Since 1987
Hay River REVIEW
February 2026

Community News

(Above) Andy Humphrey thrives on spending time with his customers.

(Right) Joel Oelke talks about Leader H2O equipment. ***Photos by DM MICK***

A&M Sugarworks

Open House for Maple Syrup Producers

By DM MICK

A&M Sugarworks hosted an open house Jan. 16 and 17 that brought together maple syrup producers from across the area to learn how to improve their operations, explore new equipment, and hear from guest speakers Damian Hill, Glenn Goodrich, and Joel Oelke about marketing maple products, creating a more sound operation, and the equipment that is right for you.

The two-day event was designed for maple syrup producers of all experience levels. Attendees toured the new addition and facility in Dallas, WI, observed equipment demonstrations, and shared ideas with other producers. The open house focused on education, collaboration, and strengthening maple syrup businesses.

Producers learned about sap collection, syrup processing, and ways to increase efficiency in their operations. A&M Sugarworks staff demonstrated equipment used in their sugarhouse and explained how certain upgrades can save time and labor. Visitors were encouraged to ask questions and compare different production methods. Owner of A&M Sugarworks, Andy Humphrey, takes pride in helping others in the maple journey, and loves to connect with sugarmakers in regard to their operation.

Guest speakers Damian Hill and Glenn Goodrich spoke about marketing strategies for maple syrup producers. Their presentations focused on branding, customer outreach, and selling products in a competitive

"A&M" cont'd. on page 15...

Ridgeland

The Return of Pioneer Day

By Brianne McLennan

Ridgeland is getting ready to celebrate one of its favorite winter traditions when the 44th Annual Pioneer Day returns on Saturday, February 21, 2026. This all-day community event brings together residents, families, and visitors for food, fun, and a whole lot of small-town spirit — all while raising money for village improvements.

Pioneer Day has been a Ridgeland staple for more than four decades, growing from a simple winter gathering into an event folks mark on their calendars year after year. In a village known for pitching in and doing things together, Pioneer Day is a chance to celebrate Ridgeland's rural roots, enjoy the season, and shake off a little cabin fever.

The day kicks off at 10:30 a.m. with the always-popular greased pig contest at Eldon Luer Ball Field. Contestants compete in age groups ranging from kids to adults, and spectators can count on plenty of laughs as participants chase after some very slippery swine.

From 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Community Center will be serving up a hearty BBQ chicken and pork chop meal, along with a bake sale hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary. It's a perfect time to warm up, grab a bite to eat, and catch up with neighbors and friends.

At noon, one of Pioneer Day's most talked-about traditions returns — the Free Chicken

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

(Right) The horse-drawn parade will be held at 1:30 p.m. (Below) The one and only chicken toss brings people from far and near to the village of Ridgeland! ***Photos submitted by Adam Shipley.***

INSIDE

4-H Grows Here pg. 4

Barn Quilts pg. 6

Multi-Age Model pg. 10

Honduras pg. 11

Green Skills pg. 15

Hay River REVIEW
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"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."
— Lao Tzu

The Book Report

Dallas Public Library

By Barbara Petersen

Valentine's Day Event

We will be having a special gathering on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14. There will be cookies and punch as well as a time to visit with friends and look for a book to read over the weekend or a video to check out.

Our party will go from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. We welcome regular patrons as well as the general public. Come relax with us for a while on Saturday morning.

Children's Activities

We will be continuing with our children's activities during our regular days and hours. This February, the following is planned:

February 3, 5, 7 Popsicle Crafts (picture frame, bird feeder, etc.)

February 10, 12, 14 Valentine Crafts (Perler beads, etc.)

February 17, 19, 21 Library Scavenger Hunt with prizes (How well do you know your library?)

February 24, 26, 28 Bird Seed Crafts (Seed hangers, identify your local birds, etc.)

Here is an opportunity for the children to get off the bus and work on a craft before heading home. Those who do homeschooling are also welcome. This may become a family activity if others besides the school children come in.

Adults are encouraged to join and make the crafts they would like.

Book Delivery Program

At our last board meeting, we started discussing the idea of providing a book delivery service. We feel there are people in Dallas who enjoy reading but who can't get the books they need. People would need to reserve books, and then we would arrange to deliver them or pick up what was previously checked out.

This idea is in the "thinking" stage. We would love to know what you think about this service. Call or email us with your input.

New to Us: Wisconsin and Non-Fiction Books

Bookshelves can easily become disorganized. We recently worked on the two shelves of Wisconsin books as well as the non-fiction shelves.

We have Wisconsin non-fiction on the top shelf of the bookcase and the fiction on the second shelf. If you need information on our state, check out our Wisconsin bookshelf. The second shelf is books by Wisconsin authors that you might enjoy.

We also sorted through our non-fiction books and got them into numerical order. We also have some new non-fiction books. We are putting these apart from the rest of the collection so you can easily see what is new. After a month or so, they will be incorporated into the non-fiction shelves.

A Year in Review

When the old year ends and the new year begins, many newspapers do a review of the past year's headlines. Here at the Dallas Library, we also do a review of the previous year.

Listed below are major accomplishments for 2025:

- Purchased a laptop
- Changed our hours and our meeting date
- Marilynn had summer activities—more than 20 different individuals took part
- Did an activity survey for Library usage
- Set up a puzzle table
- Got shelving for audiobooks
- Had a book sale over Oktoberfest
- Wrote a Library Card Policy
- Got a portable phone to make answering calls easier
- Had After-School activities in the fall and winter
- Usual events held each year included: a food box, the mitten tree, and a school supply collection.

Stay Connected

Library hours

Tuesday and Thursday- 2 to 6 p.m.

Saturday- 9 a.m. 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 village- feel free to leave a message)

The horse-drawn parade will be held at 1:30 p.m. ***Photo submitted by Adam Shipley.***

..."Pioneer" cont'd. from front

Fly. This unique Ridgeland event draws a big crowd every year and has become a signature part of the celebration. Keep it friendly, no nets!

Shortly after, kids can take part in the Silver Dollar Treasure Hunt at 1:00 p.m., followed by the horse-drawn parade at 1:30 p.m., a favorite that highlights the area's rural heritage.

The day wraps up with the cross-cut contest at 2:15 p.m., where participants put old-school lumberjack skills to the test in a nod to Wisconsin's logging past.

New this year, attendees can warm up with free hot cocoa and popcorn at the new ice rink from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., making it an easy stop for families enjoying the afternoon events.

Beyond the fun, Pioneer Day plays an important role in supporting the village. Proceeds from the event go directly toward community improvements that benefit everyone, helping keep Ridgeland's parks, facilities, and programs strong.

Pioneer Day isn't just about contests and food — it's about community. It's a day where generations come together, traditions are passed along, and Ridgeland shows off what makes small towns special.

Organizers encourage everyone to come hungry, dress warm, and plan to spend the day enjoying good food, good company, and a whole lot of hometown fun.

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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.

Red Cedar Chamber Music

Concert in Candlelight for Valentine's Day

By Angie Sutliff

The Red Cedar Chamber Music Concert offers music lovers the opportunity to experience the expressive power of small ensembles in an intimate setting, bathed in candlelight. This concert is set for 4 p.m.on February 14, 2026, at Bethany Lutheran Church. Admission is free.

