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REVIEW

September 2025

War Came to the Hay River Valley



By David K. Williams

Working on a history of the farm I own southwest of Prairie Farm, I've sought to learn how major events affected the farm and its family. I wanted to know how World War II upended lives in our area.

A number of area men either enlisted or were drafted into one of the armed

service branches, which immediately affected workers needed in all occupations, especially on farms. Few would have imagined that worker shortages would be somewhat allayed in the war's later years through the deployment of German prisoners of war.

As I prowled the online pages of the Barron News Shield,

A News-Shield reader recently emailed a photo to the paper, which shows half a dozen men who could well have stayed in town as German prisoners of war during World War II. "I found this photograph in a suitcase in Brisbane, Australia," wrote the reader, Andrew Clarkson. Photo submitted by David K. Williams

I learned that authorities established a prisoner of war camp on the edge of Barron in 1944. In the June 22, 1944, edition of the paper on page 1, the reporter noted that Camp Barron, later renamed Camp Grant, would be located east of the city limits. Prisoners stationed there would help with the pea harvest.

The July 6, 1944 (page 1) issue of the News Shield announced that Camp Barron was activated on July 4 with the arrival of 200 German PWs, as the inmates were called, whose letters graced their shirts or jackets. "Because of the short-lived nature of this work," district commander Col. Wm. H. McCurty announced, "we are working against time, and it is imperative that war prisoners be allowed to devote their entire efforts to the projects without being distracted by interested onlookers." Apparently, gawking at the new arrivals was a popular pastime.

Community News

In an excellent book entitled "Stalag Wisconsin" (Badger Books, 2002) about PW camps throughout Wisconsin, author Betty Cowley wrote that Wisconsin was home to 38 branch prisoner of war camps in 1944 and 1945. Stalag refers to the German word for their prisoner of war camps, and entered popular culture when

the television show "Hogan's Heroes" aired from 1965 to 1971.

Camp McCoy was the base camp and held the largest prisoner population. Overall, there were 20,000 PWs in the state during those two years of operation. More than 450,000 PWs arrived in the United States.

Camp Grant in Barron, according to Cowley, was located about where the Jerome Foods/Jennie O turkey plant is now located in 1944, and moved north of the city to where the current **Barron County Highway** Department shop is located in 1945.

Prisoners were housed in tents, several dozen in total, with dirt floors. Barbed wire encircled the camp, but

"War" cont'd. on page 2...

Celebrating 150 Years

Hay River Lutheran Church

By Randy Lee

As immigration started touching our area in the 1870s, those people brought with them the desire for church services. Being far from most things and difficult to travel to, there was a call for pastoral services. To fill this need, pastor Knute

Thorstenson from Elk Creek Church came to the area and conducted services in people's homes. This arrangement lasted from 1873 to 1874, when the nascent group thought they needed a church of their own.

Hay River Lutheran Church, founded in 1875, will mark

its sesquicentennial on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, with a celebration service at 10 am, followed by a community dinner at noon. The public is warmly invited to join in honoring the church's rich history and heritage.

The roots of the congregation stretch back to 1873, when Pastor Knute Thorstenson of Elk Creek Church traveled to the area to lead services in private homes. As travel was difficult and residents were far from established churches, the need for a local congregation quickly became



The Hay River Lutheran Church celebrates its community faith of 150 years. Photo submitted by Randy Lee

That need was met on Sept. 20, 1875, when the Norwegian **Evangelical Lutheran Church** (NELK) at Hay River was officially organized. Pastor Harold Haakenson presided over the meeting and became the first pastor. A constitution

was adopted, officers elected, and plans for a permanent church began to take shape.

A cemetery and church site were dedicated in 1877. Just a few years later, in 1880,

"Church" cont'd. on page 2...



Want to continue getting this paper in the mail?

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"When you are reluctant to change, think of the beauty of autumn."

- V V Brown

..."War" cont'd. from front

newspapers reported that it didn't look very secure. Nonetheless, escapes were few. "Recognizing themselves as well fed, well treated, and not being shot at, most German prisoners accepted their circumstances," wrote Cowley. (P 37). She wrote that in 1944, many prisoners still thought Germany would win the war, a sentiment that disappeared by 1945.

Prisoners ate in a mess tent with food cooked by prisoners. Camp Grant prisoners totaled 200 in 1944, but the population swelled to 422 in 1945. Most of the German prisoners had been soldiers in German General Rommel's Afrika Korps when captured. Allies found it easier and required less manpower to ship the prisoners to the US, rather than try to maintain PW camps throughout Europe or the South Pacific.

..."Church" cont'd. from front

the congregation voted to build a 20-by-30-foot log church, with each family contributing materials. As the community grew, a larger building was constructed in 1902, eventually completed in 1910, but used starting in 1906. The original log church was sold to Olaus Mork and repurposed as a barn.

Norwegian was the language of worship in the early years, but by the late 1920s or early 1930s, the congregation transitioned to English services. The church evolved alongside the community, with key upgrades including a basement and electrical wiring in 1938, a translated constitution in the 1940s, and a remodeled kitchen in 1948.

In 1960, the church added a north wing to accommodate its growing membership, especially as nearby Popple Creek and Zion Lutheran churches closed, sending members back to their roots at Hay River.

A front addition in 1984 helped shape the church's current look, and an elevator was installed in 1999 to ensure accessibility for all.

As the 150th anniversary approaches, members reflect on the generations that built and sustained their church through hard work, dedication, and faith.

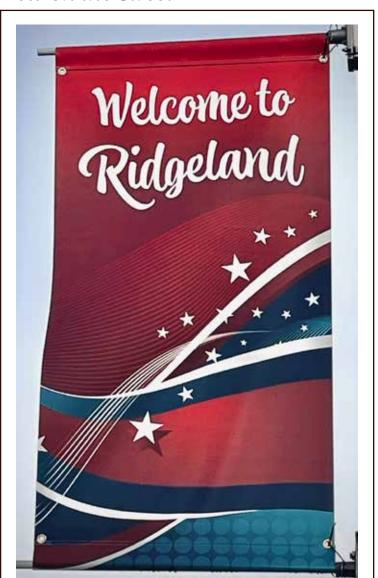
Prisoners were taken daily by truck to various canning companies to help with the pea and sweet corn harvests. Cowley said almost all prisoners worked in agriculture, either "pitching peas, working the peaviners, detasseling and husking corn, picking beans, berries, tomatoes, potatoes, raking hemp and shocking oats." (P

Prisoners were trucked back to their camp for dinner and lights out by 10 pm. Prisoners were paid in scrip, to be used at the camp commissary, where they could purchase cigarettes, candy and other items like stamps to mail the weekly postcard or letter home they were allowed. The PWs earned about \$19 a month in scrip, slightly less than the \$21 a month a typical American GI earned. Pay was regulated through the rules of the 1932 Geneva Convention for prisoners of

Cowley noted that Camp Grant prisoners worked at a number of local canneries, such as J.B. Inderrieden in Barron and Rice Lake (125 PWs at Rice Lake; 100 at Barron), Stokeley Foods in Cumberland (100), Clear Lake (25), Ladysmith (50), and Chetek (22). (P 63). A few worked at the Shanno Viner on County P between Prairie Farm and Almena. (P 63-64)

Camps followed a strict "No work, no eat" policy. During two work stoppages by prisoners, they were confined to their tents and a bread and water regimen—PWs quickly resumed working. Cowley wrote that prisoners of war provided over 50,000 manhours of labor in desperately needed jobs. Most Americans, she concluded, were unaware that PWs saved many crops. By 1946, virtually all prisoners were en route home.

