb while backing into a garage at 206 S. Utility St.

**Tuesday, Jan. 24**  
 A resident reported a package theft at 7:29 a.m. at 141 S. Maple St. The package had been delivered at 6:43 p.m. Jan. 12.  
 At 5:28 p.m., a resident at W5954 165<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bay City,

reported a black and tan Walker hunting dog wearing a cone as missing. Pierce County was also informed.

**Wednesday, Jan. 25**  
 Officers assisted a motorist out of a snowbank at 4:36 p.m. at Kinne and Chestnut streets.

**Thursday, Jan. 26**  
 At 3:01 p.m., a woman concerned for her mother's safety reported a man, who has been trespassed from the premises, continuing to show up at 141 S. Maple St. He parks his bike in the bike and she is unsure how he is getting into the building. She was told to contact police when he is there and

to inform the property management company.  
 At 3:23 p.m., a man with dementia was located at Brickner's. His family was asked to come pick him up and try to limit his driving.

**Friday, Jan. 27**  
 A vehicle was reported in the ditch at 5:57 a.m. at Maple Street and Crosstown Road. A tow pulled the vehicle out.

**Saturday, Jan. 28**  
 A caller reported a juvenile for urinating behind at snowbank at 6:16 at the Ellsworth Elementary School ice rink (445 S. Piety St.) The juvenile was warned for urinating in public.

# PIERCE COUNTY Court Reports

**Initial appearances**  
**Aaron Allan Addison**, 44, Spring Valley, was ordered to pay \$5,000 cash bail Jan. 20 on felony possess with intent - fentanyl, felony possess with intent - cocaine, felony possess with intent - methamphetamine/amphetamine, felony bail jumping, felony battery or threat to judge, prosecutor or law enforcement officer, felony maintain drug trafficking place, possess amphetamine/LSD/psilocin and possess drug paraphernalia charges. A preliminary hearing is slated for 11:30 a.m. Jan. 25.  
 A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of **Peyton D. Anderson**, 21, Maiden Rock, who missed a Jan. 23 initial appearance on possession of THC and possess drug paraphernalia charges.  
**Carl Michael Balloy**, 26, Big Lake, Minn., pleaded not guilty and posted a \$500 signature bond Jan. 23 on an operate without valid license (second within three years) charge. A status conference is set for 1:30 p.m. Jan. 30.  
**Damarius Scot Bedeaux**, 27, Hastings, Minn., posted a \$2,500 signature bond Jan. 23 on felony possession of methamphetamine and possess drug paraphernalia charges. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. March 6.  
 A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of **Javontae Kody Bowman**, 23, River Falls, who missed a Jan. 23 initial appearance on disorderly conduct (domestic abuse), theft - movable property, battery (domestic abuse) and criminal damage to property charges.  
**Ward W. Harshman**, 58, Ellsworth, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$2,500 signature bond Jan. 23 on OWI-third and operating with PAC-third charges. A status conference is set for 2:45 p.m. Feb. 23.  
 A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of **Steven M. Hudson**, 51, River Falls, who missed a Jan. 23 initial appearance on a resisting or obstructing an officer charge.  
**Jeremy Jay Marek**, 48, Prescott, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$1,000 signa-

ture bond Jan. 20 on a disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charge. A status conference is slated for 1:15 p.m. Feb. 27.  
**Gina Cheyenne McDaniel**, 25, Spring Valley, posted a \$10,000 signature bond Jan. 17 on felony bail jumping, felony possession of methamphetamine and possess drug paraphernalia charges. A status conference is set for 10:15 a.m. Feb. 23.  
**Tamara Jo Molde**, 54, Hastings, Minn., pleaded not guilty and posted a \$1,000 signature bond Jan. 20 on a criminal trespass to dwelling charge. A status conference is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. March 9.  
**Amanda Rachelle Neuharth**, 44, Hastings, Minn., pleaded not guilty and posted a \$1,000 signature bond Jan. 23 on a disorderly conduct charge. A status conference is set for 2:30 p.m. Feb. 23.  
**Michael Arthur Rustad**, 69, Hager City, pleaded not guilty and posted a 1,000 signature bond Jan. 17 on a knowingly violate domestic abuse order - temporary restraining order charge. A status conference is slated for 10 a.m. Jan. 26.  
 A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of **Zachary E.W. Sanders**, 21, Red Wing, Minn., who missed a Jan. 23 initial appearance on possession of THC and possess drug paraphernalia charges.  
**Everette Dale Sarnstrom**, 36, Hager City, posted a \$10,000 signature bond Jan. 20 on felony bail jumping and theft - movable property charges. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Feb. 22.  
**Rodrick Luis Siddons**, 43, Menomonie, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$2,500 signature bond Jan. 17 on battery (domestic abuse) and disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charges. A status conference is set for 2:30 p.m. Feb. 28.  
**Daniel Zachariah Sims**, 36, Boyceville, was ordered to pay \$10,000 cash bail on a felony first degree sexual assault/use dangerous weapon charge Jan. 23. A status conference is slated for 8:45 a.m. Jan. 27.

**Christine Warfel**, 38, address not listed, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$5,000 signature bond Jan. 23 on misdemeanor bail jumping, criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charges. A status conference is slated for 1:45 p.m. Feb. 27.  
**Joey L. Wilson**, 43, Prescott, pleaded not guilty and posted a \$10,000 signature bond Jan. 17 on resisting or obstructing an officer and two misdemeanor bail jumping charges. A status conference is scheduled for 4 p.m. Feb. 7.  
 A bench warrant was issued for the arrest of **Brittney Christine Witzke**, 44, Bay City, after a Jan. 23 missed initial appearance on an operate without valid license (second within three years) charge.

**Closed cases**  
**Luis Geraardo Diaz Hernandez**, 24, Hudson, was convicted of operate without valid license (third within three years) and fined \$443 Jan. 17. The charge stemmed from a July 12 traffic stop.  
**Tristan Anthony Harmon**, 38, St. Paul, waived extradition to Washington County, Minn. Jan. 19, where he is charged with a felony.  
 Felony human trafficking, felony second degree sexual assault/use of force, felony intimidate victim/domestic abuse crime, felony expose child to harmful material, battery (domestic abuse) and disorderly conduct (domestic abuse) charges against **Austin Taylor Koeckeritz**, 29, River Falls, were dismissed Jan. 24 due to a federal indictment. The charges resulted from incidents August 2020-August 2022 in River Falls.  
**Christopher G. Langula**, 45, Eau Claire, was convicted of felony possession of methamphetamine, sentenced to three years of probation and fined \$518 Jan. 23. Felony possession of burglarious tools and possess drug paraphernalia charges were dismissed. The charges stemmed from a July 21, 2021 incident.

# PIERCE COUNTY Traffic and Forfeitures

**Ag Partner Coop**, Goodhue, Minn., violate Class A highway weight limits (two+), \$614.22.  
**Carl Michael Balloy**, 26, Ellsworth, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, \$200.50; non-registration of vehicle/auto, \$175.30.  
**Jonathan E. Bystrom**, 63, Rockford, Ill., operate without valid license, \$200.50.  
**Clint Rusty Dahl**, 32, Ellsworth, speeding, \$200.50.  
**Jacob Christopher Duffney**, 24, Fayetteville, NC, speeding, \$225.70.  
**Hailee Lynn Eesley**, 19, Woodbury, Minn., possession of marijuana, \$389.50; possess drug paraphernalia, \$326.50.  
**Matthew Robert Germain**, 21, River Falls, misuse of telephone, \$263.50.  
**Brian Franklin Gray**, 61, Baldwin, speeding, \$200.50.  
**Isabella Rae Hamlin**, 18, Richfield, Minn., underage drinking/possess alcohol, \$263.50.  
**Paul Kenneth Hotchkiss**, 61, Hager City, knowingly assist person fleeing accident scene, dismissed.  
**Jeffrey Lee Johnson**, 29, Hammond, operate without valid license, \$200.50.  
**Logan Bradley Krume-nauer**, 17, Ellsworth, minor possession of electronic nicotine deliver system,

\$162.70.  
**Carter James Lalim**, 20, River Falls, misuse of telephone, \$263.50.  
**Deallen Malik Lipsey-Torian**, 18, Milwaukee, underage drinking/possess alcohol, \$263.50.  
**Ethan Warren Longsdorf**, 20, River Falls, misuse of telephone, \$263.50.  
**Korey McCoy Maloney**, 19, Oak Lawn, Ill., underage drinking/possess alcohol, \$263.50.  
**Drew Matthew Molitor**, 18, Lino Lakes, Minn., speeding, license suspended 15 days, \$295.  
**Shane Micheal Ohland**, 44, Brooklyn Park, Minn., failure of operator to notify police of accident, dismissed; failure to keep vehicle under control, \$213.10.  
**Edward Joseph O'Keefe**,

19, Stillwater, Minn., underage drinking/possess alcohol, \$263.50.  
**Roberto Carlos Narvaez Ortiz**, 19, Richfield, Minn., underage drinking/possess alcohol, \$263.50.  
**Nicole Lynn Polhamus**, 44, Ellsworth, operating motor vehicle without proof of insurance, \$10.  
**Scott Phillip Super**, 51, River Falls, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, \$200.50.  
**Jhony Ismael Tenezaca Mendez**, 20, Hammond, operate without valid license, \$200.50; operating a motor vehicle without insurance, \$200.50.  
**Lonnie J. Wood**, 55, Elmwood, vehicle operator fail/wear seat belt, \$10; operating a motor vehicle without insurance, \$200.50.

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# PIERCE COUNTY Sheriff's Office Reports

The following incidents were reported to Pierce County Sheriff's Office Jan. 23-29.

## Monday, Jan. 23

Officers responded to a business alarm at 6:31 a.m. at W6454 Highway 35, Bay City. All was secure.

At 9:23 a.m., police took a report of multiple shopping carts places on top of street signs in the area of 730<sup>th</sup> Street and 250<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hager City. The township took the carts down and the business they belonged to said it would come pick them up.

A K9 officer conducted a school sniff at 10:47 a.m. at Spring Valley Middle/High School (S1450 County Road CC).

Officers assisted Prescott police at 1:38 p.m. at Prescott High School (1010 Dexter St.) with an out-of-control juvenile.

Deputies assisted Spring Valley police with a vehicle search at 6:04 p.m. at W1169 Maryann St.

At 8:31 p.m., an officer attempted a traffic stop at N1090 825<sup>th</sup> St., Hager City, on a vehicle with no lights on and the driver having multiple PCSO warrants. The vehicle parked on the backside of the residence and the driver fled inside. The homeowner allowed police inside and the subject was arrested for two felony warrants, two misdemeanor warrants, two counts of felony bail jumping, fleeing police, operate without valid license (third) and cited for having open intoxicants in the vehicle.

## Tuesday, Jan. 24

Police responded to a business alarm at 7:29 a.m. at W6454 Highway 35, Bay City. This was the fourth time deputies responded to a business alarm and could not reach the keyholder. A

copy of the ordinance and warning for false alarms was sent to the business owner.

At 9:51 a.m., a business alarm sounded at W6454 Highway 35, Bay City. The owner called police and said she was having trouble with the cameras. She was advised to contact the alarm company about the multiple false alarms.

At 11:20 a.m., police spoke to a resident at N1428 810<sup>th</sup> St., Hager City, about possible fraud, which included changing business ownership without permission.

Officers spoke to a homeowner at 12:31 p.m. at W9522 500<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hager City about strange vehicles coming up to her house at different times of the day.

Deputies stopped to check on a suspicious vehicle at 7:47 p.m. at W7740 520<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ellsworth. A man told police he was grabbing something from his storage unit. He was not valid to drive and was told to call a valid driver to move the vehicle.

Police were dispatched at 9:09 p.m. to a suspicious vehicle report at N4153 County Road S, Plum City. The complainant cancelled the request. It was a false alarm.

## Wednesday, Jan. 25

Deputies assisted Elmwood EMS with a medical call at 5:22 a.m. at 821 W. Winter Ave. One woman was transported by ambulance.

Police responded at 8:30 a.m. to David Motel (W7670 Highway 10, Ellsworth) for a man found dead in a motel room. Police spoke with people at the scene.

A caller reported suspicious activity at her horse boarding facility at 9:44 a.m. at N7216 1170<sup>th</sup> St., Prescott. The complainant said nothing was missing, but she wanted the incident documented.

Officers were called at 12:30 p.m. to Mile Marker 800 on the Mississippi River near Diamond Bluff for a boat fire. Police spoke to multiple people and located the boat's owner.

At 12:45 p.m., police were dispatched to a loose geese complaint near N6579 County Road J, Beldenville. A nearby farmer did not who they belonged to, but they appeared to be domesticated. Officers left a message for the town chair.

Deputies and Wisconsin State Patrol responded to a two-vehicle crash without injury at 4:02 p.m. at Highway 29 and 770<sup>th</sup> Avenue, River Falls. A turning vehicle slid through an intersection and struck a stopped vehicle. One driver was cited for operating without insurance.

Police were dispatched to a one-vehicle rollover crash at 5:23 p.m. at Highway 35 and 468<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Prescott. State Patrol assisted at the scene and will write the crash report.

Officers were called to a vehicle slide-in at 5:25 p.m. at 1200<sup>th</sup> Street and 570<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Prescott. At 10:47 p.m., officers saw a suspicious truck parked next to a hangar at the Red Wing Airport (W7145 148<sup>th</sup> Ave., Bay City). The truck was unoccupied and no one was found.

Police responded at 11 p.m. to a possible break-in in-progress at W440 County Road Z, Arkansaw. Deputies checked the home and there were no signs of forced entry. Officers found a vehicle in the ditch partially blocking the roadway at 11:19 p.m. at Highway 10 and County Road J, Ellsworth. Police provided traffic control until he could get out.

## Thursday, Jan. 26

Police responded at

12:52 a.m. to Highway 35 and 1200<sup>th</sup> Street, Prescott, for a one-vehicle slide-in. While talking to the driver and passenger, police could smell drugs. The vehicle was searched and the occupants cited.

Deputies were called to a one-vehicle slide-in at 4:51 a.m. at County Road S and 450<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Plum City. A tow responded.

Officers were dispatched to a one-vehicle slide-in at 6:26 a.m. at Highway 63 and 320<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hager City. There was no damage or injuries. The driver requested a tow.

Deputies assisted EMS at 6:37 a.m. at N5723 1242<sup>nd</sup> St., Prescott.

Deputies assisted Prescott police at 7:31 a.m. at 1000 Canton St.

Police responded to a vehicle in the ditch at 8:07 a.m. at 1090<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 10, Prescott. Police conducted traffic control.

Officers responded to a minor two-vehicle crash at 11 a.m. at W10370 521<sup>st</sup> Ave., Prescott. One party left before police arrived.

Police collected information on a two-vehicle crash at 11:24 a.m. at N6960 County Road E, River Falls.

A caller reported a damaged mailbox at 2:13 p.m. at N8177 975<sup>th</sup> St., River Falls. An unknown vehicle struck the box and fled the scene.

A commercial truck slid off the road at 5:44 p.m. at W12038 497<sup>th</sup> Ave., Prescott. A tow was called.

Police conducted a security check at 11:50 p.m. at W4277 County Road G, Ellsworth. They found an open outbuilding door and secured it. The owner was notified.

## Friday, Jan. 27

Police responded to a one-vehicle slide-in at 6 a.m. at County Road F and 820<sup>th</sup>

Avenue, River Falls. A tow removed the vehicle and officers cited the driver for operating without valid license.

A one-vehicle rollover was reported at 7:18 a.m. at W8396 Highway 29, River Falls. A tow was called.

Police were called to a one-vehicle slide-in at 7:53 a.m. at 710<sup>th</sup> and 690<sup>th</sup> avenues, Beldenville. There was no damage.

Officers responded at 9:52 a.m. to W11250 840<sup>th</sup> Ave., River Falls, for a large flatbed truck loaded with sheetrock in the ditch. The road was closed while the truck was pulled out.

A semi became stuck at 1:11 p.m. at Highway 63 and 770<sup>th</sup> Street, Hager City. A tow came to pull it out.

Police located a vehicle on the side of the road at 2:44 p.m. near County Road A and 385<sup>th</sup> Street, Maiden Rock. A woman was cited for possession of THC and having open intoxicants in the vehicle.

At 6:41 p.m., a resident at W12226 Highway 10, Prescott, reported an unknown person knocking on the door and looking in the windows. The suspect said he dropped off a case of beer for help that was given months ago. He was told he's not allowed on the property.

Deputies assisted jail staff with a disorderly inmate at 7:52 p.m. at 555 W. Overlook Drive, Ellsworth.

Police located a one-vehicle slide-in at 11:01 p.m. near 747<sup>th</sup> Street and 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hager City. The driver and his friends got the vehicle out.

## Saturday, Jan. 28

Police were called at 12:51 a.m. to N1620 County Road VV, Hager City for an intoxicated, disorderly man. Two men were given a courtesy ride to a Red Wing hotel.

Deputies assisted RF police with a motor vehicle crash at 3:48 a.m. at Main and Vine streets.

At 9:36 a.m., a caller at N3823 750<sup>th</sup> St., Ellsworth reported a group of snowmobiles that ran into a fence. No one was located.

At 12:05 p.m., police spoke to a man about leaving property at multiple neighbors' houses, illegal dumping and abandoned property on 570<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Ellsworth.

A dog was located on the side of the road at 4:50 p.m. near N6499 Highway 63, Beldenville. The town chair helped with arrangements.

Police responded at 7:43 p.m. to W11515 Highway 35, Prescott, where an ambulance was not answering its radio. Allina eventually made contact.

At 8:32 p.m., a caller reported a vehicle driving down a dead end road and shutting its lights off multiple times near N5170 410<sup>th</sup> St., Ellsworth. Police did not locate the vehicle.

Deputies assisted Allina EMS at 10:48 p.m. at N5723 1242<sup>nd</sup> St., Prescott.

## Sunday, Jan. 29

At 2:20 a.m., police responded to a disorderly person report at W3527 Highway 35, Maiden Rock. Police helped the person find a ride home.

Deputies responded to a domestic at 3:24 a.m. at W8441 285<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hager City. One person was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct and misdemeanor bail jumping (two counts).

Police found a car in the ditch where snow had drifted over the road at 4:45 a.m. at 290<sup>th</sup> Street and County Road S, Maiden Rock. No one was around.

Officers assisted EMS at a medical call at 12:07 pm. at N7317 820<sup>th</sup> St., River Falls.

# PRESCOTT Police Department Reports

The following incidents were reported to Prescott Police Department Jan. 23-29.

## Monday, Jan. 23

At 2:59 a.m., police saw a man wearing a light-colored hoodie and a plaid jacket on a bicycle at the corner of Hope and Pine streets who fled when he saw the officer. Police did not locate the man after turning around.

At 7:36 a.m., an officer met with first and third grade classes about safety outside and school safety.

An officer spent time with Prescott High School (1010 Dexter St.) students at 10:55 a.m. during their lunch hour.

**Andrew Joseph Bocchino**, 38, Prescott, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 1 p.m. at Cherry Street and Highway 10.

Prescott officers assisted Pierce County deputies with an arrest at 9:46 p.m. at N1090 825<sup>th</sup> St., Hager City.

## Tuesday, Jan. 24

Officers checked on a person sleeping in a vehicle at 3:05 a.m. at Ptaček's (1005 Eagle Ridge Drive). They were okay.

The Student Resource Officer greeted students at the door and in the hallways at 7:20 a.m. at Prescott High School (1010 Dexter St.)

At 8:28 a.m. a caller reported a minor two-vehicle crash that occurred at 216 Broad St. between **Michael A. Otterson**, Prescott, and **Jeffrey Thomas Marx**, Cannon Falls, Minn.

A Student Resource Officer spent time with students and spoke to staff at 10:42 a.m. at Prescott High School (1010 Dexter St.)

Officers performed a welfare check at 12:22 p.m. at 544 Linn St. The man was on his lunch break eating his lunch.

At 8:11 p.m., officers pulled over a vehicle without headlights at Orrin Road and Canton Street. Police escorted the driver home after it was determined to be an electrical issue.

**Wednesday, Jan. 25**  
**Marlos Adal Galdamez-Salguero**, 33, St. Paul, was cited for operate without valid license and operating motor vehicle without insurance after a traffic stop at 12:16 a.m. at 1200 Henry St.

**Charles Dean Huff**, 44, Ellsworth, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 4:09 a.m. at Cherry Street

and Highway 10.

**Russell James Wildman**, 47, Minnetrista, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 10:54 a.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets.

**A 17-year-old Prescott juvenile** was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 5:46 p.m. at Monroe and Walnut streets.

**Eric Isaiah Colon**, 23, Alamogordo, NM, was cited for expired registration and warned for speeding after a traffic stop at 8:36 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

Police performed a welfare check at 9:26 p.m. at 176 Campbell St. No distress was noted.

**Abby Armella Hoffman**, 39, Prescott, was arrested for domestic disorderly conduct after police were called at 11:36 p.m. to 740 Shane Park Circle.

## Thursday, Jan. 26

**Katie Scarlett Seif**, 23, Cottage Grove, Minn., was cited for unsafe lane deviation and failure to obey traffic officer/signal after a traffic stop at 7:20 a.m. at Eagle Ridge Drive and Highway 10. Seif attempted to turn left at an intersection where only a right turn is legal. Her vehicle slid into the ditch and had to be pulled out.

At 8:48 a.m., Kwik Trip (1200 Henry St.) staff informed police two men had been in the store since 2 a.m. One man told police they had slid into the ditch at 1 a.m. and someone had dropped them off at Kwik Trip. They were trying to get a ride to Red Wing to get on a train. Police assisted them in getting a SmartRide cab.

At 12:07 p.m., a complainant reported having issues with a neighbor at 1000 Canton St.

Police responded at 6:05 p.m. to Kwik Trip (1200 Henry St.), where a dog had accidentally locked its owner's vehicle. Police were able to get it unlocked.

## Friday, Jan. 27

Police performed a welfare check at 4:55 a.m. at 865 Helen St.

The School Resource Officer spent the morning greeting students at 7:39 a.m. at Malone Elementary (1505 Campbell St.) They also spoke to third graders about safe and smart decisions. At 11:13 a.m., the officer spent time with kids at the high school during passing time and lunch.

**Maureen Alice Krings**, 59, Prescott, was cited for a parking violation at 7:17 p.m. at Orange and Front streets.

Police checked on a suspicious vehicle parked at Bodhi Studio (1215 Henry St.) It was unoccupied and all appeared secure.

Officers responded at 11:32 p.m. to 722 Shane Park Circle for a noise complaint. They received a warning and were cooperative.

## Saturday, Jan. 28

**James Nathan Friberg**, 55, Prescott, was cited for non-registration of vehicle after a traffic stop at 12:09 a.m. at Campbell and Henry streets.

**Jessica Lynn Hereford**, 26, North St. Paul, Minn., was cited for non-registration of vehicle and warned for speeding after a traffic stop at 4:09 a.m. at Cherry Street and Highway 10.

**John F. Witzke**, 52, La Crosse, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 6:13 a.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Caleb John Pavelka**, 24, St. Paul, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 6:50 a.m. at Warren and Jefferson streets.

**Dylan Lynch**, 20, Woodbury, Minn., was cited for passing in a no passing zone and operating without proof of insurance after a traffic stop at 9:33 a.m. at Kinnickinnic and Dakota streets.

**Eric Bradshaw Hansen**, 28, Red Wing, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 5:29 p.m. Lawrence and Jefferson streets.

**Benjamin Robert Moore**, 23, Apple Valley, Minn., was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 6:41 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

**Hector Barcenas**, 36, Red Wing, Minn., was cited for operate without a valid license after a traffic stop for operating without headlights at 7 p.m. at Kinnickinnic and Broad streets.

## Sunday, Jan. 29

**Tanner Michael Dalman**, 20, Prescott, was cited for non-registration of vehicle after a traffic stop at 1:12 a.m. at Pearl Street and Highway 10.

**Alexander Roger Terry**, 24, Menomonie, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 1:21 a.m. at Jefferson and Monroe streets.

A hit and run crash was reported at 2:08 a.m. at 145 Broad St.

**Lexa Keziah Kinneman**,

24, Hager City, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 8:35 a.m. at Highway 10 and Dexter Street.

Officers responded to a harassment complaint at 11:41 a.m. at 610 Hope St.

Police responded to a sus-

picious activity complaint at 5:46 p.m. at 190 Lawrence St. The suspect said she had locked herself out of her house and she had come to a friend's house to wait for them to come home and help her. The homeowner

confirmed the story.

**Cesar Paul Sanchez Arteaga**, 30, St. Paul, was cited for speeding after a traffic stop at 11:19 p.m. at Cherry Street and Highway 10.

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# RIVER FALLS Police Department Reports

The following incidents were reported to River Falls Police Department Jan. 17-23.

**Tuesday, Jan. 17**

A 14-year-old Meyer Middle School (230 N. Ninth St.) student was cited \$98.80 for habitual truancy. Staff had been working with the family on the truancy issues, but were unsuccessful.

At 10:37 a.m., a resident reported a catalytic converter theft from a 2006 Honda Element, which had been parked at 235 W. Johnson St. He reported hearing a loud sound outside around midnight, but did not discover the problem until 2 p.m. Jan. 16. A mechanic said the repair would cost \$850.

At 5 p.m., police responded to an anonymous complaint at 407 S. Wasson Lane that drugs were being used with a child present. When police arrived, the suspect, **Chandra Ann Helton, 24**, River Falls, opened the door and a strong marijuana odor emitted from the apartment. With permission, police entered and confiscated two pipes that tested positive for THC. Police checked on a 3-year-old child who was in a bedroom and appeared to be healthy. Officers also informed a 17-year-old's mother that she was there smoking marijuana. Pierce County Human Services was also informed. Helton was fined \$187 for possess drug paraphernalia.

**Wednesday, Jan. 18**

At 9:39 a.m., a resident at 237 Broadway St. reported an attempted catalytic converter theft on 2005 Honda CRV. The woman had parked her car in the lot before 9 p.m. the night before. When she started the vehicle the next day, it was loud. Her boyfriend looked under the car and found a knife and

that someone had attempted to cut off the converter. A neighbor approached police and said he saw three men dressed in black near the vehicle around 9 p.m. He yelled at them and they fled in a small black SUV with Minnesota plates. He was told to call police next time if he sees something like that. The damage will cost about \$800 to repair.

At 5 a.m., a resident reported a catalytic converter theft from a 2005 Honda CRV. The theft had occurred sometime between 9:42 p.m. Jan. 15 and 1:50 p.m. Jan. 16. A mechanic estimated the repair to cost \$1,200.