The Red Cedar Chamber Music Concert presents featured works performed by three small ensembles from Northwest Wisconsin. A young duo, featuring Ana Tutu (violin) and Elijah Svendsen (cello) will present folk collections from Finland and the Netherlands. Jim Wachter (bass) and David Packa (viola) will perform a unique piece of music by Carl Dittersdorf. The Red Cedar String Quartet (Michael Elling, Robin Fossum, Justin Hosking, and Peter Neal) will present selections from Mozart, Haydn, and a bit of Russian folk music.

Chamber music is a type of classical music written for small ensembles, with one player for each part. Because it is performed by fewer musicians, it invites listeners closer to the music to witness the communication between the players and showcase their artistry and versatility.

Graphic from Adobe Stock

Come and experience classical music in its most conversational form under the glow of warmcandlelight surrounding the musicians.

Established in 1983 and housed at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake, the RCS draws classical musicians from throughout northwestern Wisconsin, including Rice Lake, Osseo, Cumberland, Ladysmith, Spooner, Chetek, Gordon, Trego, Springbrook, Bruce, Hayward, Cable, Winter, Bloomer, Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, and Foster. For more information, please visit our website at www.RedCedarSymphony.org.

Full-Time Job Opening

The Village of Prairie Farm is accepting applications for a **Village Maintenance Worker/Sewage Plant Operator.** Applicants must have an insurable driver's license, the ability to operate heavy equipment, no lifting restrictions, and must be able to obtain and maintain Wisconsin DNR Wastewater Certification. Residency in the Prairie Farm local area is required.

Wage is dependent on experience. Hours may vary. State Retirement Fund is available.

Submit résumés to clerk@villageofprairiefarm.gov or mail to: Village of Prairie Farm, PO Box 74, Prairie Farm, WI 54762

PUBLISHING DATES

Issue	Ad Due	Copy Due	Distribution
March	Feb. 20th	Feb. 19th	February 27th
April	Mar. 20th	Mar. 19th	March 27th
May	April 24th	April 23rd	May 1st

Hay River Review is printed by Publishers Printing Services, 215 Power St, Amery, WI

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

Thank you!

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44th Annual Ridgeland
PIONEER DAY
FEBRUARY 21ST, 2026
PROCEEDS GO TOWARD VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:30AM
GREASED PIG CONTEST
Eldon Luer Ball Field.
Need button to participate.
7yrs & under/8-10/
11-13/14-15/Women only

11:30AM - 3:30PM
BBQ CHICKEN & PORK CHOPS
Legion Auxiliary bake sale at the community center

NOON
FREE CHICKEN FLY (NO NETS)

12:30PM - 1:30PM
FREE HOT COCOA & POPCORN
At the new ice rink (No carry-ins)

1:00PM
SILVER DOLLAR TREASURE HUNT
(Kids under 12)

1:30PM
HORSE DRAWN PARADE

2:15PM
CROSS CUT CONTEST

4-H GROWS HERE

By Ann Lee

Because we are continually looking for ways to provide unique learning opportunities for our 4-H members, we form partnerships with local entities. On December 7, Dunn County 4-H members and their families attended the musical White Christmas at the landmark Mabel Tainter Theater, hosted by the Menomonie Theater Guild. Following the performance, these enthusiastic 4-H'ers were given a backstage tour along with a quick dance lesson on the stage by members of the cast.

We also feel fortunate that we are able to partner with the University of Wisconsin-Stout and have our 4-H members participate in some of their outreach programs. For example, last month, a group of 4-H'ers from Dunn County along with members from Chippewa and Eau Claire Counties participated in a Robotics Day at the UW-Stout at which, they were not only given a demonstration by the UW-Stout Robotics Team and a tour of the campus, but they had the opportunity to work in teams to build and program robots to compete against each other in a robotics challenge. This month, we partnered with UW-Stout again for a 4-H STEM Days, at which 4-H members in 5-9 grades were welcomed into UW-Stout's "Fab Lab" where they learned about 3D printing, laser cutting, and soldering as they made a Lithophane Box from their photographs.

We look forward to another event with UW-Stout in February called Art U. Art U is a collaboration with Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire County 4-H and UW-Stout's Art Department, which provides five art lessons given by UW-Stout Art Education Students to all youth in grades K-12. Youth grades K-6th will have virtual instruction, while youth grades 7-12 will attend classes on campus at UW-Stout.

My name is Ann Lee, and I have served as Dunn County's 4-H Assistant for nearly two years. With a long-standing passion for supporting youth through positive learning experiences, I've worked in community programs including the Dallas Children's Community Garden, local after-school and library programs, and church education.

Community Outings

Being able to speak in public and give presentations are valuable skill to learn. To provide our 4-H youth with motivation to research, plan, and present topics that they find interesting, we have organized a Tri-County (Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire) 4-H Speaking and Demonstration Festival. The festival, which was held on Saturday, January 31, at the Elk Mound High School, gave our 4-H youth a chance to practice their communication skills in a supportive environment while bolstering their self-confidence.

Featured Dunn County 4-H Group – Youth Activities Council

The Youth Activities Council (YAC) is a group of Dunn County 4-H members who are in the 6th grade or older that get together to do community service and fun activities. It is a great way to get involved in the community and to meet other 4-H members. It is easy to join. All you need to do is join 4-H, come to a meeting or an event, and you too can be a part of the Youth Activities Council and its exciting activities, such as the Battle of the Clubs. The Battle of the Clubs is a county-wide event on February 21, where each club forms teams of 5-10 youth to compete for awards in a variety of activities chosen by the Youth Activities Council. The Youth Activities Council meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Dunn County Government Center in Menomonie at 6:30 p.m.

If you live in Dunn County and don't want to miss out on future 4-H activities, join Dunn County 4-H today by calling Zachary Rozmiarek at 715-232-1636. To see more of our activities, visit our Facebook page.

Leaders aren't born. They're grown.

4-H – For You – For Me – For Fun – For Life

Claire Hausler teaching 4-H Youth a few dance steps on stage following the White Christmas performance at the Mable Tainter Theater on December 7. ***Photo by: Zachary Rozmiarek***

Dunn County 4-H Youth showing off their lithophane boxes that they made during the University of Wisconsin-Stout's STEM Days. Pictured are Brookson Krahn, Ben Maves, and Bennett Krashbaum. ***Photo by Zachary Rozmiarek***

The 4-H Youth Activities Council (YAC) met recently to prepare for the Battle of the Clubs event. Pictured are Conner and Cobie Styer. ***Photo by Zachary Rozmiarek***

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Boyceville High School

Science Olympiad Wins Division 2

By Andy Hamm

The Boyceville Science Olympiad program won Division 2 and placed fifth overall and as the highest placing team from Wisconsin this past Saturday at the UW-River Falls Border Battle Science Olympiad Invitational. Boyceville medal winners were as follows:

Gold medals were earned by the following:

