

The newest COVID booster now available

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend individuals 12 and older receive the updated Pfizer bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster, or that adults 18 and older receive the updated Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster.

The updated COVID-19 boosters add Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 spike protein components to the current vaccine, helping to restore protection that has waned since previous vaccination, by targeting variants that are more transmissible and immune-evading.

Individuals are eligible for a single dose booster at least two months after any primary series vaccination or prior booster dose. Crawford County Health Department will have the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster available beginning the week of September 12 at the Health Department office in Prairie du Chien.

A clinic will be held in Gays Mills on Friday, Sept. 23. Appointments can be made by calling 608-326-0229, or online at crawfordcountywi.org/health. The booster will also be available at local healthcare facilities and pharmacies.

Over the last two weeks, Crawford County has seen a decrease in COVID-19 reportable cases. We are currently in the 'medium' COVID community level. This means there are some people experiencing severe illness having an impact on health care systems. Masking in public indoor spaces is not necessary, but you may choose to wear one.

If you have COVID symptoms, stay home and get tested. We have many testing options locally including free home test kits available at the Health Department, and at the Gays Mills Village Office.

You can also order home test kits to be delivered to your home by going to sayescovidhometest.org. Healthcare facilities and pharmacies continue to provide testing.

A weekly community testing site provides testing for free on Wednesdays at the Gays Mills Community Commerce Center, from 9-11 a.m.

If you have any COVID questions or are looking for resources, please contact the Crawford County Health Department at 608-326-0229.

In Gays Mills Forestry plan on hold due to a lack of cash

By CHARLEY PREUSSER
Village of Gays Mills Volunteer Forester Cindy Kohles had a bittersweet moment at the board meeting held Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Kohles presented a well-developed five-year forest management plan for the village. The plan would typically be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and used in obtaining Urban Forestry Grants, but the DNR requires matching funding from the village. At this point, the cash-strapped village is unable to fund any of the activities outlined in the 27-page plan, so there will be not matching DNR grants.

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Polishing the apple is important

Gays Mills Lions Club members Bob Van Hoesen, left, and John Powell, center, and Judy Powell, right, were hard at work last Wednesday sanding the 'Big Apple' in preparation for filling holes, priming, painting, and adding a finish coat. The Gays Mills Farmers Market has donated \$250 to help with the Lions Club project. It will no doubt be ready for Apple Fest.
Photo by Marjie Jurgensen

In Soldiers Grove Chicken ordinance is back at meeting

By CHARLEY PREUSSER
The seventh item on agenda for last week's Soldiers Grove Village Board meeting was just one word - 'Chickens.'

The sometimes controversial and contentious issue of owning and raising chickens at residences in the village had seemingly been solved last summer. Then, the board adopted an ordinance spelling out the rules for keeping the birds legally in the village.

So, why was it back in front of the village board last Thursday?

"I thought we did it and everybody was happy," one village trustee was heard to say as the matter was introduced. Well, maybe not exactly.

Former Soldiers Grove Village President Jerry Moran refuses to buy a permit as required by the ordinance, it was reported.

Moran cites ag zoning

Moran was reported to have had a lengthy personal meeting with the current Soldiers Grove Village Board President Paul Nicholson. Apparently, lots of things were said in the meeting between the two men, but the upshot was that Moran feels he does not need a permit. Moran's village property on Pine Street, where the chickens are housed is zoned residential and agricultural. The former village president believes the fact the property carries agricultural zoning, as well as residential zoning means a permit is not needed.

One village trustee indicated the chickens were being raised on the portion of the property zoned residential.

The village ordinance requires residents to obtain a permit to raise chickens in the village. The other major requirement of the ordinance is that no more than four chickens can be kept by the permit holder.

The first annual permit costs \$50; and then it's \$10 annually every year it is renewed.

There are three residents known to be raising chickens in the village. One person has the permit, one says they're not getting a permit and the status of the other chicken owner is not known.

Village president Paul Nicholson told the board about the process underway to deal with the situation. Nicholson said the village's contracted law enforcement officer (a county deputy) and the county animal control officer have been made aware of the situation.

The three individuals with chickens were notified of not being in compliance with the chicken ordinance by the village on August 15. They were given 10 days to reply and/or deal with correcting the situation. They did not reply to the letter.

