



Department of Interior recognizes lives lost

Last week, for National Police Week, U.S. Department of Interior paused to remember those law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. At the Udall Building in Washington, D.C., Secretary Haaland saluted Interior's 3,600 officers for their heroic efforts to keep communities safe.

Coon Creek Community

Watershed Council to discuss decommissioning of dams

The Coon Creek Community Watershed Council (CCCWC) will hold a series of meetings in response to a proposal by Wisconsin US-DA-NRCS State Engineering to decommission all 23 of the PL-566 flood control dams in the Coon Creek and West Fork Kickapoo River watersheds in later 2024.

The first meeting is on Thursday, May 25, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at the Shelter located at the Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center (N455 O Ophus Rd, Coon Valley, WI 54623). Two presentations will take place at 4:30 pm and 6:30 p.m., to provide information. A tentative June 1 meeting is planned for Viroqua (location and time to be announced).

This will leave these two watersheds without the protection against flash flooding, and flooding in the greater watersheds, that the communities have relied on since the 60s and 70s since the dams were built. This is a situation, in light of increasingly intense rain events, that requires that all residents of the watersheds inform themselves of the impact of that decision by LaCrosse, Monroe and Vernon county boards could mean for impacted communities.

While more catastrophic flash flooding could impact

local watersheds from this decision, quicker and greater river flooding downstream will likely also eventuate. The decision will likely impact Richland and Crawford counties as well.

"A historic and unprecedented event may be about to unfold, the decommissioning of 23 dams at once," Wedwick explained. "For the past nearly two years, the CCCWC has been working to educate people about increasing water infiltration and decreasing runoff as a way to reduce runoff from storm events and flooding."

As a Council, Wedwick explained, we have worked very hard to build a culture and climate that understands and honors the varying thoughts and feelings, seeks to find common ground, and works to broaden the audience.

"We want to share resources for looking ahead and to learn how to live without dams, as well as learn from others," Wedwick said.

To provide resources, Grassland 2.0 from UW-Madison will join watershed council members to give an overview of two-to-three watershed scenarios built with 'FloodScape,' 'SmartScape,' 'GrazeScape' and 'Heifer Compass' tools that emerged from the Collab-

orative 'Landscape Design' process of 'Rich Picture Development' in the Grasslands 2.0 Ridge & Valley Learning Hub.

"This information will help folks understand the relative responsiveness of flooding, soil health, biodiversity, and productivity/profitability to ag land management," Wedwick said. "Scientists will also invite participation in helping to refine the scenarios."

"Greener Pastures from UW-Madison will be there to provide us with an overview of the oral narrative project in the Coon Creek Watershed, and the importance of storytelling and participation of people when thinking about and processing impacts and effects of change." CCCWC President Nancy Wedwick said,

Resources will be provided to the public, including varying options for conservation practices, the decommissioning process, cover crops, alternative perennial crop funding and how to leave public comments.

The proposal timeline includes a public comment period from late June to August 15, with the decommissioning of all dams to occur between July and December 2024.

Malfunctioning brakes lead to two-car crash

Vernon County Sheriff Roy Torgerson reports a two-vehicle accident on May 22, around 12:46 p.m. Rachel Korish was traveling south on Highway 35, slowing down to make a left turn onto Mallard Lane, when she was struck.

A vehicle operated by Andrew Degeler was also traveling southbound on 35 behind Korish. Degeler stated that when he attempted to slow down, his brakes malfunctioned and his tire locked up, causing him to strike Korish. Korish had her one-year-

old properly restrained in a rear facing car seat. Korish complained of neck pain, and was transported for evaluation.

All occupants were wearing their seatbelts, and airbags did not deploy in either vehicle.



RACHEL KORISH'S vehicle was struck from behind by a vehicle driven by Andrew Degeler, because Dregeler's brakes malfunctioned, causing his wheel to lock up,

NEW SEASON... NEW CAREER?
JOIN THE TEAM AT

CARDINAL CG

WORLD LEADER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COATED GLASS FOR RESIDENTIAL WINDOWS AND DOORS!

All Shifts Available

- \$19.05 1st Shift + Profit Sharing up to \$25.34
- \$20.95 2nd Shift + Profit Sharing up to \$27.86
- \$21.05 3rd Shift + Profit Sharing up to \$28.00

- ◆ Career advancement available
- ◆ 401K — via monthly Profit Sharing Program
- ◆ Clean, climate controlled work environment

Apply in Person M-F 9am-3pm
Interviews/Tours Available

1024 E Madison Street • Spring Green, WI • 608.588.9831

Production Positions Available

100% AMERICAN MADE

CARDINAL CG

ENGINEERING THE FUTURE OF GLASS

Memorial Day

Monday, May 29

The Crawford County Veterans Service Office Salutes All who have Served and Sacrificed.

Please remember that if you have any questions regarding benefits relating to your service, you may contact our office for information and assistance.



608-326-0204