Seniors Zoey Hellendrung and Chelsi Holden in Boomilever

Hellendrung and senior William Engel in Bungee Drop

Senior Karen Schaff and juniors Brady Rasmussen and Kade Phillips in Codebusters

Juniors Eleanor Farrell and Ava Dormanen in Disease Detectives

Senior Jon Madison and Engel in both Electric Vehicle and Helicopters

Rasmussen and Phillips in both Robot Tour and Engineering CAD

Hellendrung, Holden, and Schaff in Experimental Design

Dormanen and junior Emily Jackson in Forensics

Hellendrung and Madison in Machines

Holden and Engel in Ping Pong Parachute

Schaff and freshman Sara Hafermann in Protein Modeling

Sophomore Isabelle Feeney and seventh grader Clyde Score in Boomilever (JV)

Sophomores Tim Jackson and Arnold Sudbrink in Hovercraft (JV)

Juniors Isabelle Konsti and Brooke Fenton in Ping Pong Parachute (JV)

Silver medals were earned by the following:

Rasmussen and Farrell in Astronomy

E. Jackson and Dormanen in Horticulture

Holden and Engel in Hovercraft

Seniors Anna Hafermann and Johanna Antinucci in Rocks & Minerals

Feeney and freshman Easton Lange in Ping Pong Parachute (JV)

Fenton and junior Sawyer Garbe in Boomilever (JV)

Freshmen Aubrie Humpal and Jillian Boesl in Helicopters (JV)

Bronze medals were earned by the following:

Rasmussen and Phillips in Circuit Lab

Eighth grader Logan Monfort in Engineering CAD (JV)

Fourth-place medals were earned by the following:

The Boyceville Science Olympiad team keeps on winning! ***Photo submitted by Andy Hamm***

A. Hafermann and S. Hafermann in Remote Sensing

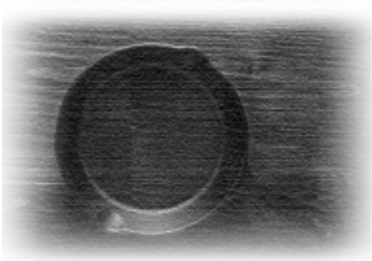
Garbe, Fenton, and Konsti in Experimental Design (JV)

Humpal and Boesl in Forestry (JV)

Konsti and Garbe in Horticulture (JV)

"Our students did an outstanding job at a very challenging tournament," said head coach Andy Hamm. "This was a very large tournament with many competitive teams and was the third tournament in a row for our students. This has been a fun but challenging stretch, and our kids did an outstanding job of rising to the challenge."

Boyceville Science Olympiad will next be in action as they host the MS Regional Tournament on February 21st and travel to Menomonie for the HS Regional Tournament on March 7th. Boyceville Science Olympiad is coached by Andy Hamm, Russ Riehbrandt, and Tony Pelikan.



IRON SKILLET

Cast iron adds a rustic touch to meals and is always an excellent choice for home-crafted meals. Do you have a favorite cast-iron skillet recipe? Send us an email with your recipe and any family story you'd like to share! We'd love to feature your story with our readers. Email us at editor.hayriverreview@gmail.com.

Keeping it "Cook Ready"

By DM MICK

Cast iron cookware has been a kitchen staple for generations, prized for its durability, heat retention, and ability to improve with age. With proper care, a cast-iron pan can last a lifetime—or longer. Keeping it clean and well-seasoned is the key to maintaining its performance and preventing rust. Some folks start to find rust or corrosion spots with extreme temperature changes, as we have had recently.

After cooking, cast iron should be cleaned while still warm. In most cases, hot water and a stiff brush or scraper are enough to remove food residue. Soap is not strictly forbidden, despite common myths, but it should be used sparingly. Harsh detergents can strip away the seasoning that protects the pan. Steel wool should also be avoided unless rust is present.

Once clean, cast iron should be dried immediately and thoroughly. Leaving it to air dry can lead to rust. Many cooks place the pan on a warm burner for a minute or two to ensure all moisture is gone. After drying, a thin layer of oil—such as vegetable oil, canola oil, or flaxseed oil—should be rubbed over the entire surface, inside and out. Seasoning is what gives cast iron its natural nonstick surface. This process involves coating the pan lightly with oil and heating it so the oil bonds to the metal. To season cast iron, preheat an oven to about 400–450 degrees, place the oiled pan upside down on the oven rack, and bake for one hour. Allow the pan to cool, and repeat the process 3-6 times. Be sure the pan is completely cool before storing. Regular cooking with oils and fats also helps build seasoning over time.

If rust appears, it can be removed by scrubbing the area with steel wool, rinsing, drying thoroughly, and re-seasoning the pan. Rust is not a sign that the pan is ruined—only that it needs a little extra care.

With consistent cleaning and occasional seasoning, cast iron cookware becomes more nonstick and resilient with use. A few simple steps after each meal can keep these classic pans cooking well for years to come.

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All Aboard with the Ridgeland Library Review

By Donnette Mickelson

Keep on Quiltin'

The Ridgeland Area Library recently received an Ideas to Action grant from WiLS to help our community create barn quilts, and the first barn quilting class was a big success! Since then, we have had many questions about what barn quilts are and how they are made. To make things easier, here is a simple overview of the process and what to expect at the class.

The first step is selecting a design you would like to paint. The easiest way to find inspiration is with a quick Google search for "barn quilt designs." You can narrow your search by theme or color, such as "patriotic barn quilt" or "purple barn quilt." There are also Facebook groups dedicated to barn quilt painting that offer great ideas and patterns. If you find a design you love but want different colors, no problem! Colors can be easily customized. Our instructors are happy to help you choose a color palette that works best with your design. Your design and color choices must be finalized before class so instructors can prepare your board. Two board sizes are available: 2' x 2' or 4' x 4' MDF boards.

Classes begin at 8:00 am, and be prepared to spend the day. Lunch will be provided. Be sure to register for a class to save your spot since classes are limited in space.

When you arrive, your board will be primed and the design drawn on. You will start tapping off sections. It is easier than a paint-by-number. You begin with the lightest color paint, dry it with a hair dryer, and repeat. The instructors have simplified the process so anyone can achieve success regardless of experience.

The goals of this project are to create community art, beautify our area, and promote local tourism. If you live within 10 miles of Ridgeland, you might qualify for a $40 discount on the class. If you want to see the process in person, you can stop in at a class and see how it is done. Be sure to save the date, Saturday, April 18, when Jim Leuenberger will speak about the Shawano County barn quilt project, where over 500 barn quilts have been painted and installed in the county. He will share how the project has impacted the community and tourism in the area, as well as show many fabulous barn quilt designs.