Subsequently, law enforcement was made aware of the situation by the village; and the officer wrote a letter to the three residents with chickens. See CHICKENS Page 14 Col 3

Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board learns how water levels are created

By GILLIAN POMPLUN

At their board meeting in Spring Green on Thursday, Sept. 8, members of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) learned about how water levels are regulated on the Lower Wisconsin River. Kathryn Wilhelm and Amanda Blank of Alliant Energy made a presentation to the board and almost 30 citizens at the meeting.

Blank is the former manager of the Alliant Energy Dam at Prairie du Sac, and Wilhelm is the newly appointed manager. Blank managed the dam for nine years before moving on to manage dams in the Beloit area. Wilhelm has worked for

Alliant Energy for the last 22 years.

"Alliant held a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Prairie du Sac Dam in 2014 - construction began on the dam in 1911, and it went into operation in 1914," Blank said. "Alliant has owned and operated the dam since 1970, and also owns and operates the Kilbourn Dam in the Wisconsin Dells."

Blank explained that both dams operate under a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). She said that both dams have a 'Run of the River' license. Electricity generated from the Prairie du Sac Dam, from its

eight turbines, is enough to power 30,000 homes.

"Our license strictly defines how water levels in the Lake Wisconsin impoundment above the dam must be maintained - we are limited to varying the level by one-tenth of a foot or about seven inches," Blank explained. "River flow is measured in cubic-feet-per-second (cfs), and the average flow at the dam is 9,000 cfs, with the maximum when all eight turbines are running of 13,000 cfs."

Blank explained that one way to visualize what a cubic-foot-per-second looks like is to think of the unit as about the size of a basketball. She said that this would mean that between 9,000 and 13,000 basketballs flow through the dam every second. This amounts to about four million-gallons-per-minute, or 5.8 billion gallons-per-day. The Lake Wisconsin impoundment behind the dam holds about 39 million gallons of water.

According to the 'Energy Education' website, a "run-of-the-river hydroelectric system harvests the energy from flowing water to generate electricity in the absence of a large dam and reservoir... The primary difference between this type of hydroelectric generation compared to others is that run-of-the-river primarily uses the natural flow rate of water to generate power - instead of the power of water falling a large distance. However, water may still experience some vertical drop in a run-of-the-river system from the natural landscape or small dam. Another main difference between

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AISJA ACHENBACH LEADS her Crawford County Fair Supreme Dairy Champion Cow from the arena after the Dairy Show on Saturday, August 27.

In Crawford County Fair results are announced

Dairy Awards

- Supreme Champion Dairy - Aisja Achenbach
- Junior Champion Dairy - Aisja Achenbach
- Registered Holstein Junior Champion - Aisja Achenbach
- Registered Holstein Reserve Jr. Champion - Aisja Achenbach
- Registered Holstein Grand Champion - Aisja Achenbach
- Registered Holstein Reserve Grand Champion - Grant Moret
- Registered Red & White Holstein Junior Champion - Hayven Smethurst
- Registered Red & White Holstein Reserve Junior Champion - Skylar Achenbach

- Registered Red & White Holstein Grand Champion - Luke Kramer
- Registered Red & White Holstein Reserve Grand Champion - Regan Kramer
- Junior Champion Registered Milking Shorthorn - Lizzie Udelhoven
- Junior Champion Registered Jersey - Grant Moret
- Reserve Junior Champion Registered Jersey - Kaitlyn Riley
- Grand Champion Registered Jersey - Grant Moret
- Reserve Grand Champion Registered Jersey - Regan Kramer

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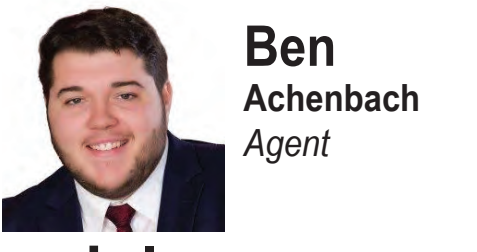


CHRISTINA DENNIS presents the final draft of her cultural and natural heritage map of the Lower Wisconsin River to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) at their recent meeting in Spring Green. Dennis gets a little help holding up the maps from retired LWSRB Chairperson Gerry Dorscheid.

