

Hay River

Since 1987

Community News

REVIEW

March 2026



4-H Grows Here

Tri-County 4-H Speaking and Demonstration Festival

By Ann E. Lee

On January 31, the Dunn County 4-H Youth did an outstanding job at the Tri-County 4-H Speaking and

Demonstration Festival. We couldn't have been more pleased with the amount of effort the youth put into their presentations, and we are grateful to Elk Mound High School for allowing us to use their facilities for the festival. We are looking forward to the

Tri-County Performing Arts Festival also being held at the Elk Mound High School on March 7, where 4-H Youth will showcase their music and dramatic abilities.

For the next several weeks, we have the unique opportunity to team up with UW-Stout and the Art Education Program Director, Ann Carlisle, to provide 4 weekly art classes taught by their Art Education students for Dunn County youth and those from Chippewa and Eau Claire. These Art U classes are divided into sessions by age. Several of these are done virtually, with

"4-H" cont'd. on page 12...



(Above left) 4-H Youth at the Speaking and Demonstration Festival on January 31. Pictured are Noah Walz, Ben Dietsche, Abigail Dietsche, Lydia Dietsche (front), Jackson Walz, Charlotte Walz, and Roxanne Walz. Photo by Zachary Rozmiarek

(Left) Willing Workers 4-H Club with their food drive for a local food pantry. Photo submitted by Ann Lee

Almost Here

Traditional and Green Skills 2026

By DKO Pike

After months of planning, our next Traditional and Green Skills Event is on the horizon. Saturday, March 14, at Prairie Farm High School, imagine joining neighbors and friends to select four sessions to attend from a list of 23 adult workshops or group discussions, and four kids' classes. See the full list of workshops and the schedule on the back page of this edition of "Hay River Review."

You may register and preselect which workshops are your preferences with our new online advance roster tool via this link: tinyurl.com/TGSE2026Register

Mark your calendar to arrive as the doors open at 8:00 a.m. to coffee and breakfast bars, along with plenty of great conversations among a room full of local vendors — both businesses and civic organizations — working to improve our community. Extra seeds? A seed swap will be hosted throughout the day. The first class session begins at 9:30 a.m., following brief announcements.

All this, including a light lunch, is yours for the low entry fee of \$15, or \$30 for families. Day care is also provided for the younger kids who are not interested in attending the kids' classes. We are able to organize all this through the time donated

by our organizing committee: Jess Fischer and Joan Feldman Plumb (co-chairs), Katie Bovee, Anna Brown, Nancy Frank, Suzanne Gaines, Suzanne Gerlach, Lynlea Hurst, Shawn and Tommie Kelley, Douglas Owens-Pike, and Emily Pieper.

In addition to our winning team, we are grateful for the speakers who volunteer to teach, more than 30 sponsors who cover many expenses, and Prairie Farm High School for donating their classrooms and other facilities.

At press time, there were just five vendor table spaces left. Of the 15 confirmed, we have handcrafted herbal medicine,



unique soaps, wool socks, chair massages, a wide variety of yarn, organic produce, E-bikes, honey, grassfed beef/lamb, CSA shares, donuts and other baked goods, Farmers Union, Hay River Transition Initiative, and our "Hay River Review". Contact Sue Gerlach if you would like a vendor space at 715-600-2212.

The success of this event is reflected in how we

Start your day with coffee and reconnection with friends. Photo by Cody Mastel

continue to build a stronger community, giving back to Prairie Farm High School, and in other events Hay River Transition Initiative sponsors throughout the year. Let us know if you would like to be involved with planning future events and other volunteer opportunities.

www.hayriverti.org/

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The Book Report Dallas Public Library

By Barbara Petersen

Valentine's Day Event

Friends who joined us on Saturday, February 14, had some special Valentine treats. We had chocolate cookies with mint chips and pecan Kringle. It was a delicious way to celebrate Valentine's Day and to show the new books we had available for our guests.

Children's Activities

In March, our children's activities will continue during our regular days and hours. This March, the following is planned:

- March 3, 5, 7 - Snow Crafts
- March 10, 12, 14 - Bookmarks - draw/color, etc.
- March 17, 19, 21 - St. Patrick's Crafts
- March 24, 26, 28 - Ready, Set, Grow--Flowers, Veggies, etc.
- March 31, April 2, 4 - Jokes, Pranks, Fun (April Fool's Day)

Children can get off the bus and work on a craft before heading home. Those parents who homeschool are also welcome to bring their children.

Spring Cleaning? Down-sizing?

Are you getting the urge to do some spring cleaning? Maybe you are downsizing? Do you have craft supplies you no longer need or use?

Please consider donating what you think may be useful to the Dallas Library. We always take books to either add to our collection or to sell at book sales to give us income for other needs. We can also use more craft supplies.

We all know how expensive supplies can get, and when they are no longer needed or if you have extras, they end up in the back of a cupboard, taking up space. Maybe you can gain some space by donating to the Library. Then you can start a new craft or hobby!

Survey

We plan to have a short survey available at the Spring Primary about the services we provide and could provide in the future. Please look for this, fill it out, and deposit our Library Survey in the marked container at the Spring Primary on April 7.

Plant Sale

Coming in May will be our Memorial Day Plant Sale. Every other year, we have a sale to help our friends and patrons share plants they may have in overflowing flower beds.

It is early, but many gardeners start planning what will happen in the flowerbeds around March. In the next issue of the Hay River Review, we will give specific directions for taking part in our plant sale.

Start thinking about any overflowing flowerbeds now, or plants you no longer want that could go on our plant sale.

Stay Connected

Library hours

Tuesday and Thursday- 2 to 6 p.m.

Saturday- 9 a.m. to noon.

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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 support 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.

From Oven to Outreach

Ridgeland American Auxiliary Bake Sale Shines

By Betty Glaser

The Willard L. Hinzmann American Legion Auxiliary held a very successful bake sale during Pioneer Days on Saturday, February 21. Despite the cold weather, community members came out in strong support of the event.

Proceeds from the bake sale will help fund several important initiatives, including sending a local high school junior to Badger Girls State this summer, supporting the needs of veterans at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls, and contributing to Wreaths Across America for the veteran's cemetery in Spooner, WI.



Willard L. Hinzman American Legion Post 511 members and community members serving chicken and pork chop meals for Pioneer Days. (Left to right) Arnie Thompson, community member Wayne Christopherson, Ray Glaser, Vern Gilbertson, Butch Baldwin, and David Waldenberger. Photo by Betty Glaser

There was also an outpouring of community support, as many attendees signed two cards that will be sent to our local military members who

were recently deployed. Jarity Roux and Jasper Peterson will surely be surprised to receive cards filled with more than fifty signatures, letting them know they are in our thoughts and thanking them for their service.

The Auxiliary extends its sincere thanks to everyone who donated baked goods and to those who braved the chilly temperatures to show

their continued support.