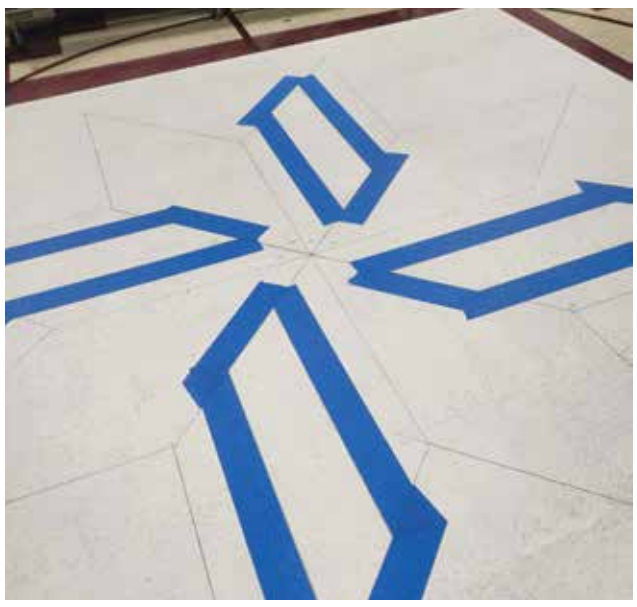
Applications can be picked up at the library or Security Bank in Ridgeland. The upcoming classes are scheduled for February 28, March 28, April 25, May 9, and June 13. We look forward to painting with you and seeing the creativity displayed in the Ridgeland area.

Tape, paint, repeat!

Every color you can think of!

Picking a design...Many to choose from!

Board is prepped and ready for paint.



Taping off lines

Instructors offering a helping hand

Finished project Lyla Huset.
Photos by Donnette Mickelson

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LESS IS PLENTY

Darlene Ramos is a retired cafe-owner and decades-long resident of the Hay River township. Born and raised in California she eventually migrated to Wisconsin for life in a "little (farm) house in a big woods", with her family, wherefrom many articles and columns were written for local publications.

A Gallon of Gas

By Darlene Ramos

On summer evenings in the late 50's, Dad occasionally said, "Get in the back of the pick-up, we're going for a ride."

We grabbed blankets even if it was warm because the bed of a truck with a whipping wind always got cool. He'd navigate the roads by our home in California to enjoy rural views, sometimes hollering back through the window to point out something special. Once he traversed a dusty road into a friend's small ranch, for us to get down and see exotic peacocks up close.

Some Sundays, Mom packed lunch, and we piled into the station wagon. Our destinations were nothing remarkable, but once we drove to the hills of Hemet, where the novel "Ramona" took place. We loved the byways and seeing other people's houses, the yards, and farm-like settings. Eating away from home was special and fun, but always still a meal our mother made affordably.

The ocean was our most frequent outing--days of sun and sand, swimming, digging crabs, pier-walking, and a Coleman cooler on a picnic blanket. Sometimes our parents treated us to "strips" from a beach vendor, simple tortilla chips with a spicy sauce, but never a beverage--those were in the ice chest, cans of soda from our home refrigerator.

It was decades before I realized something about a memory I have of just me with my dad at a cafe counter. It was barely daybreak when he ordered pancake breakfasts for us, and the first time we were alone doing something special. I was thrilled but shy, curious and puzzled, and although I don't recall what else we did that day, I've always held dear that short while.

I finally understood that our parents couldn't take us all out at once, so they broke things up. My dad took each of us to the little cafe around the corner and over the railroad tracks, one at a time. In the next week or so, he took another child, until we were all covered.

I recall just once going to a restaurant. Our aunts and uncles (restaurant owners themselves) suggested our families meet up at a Chinese eatery they loved. This interested my mother, and so we went.

We too loved it. While we couldn't make it a family tradition to go there often, my older siblings were by then of driving age, and we all had jobs, so we did go there independently many times.

All the little things added up to a fulfilling sense of family, and many things took little more than a gallon of gas!

In 1988, my own little family came to Wisconsin. It was summer, and we took to the road after suppers, too. Our pickup didn't have four seatbelts, but by then it was forbidden for kids to ride in the back, so the four of us squished together in the cab. We slid music into the 8-track player, and that made us feel like a family, too! We often stopped roadside to spend half an hour in conversation with neighbors we were coming to know, and sometimes we drove all the way to Menomonie for an ice cream sundae at the walk-up Dairy Queen.

Good memories never die, they just wait for revival.
Photo by Darlene Ramos

The years change things; kids can't ride in the back of a pickup, and families can't squish together either. Do they even make affordable trucks that are not more like cars?! (Not knocking safety, just saying!) When we more recently had the grandkids in the summers, our outings involved lots of paraphernalia and child seats designed to hold (and separate) them like astronauts catapulting into space.

A gallon of gas became three or four or five because picnics seemed a thing of the past, to Grandma and Grandpa! We searched for stimulating places with entry fees and food venues with "playlands". We wanted to do "better" by them, even though what we had enjoyed growing up seemed great enough.

Those kids showed us "less IS plenty." After summers of go-go-go and spend-spend-spend, we slowed down and went low-key. We hiked more on the property, and they had water-gun fights out front with Grandpa, and played more in local parks.

We had more lunches on the porch. One day, I apologized to eight-year-old Owen for not having his favorite ice cream in the freezer, and he said, "Grandma, if you don't have it, I'll have a popsicle. And if you don't have a popsicle, I can have a cookie. And if you have nothing, well then, I will have nothing." I giggled at his sacrificial tone, but the kid sounded sincere! Besides, I had plenty of snacks on hand.

They were loving simple things that sometimes didn't even involve a "gallon of gas"!

Grandma and Grandpa were getting tired anyway. We're mostly alone on the porch in the summers now, very glad that when we wrapped up those years with those two, we went to the finish line having created lots of "a gallon of gas" memories for them.

They were the best of the best for us, and I hope they will be for them, too!

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NSLC midweek Lenten services-
February 25, March 11 & 25 at 7 p.m., supper at 6 p.m.
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School District of Prairie Farm

February 2026

Corey Berghammer, Superintendent • John Casey Fossum, Principal

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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 to 2026! The district welcomed students back from winter break on January 5th and have settled back into our routines. We reached the end of semester 1 on January 16th and grades will be sent home near the end of the month. The new semester began on Monday, January 20th.

Each month teachers at each level select students who have shown improvement or gone above and beyond in some area of academics or extra-curricular activity. This month the high school has selected Amelia Miller and Sydney Buck as their Panthers of the Month. The staff recognized these individuals by writing:

"Amelia Miller consistently puts forth outstanding effort in and out of the classroom. Amelia is intrinsically motivated to master subjects, and she constantly turns in high quality work. Her positive and respectful attitude is reflected in interactions with both staff and peers. She has seen success in extra-curriculars, runs her own business and still finds time to work as a Certified Nursing Assistant."

"Sydney Buck was nominated and selected for Panther of the Month because she has been an overall excellent student and exemplifies what we look for in a Prairie Farm Panther. First of all, she is a very respectful young lady to both her peers and her teachers. She has taken a real interest in learning at a high level. She has even asked for some upcoming topics in Chemistry so that she can read ahead to be better prepared for when the material is presented in class. Sydney has demonstrated very good critical thinking skills in our hands-on activities and has asked great questions to further enhance her learning."

The middle school selected Kiera Buckley and Jacob Fossum as their Panthers of the Month. The staff wrote:

"Kiera Buckley has been doing an excellent job this year inside and out of the classroom. In the classroom, she tries her hardest on every assignment and always turns in her work on time and at a very high level. Her creative stories and essays last month were done to an extremely high level, and in every class she produces superb work. She is respectful to teachers, responsible with her actions, and participates in classroom discussion and activities. Outside of class, she participates in FCCLA, and multiple sports. In each of these, she always gives her best effort. Kiera is most deserving to be recognized as the Panther of the Month"

"Jake Fossum's upstanding character makes him a prime candidate for Panther of the Month. He's always cheerful and ready to learn as he enters the classroom. He's engaged during lectures and gets his work done quickly, efficiently and well. Jake also makes time for sports year round as well, excelling at them all. He's humble about his athletic abilities which makes him a team player. Thanks for your great work ethic and positive attitude, Jake!"