At 11:50 a.m., a student at River Falls High School (818 Cemetery Road) approached the School Resource Officer to report his size 12 gray Hey Dude shoes missing. They had been in his gym locker prior to Christmas break. When the school hosted a wrestling tournament, the gym lockers were cleaned out and staff places students' items in totes. Then when school resumed, the belongings were lined up in the hallway for claiming. His shoes were not found.

Police were called at 6:02 p.m. to Ace Hardware (1163 N. Main St.) for a man who had been walking in and out of the store all day, stealing items and huffing canned air. Officers located the suspect, **Caspar Gallegos, 25**, Willmar, Minn., near Main and Union streets. He told police he had been at Ace twice looking for his phone. Video surveillance showed him huffing a can of "Blow Off." He was arrested for abusing a hazardous substance and retail theft - intentionally take and transported to St. Croix County Jail.

**Thursday, Jan. 19**

Officers performed a

traffic stop at 11:14 p.m. at Hoffman Park (547 Hanson Drive) on a vehicle there after park hours. Two women were in the vehicle, which smelled strongly of marijuana. One woman admitted to getting a baggie of marijuana for her birthday, which was found in the vehicle along with drug paraphernalia. **Olivia Katherine Vanasse, 19**, River Falls, was arrested and cited \$187 for possess drug paraphernalia and \$187 for possession of THC.

**Friday, Jan. 20**

At 5:38 p.m., staff at Dollar Tree (1174 N. Main St.) called to report two high school girls who come in, open merchandise and throw it around. They had left before police arrived. Prior to Christmas, the girls had opened cereal and dumped it onto the floor and damaged medical items. This time, they had opened containers of Fabuloso and hand sanitizer and dumped it all over stuffed animals, T-shirts, etc. Employees had to close the store for two hours to clean up the mess. They also took powder and sprayed it all over the medications and aisles. In the bathroom, they opened the soap dispenser and dumped it all over the paper towels. A total of 54 items costing \$137.51 had been damaged. Police are reviewing store surveillance and photos to identify the girls.

**Saturday, Jan. 21**

Police were called at 12:04 a.m. to W10296 879<sup>th</sup> Ave. for a woman destroying the house and causing damage. The resident there said his ex-girlfriend had been staying with him but was not taking her medication. She was not being violent toward him, but she was emptying drawers, tear-

ing things off the walls and had broken a spice rack and cracked a floor tile. This was the second time in two days she had done this. When police arrived, the house was in complete disarray with things scattered and thrown everywhere. The woman, identified as **Amanda Christine Warfel, 38**, River Falls, told police she was cleaning. She was arrested for criminal damage to property and domestic disorderly conduct and transported to Pierce County Jail after a hospital evaluation.

An officer conducted a traffic stop at 2:25 a.m. at Main and Johnson streets after witnessing a vehicle pass another vehicle in the center line while going 43 mph. The car, which contained three women, smelled of marijuana. Police also saw a bottle of opened Absolut Lime Vodka behind the driver's seat. In the vehicle, police found a prescription bottle containing a smoking device and marijuana. **Taylor Ann Yardley, 18**, Hudson, said the marijuana belonged to her mom. She was cited \$187 for possession of marijuana and \$98.80 for speeding on city highway. **Alyssa Noelle Krohn, 19**, River Falls, admitted to drinking and registered a .04 BAC. She was cited \$197 for underage drinking.

Officers responded at 4:10 p.m. to 223 E. Maple St. for a property damage complaint. The driver's side window of a 2003 Toyota Camry, parked in the 200 block of Third Street, had been smashed by a blunt object sometime between 11 p.m. Jan. 20 and 5:30 a.m. Jan. 21. The damage is estimated to be \$500.

Police were called at 6:01 p.m. to 1047 N. Main St. for a disorderly person. A man had been fired from Walgreen's and was yelling at staff. When police arrived,

**Rashad Ali Henry, 45**, River Falls, was yelling at staff members in the parking lot, creating a scene in front of customers. He was trespassing from the store and told a third party could pick up his last paycheck at a later date.

At 8:18 p.m., a woman called police when she couldn't wake up her husband at 308 River St. An 83-year-old man was confirmed deceased. He had died after sitting in his recliner to watch his favorite show. The Pierce County coroner and Bakken Young Funeral Services also responded to the scene.

At 9:59 p.m., a caller reported a license plate stolen while parked at Wildcat Arena (861 Cemetery Road). The plate was taken from a 2019 Chevrolet Traverse sometime between 7 and 9:45 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 23**

Officers were dispatched at 8:03 a.m. to 137 W. Cascade Ave. for an illegal dumping complaint. An employee from Wieser Brothers General Contractor Inc. found trash, including a yard sign with a phone number, placed in the dumpster without permission. Police called the number on the sign and spoke with **Cassie Lynn Erickson, 47**, River Falls. She said her partner, **Mark Ernest Klecker, 45**, River Falls, had taken care of the garbage and told her that he had a dumpster at St. Croix Gas. When police reached him, he admitted to dumping the items illegally and offered to take the items back. He was cited \$187 each for two counts of unlawful disposal of solid waste. The company also wanted \$290 in restitution.

At 10:44 a.m., a 17-year-old Renaissance Academy student (125 E. Elm St.) was

cited for possessing two vapes, one of which contained THC. The student was also given a three-day out-of-school suspension.

At 5 p.m., police responded to 218 W. Charlotte St. for a neighbor dispute. Three residents there said a 72-year-old man was playing his music loudly in the apartment below them, so one of them pounded on the floor and yelled for him to turn the music down. The man came upstairs and began banging on doors. He allegedly wore kitchen gloves and pulled two knives out of his pockets while another man was trying to speak with him. A woman pulled him quickly into an apartment and called police. The music player's wife denied him having any knives, but said he'd been drinking for two weeks straight. He was warned.

At 10:13 p.m., officers were called to Walgreens (1047 N. Main St.) for an irate woman threatening staff and customers. The woman had come in inquiring about making a Western Union wire transaction, but was employees informed her Western Union was closed. The woman instantly became angry, called the employees dumb and swear words and smashed a container of Fun Dip on a display. The woman left, but sat in a vehicle outside honking her horn. When other customers left, the woman rolled down her window and screamed at them. She eventually left, but soon returned and drove through the parking lot very fast. Employees locked the door and called police, who are working on identifying the suspect.

## PIERCE COUNTY Land Transfers

The following property transfers were recorded by the Pierce County Register of Deeds Jan. 23-27.

**Monday, Jan. 23**

**Randy S. Yocom Estate to Tamara Holton & Scott Driscoll**, Pt. SE-SE, Sec. 16, Town of Spring Lake.

**Tuesday, Jan. 24**

None

**Wednesday, Jan. 25**

**William F. Jacques Estate to Joshua W. Lassi**, Pt. NW-NW, Sec. 18, Town of River Falls.

**Thursday, Jan. 26**

**John O. & Nancy H. Laird to St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity Inc.**, Lot 20,

Grotenhuis Addition, City of River Falls.

**TLC20 Enterprises LLC to Kinni Properties LLC**, N 49.5 feet of Lot 9, Block 1, Original Plat of Kinnickinnic, now City of River Falls.

**Friday, Jan. 27**

None

## PIERCE COUNTY Accident Reports

Deputies responded to a one-vehicle crash at 1:14 a.m. Jan. 26 on Highway 35 just west of 1200<sup>th</sup> Street in the town of Oak Grove. A 2012 Nissan VRS, driven by **Alvin Pushue Boy Wallace,**

20, New Hope, Minn., was traveling south on Highway 35, failed to maintain control and drove into the north ditch. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Wallace and passenger **Alexander Blessing Hart, 21**, New Hope, Minn., wore seat belts and reported no injuries. Wallace was cited for failure to keep vehicle under control.



One of two drop tanks providing water at the scene of a house fire Saturday, Jan. 28 on 320<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the town of Cady, east of Spring Valley. Submitted photo



The scene of a farmhouse fire was busy as multiple departments arrived Saturday, Jan. 28 on 320<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the town of Cady. Submitted photo



As Spring Valley firefighters arrive at a town of Cady housefire Saturday, Jan. 28, smoke billows from the rented farmstead. Submitted photo

## Fire

from Page 1

Elmwood, Glenwood City, Baldwin, Woodville, Hammond, Menomonie, Roberts, Hudson, and River Falls. Ellsworth firefighters shifted an engine and manpower to Spring Valley to provide backup while all crews were out.

Resident Jamie Hopkins said she and her husband, John, rent the home. He was just exiting the shower when someone rapped on the door and reported there was smoke and flames visible near the chimney. The couple quickly dressed, departed the house and took refuge in a vehicle to await help. Their son was also home at the time.

In a Facebook post, Jamie Hopkins wrote, "A gentleman stopped, knocked on our door, and said, 'Your house is on fire, get out,' and yup, it was, smoke was just pouring out of the top of the house. I yelled to Logan to get down here, the house is on fire and my poor

husband who was in the shower jumps out and gets dressed completely wet, trying to help me and Logan get our animals out, while at the same time I'm trying to frantically find my phone to call 911 ... by the time they got to the scene unfortunately, they couldn't get it contained, and it just kept spreading."

St. Croix property records list the farmstead as being owned by Duane and Linda Wilman of nearby Wilson.

The renter said they heat the home with a wood-burner and had just recently purchased \$400 worth of firewood and were planning to make more later that day.

Firefighters attacked the blaze from both inside and outside, using handlines and a ladder truck from Spring Valley. Water was provided from two portable tanks, fed by any of six tenders waiting along 320th and Hwy. 29. Other tankers relayed water from Spring Valley.

All units cleared the scene at 1:26 p.m. A Gofundme page has been set up to help the family. Go to Gofundme and search "Hopkins family in time of Crisis."



# Raye

from Page 1

"It didn't really hit until senior year," said Schmalstig. "I always knew I wanted to do something like this, but I wasn't sure that I could."

She graduated deep in the midst of "the Covid year" of 2020. She already knew learning online wasn't ideal for her. The options before her (a job, the military or college) didn't appeal to her. Nothing felt right, though she kicked around the idea of becoming an electrician.

The longing awoken long ago by "My Side of the Mountain" became stronger. She wanted to learn how to survive in the wild, like the main character in the book. She wanted to see if she had what it takes, to find her true self. She didn't want to be stuck in a classroom or behind a desk. She wanted to experience life, even if it was hard, uncomfortable or unknown.

Schmalstig researched and enrolled in Green University, a year-long immersion program in Cardwell, Mont., that teaches wilderness survival skills, sustainable living and green business entrepreneurship. In October 2020, she began the course by living with 15 students in a camp on the Jefferson River in Montana. They lived in a big, earthen lodge when they weren't traveling and cooked in a kitchen with three walls made of sticks, insulated with cardboard. Visiting instructors taught them how to skin animals and tan hides, to build fires with friction, to keep warm with a woodstove. The camp provided students rice, beans and oats to eat.

"We were on our own for everything else," Schmalstig said.

They picked up roadkill and processed the meat before tanning the hides. They could butcher meat from a herd of sheep at the camp. The number of students who stayed dwindled through the winter months.

"At the end of the year, there was a crew of like six of us," Schmalstig said. "I found out I really like living in that community setting because I like having people around to hang out with, work with. We



Beldenville native Raye Schmalstig is proud of her "trouse," a truck she has converted into a small house for her travels. Photo courtesy of Raye Schmalstig

got very close living together like that."

They had battles over who was going to get the dishes done, like a regular family.

Schmalstig said some of the primitive skills she learned came naturally, but many were challenging for her. At times, she wondered what she had gotten herself into.

"Most were pretty difficult to learn to be honest," she said. "I was really good at taking care of the sheep and came to be known as the Sheep Queen. It was trial by fire. Learning how to sleep warm outside. The animal processing was really difficult at first, though I learned to love it. The first roadkill deer we processed, I was dizzy with disgust and near fainting."

Her parents were reluctant and nervous when she enrolled in Green University.

"The website is old looking and the terminology made it seem cult-like," Schmalstig admitted. "But once I got there and started learning more and about the opportunities in primitive skills, they were really supportive."

Throughout that year, she discovered a knack for animal processing. She enjoys the intricate process of gutting and skinning the animal, tanning the hides, and cooking and preserving the meat. In fact, when she returned from Green University, she began working at Pierce County Meats, a job she held for almost nine months before the tug to the wilderness took her out West again.

## WinGate

In February 2022, Schmalstig attended Winter Count, a gathering in Arizona dedicated to reconnecting people with ancestral skills such as making fire, tanning hides, forming metal, weaving baskets, hunting and gathering. This is where she learned about WinGate, a nature-based adventure wilderness therapy program in southern Utah. The program provides troubled youth with actual wilderness experiences with the support of trained field staff, medical personnel and licensed therapists. She applied for a field guide position and was accepted.

"I built a bed in the back of my truck and moved to Utah in June," Schmalstig said.

She is known as a Windwalker, or a field guide. The youth clients are called Willow Walkers. She explained the story behind the names.

"Willows need the wind to grow strong and flexible," Schmalstig said. "They did an experiment where they had plants growing in a dome, without wind. They were breaking and shattering, because they couldn't use the wind to become resilient. We're there to be the wind to the willows."

Schmalstig typically works 15-day shifts out in the wilds of the Grand Staircase National Monument with adolescents and young adults. Her job is to help them learn how to live in the wilderness, stay warm and fed, teach them different skills and crafts.

"We aren't the therapists,



Raye Schmalstig, along with her classmates, learned how to make a dugout canoe at Green University's River Camp. Photo courtesy of Raye Schmalstig

but we're there as mentors if they need someone to talk to," Schmalstig said. "Some kids are excited to be there, some are sent there and not too happy about it."

At least two Windwalkers accompany every group, which by law is required to have one staff member per four youth. Most groups number three to eight youth, she said. They spend 15 days in the wilderness hiking and learning survival skills and crafts.

"Movement is important," Schmalstig said. "For cooking, we get all of our fires by friction, using a bow drill or a hand drill. The kids make their own kits out of sage, yucca or juniper. We cook on those fires and gather. We do lots of crafting, sewing with leather, carving spoons, bead looming."

During one shift, Schmalstig showed her group how to tan a rabbit hide. She said about half the kids are receptive to the program's intent of using nature to empower healing.

"Some kids are really excited to give the program their all, wanting to learn all they can and the therapeutic value of what they're doing and how it might help them," she said. "Some kids are pretty reluctant and angry to have been sent there, which is 100% understandable. You have to remember that the wilderness is doing the healing. The wilderness will teach you whether you want it or not. You have to hope that they'll mentally integrate those lessons later on."



Raye Schmalstig getting out of the field with her coworkers, Paul and Mason, at WinGate Wilderness Therapy in Kanab, Utah. Photo courtesy of Raye Schmalstig

Schmalstig said she feels most like herself when she's working in the field. She truly loves working with the kids, finding it rewarding, especially when it's difficult.

When she's not working in the wilds of Utah, her home is her Trouse, the truck she converted into a sort of camper.

"Why spend money on rent when I'm in the field 15 days at a time?" she reasoned. "The bed is comfy and I can travel around plenty."

She's gone to primitive skills gatherings in Idaho and visited friends in Montana. She can shower at the RV park in Kanab, Utah (her home base) for free. An abundance of public land makes finding a safe, free and legal place to park for the night easy. She finds the lifestyle financially freeing.

Schmalstig said her time in Pierce County 4-H helped

her prepare for working with youth. The freedom to explore her interests in 4-H, working with and mentoring other youth and learning responsibility helped prepare her for a rewarding career in wilderness therapy.

"I'm really liking working in wilderness therapy," she said. "I've never been settled down on anything for more than a year."

She plans to explore other interests, such as attending Buffalo Bridge (a Native American month-long bison hunt) and primitive skills gatherings to keep learning as much as she can.

"I want to encourage people to think about how they want to live their lives and to be creative. There's lots of adventure to be had out there. I'm having fun being a little nomadic," Schmalstig said.

# PC board

from Page 1

Supervisors Dean Bergseng, Sheila Lorenz, Angela Mathison, Melissa Petersen and Mel Pittman voted against the wage increase, recommended by the Finance & Personnel Committee after Matthys' annual evaluation. Pittman had proposed a 0% wage increase, but the amendment failed 5-12.

Aubart explained in a phone call Wednesday, Jan. 25 that F&P is charged with doing the county administrator's annual review and they make a recommendation for a raise (or none) to the county board, the process of which follows a county ordinance. The administrative coordinator position is not on the county's pay grid, which Aubart said was done before Matthys' predecessor JoAnn Miller was in the role.

The 4% increase will bring Matthys' salary for 2023 to \$136,368. The county board recently voted to increase wages for all non-represented staff on the county's salary matrix by a minimum of 4%, effective Jan. 1. County staff will also experience a step increase on their anniversary date of employment, pending a favorable review, which will equate to an additional 2 to 2.5% wage increase.

County administrators in Wisconsin made on average \$137,835 annually, according to Carlson Dettman Consulting Firm.

Aubart said the evaluation follows a form with specific performance measures, such as preparing the budget, attending meetings, providing evaluations for all department heads (with input from committees), etc.

"If they meet standards, they're entitled to the raise," Aubart said. "Everybody in the county this year, which is a little bit unusual because of the updated pay matrix, everybody got a minimum of 4% this year. If they had a grade step, they would get more. Jason has always been up front that he won't accept any more than anyone else."

As for the public comments made asking the board to place Matthys on leave, Aubart said it's important people have their say but he won't get into an argument with them.

"I just let people have their say and not get into a back and forth," he said. "That's a no win for me as chair, because it's just not going to end well. It's public comment and they can make their comments. The thing that bothers me as much as anything, is that it's taken out of context (Matthys' comments in the phone call). Nobody has ever talked to Jason and asked him about it. No one has talked to Jason or Brad (Lawrence, Corporation Counsel) or me. Many make up what they just think is the truth."

Town of River Falls resident Martin Kretzmann said he wants answers about the attorney's fees paid on Albarado's behalf, allegations that Lawrence "crossed an ethics line" and that former Human Resources Director Ron Schmidt was forced to resign, and why Albarado received alleged support from Matthys, Lawrence, Aubart and then Board Chair Jeff Holst in his hostile work environment complaint against Hove. He demanded that

the board cooperate fully with a Dunn County investigation (which is already complete, concerning policy violations allegedly committed by Albarado). Kretzmann said he collected 296 signatures on one petition and 126 on another from people who want the board to reject F&P's wage increase recommendation.

River Falls resident Stephanie Brown asked the board to reject the raise recommendation until an investigation into Matthys' conduct is complete. She also claimed the county is ignoring Freedom of Information Act requests.

"Matthys is not elected, you are," Brown said. "How many voices are you willing to ignore or silence?"

Board Supervisor Melissa Petersen brought up the county filing suit against Hove before a required resolution was passed by the full board. That ultimately factored into the case's dismissal. She also asked the board to table Matthys' raise until the La Crosse County district attorney reviews the goings on in Pierce County (which could end up in charges being filed or nothing at all).

An online attendee, who didn't give his name, chastised those who had spoken.

"Why did Sheriff Hove even launch the investigation (into Albarado's alleged policy violations)? Why was Dunn County involved at all? You don't have any idea what they're talking about. They have very little understanding of what went on in the first place," he said. "Start there and you will then realize how foolish you are."

John Shafer, town of Gilman, called recent events "a circus show type witch hunt against the county board and the current administrator."

"It appears that former Sheriff Nancy Hove and her supporters believe that the county board and the administrator are guilty of 'contempt of cop,'" Shafer said. "It is a type of abuse of power that many abusive law enforcement officers try to employ to intentionally violate the constitutional rights of all people."

Shafer said he doesn't want to go back to the days of former County Administrator Mark Schroeder, former District Attorney John O'Boyle, former Judge Robert Wing and former Law Enforcement Committee Chair John Kucinski, whom he called horrible and dangerous people who created a toxic work environment.

Shafer also accused Hove of covering up a crime years ago of one of her "friends and allies."

Hove said in an email Jan. 25 that Shafer was referring to a case brought to the sheriff's office before she was sheriff, investigated after she became sheriff and when brought to the district attorney for charging, he refused to do so.

"The case was a family member who didn't like the way the family was treating him so he left the farm and went on his own," Hove said. "The dispute was over property that was taken. There was no proof to show who was owner of the property. The Shafer family brought their issue to the county board and the board told them they were not going to deal with it. The Shafers then took this case to the Ethics Board

in Madison. It was found that there were no ethical violations on the county's behalf. The Shafers were told that this is a civil matter."

Shafer asked the board to investigate Hove for misconduct and ethical violations.

"What she and her allies did would have landed most people in prison," Shafer said. "My hope and prayer is that we can make progress towards civility and put people and country ahead of any personal, political agendas."

## Supervisors speak

Bergseng said he didn't support the court case against Sheriff Nancy, filed Nov. 7, and the findings in the Dunn County investigation exposed some areas of how the county is run.

"The Albarado fees is one area," Bergseng said. "I would like to ask at our next county board meeting to have a closed session to discuss how our county has been run the past couple of years and discuss solutions and better transparency."

The Journal provided supervisors a chance to comment on the wage increase vote by email.

Supervisor Neil Gulbranson, a former PCSO chief deputy, voted in favor of Matthys' raise, which was the same percentage other county employees received this year.

"Personnel matters and evaluations are regulated by state and federal law and handled not in public meetings, but in closed sessions," Gulbranson said. "It is unlawful to disclose publicly what takes place in closed sessions and I will not break that law. What I will say is I find recording private conversations completely wrong, sneaky and unethical. If this type of activity is condoned or encouraged by the Board of Supervisors and we fail to communicate that it will not be tolerated by any employee in any way without authorization, what will stop other employees from doing the same?"

"I will say to the citizens of Pierce County, our Administrative Coordinator Jason Matthys, whom I have known personally for more than 20 years, is a professional and will keep Pierce County's best interests in mind. Additionally, I know Sheriff Koranda and most of his employees want to move forward and they deserve our full support along with all the other county departments. They have mine and I know they have Jason's."

Supervisor Angela Mathison, who voted against the raise, said she struggled heavily with the decision because she thinks Matthys does a great job as county admin.

"With me being brand new to the board, I find Jason to be very knowledgeable and accessible for all questions and he is always prepared at our meetings," Mathison said. "With that being said, the news about the phone call transcripts and the ongoing investigation led me to think a pause on this might be in order until all the facts were straightened out. I received several emails from my constituents demanding we wait on this decision and more."

"When I ran for Pierce County Board, I was adamant about having transparency in our government. When making decisions/votes I've been very conscious about reading all the

factors in our packets, and listening to my constituents. After all, they are why I'm sitting on that board. I never want to be complacent on the board. I work for the people who just want their voices heard. My hope for when the dust settles on all of this: more transparency and regained trust in our local government."

Supervisor Jim Ashbach voted in favor of Matthys' raise, he said, based upon the guidelines provided to F&P for his 2022 review.

"I chose not to deviate from these guidelines as that could open the county and any supervisors to potential litigation," Ashbach said.

Supervisor Dale Auckland was on the same page as Ashbach and said Matthys has consistently met or exceeded the position's requirements.

Pittman said he has spent much time the past three months researching and receiving information through FOIA from Pierce County in an attempt to understand what has been going on in the sheriff's office and county.

"One year ago at the AC's pay adjustment, I became concerned with remarks made about the Sheriff with comments coming from AC and some County Board members. This piqued my attention as to what is actually the case," Pittman said. "Last evening at the County Board meeting when numerous times there were comments made about the information disclosed about Matthys and former CD (Albarado) recently retired being false and taken out of context, in my opinion that is a lame excuse to deflect what actually occurred. Mr. Matthys' words and actions taken are accurate in the FOIA documents. Myself as a County Supervisor, I need to hold him accountable and certainly not reward him with any pay increase. I had high regard for Mr. Matthys prior to this past year; integrity means a lot to me and once it's diminished, trust is difficult."

Supervisor/Vice Chair Michael Kahlow said he's sad to see Aubart's and Matthys' integrity questioned.

"These are two men who, before they took on their respective positions, were the #2 leaders in their respective law enforcement organizations (River Falls Police Department and Pierce County Sheriff's Department). Both are among the most honest people I've ever met," Kahlow said. "Jason Matthys has saved the county hundreds of thousands of dollars, first through his leadership (as Deputy Sheriff) in guiding the construction of the Pierce County Law Enforcement Center (bringing it in under budget), and currently through his stewardship of the county's employees and budget as Administrative Coordinator. He is an asset to the county, and we are lucky to have him."

"The particular issue involves quotes by AC Matthys which are completely devoid of context. Due to the threats of ongoing litigation by the former sheriff, and the personnel issues involved, I and other board members are unable to give details surrounding this conversation. However, I trust that at the end of the day, it will be clear that the Finance and Personnel Committee and the Pierce County Board have been acting in the best interests of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department and the citizens of the county."

# PRESCOTT Area News



Prescott Speech Team members at the Jan. 28 home invitational: (front row, from left) Lili Campfield-Huth, Ella Johnson, Rian Engeldinger, Delia Warp, Erica Jennings, Kelcey Hanson, Madison Schmitz; (middle) Will Markert, Mabel Rohl, Cara Fiedler, Allie Tibayan, Grace Ryan, Sophie Kapsh, Bryn Ryan, Andaria Henderson, Max Dearborn; (back) Coach Sponholz, Shira Stubbe, Rory Zuehlsdorf, Kendra Ogilvie, Katie Huppert, MaKenna Ogilvie, Hunter Dearborn, Owen Henderson, Abby Stubbe, Kaitlyn Sanney, Coach Early. Photo courtesy of Tanya Sponholz

## PHS Forensics takes 1st at home

PRESCOTT – The Prescott High School Speech Team placed first in team sweepstakes in a field of eight teams at its home invitational Saturday, Jan. 28.

Nineteen students received individual awards: Nora Boles (first in Demonstration), Kinsey Peterson (second in Demonstration and first in Solo Acting), Abby Stubbe (fourth in Demonstration), Kendra and MaKenna Ogilvie (fifth in Demonstration), Rian Engeldinger (first in Extemporaneous Speaking), Sophia Kapsh (second in Farrago), Addison Huppert (first in Informative), Allie Tibayan (first in Moments in History), Cara

Fiedler (second in Moments in History), Erica Jennings (first in Oratory), Bryn Anderson (third in Oratory), Kelcey Hanson (fourth in Poetry), Grace Ryan (fourth in Prose), Ella Johnson (first in Public Address), Mabel Rohl (third in Radio Speaking), Rory Zuehlsdorf (second in Special Occasion), Will Markert (second in Storytelling), and Delia Warp (fourth in Storytelling).