Auxiliary meetings will resume in 2026 and are held on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Community Center. We welcome new members and encourage you to consider joining the American Legion Auxiliary if you have a family member who has served, or is currently serving, in the United States military.

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PUBLISHING DATES

Table with 4 columns: Issue, Ad Due, Copy Due, Distribution. Rows for March, April, and May.

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

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Ridgeland Dallas Elementary

By Kenzie Anderson and Faith Dixon

During the month of February, our wonderful gym teacher, Ms. Iverson, gave students the exciting opportunity to learn a new winter sport. With some warmer days recently, students were able to get outside and enjoy all the snow we have received this winter (before it melted)!

Ms. Beebout's and Mrs. Anderson's classes have spent the past few weeks learning how to snowshoe, while Mrs. Dixon's class has been learning how to ski. Students across all grade levels have been having a blast trying something new, many discovering that they really enjoy snowshoeing or skiing!

Each day, students come in with smiles on their faces, eager to share the progress they've made and the skills they're building. Mrs. Dixon's third and fourth-grade students are even hoping to put their skiing skills to the test at the Barnebirkie in Almena on February 20, weather permitting.

Thank you to Ms. Iverson for providing our Ridgeland-Dallas students with these amazing winter learning experiences!

Snow Much Fun



1st and 2nd learning how to snowshoe.



3rd and 4th ready to ski.



Kindergarten enjoying snowshoeing. Photos submitted by Faith Dixon



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Ridgeland Civic Club

Grand Opening of the Ridgeland Ice Rink & Thanks to the Pioneer Days Committee

By Betty Glaser

The Village of Ridgeland, Wisconsin, now has its very own commercial-grade ice rink. This exciting addition was made possible through the generous support of the Pioneer Days Committee and an incredible outpouring of community involvement.

Last fall, the Ridgeland Civic Club presented a proposal for a Lite Ice rink to the Village Board, which gave its full support. The Civic Club then approached several local organizations for assistance. The Pioneer Days Committee was the very

first to respond — and their immediate commitment to fund the entire proposal filled organizers with pride and gratitude.

Civic Club members, along with dedicated community volunteers, installed the rink. A special thank you goes to Neil Shipley for keeping the rink cleared of snow so it remains available for everyone to enjoy. Civic Club members Jeff Wachsmuth and Lilly Carlon have also been regularly monitoring the rink's needs, including lighting and ramp accessibility.

During Pioneer Days, the Civic Club hosted the official Grand Opening, serving hot chocolate and popcorn while Bill Groepper and Alec Beaton kept a warming fire going for attendees. Many thanks to Lilly Carlon for preparing the popcorn and hot chocolate, and to Karen Groepper for assisting with serving the treats.

With recent warmer weather, the ice temporarily pulled away from some of the sidewalls and formed a seven-inch-thick floating sheet. The sidewalls remain in place, and the rink is still skateable. As this is the first year for the rink, there is much to learn and improve. Plans are already being explored for additional lighting and possibly a warming house in the future.

This new rink stands as a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when a community comes together.



Civic Club member Karen Groepper serving hot chocolate and handing out popcorn.



Civic Club member Alec Beaton manning the fire. Photos submitted by Betty Glaser

Thank you to all of our subscribers. You help keep us going!



MICKELSON'S BOOK BINGE

By Donnette Mickelson

While there have been over five hundred shipwrecks on Lake Superior alone, this particular tragedy has been preserved in memory due to the popular ballad by Gordon Lightfoot.

The Edmund Fitzgerald sank on Lake Superior on November 10, 1975, in storm-force winds up to one hundred miles per hour and

The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald

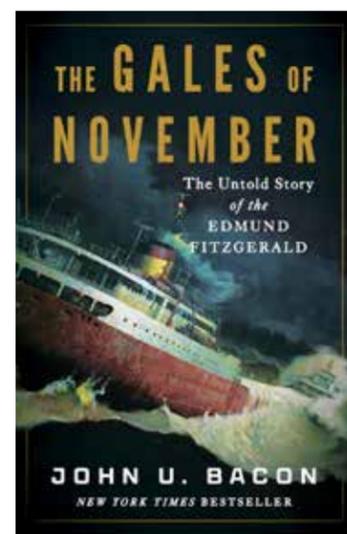
By John U. Bacon

waves upwards of thirty-five feet.

"The legend lives on from the Chippewa on down

Of the big lake, they called Gitche Gumee."

This book not only does a deep investigation into the wreck, but it also profiles all twenty-nine men who lost their lives on the Fitz. Bacon also covers a history of the Great Lakes, the importance of mining, and the impact of the sinking on future safety regulations, all of which are



important to learning more about the Fitzgerald and how it became legendary.

It is difficult to say that this is an engaging, entertaining, and enjoyable book when it deals with the loss of life, but it really is an enthralling read. The author does an excellent job of describing the lives of the men involved in the sinking and ensuring that their stories are remembered with dignity.

Advertisement for Hay River Review obituaries. Includes text: 'Remember your loved one with an obituary', 'Pricing is \$25/100 words (and includes one photo)', 'Contact Editor.HayRiverReview@gmail.com'. Features an image of flowers.

Advertisement for CTL Foods, Inc. Soda Fountain Malted Milk Powder. Includes text: 'Soda Fountain Malted Milk Powder Not just for Ice Cream Drinks Add it to your favorite Hot Chocolate recipes!'. Features images of hot chocolate cups and a product can.

Advertisement for True Value appliance repair. Includes text: 'Clear Lake True Value For all your appliance repair needs! 530 3rd Ave NW, Clear Lake PH 715-263-2375 Fax 715-263-3408'. Features logos for RUGER, MAYTAG, STIHL, and Milwaukee.

Ridgeland Pioneer Day

More chickens took flight this year at the annual Ridgeland Pioneer Day celebration. The Feb. 21 event drew the community together for a day of traditions, including the chicken toss, chicken feed, and the grand opening of the ice rink. Locals turned out to enjoy the outdoors and spend time with neighbors. *Photos submitted by Donnette Mickelson*



State Bound Wrestlers.



Chetek-Weyerhaeuser/Prairie Farm junior Trig White returns to the WIAA State Wrestling Championships for the third straight year, entering the Division 2, 157-pound bracket as the No. 2 seed with a 41-2 record. He previously went unplaced as a freshman and finished sixth at 144 pounds last season. Trig has a first-round bye and is expected to open competition after 8 p.m. Thursday in Madison.

The program is sending two additional qualifiers: Brady Gesler at 138 pounds and Adam Foss at 215, both looking to make their mark on the state stage.

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Pictures, Patterns, and Predictions



A hopeful sunrise. Photo by Sam Dodge

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Aging and Disability Resource Center of Barron and Rusk Counties

By Sam Dodge

My friends, Groundhog Day has come and gone. The famed Punxatawny Phil out in Pennsylvania has determined that we've got some more winter in front of us, though groundhogs in other locales have come to different conclusions. Here in the Prairie Farm area, we're experiencing one of the milder Februarys in my 30-year residence. Now we'll see what March brings! Things seem to have become a bit less predictable in my lifetime.