The elementary school nominates one student from each class for our Elementary Panther of the Month celebration. This month the following students were recognized at our monthly Panther Paws Celebration. Congratulations to Nora Nasholm, Braylin Spalinger, Jonny Bever, Landon Selkow, Colton Ress, Lucie Kneifl, Brentley Paffel, Elaine Schillinger, Riley Weigand on being selected for this award.

We are hoping everyone stays warm as we move through the remainder of winter, 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
PreK-12 Principal
School District of Prairie Farm
715-455-1861 ext. 258

What's Happening

February 18	Mid 3rd Quarter (HS/HS)
February 20	Teacher Inservice-NO SCHOOL

From the Superintendent

We are hopeful everyone is off to a great start in 2026. The Prairie Farm School District is looking forward to this new year, but we are also very blessed for all the great things that our students and staff have accomplished this past year. Coming off of our holiday break it is nice to see students and staff back in the building. As an administration team we are busy preparing the 2026-27 district calendar, staffing and schedules, facilities and equipment, and all other areas of programming as we look at next year. We will also be updating various areas of curriculum for the 2026-27 school year. These curriculum staff members are busy researching curriculums, meeting with vendors, and experimenting with different curriculums to find the best fit for our district and our students.

It is also a busy time for our three school board committees: Business Operations, Teaching and Learning, and Communication and Engagement. Each of these committees will meet a number of times in the spring to discuss various topics within each committee's scope of work. Each committee plays an important role in the overall decision making process of our district. We are thankful for the hard work and dedication of our school board members. Thank you Jerry Bates, Matt Cadman, Bryce Hansen, Carla Miller, Justin Nelson, Chuck Richards, and Bonnie Roemhild for all that you do for the Prairie Farm School District.

Finally, I would like to thank the Prairie Farm community and surrounding communities, parents, and families. The support that the school district receives from all of you is simply amazing. As I reflect back on the programs, games, and other events that I have attended this past year, it always makes me smile when I see the support that our students and staff receive from all of you. Thank you for your continued support of the Prairie Farm School District.

If you have any questions concerning the Prairie Farm School District, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support,

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

Winter Carnival
February 2-6, 2026

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRAIRIE FARM
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
January 19, 2026—6:00 p.m.—IMC
MINUTES UNAPPROVED

Members present: Nelson, Bates, Cadman, Miller, Richards, Roemhild
Members absent: Hansen

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 adopt agenda with the removal of 11) resignations, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
D) Minutes of December 15th, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
Motion by Nelson to approve the minutes of December 15th, 2025 Regular Board Meeting, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
E) Reports
1) Principal's good news report-Mr. Fossum
2) Student board members
Spencer Roemhild and Sophie Bergmann
3) Athletic director's report-Alethea Seeger
4) Cub Care report
F) Business
1) Public comment residents/parents
2) Policies
a) 5410-Promotion, Placement and Retention
b) 8451-Pediculosis
Technical Changes
c) 0168.1 Meeting Minutes
d) 2266-Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs
e) 2416-Student Privacy and Parental Access to Information
f) 2431-Interscholastic Athletics
g) 3214-Staff Gifts
h) 4214-Staff Gifts
i) 5200.01-Full-Time Student
j) 6231-Budget Implementation
k) 6235-Fund Balance
l) 8660-Transportation by Private Vehicle for District-Sponsored Activities
m) 8710-Insurance
n) 8800-Religious Activities and Observances
o) 9150-School Visitors
Motion by Miller to approve the policies as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
3) Open enrollment capacity numbers for the 2026-27 school year
Motion by Nelson to approve the open enrollment capacity numbers for the 2026-27 school year, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
4) Contract with Chippewa Trails Therapy, LLC for the 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 academic school years
Motion by Nelson to approve the contract with Chippewa Trails Therapy, LLC, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
5) Payroll check deposit in the amount of $313,671.88
Motion by Bates to approve the payroll check deposit as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried. Roemhild abstained.
6) Financial report: AP in the amount of $148,160.61, direct withdrawals in the amount of $166,783.15 and PCard withdrawals in the amount of $18,066.84
Motion by Nelson to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
7) Committee and other reports, information or comments
a) Update on curriculum for 2026-27 school year
b) Update on PFC coop
c) Schedule business operations meeting
d) other
8) Future meetings, Monday, February 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
9) 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. No closed session.
10) Roll call and return to open session
11) Contracts
a) Dan Gilbertson, Varsity Assistant Football Coach for the 2026-27 school year
b) Jordan LaBlanc, Varsity Assistant Football Coach for the 2026-27 school year
c) Dave Rassbach, Varsity Assistant Football Coach for the 2026-27 school year
d) Sidney Kostner, Varsity Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2026-27 school year
e) Desiree Buck, Varsity Assistant Volleyball Coach for the 2026-27 school year. Motion by Nelson to approve the contracts as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
12) Resignations
13) Possible action from items in closed session
G) Adjournment
Motion by Miller to adjourn at 7:08 a.m., seconded by Bates. Motion carried.

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment into Prairie Farm Schools opens on February 2, 2026 and closes on April 30, 2026.

Any families wishing to attend Prairie Farm Schools for the school year 2026/2027 and beyond can complete an online application at:

https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment

For questions or additional information, contact Linda Stehilng at lstehling@prairiefarm.k12.wi.us or 715-455-4235.

Dear Panther Music Lovers

Prairie Farm MS/HS will be hosting the 2026 Lakeland West Concert Festival on March 10th! Many guest choirs and bands from around the conference will be visiting us that day, so we will need some fantastic volunteers.

Please contact Mrs. Wilber if you would like to be a greeter, a chairperson, a site monitor, or any other position needed to make this day great.

Attention Juniors & Their Familes

Junior year is the exciting time to start planning for what comes next—college, careers, ACT prep, and even taking college classes while still in high school.

30-minute individual planning meetings for juniors and their families are now available to review transcripts, graduation requirements, post-secondary options, ACT prep, and more.

Appointments available: January 26 – February 20

Schedule here: https://calendar.app.google/sVuQp674yY1qD7uX9

Important deadline

Students planning to take college courses in high school must submit ECCP or Start College Now applications by March 1 (for Fall 2026).

Questions or need help scheduling? Call 715-455-1861 ext. 244 or email rturenne@prairiefarm.k12.wi.us.

Looking forward to working together to make senior year a smooth transition!

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.

Learning Together

Our New Multi-Age Classroom Model

Ridgeland Dallas Elementary

By Mackenzie Anderson

This school year, our enrollment numbers provided a unique and exciting opportunity: the creation of multi-age classrooms. By combining grade levels, 4K/Kindergarten, 1st/2nd grade, and 3rd/4th grade, are able to offer students a learning environment that supports academic growth, social development, and a strong sense of community.