New on the Street



The village of Ridgeland prepares for fall with new banners purchased by the Community Improvement Committee and Ridgeland Civic Club. Photo submitted by Betty Glaser

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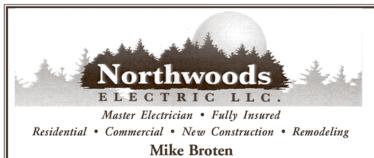
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Newspaper Policy

The Hay River Review is published monthly by the Hay River Publishing Cooperative. The Review reports community news and promotes the exchange of ideas in order to enhance the quality of life and to encourage community participation.

The Review is always looking for stories of community interest. If you have a story idea, tip, or article, please email Danny McLennan at editor.hayriverreview@gmail.com. Letters, articles, and photos can also be submitted online at HayRiver-Review.com, or by mail to: HRR, N12638 County Rd Q Downing, WI 54734. Articles may be edited and are published at the discretion of the REVIEW.

The Review welcomes readers' viewpoints. Letters must be signed and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Unsigned letters will not be printed. The REVIEW reserves the right to edit letters or delete parts of letters with defamatory or unsuitable content. Letters are published at the discretion of the Review.

Opinions expressed by the editor, correspondents, columnists, and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hay River Publishing Co-op.

The staff and members of the board thank the advertisers who suppport the publication of the Review and encourage everyone to patronize local businesses whenever possible.

The Review is printed by Publisher's Printing of Amery. The paper is mailed free to all Prairie Farm, Ridgeland and Dallas addresses as well as residents of the Prairie Farm School District.

Support Your Local Voice

The Hay River Review **Needs You**

By Betty Glaser

As a resident of Ridgeland for the past 14 years, one thing I look forward to each month is finding the Hay River Review in my mailbox. This little paper has helped me feel connected to the heart of our community. Whether it's upcoming events, business updates, school happenings, or stories about local families and history — I've learned more from the Review than from anywhere else. Over time, it helped me put faces to names, connect who's related to who, and understand how local businesses have grown and changed hands.

It's more than just news — it's our story.

But like all good things, the Hay River Review costs money to produce. We have four part-time employees who bring each edition to life, we have to pay for printing and delivery, and cover behindthe-scenes expenses. To cut down on costs, the board has already reduced distribution expenses by making the paper available at local businesses and newsstands in addition to mail delivery.

Did you know we print around 2,050 papers each month? Over the years, subscriptions have increased to 200, which is encouraging. But despite that, we are still facing a shortfall of about \$1,700 each month.

During COVID, Hay **River Review Publishing** Corporation was lucky enough to secure some grant funding, which helped us stay afloat. But now, we're dipping into our savings and if nothing changes, those funds may only last another 10 months.

So how can you help?

- Subscribe to the Hay River Review if you don't already.
- Place an ad whether for a business, an event, a service, or even just to say congratulations or thank you.
- Donate any amount helps us continue to serve our communities.
- Share our mission tell others why the Review matters to you.

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PUBLISHING DATES

Issue	Ad Due	Copy Due	Distribution
October	Sept. 26th	Sept. 25th	October 3rd
November	Oct. 24th	Oct. 23rd	October 31st
December	Nov. 21st	Nov. 20th	November 28

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This community paper has been in operation since 1987, largely due to the support of advertisers and subcribers!

Thank you!

Support us with a subscription, or deliver local news and history to family and friends outside of the Prairie Farm-Ridgeland area for just \$25/yr (WI) and \$30/yr (out-of-state). Email your name and address to Office.HayRiverReview@gmail. com. Please include "HRR Subscribe" in the subject line. OR **SUBSCRIBE ONLINE** at HayRiver-Review.com



Community building is important to HRR, which is why we're working on having a presence at more local events. We've had a booth at the local Traditional & Green Skills Event (above) for a number of years. Photo by Cody Mastel

HayRiver

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We're working hard to keep the Hay River Review affordable for everyone without raising ad or subscription prices. That's why, starting in September, we're launching a new approach:

We're asking readers to subscribe if you'd like to continue receiving the paper by mail. Right now, we assume everyone in our local readership area receiving a free copy in their mailbox wants it. But printing and mailing are our biggest costs — and we need to cut back where we can.

Here's how it works:

• If you'd like to continue receiving the Hay River

Review by mail, you'll need to subscribe for \$25/year.

• The paper will still be available for free at select local businesses and designated newsstands in our communities.

By choosing to subscribe, you're not only keeping your mailbox full of local news - you're helping sustain a valuable community tradition and receiving the newspaper at your doorstep!

The Hay River Review isn't just a paper — it's a reflection of our shared lives across Ridgeland, Dallas, Prairie Farm, Hillsdale, Wheeler, and Boyceville. If you've ever learned something new, smiled at a neighbor's story, or felt more rooted here because of the paper please consider helping us keep it going.

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Calling all Collectors

By Sofi Doane

Are you crazy about toy cars? Do you have dozens of dolls? Are you passionate about pens?

The Rassbach Museum is planning our fourth annual Collector's Day — a celebration of collectors and their collections! The event is an opportunity for you to share your collection (and your knowledge and enthusiasm) with the community and perhaps inspire others to join in collecting.

Museums are organized around collections — ours includes items that help tell the story of Dunn County and its role in the state of Wisconsin. What do you collect, and what does the activity mean to you?

All ages are invited to participate. Previous collectors have ranged in age from 4-94!















Make your collection a talking piece! Photo submitted by Sofi Doane

Collections take years to grow- even if you are just starting to collect, we would be delighted to have you share your collection.

Collections do not need to be large or a highly collectable item, we welcome starting collectors and their collections.

Collectors Day will be held September 27, 2025, from 1 to 4 pm at the Rassbach Museum. To register as an exhibitor, please complete the form available at the museum or on our website at www.dunnhistory.org/ collectors-day.

Applications are due by September 6. You can drop off the completed form at 1820 John Russell Road in Menomonie's Wakanda Park (11 am to 5 pm) on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and 2 - 8 pm on Thursday, or

mail it to DCHS, PO BOX 437, Menomonie, WI 54751, ATTN

Call Sofi Doane at 715-232-8685 with any questions. We hope to hear from you soon!

Traditional and Green Skills Gives Back

By DKO Pike

The Traditional and Green Skills Event planning committee recently presented Corey Berghammer, the Prairie Farm School District Superintendent, with a \$500.00 check. This contribution will allow the school to purchase a utility cart, folding tables, and a roaster oven. These can be used by the school throughout the year, and by our team in March for the next TGSE.

This donation to the school was possible due to the generous outpouring of ommunity support for the TGSE, including sponsors' cash contributions, minimal expenses due to volunteers contributing planning, speaking, food preparations, day care, and all the myriad of tasks needed to make this event so successful. The school district does not charge us for the use of classrooms and other school facilities, which in turn allows us to have more funds to help contribute to needed areas.

The TGSE has been held every March at Prairie Farm High School since 2010, except during the COVID years, and looks forward to many more to come!