PHS tech education students created the wooden award plaques.

Submitted by Prescott High School



Prescott Malone fifth graders who took part in the 2023 Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest (from left): Rainer Haeg, Westley Drew, Aubree Shanley (second place), Kenzie Ward and Maeve Hasselquist (first place). Photo courtesy of Prescott School District

## Malone students excel in conservation contest

PRESCOTT – Prescott students in fifth grade ELA Extensions classes diligently prepared, presented, and recorded three- to five-minute speeches for the 2023 Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest sponsored by Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and the Pierce County Land Conservation Department. The speeches were required to promote the conservation of natural resources and the protection or enhancement of environmental quality by addressing topics such as soil and water conservation with a specific emphasis on how it affects Pierce County.

Participants from Prescott Intermediate School included fifth grade students Parker Gallant, Sydney Wimber, Westley Drew, Brexton Cole, Zachary Foulks, Owen John-

son, Sam Martin, Vera Martin, Henry Steffen, Lauren Wall, Maeve Hasselquist, Rainer Haeg, Kenzie Ward, and Aubree Shanley. Cardinal Quest Coordinator Michelle Jansen facilitated participation in the contest.

The Pierce County Land & Water Conservation Department awarded second place in the county to Aubree Shanley for her speech on water pollution. First place in the Pierce County Elementary Division went to Maeve Hasselquist for her informative speech about wild parsnip. Hasselquist will represent Pierce County and the region in the state contest on March 1 in Wisconsin Dells. Congratulations to all tremendous and dedicated speakers!

Submitted by Prescott School District

## Prescott council OKs water rate study, borrowing for road projects

By John McLoone

The Prescott City Council meeting on Monday, Jan. 23 touched on some topics that will shape the city's financial future for years to come.

After separate presentations by Ehlers Public Finance Advisors, the council voted to seek a full water rate study from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and will move forward with borrowing to rebuild Elm, Locust and Washington streets.

The council in November voted for staff to do a cash flow analysis on water rates. The city last year approved asking for a simplified rate increase with the PSC of 4.5 percent, but a full rate study hasn't been conducted for Prescott since 1997.

As part of the analysis, city staff put together a list of capital projects on the books for the next 10 years. The projects, including water utility work for street projects, would require borrowing of \$1.2 million.

The study shows that the average residential user water bill would increase about 37 percent, or \$100 per year for water usage.

Brian Roemer of Ehlers said that even at that level Prescott's rates "are still on the lower end of 80 percent of utility bills in the area."

The PSC process of reviewing Prescott's data and setting new rates will take about eight months. Once the rate case is started, the city has to accept the PSC rate findings.

Council members expressed the opinion that there's no other option but to ask for the PSC study.

"I don't like it," said Bailey Ruona, who ran the meeting in the absence of Mayor Rob Daugherty. "It's too bad the last time we looked at it was 1997."

"We kicked it down the road long enough," said Pat Knox.

City Administrator Matt Wolf commented, "We need to seriously take a look at our water funding. This is a long-term issue that isn't going to go away."

### Borrowing resolution

The council vote to move forward with borrowing \$4.73 million at an interest rate of between 3.5 – 4.5 percent for the Elm/Locust/Washington streets rebuild was 5-1, with Alderperson Thomas Oss in opposition.

Oss made a motion at the onset of the discussion to wait a year or two for the project because of economic uncertainty. At the Jan. 9 meeting, Oss was the lone alderperson opposed to paying off an existing bond issue that has an interest rate of 2.2 percent to take on debt at a higher interest rate.

Oss asked Sean Lentz of Ehlers, "Retire-

ment of debt at 2 percent and replacing it with debt at 4-5 percent, is it normal procedure to advise clients to do something like that?"

Lentz explained that the city had reserve fund balance available to pay off the older debt issue. In doing so, with taking on the debt for the street projects to be done over the next two years, it will keep the debt retirement portion of the property tax bill stable.

"So, you don't necessarily advise your clients to do something like that?" Oss asked.

"Without any other issues, no, we do not," said Lentz.

In making the motion to wait on the borrowing and road projects, Oss said, "Kick the can down the road for one to two years and reassess it at that point ... Move it down one-two years to reconsider and maybe find stability in some greatly volatile times economically. I know nobody wants to do that."

He termed the debt payments as "onerous."

Alderperson Maureen Otwell responded, "I don't think it's onerous at the moment. It will not do any more than we're already doing. We took a year off three or four years ago of doing street projects. We all know the biggest problem in the city are streets. That's what we hear most about."

Lentz projected that the debt service portion of the tax levy will remain steady for the next seven years, including with a proposed purchase of a new fire truck in the \$1 million range in 2027.

### Comprehensive plan amendment

The council approved a first reading of an amendment to the city's Comprehensive Plan that sets a new north-south roadway that would run from 570<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the south to Highway 10 on the north. The road would be developed at 1242<sup>nd</sup> Street, and it would only be built if developers were to annex property into the city and want to develop it.

The property is all located in Oak Grove Townships, and several town residents spoke in opposition to it at a public hearing at the Jan. 3 plan commission meeting.

The original north-south corridor in the Comprehensive Plan was north from 570<sup>th</sup> Avenue on what is now Sea Wing Boulevard. Great Rivers Subdivision developers told the city last year that if the road is built there, it would restrict future phases of the subdivision. More importantly, building the road in that location would have required a 1,000-foot-long bridge over a ravine that would have pushed the price of the road north of \$11 million.

A second reading of the Comprehensive Plan change will take place at the Feb. 13 council meeting.

## PRESCOTT KIWANIS CLUB Student of the Week

The Prescott High School Kiwanis Student of the Week for Feb. 1 is freshman Bradan Hammer, nominated by PHS teacher Amy Nadeau.

"Bradan is a diligent student who works hard to achieve his goals," Nadeau said. "He is respectful, helpful and cooperative in and out of the classroom. I have enjoyed having Bradan in my class."

Bradan is the son of Greg Hammer and Amanda Niebur. He enjoys collecting hats and plays on the football and basketball teams. In the future, he plans to pursue whatever he finds fun!

Submitted by Prescott High School



Bradan Hammer

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Prescott Area Food Pantry is searching for community minded persons to "Help Us To Help Those In Need". We are getting busier and our construction project is coming along according to schedule.

Additional positions are available

- Shelf Stockers
- Delivery Drivers
- Delivery Truck Unloaders
- Product Pickup Drivers
- Kitchen Help
- Custodial Services
- Outside and Inside Maintenance



Contact Pete French, Director, at 715-262-4143

## Gathering Place activities

PRESCOTT – Welcome February! It may be chilly outside, but Prescott Senior Gathering Place is a warm comfortable place to be! Not just temperature wise but with the warmth of friendship and laughter. Activities vary throughout the month.

**Thursday, Feb. 2:** "How to Thursday" features Canasta being taught. Several members have discovered they all used to play the game and are enjoying re-

correcting their skills. Come join us for a fun game.

**Friday, Feb. 3:** Memory Cafe meets at First National Bank lower level (1151 Canton St.) from 10-11:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, Feb. 7:** Pickleball players meet and play in the school gym at 9 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. Programming/Publicity committees meet. At noon a soup lunch is provided, everyone is welcome!

**Wednesday, Feb. 8:** Card games 12:30-3:30 p.m.,

join your friends in Euchre, Bridge or game of your choice.

**Thursday, Feb. 9:** Speaker at 1p.m. is Pierce County Adult Protection Worker Cheryl Braun, who will talk about "Elder Abuse in Pierce County."

Senior Gathering Place is open to all ages 55 years and older. We are located at 1220 St. Croix St., Door 5. Follow the signs across from the football field and enter at Door 5. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. If the school is closed due to inclement weather, Gathering Place will be closed too.

If you need transportation, call Penny Peterson at 715-262-4676 or email her at ppeterson2@prescott.k12.wi.us

Submitted by Janet Cleary

**MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER**

2023 National PHEASANT FEST & Quail Classic

BUY 1 GET 1 ADMISSION

FEB. 17-19

PheasantFest.org

FEDERAL

# ELLSWORTH Area News



## SUPERINTENDENT'S Column

BY BARRY CAIN

### Update to school calendar

School districts around our area of the state have had to make a number of adjustments to school calendars and snow day models with the large number of snow days already this year. To this date we have had eight school days affected by weather leading to cancellations of school or partial days.

As communicated previously, our school calendar had two days already built in that are now student contact days. With our latest snow day last week, we have also transitioned our scheduled teacher inservice day of Monday, Feb. 20 to a day of school for all students and staff.

As an added measure to address further snow days, we are also moving to a "Distance Learning Model" when possible for inclement weather disruptions. Middle school and high school students will be utilizing their Chromebooks to log on for the day, while elementary students will be provided with packets for the day. This is a model being utilized by many districts who have chosen to move to distance learning days. I want to make it clear that we do not see this option as providing the same educational quality as in-person instruction but the level of impact this winter is having on our school calendar has made this the best option moving forward

in order to provide us with the greatest ability to avoid added days in June and disruptions to our summer school program.

We will also be adjusting our daily schedule slightly to ensure that we meet the state required minutes of instruction. Beginning on Monday, Feb. 6, the school day will begin 5 minutes earlier (8 a.m.) in all buildings. Morning bus pick up times will remain the same. These added minutes, along with the move to the "Distance Learning" days will provide us with the needed minutes for all buildings as mandated.

Below is a summary of school schedule and calendar changes that we are making moving forward:

Monday, Feb. 6 - School start time will move to 8 a.m. Morning bus pick up times will remain the same.

Monday, Feb. 20 - School day for all students (was a teacher inservice day)

Monday, April 10 - School day for all students (built in snow day on calendar)

Friday, June 2 - School day for all students (built in snow day on calendar)

Distance Learning Days - Details provided for each building level by email on Jan.

Thank you for all your continued support and flexibility this year!

## St. Francis School celebrates Catholic Schools Week

ELLSWORTH – Since 1974, Catholic schools across the United States have joined together annually to observe National Catholic Schools Week. The celebration is a time to recognize the value Catholic education provides to young people and families, and the contributions Catholic schools make to our church, communities, and nation. This year's observance takes place Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 2023.

The theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week, "Catholic Schools: Faith, Excellence, and Service," encompasses three concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor, and enrich society with the influence of the gospel and by example of faith. Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. The focus of service is intended to help form people who not only carry out Catholic social teaching but are also active participants throughout society.

"The Holy Spirit is present in our classrooms" said Mark Matzek, St. Francis School Administrator. "Our



Catholic Schools  
Faith. Excellence. Service.

devoted and exceptional teaching staff are second to none. They are true professionals who care deeply for their students' academic and spiritual well-being."

Catholic schools have a reputation of academic excellence and faith-filled education for students nationwide. National test scores, high school graduation rates, college attendance and other data show that Catholic schools frequently outperform schools in both the public and private sectors.

There are 5,938 Catholic schools in the United States

National average staffing ratio for Catholic schools is 12:1

78.4% of Catholic schools serve children with mild to moderate special needs

High school graduation rate of students who attended Catholic schools is 99% and

college attendance is 86%

Based on the average public school per pupil cost of \$14,455, Catholic schools provide more than 22.7 billion dollars a year in savings for the nation.

These statistics and their own personal experiences confirm to St. Francis Catholic School parents that by choosing a Catholic school education for their children, they are providing the best education available.

During National Catholic Schools Week, St. Francis students will be taking part in daily activities based on the following themes: Celebrating Our Community, Celebrating Our Students, Celebrating the Nation and Families, Celebrating Vocations, and Celebrating Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers. Activities include an open house, book fair, dress-up days, bingo, Books & Breakfast, and a Glow Dance.

Families interested in more information about Catholic Schools Week or attending St. Francis School can visit the school's website at [www.stfrancisellsworth.org](http://www.stfrancisellsworth.org). Parents can also arrange for school tours by appointment by contacting the school at 715-273-4391.

Submitted by St. Francis School

## Manore and Moesch complete apprenticeships, earn journey status

ELLSWORTH – Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services employees Austin Manore and Isaiah Moesch recently graduated from a four-year indentured lineworker apprenticeship program offered through Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire and Northwest Technical College in Green Bay, respectively. Manore joined the cooperative May 1, 2018, and Moesch joined the cooperative April 25, 2022.

The Electrical Lineworker Apprenticeship Program is a four-year program that requires the completion of 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and 640 hours spent in classroom-related instruction. As apprentices, Manore and Moesch completed this training to achieve their status as journey electrical lineworkers.



Austin Manore (left) and Isaiah Moesch graduated from their four-year indentured lineworker apprenticeship programs and are now journeymen with Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services. Photo courtesy of PPCS

"We're proud to have Austin and Isaiah complete their apprenticeships," said Ristow. "The training and knowledge they have received through their apprenticeships will help them perform highly skilled work

on our electric distribution system. We're proud to have them as part of our cooperative family."

Submitted by Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services



(From left): John Thompson, Sharon Hofmeister, Crystal Johnson, John Sackett (Royal Credit Union Foundation Board President), Pam Enger, Sharon Schulze, Audrey Severson, Ellsworth Library Director Tiffany Meyer, Judy Perkins, Caroline Herfindahl, Village President Becky Beisel, Patty Murphy, Henrietta Jansa, Michael Perry, and Linda Johnson celebrate a \$30,000 grant received from the RCU Foundation for the Ellsworth Public Library Children's and Teen's Area. Photo by Sarah Nigbor

## RCU Foundation gifts \$30K to EPL

By Sarah Nigbor

ELLSWORTH – On Thursday, Jan. 25, Ellsworth Public Library staff, Friends of the Ellsworth Public Library and others gathered to celebrate a \$30,000 grant received from the RCU Foundation.

The grant, applied for by Roxy Birkel and Sharon Schulze, went toward furnishing the new Maker's Space, Children's Area and Teen Room in the new library, located at 388 W. Main St. in Ellsworth.

Library Director Tiffany Meyer said it was a wonderful watching several children and families "joyfully using the space" the first two days the new library was open. The library opened for business on Jan. 24.

"This donation will have a positive and long-lasting impact in our community," Meyer said.

John Sackett, president of the RCU Foundation, was on hand to present the ceremonial check, along with Royal Credit Union Grant & Giving Coordinator Melanie Baumgart. He said the foundation receives many requests from RCU's service area. The goal of the foundation is to make a positive impact on the communities it serves.

"It's beautiful," Sackett said of the new library space. "We're glad to see how it turned out."

Since the foundation's inception, it has awarded \$8 million to community projects in western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota; eight of those projects have involved libraries.

Libraries are not just a place to check out books, Sackett said.

"What they are is a functioning organization within the community," he said.



Ellsworth High School tech education students and staff pose with Bill Paider and Randy Brickner, two area auto mechanics who donated two Snap-On Tools starter kits to EHS on Thursday, Jan. 26. Photo by Sarah Nigbor



(From left): EHS teacher Rob Heller, EHS teacher Kasey Bass, Bill Paider and David Lien of Courtesy Auto, Randy Brickner of Brickner's Auto, Jason Adam of Meadwood Tool Co. and Wesley Korum of Snap-On Tools. Brickner and Paider each donated a tool box to EHS. Paider loaned a golf cart to EHS classes to take apart and reassemble. Photo by Sarah Nigbor

## Sparking an interest in auto mechanics

By Sarah Nigbor

ELLSWORTH – Two Ellsworth auto mechanics want to spark an interest in students to consider a possible career in their field and kicked things off with a significant donation last week.

Randy Brickner of Brickner's Auto and Bill Paider of Courtesy Auto each donated a Snap-On Tools Blue-Point starter kit to Ellsworth High School's tech education department Thursday, Jan. 26. The kits contain one of every essential tool needed in an automotive garage.

The hope is the donation will give students opportunities to become interested in automotive mechanics.

"The school didn't have a lot of tools available to the kids for their courses," Paider said. "We bought the toolboxes to try to get some kids interested in the trades."

The Snap-On Tools trailer visits both Brickner and Paider each week, bringing with it an overwhelming array of new tools and equipment.

EHS tech ed teacher Rob Heller is grateful for the donation. He believes developing relationships in the



Bill Paider of Courtesy Auto brought a golf cart for EHS students to take apart and reassemble with new parts. Once it's finished, it will be sold in his shop. Photo by Sarah Nigbor

community is paramount to student success.

"Anytime you can build a relationship between a business and a school in the community, everyone wins," Heller said. "The tools will help bridge the gap between dad's garage and industry standards."

Bass echoed Heller's gratitude.

"I thank them for their generosity and giving the kids an opportunity to learn some real skills," he said.

Paider also brought a golf

cart to EHS for the students to strip down to the frame and rebuild. David Lien, who is Courtesy Auto's golf cart specialist, will assist the students as needed. They will get a taste of installing the electronics, design, painting and mechanics. They will even have to cut into the body to install accessories. It will be a true experience of learning by doing.

Once the golf cart is complete, it will be sold in Courtesy Auto's showroom.

# RIVER FALLS Area News

## River Falls food pantry, CVTC pair up to fight hunger

By Alyssa Van Duyse  
Chippewa Valley Technical College

RIVER FALLS – Candice Anderson realizes that she needs college students, and they need her.

As the executive director of the River Falls Community Food Pantry, she's always looking for volunteers to help distribute much-needed food.

Chippewa Valley Technical College at River Falls and UW-River Falls students fit the bill.

"Every semester, we get a few students," she said. "When people come and get food from us, they put together a shopping list – kind of like Instacart. We've needed a few more people recently to fill orders."

Anderson said an influx of students each school year naturally comes with more need, therefore, she put together grab-and-go items that work well for college students in need.

Jen Sell, CVTC at River Falls campus manager, said she's grateful Anderson is willing to help students too.

"On a regular basis, the River Falls Food Pantry prepares a complimentary box of snacks and shelf-stable food items for our students at the River Falls campus," Sell said. "We have baskets with that food in our Learning Center for students to take as needed."

Anderson considers it a win-win. Food is going to



Each week when college students are on campus, Jen Sell, Chippewa Valley Technical College at River Falls campus manager, travels to the River Falls Community Food Pantry and picks up food for students in need. The items are located in the College's Learning Center. Photo courtesy of CVTC

people who need it, and she's getting volunteers as well. She doesn't have an assistant, so if students are office-minded, she can train them as her assistant.

Being that Anderson is a 2015 business management graduate of CVTC, she

knows the college students in town should not be forgotten.

"If they need food assistance they get it," she said. "They don't have to be a River Falls resident. They are part of the community, even if they don't live here permanently."

## RF council

from Page 1

1986. The city built a cap and gas venting system for \$1.5 million in 1995, which was paid off in 2007. The city still incurs operating costs such as environmental testing, providing drinking water to one household, overhead cost allocations and investment service fees.

Bjork pointed out that the fund contains enough money to take care of potential remediation costs for 50-years plus, according to City Finance Director/Treasurer Josh Solinger.

"I guess I have an issue with us collecting money towards a fee that is not required," Bjork said. "If we're going to collect this money, what's it really for?"

The fund currently contains \$3,277,641, of which \$1.5 million has been lent to other city funds: \$1 million to the Business Development & Tourism Fund and \$500,000 to Tax Increment District 10. No repayment schedules or interest rates have been determined, City Administrator Scot Simpson confirmed.

The two largest potential costs for the landfill are claims against the city and capital costs, such as replacing the landfill cap and ventilation system, which today would cost about \$2.9 million, Simpson said.

"At the time (the fee was implemented), there was concern about the unknown ongoing maintenance of the property, per the DNR, including environmental and groundwater monitoring and any related remediation or assistance to impacted neighboring properties," Simpson said. "Because it's a long-term fiduciary responsibility, we have limited avenues for investment."

"I agree with you that the fee has met its expected responsibilities and that we can look at other options now going forward."

The council has some latitude in determining what the environment fee fund is, if it can be used for other things. The dog park sits on top of the landfill.

The fund has paid for almost \$5 million in expenses since 1995.

"This has been an expensive endeavor to responsibly close and monitor a landfill that we operated for maybe 15 to 20 years," Simpson said.

Typical annual costs now are about \$40,000. However, Simpson cautioned, the DNR may require expanded testing one day for emerging contaminants such as Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAs).

"I'm in no rush to change this," Alderson Todd Bjerstedt said. "I worry greatly about what happens in Washington DC. We could get a surprise very easily."

Alderson Scott Morrissette agreed, but suggested formalizing terms for the loans that had been given.

"I'm glad to have attention on this, but I have concerns about stuff popping up."

Alderson Diane Odeen said landfills are forever and future councils will still be liable.

"I'm not in favor of eliminating the fund, but maybe we think about adjusting the fee."

The council agreed to leave things be, but may consider reducing the fee at a later date.

### Election inspectors

The council approved a resolution to change the number of required election inspectors per polling place from seven to five. State law recently changed, allowing municipalities to reduce the number of election officials required. Each polling place must have at least three inspectors.

According to a city memo, staff has noticed a decline in voter turnout in primary elections leading to the spring election each year. The

2021 Spring Primary saw a 3% voter turnout, while the 2022 Spring Primary yielded 4%. City staff hope the change will simplify the scheduling process for lower turnout events. During larger events, staff plan to evaluate and increase the number of election inspectors accordingly to meet voter demand.

Patricia Larue, River Falls, has been an election inspector for over a decade and seen many changes. She said the city invested in elections operations during the COVID pandemic so residents could get in, vote, and leave, quickly and safely, which has paid off.

"Election inspectors such as myself are now much better equipped to handle more voters, better and efficiently," LaRue said. "We no longer need to page through huge poll books, hand write registration forms or perform audits late into the night."

### Bo Jon's

The council approved a combination Class A liquor and Class A beer license for Bo Jon's Flowers & Gifts. Morrissette called the application unusual.

Business owner Jeffrey Powers said they plan to sell gift baskets that might contain craft beers or wine for special occasions.

"It's as simple as wine and roses," said Powers. "You know, date night packages with a bouquet of roses and a bottle of wine."

### Vibrant Spaces grant

The council approved a resolution authorizing city staff to apply for a Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Vibrant Spaces grant for Inlow Park, located at the northwest corner of Main and Division streets. The WEDC will award up to 30 grants of \$25,000 to \$50,000 to communities to develop and enhance public spaces.

The city hopes to add a new pocket park to the area that will "be a vibrant gateway to our downtown area," a memo stated. Possible amenities include an EV charging station, food truck space, meandering path to a river overlook, nature-inspired landscaping, picnic tables, pollinator plantings and trailhead signage with walking routes throughout downtown. The existing petroleum vapor recovery building would be demolished.

Applications were due Jan. 31. Award announcements will be made Feb. 1.

### Oppidan Investments

The council approved a development agreement with Oppidan Investment Company for a 94,000 square foot industrial building in Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park on a 7.5-acre lot. Oppidan is a national property development company headquartered in Excelsior, Minn. It focuses on senior housing, mixed-use and industrial development.

The company has developed more than 566 projects valued at more than \$4.3 billion in 40 states and Canada. This building is valued at \$7.5 million and will include leasable industrial/manufacturing space to tenants.

### Other business

The council approved the following: Repealing and recreating two ordinances regarding utility and street excavations and right-of-ways.

A general development plan for a 106-unit multi-family development on Radio Road.

The city administrator annual review performance process, adding a third council representative to the committee.

A lease between the city and Dan and Annette Johnson, who farm approximately 31 acres atop the ridge in Whitetail Corporate Park.

A lease between the city and Peterson Family Dairy Inc., who crop farm a city-owned property off County Road FF.

A resolution formally recognizing the city's park inventory.

## Winter Wellness Series at RFPL

RIVER FALLS – Earlier this month, the River Falls Public Library launched its first Winter Wellness Series for adults. It is based on The Eight Dimensions of Wellness, a wellness framework developed by Dr. Swarbrick in the late 90s. These dimensions are identified as Physical, Spiritual (or Secular), Social, Intellectual, Emotional, Occupational, Environmental, and Financial. Understanding this model allows us to build new habits and find balance in our lives. In early January, this model was presented by Tonya Schmitt, owner of Mindful SOULutions. If you missed her presentations, you can still watch the recording of it online. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/tonyaschmitt>

From now until April 1, we have a variety of programs that touch on these areas of wellness, and many are hosted by local professionals in our wellness community. For more information about our programs, go to <https://riverfallspubliclibrary.org/>.

There is also a fun game for adults to play with a chance to win fabulous prizes from the Library Foundation. We call it our Luminous Game. Come in and pick up a program brochure and game board. While you are here, sit for a while and try out our new Happy Lamps and foot massage machines donated by Heidi Roettger, owner of MBC Collaborative and Tonya Schmitt.

Submitted by Library Director Tonya Misselt



Ali Bruflat, of River Falls, enjoys a relaxing read while getting a foot massage at the library. Biodegradable booties are provided by the library. Photo courtesy of River Falls Public Library

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Our Neighbors' Place will host its annual fundraising Casino Night at Kilkarney Hills Golf Course Saturday, Feb. 4. Submitted photo

## Casino Night fundraiser is Feb. 4

RIVER FALLS – Join Our Neighbors' Place for a fun night out! Casino Night will be held 6-9 p.m. at Kilkarney Hills Golf Course (163 Radio Road).

Tickets are \$50 each and include table games (blackjack and poker), live music (Half Shebang), heavy appetizers and desserts throughout the evening, silent auction, one drink ticket, wine raffle, and 50/50 raffle drawing.

Proceeds support ONP programming, which includes operating the Day Center,

Closet, Backpack Program, and transitional housing to families in need. Our Neighbors' Place is a 501c3 nonprofit providing help and hope to anyone in Pierce and St. Croix counties who is struggling to meet their basic needs.

Purchase tickets online at <https://www.ourneighborsplace.org> or at the Day Center (open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 122 W. Johnson St., River Falls).

Submitted by Our Neighbors' Place

**Almost, MAINE**

a romantic comedy by John Cariani / Dramatists-Play-Service  
Directed by Lori Peterson

Spring Valley Stagehands Community Theatre  
5234 McKay Venue, Spring Valley, WI

Feb. 10 & 11  
7:00 p.m.

Feb. 12: 2:00 p.m.

Feb. 16, 17 & 18:  
7:00 p.m.

Feb. 19: 2:00 p.m.