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Fluctuations in river levels likely related to actions upstream of Alliant dams

RIVER from Page 1

traditional hydropower is that run-of-the-river hydro is used in areas where there is little to no water storage, such as in a river."

Blank explained that the two Alliant Energy dams are among a total of 25 dams on the Wisconsin River, which is why the river is referred to as "the hardest working river in the nation." In addition to the dams, there is also a system of reservoirs on tributaries of the river, which hold water in reserve, to be used to control water levels on the river throughout the year as needed.

The reservoirs are owned in common by all of the property owners on the river, and administered by Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC). These reservoirs impound about one-sixth of all the water in the Wisconsin River system, and according to Blank, the rest of the water comes from runoff. She said that approximately 25 percent of Wisconsin's landscape drains into the Wisconsin River basin.

According to the WVIC website, the reservoir system was initiated in 1907 and 1908 with the acquisition of 16 existing logging dams. These dams are all located at the outlets of natural lakes on streams that are tributary to the Wisconsin River, except for Lac Vieux Desert which is located at the outlet of a natural lake that is the origin of the Wisconsin River. The dams raised the levels of the associated natural lakes by several feet and were used in the late 1800s for transporting logs to downstream industrial facilities.

This was done by storing water in the lakes and then opening the dam to cause a large artificial rise in river flow, generally at the same time natural flooding was already occurring. The release of that added water would then float logs stored in the lakes to downstream markets.

When WVIC acquired these dams the operation pattern was changed so that the storage and release of water from the lakes could be used to achieve more uniform downstream river flow. This operation is exactly opposite of that used for logging purposes. These reservoirs are known as natural-lake reservoirs.

From 1911 to 1937 WVIC constructed five new reservoirs, known as man-made reservoirs, to increase the capacity of the system. The five man-made reservoirs (Rainbow, Willow, Rice, Spirit, and Eau Pleine) have a larger range of allowable water level limits and hence much greater usable storage capacities than the natural-lake reservoirs. The five man-made reservoirs account for 73 percent of the system's total usable reservoir storage.

The 16 natural-lake reservoirs account for the remaining 27 percent of the usable storage available in the system.

Blank explained that for each dam, there is an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) which takes into account the hydraulic shadow of the dam, and uses calculations of how fast and far the water in the impoundment behind the dam would travel in the event the dam was breached. She said that all the dams in the system also have integrated EAP's allowing them to communicate and work together in the event of an incident anywhere in the system.

One meeting participant asked Blank if Alliant Energy changed water levels in

Lake Wisconsin to meet peak demand for electricity.

Blank answered that because the two Alliant dams have a run-of-the-river license, they are tightly constrained in the extent of water level variation they are allowed to make. She said that other dams upriver in the system are not licensed in this way, and so Alliant will see the effects of those dams manipulating water levels in the stretches of the river controlled by Alliant's two dams.

Highway 130 bridge

Brent Freeman of Kramer North America was on hand to update the board about the Highway 130 bridge replacement project. The bridge, which crosses the Wisconsin River near Lone Rock, will be replaced with construction scheduled to begin in 2023, and be completed in 2025.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation is using a new process for highway improvement projects called the 'Design-Build Program.' The program is in pilot phase right now, and the Highway 130 bridge replacement project was one of three that is part of DOT's pilot.

"Design-Build Program is a collaborative contracting process that brings the engineering and construction industries together at the outset of a highway improvement project," according to WisDOT's website. "Traditionally in Wisconsin, these processes have always been separated, where a designer plans the project and a construction company will then execute on those plans... While not a solution for every scenario, design-build is able to create efficiency by eliminating administrative burden and enhancing the synergy, creativity and communication that ultimately brings a project into reality."

"The Highway 130 bridge will mimic many of the design features of the Spring Green bridge," Kramer told the board. Those design features were approved by the LWSRB.

Kramer said that the new design involves shifting the southern terminus of the bridge about 900 feet south of the current terminus. This will allow a safer intersection to be constructed with Highway 133. The current intersection ends with a large rock wall directly ahead, and has been the scene of many accidents over the years.

"We expect the project to be completed in the summer

of 2025," Kramer said. "At the conclusion of the project, Long Island will be restored to a more natural wetlands, with public access maintained."