(From left to Right) Corey Berghammer, Nancy Frank, Joan Feldman Plumb, and Suzanne Gaines. Photo submitted by Corey Berghammer



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Flag Retirement Ceremony by American Legion Post 511

Honoring Old Glory

By Betty Glaser

The American Legion Post 511 of Ridgeland hosted a solemn and moving Flag Retirement Ceremony in Ridgeland Village Park, drawing veterans, families, and community members together in a shared moment of patriotic reflection. As the sun set and a gentle breeze drifted through the park, Commander Mike Steffe addressed the crowd with a heartfelt speech honoring the American flag and those who have served under it. Legion members respectfully presented worn and unserviceable flags to the commander for formal retirement, following a tradition rooted in dignity and respect.

The United States Flag Code recommends that when a flag becomes tattered, faded, or otherwise unfit for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way—preferably by burning. The flag is more than a symbol of the nation; to many, it represents the sacrifices of those who

served, the freedoms we enjoy, and the history of the country itself. Disposing of it improperly would dishonor what it stands for. That's why ceremonies like this one are treated with such reverence.

The ceremony included the inspection of some of the flags that were gathered for retirement. As each flag was presented, members of the Legion stood in silent respect. The flags were handed to Commander Steffe, who accepted them on behalf of the nation and deemed them ready for retirement.

Once accepted, the flags were placed in a ceremonial fire, their fabric respectfully returned to ashes under the watchful eyes of veterans and citizens alike. The gentle crackle of the flames served as a backdrop to a moment of reflection, made even more poignant by the darkening skies and quiet hush of the crowd. Many community members were commenting on the ceremony and this being the first one they have observed.

As part of the tradition, the veterans saluted the burning flags, reinforcing the values the flag embodies—liberty, unity, and sacrifice. While simple in form, the act is powerful in meaning, reminding attendees of the responsibility that comes with freedom and the respect owed to those who have defended it.

Commander Steffe closed the ceremony with a few final words, thanking all who attended and emphasizing the importance of preserving these patriotic rituals. In a world where traditions can easily fade, the Flag **Retirement Ceremony** remains a poignant reminder of shared values and national pride.





Liberty, unity, and sacrifice are the core values of our sacred American flag. Photos submitted by Betty Glaser

Get Off the Couch and Geocache

By Betty Glaser

My daughter introduced me to Geocaching approximately five years ago while visiting her in South Royalton, Vermont. It is a great way to explore the area and have fun together. This activity can be

for one person or the whole family. I recently heard a story on NPR about Geocaching, written by a local writer from Eau Claire, about how she connected with Mother Nature and how it made her remember her sister.

What is Geocaching, you may ask? It's reminiscent of hide and seek. People from all over the world, visiting or traveling through your area, may identify a neat area to hide a small canister, such as a camera roll or small box. The fun part... is trying to find it! Sometimes in the container, you will find trinkets and a log sheet to sign. Those

who create one will come up with clues and place them on Geocaching.com. Do you know there are geo caches located in and around Ridgeland, Dallas, and Prairie Farm? There are over 50 of them.

So let's get started, are you excited? In your internet browser, type in geocaching. com. You will need to establish an account, and signing up is free. Once you are on the website, type in Ridgeland, WI as an example or any city, town, or state. There are 18 geo caches hidden within 10 miles of Ridgeland! The one I found interesting was the Norwegian Bridge. Click on Norwegian Bridge. Here is the clue:

Geocache Description: You're hunting a bison tube containing only a log.

The Norwegian bridge crosses the Hay River just south of Prairie Farm on 1 1/4 AVE.

I'm not sure what year the bridge was rebuilt, but it was sometime in the mid-70s. The original footings can still be seen just north of the bridge. Stealth will be required at times. This is a very popular local fishing spot. You may even see some of the local Amish children dropping a

They also supply coordinates to enter into Google Maps. Type into your "location" the following coordinates: "N 45 13.682 W 091 59.622." I know my husband knows where the Norwegian Bridge is, and I recently discovered where it is located!

The last person who stopped by and found the geo cache was on January 26, 2019.

On my recent trip to Bennington, VT, we found a geocache hidden in a tree near the Robert Frost grave site. We were not successful in finding one near the Bennington Monument, but we had so much fun exploring, laughing, and spending time together in nature. Sometimes you get the rooster, and sometimes the rooster gets you! Ready, set, go, get off the couch, get out of the house, and GEOCACHE! Let us know where you find them!

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Alfalfa Fest

By DMM Mick

Alfalfa Fest once again delivered smiles and community spirit as residents gathered for the annual celebration held on the first Saturday in August.

This year's event featured live music, hay rides, a chicken dinner, a silent auction, and other family-friendly activities that drew a strong turnout. Organizers said the day was a success, both in bringing the community together and in raising funds for those in need.

Proceeds from Alfalfa Fest go toward local charitable efforts, continuing a tradition of community giving that has become the heart of the event.

The festival has grown in popularity over the years, becoming a highlight of the summer for locals and visitors alike. If you have yet to attend, we urge you to visit our fantastic little town next year and enjoy a day outside with us!





(Clockwise from top left) George Christenson is pictured with the ladies who have been his right-hand helpers and cheerleaders since the inception of Alfalfa Fest. Left to Right, Judy Lehman, Vickie Seeger, Valerie Nelson.

Kendra, Melanie, and Kim provided smiles and dance moves as they dished up the delicious chicken dinner prepared by the Beer Belly BBQ Team.





DJ Greg Chovan once again provided great music throughout the fun day. Next year I'm going to dance like nobody is watching!

Gary Quist provided entertaining hay rides at beautiful Pioneer Park throughout the day.

Photos submitted by Bonnie Milbrandt





Rolling Acres Greenhouse



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Ridgeland Dallas Elementary

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Ridgeland Summer School Students Explore Local Treasures

By Mackenzie Anderson

This summer, students at Ridgeland School traded desks for hands-on adventures, exploring Ridgeland and nearby towns while learning from local business owners, community members, and nature itself. The program combined field trips, guest speakers, and creative projects to help

students connect with their community in meaningful ways.

The first stop was Security
Bank in Ridgeland, where
Ms. Kristin and Ms. Jamie
welcomed students with
a behind-the-scenes tour.
They visited the coin counter,
peeked inside the vault, and
each left with a one-dollar
coin and a fifty-cent coin as a

keepsake to put in the banks they had decorated at school.

At Bergmann's Greenhouse in Clayton, students used their senses to explore plants, learned about propagation, tasted fresh kohlrabi, and created colorful art using flower clippings and special color-changing paper with guidance from Ms. Jenny, Ms. Ivanna, Grandma Bev, and the Bergmann's team.

A visit to Rural Farmstead in Prairie Farm brought students face-to-face with bright fields of sunflowers. They learned about the plants' life cycle, enjoyed a peach-andblueberry sunflower snack, and each received a sunflower from Ms. Tasha. Thanks to the generosity of the Dallas Civic Club, Prairie Farm Lions Club, Thrivent, The American Legion, and the Prairie Farm Civic Club, school supply bags from Ms. Maranda were given to each child.

At the Ridgeland Library,
Mrs. Mickelson introduced
the young readers to the
library's resources. Each
student received a "Battle of
the Books" title along with a
shirt, bracelet, and bookmark,
and enjoyed exploring the
historical park and mural
nearby.

Finally, at Coates Corner in Ridgeland, Ms. Ashley invited students behind the counter to make their own deli sandwiches, which they enjoyed together for lunch.