Multi-age classrooms reflect how children naturally learn, at different paces and through collaboration. Rather than grouping students strictly by age for all subjects, instruction can be based on individual readiness and ability. This allows teachers to more effectively differentiate learning, providing additional support where needed and enrichment when students are ready, all within the same classroom setting.

Social growth is another key benefit of multi-age learning. Younger students learn by observing older peers model classroom routines, problem-solving strategies, and positive behaviors. Older students develop leadership, confidence, and responsibility as they mentor and support younger classmates. These daily interactions help foster empathy, cooperation, and a strong sense of belonging for all students.

Academically, multi-age classrooms offer increased continuity and consistency. Students may remain with the same teacher and peer group for more than one year, allowing teachers to build deeper relationships and gain a stronger understanding of each child's strengths, needs, and learning style. This continuity supports smoother transitions between school years and more personalized instruction.

While this model may be new to our school, multi-age classrooms are a well-established, research-supported approach used successfully in schools across the country. We are proud to offer this instructional model to our students and families and look forward to the continued academic and social growth that comes from learning together in a collaborative, supportive school community.

In 1st and 2nd Grade, we love games that encourage listening and social-emotional skill building!

3rd and 4th Graders work together on word work.

Partner reading is a favorite activity in all grades!

Seasonal activities are fun with buddies!

Boogie board letter work in 4K/K! Photos submitted by Mackenzie Anderson

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Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Lent: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Feb 18- March 25
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HOMESTEAD HACKS

By Sam Dodge

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.

Lessons of a Cloud Forest

My Farmer-to-Farmer Trip to Honduras

My friends, I've just returned from 10 days in the tropics. This wasn't a Caribbean Cruise or a Club Med vacation; it was a visit with some folks who are trying to do what a lot of us around here also try to do... eke a living from the gracious Earth upon which we and all Beings abide. My opportunity to experience a different life in a different place was facilitated by Farmer to Farmer Coffee with a whole lot of graceful, friendly, heartfelt help from the local coffee farmers they interact with in Honduras.

It's a little different, of course. The opportunities and the challenges take on different forms. We're not subject to mudslides taking our whole lives down the mountainside. They don't have to deal with frigid winters and frozen everything. Still, the underlying principle is the same: Make a decent life for yourself, your family, your community, without taking too much from the Earth or the community. Leave things at least as good, clean, and fertile as you found them. Don't step on toes, and if you do, it's a good idea to make amends.

The small collective of coffee growers we visited and those who work in support of them locally are trying to transition out of conventional chemical farming and into a more sustainable organic mode. They're trying to stop the deforestation and pollution of the mountainsides that offer them sustenance because the other choice has nearly destroyed the cloud forests that sustain conditions friendly to coffee production. This is happening all over the world in areas where good coffee grows well.

What they're attempting isn't "cutting edge" by any means. It's only been a few generations since all humans farmed organically. Millennia of experience taught the world's cultivators that it was necessary to maintain soil cover and health with what was at hand, and taking from the Earth without replenishing it was a sure path to starvation.

You can see how the "modern" shortcuts have laid the Honduran mountains bare to the very bedrock in a lot of places. It's saddening and maddening for me, just as witnessing the devastation of monoculture and poisoning of the land here at home is. As I am heartened by those in my area who are trying to practice a partnership with the Earth rather than dominion over it, it gladdens me to see people in Honduras taking up a similar mantle. I hope that this movement toward a more cooperative partnership with the land that is home to all Beings can grow and spread from one farm to the next, from one family to another around the globe.

The families and individuals I was introduced to in my ten short days in the tropics verily glow with the energy of the mountains. It is their lifeblood and their life. They are people with huge, open hearts, and they welcomed us as relatives. We stepped into their homes as family. Never mind that we looked different, talked differently, showed our awkwardness in their environment. Our hosts made us feel like we belonged at every moment.

I hope I can find the grace in my life to be so "in touch" with what is around; what is needed; what I can do to heal the deep scars we have made on this one small planet on which we abide... and on each other.

Sunset over the mountains.

A warm welcome from the locals.

Farming in the sky. ***Photos by Sam Dodge***

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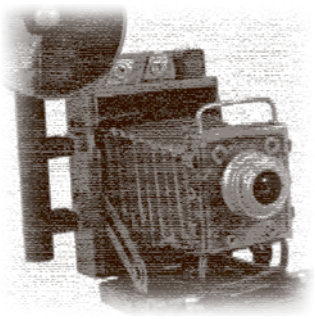
Hay River REVIEW

Letters

It's always a good time to notice, appreciate and give thanks for the people and things that make life better, but even more so when the times get tough. At Hay River Review we want to hear about some of the things you are finding deep appreciation for, these days? What are you grateful for? What is working well in your world? Send a letter to the editor! Email us at editor.hayriver-review@gmail.com



PHOTOS
FROM OUR PAST

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.

Ridgeland's First Entry in the Dunn County Baseball League

Archives of the Dunn County News provided a fun story to share. ***Photo courtesy of Hugh Passow***

By Lon Christopherson

Ridgeland's 1938 entry in the Dunn County Baseball League. Front: Russell Johnson, Richard Kahl, Eldon Luer, Bill Parks, Harris Kahl, Lester Severson. Back: Umpire Art Thorson, Gordon Nelson, Stanley Kahl, E Nelson, Mgr. Joe Pecore, Forest Luer, Jimmy Speetzen. Not pictured: Dick Wirth, Art Crandall, Miller, and Kallenbach. In the dead of winter, sometimes it is nice to think of the warmer months ahead and the things they hold in store for us, things like green grass, summer vacation,s and baseball! Although the village of Ridgeland had fielded a baseball team as early as 1901, 1938 was the first year that they entered a team in the Dunn County Baseball League. Other teams in the league that year included Connorsville, Spring Valley, Knapp, Hammond, a combined team from Boyceville-Wheeler, the Wakanda Braves, and the Menomonie Blue Caps. The first game of the year for the Ridgeland team was against Connorsville.

The game didn't start well for umpire Art Thorson, who can be seen posing in the attached pregame photo with the Ridgeland squad. During infield practice for the Ridgeland team, a wild throw from one of their players struck Thorson directly in the nose, causing him to sit out the game's first five innings, at which time he felt recovered enough to resume his duties. Things didn't go too well for the Ridgeland team either, as they ended up on the losing end of a 4-1 contest. Despite a slow 1-3 start for the team, they showed steady improvement, at one time being tied for second place before falling off at the season's end. Still, Ridgeland finished the year with a respectable 7 - 7 record in its debut season. This was thanks in part to the league's leading hitter, Stanley Kahl, and his .389 batting average, and good pitching by Dick Wirth.

Other top hitters for Ridgeland were Joe Pecore, who hit .368, and Bill Parks at .357. The following year, 1939, the team finished in a first-place tie, earning them their first league title. Although many players changed over the years, the team from Ridgeland was always a strong contender. In the 1940s, they took the league title every year but one.`The 1938 roster for Ridgeland included pitchers Dick Wirth, Lester Severson, and Joe Pecore. Outfielders included Eldon Luer, Jim Speetzen, Richard Kahl, Gordon Nelson, Art Crandall, and E. Nelson. Bill Parks did the catching for the team, and the rest of the infield was made up of Harris Kahl at first, Stanley Kahl at second, Joe Pecore played third, and Forest Luer was the shortstop.