Kramer said that in the summer of 2025, Highway 133 will be closed for approximately 89 days, beginning after school lets out, and re-opening before school starts again in the fall. Throughout the closure period, emergency access for first responders will be maintained.

Dan Kleinartz and Greg Brecka from Wisconsin DOT were also present at the meeting.

"This project is one of the first ones where DOT has used our new Design-Build process," Brecka said. "The end result will be a beautiful new bridge, very similar to the one in Spring Green. Going forward, DOT will continue to use what we have learned in the pilot phase of Design-Build with this and other projects for future projects."

Brecka said that another bridge replacement project that will be coming up in future years will be for the County T bridge across the Wisconsin River between Blue River and Port Andrew.

"For the Highway 130 project, there will be regular updates posted on the project website by the public relations firm we have engaged for the project - Revelation PR," Kleinartz said. "In addition, there will be a public information meeting for the project planned for October."

Cultural-Heritage map

Recent UW-Madison graduate, Christina Dennis, and her advisor, Geography Department professor Dr. William Gartner, attended the LWSRB meeting to present the final draft of their cultural and natural heritage map of the Lower Wisconsin River. The map was developed by Dennis as her senior capstone project.

"The map, once finalized, will be available as a downloadable PDF, and also as a limited-run printed map," Dennis explained. "The map portrays natural and cultural features, and historical people along the Riverway, and is intended to enrich the experience for people recreating along the river."

In addition to the Spring Green meeting, and an upcoming public input meeting to be scheduled to take place in Boscobel, interested individuals can also download

the map and submit input and comments online at <https://geography.wisc.edu/lower-wisconsin-riverway-map/>

"We can't put everything on the map, but input from people who live in the Riverway is vital to this project," Dr. Gartner told the group. "This is your backyard, and we want to know what matters to you."

In other business

In other business, the board:

- heard various updates on projects and proposed development in the Riverway
- approved permits for a

timber harvest by MacEachern in Bridgeport Township in Prairie du Chien, and a prairie project management extension for the Kussmaul property in Millville Township in Grant County

• heard that Cupp would make a presentation to the 'Upper Wisconsin River Water Trail' group later in September

• heard from WDNR's Jesse Kellogg that work to clean up Sanders Creek in Boscobel, to increase water flow and allow for improved discharge of storm water, would begin soon

