

From the field



BY
**HANNAH
ALDEN**
REPORTER

Back to news

When I was in high school and college, I dreamed of a big time [journalism](#) career, working in a place like New York City. Funny thing is, I barely made it out of Chicago without losing my mind. Returning home to Wisconsin was just what I needed and it's where I've enjoyed reporting on small towns and the community mindset surrounding them.

I grew up near Waukesha before running off to the Windy City to complete my journalism degree. I quickly found out city life was not for me and though I had some great experiences there, I yearned to come home. After graduation I started my career as a reporter at the *Lodi Enterprise/Poynette Press*, covering two small communities outside of Madison. From there, I became managing editor of the *DeForest Times-Tribune*.

I loved (and still love) many things about the newspaper business — hearing what people in nearby communities care about, learning about local government and seeing how neighbors come together to help one another. There's a lot to be said about the importance of paying attention to the details and being honored with the duty of telling someone's story.

However, my husband and I moved to the Abbotsford area this year when we found a small farm property we couldn't pass up. Over the years while living near Madison, I had fallen in love with a [new](#) venture. After leaving my post as [editor](#) in DeForest in 2019, I went on to start my career in organic agriculture. I helped manage a 12-acre CSA and market organic vegetable farm for almost four seasons. Those years, while sometimes stressful and full of sunburn, blisters and bug bites, were some of the best I've had, because I got to work outside in all the elements, do a lot of work I'd never dreamed I could do and help provide fresh food to a wide range of people.

In the spring, I will be launching my own vegetable farm, working 4 acres on my own. I plan to start by selling to area farmer's markets and hopefully in the future have some kind of a CSA/online ordering system for deliveries and a farmstand on the property. Additionally, I will be utilizing cover crops and pollinator plantings to help rebuild the soil and land that I'm so lucky to now steward.

In the meantime though, my focus will be on learning all I can about the communities within the *Record-Review's* coverage area and helping to get the word out about what's happening in local government, schools and more. I'm happy to be here and get back into the swing of the [newspaper](#) world.

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A side of Kraut: My help has arrived

Casey Krautkramer, Reporter, The Record-Review

My help has arrived! I was able to survive managing *The Record-Review*, with help from former *Tribune-Phonograph* editor Kevin O'Brien covering the online Marathon County Board meetings for me, during a period of transition after Peter Weinschenk retired as editor on October 10. Reporter Hannah Alden started working on Monday at *The Record-Review*.

The Record-Review will now have a different format of leadership. There will not be an editor but rather there will be three reporters in Kevin, Hannah and myself handling our coverage area. I will still be spending more time in the office than Hannah and Kevin, who are part-time reporters, therefore an readers with questions should call the office and ask for me.

I will still be checking both my personal work and *The Record-Review's* general emails, and I will forward meeting agendas and give event coverage assignments to Kevin and Hannah. So I guess I'm sort of like an editor without the title. I couldn't give up my passion for writing about local high school sports.

Now that Hannah is here, I can return to my normal coverage beat of handling news in Athens and Stratford and covering var-

sity sporting events in Athens, Edgar, Marathon and Stratford.

I'll admit that I wasn't able to see too many winter varsity sporting events like basketball and wrestling during my added workload of covering news in Edgar and Marathon. It was nice to broaden my horizons in our newspaper's coverage area, especially in my native Marathon. Saturday was the first time I'd ever attended Marathon Holly Days and I had a great time at this wonderful community event.

I'm still working through printing all 12 of my winter varsity sports preview stories and team photos in *The Record-Review*. Printing the team previews has prevented me from having enough space in my sports section to provide readers with updated varsity sports results, for example this week I only had enough room to print three team wrestling preview stories and team pictures.

I should be able to finish printing winter varsity sports team previews and team photos next week. I only have the Athens and Stratford boys basketball and Edgar wrestling previews remaining. Please be patient with this process.