Some things are still easy enough to prognosticate on, though. As per usual, we have a pile of beautiful seed and nursery catalogs strewn around our living space. I wonder how much longer that will continue, given the easy availability of seeds (and pretty pictures) on the interweb. I would have predicted that, in the interest of saving trees and fuel, the paper catalogs would have already become history. We're still enjoying the pretty pictures that come to our mailbox, though, and Jennifer uses pretty pages from the catalogs to make appropriately illustrated envelopes for seeds we've saved from each year's garden. Sort of an organic origami practice, you might say. I'm going to reserve my opinion regarding the continued availability of seed envelope stock, but perhaps I'll take up drawing fruits and vegetables just in case. It's

nice to have all that nascent life and sustenance wrapped up in pretty packages. It feels hopeful to me.

It also feels hopeful to keep looking for patterns in my day-to-day, month-to-month, and even year-to-year observations. I peruse the several years of my phenology chronicles pretty regularly to see how the months of one year might relate to the same months in other years. As a gardener, an orchardist, a maple sap gatherer, and a generally (hopefully) attendant/observer/witness to the continuing clockwork of Life, it feels like it makes sense and pays dividends to find patterns. A person can guess away in full futility without being observant of connections and coincidences happening before our very eyes, it seems to me. Beyond the rather glaring and obvious pursuit of conspiracy theory (I'm going to call it "conspiracy hypothesis", for the most part, as so many of these hypothesisists don't seem to reckon with the difference between correlation and causation), I think some really useful information can be gleaned by using data that we've gathered close to home in conjunction with the data sourced from who-knows-where across a web that mostly vibrates to the tunes of power-brokers and influencers in every quarter. There's less sifting required when it comes to what's actually transpiring

before my eyes, I'd say.

So I'll labor under the assumption that the famous groundhog's expostulations need to be taken with a grain of salt. I'll trust the arrival of the migrating birds over the blowsy gusts coming from the mouths of the rich and power-hungry. I'll look to the Earth and Sky, as they dance before the eyes of my lifetime, for the patterns that serve my ground-level interests. I'll pay attention where attention seems to me to be due. If the weather throws a tantrum, I'm much more likely to pay attention than to a tantrum thrown by some fancy-pants New York billionaire. Or a famous Philadelphia woodchuck with a bunch of cameras in its bewildered face.

I'll gather my seeds, share them with the people they mean something to, and get on with the tasks (not the business, that's for the billionaires to give you) of life among Beings that share a tender little planet in the best, most honest and conscientious way that they are able. I'll keep watching the sun rise and set, invariably, every single day.

I invite you to join me.

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School District of Prairie Farm

March 2026

Corey Berghammer, Superintendent • John Casey Fossum, Principal

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Principal's Report

Winter sports seasons are wrapping up and we are excited to start tournament play at the high school level. Trig White qualified for the state wrestling tournament and will wrestle on Thursday, February 26th. We have reached the mid quarter of quarter three on February 20th and it won't be long until the spring seasons and activities are under way.

Our spring session of Parent Teacher Conferences is scheduled for March 12th. Elementary conferences are scheduled through Michelle in the elementary office and middle school and high school parents are on a drop-in basis. Conferences will run from 1:00-8:30 pm with a supper break from 4:30-5:30.

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 Jaylyn Thornell and Olivia Bever as their Panthers of the Month.

Staff wrote, "Jaylyn Thornell is currently taking the two most difficult science classes she can take as a junior. First of all, she takes great notes, asks excellent questions, and does a great job in persevering through some of the more difficult content. She takes great lab notes and is very thorough with her labs. Her overall work ethic will transition well to post-secondary or the workforce-whatever she chooses to do." "Olivia Bever has shown exceptional growth in several academic areas this school year. Olivia consistently puts forth outstanding effort and is an example to her fellow classmates. She strives to understand and looks for opportunities to grow her learning. She is always willing to lend a helping hand to any students who may be struggling. Olivia exemplifies what it means to be a Prairie Farm Panther. Great Job!

The middle school has selected Carter Harris and Eli Wendt as their Panthers of the Month. Staff stated, "Carter Harris has a lot of qualities that make him a great student. One of those qualities is reliability. He always has his work done and it's always done well. He doesn't let anything distract him and he doesn't make excuses. Another trait that makes Carter a great student is that he is eager to learn new things and adds a lot of enthusiasm to class discussions. Perhaps his best quality, however, is his good attitude and friendly nature. He definitely brightens any classroom he's in. Great work Carter!" "Elijah Wendt has been an exceptional student this year. In writing class, he goes above and beyond with his stories, explanations, and details. His understanding of grammar is exquisite, as is his effort with all his assignments. In math class, his effort and achievements have gone way above his classmates. This effort is seen in all his classes and work as well as his respect in class to teachers and peers. Eli also has an excellent attitude and is kind and patient with his classmates. He is well deserving of Panther of the Month."

The elementary school nominates one student from each class and the following students were recognized at our monthly Panther Paws Celebration. Congratulations to Jaxson Puddicombe, Rylie Prinsen, Bryleigh Vahlenkamp, Abigail Rothmeier, Mya Selkow, McKenna Eiden, James Seeger, Elena White, and Ethan Young on being selected for this award.

Earlier this month the district held its annual Spelling Bee. Top spellers from each classroom took part in the district Bee. Zoe Chartraw was the winner in the younger division while Anton Olson was the winner in the older group. Both individuals qualified for the regional Spelling Bee in Turtle Lake. Anton Olson placed 2nd and qualified for the state spelling bee! Great job to all the spellers who took part in this year's Spelling Bee.

Congratulations to the FCCLA participants for their outstanding performance at the regional competition. The PF students performed extremely well sending 29 students on to the state completion that will be held in Wisconsin Dells.

As always, the Spring semester is packed with numerous events. FCCLA, FFA, Quiz Bowl, and many other clubs and organizations are in full swing and competing in multiple events. Please continue to follow our social media pages to hear about all of the great things happening within the district.

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

*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.*

From the Superintendent

The Open Enrollment window is open from February 2- April 30, 2026. The Prairie Farm School District offers a variety of academic and extra-curricular options for all children from 4K to grade 12. Wisconsin's public school open enrollment program allows residents of Wisconsin the opportunity to apply to enroll their children, 4K through 12th grade, into a nonresident school district. We want to share all of the wonderful things we do here at the Prairie Farm School District with your child and family. We take great pride in the opportunities we provide for our students as we continue to prepare them for their futures. In the 2024-25 school year the Prairie Farm School "Exceeded Expectations" for learning set forth by the Department of Public Instruction. The staff at the Prairie Farm School District believes in every student in our building and we work hard to do our best to prepare each of them for their tomorrow. The Prairie Farm School District provides competitive and successful extra-curricular opportunities for our students. Finally, we are proud of the variety of educational opportunities we provide for our students. Beginning with our small class sizes in the elementary school up to our early college credit programs in our high school, we feel that the Prairie Farm School District is a great place for student growth and achievement.