- Adults: \$12
- Seniors (65+): \$10
- Students (thru HS): \$10

Reserve your seats online at [www.svstagehands.org](http://www.svstagehands.org) or get tickets at the door



REAGAN HOVERMAN  
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Twitter: @PCJournalSports

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Dallas Wallin of the Prescott boys basketball team slams home an alley-oop dunk off the glass during a game earlier this season. Wallin had a dunk in Saturday night's home game against Elk Mound in which he scored 28 points and officially joined the career 1,000-point club. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Prescott junior forward Dallas Wallin looks for an open teammate during a game earlier this year against Racine St. Catherine's at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

## Prescott's Dallas Wallin scores 1,000th career point in win over Elk Mound

By Reagan Hoverman

After making a free throw late in the second half of the 67-56 win over Elk Mound at home, Prescott junior Dallas Wallin officially joined the career 1,000-point club. Wallin is the seventh player in program history to accomplish the rare high school feat.

Wallin is only the second player in Prescott history to cross the 1,000-point threshold as a junior, joining now-senior teammate Jordan Malmlov who was the first to do it during his

junior campaign last year. Longtime Prescott head coach Nick Johnson has overseen all seven of the student-athletes that have reached 1,000 points. He spoke about Wallin joining elite company.

"It's incredible that he and Jordan did it as juniors," Johnson said. "Dallas is a phenomenal player; we think he's a scholarship player. He got it on a free throw and we called a timeout to give him a standing ovation. He deserves it and it was an awesome moment for him."

Wallin scoring his 1,000th career point against Elk Mound was anything but a certainty. He went into the home game on Saturday, Jan. 28, needed 27 points to hit 1,000 and he scored 28. Wallin put his full range of talents on display against a talented Elk Mound team that went into the game with an 11-3 record.

Throughout both halves, Wallin put on a show. He buried jumpers, made a dunk in transition and even finished a couple of alley-oop passes at the rim for flashy layups.

Wallin finished with 28 points, 12 rebounds, five assists and two steals in the victory.

Perhaps it's a testament to how great Wallin is – and could be moving forward – to know that he will be remembered as one of the greatest scorers in program history, yet might actually be a better defender and passer than anything else. Coach Johnson spoke about Wallin's well-rounded game.

"We've told him since his freshman year that he could be one of the greatest because

See WALLIN, Page B-3



River Falls junior guard Joey Butz drives into the lane for a layup late in the second half during the home game against Eau Claire Memorial on Saturday, Jan. 28. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



River Falls senior guard Aidan Carufel plays perimeter defense on Eau Claire Memorial guard Mason Stoik (#24) as he waits for a ball screen during the game on Saturday night. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

## No. 8-ranked Memorial snaps River Falls' nine-game win streak

By Reagan Hoverman

For whatever reason, Eau Claire Memorial senior guard Mason Stoik always brings his A-game when he's playing against the River Falls Wildcats.

He did exactly that on Saturday night in River Falls, as he and the Old Abes snapped the Wildcats' nine-game win streak with a 54-51 victory. Stoik scored 20 in the second

half en route to a game-high 31 points in the victory.

River Falls went into the game as winners of nine straight and as the No. 10-ranked team in the weekly Division 2 Wissports.com coaches' poll. Memorial entered the contest on a 12-game win streak and as the No. 8-ranked team in the Division 1 poll.

See RF BBB, Page B-6



The Ellsworth dance team includes seniors Adrienne Bayer, Audrey Farrell, captain Macy Gutting, captain Kylie Knutson, RaeAnna Smith, junior Corynn Jahne, sophomores Isabel Billeter, MaKayla Cohenour, Lily Melstrom, Isabelle Pechacek, and freshmen Carly Girdeen, Libby Groh, Izzy Peterson, Pearl Shelley and Grace Whipple. Photo courtesy of Ellsworth High School Dance



The Ellsworth High School competitive dance team celebrates with the team and individual awards alike at the regional competition at D.C. Everest High School on Saturday, Jan. 28. Photo courtesy of Ellsworth High School Dance

## Ellsworth dance team's trust, growth made 2022-23 season a success

*Panthers dance team to compete at state in La Crosse on Feb. 3*

By Reagan Hoverman

For Ellsworth first-year dance team head coach Melissa Gutting, the success of the 2022-23 season is measured by trust, growth and roster development more than trophies and championships, although the Panthers have had no shortage of hardware this season.

Ellsworth's dance team features two distinct seasons that span from August to Feb-

ruary. The first is fall dance, which is a roster that is a bit more casual and has more girls than the competitive team which is currently in the final week of its season, although there is significant overlap between the two seasons.

The 2022-23 fall dance team roster had 15 girls, eight of which were returners and seven who were new to the team. Five of those seven girls were incoming freshmen getting their

See DANCE, Page B-7



Spring Valley sophomore combo guard Cade Stasiek goes coast-to-coast for a layup after picking off an Elmwood/Plum City pass. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Sophomore Lucas Glaus of the Elmwood/Plum City boys basketball team releases a wing three-pointer during the home game against Spring Valley on Tuesday, Jan. 26. Glaus finished the game with a team-high 18 points and five made three-pointers. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Spring Valley senior guard Lydia Hannack makes a layup in transition just before a Glenwood City player could get into position to play defense. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Spring Valley sophomore forward Audrey Mathison buries a three-pointer during the second half against Glenwood City on Friday, Jan. 27. Mathison finished with 16 points and four made three-pointers. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

## Spring Valley's physicality too much for EPC to handle

By Reagan Hoverman

The Spring Valley boys basketball team made it clear from the opening tip that they were going to play a much more physical brand of basketball than Elmwood/Plum City during the rivalry game on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Spring Valley's physicality led its lopsided 37-22 advantage in the rebounding battle which ultimately culminated in a 64-38 blowout victory over the Wolves on Tuesday night in Elmwood. Spring Valley improved to 8-7 overall and 5-3 in Dunn-St. Croix Conference action while Elmwood/Plum City fell to 3-10 and 1-6 in league play.

For Spring Valley head coach Rob Bosshart, playing with physicality and attacking Elmwood/Plum City early was going to be key to leaving Elmwood with a win. He spoke about the game plan.

"We wanted to make sure that we took it to them instead of sitting back and letting them get comfortable, especially offensively," Bosshart said. "The kids did a good job of that. They came out and played aggressively, mostly on the defensive end and the glass. That was the mentality going in."

Spring Valley certainly did that throughout the first half of the rivalry game on the road. The Cardinals built a 16-12 lead with 11 minutes remaining in the opening half. However, Spring Valley's offense was just getting warmed up.

The Cardinals proceeded to go on a 23-5 run over the next eight minutes that culminated in a 39-17 lead and a timeout by Elmwood/Plum City head coach Kyle Webb. Spring Valley's offensive explosion was in large part because of sophomore guard Cade Stasiek, who scored 17 of the 23 points during the run.

Stasiek hit mid-range jumpers with ease, slashed into the lane seemingly as he pleased and even made a three-point play the old-fashioned way. Stasiek's 23-point first half helped Spring Valley build a 41-26 lead going into the intermission.

"Cade has tremendous footwork and knows how to use his pivot foot to get around (defenders) and he has really good vision too," Bosshart said of the sophomore guard. "I think the kids are starting to get more comfortable playing with him. We've had instances where kids aren't sure what to do when he's driving, but I just keep telling them he will find them if they're open."

Stasiek got his teammates involved throughout the game, as his penetration into the lane created open looks for some of Spring Valley's perimeter shooters. Sophomore guard Tanner Dicus and junior guard Jameson Bauer both went 2-3 from beyond the three-point line on Tuesday night.

For Elmwood/Plum City head coach Kyle Webb, trying to defend Spring Valley's potent offense was a catch-22 situation. If the Wolves sent extra help to defend Stasiek, he hit teammates for open jumpers. If the Wolves didn't, Stasiek got to the bucket at will.

"Stasiek is a hell of a player," Webb said. "We've got to keep our bodies in front of him. He has that dribble and pullback quick jumper that we just don't see very often, so it's hard to plan for. They're just a really good team."

Stasiek and the Cardinals maintained their lead throughout the second half and cruised to a 64-38 victory on the road. Stasiek finished with 27 points, 15 rebounds and four assists in the win. However, his most impressive stat may have been his game-high six steals, four clear of anyone else on the floor Tuesday night.

While Stasiek led the charge for Spring Valley, Elmwood/Plum City sophomore Lucas Glaus led the Wolves. Glaus finished with a team-high 18 points on 5-13 from the floor, all of which were three-pointers. EPC senior guard Trevor Asher came up one rebound shy of a double-double as he finished with 13 points, nine rebounds and two assists in the loss.

For coach Webb, Tuesday night was another learning opportunity against a strong Spring Valley squad. In addition to returning almost no varsity players from last year, the Wolves are also working on installing a new offense, which has led to some of the lopsided losses this season.

"We're working on a new offense and it's just learning to adapt out of that," Webb said. "The UCLA flex offense, you can do so much with it, but you have to see the floor. We need to do more of that because sometimes we watch the ball too much."

While Elmwood/Plum City is focused on gaining experience and installing the UCLA offense, Spring Valley is preparing to topple Durand and Elk Mound – the top two teams in the conference – the next time they meet.

After starting the season 4-0 in Dunn-St. Croix Conference play, Spring Valley lost three consecutive games against Mondovi, Elk Mound and Durand. The 60-57 loss at home against Durand on Friday, Jan. 20, was the only of the three contests decided by less than a dozen points.

Coach Bosshart's young varsity squad – which doesn't have a single senior in the starting lineup – gained valuable experience in those three losses against some of the top teams in the league. He spoke about what the Elk Mound game taught his young players.

"The Elk Mound game we played them pretty close most of the first half, we just had a stretch of two or three minutes where it got away from us a little bit. The same thing happened in the second half," Bosshart said. "I think it's a good learning experience for our younger kids. You can't have those mental lapses against good teams."

Spring Valley learned from that Elk Mound game and came back three days later and took an 11-4 Durand team down to the last possession. Bosshart spoke about how that Elk Mound experience helped his players prepare for Durand.

"Our next game was Durand and I think we had learned a lot, we played really focused basketball the entire game," Bosshart said. "I think we grew up a lot playing those two teams and I expect us to be better prepared going into those games."

Spring Valley was back in action at home against Boyceville on Tuesday, Jan. 31. Elmwood/Plum City played against Eau Claire Immanuel Lutheran on Monday, Jan. 30. Both of those contests were slated for 7:15 p.m.

## SV girls basketball scores season-high in win over Glenwood City

By Reagan Hoverman

After scoring 40 points in the first half at home against Glenwood City, the Spring Valley Cardinals cruised to a season-high 65 points, which culminated in a 65-39 blowout victory on Friday, Jan. 27.

Spring Valley's offensive clinic on Friday night was in large part because of the Cardinals' success from beyond the arc. Spring Valley buried seven three-pointers in the win, four of which came via sophomore forward Audrey Mathison.

For Spring Valley girls basketball head coach Sean Hoolihan, Friday night's game is an example of what his team is capable of when they're firing on all cylinders offensively. His young and relatively inexperienced varsity squad often runs hot and cold from the field, so hitting a couple of shots early helped jumpstart the season-best offensive performance.

"Our girls did a good job of taking good shots and it helped that we made some within the first minute," Hoolihan said after the win. "Right now our group needs that confidence if we're going to keep making shots. Sometimes when we miss a few, it seems to trickle down to everybody."

With the win, Spring Valley improved to 5-11 overall and 5-4 in Dunn-St. Croix Conference games. Now above .500 in league play, the Cardinals moved into sole possession of fourth place in the conference standings. Coach Hoolihan spoke about being in the top half of the league this late in the regular season.

"I felt like we would be in this mix and I'm really happy that we're 5-4 in the conference," Hoolihan said. "You know Colfax, Elk Mound and Durand are the top three teams in our league. If we make shots and take care of the basketball, I think we can be in any game. If we do that, we can play with those teams."

Spring Valley certainly did those two things on Friday night and it resulted in the biggest margin of victory of the season. As Hoolihan alluded, Spring Valley's offense got into a rhythm early against Glenwood City.

No player started hotter from the floor than the aforementioned Mathison, who buried a trio of three-pointers in the first three minutes of the game which helped Spring Valley grab an 11-4 lead.

Glenwood City responded with a run of its own and cut Spring Valley's lead to one point, 19-18, with just under nine minutes remaining in the first half. That's when the Cardinals took complete control of the game

and outscored the Hilltoppers 21-6 in the final nine minutes of the half.

The Cardinals' recipe for success was the significant offensive contributions they got from multiple key players. Mathison hit jumpers early and often, junior guard Mara Ducklow got downhill and made a couple of layups and a three-point play the old-fashioned way.

Junior forward Charli Vanasse controlled the paint and scored inside regularly en route to a dozen points in the first half alone. Vanasse and the Cardinals continued their dominance in the early minutes of the second half too.

Vanasse started the second frame with an offensive rebound that she put back in for a layup and then did it again on the ensuing possession. Ducklow got to the free throw line and buried both which gave Spring Valley a 6-0 scoring run to start the second half.

By then the Cardinals were up 46-24 and the rest of the contest essentially became a formality. Spring Valley cruised to the win as Hoolihan put in the reserves with several minutes left to play in regulation.

Vanasse and Mathison led Spring Valley in scoring with 16 each, while Ducklow tallied 13, junior forward Maddie Shafer had nine and senior guard Lydia Hannack had seven. Hoolihan spoke about getting offensive contributions from everyone, not just Ducklow.

"It feels great," Hoolihan said. "Mara (Ducklow) is our scorer, but it's not like we're telling the other girls to not take their opportunities. Fortunately tonight they were going in. Our group is just the type right now where things go well we feed off of it and when they don't, unfortunately, we feed off of that too."

When Spring Valley has played well this year, they've limited turnovers and valued every possession. However, like a lot of high school basketball teams, the Cardinals are often plagued by turnovers and wasted possessions. For Hoolihan, if his team is going to take that next step and start pushing Colfax, Durand and Elk Mound to the brink, it's going to require tightening the screws offensively and limiting turnovers.

"We still turn the ball over too much, way too much," Hoolihan said. "What I like about our group is that they keep working and they're coachable. We're frustrated (with the turnovers), but we're not deterred."

Spring Valley was back in action on the road against Eau Claire Immanuel Lutheran on Monday, Jan. 30. That game was slated to begin at 7:15 p.m.



Prescott senior guard Katrina Budworth slashes through a couple of Somerset defenders before making a layup during the 69-54 win on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Senior guard Izzy Matzek of the Prescott girls' basketball team buries a corner three during the Cardinals' win over the 13-3 Somerset Spartans on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

## Prescott girls basketball remains confident amid adversity

By Reagan Hoverman

The last seven days have been an emotional rollercoaster for the Prescott girls' basketball team.

After cracking the weekly Wissports.com coaches' poll as the No. 10-ranked team in Division 3, the Prescott Cardinals secured a 69-54 win against the then 13-3 Somerset Spartans on Tuesday, Jan. 24. It appeared as if Prescott was destined to leap other teams in the poll and potentially crack the top five.

Instead, adversity struck. Prescott dropped two of its next three games, which included a buzzer-beating loss against the rival Saint Croix Falls Saints and then suffering a loss to the Northwestern Tigers 48 hours later. The lone victory of the three-game stretch was a 53-42 win over Saint Croix Central on Friday, Jan. 27.

"As far as I'm concerned nothing has changed in our minds," Prescott head coach Owen Hamilton said. "The girls and our coaches still believe we can beat anyone. Not many teams have that kind of mentality and I think it's a special kind of mentality to have at this point of the season as well."

After huge victories, sports teams regardless of level often come out flat in the following contest. That proved to be true for Prescott. After the 69-54 drubbing of the Somerset Spartans, which is unquestionably the Cardinals' biggest win of the season thus far, Prescott came out flat and lethargic on the road against Saint Croix Falls on Thursday, Jan. 26.

Prescott fell behind 18-4 and had more turnovers than made field goals through the first 12 minutes of the opening half. The Cardinals couldn't make a jumper, turned it over regularly and struggled to slow the Saints down. Coach Hamilton spoke about the first half.

"We limited ourselves offensively so much in those 12 minutes," Hamilton said. "Between the turnovers and shots that just didn't go for us, it was hard to get in a rhythm like we normally would. We were definitely disappointed on Thursday. It felt like we just weren't as ready to go in the first half as we needed to be."

Despite trailing by more than a dozen points, Prescott battled its way back into the game. Perhaps no Prescott player had a larger impact on the game than senior guard Katrina Budworth. After trailing 18-4, Prescott went on a 17-4 run to cut the Saints' lead to one point, 22-21, with under two minutes to play in the first half.

The Saints finished those final two minutes on a small 5-0 run to take a 27-21 lead into the halftime locker room. The Cardinals continued to battle and even took a 36-35 lead with under six minutes to play in the second half when senior forward Maddie Rundquist hit a mid-range jumper.

However, with under 20 seconds left in regulation, Prescott had possession with the game tied and a chance to steal the win, given how the Cardinals played in the first half. That's when Budworth went slashing into the

lane with approximately 10 seconds to play and missed a tough contested layup.

Saint Croix Falls quickly grabbed the rebound and threw an outlet pass up the floor to junior forward Kelsey Cooper, who hit the game-winning layup at the buzzer. Coach Hamilton spoke about Prescott's 47-45 loss that came on the final play of regulation.

"It is a credit to the girls for how hard they fought, but that seemed to be a pretty bitter-sweet point in the locker room," Hamilton said. "It felt like we should've had it even with how poorly we played, which is just another bittersweet feeling to have after that game too."

Budworth was the driving force in Prescott's late second-half comeback bid. She finished with 19 points, three rebounds and three assists on Thursday night. She also guarded SCF senior guard Brianna McCurdy the whole game and held her to just five points. McCurdy is averaging 17 points per game this season. Hamilton reflected on Budworth's performance.

"I can't say enough great things about Katrina, but in that game, it was one that I could look back on and be even happier with her performance after seeing the stats," Hamilton said. "Her defensive effort and focus are things that don't pop up in a box score. Holding one of the best players in the Heart O'North Conference to five points is unbelievable."

Prescott had a couple of the ordinary performances from some key players. Junior forward Lila Posthuma, who averages 15 per game, scored just two points on 1-8 shooting from the floor. Freshman guard Violet Otto, who has been outstanding this season, also struggled. Otto scored two points on 1-9 shooting from the field.

Nothing was more unusual than Prescott's free throw shooting on Thursday night. The Cardinals went just 6-27 from the charity stripe throughout the loss on the road against Saint Croix Falls.

The Cardinals bounced back with a 53-42 win against Saint Croix Central at home the following night. Prescott was back in action the following afternoon against Northwestern for their third game in as many days at the Northwest Girls Basketball Challenge, hosted in Somerset.

The brutal scheduling of a back-to-back-to-back certainly took a toll on Prescott, as the Cardinals suffered a 58-48 loss. Coach Hamilton spoke about the final contest of the three-game stretch.

"We definitely had some dead legs going into the game, but that isn't any excuse," Hamilton said. "We played a little sloppier than we normally do with our passes and attention to detail things we talked about. It was a great learning experience for us again and a new type of team for us to guard as well."

Despite a couple of tough non-conference losses, Prescott remains a healthy 12-4 overall and 9-0 in Middle Border Conference action. The Cardinals are slated to be back in action at home against Altoona on Thursday, Feb. 2. That game is slated to begin at 7 p.m.



Ellsworth junior Logan Mueller, who has been a regular in the 120-pound bracket for the Panthers this year, competes during a match earlier this year. Mueller is currently out with an injury and is an important athlete who could potentially return for Ellsworth's regional meet in the coming weeks. Photo by Gaylen Bicking

## Ellsworth wrestling finishes second at Rochester Century Panther Invite

*Panthers targeting top-two team finish at regionals*

By Reagan Hoverman

The Ellsworth wrestling team had another strong performance this past weekend at the Rochester Century Panther Invite, as Ellsworth finished second as a team, and had four individual bracket winners and six total athletes who competed in championship matches.

Ellsworth's champions include junior Willy Penn at 126, sophomore Levi Nelson at 145, senior Louis Jahnke at 170 and senior Anthony Madsen took home first in the 182-pound title match. Ellsworth head coach Mark Matzek spoke about the success at the Rochester Century Invite.

"We wrestled well on Saturday. A second-place finish only trailing Forest Lake, who is the No. 10-ranked team in Minnesota Class AAA, was a good performance," Matzek said. "It was a very diverse mix of teams from Minnesota and we were able to find the level of competition we needed at this point in the season."

While several Ellsworth wrestlers have been regulars on the podium this season, Nelson's victory via 6-1 decision in the 145-pound bout was his first tournament title of the season. Nelson's path to an individual championship included a pair of victories over Minnesota foes.

The aforementioned Penn also had one of his best days of the season on Saturday afternoon. Penn won his first two matches via pinfall and then squared off with Forest Lake sophomore Grant Marr, who entered the match as the No. 8-ranked wrestler in Minnesota.

Penn won a gritty 6-3 decision to claim the championship on Saturday. Coach Matzek spoke about what Nelson and Penn were able to do early in the championship rounds of the Rochester Century Invite.

"Willy Penn beat the #8 ranked wrestler in Minnesota in the finals match," Matzek said. "He wrestled with a lot of intensity throughout the day and beat a quality opponent in the finals. Levi Nelson had his first tournament win of the season. He beat an opponent in the finals 6-1 who he had beaten earlier in the season 1-0. It is always nice to see scores like this that show improvement."

Jahnke and Madsen, Ellsworth's two senior captains, also brought home individual titles. Jahnke won the 170-pound bracket by winning all three of his matches via pinfall. None of his matches lasted longer than four minutes. He pinned Burnsville senior Michel Douhe just three minutes into the title match.

Madsen competed in the 182-pound bracket and won his quarterfinal and semifinal matches via major decision to advance to the title bout. That's where he squared off with Mahtomedi sophomore Evan McGuire. Madsen and McGuire battled down to the final seconds, where Ellsworth's senior captain secured a 7-6

victory via decision to win the bracket.

The Panthers had two wrestlers reach title matches that ultimately came up just short. Ellsworth sophomore Noah Walker won his first two matches via pinfall in the 106-pound bracket before getting pinned in the championship match against Forest Lake sophomore Devin Struntz.

Ellsworth sophomore J.D. Minder-Broeckaert won two matches to get to the 126-pound title match. That's where he ran into Forest Lake senior Jacob Aho, who defeated Minder-Broeckaert via technical fall in just under five minutes. Aho is one of Forest Lake's best wrestlers, as his win over the Ellsworth freshman improved his overall record to 26-4.

The Panthers' second-place finish at the Rochester Century Invite serves as a reminder that Ellsworth can compete against top-tier programs. Throughout the 2022-23 season coach Matzek has stated that the Middle Border Conference this year is as good as it has been in more than two decades.

Ellsworth will have to get past a couple of those elite teams if the Panthers want to achieve their goal of making it to sectionals as a team. The regional tournament is slated for Saturday, Feb. 11, at Neillsville Fieldhouse. Coach Matzek spoke about the upcoming postseason.

"Our goal is to put forth our best team at Regionals, finish in the top two as a team at regionals and qualify for team sectionals," Matzek said. "Amery just beat Baldwin-Woodville last week in a dual. We lost 33-38 to Amery earlier this year. We can be a dangerous team in team sectionals, but we need to qualify for it first. So, we will continue to focus on our day-to-day training as we prepare for the postseason push."

The Panthers will have to make their push to a sectional without at least one of their starting varsity wrestlers. According to Matzek, Ellsworth 160-pounder Jamison Resendez will miss the rest of the season with a knee injury. Junior 120-pounder Logan Mueller will likely miss another week with an upper-body injury. It's still unclear if he will be healthy for regionals on Feb. 11.

"In regards to health, we have a few setbacks," Matzek said. "Logan Mueller has an upper-body injury keeping him out of the lineup for another week but we are hopeful he can make it back for regionals. We had some bad news on our 160-pound varsity wrestler Jamison Resendez as his knee injury will keep him out of the lineup for the remainder of the season."

Ellsworth is back in action for a varsity quad against Eagan, Hastings and East Ridge at Hastings High School on Thursday, Feb. 2. Wrestling is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

## Wallin

from Page 1

he's so good on both ends of the floor," Johnson said. "He's always guarding the other team's best player and he's a phenomenal passer — a very unselfish player. He just does it all. We're very fortunate that he's on our squad."

As great of a player as Wallin has become, Johnson continues to push him to get even better because he knows that Wallin can take his game to an even higher level, perhaps higher than any player in program history. Johnson spoke about what Wallin is capable of achieving.

"I still think there's a bar that he can get to," Johnson said. "He's got so much potential to be an even better player and that says a lot about when he's a junior and just scored 1,000 and we still want more out of him. We know his ceiling and that's what we're always trying to push him to get to."

While Wallin's 1,000-point celebration was certainly the highlight of the night, the win over a tough Elk Mound team was also a nice feather in Prescott's cap. Of Elk Mound's three losses entering the game, two were against No. 2-ranked West Salem and a Fall Creek squad that is currently 13-2.

Prescott got down in the early goings of the first half, but rallied in the middle portion of the frame and eventually took a 32-31 lead into the halftime intermission. The Cardinals outscored the Mounders 35-25 in the second

half to secure the 67-56 victory. Coach Johnson spoke about picking up the important non-conference win.

"They're very good and we knew coming in they were very good," Johnson said. "That's a big win for us. I think they'd be a top-three team in our conference, they're that solid."

On a night when Wallin was the team's primary offensive force and the aforementioned Malmlov struggled to shoot it from beyond the arc, Prescott senior forward Brandon Stuart stepped up as the second-leading scorer.

Stuart finished with 16 points on 8-12 shooting from the floor. He also tallied eight rebounds, four assists and a steal in the victory. He provided an important interior presence that helped the Cardinals break down Elk Mound's 1-3-1 zone.

With the win, Prescott moved to 14-3 overall and improved its win streak to four games. Coach Johnson spoke about how Stuart has been a catalyst for the four-game heater over the last eight days.

"He's so important for our team's success because he's our third option and he has struggled a bit from the outside, but he's adapted his game to be a post guy and he has been very good," Johnson said. "This four-game winning streak, you can credit him with a lot of it. Not just scoring, but defensively, rebounding, being active, he gives us a lot of options and we need him going forward."

Prescott's two career 1,000-point scorers in Wallin and Malmlov were back in action at home against Altoona on Tuesday, Jan. 31. That game was slated to begin at 7 p.m.



## FROM HORSEPLAY to Heroes

BY GREG PETERS



River Falls' Jenna Lawrence practices against Assistant Coach Alisha Howk. Lawrence is the lone female wrestler for the Wildcats and the first-ever female in school history to qualify for the WIAA State Tournament. Photo by Greg Peters

## Wrestling with change

River Falls High School junior Jenna Lawrence finishes her normal school day at 2:45 p.m. and drives over to Meyer Middle School a couple miles away. She walks down enough flights of stairs where it seems like she's entering a 1950's nuclear bomb shelter in the bowels of the "old River Falls High School."