The learning continued back at school, where special visitors brought exciting lessons to life. Mr. Matt from the fire department let students explore a fire truck and try on firefighter





(Above) Students had some amazing weather to explore the outdoors this summer! (Below) Students visited many local businesses to show their appreciation for local support. *Photos submitted by Mackenzie Anderson*

gear. Ms. Stephanie and Mr. Aiden introduced them to fascinating creatures, including praying mantises, walking sticks, and a lizard named Cricket. Mrs. Schill, guidance counselor from the Barron Area School District, brought her therapy dog, Mabel, for a day of smiles and snuggles.

Students also gave back to the community. They painted pots, planted flowers, and delivered them to local businesses, made thankyou notes for the generous supporters of summer school, and decorated rocks for the school's landscaping. They baked dog treats for Mabel, crafted items for a time capsule to be stored at the Ridgeland Library, and prepared snacks inspired by

characters from the books they read.

The summer program ended with a joyful water day celebration, complete with a HUGE water slide—thank you to Mr. Matt and the Ridgeland-Wilson Fire and Rescue—and bubbles.

Ridgeland's summer school proved that learning can happen anywhere: in the middle of a sunflower field, inside a bank vault, at the library, or while sliding down a giant water slide. We love our little school that offers big learning opportunities and even bigger connections. The program was made possible through the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and community members who opened their doors and their hearts to the students.





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School District of Prairie Farm

September 2025

Corey Berghammer, Superintendent • John Casey Fossum, Principal

715-455-1861

www.prairiefarm.k12.wi.us

Paid for by the Prairie Farm School District. It is the policy of the School District of Prairie Farm that no person may be discriminated against in any program or activity as required by s.116.13 Wis. Stats.

Principal's Report

Welcome back!!! It has been a busy summer around the district as we finished up projects and held a variety of student activities. Fall activities are well under way and it has been fun having students back in the building. School will officially start on Tuesday, September 2nd with all students PreK-12 reporting for class. The school day runs from 8:00-3:20.

The district held its annual Prek-12 open house on Wednesday, August 27th running from 2:00-6:30 pm. This is always an exciting time as we welcome students and families back into the building for the year. Thanks to all the students and families that attended helping to kick off the school year. The district has hired a number of new staff members that will serve in various roles throughout the district. Below you will find a list of the new hires and their positions.

Counselor - Rachel Turenne MS/HS Secretary - Torrie Litomsky

Business - Anna Baker

First Grade Sub - Kristine Giammattei

Para - Don Larson

Para - Nicole Davis

Title 1 Para - Emma Regalado

PreK - Tricia Smith

Band - Pete Fettig

Food Service - Candi Hartung

Food service - Milissa Stanley

While students don't officially start until September 2nd, many have returned and the buildings have been busy. High school volleyball, football, golf, and cross country are underway. Many other organizations have begun their yearly activities as well.

Leadership Council held a great evening of orientation for students entering 6th grade. Sessions designed for students and parents helped provide valuable information as they begin to enter the next level of schooling. Thanks to all who attended!

Throughout the summer a lot takes place behind the scenes and I just want to take a moment to thank our custodial staff (Dalton Hinke, Brett Graunke, Tara Ducommun, Lorie Lien, and Don Roemhild) and our office staff (Torrie Litomsky, Linda Stehling, Michelle Buckley, and Tanya Larson) for having the building and scheduling ready to go for us when students arrive. This is a huge task and is done very well by these individuals. Thanks!

I am excited to have students and staff back in the building and am looking forward to continuing our excellence here in the Prairie Farm District as we enter the 2025-2026 school year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by the district office, or contact me at fossum@prairiefarm.k12.wi.us or 715-455-1861.

Sincerely, Casey Fossum Pre K-12 Principal School District of Prairie Farm 715-455-1861 ext. 258

What's Happening

September 1 **Labor Day**

September 2 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL September 30 Mid 1st Quarter (MS/HS)

October 2 & 3 **Parent Teacher Conferences-**

No School

Prairie Farm School is now accepting lunch applications. If you haven't received one, please contact Linda Stehling at 715-455-4235. The lunch applications, per family, could help reduce your lunch fees for your student(s).

From the Superintendent

The 2025-26 school year is here. We are starting to see students coming in and out of the building as they are preparing for their fall athletics and activities. We have had new staff orientation and we are prepared for in-service days. We have an amazing group of new staff this year that are filling various roles here at the Prairie Farm School District. We are excited for the upcoming school year.

The Prairie Farm School Board adopted the strategic plan in the fall of 2024. This plan contains pillars of success which details various goals the district would like to accomplish. In this first year, the school board along with district staff have met many of the goals. At the July board meeting, the board reflected on goal success and set new goals for the 2025-26 school year. These goals for 2025-26 are as follows:

Teaching and Learning:

- Regularly review academic achievement data and support programs to meet goals.
- Utilize a statewide cohort to compare academic achievement data.

Business Operations:

- Adopt and review long range financial, facilities, and equipment plans.
- Continue to utilize our regional cohort and analyze pupil expenditures, property tax rates, wages, benefits and enrollment.

Communication and Engagement:

- Send three district newsletters.
- Conduct a follow up staff, family and community survey
- Develop and implement a strategic plan for the Spring 2027 Referendum (communication, budget and engagement)

We appreciate the commitment and dedication of the Prairie Farm School Board. Their commitment towards student success and our staff goes way beyond our monthly meetings.

On a different note, my family and I was able to attend numerous events throughout the Dairy Days weekend. It was a weekend filled with lots of friendly conversations, great food, and fun for people of all ages. Thank you to everyone who helped with organizing and working this great July event.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns about the Prairie Farm School District.

Corey Berghammer cberghammer@prairiefarm.k12.wi.us Superintendent 715-455-4219



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRAIRIE FARM
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
August 18th, 2025—6:00 p.m.—IMC
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Nelson, Hansen, Cadman, Miller, Richards, Roemhild Board Members Absent: Bates

A) Call to order (subject to Section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes) by President Roemhild at 6:00 p.m.

Mission Statement: The Prairie Farm School District in partnership with family and community provides educational experiences which foster academic excellence, lifelong learning and citizenship.

- B) Pledge of Allegiance
- C) Adopt Agenda

Motion by Cadman to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.

- D) Minutes of July 14th, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
 Motion by Richards to approve the minutes of the July 14th, 2025 Regular Board
 Meeting, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.
- E) Reports
 - 1) FCCLA National Trip Presentation
 - 2) PFC Athletic Co-op
 - 3) Summer 2025 Project Update
- F) Business
 - 1) Public comment residents/parents
 - 2) Policies
 - a) 1100-District Organization
 - b) 1130-Ethics and Conflict of Interest
 - c) 2210-Curriculum Development
 - d) 2271.01-Start College Now Program
 - e) 2416-Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information
 - f) 3214-Staff Gifts
 - g) 3230-Ethics and Conflict of Interest
 - h) 4124-Notice of Reasonable Assurance of Employment
 - i) 4214-Staff Gifts
 - j) 4230-Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Motion by Nelson to approve the policies as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.

3) WIRSA Membership for 2025-2026

Motion by Richards to approve the WIRSA Membership for 2025-2026, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.

- 4) WASDA Membership for 2025-2026
 - Motion by Miller to approve the WASDA Membership for 2025-2026, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.
- 5) Annual Seclusion and Restraint report Motion by Nelson to approve the Annual Seclusion and Restraint report, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- 6) Payroll check deposit in the amount of \$275,740.06 Motion by Cadman to approve the payroll check deposit, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried. Roemhild abstained.
- 7) Financial report: AP in the amount of \$264,339.32, direct withdrawals in the amount of \$199,031.79 and PCard withdrawals in the amount of \$10,141.32 Motion by Richards to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- 8) Committee and other reports, information or comments
 - a) schedule a business operations committee meeting
 - b) other information
 - Mr. Berghammer gave a recap on the bus routes for this coming school year, staff positions that have been filled and not filled and he gave information on the tech check meeting that was held on August 18th, 2025.
- 9) Future meetings, Monday, September 15th, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting
- 10) Motion and roll call to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) of the Wisconsin Statutes, to consider the employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of support staff, supervisors and teaching staff employees under which the Board has jurisdiction.
 - Closed session was not held.

