



PETER J. WASSON/STAFF PHOTO

A wall at Ashland's Xcel energy plant traces the facility's contributions to peregrine recovery.

## Peregrins/ from A5

For Ries and other researchers, it's old hat — literally. They wear construction helmets when they approach nests to retrieve the chicks, and let the parents just bounce off. They've also developed another defense: They wave an old broom over their heads to keep the parents at bay.

"I've had them come so close to my hard hat that you can hear the WHOOSH from their wings when they come by," Hall said. "When they get real quiet, you know they're about to dive bomb you. They don't like company up there, for sure."

Three weeks old is the best time to band the chicks because one, they're old enough that their size is an indication of their gender, but two, they're not yet old enough to flee, Ries said. "Also, they have kind of learned how their feet work, but not really so if they get a talon in you, you'll get scratched but not really hurt," she said.

Each chick will get two numbered bands — one from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the right leg, and another from the raptor group on the left leg.

"We measure the legs for bands, listen to their voices because smaller males tend to have a higher pitch," Ries said. "The Fish and Wildlife bands are designed to be recovered off dead or injured birds, and our colored bands help us track where the chicks

### HISTORY OF THE XCEL FALCONS

**Butch and Bebe:** both unbanded and named by Xcel's Lynn Hall

2014: hatched 4, 1 made it offsite

2015: hatched 3, 2 made it offsite

2016: hatched 3, 2 made it offsite

**Baby Face and Bebe:** Baby Face hatched in McGregor, Iowa in 2010, and Bebe was unbanded

2017: hatched 4, 1 made it offsite

2018: hatched 4, 4 made it offsite

2019: hatched 4, 1 made it offsite

**Scarlet and Scottie:** Scarlet came from Raven Cliff, Minn, and Scottie from Houghton/Hancock

2021: 3 hatched, 2 made it offsite

**Penny and Peter:** Penny hatched in 2020 at Busch Agricultural Complex/Briess Malt & Ingredient Co. in Manitowoc, and Peter was unbanded and named by Hall

2022: 2 Hatched, 2 made it offsite.

**Bay Front total production:** 27, with 15 making it offsite after fledging.

end up."

That's how everyone involved identified last year's mom — and likely this year's, too — as Penny, who was banded as a chick in Manitowoc.

And this year, the power plant, Daily Press and Ashland School District are doing something new: Ashland students will propose names for the chicks, which Daily Press readers will vote on. When Ries bands the birds, each will be assigned a name.

"I think it's a super cool idea," Ries said. "Kids today need to know the story of how these birds were nearly

wiped out by DDT, and how they have come back — and how cool it is that they are there in Ashland."

With any luck, Penny and Peter again will raise chicks to help keep the recovery going.

"To be a part of bring them back to something that is producing young here every year, that's pretty cool and Xcel is really proud to be a part of that," Hall said. "We get to see them hunt every day — they're just so fierce — and every pair is different. I can't wait to see what happens this year."



PETER J. WASSON/STAFF PHOTO

Xcel's Lynn Hall and other employees have named chicks hatched at the plant since 2014. This year, they are handing off that duty to local students.



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With faces that only a mother could love, the chicks that hatched in 2022 — Thomas and Timmy — pose for a photo when they were banded.

## OBITUARY

### Marjorie Ann Kincaid

April 15, 2023

Marjorie Ann Kincaid passed away peacefully while cradled in her mother and father's arms, surrounded by her loving extended family, at Memorial Medical Center in Ashland, WI on April 15, 2023. Marjorie was born earlier that day and was the second child of Allison (Lambert) Kincaid and Aleksis Kincaid.



Marjorie was a beautiful baby girl and a spitting image of her two-year-old big brother Edward, who had been talking about everything he wanted to teach her in the months leading up to her birth. Marjorie was the perfect addition to her family who are all heartbroken by her unexpectedly short life. She will be missed and loved by many.

Marjorie is survived by her parents and brother, Edward John Kincaid, grandparents Carol and Bruce Lambert, John and Anne Kincaid, great grandparents, James and Elizabeth Chambers, Darlene Kincaid, uncles Jeffrey, Thomas, and James Lambert, Michael Kincaid, aunt Laura Kincaid, and cousins Jadyn Kincaid and Ashley Miller.

Visitation to be held at Bratley Funeral Home on Thursday, April 27 from 8:00-10:00am. Private service at a later date.



JOHN HART/WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

Workers enclose the components of a charging station for electric vehicles along East Washington Avenue in Madison. The state Assembly voted this week to prohibit any regulation that would ban gas-powered cars or appliances.

## Assembly votes to prevent state, local bans of gas-powered cars, appliances

**ANYA VAN WAGTENDONK**  
Wisconsin Public Radio

Wisconsin communities would not be allowed ban people from buying gas-powered cars or appliances under a pair of Republican bills passed along party lines in the Wisconsin Assembly on Tuesday.

The legislation would prevent Wisconsin's state and local governments from enacting zero-emission mandates that would phase out vehicles, lawnmowers, ovens and other consumer goods that use fossil fuels in favor of those powered by

electricity.

While seven states have announced plans to ban sales of gas-powered vehicles after 2035, Wisconsin is not one of them. Republican lawmakers argued the bills were a proactive measure.

"These bills just protect the consumers, our manufacturers and distributors across the state from deciding what kind of vehicle or lawnmower or kitchen appliance you want to have in your home," the legislation's co-author, Rep. Ellen Schutt, R-Canton, told reporters.