Lawrence is headed to wrestling practice. Her practice partner is 23-year-old Wildcat Assistant Coach Alisha Howk. Howk, a Blue Springs, Mo. native, is attending Chippewa Valley Technical College for nursing and also training for the 2024 Olympics for women's wrestling. When Howk isn't there, Lawrence wrestles the 106-lb. and 113-lb. boys, the gender majority of her opponents during the season.

The bomb shelter is clean but it smells like cement and hard work. The room is outdated and so secluded Tom Hanks could paint a face in blood on a forgotten singlet and name it "Wilson."

Lawrence is the only girl on the team, but make no mistake about it, she is not a metaphorical "Cast Away."

"Your very first practice is really intimidating," said Lawrence, "and you feel really stupid, but then you start to see the fun of the sport."

Lawrence comes from a wrestling family. Her guy cousins wrestle. Her dad, Tim, and uncle, Allen, were mainstays on the state mat in Mobridge, SD growing up. Allen Lawrence won the South Dakota state title in the 1980's.

"I was always following in my brother's footsteps," said Jenna. "He shot trap, so I shot trap. He wrestled, so I wrestled."

When Jenna first told her dad she wanted to wrestle, she said her dad told her, "You know you're going to get your face shoved in a mat."

Jenna replied, "I know." Tim Lawrence then said, "Go for it."

"We have mats at home and my dad showed me stuff," said Jenna. "My family has been very supportive. I love the mental aspect of wrestling. If I win, it's all on me. If I lose, it's all on me. I do it for me but I also do the hard work for my team and my coaches and my family."

At the Wildcat wrestling awards banquet last year, Lawrence received a plaque for being the first-ever female from River Falls High School to compete at the Wisconsin State High School Wrestling Tournament. Last year was the first year the WIAA sanctioned a state tournament for girls' wrestling. Lawrence placed seventh.

"That was pretty cool, but girls have to win their section this year to qualify for state and that's my goal," said Lawrence.

Lawrence has a 12-10 record this year, but she's



Girls' wrestling is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. Photo by Greg Peters

undefeated against her four female opponents, taking home the first-place medal in the coveted Northern Badger tournament in late December. It was the first time in the Northern Badger's 39-year history there has been an all-female competition.

Jenna Lawrence wears light blue and red wrestling shoes and loud tights to practice. She is wiry, strong and athletic. She's all girl but answers with "yes sirs" and "no sirs." Lawrence expands on her thoughts with a confident and cool tone. She has absolutely no idea she is the perfect high school spokesperson for the fastest growing sport in the country, girls' wrestling.

According to the National Wrestling Coaches Association, there were 112 girls wrestling in U.S. high schools in 1990. Even as late as 2018, there were still only six states with a sanctioned girls' high school state tournament. By 2021-22 there were 35 states with girls' sanctioned high school state tournaments and over 31,000 high girls wrestling. One year later, now there are over 53,000 high school girls wrestling, according to Flowrestling.org, a national multimedia wrestling outlet.

The outdated cement bomb shelter walls in the Wildcat wrestling room evoke images of a black and white picture of an ash tray on a heavy oak desk overlooked by a middle-aged man wearing a suit and tie with black-rimmed glasses. This imagery reflects how River Falls Head Wrestling Coach Kevin Black thinks Wisconsin state high school wrestling administrators have seen girls' wrestling in the past decade.

"A lot of conservative individuals that have a blue-collar background lead the wrestling world," said Black. "People are scared of what they don't know and there was this misplaced fear that the girls would take opportunities from the boys which haven't proven to be

the case. A lot of growth in women's wrestling is happening in spite of wrestling."

Like Jenna Lawrence's colorful wrestling shoes contrasted against the backdrop of stern cement walls, women's college wrestling has been a brilliant wrecking ball for college administrators looking to increase declining enrollment the past few years.

In 2019, there were 80 women's college wrestling programs; three years later there are 120, an increase of 50%. Half of the programs added were from NCAA Division III schools. College enrollment has fallen by 7.5% nationwide since 2019 according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

UW-River Falls had 6,788 students in 2011 (Wisconsin.edu). In November 2022, student enrollment is now 5,212 (close to a 23% decline over that span). With an average annual cost of \$15,000 per UWRFF student, that's an approximate annual \$23 million budget windfall in just over a decade. It may be a reason NCAA Division III schools are looking to add students via less expensive athletic programs.

Added opportunities at the collegiate level may be one more reason for the huge increases at the youth and scholastic levels.

"We pride ourselves on wrestling being for everyone," said Black. "It shouldn't be limited to half the population. Hard work, dedication, grit, all that stuff, girls should be able to benefit from that just like the guys."

Among the 20 River Falls' state champion signs in the Wildcat wrestling room, there is one sign that reads, "Once you wrestle, everything in life is easy."

"I think a lot about that sign and that mentality gets me through so much," said Lawrence. "I always tell myself, 'Well, that's going to be a lot easier than practice' and then I get it done."



## the skinny on Falcon Sports

BY DON RICHARDS



"Ninety percent of the game is half mental," said Yogi Berra in one of his less focused moments. That may explain why I poured orange juice on my cereal one morning recently. (Don't try it. It doesn't taste good.) You see, we deep thinkers have a lot on our minds and sometimes don't have our usual laser-like focus at the ready. But I digress. What was it I was intending to write about this week? Oh yes, Falcon sports, namely Cross Country, Track and Field.

I asked Andy Eggerth, Director of Cross Country and Track & Field, whether any of the 16 school records he set at Bemidji State University have been broken. He said his decathlon record was broken but that the rest still stand. "I think," he said, "the decathlon could have been my best event. Based on marks, my pole vault (4.90 m) and 400m (47.10 OD, 48.32 on a flat indoor track) were my better events."

Eggerth's experience includes jobs at U. of Alabama-Birmingham, Kansas State, and Kennesaw State U. (Georgia). At the collegiate level he has received numerous coaching awards and developed many All-Americans and NCAA qualifiers. So why did he decide to seek a job at a D3 school like UWRFF after all that success? "Honestly," he said, "I've seen a strong shift in D1 to not caring about the coaches at all. Of course, every athletic director preaches 'family' and when everything is good, they carry that out. But when the rubber hits the road, most do not support their coaches. If anything goes wrong, they throw the coaches under the bus in a heartbeat. I believe that D3 cares about people a little more. Why UWRFF? Initially, because I knew of it. It's close to home, not far from the Twin Cities. But when interviewing and since, I've seen the true support of the administration and the sincere interest they have in being good in T&F and XC, as well as the support of alumni and community. That's inspiring, motivating and invigorating. Since being here I've had offers from D1 schools (with higher pay) as well as coaching international teams, but I have a passion to build this program and it's my only focus."

Other experiences he's had are instructing, writing a physiology curriculum, and holding various certification levels, including "elite coach" in multiple events for the US Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association and USA Track and Field. He is also a certified strength and conditioning coach. Could he qualify for jobs other than coaching?

"If I were smart," he said, "I would have gone into engineering and made a WHOLE LOT more money. But I'm led by my heart and I love helping athletes achieve things they never imagined possible. It's delayed gratification, but to be able to mentor young men and women and have a positive effect on their life is more valuable than gold."

Where does he see Falcon Track and Field headed? "We're headed in the right direction! There are two limiting factors that we're working through. First is the last 10-15 years of being at the bottom of the WIAC. High school coaches and athletes look up those results and don't want to give us the time of day. However, as a staff we've been out there beating the weeds, spreading our message that it is a new era for UWRFF T&F/XC. They are starting

to listen. We are starting to get better recruits. But it's going to take at least a few years of improved results before we can really turn the corner."

"The second limiting factor is budget. Being last in the conference puts us in a position where we have to spend a lot of time fund raising for recruiting and equipment money, and to pay assistant coaches salaries still well below the poverty level. We also need to fund raise just to travel the whole team to the minimum number of required NCAA competitions. The good thing is that fund raising has been going well. The challenge is that the time spent raising money is time not spent recruiting or coaching. Though I enjoy teaching, I do not have time to teach while trying to recruit and coach six sports (WXC, MXC, WIDT, MIDT, WODT, MODT) involving approximately 100 athletes. I could not teach with just two full-time coaches if they had to split duties with teaching. Even with our setup we have the fewest number of full-time coaches in the conference and we were just bumped up to two with Meghan Koski."

"Those underpaid assistant coaches are Emmy Farago, Gerard Uchytel, Klara Berghuis, Klara's husband Brandt Berghuis, Peter Place, and Jordan Gray. Meghan Koski is the new head XC coach and assistant T&F coach. She is the lead recruiter and our only full-time coach, and is paid adequately. She has D1 and D2 racing experience and D1 coaching experience and is doing a fantastic job."

The other coaches are well qualified as competitors/coaches. Farago is a decorated distance alumna. Uchytel has 50-plus years of pole vault experience. Klara Berghuis was a 13+ pole vaulter at North Dakota State U.; Brandt Berghuis, an agriculture professor at UWRFF, is a volunteer throws coach and multiple time NCAA qualifier. Place, a 2022 UWRFF grad, leads the throwers in the weight room "out of the goodness of his heart and a passion for the throws," says Eggerth. Gray is a certified coach and professional athlete who holds the American and regional record in the decathlon and who has represented Team USA in the heptathlon.

Eggerth mentioned Lexi LeFever, Annika Gundersen, Rachel Amoth, Kemari Stewart, and Yaih Marial as individual athletes most likely to "move the needle soonest" competing in T&F/CC. LeFever, from Hudson, has won numerous awards and set UWRFF records in jumps and sprints. Among those records, in 2021-22 she was D3 All American in the Long Jump (third nationally), and WIAC Long Jump champion. In 2020-2021 she was All American in the Long Jump (second nationally), a national qualifier in the 200m dash, all WIAC in Long Jump, 200m, 100m. She also was a member of the WIAC Scholastic Honor Role.

Eggerth has several thoughts on motivation. "With our sport the athletes must be intrinsically motivated. That said, they are motivated by different

things. Some by success/glory/recognition, others by relationship/connection. I do not consider myself a big motivator. I think my passion for the sport, their excellence, and the time I commit is largely what motivates them. They see that I care about their success. I'm naturally introverted and so I form great relationships with those that come by the office or reach out for a little more relationship. But I make a concerted effort to know everyone and speak with each athlete/group and mentor everyone in need. I try to ask what's going on when I see something wrong and give a hug when needed. I truly care about my athletes and think the majority of them see that I'm genuine. That's also a rewarding thing for me as a coach, especially when I think they will run through a brick wall for me. That may be because we've developed a strong enough relationship that they want to make me happy or because they see that I'm doing the same thing for them."

What about weightlifting? "It's a super integral part of my program. We accomplish so much in the weight room from mobility development, injury prevention, raw strength, coordination, explosiveness, team bonding and the list goes on and on. Weights are a large way that I set up our peak at championship time, and strength is the prerequisite to power. I think that what we do in the weight room is in many cases our 'secret weapon' as it provides so many benefits when executed correctly."

Finally, is there support for and collaboration with other coaches/programs? He said he thinks T&F is one of the most collaborative sports, as it is the basis for all other sports. He continued, "Having volleyball, basketball, and football players on our team is both helpful and enjoyable as it drives support and collaboration between athletic programs. We even have athletes on the Electronic Sports team. I believe Crystal Lanning is driving this department into one that is more competitive, more fun, more successful, and more encouraging. In addition, the true support, (not just words) demonstrated by Chancellor Gallo for athletics is inspiring. Seeing some of the things other sports get is enviable and I love to see it for them!"

Wow, now I realize Yogi Berra is right: this column may be more than half mental. If so, considering that focus is important in sports and in life, and that mine is somewhere short of laser-like about 99% of the time, I was struck by a recent Wall Street Journal article titled "How to Restore Our Attention Spans." In it the writer notes that "research shows that on average people check their inboxes 77 times a day." Actually, I'm more interested in ESTABLISHING an attention span. Checked your inbox lately?

Don't forget to remember not to forget that you can watch the Falcon T/F team in action on Saturday, Feb. 11, at Knowles Field House in the UWRFF Winter Classic.

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## SHOTS from the Hip

BY CRIFE OLSON

Isabella Lenz and the Michigan Tech Huskies split their road games last week losing Thursday to Ferris State by a score of 63-30, but rebounded with a 66-58 victory over Lake Superior State on Saturday. Lenz scored 19 and 18 points respectively as the Huskies improved to 17-4 overall and 9-2 in conference play. Earlier in the week, the Huskies upended #4 ranked Grand Valley State when Lenz hit a 17-footer at the buzzer to give Michigan Tech a 57-56 victory. The Huskies are currently in second place in the Great Lakes Interscholastic Athletic Conference. Lenz currently leads a balanced Huskie attack scoring 14.3 points a game and is also the team leader in assists.

Congratulations to Dallas Wallin on becoming the newest Prescott Cardinals to score 1,000 points in their career. The talented junior joins Randy Hansen, Clay Seifert, Owen Hamilton, Peter Brookshaw, Parker Nielsen, and Jordan Malmlov in the exclusive millennium club. For the girls, Kollin Eichman (Severson), Haylee Yaeger, Kaycee Charette, and Bella Lenz all scored over 1,000 points in their prep careers. Wallin has also pulled down 541 rebounds during his career and will be chasing the Cardinals' all-time leading rebounder Owen Hamilton who finished his stellar prep career with 747 boards.

Peter Brookshaw and the North Dakota State Bison are approximately two and a half weeks from their 2023 opener at Sacramento State on Feb. 19. The Bison are hoping to repeat as regular season champions this season and qualify for the NCAA Division I Tournament. As a junior, Brookshaw led the Bison in RBI (46) and runs (36) and ranked second on the team in hits (52), stolen bases (13) and home runs (8). Brookshaw finished with a .275 batting average and was named 2nd Team All Summit League.

From the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: The DNR will hold a public listening session for the proposed Wolf Management Plan on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023 as part of the public review and comment period. This listening session is an additional opportunity for anyone interested to provide input on the proposed plan while the public review and comment period remains open until Feb. 28. Registration is required by noon on Feb. 6 for anyone wishing to provide comment on the proposed plan during the listening session. Registrants will speak in the order of which they've signed up, and each speaker will have two minutes. Speakers are also encouraged to review the plan on the DNR's Wolf Management Plan webpage before joining the listening session. As always heated exchanges are expected when it comes to issues related to Wisconsin wolves.

Hunter Daymond and the Bemidji State Beavers are gearing up for their season opener in Springfield, Ill. in three weeks. Last spring, Daymond played left field for the Northern Sun Interscholastic Conference school and hit .292 on the season.

Haylee Yaeger scored 11 points and grabbed seven rebounds as the UW-Stout Blue Devils defeated UW-Stevens Point last Wednesday by a score of 71-54. The Blue Devils are now 6-3 in conference play and 14-7 overall. Yaeger is the team's second leading rebounder and fourth in scoring.

The WIAA regional tournament brackets will be released on Monday, Feb. 13 for the girls and Feb. 20 for the boys. Teams vying for the top four spots in the top half of the girls bracket will be St. Croix Falls (14-2), Prescott (12-4), Northwestern (12-5), and

Somerset (14-4). In the bottom half of the bracket the top two teams are West Salem (18-1) and Elk Mound (16-1). The boys teams hoping to be among the top four seeds in the upper half of the sectional bracket include Osceola (16-0), Northwestern (13-1), Prescott (14-3), Baldwin-Woodville (11-4), and Bloomer (10-4). In the bottom half of the bracket expect the top four seeds to be West Salem (14-1), Wisconsin Dells (10-3), Elk Mound (11-4), and Colby (10-3). Remember, there is no seeding meeting this year ... a computer does all the work.

A short video on social media of a Wisconsin high school basketball game between Cedarburg and Brookfield Central received quite a bit of attention last week. One second before the end of the game, there is contact between two players just outside the three-point line resulting in one player falling to the court. There was no whistle, just the buzzer to end the game. Immediately a cavalcade of catcalls were lobbed from the stands toward officials. After approximately 10 seconds of spectator derision, the announcer said the following over the PA system, and I quote, "I would like to take this opportunity to remind all fans, and I should have done this a lot earlier - shut up! The WIAA is always looking for officials and since you do such a good job from the stands, get on the floor, wear a striped shirt and do it yourselves!" Wow. Among the thousands of views on social media, undoubtedly there are basketball officials all over Wisconsin and the country who are applauding the temerity of this particular public address announcer.

A reminder that Prescott Hall of Fame nominations are due by June 1 with the induction ceremony scheduled for either late September or early October. Nomination information can be accessed at <https://www.prescott.k12.wi.us/community/hall-of-fame.cfm>.

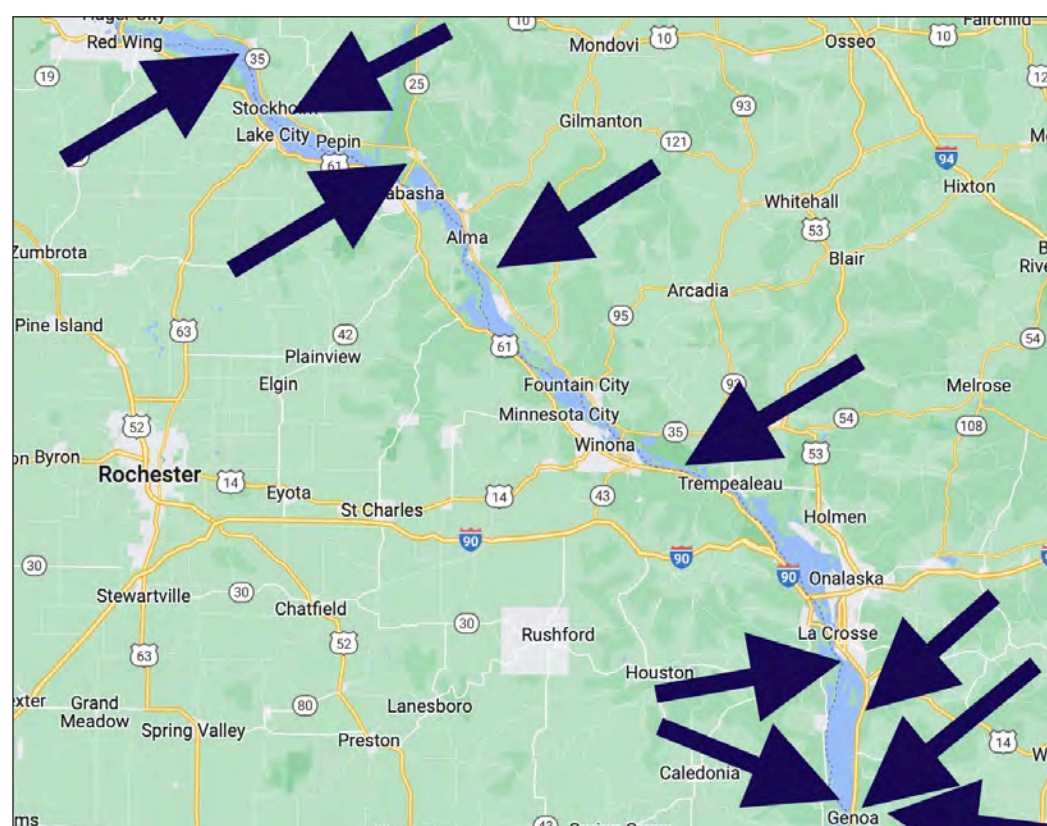
Remember to mark Friday, March 24 on your calendar as popular KFAN Radio host Dan Cole returns to Prescott for the annual Prescott Baseball/Softball Banquet. Hosted by the Prescott CAB Company and Prescott FPA, the banquet will include raffle prize opportunities throughout the evening along with summaries of the 2022 baseball and softball seasons. The annual event will be held at the Old Ptacek's Event Center beginning at 6 p.m. Cost of the event is \$25.

Headshaker of the week. There is little doubt high school student sections have changed over the years. With the exception of schools with larger enrollments, cheerleading squads at smaller schools have for the most part disappeared. Additionally, what also has changed has been student cheering sections themselves. The enthusiastic, raucous behavior associated with teenage rooters emerges only from time to time during games. When it does, it's usually connected to cheers related to the opponent's faux pas: "You can't do that!", "Fundamentals!", or "There's a net there!" And of course, "Air Ball!" Or barking from the bleachers while an opposing player shoots a free throw. Also, like us adults, the students spend half their time on their phones while the game is in progress. True, attendance at high school sporting events is not what it used to be. We are all busy - including today's teenagers who have jobs, cars, homework, and other responsibilities. But the student cheering sections of today are not what they used to be decades ago. And it's a headshaker.



## OUTDOOR Tales and Trails

BY DAVE BECK



This map shows many Dave Beck hunting landmarks scattered down the Great River Road on his way to his hometown, Genoa.

## The journey home

I am sure that you have heard the phrase "You can never go home again." You can literally go home but it's never the same once you leave and return as an adult. Seems like the older I get the truer that statement becomes. I was caught up in all of that as I drove the Great River Road from my home in Ellsworth to my childhood home in Genoa, Wis. My thoughts weren't so much about the final destination, but rather the memories as I passed "landmarks" along the way.

Driving through Maiden Rock I recalled bagging a pretty nice buck many years ago while bowhunting the bluffs. A few years after that I bagged an even bigger buck which makes that bluff hallowed ground for me. Even though both archery victories were a long time ago, for the briefest of moments both bucks flashed in my mind as I drove by.

The next landmark was a small pond below Stockholm. On a trip home heading south more than half of my lifetime ago I didn't want to pull over, I had to pull over. That small pond was plum full of mallard ducks. I grabbed my shotgun, which always traveled with me for just such occasions, I strapped on my hip boots and slipped in for a shot at duck supper. To make a long story shorter, I bagged two drake mallards. I can remember the retrieve like it happened yesterday because the ducks came to rest in water way deeper than my hip boots could take me. Dang, I can still feel the sting of that cold water.

The Nelson bottoms are also a part of my outdoor drive history. A canoe mishap was the reason for an early morning bath that happened just minutes before legal shooting hours. I toughed it out long enough to get a few shots in but it ended up being a pretty short hunt.

A little further downstream was the site of a last-minute turkey hunt. I don't remember much about the hunt other than we didn't bag one. What I do remember is that I called a

more mushroom spot like Babe Ruth when I pointed to a giant elm and said, "there's the motherlode of morel mushroom trees." We walked to that tree and found morel mushrooms littering the ground like red solo cups after a college party. They were everywhere. I quickly filled my morel bag that I always have with me in the springtime. When asked by my turkey hunting crony how I knew they were there I said: "I could smell them." I wasn't going to tell him anything different until he grabbed my overflowing mesh bag and brought it up to his nose for a huge whiff. I fell to the ground laughing and was forced to confess the truth which was that I simply guessed.

Perrot State Park near Trempealeau was next on my drive. I was truly just a pup when I bagged a deer there. What's the significance? Well, it wasn't my first deer, but it was my second. When you're young and have had limited success, you remember things like being really nervous. I still get fired up in the moment but now I call it controlled excitement.

The closer I got to my childhood home the more "landmarks" I passed. I smiled as I cruised by my bullhead and crappie fishing spots. From where I stood when I finally arrived at "home," I could see where I bagged my first squirrel, rabbit and duck.

The roadmap that led me to this time and place in my life seems pretty obvious when looking in the rearview mirror. My journey home will always be a pleasant trip.

*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*

## Ellsworth girls basketball beats Altoona, falls to Amery

By Jason Janke  
Special to The Journal

The Ellsworth girls' basketball team split their games last week with a 51-40 win at home against Altoona on Tuesday, Jan. 24, and a 51-37 loss on the road against Amery on Friday, Jan. 27.

The Panthers outscored the Lady Rails 31-21 in the second half with the momentum that came from a buzzer-beating three-pointer by Ellsworth junior Molly Janke, who buried the shot going into the halftime intermission. The deep three gave Ellsworth its first lead of the game at 20-19.

With a University of Minnesota Women's Assistant in the building to watch Gopher recruit junior Alyssa Wirth of Altoona, the crowd was going at a fever pitch throughout the early going.

A key to the first half was stellar free-throw shooting by the home team in the low-scoring affair, as the Panthers drained eight of 10 shots for nearly half their points. Another important aspect was the trial and error of Ellsworth's interior defense as the six-foot-five Wirth went for eight first-half points, drawing three fouls on Panther defensive stalwart, junior Kayla Kressin.

"Kayla getting three fouls in the first half was certainly not ideal," Ellsworth head coach Jason Janke said. "Our kids kept working, never got negative and figured out a way to compete inside, despite the size differential. Jillian Griggs came in and really found another way to defend Altoona inside. She doesn't have Kayla's length, but her fire and grit make up for some of that. Jill really battled in there and got some critical rebounds."

The second half was a see-saw affair early, as the Rails and Panthers traded the lead as the score was in the 20s. The Panthers' defense forced some bad passes, and Janke

found two consecutive stray passes, turning a 30-29 deficit into an Ellsworth lead. At the eight-minute mark, Ellsworth clinging to a 35-31 lead, junior Aubrey Wittenberg squared up from the right corner and hit a critical three-pointer and the Panthers never looked back.

The Rails did not give up, closing the lead to under four on several occasions, but once they were forced to foul late, Ellsworth drained nine of 10 free throws down the stretch for the 51-40 victory.

"Our ball security and free throw shooting in the last six minutes was excellent," Janke said. "When you rebound like we did later in the second half and play with the strong offensive will that we did, you make yourself hard to defeat."

Molly Janke led the Panthers with 28 points, nine rebounds and four steals, while Kressin added eight rebounds, four points and outstanding interior defense. Sophomore Morgan Halverson got in on the scoring with six and snared seven rebounds as well.

After knocking off Altoona at home, the Panthers went on the road to square off against the Amery Warriors, who began the game about the way they would end up finishing it on their home floor last Friday night - draining three-pointers.

With four three-pointers in the first half and three more long ones in the second, the Warriors scored over half of what their opponents did from outside the arc. Amery senior guard Mia Brotzel hit four trifectas on the evening and the Panthers were 0-14 as a team from deep.

That three-point percentage was a tale of the tape for the Ellsworth squad that evening, as they went into the locker room at halftime down 24-18. The Panthers did little to help themselves in the second half as Amery led



Ellsworth junior guard Aubrey Wittenberg calls out a play during the Panthers' home game earlier this year against the Osceola Chieftains. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

by double-digits the entire second half.

"We played poorly tonight," coach Janke stated. "That doesn't begin to describe our shooting tonight. It's one of those games that you have to deal with at some point most seasons you coach high school basketball, one of those nights when the ball just wouldn't go in for us. We'd get a three-ball to look perfect from release and it'd rattle in-n-out on us, they'd have something similar and it would drop. No one to blame, no lack of effort, just a poor performance by the purple squad on this night."