The Ridgeland Ball Park is named after one of these former players, Eldon "Don" Luer, who spent much of his time in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s maintaining Ridgeland's diamond. He spent many hours there on his tractor, making sure the field was in great shape before Little League, Babe Ruth, and softball games. Although it seems today we always refer to Ridgeland's baseball team as the Reds, it wasn't always so. Up until 1947, the Dunn County News would refer to the team from Ridgeland as the Red Legs, or Red Birds, but new uniforms worn by the team that year were proudly stitched with Ridgeland Reds across the chest, and that was a name that stuck.

Thank you to all of our contributing writers. You give our paper its unique flavor!

Faith United Methodist Church
159 10th St., Prairie Farm
Feb. 1 Holy Communion
Feb. 12 Creamed Chicken Dinner
@ Wheeler 3:30 to 7 p.m.
Pastor Vicky Strupp
Regular Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

ICE, ICE....CELEBRATE!
Slide into winter fun with us!
Sip hot chocolate, munch on popcorn, and warm up by the campfire
February 21
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FIELD & WOODLAND WANDERINGS

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.

Snow Bugs

By Martha Wright

Live insects moving around outside during Wisconsin winters? No way! That is what I thought, until the day I saw a fly on top of the snow on the patio deck. I assumed it was dead, but when I looked again a few minutes later, it had moved several inches closer to the house.

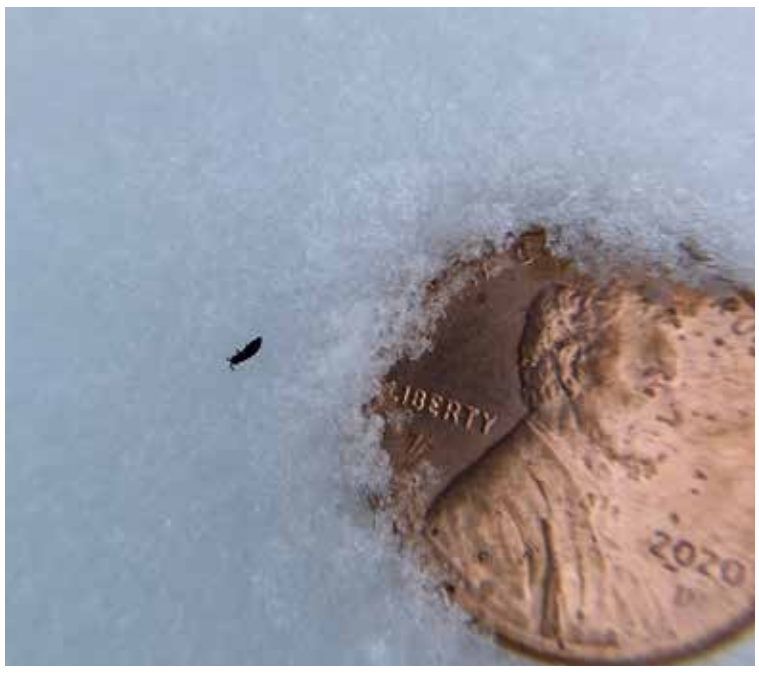
On one of my wanderings in the snowy woods, something small came flying in from my left at knee-height and landed on the path in front of me. It was an insect, and I bent closer to take a look. A mosquito? But no, mosquitoes are a pest we do not have to worry about during our cold winters. Instead, it was a winter crane fly (family Trichoceridae), related to mosquitoes (family Culicidae), but it does not feed on blood.

The first time I saw a crane fly, I thought it was an anomaly, a confused insect that would soon freeze to death. In fact, there are a variety of insects that are active in the winter. Many of them are flies, like the wingless snow fly (genus Chionia), which made me wonder how it could be a fly if it does not have wings. Or how about the snow scorpionfly (order Mecoptera), which also does not have wings, and is neither a scorpion nor a fly, although it is found in the snow? Naming can be something of a mystery at times.

Patrick Liesch, of the University of Wisconsin Insect Diagnostic Lab, writes in his article "Insects on the Snow" (January 31, 2022) about ice-climbing a frozen waterfall and finding "dozens of 'aquatic' insects active on the snow." These may have been caddis flies and stone flies, which spend part of their life cycle underwater, and apparently do not mind the cold.

An article from Biology Insights titled "What are Snow Bugs and How Do They Survive…?" explains that there are a couple of different methods insects can use to keep from freezing. Some produce antifreeze proteins that prevent ice crystals from forming in their systems, while others produce a different cryoprotectant, like glycerol, that lowers the freezing point of their bodily fluids. Either way, they are safe in the subzero cold.

The winter insect that fascinates me the most is the snow flea. I was snowshoeing in the woods one sunny day when I noticed that the snow seemed to be sooty or dirty. I wondered what caused it, so I looked closer and realized there were tiny insects wriggling in the snow.



A single snow flea.

A winter crane fly. ***Photos by Martha Wright***

They are called snow fleas (Hypogastrura sp.) because they look similar and are the same size. However, their food is decaying plant matter rather than blood, so they live in the leaf litter under the snow. Sometimes, on warm days, enough of them collect on the surface to make the snow look sooty.

Most of these winter bugs do not prey on larger animals, and their diet does not include blood. Everybody is covered too thickly with fur or down or clothing to make that feasible. The job of many of them is to help with decomposition through the coldest season of the year. They can become prey for other organisms, though, as I realized when I saw a spider running in slow motion across the snow.

Liesch states that snow fleas are so common that he is more surprised if he does not see them when he is out on winter excursions. I am noticing them more often, too, now that I am aware of their existence. The more I look, the more snow bugs I see. It is fascinating to me how much is out there to observe if we are paying attention.

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

February 6, 13, 20, 27th	AA Meetings, 6- 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall in Clayton. For more information, call Dave C. at 715-948-4235.
February 2	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Party, Ridgeland Community Center with Potluck, 12:30 p.m.
February 3 and 5	Popsicle Crafts (picture frame, bird feeder, etc) Dallas Library, 2- 5 p.m.
February 5	Ridgeland Area Board Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 6 p.m.
February 7	Popsicle Crafts (picture frame, bird feeder, etc) Dallas Library, 9-12 p.m.
February 7	Ridgeland Royalty Activity For All Ages at Ridgeland Area Library, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
February 10 and 12	Valentine Crafts (Perler beads, etc) Dallas Library, 2-5 p.m.
February 11	Soup Dinner and Bar Contest Fundraiser- Ridgeland Area Library at Ridgeland Community Center, 4:30 – 7 p.m.
February 14	Valentine Crafts (Perler beads, etc) Dallas Library, 9-12 p.m.
February 14	Valentine Party Dallas Library, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
February 16	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Party, Ridgeland Community Center with Potluck, 12:30 p.m.
February 17 and 19	Library Scavenger Hunt with Prizes Dallas Library, 2 -5 p.m.
February 21	Library Scavenger Hunt with Prizes Dallas Library, 9-12 p.m.
February 21	ALL DAY Pioneer Days Celebration– Ridgeland
February 21	Annual Bake Sale Fundraiser American Legion Auxiliary Unit 511 at Ridgeland Community Center, 9-2 p.m.
February 19	Ridgeland Civic Club meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 6 p.m.
February 21	Library Scavenger Hunt with Prizes Dallas Library, 9-12 p.m.
February 24 and 26	Bird Seed Crafts (Seed hangers, identify local birds) Dallas Library, 2-5 p.m.
February 24	Ridgeland Area Library Cookbook Meeting at Ridgeland Community Center – bring a dish to pass, 6 p.m.
February 26	Ridgeland Historical Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 5:30 p.m.
February 28	Bird Seed Crafts (Seed hangers, identify local birds) Dallas Library, 9-12 p.m.
February 28	Ridgeland Area Library hosts Barn Quilt Painting at Ridgeland Elementary School, 8-5 p.m.