 1) Roll call and return to open session
- 12) Resignations
- 13) Contracts
 - a) Don Larsen, paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year
 - b) Nicole Davis, paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year $\,$
 - c) Don Larsen, bus driver for the 2025-2026 school year
 - d) Brittany Effertz, Community Education Director for the 2025-2026 school year
 - e) Anna Baker, Business Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year
 - f) Tim Buck, assistant football coach for the 2025-2026 school year
 - g) Tricia Smith, PreK Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year Motion by Nelson to approve the contracts as presented, seconded by
- Hansen. Motion carried. 14) Volunteers
 - a) Ben Shatley, high school football
 - b) Kayla Quarders, high school volleyball
 - Motion by Miller to approve the volunteers as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- 15) Possible action from items in closed session
- G) Adjournment

Motion by Richards to adjourn at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.

Football Season Kicks Off

Our Prairie Farm Panthers started off their football season with a scrimmage at Clayton. It was great to get back on the field again. We are very excited for an awesome season!







For the most up to date sporting events, please visit www.prairiefarm.k12.wi.us

ATTENTION JUNIORS AND SENIORS

Wl's high school Juniors and Seniors have the opportunity to enroll in college courses through either the UW System, WI Technical Colleges, or WI's Private Colleges. The deadline for 2nd semester paperwork is **October 1, 2025, by 3:30**. Students can pick up required paperwork in the counseling office or print it from the DPI website. The district will fund tuition and materials for non-comparable courses. Paperwork must be signed by the student and parent and then will be submitted to the school board for approval. Questions about the process can be directed to Mrs. Pederstuen or Mrs. Turenne in the counseling office.

Emergency Closing Information

The District will utilize our automated calling system to alert families of school cancellations and delays. If you are not receiving the automated calls, emails, or text messages, please contact the schoool office. We will be also notifying the radio and television outlets.



FIELD & WOODLAND WANDERINGS

By Martha Wright

I walked around a big old oak tree at the edge of the pasture, and exclaimed in surprise. There on the ground at the base of the tree was a large hen of the woods (Grifola frondosa) mushroom, big enough to fill my kitchen sink. In spite of hours wandering in the woods, I have never found a mushroom while I was searching for it-all of them have been unexpected finds the first time.

Years ago, I attended a mushroom identification class at Hunt Hill Audubon Society near Sarona, Wisconsin. The instructor taught us about several mushrooms that are easy to identify and fairly common in our area. I spent hours in the woods over the years without finding a single specimen. I thought I just did not have the eyes for it, or maybe they did not grow where I was looking. My mushroom hunt was fruitless until I quit hunting, and then they began to appear.

The first edible mushroom I happened upon was Pheasant Back (Cerioporus squamosus), also called Dryad's Saddle. Most mushrooming books tell you to eat a small amount the first time you try an edible species. This advice is not to prevent poisoning because you should always be sure of identification before you ever eat something foraged. It is good advice because people

Martha Wright lives in the Hay River area where she spends as much time in the woods as possible. She enjoys long nature walks, looking for new plants to identify, and foraging for wild edibles. Her favorite wild edible is red clover blossoms made into fritters.

Fall Mushrooms

react differently to various types of fungi. I was excited to try this plentiful and meaty mushroom, only to discover that it made me nauseated.

My second experience was better. The hen of the woods referenced previously was an armful to carry back to the house, and a sinkful as I cleaned it up. The "hen" is so called because it resembles the color of a hen grouse, brownish or gray on top, with a cream-colored underside covered with pores, or small holes. A large hen mushroom is made up of many small, fan-shaped caps layered on top of one another.

A quick internet search revealed a recipe, on the Forager Chef's website, for roasting in an oven after separating the layers and cleaning it up. I sprayed a large baking sheet with olive oil, spread out the pieces of mushroom, sprayed them with olive oil, and sprinkled on some salt. After 25 minutes in a 4250F oven they were slightly chewy, with a good mushroomy flavor.

Chicken of the woods (Laeptoporus sulphureus), which I first heard called Sulphur Shelf, is bright orange with a bright yellow edge and underside. It stands out against the brown of the trees on which it grows. Still, I could not find this one either. I found Jack O'Lanterns (Omphalotus illudens), another bright orange mushroom that is supposed to glow slightly in the dark, and is toxic. It is easy enough to tell the difference between the two, as the Jack has gills underneath its caps while the chicken has pores on the underside of its shelves.

Finally, in the same area where I harvested my first hen, and while I was looking for hen of the woods the next year, I almost stepped on a small chicken of the woods growing from the roots of a large tree. It was too far along to eat, but the following summer the same tree produced a gold mine on its trunk. It was such a large flush, I could see it from my kitchen window 100 yards from the tree.

Shrimp of the woods (Entoloma abortivum) is a small mushroom that appeared all over the forest floor one summer. Shrimps are white and lumpy, maybe a little bit like popcorn, or something foamy that has been squeezed from a tube. They start life as a honey mushroom that gets taken over by an entoloma mushroom, like an alien inhabiting its body and changing its appearance. I gathered half an ice cream pail full, which I sauteed in butter and seasoned with Old Bay Seasoning for a tasty meal.

Yet another mushroom that eluded me for a long time was the giant puffball (Calvatia gigantea). Puffballs need to be harvested before they start to turn brown, but brown was all I found until a couple of years ago, when something white caught my eye on the bank above the back road where I was driving. It could have been a plastic bag, but somehow I knew it was not. I turned the car around and



My first hen of the woods mushroom.



Chicken of the woods brightly displayed in the hardwoods. Photos by Martha Wright

went back to pick my first white giant puffball.

Notice how many of these edible fungi have "of-thewoods" in their common names. There is also Steakof-the-Woods, or Beefsteak Fungus (Fistulina hepatica). the others I have mentioned. It is on my 'want to forage' list. Perhaps someday, when I am not expecting to find a mushroom, it will surprise

NEEDED:

Snow plowing service for driveway. 10 miles SE of Ridgeland. 612-615-6298

This one is not as prevalent as me.

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HOMESTEAD HACKS

By Sam Dodge

A couple of weeks ago, I was out in one of the garden sheds, braiding the cured summer onions so there'd be a place to dry the storage onions. There was a lone cicada churring; maybe an omen of the 17-year hatch the almanacs predicted for this year. I was fretting a bit at the dry mold spores on the onion skins, a product of the heavy, humid air that lay over them in the middle of their cure. I am hoping we can keep these onions dry enough that the mold doesn't activate and start the onions rotting. We don't absolutely have to do without onions if we lose the ones we grow, but it's sure a good feeling to get through the winter eating your own, homegrown grub.

The red and yellow storage onions have had their difficulties this year, too. We didn't quite hit the sweet spots on fertilizing them, and in contending with the odd rain patterns, we also missed getting them ideal watering. They started tipping on their own before they got nice and big, and a significant number of them showed early signs

I'm a mostly self-educated putterer/maker/doer who has a hard time stopping his brain from thinking, his body from moving, and his hands from twisting and fixing bits of this and that into semi-useable gewgaws. Sometimes I get actual ideas, and sometimes I even make actual, useful things.