One frustrating thing for the Panthers was the rebounding battle, which was also won by Amery. Fortunately, the Panthers have another shot at the Warriors on Tuesday, Jan. 31, due to a postponement being rescheduled prior to the boys' game the same evening.

Ellsworth junior Maria Harrington and Molly Janke each tallied eight points on the night, while Halverson and Kressin followed with seven and eight respectively.

The Panthers get their shot at redemption on Tuesday night with tip-off slated for 7 p.m. at Ellsworth High School.

# RF BBB

from Page 1

Even with Stoik's vintage offensive performance, River Falls had its chances to win. The Wildcats led multiple times throughout the second half and even had possession down two points with under 20 seconds to play in regulation. River Falls head coach Zac Campbell spoke about the bittersweet taste of going toe-to-toe with Memorial but ultimately coming up short.

"I'd feel a whole lot better about the moral victory piece if I didn't feel like we left a couple of plays out there in the mid and late second half that could have changed the complexion of the game," Campbell said. "That's a team that can run away from us, but our kids battled. From a talent standpoint, we can't match with them - none of the teams in our league can. But our guys battled and gave ourselves a chance with a great run in the second half."

River Falls made runs early in both halves. The Wildcats methodically built an 11-4 lead through the opening seven minutes of the first half. That's when Stoik and the Memorial offense got hot and went on a 16-2 run throughout the next six minutes.

Stoik scored 11 of the 16, which included two three-pointers, a three-point play the old-fashioned way and a slashing layup that helped Memorial take a 20-13 lead with under six minutes to play in the first half. Shortly thereafter, the Old Abes took a 29-23 lead into the halftime intermission.

Just as Campbell stated, River Falls made a great run to start the second half. The Wildcats' offense got into a rhythm and went on a 14-1 run in the first three minutes coming out of the break. The scoring salvo gave River Falls a 37-30 lead with 15 minutes to play in

regulation.

River Falls' run included a pair of three-pointers by senior guard Aidan Carufel, multiple post moves by sophomore forward Eli Johnson and junior guard Joey Butz finishing at the rim effectively.

Despite River Falls throwing its best haymaker, Memorial picked itself up off the mat and started punching back. Stoik threw most of the metaphorical punches midway through the second half when the Old Abes strung together a 20-6 run that spanned 13 minutes and culminated in a 52-47 lead with just over a minute left in regulation.

River Falls managed to cut the lead back to two points with under 20 seconds to play but turned it over on the most important possession of the game that ultimately led to the 54-51 loss. For coach Campbell, not having sophomore point guard Preston Johnson, who broke his ankle just over a week ago, completely changed the game against Memorial.

"I hate to go back to this, and Stoik is a heck of a player, but if Preston is playing it allows Aidan to be off the ball so he can focus more attention on (guarding Stoik)," Campbell said. "Aidan would have been able to focus on that rather than handling the ball and having to guard their best player."

Preston Johnson's absence was noticeable in many aspects. River Falls' lack of downhill finishing at the rim meant that perimeter shooters weren't as open as they were with Preston Johnson on the floor. The aforementioned Carufel had to guard Stoik nearly the entire game while also adjusting to being the full-time ball handler.

The Wildcats' overall depth was depleted as the normal sixth man off the bench moved into a starter role. In a big-time game where rotations shrink to six or seven guys, missing a starter is a catastrophic problem. Campbell spoke about his players being gassed in that second half against the Old Abes.

"It stayed tight too long. I tried to even burn a full timeout to get (Joey Butz) a little bit of a break," Campbell said. "We gave Aidan a really quick rest and Stoik went on a 7-0 run while Aidan was on the bench. I told him that was it and that was all I could give him, we needed him back out there."

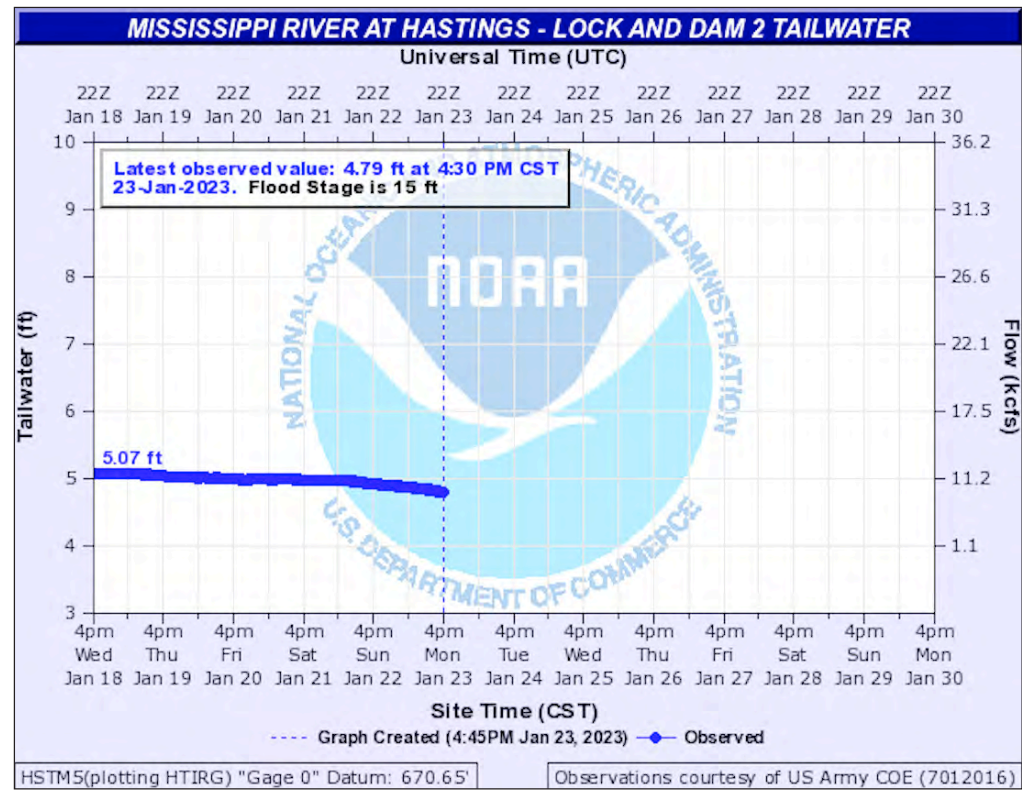
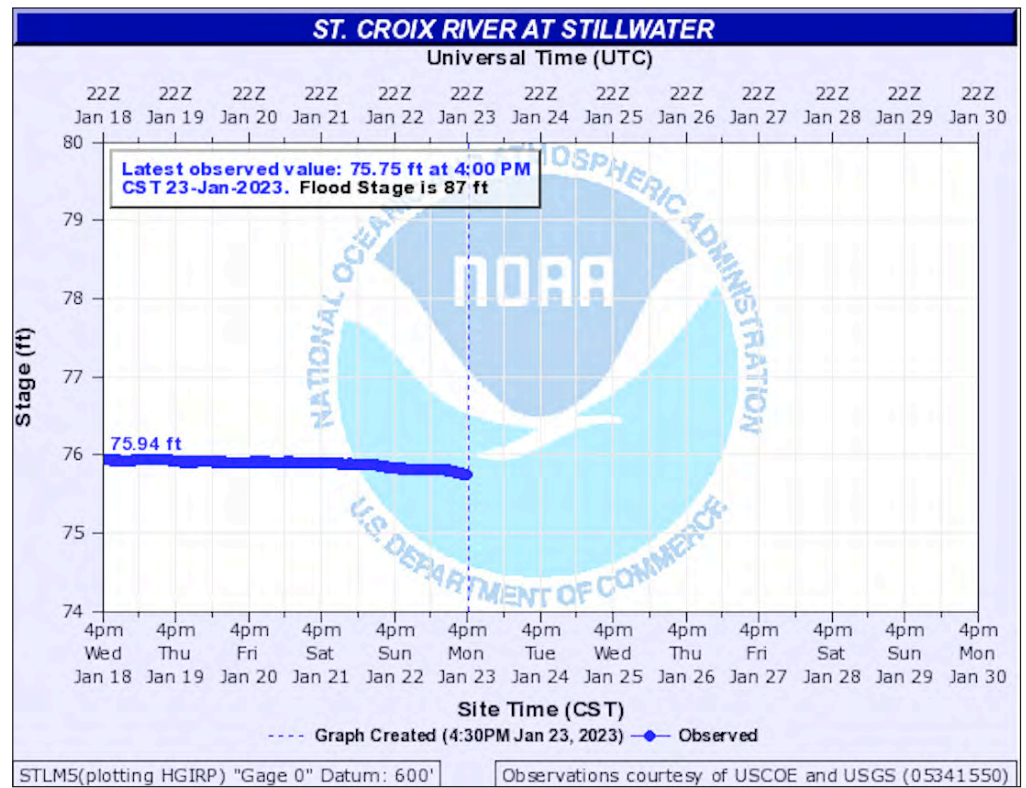
River Falls simply ran out of gas down the stretch and Memorial took advantage of it.

Three Wildcats scored in double figures including Carufel with 16, Eli Johnson had 14 and Joey Butz tallied 13.

With the loss, River Falls fell to 12-5 overall and 5-4 in Big Rivers Conference action. The Wildcats are back in action on the road against New Richmond on Thursday, Feb. 2. Tip-off for that game is scheduled for 7:15 p.m.

## WEEKLY Rivers Report

The following river level data was logged and/or forecast for the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers by the National Weather Service at water.weather.gov:



## PCCC Chatter

By Laura Kadlec  
Activities director/music therapist

After holiday songs for a month, we were more than ready to dig out the old, regular song books. We actually have four from which to choose and we like to rotate them. It is almost 100 songs in all so we never tire of singing them. We might even add a few or delete some as time goes on. Lunch arrived, mail was delivered and we were on to more activities mid-afternoon. Stacey dialed up the popcorn machine and soon things were popping! The yummy smell of the fresh popped corn entices folks to the dining room. "Make food, they will come" is not too far from the truth. Tic-tac-toss followed our popcorn social. Everyone had their throwing arm ready. Winners were: Fifth place, "Delightful" Dorothy Pfaffe; fourth, "Fantastic" Frances White and "Awesome" Alice Brantner; third, "Sassy" Shirley Klinski; second, "Marvelous" Milda Bautch; and first place champ, and the only one to have three in a row: "Keen" Kevin Bauer! A quick supper and we set up for bingo. A grand thank you to Kathy Luebker, Teresa Fedie and Pat Frion for their help in setting up, delivering candy, and clean up after our game.



Joe Berger looked dapper covered with this patriotic quilt! Photo courtesy of Laura Kadlec



J. Henry Gingras was thrilled with his new stars and stripes quilt! Photo courtesy of Laura Kadlec

Tuesday is our church worship day beginning with Father Jojo and Terry Pelzel. It is a nice time of worship, music, and communion. We appreciate their weekly visits. Name That Tune was next on the agenda with eight competitors. After 59 songs, first place was earned by Penny Stafford with 19 correct answers pursued by Carol Bauer with 18. Coming in just behind them at third was Barb Grewe who had 15 correct titles. Dorothy Weisenbeck guessed some of the tough ones and had a total of five. With a handful more of guesses came Milda Bautch, Alice Brantner, and Goldie Helwig. Our crafters returned for the completion of the winter wreaths. Blue, white and silver snowflakes adorned many of the wreaths while others boasted beautiful, lifelike birds. Some folks chose wood winter cutouts such as hats and mittens and then there are those few who had an eclectic mix of everything. They were certainly original to say the least. With hands and tables cleaned up, we gathered for our weekly church service with Pastor Darren and Irene Hoffman from the Lund Covenant Church. We enjoyed his message and singing some of our favorite hymns. Our evening concluded the day with a fun game of Uno with Aaliyah.

Wednesday brought that ugly Covid with it as residents were tested and a few tested positive for Covid. We made the necessary adjustments to keep our folks as safe as possible and to prevent further transmission of the virus. Families and friends are still welcome to visit at their own risk. We were able to play bingo with each resident sitting at their own table. Lana Ingli donned her mask and was so helpful in delivering candy and fruit! Black out winner this week was Dorothy Weisenbeck. It was National Banana Day and Stacey whipped up some banana smoothies for us to all enjoy. Now with everyone wearing masks, some of our hearing-impaired seniors can't quite make out what we are often trying to say. As such, when Stacey offered a "smoothie" to one of our ladies, she asked, "What's a floozie?" Our days certainly bring us moments of humor.

Aaliyah had the day off, so she arrived early to treat some of the ladies to manicures, many of which were done "in-room" with the threat of Covid in the building. It is nice to have fresh nail polish in times such as these. Brad Richardson also brought the puppies in the afternoon which brightened up everyone's day. After supper, a game of Pokemo was played in the dining room with everyone at their own table again. It certainly keeps cabin fever and boredom at bay to be able to be out of our rooms for a little while. Friday arrived with the drummers in the dining room. It was a small group but we made up for it with our energy! With our Covid "shut down," our activities were limited. However, we were still able to have visitors. As the days get longer, maybe you would consider a visit in the near future. We'd love it!!! See you soon!

### 0% DEFERRED LOAN FUNDS AVAILABLE TO VILLAGE OF BAY CITY RESIDENTS\*

Is your home in need of repairs?  
Do you need down payment assistance to buy a home?  
Do you own rental units that need fixing up?

The Village of Bay City has CDBG Housing grant funds available for housing improvements that benefit low to moderate income persons.

If you are a homeowner\* in the Village of Bay City, you may qualify for a no interest deferred loan to fix up your home.

If you are a renter\*, you may qualify for down payment assistance to purchase a home in the Village of Bay City.

If you are a landlord, you may qualify for a no interest loan amortized over 10 years to fix up rental units in the Village of Bay City (tenant income limits\* apply).

#### Typical projects include:



- Heating
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- Roofing
- Siding
- Handicap accessible improvements
- Hot Water Heater
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Floors
- Insulation
- Foundation

To request a loan application, please call 1-800-472-7372 or email: renee.swenson@cedarcorp.com

\*The following gross annual household income limits apply:

Persons:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income:	\$62,600	\$71,550	\$80,550	\$89,400	\$96,600	\$103,750	\$110,900	\$118,050

# Dance

from Page 1

first taste of varsity dance. For coach Gutting, it was a perfect balance between fresh faces in the program and experienced returners ready to take the reins and lead the program into the future.

Ellsworth seniors Macy Gutting and Kylie Knutson were voted by the team as the captains for the season. Macy Gutting and Knutson are two of the most experienced athletes in program history and have been dancing together since they were nine years old.

In addition to those two, seniors Audrey Farrell and RaeAnna Smith, as well as junior Corynn Jahnke, have provided valuable leadership to the dancers new to the program. Coach Melissa Gutting spoke about those five dancers and their leadership that has made this year so special.

“Our captains Macy Gutting and Kylie Knutson have risen as strong leaders within the group early on,” Melissa Gutting said. “These dancers all lead with kindness and lead by example. They are the first to the gym and the last to leave, spreading positivity amongst the team and leadership in our community as well. When asked to volunteer

for fundraising or optional practices, these leaders show up and never give up. True team spirit.”

Ellsworth’s mix of veteran dancers and young, eager-to-learn freshmen quickly meshed into a team with a lot of potential. Their first performance of the season was at the football team’s home opener with a routine choreographed by the coaching staff.

The following two home game performances were choreographed completely by the girls on the team without the assistance of the coaching staff. Doing so in front of packed home football crowds was a risk, but the girls on the roster and the coaching staff had enough trust in one another to take that leap of faith with the opportunity for growth.

Trust and growth quickly became a theme for the Ellsworth Panthers dance team throughout the 2022-23 season. Coach Melissa Gutting spoke about how trust became a central theme to this year’s team.

“When we chose our ‘team core value’ for the season, the word that was chosen by the team was trust,” Gutting said. “We have been weaving trust into everything that we have been doing this season, both fall and comp seasons. Trusting the process and watching each other grow and get better. Trusting each other during the performances, trusting the coaches when we give them new challenges

and obstacles to overcome.”

With the level of trust built between girls on the roster and the Ellsworth coaching staff, the Panthers turned into more of a family than anything else. When someone is struggling and needs help, others are there to pick her up. Gutting spoke about how close this group is.

“When one dancer can’t quite get a particular dance step, or trick, the team and fellow dancers quickly jump to work together to give pointers, and cheer them on, reconfirming that they are each other’s biggest fans,” Coach Gutting said. “They are tough on each other, but also are extremely protective of each other. Like a family of sorts. A little dance family.”

Ellsworth’s trust and family-like team atmosphere served as a catalyst for growth that led to competition success in the latter half of the year. The Panthers performed well at several massive competitions, including the Menomonie Holiday Classic, UW-Eau Claire’s FireUp, Conference at Rice Lake and Regionals at D.C. Everest. Coach Gutting spoke about her competitive team’s success this year.

“We measure our success in so many different ways,” Gutting said. “We have won several awards and top honors, but watching this team and how they are together and how

they trust each other, even if the dance isn’t performed perfectly, well, it’s an honor to be their coach.”

While the team as a whole always performed well, Ellsworth’s dance soloists were truly elite. The Panthers’ soloists included Macy Gutting, Farrell, Jahnke, and sophomore Isabelle Pechacek.

All four soloists earned awards at every competition this year and three of them, Macy Gutting, Farrell, and Jahnke performed well enough at regionals to advance to the state competition in La Crosse on Friday, Feb. 3. Farrell and Jahnke also took fourth with their duet.

Ellsworth will compete in the state championship as a team in the Division 3 Hip Hop event and the Division 5 Pom competition, in addition to the Panthers’ three soloists. Coach Gutting spoke about the expectations for the state competition.

“Our expectations for state are to enjoy every moment, give it your all, leave it all on the floor,” Gutting said. “These are the moments that you will remember for the rest of your life, but when you look around, these are the people that you will remember too. We deserve to be there just as much as the next team, and we are so proud of them for working so hard to get here.”

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Sports

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### Upcoming Schedule of Area Boys Basketball

#### Friday, February 3

Prescott @ Amery  
Ellsworth @ Somerset  
Baldwin-Woodville @ Osceola  
St. Croix Central @ Altoona  
Durand @ Elk Mound  
Glenwood City @ Spring Valley  
Elmwood/Plum City @ Mondovi

#### Saturday, February 4

River Falls @ Hudson  
New Richmond @ Menomonie  
Chippewa Falls @ Eau Claire North  
Eau Claire Memorial @ Rice Lake

#### Monday, February 6

Prescott @ Cameron  
New Richmond @ Baldwin-Woodville  
St. Croix Central @ Elk Mound  
Colfax @ Somerset  
Cumberland @ Amery  
Cochrane-Fountain City @ Elmwood/Plum City

#### Tuesday, February 7

Hudson @ Minnehaha Academy  
Superior @ Chippewa Falls  
Hayward @ Menomonie  
Eau Claire North @ Marshfield  
CHOF (St. Paul, MN) @ Ellsworth  
Altoona @ G-E-T  
Barron @ Osceola  
Mondovi @ Elmwood/Plum City  
Osseo-Fairchild @ Glenwood City  
Spring Valley @ Eau Claire Immanuel

### Winter 2022-23 Local High School Conferences Standings

#### Dunn-St.Croix Boys Basketball

School	Conf. Record	Overall
Durand	7-0	11-4
Elk Mound	7-0	11-4
Spring Valley	5-3	8-8
Mondovi	4-3	5-11
Colfax	4-4	9-6
Boyceville	2-6	9-8
Elmwood/Plum City	1-6	3-10
Glenwood City	0-8	2-12

#### Middle Border Boys Basketball

School	Conf. Record	Overall
Osceola	8-0	16-0
Prescott	8-1	14-3
Baldwin-Woodville	6-3	11-4
St. Croix Central	4-4	8-7
Altoona	4-5	6-9
Somerset	3-6	10-8
Ellsworth	2-7	4-12
Amery	0-9	5-11

#### Big Rivers Boys Basketball

School	Conf. Record	Overall
Hudson	8-1	12-4
Eau Claire Memorial	8-1	14-3
River Falls	5-4	12-5
Rice Lake	5-4	12-5
Chippewa Falls	4-5	6-9
Menomonie	2-7	5-10
New Richmond	2-7	4-10
Eau Claire North	2-7	2-13

### Upcoming Schedule of Area Girls Basketball

#### Friday, February 3

Rice Lake @ Eau Claire Memorial  
Eau Claire North @ Chippewa Falls  
Menomonie @ New Richmond  
Spring Valley @ Elmwood/Plum City  
Glenwood City @ Elk Mound  
Mondovi @ Colfax

#### Saturday, February 4

River Falls @ Hudson  
Holmen @ Eau Claire North  
Black River Falls @ Ellsworth  
Altoona @ Baldwin-Woodville

#### Monday, February 6

Menomonie @ Prescott  
Chippewa Falls @ Marshfield  
Eau Claire Memorial @ La Crosse Logan  
Elmwood/Plum City @ Durand

#### Tuesday, February 7

New Richmond @ Eau Claire North  
Rice Lake @ Hudson  
Ellsworth @ Somerset  
Prescott @ Amery  
Osceola @ Baldwin-Woodville  
St. Croix Central @ Altoona  
Mondovi @ Spring Valley  
Elk Mound @ Colfax  
Glenwood City @ Durand  
Elmwood/Plum City @ Boyceville



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#### Dunn-St.Croix Girls Basketball

School	Conf. Record	Overall
Elk Mound	9-0	16-1
Colfax	7-2	12-4
Durand	6-3	12-4
Spring Valley	5-4	5-11
Mondovi	4-5	5-11
Elmwood/Plum City	3-5	4-11
Boyceville	2-8	6-11
Glenwood City	0-9	1-16

#### Middle Border Girls Basketball

School	Conf. Record	Overall
Prescott	9-0	12-4
Somerset	6-2	14-4
Ellsworth	4-4	10-7
Altoona	4-4	8-8
Baldwin-Woodville	3-4	6-11
Amery	3-5	12-6
Osceola	3-6	8-10
St. Croix Central	1-8	7-11

#### Big Rivers Girls Basketball

School	Conf. Record	Overall
Hudson	9-0	15-3
Eau Claire Memorial	6-1	11-4
Menomonie	5-4	11-6
New Richmond	4-4	8-9
Eau Claire North	4-4	7-8
Rice Lake	3-6	7-10
River Falls	2-5	6-8
Chippewa Falls	0-9	1-16



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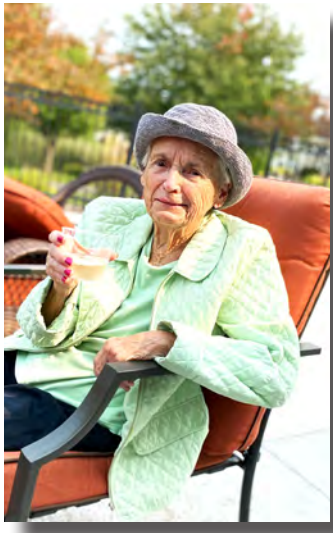
# OBITUARIES

## Jane Robertson 1926-2023

Jane (née Egan) Robertson, age 96, beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, passed away on Jan. 21, 2023, at Comforts of Home in River Falls. Jane was born in St. Paul, Minn., on Sept. 16, 1926, to James and Marguerite (née Keck) Egan. She was a graduate of St. Joseph's Academy in St. Paul. On Jan. 18, 1947, Jane married Orv Robertson and they were blessed with four children, Bonnie, Mark, Nancy and David.

Jane loved music and was a skilled pianist, a masterful gardener who loved flowers, and a hostess extraordinaire. During the many moves that she made during her marriage, she created welcoming homes filled with love, fabulous food and many memorable family celebrations. She was a beautiful and wise woman who taught us to love life, and to be cheerful and kind to everyone.

Jane was preceded in death by her parents, James and Marguerite, her husband of 72 years, Orv, and her



daughter, Nancy Hanson. She is survived by daughter, Bonnie (Tom) Carroll, and sons, Mark (Cheryl) Robertson, and David Robertson, and by son-in-law, Wayne (Jody) Hanson. She is also survived by her grandchildren, James, Amy, Jenny, Jake, Kelly and Katie, and by eight great grandchildren.

A family celebration of life is planned for spring with interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. The family wishes to thank the staff at both Comforts of Home and Moments Hospice for their kind and compassionate care.

## Norman Hendershot 1932-2023

Norman Hendershot, age 90, passed away at Methodist Hospital on Jan. 16, 2023, with family by his side.

Norman was born on May 14, 1932, to Claude and Grace (Baker) Hendershot in Hewitt township, Minn. He attended school in Bertha, Minn.

Norman joined and served his country from 1949 to 1953 in the US Navy. He was in Korea for 13 months on the USS Oriskany ship during the Korean Conflict. He was honorably discharged in 1953.

Norman married the love of his life, Helen (Taylor) in 1963. They stayed in various places but settled down in rural Ellsworth, Wis. for 27 years. In 1990 they moved to Rochester, Minn. where he spent the rest of his life. Norman had a daughter from a previous marriage and to they had two sons.

Norman worked on many construction sites as a crane operator for local union #49. He worked in North Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado on the Minute Man Missile Program and later mainly on power house jobs and Koch Oil Refinery. He was also a 60-year member in the I.U.O.E 49. He proudly received his 60-year pin in December 2022. He was a member of the American Legion Post 92 in Rochester, Minn. and a member of the Forest Lake, Minn. Masonic Lodge No. 344.



Norman enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and traveling. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family.

Survivors include: his wife, Helen; three children, Charlene (Doug) Deans of Whitakers, NC, Ronnie (Dawn) Hendershot of Ellsworth, Wis., and Roger (Stacy) Hendershot of Northfield, Minn.; seven grandchildren, Jeremy Salter, Shawn (Laurie) Deans, Brandy (Jon) Scott, Savannah Hendershot, Draven Hendershot, Levi Hendershot, and Keely Hendershot; seven great grandchildren, Cody and Hunter Salter, Ryley, Devonn and Ethan Scott, and Cassidy and Tristan Deans, and a brother Raymond (Ann) Hendershot.

Norman was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers: Cleo, Darwin, Lloyd, Kenny and Richard. Norman unselfishly donated his body to the Mayo Clinic. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring. A celebration of life will be held in the spring.