I would like to recognize the wonderful staff we have at Cub Care and the program that has grown so much over the past year. Cub Care provides an excellent service for the Prairie Farm community and surrounding area. Cub Care currently has 37 students enrolled in the program. These students ages range from infants to school age. The staff at Cub Care provides daily hands-on learning activities for our students, curriculum based and play based learning opportunities where our students learn new skills while have an enjoyable experience. The Prairie Farm School District is proud of the staff and program that has been built at Cub Care.

Thank you for your continued support,

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

Screening for Birth to 5 years-old

Thursday, March 26, 2026

The School District of Prairie Farm will conduct an early childhood screening for Birth to 5-year-old children who are not enrolled in school and are residents of the Prairie Farm School District. Any child ages 0 to 5 (who are not enrolled in school) may participate in this screening day on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at Prairie Farm Elementary School.

The development day is designed to answer questions you may have about your child's all-around development. This opportunity is also to identify children who may benefit from early educational interventions and programming. The 30-minute screening appointment consists of a brief play and observation session. District staff will discuss information about early learning and programming that is available through the school district with parents. Areas of development that will be screened include learning and thinking skills, speech and language skills, social and emotional growth, and motor development.

The screening will be held from 11:00 to 7:00 pm at the Prairie Farm Elementary School on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Please call Michelle at the Elementary Office 715-455-1861 (ext. 221) to set up an appointment or to answer any further questions you might have.

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 school office. We will be also notifying the radio and television outlets.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRAIRIE FARM
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
February 16, 2026—6:00 p.m.—IMC
MINUTES UNAPPROVED**

- 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 the agenda as presented, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
- D) Minutes of January 19th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
Motion by Nelson to approve the minutes from January 19, 2026, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- E) Reports
 - 1) Principal's good news report-Mr. Fossum
Mrs. Law and Spencer Roemhild shared a presentation highlighting the 2025-26 FCCLA achievements
 - 2) Student board members
Spencer Roemhild and Sophie Bergmann
 - 3) Athletic director's report-Alethea Seeger
- F) Business
 - 1) Public comment residents/parents
 - 2) SAGE/AGR mid-year report
 - 3) 2026-27 school calendar
Motion by Hansen to approve calendar option one, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
 - 4) 6.0301 course agreement to Prairie Lake Alliance for 2026-27 school year
Motion by Nelson to approve the 66.0301 course agreement, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
 - 5) Capital Improvement Plan
Motion by Nelson to approve the Capital Improvement Plan as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
 - 6) Hoff petition for detachment of property from the Prairie Farm School District to the Barron Area School District
Motion by Richards to deny petition of detachment, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
 - 7) Link petition for attachment of property from the Barron Area School District to the Prairie Farm School District
Motion by Nelson to approve the attachment, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried.
 - 8) Payroll check deposit in the amount of \$210,448.56
Motion by Richards to approve the payroll check deposit, seconded by Bates. Motion carried. Roemhild abstained.
 - 9) Financial report: AP in the amount of \$59,188, direct withdrawals in the amount of \$119,249.30 and PCard withdrawals in the amount of \$14,764.14
Motion by Nelson to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
 - 10) Committee and other reports, information or comments
 - a) Update on curriculum for 2026-27 school year
 - b) Update on PFC coop
 - c) Facility update
 - 11) Future meetings, Monday, March 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
 - 12) 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.
Motion by Richards to go into closed session at 7:17 p.m., seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
Roll call: Cadman yes, Bates yes, Miller yes, Hansen yes, Nelson yes, Richards yes, Roemhild yes
 - 13) Roll call and return to open session
Motion by Nelson to return to open session at 7:53 p.m., seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
Roll call: Hansen yes, Miller yes, Richards yes, Bates yes, Nelson yes, Cadman yes, Roemhild yes
 - 14) Contracts
 - 15) Resignations
 - a) Dalton Hinke, Building and Grounds Supervisor, effective April 30, 2026
 - b) Ron Hanestad, PFC Middle School Football Coach, effective January 20, 2026
 - c) Katie Shelton, PFC Middle School Volleyball Coach, effective January 12, 2026
 - d) Jennaye Brekke, Paraprofessional, effective February 20, 2026
 Motion by Cadman to approve the resignations as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
 - 16) Possible action from items in closed session
- G) Adjournment
Motion by Miller to adjourn at 7:54 p.m., seconded by Richards. Motion carried.

What's Happening

- March 3** End of 2nd Trimester
- March 12** Parent-Teacher Conferences- **NO SCHOOL**
- March 13-17** **NO SCHOOL**
- March 14** Green Skills Event, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Local Students Participate in Concert Festival

Students from area schools will participate in a Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) sanctioned Concert Music Festival hosted at Prairie Farm High School on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. During the festival, which is free and open to the public, each school's concert ensemble groups will perform before a panel of adjudicators while students from other schools listen in as part of their own learning experience.

The festival will draw concert bands and choirs from a number of area schools, including Clayton High School, Clayton Middle School, Clear Lake High School, Clear Lake Junior High School, Prairie Farm High School, Prairie Farm Middle School, Turtle Lake High School and Turtle Lake Middle School. Karen Wilber and Nick McCarthy, music directors from Prairie Farm High School, will be serving as the festival managers.

"WSMA is proud of the quality music education experiences we support teachers in providing for their students. Our long-standing festival programs encourage well-rounded musicians who develop deeper understanding through performance preparation that culminates in comprehensive feedback from a qualified adjudicator. This opportunity, coupled with observing and listening to peer performances, is invaluable for musical growth," said WSMA Executive Director Laurie Fellenz.

WSMA music festivals support school music programs as part of a comprehensive education by encouraging the study of quality music literature; motivating students to prepare and perform to the best of their abilities; improving students' understanding of music literature and concepts (performance through understanding) and providing a performance assessment to improve individual and group achievement.

If you are local and would like to volunteer at the festival, please call Karen at (715)455-1861 extension 257. For more information on WSMA, go to www.wsmamusic.org.



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 Stehling at lstehling@prairiefarm.k12.wi.us or 715-455-4235.

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

Prairie Farm Youth Wrestling



On February 15, Prairie Farm youth wrestlers took the mat at the Boyceville Wrestlemania tournament. Action started fast, with three wins from the first three Prairie Farm wrestlers, setting the tone for the remainder of the day. The Panthers take the mat next at their home tournament on March 8. Thank you to all the parents and coaching staff who have helped hone these young athletes' skills this season!
Photos by DM MICK.



All Aboard with the Ridgeland Library Review

By Donnette Mickelson

New Books Available at the Library

"Play How it Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination, and Invigorates the Soul" by Stuart Brown, MD

Dr. Brown explains why play is just as important as sleep and healthy eating to our overall health. Playtime is not just for children. Dr. Brown details why play is important to how children learn, but also the overall importance to adult health.