Collecting Sunshine

of decay. I went ahead and harvested them and put them on the empty drying racks. A couple-three weeks and we'll see how they're looking for storage. Fingers crossed they dry well and make nice, tough skins! They've surprised us in the past.

A few days later and the vociferous cicada seemed to have given up. We'd been hearing a few lonely evening crickets earlier in August; the chorus was filling in bit by bit, day by day.

About midway through the harvest as August wanes, we've been luxuriating in each new thing coming ripe: blueberries, apricots, plums, and then the late strawberries and raspberries... snap peas give way to pole beans, broccoli, peppers, and that first poignant tang of tomato grace the second half of these dog days. Softball-bat-sized zucchini somehow evade notice under the hullaballoo of broad, green leaves. Pickling cucumbers also hide under leaves on the climbing vines. By that time, we were stealing new potatoes and unearthing the hills that attenuated early or succumbed to blight. The potato beetles kept trying to

get a foothold, and we kept mooshing those ravenous little grubs on the leaves... by the time this missive goes to press, we'll know whether or not we've won enough of the battle to see big, beautiful bakers curing for long storage along with the onions. Cabbage was big and dense; kraut was fermenting away in gallon pickle jars.

There's a sad, sweet, exhilarating vibe to this time of year for me. As we hit that September transition, watching the apples blush and the pears take on that perfect yellow green; as I get the cider press greased up and cleaned for the rush of saving windfalls and pest-damaged fruit, there's a nascent shiver resting at the base of my spine... the sweet corn nears perfection and the squash start deepening in color just as the dusks and dawns get showier. More things in the garden are starting to show flashes of yellow, orange, red, and brown as the plants

"Sunshine" cont'd. on page 14...

(Top) Apricot jam ensures a sweet treat late into winter. (Middle) Warm August sun slowly sinks. (Bottom) A beautiful harvest of summer onions. Photos by Sam Dodge









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PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST

By Lon Christopherson

In late July of this year, Greg Knutson and Don Link were cleaning out an old shed on the former Knutson Farm when they spotted the pictured sign. The former Energetic Kids 4-H Club had used this sign at their displays at county fairs, as well as other events they participated in. The two men rescued the sign from the trash and took it home. As September rolls around and brings an end to fair season in Wisconsin, it's a good time to recall a little of the history of the Energetic Kids 4-H club.

The 4-H organization first began in Wisconsin in 1914, but it was not until 1957 that Barron County's Energetic Kids Club was formed. The 4-H organization was created to help kids build life skills

If you have an interesting photo from our community's past that you'd you like to share, email it to me at lonchristopherson1@ gmail.com or stop by the Ridgeland Library Thursdays, 3-5.

The History of The **Energetic Kids Club**

through hands-on learning, including the arts, health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement. The club was started by Vivian Lundequam, who gathered some former members of the disbanded Plainview Progressives 4-H club as well as other young people from the Ridgeland area, numbering twenty-two members in all.

A first meeting was held, and those attending were asked to write down a name they thought would be fitting for the club. The suggestions were thrown into a cup, read aloud, and voted on. The winning name was The Energetic Kids, submitted by Vivian's daughter Judy (now Judy Seeger). Judy says her mother was quite shocked that she was the winner! As a prize, Judy received a pen from the county agent.

The club's first general leader was Donna Bensend, with many more to follow in her footsteps, including

Donna Rogers, Maryann Jenson, Pam Knutson, Karen Haugen, Leondra Lentz, Sue Lentz, Julie Knutson, and Evelyn Mueller. In 1960, the club decided that a great community project would be to create a park and picnic area. Land was needed for such a project, and Fred and Inga Link agreed to let them use the corner of Highway 25 and County Road V just north of Ridgeland that they had been using as pasture land. The club seeded the grass, built restrooms, and planted 450 pine seedlings. They also added a driveway, along with grills and picnic tables. The park was dedicated in 1961 with a speech by Barron County Ag agent Harry Vruwink.

By 1970, the club had grown to thirty members and was continuing to do community service work as well as participating in traditional 4-H projects and exhibiting at the county fair. They also



The Energetic Kids 4-H club proudly painted for 4-H events. Photo submitted by Lon Christopherson

explored the performing arts, putting on musical numbers under the direction of Gloria Jacobsen. They also fielded a very competitive softball team in the summer months. They represented Ridgeland in local parades and held paper drives. Sometime around 1977, the membership was given a boost by the addition of many kids from the Dallas area. But as the 2000s approached, the club's numbers had dropped considerably, and it was in danger of disbanding.

The club hung on for a few more years, but low numbers caused its end in 2004. For a time, the County Liners, a Dunn County 4-H, continued to serve the Ridgeland area under leaders Vicki Davis and Rhonda Johnson, but sadly, they too are no more. Today, area 4-H youth are members of the Dallasbased Country Siders 4-H club, which still maintains a strong membership. Today, the Energetic Kids Club is gone, but part of the legacy remains as the park they created remains as what is now the 4-wheeler park north of Ridgeland and maintained by the Ridgeland-Prarie Farm ATV Club.

Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club

National Night Out

By Cindy Miller

Tuesday, August 5th, 2025, was National Night Out, and we had a blast hanging out in Ridgeland. We supplied about 150 children in attendance with a school bag full of supplies. In this bag were such items as: a notebook, folder, two pencils, Crayola crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, pencil sharpener, pencil bag, and stickers. All these supplies are things our local youth go through fairly quickly in school. We were beyond happy to contribute to our local students.

They also had a chance to win a prize with our pick-aduck game for prizes. This fun family event is something we always look forward to, and we greatly thank everyone who let us be part of their evening!

We sincerely thank the Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club, Prairie Farm Area Lions Club, Dallas Civic Club, and

Thrivent for their donations to this fun-filled event!

We meet on the 1st Monday of each month at 6 pm at the **Prairie Farm Community** Center. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Cindy Miller.

Her favorite colored backpack is ready for school! Photos submitted by Cindy Miller



the children at National Night Out.

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Menu: Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Coleslaw, Rolls, Pickles, Pie & Ice Cream, Coffee & Milk

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connecting to local resources





By Barbara Petersen

Meet Our Sheriff

Barron County has a new sheriff, Jody Kummet. We have asked her to visit Dallas in September on a Tuesday or Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00. It would be a chance for her to meet us and for us to meet her!

Our Sheriff is checking her schedule, and as soon as she knows when she can come, we will put some posters around town as well as an announcement on Facebook.

bryant

The Book Report

Dallas Public Library

Home Schooling Families

Pre-COVID, we had some mothers who were homeschooling their children and making good use of the Dallas Library. They would provide our librarians with lists of books for us to get for them to support their curriculum. Often, the children would come with their mothers and also pick out books for their personal reading. It wasn't unusual for us to order twenty books at a time for these families.

If you are homeschooling your children, stop in to see how the Dallas Library can help you enhance your curriculum.

What's New at the Library

Recently, we received a box of television series DVDs. The DVDs cover multiple seasons. We have not decided whether to add them to our collection.

When we make decisions about additions, we think about the amount of use the media will get. If they will be read or viewed, we add them to the collection. If they won't, we do not want to use up shelf space.

These DVDs are from the horror or science fiction genres. Stop in, look them over, and give us your opinion about whether we should add them or not.