## Richard Kinneman 1958-2023

Richard Lee Kinneman, 64, Prescott, Wis., unexpectedly passed away at his home on Jan. 17, 2023. Rick was born on Nov. 24, 1958 to Robert and Rochelle Kinneman in Red Wing, Minn. After Rick graduated from Prescott high school in 1977, he enlisted in the US Army, choosing Mechanics and Engineering as his job interest, which lead to his occupation as an Aviation Mechanic. Rick dedicated his entire career to working with companies that were contracted with the military. Rick was stationed in Seoul, South Korea. There he met and married his wife, Sue, in 1979 and went on to have three children, Craig, Melissa, and Matthew.

Rick began his career in Germany for three years and then returned to Seoul, South Korea working on the military base until he retired in 2019. Rick then returned back to his hometown of Prescott, Wis.

Rick relished taking part in track racing showing off his supercharged Mustang. Rick had a passion for fishing, golfing, grilling foods, and especially, cherished time with family at his cabin on Nancy Lake in Minong, Wis.

Rick is survived by his wife Sue and daughter Me-



lissa (Kevin). He is also survived by his siblings Rebecca (Rick) Wilds, Ronald (Debbie) Kinneman, Randall (Pamela) Kinneman, and Russell (Deb) Kinneman. Along with nieces and nephews.

Rick was preceded in death by his sons Craig and Mathew, and parents Robert and Rochelle Kinneman. A private service was held with only immediate family. Arrangements are entrusted to O'Connell Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Prescott, www.oconnellfuneralhomes.com, 715-262-5404



## PUBLIC Notice

**STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PIERCE COUNTY**  
**Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)**  
**Case No. 23PR4**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF**  
**Robert Wayne Robbins**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**  
1. An application for informal administration was filed.  
2. The decedent, with date of birth March 11, 1943 and date of death October 22, 2022, was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1105 Wasson Circle, River Falls, WI 54022.  
3. All interested persons waived notice.  
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 26, 2023.  
5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.

**FORM COMPLETED:**  
Nicole Jones  
**ADDRESS:**  
Rodli, Beskar, Neuhaus, Murray & Pletcher, S.C.  
219 North Main Street,  
River Falls, WI 54022  
**TELEPHONE:**  
715-425-7281  
**BAR NUMBER:**  
1126385

WNAXLP 1 18, 25, 2 1

**CITY OF RIVER FALLS**  
**AGENDA**  
**PLAN COMMISSION**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

**\*\*The City Council Chambers are open to the public. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, unvaccinated attendees are asked to wear a mask and social distance.\*\***

The public may view/listen to the meeting by:  
• Calling Toll Free 1-844-992-4726, access code: 2631 809 0439  
• Visiting the web link: <https://cityofriverfalls.webex.com/join?mtid=m1faded967d3a4454e-0d99675aeaff203>  
o Webinar number: 2634 099 0178; Webinar password: 1234 (1234 from phones)  
o Join by phone: +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll; 1-844-992-4726 United States Toll Free; Access code: 263 409 90178  
• Viewing the City's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofriverfalls>

Those wishing to speak during "public comment" may do so at the discretion of the presiding officer (the Mayor). Please be advised that the Mayor may set time limits or limit repeat comments.

Persons wishing to make a public comment should contact Angie (abond@rfcity.org or 715-426-3427) prior to 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting in order to ensure they are added to the list and can be accommodated during the meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.**  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**ROLL CALL**  
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
1. Minutes of the January 3, 2023 Plan Commission meeting  
2. Minutes of the January 3,

2023 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Non-Agenda Related Topics **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**  
3. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Special Use Permit for a Personal Storage Facility (Mini-Warehouse) on Old Chapman Drive at Chapman Drive (Capital Investment Partners)  
4. Specific Implementation Plan and Final Plat for Thompson Heights on Paulson Road at Radio Road (Derrick Custom Homes)  
**REPORTS**  
5. 2022 Community Development Annual Report  
**ADJOURNMENT**

Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only. No official Council action will be taken.

**NOTES:**  
Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials to be in an accessible location or format, may contact City Clerk Amy White at (715) 426-3408 or in person at 222 Lewis Street, for accommodations. Requests for accommodations should be made at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting. Every effort will be made to arrange accommodations. Published: 02/01/23 the Pierce County Journal; Posted: 01/26/23

WNAXLP 2 1

**CITY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**  
**COMMON COUNCIL**  
**PROCEEDINGS**

January 10, 2023

Mayor Dan Toland called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**City Council Members Present:** Todd Bjerstedt, Jeff Bjork, Nick Carow, Sean Downing, Scott Morrisette, Alyssa Mueller, Diane Odeen

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Scot Simpson; City Attorney Chris Gierhart; IT Specialist Jonathan Thoen; Police Chief Gordon Young; Community Services Director/ Clerk Amy White; City Engineer Todd Nickleski; Fire Chief Steven Cash; IT Manager Mike Reardon; Management Analyst Ellen Massey

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
December 13, 2022, Minutes **MSC Morrisette/Odeen move to approve minutes. Unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**  
Bills: \$316,024.36  
Aldersperson Bjork apologized indicating that he could not approve the bills because he did not fully review them and had a couple of questions. City Administrator Simpson explained someone else could move to approve the bills or staff could answer Bjork's questions.

Bjork had a question on an item for Tattersall and bonus dollars for staff. Simpson said anything related to salaries are charged to each of the employee's budgets. Bjork had further questions which Simpson answered. Bjork asked about Tattersall. Simpson asked for more time to find the item and

## PUBLIC Notice

provide an answer.

**PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**  
*Dana Linscott, 11395 County Road M – read a statement regarding homeless persons in River Falls.*

With no other public comments, Mayor Toland asked City Administrator Simpson if he had an answer regarding Tattersall. Simpson said yes, saying it appeared to be a design assistance award for energy efficiency that the city does for new construction. **MSC Bjork/Mueller move to approve bills subject to the Comptroller. Unanimous.**

Aldersperson Downing asked Simpson if there were any homeless people who requested aid during the emergency cold. Aldersperson Morrisette asked for a point of order saying the topic was not on the agenda and didn't feel it was appropriate to discuss in public comment. Downing said he would talk about his experience saying he asked Simpson a week ago and was told there was nobody who requested aid from the city then - that was his experience.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**  
*Ordinance 2023-01 Repealing and Recreating Section 12.12.010-Street Excavations – First Reading*

At 6:44 p.m., Mayor Toland moved into a public hearing. **With no public comments, the mayor closed the public hearing and moved into Open Session and asked if council had questions.**

Bjork asked for more information on the two ordinances. Simpson said it was a cleanup and modification on the cable franchise ordinance and related utility installation. City Attorney Gerhardt did the lion's share of work on the ordinances. Simpson said this is largely due to increasing interest in broadband internet installations in the city's right of ways. Sections of the cable franchise ordinance aren't relevant based on statewide franchise changes in laws. We are clarifying charges for installers, processes they need to follow, repair and restoration. Simpson asked Gerhardt if he had anything to add.

Gerhardt said the idea was to give the city more control and more uniformity with respect to regulating right of ways. He said the existing ordinance didn't have mechanism in place for permitting, bonding, and restoration that it should have. This is a modernization of the existing ordinance. Bjork thanked Gerhardt.

*Ordinance 2023-02 Repealing and Recreating Title 18 Cable Franchise Ordinance – First Reading*  
**At 6:46 p.m., Mayor Toland moved into a public hearing.**

**With no public comments, the mayor closed the public hearing at 6:47 p.m. and moved into Open Session and asked if council had questions. There were no questions.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**  
Change of Agent for Walgreens→**pulled by Morrisette**  
Change of Agent for Kwik Trip 453, 1238 N. Main Street→**pulled by Morrisette**

*Resolution No. 6733 to Accept Public Improvements for Sterling 3rd and 4th Additions*  
**MSC Odeen/Downing move to approve remainder of Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

Morrisette asked for the two agents to come to the podium to answer questions. He asked new agent Robert Slate if he understood the role of an agent, if he understood that if an alcohol related violation occurs when he is not present, he is responsible, and if he had passed his responsible server's course. Slate answered yes to all.

Because Brandyn Ruesink was a current agent, Morrisette asked Ruesink to reaffirm the three questions that were asked to Slate that he still understands his role as an agent. Ruesink said yes, he did.

**MSC Morrisette/Bjork move to accept change of agents for Walgreen's and Kwik Trip Store #453. Unanimous.**

**REPORTS:**  
Administrator's Report  
City Administrator Simpson reaffirmed council that they have received a copy of the city's approach to homelessness in the community. He believes that the police department is extremely lawful in their individualized and compassionate approach. Simpson noted there are too many inaccuracies in certain public comments to even begin to correct them.

Bjork asked the mayor if land-

### CITY OF RIVER FALLS NOTICE OF ABSENTEE VOTING

The Special Voting Deputies of the City of River Falls will be administering absentee voting for the residents of the following facilities for the SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION to be held on FEBRUARY 21, 2023.

Location	Date and Time
<b>Kinni Health &amp; Rehab</b> 1663 E. Division St. River Falls, WI 54022	<b>Wednesday, February 8, 2023</b> 9:00 am – 10:30 am AND <b>Thursday, February 9, 2023</b> 9:00 am – 10:30 am
<b>Well Haven</b> 119 Union St River Falls, WI 5402	<b>Wednesday, February 8, 2023</b> 11:30 am – 1:00 pm AND <b>Thursday, February 9, 2023</b> 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
<b>Comforts of Home</b>	<b>Wednesday, February 8, 2023</b> 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm AND <b>Thursday, February 9, 2023</b> 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

**Deputies will be at: 2348 Aurora Circle for the following addresses:**  
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River Falls, WI 54022

If you have any questions concerning this process, contact the Municipal Clerk's Office.

City of River Falls  
222 Lewis St.  
River Falls, WI 54022  
715-426-3448  
Office Hours 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
**Notice per State Statute 6.875(4)(6) to be posted five days before Special Voting Deputies are scheduled to visit.**

WNAXLP 2 1

fill fees could be put on a future agenda. He thought they received a great letter about it but wanted more information. The mayor thought staff could put together information to send to council. Simpson clarified the request asking if the council would like to have an agenda item on the report about the environmental fee fund. The mayor said the report would be okay to start with then we can look at if we need to put on the agenda. Simpson asked if the report that was submitted was okay to start with. Bjork said yes. Simpson said there wouldn't be a problem presenting at the next council meeting. He usually would want two meetings to be prepared but the research has already been done.

Aldersperson Odeen said she

was out of town for most of the snow but knows how hard the public works staff work to address weather events. Their work is appreciated. Morrisette agreed and said he receives a lot of very complimentary comments about how the city removes snow. He is very much appreciative of staff. Bjork also noted fixing of the power lines that went down with the heavy snow. He said the city has an outstanding utility department and public works department. It's something we should be proud of.

**MSC Bjerstedt/Bjork move to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk



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# PUBLIC Notice

STATE OF WISCONSIN,  
CIRCUIT COURT,  
PIERCE COUNTY  
Notice to Creditors  
(Informal Administration)  
Case No. 23PR5

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ESTATE OF  
Marilyn P. McRoberts

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth July 20, 1952 and date of death December 1, 2022, was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of N2921 850th Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 1, 2023.
5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.

**FORM COMPLETED:**

Robert L. Loberg  
**ADDRESS:**  
Loberg Law Office, LLP  
359 W Main St  
Ellsworth, WI 54011  
**TELEPHONE:**  
(715) 273-5072  
**BAR NUMBER:**  
1017505

WNAXLP 1 25, 2 1 8

STATE OF WISCONSIN,  
CIRCUIT COURT,  
PIERCE COUNTY  
Notice to Creditors  
(Informal Administration)  
IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ESTATE OF  
Frances M. Nelson  
Case No. 23PR6

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth September 21, 1933 and date of death December 23, 2022, was domiciled in Pierce County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 2348 Aurora Circle, Apt. 35, River Falls, WI 54022.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 2, 2023.
5. A claim may be filed at the Pierce County Courthouse, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, Room 201.

**FORM COMPLETED:**

Leo A. Beskar  
**ADDRESS:**  
Rodli, Beskar, Neuhaus, Murray & Pletcher, S.C.  
219 N. Main Street  
River Falls, WI 54022  
Telephone:  
715-425-7281  
Bar Number:  
1003297

WNAXLP 1 25, 2 1, 8.

**School District  
of River Falls  
Educational Program  
Committee meeting  
Monday, February 6, 2023 -  
6:00 PM  
District Office,  
852 E Division Street,  
River Falls, Wisconsin  
54022**

*Official agenda notices will be posted at Dick's Fresh Market, the Public Library, and the 1st Nat'l Bank.*

*The complete agenda and approved minutes will be posted under "School Board" at www.rfsd.k12.wi.us.*

**CALL TO ORDER;  
MANNER OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF MEETING;  
HEARING OF VISITORS OR DELEGATIONS; APPROVE THE RF4C PROVIDER CONTRACT FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR; SUMMER SCHOOL UPDATE; RECOGNITION OF FEBRUARY AS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) MONTH; UPDATE REGARDING THE WESTERN WI COLLEGE FAIR AND HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION NIGHT; APPROVE 10-12TH GRADE FRENCH STUDENT TRIP TO CANADA; PROPOSED/SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR AND FUTURE BOARD MEETING AGENDA(S); SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD/COMMITTEE MEETINGS; ADJOURN**

WNAXLP 2 1

**Clifton Board Meeting**

The Clifton Town Board will hold its monthly meet on February 7, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Clifton Town Hall, located on the corner of FF and QQ. The agenda: call to order, approval of minutes, treasurer's report, public comment, CUP Belle Ame Vineyard, building permits, discussion/take action on: 2023 road work, City of River Falls Comprehensive Plan; approval of checks, adjournment.

Submitted by: Kris Johnson  
Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP 2 1

**CITY OF RIVER FALLS  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

**DOCUMENT 00 11 13**

**MANN Valley Corporate Park  
River Falls, Wisconsin**

Notice is hereby given that Online Bids will be received by the by the City of River Falls, Wisconsin until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 23, 2023 via QuestCDN, for the furnishing of all labor and material for the construction of the Mann Valley Corporate Park and Radio Road Utility improvements. The following is a partial list of estimated quantities of major items included in the project:

Quantity		Item
1	LS	Mobilization
1	LS	Maintenance of Traffic
1	LS	Field Office
1	LS	Metal Building Removal
23,740	LF	6-inch to 16-inch DIP Water Main
20,000	LB	Water Main Fittings
128	EA	Gate Valves
42	EA	Fire Hydrants
1	EA	Water Valve Vault (PRV)
17,880	LF	8-inch to 18-inch PVC Sanitary Sewer Main
57	EA	Sanitary Sewer Manhole, 8-Foot Depth
225	VF	Sanitary Sewer Manhole, Excess Depth
1	LS	Sanitary Sewer Lift Station
2,046	LF	Sanitary Sewer PVC Force Main
1	LS	Lift Station Control Panel
55	EA	Street or Trail Lights and Appurtenances
2	EA	Lighting Control Cabinets
2	Acres	Clearing and Grubbing
179,900	CY	Salvage Topsoil
34,280	CY	Common Excavation
6,870	CY	Granular Backfill
2,500	CY	Rock Excavation
500	LF	Temporary Ditch Checks (Bio Roll)
8,500	LF	Silt Fence Delivered, Installed and Maintained
38,500	SY	Erosion Mat
1,250	SY	Articulated Concrete Block
23,840	Ton	Crushed Aggregate Base Course
8,990	Ton	Asphalt Street, Trail and Driveway Pavement
1,980	Ton	Crushed Aggregate Shoulder
8,850	LF	Concrete Curb and Gutter
965	LF	Pavement Markings – Striping
8	EA	Pavement Markings – Arrows
47,770	SY	Seeding/Turf Establishment
240	EA	Trees
330	EA	Shrubs/Perennial and Ornamental Grasses
6	Acres	Prairie Seeding
250	LF	8-inch HDPW Storm Sewer
4,300	LF	12-inch to 36-inch RCP Storm Sewer
13	EA	Catch Basin
20	EA	Storm Sewer Manholes
3	EA	Pond Outlet Structures
30	EA	30-inch CMP Culvert
50	SF	Signs

The bid opening will be conducted via Microsoft Teams, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud:

Mann Valley Corporate Park Bid Opening  
March 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. (CDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:  
<https://bit.ly/3wCh8By>

Meeting ID: 283 718 667 198  
Passcode: iCv2XS

Download Teams | Join on the web  
Or call in (audio only)  
+1 872-242-7640, 671901454# United States, Chicago  
Phone Conference ID: 671 901 454#

Any person monitoring the meeting remotely may be responsible for any documented costs. Message and data rates may apply.

The Bidding Documents will be available on February 23, 2023 and may be viewed for no cost at <http://www.sehinc.com> by selecting the Project Bid Information link at the bottom of the page and the View Plans option from the menu at the top of the selected project page.

Digital image copies of the Bidding Documents will be available on February 23, 2023 at <http://www.sehinc.com> for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the "Project Bid Information" link and by entering eBidDocTM Number 8385054 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com).

For this project, bids will ONLY be received electronically. Contractors submitting an electronic bid will be charged an additional \$42 at the time of bid submission via the online electronic bid service QuestCDN.com. To access the electronic bid form, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted. Bids shall be completed according to the Bidding Requirements prepared by SEH dated February 23, 2023.

In addition to digital plans, paper copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from Document Corp. located at 2435 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441 (763.475.9600) for a fee of \$120.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders Proof of Responsibility must be submitted to SEH in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Contractors on the Project shall be required to comply with the minimum wages in effect for the State of Wisconsin.

The City of River Falls reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the best interests of the City.

Amy White, City Clerk  
City of River Falls  
222 Lewis Street  
River Falls, WI 54022  
Publish: February 1 and February 8, 2023

WNAXLP 2 1 8

**TOWN OF DIAMOND BLUFF**

**Notice of Town Board Meeting**

The Town Board of the Town of Diamond Bluff, Pierce County, Wisconsin, hereby provides notice and agenda of the public meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Diamond Bluff for Thursday, February 9th, 2023 at 7:00PM at the Diamond Bluff Town Hall. The public may provide comments to the Town Board if the presiding officer notes on the agenda and upon recognition a period of public comments.

**Agenda: Call to order, Roll call of Board Members present, Approval of minutes from previous meeting, Approval to pay claims as presented, Treasurer's Report, Correspondence and Communication, Township Road Update, Sea Wing Park Committee, Informal public comment time, Agenda items for next meeting, Next meeting date, Adjournment.**

**For Diamond Bluff Town information: [www.diamond-bluff-wi.org](http://www.diamond-bluff-wi.org)**

WNAXLP 2 1

**CITY OF RIVER FALLS  
NOTICE OF NEWLY ENACTED ORDINANCES**

**AT ITS JANUARY 24, 2023, MEETING, THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVER FALLS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES:**

**Ordinance 2023-01 – Repealing and Recreating Section 12.12.10 – Street Excavations** -This ordinance is intended to impose reasonable and limited regulations on the placement and maintenance of facilities currently within the city rights-of-way or to be placed therein in the future.

**Ordinance 2023-02 – Repealing and Recreating Title 18 - Cable Franchise** -This ordinance recreates the City's regulations with respect to cable and telecommunication companies to be in compliance with Wisconsin law, while still imposing regulations that protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public.

The full text of each ordinance, adoption of which is noticed above, may be viewed on the City's website at [www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org) or obtained from the City Clerk at 715-425-0900.  
Published: 2/1/23  
WNAXLP 2 1

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TOWN OF CLIFTON, WISCONSIN**

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Town Board of Clifton on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7 p.m., at the Clifton Town Hall, located on the corner of FF and QQ, for approval/recommendation of a Conditional Use Permit for Jack and Sasha Skendzel for Belle Ame Vineyard, W10829 875th Ave River Falls. Following the hearing will be a Town Board meeting to approve the CUP.

Dated this January 21, 2023  
Submitted by: Kris Johnson, Clifton Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP 1 25, 2 1

**CITY OF PRESCOTT, WISCONSIN**

**ORDINANCE 02-23, an Ordinance Adding 235-22  
Temporary Keeping of Goats; Violations and Penalties**

**The City Council of the City of Prescott, Wisconsin, Does Ordain as Follows:**

**Section 1.** The Chapter 235-22 Temporary keeping of goats; violations and penalties is added as follows:

**§ 235-22 A. Temporary keeping of goats; violations and penalties.**

**A. Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to establish conditions under which the temporary and periodic use of a limited number of goats for invasive species and other weed control is permitted in all districts; and to establish requirements for doing so to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the general population of the City of Prescott.

**B. Requirements for temporarily keeping goats for invasive species or other weed control.**

(1) Temporary use of goats shall not exceed 30 days twice a year.

(2) The goats must be contained by an adequate containment fence at all times. If an electric fence is used it must display a warning that the fence is electric.

(3) The property must be maintained in a clean, sanitary condition so as to be free from offensive odors, fly breeding, dust, and general nuisance conditions.

(4) Goats shall not be allowed on a vacant lot.

(5) The City shall have no liability for any damage that may be caused by goats kept on a property pursuant to this section. Property owners and permittees under this section shall be jointly and severally liable for any damage that may be caused by the goats kept pursuant to a permit issued under this section.

**C. Permit required.**

(1) No person shall own, harbor, keep or maintain goats temporarily or otherwise on his or her property within the City without first obtaining a permit approved by the Prescott Police Department.

(2) The permits shall allow the permit holder to temporarily have goats on his or her property for up to 30 days for the purpose of invasive species or other weed control on his or her property.

(3) A person may be issued two such permits per property in a calendar year.

(4) Applications shall be made to the City Clerk's office.

(5) Applicants shall provide the following information on the permit application:

- (a) Name, address, and contact information of the permit applicant.
- (b) Address and description of the property where the goats will be temporarily kept.
- (c) The type of invasive species or weed control problem on the property.
- (d) Name, address, and contact information of the person or entity providing the goats.
- (e) Site plan showing where on the property the goats will be temporarily kept, including a plan and description of the fencing that will be used to keep the goats on the property.
- (f) The number of goats allowed per permit shall be determined based on the size of the area where goats will be kept and the overall severity of the issue trying to be addressed.

(6) No permit shall be issued until the City reviews the application and inspects the property and determines that the applicant has complied with the requirements of this section.

(7) The applicant shall be the property owner or tenant with written consent of the property owner.

(8) Written permission from a homeowners' association, if applicable, or a statement by the applicant that keeping goats on the property is consistent with any homeowners' association bylaws or rules.

(9) The permit shall not be transferable.

(10) No permit shall be issued if the applicant is delinquent in paying of any taxes, assessments, forfeitures, or fines for violations of City ordinances, utility bills, or other claims owed to the City.

(11) The City of Prescott shall be exempt from the permit requirements of Prescott Code § 235-22 for the temporary keeping of goats on City park and other City-owned property for the purpose of control of invasive species and other weed control purposes on property owned by the City of Prescott.

**D. Permit fee.**

(1) Application and permit fee shall be in the amount established by City fee schedule. The fees may be changed by the motion of the Common Council and shall be incorporated into the City fee schedule.

(2) Permit fees shall not be prorated or refundable.

**E. Inspection and enforcement.**

(1) The Prescott Police Department or their designees shall have the power, whenever they may deem reasonably necessary, and consistent with the requirements of statutory and constitutional law, to enter a building, structure, or property related to a permit under this section to ascertain whether the license holder is in compliance with this chapter. The above-listed departments may issue compliance orders and citations pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, this code and state law.

(2) Violations of this chapter may constitute a public nuisance under Chapter 410 of this Code, or under Wisconsin State Administrative, Chapter 823.

(3) The City may revoke a permit at any time if the permittee does not follow the terms of the permit or this section, or if the City finds that the permit holder had not maintained the goats, fences, or outdoor enclosures in a clean and sanitary condition.

**F. Other methods not excluded.**

The requirements and remedies provided under this section are not exclusive and may be used in combination with each other or with any other section of this Code or applicable state statute.

**G. Severability.**

If any provision in this section, or portion thereof, is found to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the remaining sections shall not be affected.

**H. Violations and penalties.**

Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 per day of violation, if applicable, together with the costs of prosecution. Each day a violation exists is a separate violation.

**Section 2.** Effective date. This ordinance amendment shall take effect from and after its date of publication as provided by law.

**FOR THE CITY OF PRESCOTT**  
Robert Daugherty, Mayor

ATTEST:  
Elizabeth Lansing, Deputy City Clerk  
Introduced: 1/23/2023  
Adopted: 1/23/2023  
Published: 2/1/2023  
Effective: 2/3/2023

WNAXLP 2 1

# PUBLIC Notice

## CITY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Plan Commission of the City of River Falls will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 222 Lewis Street to consider the following:

A Special Use Permit for a personal storage facility (mini-warehouse) on approximately 5 acres at Chapman Drive at Radio Road (PID 27611500000)

All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Please be advised that the presiding officer (the Mayor) may set time limits or limit repeat comments.

Proposed resolutions and maps are available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall at 222 Lewis Street, or on the City's website ([www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org)) under the "agenda center" corresponding to the date listed above.

Emily Shively, City Planner

Publish: Pierce County Journal  
January 25, 2023 and February 1, 2023

WNAXLP 1 25, 2 1

## Prescott School District Board of Education Regular Meeting December 21st, 2022 APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Matzek, Block, Holub, Rudolph, Sizemore

CALL TO ORDER by Board President Matzek, subject to section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes @ 6:03 p.m. via Zoom Meeting

### BUSINESS MEETING:

Board President Matzek adopted the consent agenda and it was approved. Approved November 16th, 2022 regular board minutes. Approved the November payroll checks, advised deposits, general fund checks, activity fund checks, district wires, district ACH as presented by the Finance Department. Acceptance of the following resignations: Alexander Petersen- MES Custodian. Acceptance of the following new hires: Carrie Lebakken-Food Service Coordinator; Katie Erickson- SPED Aide; Erin Bauman-PT Health Aide; Troy Langer-Trap Coach. Acceptance of technical changes to Neola Policies per Bylaw 0131.2.Po 0100- Definitions; Po 0171.1- President; Po 1213-3213-4213- Student Supervision and Welfare; Po 2266- Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or activities.; Po 2340- Sponsored Trips; Po 2370- Educational Options provided by the District; Po 2416- Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information; Po 2430- Sponsored Clubs and Activities; Po 2700- School Performance and Accountability Reports; Po 3340/4340- Grievance Procedure; Po 5335- Care of Students with Chronic Health Conditions; Po 5461- Children at risk of not Graduating from High School; Po 5512- Use of Tobacco and Nicotine by Students; Po 5513- Care of District Policy; Po 5517.01- Bullying; Po 8330- Student Records; Po 8800- Religious and Patriotic Ceremonies and Observances. Acceptance of PHS ALICE Training Drill. Acceptance of MES, MS, MIS, PHS Return to Learn Plan Second Half of 2022-2023 School Year. Reapprove October 19th, 2022 Minutes to add the Daily Rate for Long-term Subs and retirees who sub \$160.00 language.