"The Quilter's Apprentice" and "The Christmas Boutique" by Jennifer Chiaverini

Two books in from the Elm Creek Quilt series with stories about friendship, family, and quilting.

With the longer daylight hours, thoughts are turning to spring, and different devotions have celebrations to mark the holiday. The Spring Festival, also known as Chinese New Year, takes place from February 17 to March 3. This date marks the year

of the fire horse, symbolizing energy, freedom, and transformation. The library has Chinese New Year activity packets available for children and discount coupons for Panda Express.

Upcoming Events

Barn quilt painting classes are still available to sign up for through the library. Applications can be picked up at the library and Security Bank in Ridgeland for more information.

There is an adult coloring contest available for teens and adults. Stop in the library to select a coloring sheet and return it to the library by March 21st.

The denim craft class has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. All ages are welcome to attend.

Be sure to save the date for April 18, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., when Jim Leuenberger will speak on the history of

barn quilts in Shawano County, Wisconsin.

Stop in the library and sign up for the spring reading challenge that is taking place from March 1 to April 30. A fun challenge for all ages!

Hay River REVIEW

The Hay River Review could use readers' help to keep the paper coming to our community. Print journalism throughout the country is facing serious financial headwinds—declining advertising revenue and subscriptions because of online options for both. Many daily and weekly newspapers have reduced the size of their publications or simply gone out of business. The Review is facing the same challenges.

The board of the Hay River Publishing Cooperative created the Hay River Review Foundation, to offer our community a way to make a tax-deductible gift to support the continued publication of the Review. We are seeking corporate and foundation grants as well, but readers can also join in support of this important community resource, now in its 39th year of publication.

To make a gift, please mail your check to Hay River Review Foundation, N12638 County Road Q, Downing, WI 54734. Thank you for helping keep the Review a viable part of our Hay River Community!

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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.

FIELD & WOODLAND WANDERINGS

By Martha Wright

Wisconsin winters can get long for someone whose favorite color is green. The calendar says March is when the seasons change, but it can be hard to tell whether winter or spring is getting the upper hand. The snow comes and goes in the woods; it is too early for wildflowers, and most of the green plants, so it looks like everything is gray and brown.

I appreciate our changing seasons, and I like each one in its turn, but right now I am experiencing a late winter boredom. It seems to me that everything is the same as it was yesterday, and the day

before, and the day before that. As soon as I enter the woods, however, the green of the moss on the rocks and the trees is obvious. I realize that my perception needs an adjustment; it is not as colorless as I have been thinking.

As I pay closer attention, I start to see that there are more colors than a quick glance reveals. I almost trip over a broken branch lying in the path. It is coated with a bright yellow-orange crust that I am sure is some kind of lichen. Nearby is the shrub it broke from is covered with the same bright color.

A search of the field guide Lichens of the North Woods, by Joe Walewski, does not give me a conclusive identification. Lichens are a new subject for me, and the pictures do not look quite like the coating on this

branch. Sunburst lichens (Xanthoria) and firedot lichens (Caloplaca) are both yellowish crustose lichens that grow on trees, and I cannot decide if either is a closer match.

Perhaps neither of them is correct, but one thing is certain: I need to learn more about lichens because they are everywhere and come in many colors. There are more broken branches lying across the path, perhaps brought down by the weight of snow and ice during the winter. All of them have blue-gray or yellow-green patches of lichen along their length.

When I turn onto another trail, I notice a chunk of wood that has bright blue streaks in it. It does not look natural, and I cannot imagine what could cause a piece of rotting wood to be such an unusual shade of blue. MushroomExpert.com tells me that it is a blue-staining cup fungus (Chlorociboria aerogenascens). The blue color is highly visible on the wood, but the website says that “these little blue cup fungi fruit infrequently.”

I experience a moment of disappointment to learn that the cups are not common and I may never see them again. I



A chunk of rotting wood infused with blue cup fungus.



Blue cup fungus during the summer.



Lichen on a stick in the path. Photos by Martha Wright

decide that it is enough right now to enjoy the color and keep my eyes open, hoping for a future sighting. Fast forward and imagine my delight when the following summer turns out to be one of the occasions, and I see the little blue cups on rotting logs several times.

Coming up on a clearing in the woods that could be called a small meadow, I see a thick clump of grass at the side of the path. It did not die down during the winter, but instead turned a burgundy red color. Later, I will learn that sweetgrass (Hierochloa odorata) does this in the cold. Right now, I add it to the list

of surprising colors I have seen today.

In elementary school, the art teacher taught us that red, yellow, and blue are the primary colors, because all other colors can be made with some combination of those three. Scientifically, it is more complicated than that, but I will take it at face value. I am reminded of a quote from the actor Liz Vassey, “Notice the small things. The rewards are inversely proportional.”

Today’s reward for noticing has been finding primary colors—red grass, yellow lichen, and blue fungus—where it looked at first like there was nothing but gray and brown.

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...“4-H” cont'd. from front



UW-Stout Art Education students Bridget Totzke and Victor Kopping are shown here teaching one of the art sessions at UW-Stout to Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire County youth during the Art U program. *Photo by Ann Lee*

one, for grades 7 and up, being taught on campus. I was able to observe the first in-person session with these students and was impressed with their preparedness and teaching strategies.

We are delighted to offer the “Around the World in 80 Minutes” Spring Break Program to all Dunn County Youth in grades K-4. At it, youth will make suitcases, get passports, and “Travel” to different places around the world, making instruments, doing crafts, and playing games!

To accommodate different spring breaks in the county, we plan to hold the same morning program on two dates. In Menomonie, it will be on March 18 at the Dunn County Government Center, and in Colfax, at the Colfax Library on March 31. Both sessions are from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Registration is open to both 4-H members and non-members. To register, go to tinyurl.com/2xr5ytyk. Registration will close on March 9th. The sessions are limited to 20 youth, so sign up soon!

Featured Dunn County 4-H Group – Willing Workers

The Willing Workers 4-H Club is one of the largest 4-H clubs in Dunn County. They typically meet every second Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at their clubhouse in Irvington, although times may change in the Spring and Summer due to 4-H softball and the horse project ride nights. The leaders strive to keep everyone involved as much as possible. The club members enjoy participating in the Dunn County Fair in

photography, beef, dairy, swine, foods and nutrition projects, and more. Some of their members’ favorite events are the 4-H Battle of the Clubs, Christmas for Kids, and roadside clean-up. If you are interested in joining or if you would like to learn more about the Willing Workers 4-H club, please reach out to one of its club leaders, Amanda Hansen at 715-790-7644, Shelly Stoeklen at 715-309-8700, or Leslie Schmidt at

715-505-0719. 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.

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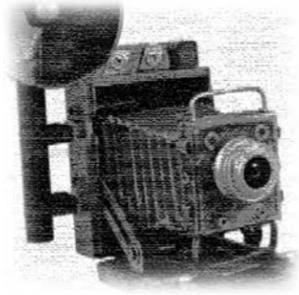
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ULC midweek Lenten services- March 4 & 18 at 7 p.m., supper at 6 p.m.
Kid's church first Sunday of each month at 9 a.m.