School Supplies

Our box in the hallway is filling nicely with supplies for children at the Ridgeland Dallas Elementary School in Ridgeland. Please contribute crayons, colored pencils, notebooks, etc. The box will be left out until the second week in September. Then we will deliver them to the school. What can not be used in Ridgeland, we will ask that it be sent to the Middle School in Barron.



Many families enjoyed our fun summer projects while taking a break from the heat. Photo by Marilynn Anderson

Summer Fun for All at the Library

Summer Fun at the Dallas Library has kept our librarians busy helping the children with their projects. Some children came more often than others, but it seems to our staff that they were all having fun.

Our final celebration of Summer Fun was held on September 26. Please look on Facebook for pictures showing the events from that night.

After School at the Library

Although we aren't set up yet, we are planning to have some sort of activity after school for the children. They could come to the Library when they get off the bus for a snack, a short activity, and perhaps a story time. Again, watch for fliers and information on Facebook.

Thursdays at the U!

Thursdays at the U! is back. On Thursdays everyone is welcome to the Blue Hill Lecture Hall at UW-Eau Claire—Barron County for a free lecture from 12:30-1:30 pm.

The topics are quite varied. This fall they range from Stubborn Depression? to Bicycle Rides Across America to Bird Flu to Monsters of the Lake, to name a few.

We have handouts available at the Library that you may pick up with the schedule of lectures. Stop in and see if there is a lecture you would like to attend.

Stay Connected

Library hours Tuesday and Thursday-2 to 6 pm Saturday- 9 am to noon.

Like us on Facebook! Dallas Library - WI.

Email: dplibrary2018@gmail.com.

Mailing address: Dallas Public Library, P.O. Box 84, Dallas, WI 54733.

Physical address: 100 Dallas Street W., Dallas, WI.

Phone: 715-837-1186 (Shared with villagefeel free to leave a message)

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MICKELSON'S **BOOK BINGE**

By Donnette Mickelson

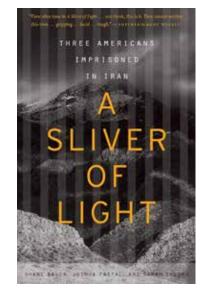
Could you survive an Iranian prison? Sarah Shourd, Josh Fallal, and Shane Bauer share their harrowing story of their capture, imprisonment, and release in this nonfiction book. The three American citizens were hiking in the Iraqi Kurdistan region near the Iranian border and were

A Sliver of Light

By Sarah Shourd, Josh Fallal, and Shane Bauer

captured by police on July 31, 2009. Sarah, who was working in Syria assisting Iraqi refugees and teaching English, was detained for over a year. Josh was traveling and studying abroad and was detained along with Shane, a freelance photographer and journalist, for two years. The book is told through three unique but shared perspectives and how ordinary people can become involved in global politics and terrorism.

The book is an interesting read in politics and diplomacy in an engaging way while including the



impact on American citizens caught in the negotiations and ransom in a volatile and unstable region.

... "Sunshine" cont'd. from page 11

and vines slowly attenuate. The evenings are going from muggy and thick to that perfect cool, dewy blush before the late summer stars crowd the sky. The energy is changing as the cumulative effect of summer sunshine converts all that cellulose to starches and starches to sugars... the electric light of summer slowly cracks into all the hues of the harvest through the prism of the shortening days.

We're filling canning jars with all that rich, sweet sunshine and tucking it away in the cellar shelves. We're drying, freezing, fermenting our way to the dark at the end of the summer tunnel... feeling the warm sun on our backs even as we anticipate the coming of a brisk, colorful and satisfying Autumn. Welcome, September... the bittersweet month of harvest!

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TOWNSHIP & VILLAGE MEETINGS

Contact Town Clerks for details

Township/Village	Clerk/contact info.
Town of Arland	Pam Fall 715-455-1074 pamela.fall@thrivent.com
Town of Dallas	Karolyn Bartlett 715-837-1039 townshipofdallas@yahoo.com
Town of New Haven	Katie Bovee 715-643-3703 clerk@townofnewhavenwi.com
Town of Prairie Farm	Vicki Buck 715-495-2798 buckdv@chibardun.net
Town of Sand Creek	Pam Meinen 715-205-3511 sctown@chibardun.net
Town of Sheridan	Joe Boesl 715-205-6193 clerkofsheridan@gmail.com
Town of Vance Creek	Kara Norberg 651-491-3067 vcclerk04@gmail.com
Town of Wilson	Denise Schlough 715-949-1938 ddtsschlough@mosaictelecom.net
Village of Dallas	Lynn Anderson 715-837-1186 vdallas@chibardun.net
Village of Prairie Farm	Sherrie Siebert 715-455-1714 villagepf@chibardun.net
Village of Ridgeland	Kristin Huset 715-949-2265 bkhuset@chibardun.net

Becky Loomis Krissy Loomis Trailer Sales W394 Hwy 10 Mondovi, WI 1-800-926-5309 Becky@LazyL.com WWW.LazyL.com

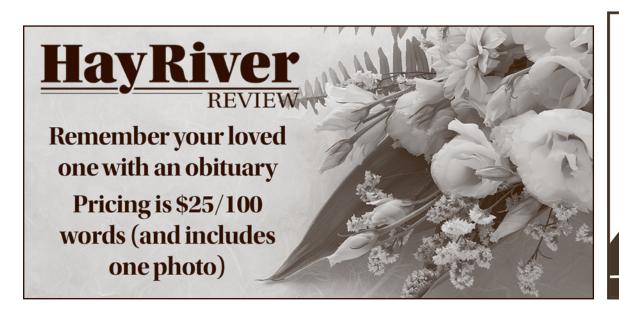
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Aug. 29	Ridgeland Demo Derby- 8 pm at Edlon Luer Field
Aug. 30	Dallas Library closed for Labor Day Weekend
Aug. 30	Fun Run and Walk- 8 am Ridgeland Community Center
Aug. 30	Tractor Ride- 8 am at Synergy Co-op in Ridgeland
Aug. 30	Car show 10 am to 2 pm at Corey's Repair Lot
Aug. 30- Sept. 1	Ridgeland Farmers Market Arts and Crafts- 10 am to 5 pm in the Ridgeland Community Center Parking Lot
Aug. 30	Bean Bag Tournament- 11 am under the Tent in the Ridgeland Park
Aug. 30	Ridgeland Street Dance- 8 pm under the tent in the Ridgeland Park
Aug. 31	Ecumenical Church Services- 10 am under the tent in the Ridgeland Park
Aug. 31	State Sanctioned Pedal Pull- 11 am under the tent in the Ridgeland Park
Aug. 31	NTPA Regional Truck & Tractor Pull- 7 pm at Eldon Luer Field
Sept. 1	Midwest Horse Pullers Associated Pulling Contest- 9 am. at Eldon Luer Field
Sept. 1	Ridgeland Grand Parade- 1 pm
Sept. 1	Music Under the Tent by Karjackers DJ- 3 pm in the Ridgeland Park
Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26	AA Meeting- 6 to 7 pm at the Fire Hall in Clayton. For more info, call Dave C. at 715-948-4235
Sept. 8	Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club meeting- 6 pm at the P.F. Community Center
Sept. 15	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Party- 12:30 pm at the Ridgeland Community Center with potluck lunch
Sept. 15	William L. Hinzman American Legion Post 511 and Auxiliary Unit 511 Meeting- 6 pm at the Ridgeland Community Center
Sept. 17	Prairie Farm Sportsman's Club monthly meeting- 6 pm at Buckhorn Bar
Sept. 18	Ridgeland Civic Club meeting- 6 pm at Ridgeland Library
Sept. 25	Ridgeland Historical Meeting- 5:30 pm at the Ridgeland Library
Sept. 30	Dallas Library Board meeting- 6 pm at the Library
Sept. 30	Ridgeland Cookbook Club- 6 pm at Ridgeland Community Center
Oct. 8	Faith United Methodist Church Potato/Buttermilk Supper @Ridgeland

Put your event on the Community Bulletin Board by contacting Alicia Krusey at akrusey@dairystatebank.com or 715-234-9181 ext. 144.