### RESIGNATIONS:

Motion by Sizemore, seconded by Block to approve the resignation of Lindsey Spielmann-2nd Grade Teacher; Helen Stoeckel- Special Ed Teacher (Elementary). Motion carried

### RETIREMENTS: None

### NEW HIRES:

Motion by Sizemore, seconded by Block to approve the new hire of Kaitlyn Bentz-2nd Grade Teacher; Helena Yanish-Intellectual Disabilities/Cross Categorical Teacher (MS). Motion carried.

Motion by Sizemore, seconded by Block to approve Dorian Choir Overnight Trip. Motion carried.

Motion by Holub, seconded by Rudolph to accept the bid from Wi Bus Sales for a 71 passenger, Gasoline Engine Bus to purchase one new yellow bus. This will be added to the fleet for the next academic year. Motion carried.

Motion by Holub, seconded by Sizemore to accept CliftonLarsonAllen Audit for the 2021-22 Fiscal Year. Motion carried.

Motion by Rudolph, seconded by Block to approve Second Reading of updated Board Policies 31.1. Motion carried.

Motion by Rudolph, seconded by Block to approve Administration and Facility and Grounds Supervisor proposal to designate our current MIS to become the official Middle School site and that the MS facility will be prepared to house our grades 4 and 5 programming, students and staff.

Votes: Sizemore-Nay; Holub-Aye; Rudolph-Aye; Block-Aye; Matzek-Aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Block, seconded by Holub to approve Administration and Facility and Grounds Supervisor proposal to move grade levels 6-8 to the current Intermediate school, and conversely move grade 4 and 5 to the MS facility for fall 2023. Based on work timelines and cost/work alignment we believe this is in the best interest short and longer term for the district. Votes: Sizemore-Nay; Holub-Aye; Rudolph-Aye; Block-Aye; Matzek-Aye. Motion carried.

### INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

Mr. Kosmowski presented the PSD 2021-22 School Report Card. Prescott School District, grades K-12 had a score of 77.0 which Exceeds Expectations. Prescott High School, grades 9-12 had a score of 69.2 which Meets Expectations. Prescott Middle School, grades 6-8 had a score of 76.2 which Exceeds Expectations. Malone Elementary School, grades K-5 had a score of 90.5 which Significantly Exceeds Expectations.

Mr. Kosmowski presented the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar still in process. Will be presented again in January 2023 for approval.

Mr. Fiege discussed the New Graduation Credits based on moving PHS to the 3 term by six period day starting 2023-2024 School Year.

Dr. Spicuzza gave us an update on Referendum projects, timelines and cost alignments.

Dr. Spicuzza and Maria Damiani gave an update on School Board Seat Available and on Election timelines.

Motion by Sizemore, seconded by Block to convene in closed session under exemptions 19.85(1)(c) at 8:30 pm.

Motion by Sizemore, seconded by Block to adjourn from closed session into open session at 9:42pm. Motion carried.

Motion by Sizemore, seconded by Block to adjourn from open session at 9:43pm. Motion carried.

**WNAXLP 2 1**  
**The Ellsworth Town Board will meet Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Town Hall W6058 490th Avenue Ellsworth**

- Agenda:**
- Call to order
  - Minutes
  - Financial report
  - Road work report
  - 480th Ave road construction update
  - Review bids for reframing and replacing three overhead garage door and repairing concrete
  - Other road work
  - Approve driveway permits
  - Public comment
  - Discuss plan commission role/function and responsibilities
  - Receive/adopt town demographics report and proposed draft goals for updating comprehensive plan
  - Grant operator and provisional licenses
  - Discussion and possible adoption of Ordinance 2023-1 repealing Ordinance 2008-4 All Terrain Vehicles and subsequent amendments and adopting Wisconsin Statute 23.33 for the rules and operation of All-Terrain Vehicles and Utility Terrain Vehicles
  - Approve bills
  - Correspondence
  - Town hall/town hall shop discussion
  - Animal issues
  - Next meeting date
  - Adjourn

Any agenda changes will be posted at the town hall.

## INVITATION TO BID PIERCE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH RIVER FALLS REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OFFICE REMODEL PROJECT

Pierce County, a Quasi-Municipal Corporation, will accept unsealed bids for labor, materials and services for reconfiguring a restroom and an exam room in the Pierce County Reproductive Health Office located within the City of River Falls, State of Wisconsin. The successful firm shall furnish all labor, materials, supplies, equipment, and supervision needed to properly reconfiguring a restroom and an exam room to the County's satisfaction. Bids may be received by mail, email or hand delivered, to Jerry Forss, Maintenance Supervisor, 428 Grove St., P.O. Box 119, Ellsworth, WI 54011, [jerry.forss@co.pierce.wi.us](mailto:jerry.forss@co.pierce.wi.us), no later than 11:00 a.m. on February 28, 2023. Bids shall be clearly marked "River Falls Reproductive Health Office Remodel Project". The Pierce County Public Health Director or his/her/their delegate will select the successful firm on or before March 01, 2023. Bid specifications, documents may be obtained from Jerry Forss, Maintenance Supervisor, 428 W. Grove Street, P.O. Box 119, [jerry.forss@co.pierce.wi.us](mailto:jerry.forss@co.pierce.wi.us), Ellsworth, WI 54011, (715) 273-6875. Pierce County reserves the right, in its sound discretion, to accept or reject any or all bids provided in response to bid documents, regardless of conformity with the specifications, as well as to waive any errors and omissions as well as any technical failure of any bid to be fully responsive. Such discretion shall be exercised in the best interest of Pierce County and its taxpayers. Pierce County also reserves the right to determine who, among the several bidders, constitutes the lowest, responsible bidder for the project in question. Bid price shall remain in effect for 90 days. Pierce County reserves the right to reduce its agreement with the successful bidder to a written contract and until such a time as said contract is executed by and between the parties, Pierce County shall not be bound to the terms of the bid in question. Pierce County is bound only upon the signing and execution of a formal written contract. By the authority of the Pierce County Public Health Department, Ellsworth, WI.

WNAXLP 2 1

## NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED FUNDS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Pierce County Treasurer, KATHRYN A. FUCHS, pursuant to Section 59.66(2) Wis. Stats., published a class 1 notice on January 25, 2023, under ch.985, which contained a listing of the names and last-known addresses of the owners of unclaimed money or security that have a value of at least \$20 in the possession of Nancy Hove, Sheriff of Pierce County, Wisconsin, Kerry Feuerhelm, Clerk of Court for Pierce County, Wisconsin and Julie Hines, Register of Deeds for Pierce County, Wisconsin, and is following that ad with this class 2 notice under ch. 985. The full listing that was noticed in the class 1 notice may be viewed at the Pierce County Treasurer's Office, 414 W. Main Street, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, or the following three websites: [www.co.pierce.wi.us](http://www.co.pierce.wi.us), [www.piercecountyherald.com/community/legal-notices](http://www.piercecountyherald.com/community/legal-notices); and [www.WisconsinPublicNotices.org](http://www.WisconsinPublicNotices.org).

Publish: 2/1/23  
WNAXLP

## PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LEPC HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW

Federal law P.S. 99-499 was enacted in October 1986 by the United States Congress to protect and inform all citizens of the existence of hazardous chemicals that may be manufactured, stored, distributed or used in a community. Public law 99-499 is the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (S.A.R.A.) Information about these hazardous chemicals and locations is available for public review at the following location between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday during regular business days, Pierce County Emergency Management Office 555 W. Overlook Drive Ellsworth, WI 54011 Information available includes lists of facilities reporting, Materials Safety Data Sheets, Inventory forms of chemicals, emergency response plans and, if any are filed, follow-up emergency notices of releases from facilities. Telephone inquiries as to specific information contained in the files will not be accepted. Copies of the documentation may be made at the expense of the requester and at rates established by the Pierce County Public Document Law. Information available is limited to compliance with P.L. 99-499 and does not include all chemicals that may pose a threat to humans, animals or the environment. Questions related to this notice should be addressed to Jeff Rixmann, Local Emergency Planning Committee Chair, or Christine McPherson, Pierce County Emergency Management Director, at 715-273-6751.

WNAXLP 2 1 8

Phyllis J Beastron, Clerk

WNAXLP 2 1

## Town of Kinnickinnic Town Board Meeting Tuesday, February 7, 2023 7:00pm

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Kinnickinnic will meet Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall, 1271 County Road J River Falls.\*

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Statement of Public Notice**
- V. Clerk's Report**
- VI. Approve Minutes**
- VII. Treasurer's Report**
- VIII. Public Comments**
- IX. New Business**
  - Pierce-Pepin Broadband Plan Update, discussion and action.
  - City of River Falls Comprehensive Plan Update, discussion and action.
  - The Current, discussion and action.
  - Ordinance/Resolution Review, discussion and action.
  - Building Maintenance, discussion and action.
  - Ceiling tiles
- X. Old Business**
  - Bettendorf Heights Major Subdivision, discussion and action.
  - Update of Plan Commission, discussion and action.
  - Update of the Road Committee, discussion and action.
  - Update of Comprehensive Plan Review, discussion and action.
  - Update of the Broadband Committee, discussion and action.
  - iPad Training, discussion and action.
- XI. Pay Bills**
- XII. Chair Announcements\*\***
- XIII. Adjourn**

Nicky Thompson, Clerk  
This agenda is subject to change. The posted agenda at the Town Hall is the primary notice.

\*Town Hall is handicapped accessible  
\*\*This topic is to be limited to such items as establishing the next meeting date, items for the next agenda, and remind-

Sarah Meyer, Clerk

WNAXLP 2 1

## VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH BOARD MEETING February 6, 2023 6:00pm 130 N. Chestnut St. Lower Level Boardroom (East Rear Entrance)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87412654318?pwd=UjBaOWRHc05NRUQvb2FjOHI0TjBtdz09>  
Meeting ID: 874 1265 4318  
Passcode: 114596

### AGENDA

#### 1. Call to Order

#### Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

10-minute discussion limit on all agenda and non-agenda items per Roberts Rules of Order, the Village Board may suspend this rule if deemed necessary, no board action may be taken on non-agenda items

#### 2. Approval of minutes – 1/3

#### 3. Approve payments and deposits

#### 4. Public comment on non-agenda items

#### 5. Approve Resolution 2023-2 declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing for the sanitary sewer, watermain, storm sewer and street reconstruction of Grant Street, Piety Street, Strickland Street, Woodworth Street, and connecting streets

#### 6. Approve Resolution 2023-3 to authorize a representative to file applications for financial assistance from State of Wisconsin Environmental Improvement Fund

#### 7. Approve Resolution 2023-4 to designate the one-way portion of Chestnut Street as a two-way street

#### 8. Discuss/Approve Change Order for Pember total of \$4,474.10 replacing 2" water shut off on Kinne St project.

#### 9. Discuss/Approve WRWA Conference in Lacrosse April 4-7 Water Credits for PWD Vick

#### 10. Discuss/Approve Payment of \$171,060.00 to McQueen for D45 Snowblower

#### 11. Discuss/Approve Davy Engineering agreement of \$7,500.00 to work on Sewer Ordinances.

#### 12. Discuss and Approve Market & Johnson January invoices for 388 W. Main Street.

#### 13. Updates on Change Order Requests for New Library Project

#### 14. President's Report

#### 15. Committee/Commission meeting reports/recommendations.

**a. TID Joint Review Board**  
**b. Plan Commission**  
□ Certified Survey Map for Gary Leonard. Proposed LOT 1, part of the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 30, Township 26 North, Range 17 West, Town of Ellsworth, Pierce County, Wisconsin, containing 2.7993 acres. Part of Parcel #006-01094-0700  
□ Certified Survey Map for Kyle Olson. Proposed LOT 1, part of the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 32, Township 26 North, Range 17 West, Town of Ellsworth, Pierce County, Wisconsin, containing 5.0658 acres. Part of Parcel #006-01098-0100

**c. Board of Appeals**  
**d. Board of Review**  
**e. ETZ**  
**f. Water and Sewer**  
□ Review 1/3/2023 minutes.  
**g. Street & Sidewalk**  
□ Application for Street Use Permit June 21st 8:00 a.m. to June 25th 6:00 p.m. for all of Crosscut, all of Wall St., all of Broadway (Lane for emergency vehicles included) alley way East of Associated Bank for approximately 15,000-20,000

people, concessions, vendors and music for the Annual Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival  
**h. Salary and Labor**  
**i. Parks, Recreation, & Development**  
**j. Finance, Purchasing, Buildings**  
**k. Public Safety**  
**l. Health, License, Welfare**  
□ Application for Temporary Class "B"/ "Class B" Retailer's License: Ellsworth Fire Services Assoc. for March 25, 2023 Annual Chicken Feed Fundraiser located at 427 W. Spruce St.  
□ Application for Temporary Class "B"/ "Class B" Retailer's License: Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce for June 23rd through June 24th, 2023, for the Annual Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival located at all of Cross Cut St., all of Wall St., All of Broadway St., East End park, Associated Bank Parking Lot, Alley East of Associated Bank, Pavilions and Log Cabin in East End Park  
□ Street Dance License Application for Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce for license period of 06/21/2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., 06/22/2023 from 8:00 to 10 p.m., 06/23/2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m., 06/24/2023 from 06:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. and 06/25/2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Annual Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival, concessions, music, merchant vendors  
**m. Solid Waste, Cable TV, Special Committee**  
□ Review 1/3/2023 minutes.  
**n. Cemetery**  
**o. Community Development Authority**  
□ Review 1/19/2023 minutes.

#### 16. Department Head Reports: Department activity/update

- Chief of Police
- Director of Public Works
- Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Office
- Library Director

#### 17. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Brad Roy, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Posted at the Village Hall, Village Website, and the Ellsworth Public Library  
Emailed to The Pierce County Journal

WNAXLP 2 1

## REQUEST FOR SCHOOL BUS BIDS School District of River Falls

The School District of River Falls is seeking bus bids on (2) conventional buses. All bids must be in a sealed envelope, marked bus bids, addressed to 805 W. Locust Street, River Falls, WI 54022, by Friday, January 27th. The bids will be opened at 12:00 p.m., January 27th 2023. Any further questions contact Todd Burnap at the River Falls Bus Garage, 715-425-1808.

Todd Burnap  
Transportation Director

WNAXLP 1 18 25

# NEWSPAPER ADS WORK 6 out of 10

Newspaper readers who read a services ad took action after seeing the ad The top actions are: Gather more information regarding the service or product Save the ad for future reference Visit the advertiser's website

## SHOP LOCAL

Please patronize our advertisers throughout the year. When you shop at a local business, you give back to your community!

# PUBLIC Notice

# CAMPUS News

## VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH

### NOTICE

**Absentee voting to be administered at Ellsworth Health Services, Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at approximately 10:00 a.m. 403 N. Maple Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011**

Special Voting Deputies appointed by the Village of Ellsworth will be administering absentee voting for the residents of this facility for the Spring Primary Election, February 21, 2023, at the above time and place. Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot.

Only observers from each of the two recognized political parties whose candidates for governor or president received the greatest number of votes in the municipality at the most recent general election may accompany the deputies to each facility where absentee voting will take place. The observers may observe the process of absentee ballot distribution in the common areas of the home, facility, or complex. Each party wishing to have an observer present shall submit the name of the observer to the clerk or board of election commissioners no later than the close of business on the last business day prior to the visit.

Family members of residents may be present at the time of voting.

If you have further questions, please contact: Brad Roy, Village Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer 130 N. Chestnut St., Ellsworth, WI 54011 715-273-4742 Brad.roy@villageofellsworth.org

WNAXLP 2 1

## VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH

### NOTICE

**Absentee voting to be administered at Preferred Senior Living of Ellsworth, Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at approximately 10:45 a.m. 429 W. Wayne Street Ellsworth, WI 54011**

Special Voting Deputies appointed by the Village of Ellsworth will be administering absentee voting for the residents of this facility for the Spring Primary Election, February 21, 2023, at the above time and place. Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot.

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WNAXLP 2 1

## South Dakota State University

**BROOKINGS, SD** - More than 3,200 students were recognized for their outstanding academic performance over the fall 2022 semester at South Dakota State University by being named to the dean's list.

To earn dean's list distinctions in SDSU's colleges, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits and must have earned at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. A minimum of 12 credits within the 100-699 course range must be taken.

Congratulations to these distinguished scholars on earning this academic achievement.

**Nathan Lawrence**, River Falls, in SDSU's Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering  
**Jada Pemble**, River Falls, in SDSU's College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions

## UW-Whitewater

**WHITEWATER** - The following students were named to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2022 fall semester.

**Bay City: Nathan Erickson**  
**Hager City: Jenna Giese**  
**Prescott: Avery Goehring**  
**River Falls: Kaili Wescott**

These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

## Marquette University

**MILWAUKEE** - **Ameilia Hadzima**, of River Falls, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee. Hadzima is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. To make the Dean's List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2022 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean's List. The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the

College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

## McKendree University

**LEBANON, Ill.** - Congratulations to **Lauren Stolzman**, River Falls, who was named to the fall 2022 semester Dean's List at McKendree University for earning a grade point average of 3.60 or higher.

## UW-Oshkosh

**OSHKOSH** - **Madeline Beck**, Ellsworth, was named to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Dean's List for fall 2022. The term GPA requirement for Dean's List is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0.

To qualify, a student must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits.

## St. Cloud State University

**ST. CLOUD, Minn.** - St. Cloud State University has announced the names of more than 1,100 students whose academic achievement placed them on the 2022 fall semester dean's list. To be eligible for the honor, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

**Beldenville: Hailey-Maree Guilds**, College of Science and Engineering, Biomedical Sciences

## CVTC

Chippewa Valley Technical College announces that the following students have been named to the President's List for the fall 2022 semester. To be eligible, students must complete a minimum of six credits with a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

**Beldenville: Derek Matzek**, Genevieve E. Peterson, and Maria A. Segura-Gronseth

**Eau Claire: Leah M. Sabelko**

**Ellsworth: Samuel E. Allyn, Erica Bakken, Maggie R. Berns, Tova J. Brookshaw, Anna M. Bull, Christine L. Burleson, Cameron M.**

**Close, Jordan E. Erickson, Dawson Fedie, Keana M. Hall, Merideth N. Hansen, Ryan A. Hvinden, Megan E. Johnston, Tucker K. Larson, Elle R. Leonard, Christopher Machacek, Brooke Minder, Rebecca A. Mueller, Lance J. Neeley, Tara J. Olson, Casey Paider, Alyssa L. Pechacek, Elijah A. Rohl, and Charlyze C. Smith**

**Elmwood: Riley C. Bechel, Brody M. Bleskacek, Luisa V. Eng, Renee Flatland, Miriam Gierke, Rylee M. Hartung, Deanna M. Hayden, Walter M. Hollstadt, Regan J. Prissel, Rylan J. Prissel, and Cori N. Wood**

**Hager City: Erika A. Churchill, Bodee L. O'Neil, Taite K. Place, and Kade K. Stees**

**Maiden Rock: Jordan J. Clare**

**Plum City: Allyson R. Fleishauer, Grace E. Hinrichs, Beau D. Holt, Derek J. Lifto, Christian Martin, and Philip A. Steger**

**Prescott: Mikayla J. Andersen, Gavin Carey, Hanna R. Cook, Breanne L. Hudak, Campbell R. Hundt, Tamitha J. Martin, Laura McCann, Samantha Nelson, and Parker J. Sampson**

**River Falls: Lance A. Anderson, Hannah R. Azem, Karissa J. Baar, Jillian E. Beaupre, Stella A. Boles, Elizabeth A. Bonderson, Shannon L. Cook, Kevin Deiss, Hayden W. Ekholm, Anneliese M. Farner, Alexander D. Fosler, Melinda Gooden, Ashley Howard, Adrianna I. Jacobson, Dana M. Jensen, Virgil K. Jensen, Kristina M. Juenemann, Zachary Magnuson, Isabella V. Medina, Aidan R. Olson, Rachel E. Pace, Vincent J. Pedavoli, Kevin Perkins, Tyler Przybilla, 'Isapela Pupungatoa, Joseph M. Reardon, Skyla Reed, Robert J. Rhoads, Audrey Richter, Shannon L. Rivera, Nicholas Ryan, Erika S. Sanders, Kristen Schneider, Holden L. Scott, Isabel D. Seyffer, Christopher M. Shaw, Callie Soden, Devan M. Stratton, John Sullivan, Katie Tanski, Madisyn S. Tape, Alondra N. Vargas, Kayleigh A. Volkman, Daniel J. Weber, and Genoveva I. Wilson**

**Spring Valley: Stella L. Bellin, Victoria R. Butler, Ella A. Esanbock, Jennifer L. Freund, Jessica A. Fritz, Sam-**

**uel J. Greifzu, Luke R. Hagen, Shye A. Klatt, Erik Lee, Maxwell J. Matths, Ali M. Nestrud, Samantha R. Sarasin, Aivary H. Stein, and Lily Webb**

**Wilson: Rose M. Buchal, Angela J. Nilssen, Joy E. Webb, and Craig A. Wyss**

## Wisconsin Lutheran College

**MILWAUKEE** - **Theodore Schmenk**, of River Falls, a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College, has been named to the college's Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester. Theodore is a graduate of Saint Croix Lutheran Academy.

To be eligible for Dean's List, a student must carry a semester GPA of 3.6 or higher.

## Iowa State University

**AMES, Iowa** - Senior **Hannah M. Brubaker**, a psychology major from River Falls, was among more than 10,200 Iowa State University students who have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2022 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

## UW-Stout

**MEMOMONIE** - The following students from the area have been named to the University of Wisconsin-Stout Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester.

The award is presented to students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above. **Beldenville: Brady Sharon**, senior, marketing and business education

**Ellsworth: Annabelle Meyer**, junior, packaging; **Annika Nord**, sophomore, packaging

**Elmwood: Rianna Carlson**, junior, psychology; **Curtis Eng**, freshman, applied mathematics and computer science; **Tyce Todd**, senior, technology education

# Community CALENDAR

**Thursday, Feb. 2**  
**Trivia Night**, 7-9 p.m., Spillway Bar (S225 McKay Ave., Spring Valley). Sponsored by the Spring Valley Public Library. First place is \$300!

**Saturday, Feb. 4**  
**Seventh annual Ice Kickball Tournament**, 11 a.m., Eau Galle Recreation Area (W501 Eau Galle Dam Road, Spring Valley). Cost is \$30 per team (six players per team, three guys, three girls). Money raised will benefit Spring Valley Public Library and Spring Valley Seniors Staying Put. Meat and 50/50 raffles will be going all day. Food for sale on the ice.

**Noah Klinski Benefit**, 1-7 p.m., Molly's on Main (515 Main St., Plum City). Food, drinks, meat raffles, games, live auction, 50/50 raffle, gun raffles, weekend get-away raffle, gift baskets, and more. Noah is the son of Jess (Berger) and Tyler Klinski. He was diagnosed with heart failure in August at age 4 months. To donate, funds can go to "Noah Klinski Benefit Fund" at First Bank of Baldwin in Plum City.

**Rush River Trail Rider's Snow Day**, 10 a.m., Rush River Trail Riders Clubhouse (N4775 450<sup>th</sup> St., Ellsworth). Free event, fun for the whole family. Trail rides at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., refreshments and food, bonfires, sledding hill, snowmobile show and 3 p.m. raffle. For more information, visit [www.rushrivertrailriders.com](http://www.rushrivertrailriders.com)

**Our Neighbors' Place Casino Night**, 6-9 p.m., Killkarene Hills Golf Course (163 Radio Road, River Falls). Silent auction, heavy appetizers, drinks, blackjack and poker tables, live music by Half Shebang, desserts by Ga-Ga's Kitchen. Proceeds will benefit ONP programming. Tickets are \$50 and available at [ONPcasinoonight2023.eventbrite.com](http://ONPcasinoonight2023.eventbrite.com)

**Sunday, Feb. 5**  
**Coffee & Crafts**, 1-5 p.m., E-Town Collaborative (259 N. Broadway St., Ellsworth). Do you have a project or two that you want to finish? Maybe a half-knitted blanket or a scrapbook? Bring your supplies and hang out with us! Enjoy hot coffee or cocoa and relax with others while working on your project. Bring a snack to share; freewill donations will go to E-Town Collaborative's mission.

**Valentine's Day Decorate & Sip**, 2-4 p.m., The Old Ptacek's Event Center (1449 Orrin Road, Prescott). A fun afternoon of decorating sweets with DeCamp Delights Bakery, music, raffles, random trivia for prizes, drinks and snacks. All proceeds go to Fairy Wonderland Park.

**Monday, Feb. 6**  
**River Falls Garden Club Meeting & Workshop**, 7 p.m., River Falls Public Library (140 Union St.) Meeting at 7 p.m. followed by speaker Emily Larsen at 7:30 p.m., who will talk about her

Bachman's internship. Then, Jo Forsythe will present a workshop on winter gardening. Please bring a milk jug and be prepared to play in the dirt.

**Tuesday, Feb. 7**  
**Chamber Chat & Coffee**, 7:30 a.m., Twisted Oak Coffee (202 Broad St. N., Prescott). Prescott Chamber members are welcome to stop by for coffee, networking and announcements.

**Who Killed Malcolm X?** 6:30 p.m., University Center Ballroom, 501 Wild Rose Ave., UW-River Falls campus. Historian Abdur-Rahman Muhammad will present his research behind the Emmy-nominated Netflix documentary series "Who Killed Malcolm X?" and how it led to the exoneration of two men who were convicted in his 1965 assassination. Parking is \$1 per hour on campus. Email [derek.bradley@uwrf.edu](mailto:derek.bradley@uwrf.edu) for more information.

**Wednesday, Feb. 8**  
**Red Cross Blood Drive**, noon to 6 p.m., Pierce County Fairgrounds (364 N. Maple St., Ellsworth). Register online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

**Friday, Feb. 10**  
**Kickstarter Coffee**, 7:30 a.m., WESTconsin Credit Union (385 W. Main St., Ellsworth). Grab a cup of coffee and a breakfast treat and network with Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce members.



## Wisconsin Civics Games

[www.wisconsincivicsgames.com](http://www.wisconsincivicsgames.com)

Open to all Wisconsin high school students. Members of the winning team receive \$2,000 scholarships to a Wisconsin college or university of their choice.

**Register by Feb. 20.**



Sign up & learn more at [wisconsincivicsgames.com](http://wisconsincivicsgames.com)



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