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PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST

By Lon Christopherson

Once a cornerstone of Dallas, Wisconsin was a sawmill that sat prominently along the banks of Pine Creek. It was built by one of the village's earliest residents, James A. Anderson, in 1878. During an era when lumber was the lifeblood of a growing state, the mill provided the essential resources for the homes and farms springing up across the landscape. In 1894, the mill entered a new chapter when it was purchased by partners Even Erickson and Even Amundson.

In the following year, Erickson—a Norwegian immigrant who had arrived in the U.S. in 1883—took sole ownership. Having cut his teeth in the lumber camps of Eau Claire and having spent a decade as a local blacksmith

in Dallas, Erickson possessed the grit and skill to modernize the operation. In 1900, he dismantled the original structure to make way for the Dallas Planing Mill. This new facility was a hub of industry in Dallas, producing everything from sash and doors to beehives and stock tanks. At its peak, logs were stacked 18 feet high for two city blocks, waiting to be rolled into the mill pond and then lifted into the mill. A rope on a pulley ran from the dam to the mill, providing power for the operation.

The heavy workload on the rope required many repairs. Beyond its industrial output, the mill was a vital employer for men like Julius Johnson, Ole Berg, Jim Moe, Nels Arneson, Even Amundson, and Gus Walstine. Erickson himself served the community as a village trustee and school board secretary. While the mill's exact closing date is lost to time, its impact on Dallas and the surrounding community remains undeniable.

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.

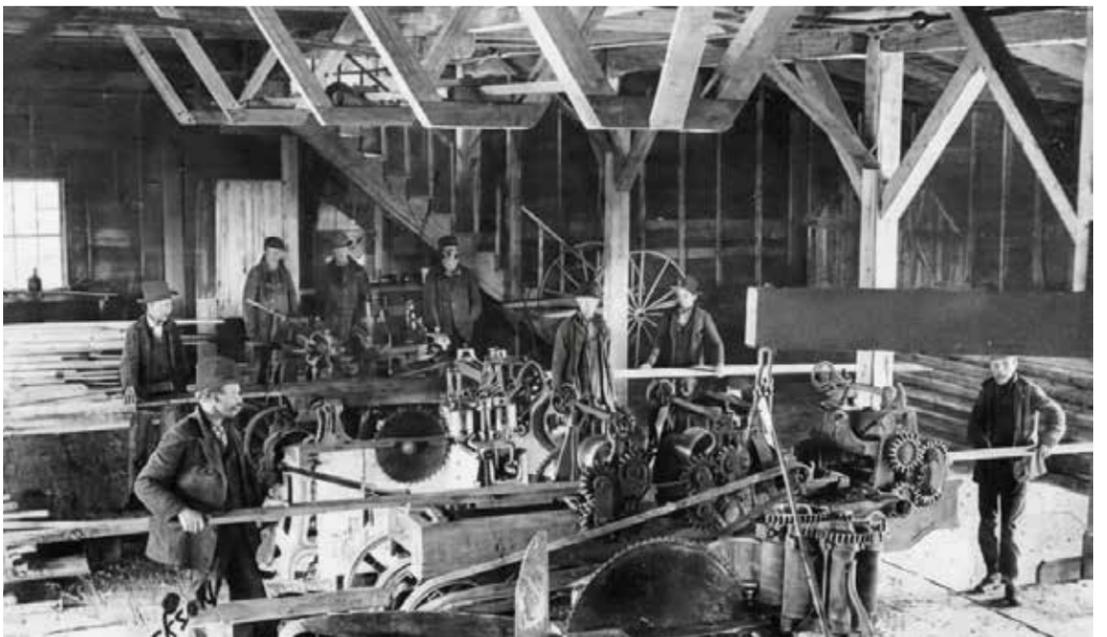
Dallas Sawmill



The Even Erickson Planing Mill. Photo submitted by Kessea Kahl



Logs waiting to be turned into lumber. 1916 Photo From the Dallas Centennial Book



A look inside the Erickson Planing Mill. Photo submitted by Kessea Kahl



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Mar.29 @ Boyceville @ 10:00 a.m.



Pastor Vicky Strupp
Regular Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

February 10 -March 21	Ridgeland Area Adult Coloring Contest - Pages available at the Library
March 3	Dallas Library- Snow Crafts, 2 to 5 p.m.
March 5	Dallas Library-Snow Crafts, 2 to 5 p.m.
March 5	Ridgeland Area Library Friends of the Library Board Meeting at Library, 2 to 5 p.m.
March 7	Dallas Library -Snow Crafts, 9 a.m. to Noon
March 7	Ridgeland Area Library Denim Day Activity, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
March 9	Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club Meeting, 6 p.m.
March 10	Dallas Library - Bookmarks-draw/color, 2 to 5 p.m.
March 12	Dallas Library - Bookmarks-draw/color, 2 to 5 p.m.
March 14	Dallas Library - Book Marks-draw/color, 9 to 12 p.m.
March 16	Willard L.Hinzman Legion/Auxiliary Meeting at Community Center, 6 p.m.
March 17	Dallas Library -St. Pat's Crafts, 2 to 5 p.m.
March 19	Dallas Library - St. Pat's Crafts, 2 to 5 p.m.
March 19	Ridgeland Civic Club Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 6 p.m.
March 21	Dallas Library -St.Pat's Crafts, 9 to Noon
March 24	Dallas Library - Ready, Set, Grow Flowers, Veggies, etc, 2 to 5 p.m.
March 26	Dallas Library - Ready, Set, Grow Flowers, Veggies, etc, 2 to 5 p.m.
March 26	Ridgeland Historical Society Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 5:30 p.m.
March 28	Dallas Library - Ready, Set, Grow Flowers, Veggies, etc, 9 to Noon
March 28	Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club Meeting Easter Carnival PF HS, 3 to 4 p.m.
March 28	Ridgeland Area Library Barn Quilting Day at Ridgeland Dallas Elementary School, 8 to 5 p.m.
March 31	Ridgeland Area Library Cookbook Club - Dish to Pass Community Center, 6 p.m.
March 31	Dallas Library - Jokes, Pranks, Fun (April Fool's Day), 2 to 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

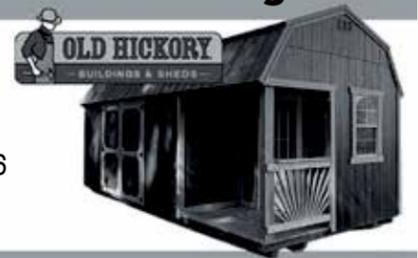
Contact Town Clerks for details

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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Quality buildings, from your local neighbors

Clifford John Harland

August 25, 1950 – January 31, 2026

Clifford was born on August 25, 1950, and was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene and Violet (Shaw) Harland.