Community Center

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Barry (715) 296-6492

SUSTAINABLY YOU HOW TO THRIVE

By DKO Pike

As I write, it is August 18, 2025 at 11 am; 67° outside & 72° inside. Humidity 56% vs. 88% outside

We spent several years contemplating our next steps (for more background, see my article "13 Years In" archived in the July issue of "Hay River Review.com"). The idea was to develop a plan to manage our land toward more dynamic conservation principles. Just over a year ago we arranged to hire a Forest Planner. This article details our success with beginning that process.

Perhaps you have also considered more actively planning how your land will be managed in the future. If so, you should consider exploring how to start a Conservation Stewardship Plan (CSP). The plans are managed by the Natural **Resource Conservation**

In this time of transition, we face multiple challenges from viruses, climate crisis, and political turmoil. Douglas has decades of experience helping homeowners and land managers move toward practices that help us survive with the least impact on future generations. He is a resident of Otter Creek Township in NW Dunn County.

Planning Ahead

Service (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). You start the application by contacting your local NRCS office. Their staff will help you become a registered farm if you have not already done so. This will begin the process.

Working in concert with NRCS's experienced, local staff, you will establish your priorities for how you can work toward the following goals and benefits:

- · Increase the overall effectiveness of recommended conservation practices
- Establish a timeline to implement new practices that fit your time and other resources available
- Improve your farm profitability; in our case, this will be harvesting trees, rather than allowing the forest to age without management

· Comply with all environmental regulations

Improve your local water, soil, and air quality parameters

- Create and enhance wildlife habitat
- Adapt to your changing needs and goals; the plan can be flexible to best respond to new demands during your five-year contract
- Market products harvested using program advantages that have been shown to be sustainable.

In my own case, we had an earlier Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) grant to restore an old field to benefit pollinators. I was responsible for all site preparation (which extended over five growing seasons) and hiring a professional with a special seed drill designed to handle the varied sizes of diverse prairie seeds. EQIP reimbursed me for the cost

Nick Rassbach

Cell: 715-308-1944

Aqua-Service, Inc.



This former field was sown as a pollinator meadow in 2017, and preparation for new native diversity began in 2012. Photo by DKO Pike

of the seed (~\$5,000 to cover seven acres). More recently, we contacted John Sipple, in the Menomonie NRCS office, in the spring of 2024, as we were developing our forest management plan with a private forester.

In collaboration with our forest management plan, we walked the land with NRCS staff and began to detail specific goals for the next five years for our CSP. The good news finally came through just this past May. We made the cut. Through the end of 2029, we will be receiving funding to support many of our conservation goals.

Erik Davidson

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Free Estimates

Jeff Haughian,

(534) 444-4150

Well & Water Systems Service

715-458-2250

Jerome Woikiewicz CWD, WDNR #561

Cell: 715-505-7469

The plan has very precise boundaries for nearly a dozen management areas within our 75-acre plan. Five acres were left off that are more intensely managed gardens and a tree nursery close to our home and outbuildings. Goals include: forest stand improvement, prescribed burning of the pollinator meadow, and brush management to eliminate buckthorn and improve wildlife habitat. Forest stand improvements will seek to facilitate oak forest regeneration and create structural diversity with patch openings (there will be trees of a variety of ages).

There is a delicate aspect to opening the forest canopy. While seeking to improve white oak seedling survival, we want to keep the light level adequate, but not so bright as to create a new midlevel shrub layer of raspberries and maple leaf viburnum. If that midlevel foliage is too dense, it will block light that would otherwise enhance the greater diversity of flowers at the ground level. Prior to European settlement, periodic ground fires would have kept our currently dense woods more open. Those fires would have permitted the desired amount of direct sunlight to reach the ground.

It seems that even with severe Federal program cuts (NRCS Menomonie office staff were reduced by half), it is still possible to pursue conservation forest plans that benefit your profitability while improving long-term sustainability and wildlife habitat goals. Consider applying for a Conservation Stewardship Plan for your farm. Feel free to get in touch. I'm happy to lead forest walks on my land to explain more details about what we have committed to accomplishing here in Otter Creek Township. DOwensPike@gmail.com

HAY RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship - 8:00 a.m Fellowship After Service Sunday School 9:15

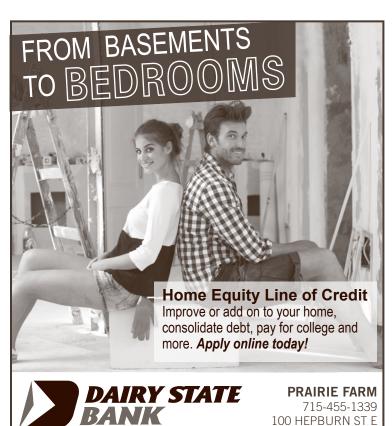
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PROCEEDS FROM THE PARK EVENT GO TOWARDS NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR OUR PARK !!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Fire Hall 7:00 - 11 a.m. Free Will Donations Go to Fire Dept. Dallas - Sioux Creek Joint Fire Dept.

15TH EDITION KUBB TOURNAMENT

At the Park 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Demonstration at 11:30-11:45 www.tyrstrekubb.com

BARRON K-9

Barron K-9 Demonstration 12 noon

CONCESSION STAND

In Main Pavilion In Park 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Serving, Pretzels, Snacks, and other items Pretzels, Brats, Hot Dogs Walking Tacos

POLKA MUSIC

Sponsored by Swant Graber Motors Barron Park Pavilion 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

THE SQUIRES BAND

A Twin Cities group with 45 years of experience playing a wide variety of music from Polkas to Classic Rock

Lutheran Church Thrift sale starting at 8 a.m. Library book sale Food Trucks throughout the Village Shank n Shig - Barbecue Consuming Fire - Pizza Wilder Waffles

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Raffle drawing 3 pm In the Park 10 am to 4 pm \$30 Vendor fee Call Lynnette at 715-764-9877

CAHOON'S GARAGE CAR SHOW

Corner of 2nd Ave & Anderson St. 10 - 5 p.m. Registration Starting at 9 a.m. No Entry Fee - People's Choice Trophies for Car, Truck, Tractor, Boat, & Bike Car Show Winner Judging for Winner 1:45 pm

DOG COSTUME CONTEST

Next to Brewery 12:30 check in 1pm contest

WIENER DOG RACE

Next to Brewery Registration at 1:45 race at 2 p.m. Winner gets a prize!

FIRE DEPT. RAFFLE

At Park Pavilion 3 p.m.

STEIN HOIST

Jen's Choppin Block Stein Hoist-\$15 entry fee Starts at 2:30 Proceeds go to the Park for Playground

Trinity Grading & Excavating Cahoon's Garage Kauffman Shank n Shig Barron Electric

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