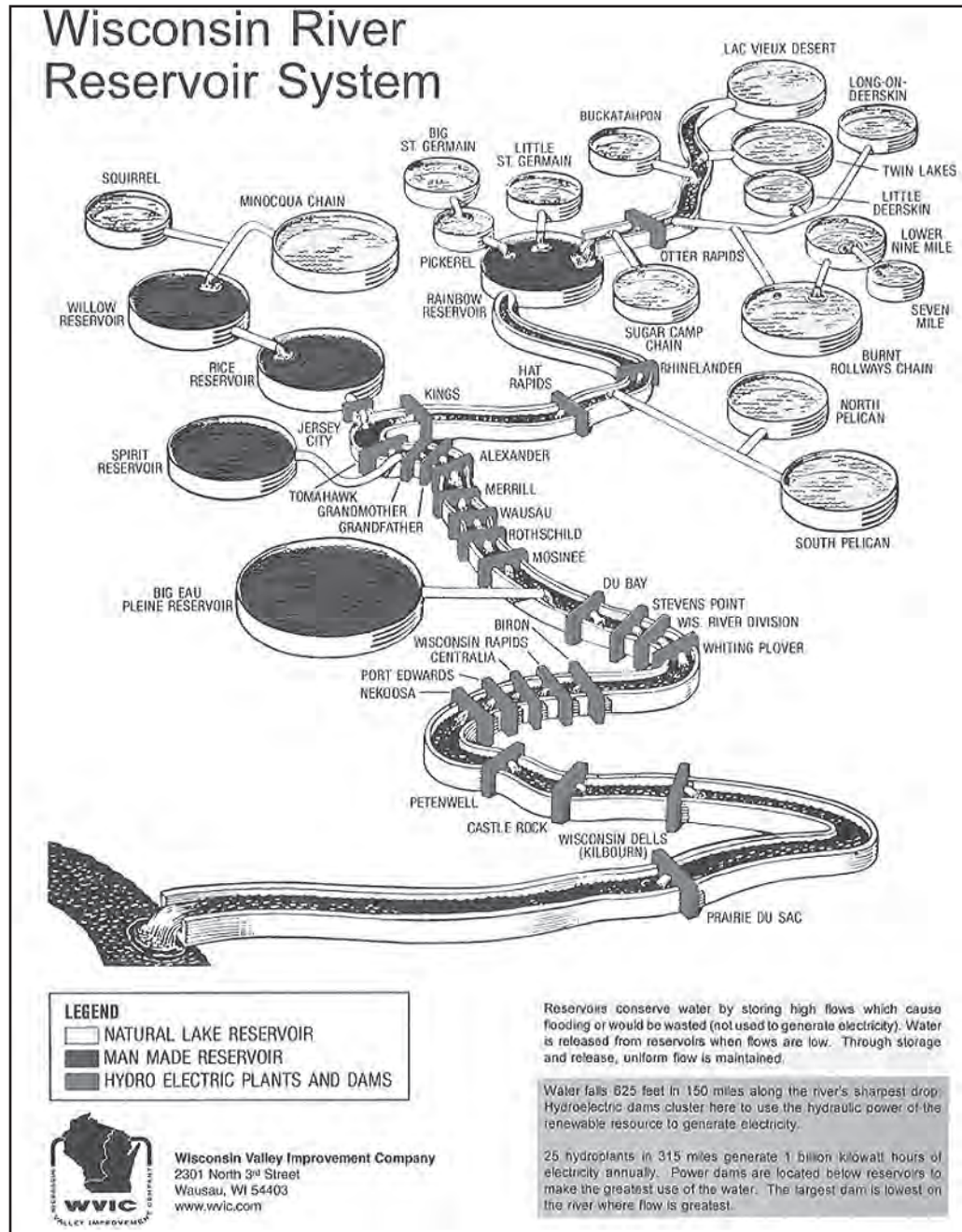
• heard that Cupp would

attend a meeting in Sauk City regarding the bike and snowmobile bridge project on September 15

• heard that DOT is currently saying that Highway 60 between Gotham and Muscoda is scheduled for improvement in 2027

• heard that a meeting about the County T bridge replacement project would take place later in September

• heard that DNR work to improve the trail at the Ferry Bluff State Natural Area is completed, and that further erosion control work may be undertaken, as well as updates to interpretive signage



2022 Viola Horse and Colt

Friday Night, September 23rd
ALL DAY Saturday, September 24th

★ EVENTS ★

- Carnival and Midway with wristband special Friday night
- Raffle with two (2) \$2500 top prizes
- Truck and Tractor Pulls Friday night and Saturday
- Large parade starting at 1:00 on Saturday
- Live music in the beer tent Friday and Saturday Night with High Mileage on Friday and The Tradesman on Saturday
- Free community dance from 6-10 Saturday night
- Horse Pull Saturday morning at 9:30
- Horse and livestock shows Saturday
- Arts and Crafts Show, with household exhibits
- The Touchstone Energy Cooperative Hot Air Balloon will be coming back for its 2nd year at the 91st Annual Viola Horse and Colt Show! Tethered Balloon rides will be available on Saturday afternoon.

For more information, go to www.violahorseandcoltshow.com

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
4:30 - 7:00pm
BMZ Church Mt. Zion
21588 Mt. Zion Rd, rural Boscobel

Advance Tickets:
Adults \$8; School Age \$5; Under 5 years FREE
At the Door: Add \$1

Get tickets at the BMZ Church office (across from Piggly Wiggly) or call 608-872-2397 or 608-485-3429

Carry-outs available
BMZChurch.org 608-375-4565

BOSCOBEL Cemetery Association FUNDRAISER

STARTING AT 11 A.M.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

WOODMAN VILLAGE PARK

- ★ LIVE MUSIC
- ★ LIVE AUCTION WITH BAKED GOODS
- ★ RAFFLES
- ★ 50/50 RAFFLES

Food, Water & Soda will be available on grounds

Bring your own chairs and beverage of choice and join us for the day

Not Responsible for accidents or lost items