He attended Turtle Lake High School before proudly serving in the United States Navy. During the Vietnam War, he was deployed and worked in the engine room aboard a naval ship, the USS Long Beach. Clifford rarely spoke about his military service, sharing only the occasional lighthearted story, but he served his country with quiet strength.

After returning from military service, Clifford married Barbara Geurkink while living in California. Though they later divorced, together they raised four children. He never remarried.

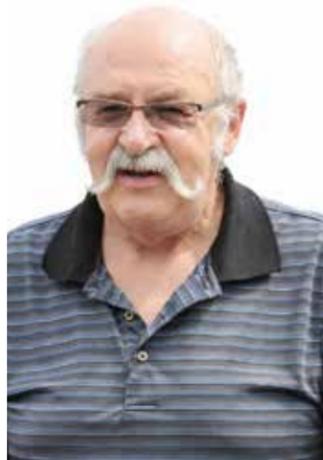
In 1979, Clifford opened the Carpet Shoppe in Prairie Farm. Shortly afterward (1986), he established Inside Design in Turtle Lake – a flooring company that truly became his world. His work was his life,

and he poured his heart into every project. Known for his incredible work ethic and craftsmanship, Clifford built his business through determination, skill, and pride in doing things right.

To those who knew him best, Clifford had a heart of gold. He spoke mostly in sarcasm, had perfect comedic timing, could always make people laugh, and was a dear friend. He was a fixer, a problem-solver, and someone who would try anything once. Above all else, he loved his family.

Clifford is survived by his children, Chris "Tuffer" (Laura) Harland, Meribeth Harland, Heidi (Josh) Woldhuis, and Heather Harland. He leaves behind eight grandchildren: Benjamin (Katelynn) Harland, Kait Harland, Maddie Harland, Destiny Harland, Kyra Gomez, Markus Gomez, Isabella Gomez, and Ella Woldhuis. Siblings Ronald Harland, Joyce

Harland, Donald Harland, Janice Carr, Jeffrey (Annette) Harland, and Kathy Harland.



Clifford will be remembered as a devoted father and grandfather, a hardworking businessman, a veteran, and an amazing man whose humor, love, and steady presence will be deeply missed.

Celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, February 14th at 1:00 PM at the Turtle Lake American Legion.

Military Honors will be at 3:00 PM with a Cake social following.

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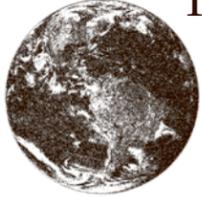
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SUSTAINABLY YOU HOW TO THRIVE



By DKO Pike

26.02.17 @ 9:00 am 37 outside; 68 inside with no heat added since direct sun yesterday; full week of days reaching 40's to 50's - 30 degrees higher than expected average high for February (1991-2020)

Many in our community are suffering. Issues range from insufficient income (expenses keep rising while wages do not), access to and the cost of health care, finding markets to sell last year's corn and soybean crops, lack of employment options, mental health needs, and long-term prospects trending toward declining quality of life.

I grew up with the expectation that I would get a good education. My father worked hard in the tool and die industry. His physical labor to make a living encouraged me not to rely on my hands for a living. The work he did is now all

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.

Carbon Emissions Deregulated

automated. One of my aunts, who was a nurse, felt I should go into medicine. My view was that far too much effort was expended attempting to correct human health problems that were caused by poor environmental quality (lack of access to clean air and water, the quality of our diet, and lack of exercise).

I decided to focus my studies on how each of us can contribute to a better world, starting with the way we manage the land around us that we live upon. I spent several decades developing a company and working with clients to show them a new landscape aesthetic. This approach benefits a diversity of life by re-creating habitats that were lost due to human needs- buildings, roads, homes, and the most common lawn care practices. Together, we planned, transformed, and nurtured

home and commercial landscapes to provide food, water, cover, and safe nesting habitat for generations of pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. We called our company EnergyScapes to emphasize our skill at placing trees and shrubs, along with vines over south windows, to minimize summer cooling and winter heating bills.

Often, we found our clients' lives were transformed by how much they came to enjoy and appreciate the new diversity surrounding their home or business. One retired early, selling his company, so that he could spend more time enjoying working in these new native gardens, instead of hiring a lawn care company to mow and blow every week. At another home, they had been spending eight hours a week mowing over an acre of turf. After several years of transforming lawns into meadows, we reduced their mowing to a single hour. Now, instead of hearing loud machines that belched out pollution, they could wander trails to observe what was coming into bloom, seemingly changing day by day. They could watch butterflies feeding on nectar, laying eggs that became leaf-eating larvae, who then formed a chrysalis to begin the cycle again for their next generation.

Spending time in nature has been shown to be an excellent antidote for stress. What better way than to observe nature right from your own home or walk outside into your own yard, versus driving to a natural area. This movement has caught on. Neighbors observe the benefits and learn from those early adopters. The first alternative lawn on the block becomes a source of inspiration, seed, and seedlings for those ready to begin their own transformation. Neighbors could start by just trading a small, little-used corner into welcoming habitat for endangered birds and butterflies.

Since I founded my company in 1989, there has been an accelerating trend toward welcoming native diversity, along with switching to more sustainable and renewable fuels to power our economy. These parallel tracks reinforce the concept that nature matters. Nurturing diversity matters for the health of humans and all the life we depend upon to have productive and balanced ecosystems.

The irony of new policies is that they fly in the face of economics. Cutting out coal and other fossil fuels has been shown to be less expensive while dramatically reducing pollution that impacts human health and the stability of our climate. Continuing this new effort to block renewable energy is a form of mutually assured destruction without firing any bombs.

The numbers are stark. According to a Wisconsin Public Radio article published on February 13, 2026. By not switching to cheaper alternatives, "Wisconsinites could spend almost \$19 billion more in fuel costs and experience \$5 billion more in health harms through 2055..., according to an analysis by the Environmental Defense Fund. The American Lung Association has previously projected that zero-emission transportation and electricity generation could yield \$19 billion in health benefits through 2050, as well as avoid more than 39,000 asthma attacks and 1,700 deaths."

Why are these numbers in the news? Our new Environmental Protection Administration wrote a new rule that throws out consideration of the health benefits of regulating fossil fuel emissions that are known to cause climate disruption. Certainly, there are costs associated with changing our systems to embrace alternatives. Yet, these shifts result in a healthier environment that will save us far more, both in the cost of producing energy and propelling our transportation, as well as lessening health costs documented by thousands of scientific studies.

The term you may have heard recently referring to this policy change is "Endangerment clause rescinded." In other words, our EPA no longer supports the science that our human

health is endangered by fossil fuel emissions. This change flies in the face of decades and tens of thousands of scientific research papers documenting these associated problems. Those problems are summarized by the Environmental Defense Fund and the American Lung Association. Those two groups are hard at work attempting to overcome the massive disinformation effort by the fossil fuel industry. Those two nonprofits are fighting for your health and the best possible outcome in the face of 150 years of fossil fuel emissions that are currently changing our daily weather and long-term climate stability.