Put your event on the Community Bulletin Board by contacting Betty Glaser at bls5524@yahoo.com or (715)529-1451.

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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 clerk@villageofprairiefarm.gov
Village of Ridgeland	Kristin Huset 715-949-2265 bkhuset@chibardun.net

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They say it takes a "village.."

The entire Alfalfa team of workers, supporters, donators, and businesses wish to say "THANK YOU" to all who made Alfalfa 2025 successful.
With the support of families, friends, neighbors and most importantly, our volunteers, Alfalfa Fest was able to not only be a great time, but allows us to give back to the community once again!

SUSTAINABLY YOU HOW TO THRIVE

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.

It's All Coming Together

By DKO Pike

26.01.22 9:30 am @ zero outside, gusty winds and dropping temps predicted.

Perfect 70 in here with a small fire in our woodstove; feeling fortunate to be in this safe place.

Last evening, our team of a dozen volunteers gathered online to finalize speakers and other details for our next Traditional and Green Skills Event. It will be March 14 from 8-4:00 at Prairie Farm High School.

Jess, our co-chair, opened the meeting by sharing some of her feelings and asking each of us to do the same. As we face an unprecedented assault on the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution 250 years ago, we all recognize that the best way to confront these attacks on our democracy is by joining forces with neighbors.

The twelve of us are fortunate to be working together to create a community event where we learn from one another and get to reconnect with friends we don't see as often during the winter months, as well as make new friends. Some of these new connections are people who have lived out here for generations, but who haven't been aware of this value-packed day of sharing. Others are more recent arrivals. One of my neighbors just moved here from a Twin Cities suburb for a quieter life in "the middle of nowhere."

This year, our event is loaded with information about how to survive out here, living close to the land. Classes range from saving seed and storing the harvest to making habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. You can also learn from one of our inventors who has been designing gear/clothing for our challenging weather. He has been at this craft for fifty years!

Come learn from a local farmer who has been researching how to minimize expensive inputs while maximizing crop yields.

In addition to workshops, the TGSE has 20 vendor booths for local goods and services. ***Photo by Cody Mastel***

You can learn how to forage for food, create your own teas or healing salves, and turn milk into cheese.

Stretch your body to enhance movement and longevity with Tai Chi, riding an E-bike, cross-country skiing equipment basics (1st class in a 2-part series; 2nd will be when snow conditions permit), and eating more seasonally. You can learn tips for handling grief, make your own greeting cards, and, best of all, become a more critical thinker!

For $15, who would want to miss out? This includes lunch, child care, and no tipping of the speakers. While no advance registration is needed to participate, if you have time to help that day, we will waive even that minimal entry fee (discount requires signing up for a specific task in advance).

Come, bring a neighbor, join the fun. You won't be disappointed. Go to https://tinyurl.com/TGSE2026 for more information.

..."A&M" cont'd. from front

There were three seminars on both days of the event. This provided some fantastic Q&A discussions. ***Photo by DM MICK***

market. They emphasized the importance of presenting a professional image while still highlighting the local and handmade nature of maple syrup. Glenn also shared some great experiences from his many years in the maple industry. Glenn really connects with folks by keeping things simple and making them make sense for every situation.

Hill and Goodrich shared tips on labeling, pricing, and using social media to promote products. They also discussed the benefits of attending farmers' markets and community events to connect directly with customers. Producers were encouraged to tell the story behind their syrup to help build trust and loyalty with buyers.

Another focus of the open house was learning about new tools and equipment available to maple syrup producers. Attendees saw demonstrations of tubing systems, evaporators, and filtering equipment designed to improve efficiency and product quality. Experts explained how newer technology can help producers reduce waste and increase output.

Producers were able to view equipment up close and ask questions about cost, maintenance, and installation. Many said seeing the tools in person and use helped them better understand how upgrades could benefit their operations.

The event also allowed producers to network and learn from one another. Conversations between attendees focused on challenges faced during maple syrup season, including weather conditions and labor demands. Sharing experiences helped create a supportive learning environment.

A&M Sugarworks hosted the open house to support the maple syrup industry and encourage continued learning among producers. By opening their operation to others, they provided a space for education and collaboration.

This event provided maple syrup producers with practical information and new ideas to take back to their own operations. Events like this help strengthen local agriculture and support the future of maple syrup production in Wisconsin.

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2026 Starts with Love In The Air

By Betty Glaser

Members of the Ridgeland Civic Club kicked off 2026 with love in the air, mouthwatering aromas filling the Ridgeland Community Center, and Italian music setting the mood. Chef Lilly Carlon and her sous chef, Bill Groepper, had the entire building smelling absolutely yummy during our Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser.

Lilly is well known for her spaghetti sauce with meat, which truly tastes out of this world. This year, sous chef Bill had the garlic toast cooked to perfection. Between the two of them, they worked in perfect rhythm—preparing noodles, garlic bread, and managing two ovens like pros. The teamwork was impressive, and the results were simply amazing. We would like to thank everyone who attended our fundraiser and helped make it such a successful event.

Keeping with the love theme, Civic Club members prepared the Senior Citizens' Valentine's gift bags. We think you will love the hand-embroidered dish towels. The creativity of the designs and sewing was lovingly handled by member Karen Groepper. Members will be out in full force delivering these care packages just in time for Valentine's Day.

The perfect smiles, for a perfect evening! ***Photo submitted by Betty Glaser.***

Looking ahead, we will be hosting the Grand Opening of the Ice Rink during Pioneer Days. Members will be serving hot chocolate and popcorn, and member John will be manning the campfire. Be sure to bring your ice skates—or just stop by—from 12:30 to 1:30 on Saturday, February 21. We would like to thank the Pioneer Days Committee for purchasing the ice rink. It has been wonderful to see all ages enjoying ice skating both during the daytime and in the evening!

As we prepare for spring and upcoming graduations, the Ridgeland Civic Club will be sending scholarship applications to local high school counselors in Barron, Prairie Farm, and Colfax. We are pleased to share that all three scholarship recipients from last year submitted their first-semester grades and each received their $500 scholarship. If you have a senior who has been involved in community service, please have them check with their school counselor for an application.

Lastly, if you would like to join us for some fun activities, our next project will be stuffing over 1,500 easter eggs—so watch for more information! We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Ridgeland Area Library.

Thank you for reading!

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