Huge industries make tens of billions of profits every quarter, pumping oil, digging coal, and polluting our atmosphere. They send 1,000+ lobbyists to meet with Members of Congress, fund their re-election campaigns, and buy a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign convincing us that there is no problem. That effort has prevented the establishment of laws that could stand up to their profiteering. Laws that we need to save money, our health, and the stability of our climate.

If you would like to get involved, check out the Citizens' Climate Lobby. Their organization works toward passing legislation that would actively shift our economy toward clean energy, whether through carbon pricing, faster energy permitting processes, or other policy tools. To read more background, here is their position regarding this reversal of policy that had been regulating carbon emissions:

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/blog/news/epa-move-shows-urgent-need-for-congressional-climate-action/>

Adding insult to the massive injuries inflicted by turning science on its head, claiming that this pollution is not harming our health or the stability of our climate, this administration intends to apply this same faulty logic to undercut all regulations that attempt to protect us from corporate greed. If we organize, we can stop this nonsense.



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GATHERING AS A COMMUNITY

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Session One 9:30-10:30

Lessons Learned from Pollinator Planting Success Stories

Madlen Kobs- We'll explore several case studies of successful local pollinator plantings and review key takeaways. We'll also discuss key management tools to maintain healthy habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

Container Gardening: Growing Big in Small Spaces

Margaret Murphy- Container gardens: popular for ease of space/time/flexibility/convenience. Come learn: how to grow flowers, herbs, vegetables, and fruits. Selecting containers, growing mixes, plants, care and design will all be reviewed. Our County Extension Educator speaks from personal experience from her own patio.

Teas & Lemonade

Barry Iverson- Learn about local and foraged options to create teas and lemonades that are tasty and healthful including Chaga, Sumac, Nettles, Ginger.

Critical Thinking

Tommie and Shawn Kelley- Learn how to slow thinking down to avoid emotional decisions, limit bias and and improve outcomes. In our divisive times, Critical Thinking can help keep relationships healthy.

Electric Bikes

Larry Theberg- Larry will help you choose style and options that fit you. He will cover range, battery care, E-bike safety, and benefits. A bike stand will allow you to experience an E-bike without leaving the classroom. Come learn about this fun new way to travel.

Seasonal Eating

Khaiti Hallstein- This session highlights the environmental and nutritional rewards of sourcing seasonal ingredients directly from the land and neighborhood growers. Participants will gain practical insights into supporting local food networks while cultivating a sustainable lifestyle through home gardening and community connection.

Kids Track - Crocheting

Brittney Hunt- Hands-on: Learn how to crochet and get started on a simple project.

Session Two 10:45-12:15

Farmer-led Research: Local Farms, New Ideas

Tryston Beyrer & Tina Barone- We will talk about some of the research we've done to balance grower productivity with environmental stewardship. Some topics covered will be the role and effectiveness of starter fertilizer, how cover crops impact how much nitrogen fertilizer is needed for corn, using nitrogen stabilizers to protect the environment, and trying different cover crops in northwestern Wisconsin.

Seed Saving

Clint Freund- Seed saving formed the basis for civilization and so much more. A lost art and relationship with the plant world one can reclaim in their garden! Join Clint Freund of Cultivating The Commons to learn more about basic seedsaving and practice hands-on techniques.

Cheesemaking Basics

Meg Wittenmeyer- Making cheese is a great way to extend the shelf life of milk. Learn about what's needed to make a simple cheese as well as how to do it. Ask questions and collect ideas for a future project at your home or farm.

Surviving Long-term Unemployment

Chris Koszalka- Prolonged unemployment requires a very focussed survival of physical and mental nature. We'll discuss strategies, both rural and urban, for stress reduction. If you personally have had experience being unemployed while having to pay rent or mortgage, please share what got you through. Please bring two writing utensils and paper to take notes.

Wonders of Wool

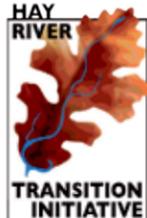
Karen Schnell- Explore the wonder of wool by examining wool's characteristics and methods of processing. Participants will have hands on opportunity to work with wool, and try combing and felting.

Kids Track - Willow Wand

Les Macare & Els Dobrick, Racing Heart Farm- Hands-on: Make and take a willow star wand from fresh willow boughs.

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Prairie Farm School
Saturday March 14th
8 am - 4 pm
 Includes Lunch, a Local Vendor Fair, and Childcare

Session Three 1:15-2:15

Creative Gear & Clothing Design

Kurt Buetow- Kurt will show examples of clothing he has designed and crafted, including: coats, shirts, pants, hats, mittens & mukluks to survive and thrive in our harsh local weather.

Beekeeping

Dan Strehlau- Honeybee hive, equipment and accessories. Honey bee knowledge and terminology. The life of the honeybee. Basics of beekeeping. Q and A.

Buckthorn Control Options

Daniel Kuske- We will talk on how to help identify Buckthorne but also how to treat it with the use of herbicides. We will also touch on different non herbicide ways that we have heard of and some of the positives and negatives.

Grief

Lama Yeshe- Panel discussion: Understanding resources that could help navigate challenging times due to loss or disruption of expected routines.

Cross-country Skiing

Larry Theberg- An experienced Olympic coach will guide you toward the right clothing and gear to make your experience more enjoyable. This is the first of a planned two-part series. Second part will be on the snow as conditions permit (possibly late next fall).

Kids Track - Animal Tracks

Emily Pieper- Explore and learn to identify animal tracks so you know what is walking around your house and the woods.

Session Four 2:30-3:30

NRCS Programs

Frank Lazar- NRCS has both new and continuing programs that may help your farm and homestead. Come learn from an NCRS agent.

Foraging Edible and Medicinal Plants

Martha Wright & Lisa Kofalkis- Learn how to safely identify, harvest, and utilize local flora for food and traditional remedies. Discover nutritional and medicinal benefits of local plants. Get a jump-start on spring harvesting by knowing what to look for and where to search for wild edibles.

Salve Making

Megan Mastel- In this practical, hands-on class, we'll craft an herbal salve from plants that can be found in your own backyard! Learn a simple yet powerful method for creating your own salves to support common skin conditions, sore muscles and more.

Soap Making

Anne Dennee- Learn the basics of soap making and take home some recipes to try.

Tai Chi: Moving with Strength and Ease

Rob Grunewald- Tai Chi movement aligns, strengthens, and relaxes every system in the body with an emphasis on connective tissues. Tai Chi also opens the inner flow of chi - vital energy. Integrating Tai Chi into daily life promotes body awareness, health and emotional well-being.

Kids Track - Houseplants

Emily Pieper- Learn about the needs of plants inside the house, how to propagate some plants and the benefits of having plants inside during winter. Kids will also plant their own propagated houseplant to take home.

Meditative Walk

Lama Yeshe- Learn the benefits of meditation - walking behind a guide - all are welcome as you exit your final class.

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