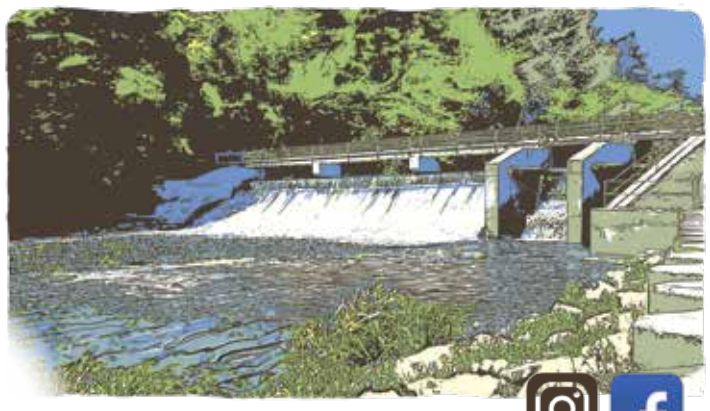
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Hay River REVIEW

November 2026







Prairie Farm High School Advanced Biology students Anastasia Nedland, Amber Smith, and Krys Jacobson prepare the holding tank in which brook trout will be raised. ***Photo submitted by Prairie Farm School District***

The Wisconsin DNR describes brook trout as "a beautiful, yet sensitive fish." ***Photo courtesy of WI DNR and used with permission.***

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(see page 3)

Students Partner with DNR to Raise 'Beautiful, Yet Sensitive' Fish

Saving Wisconsin's Brook Trout

By Cassandra Kyser

The state's adult brook trout population has been on the decline since the 1990s. According to the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), "Brook trout are a beautiful, yet sensitive fish. They are the only stream trout native to Wisconsin, and their homes are the cold, clear streams that meander the state's landscape. But brook trout are losing their homes. Two of every three streams they reside in now are projected to be too warm in 30 years."

The population of brook trout aged less than one year has waxed and waned in that same time period, and has been on a sharp decline since around 2010. Young brook trout and brook trout eggs are especially vulnerable during times of heavy precipitation and flooding.

Students at Prairie Farm High School have the opportunity to help rehabilitate brook trout through a unique partnership with the Wisconsin DNR. Ron Hanestad's Advanced Biology class will receive 250 brook trout eggs the first week of November, from the St. Croix Falls fish hatchery. The plan is to raise the fish and release them in the late spring.

Preparation for the eggs began in October. "With trout being so sensitive, we needed to set up our tank and let it circulate and filter for about a month prior to receiving the eggs. The tank is set up and ready to go," Hanestad explained.

This year isn't the first time Hanestad has led a classroom rehabilitation project for trout. He shared, "Last year we made a trial run and unfortunately we learned as a class just how sensitive trout are to even small fluctuations in water quality and our last trout only made it to May 6."

"We also had some engineering challenges in working with the chiller system required to keep the water temperature between

"Trout" cont'd. on page 7...

Whitmore Family Farm, Dallas

Rallying for 'Farmland Preservation, Local Decision-Making'

By Cassandra Kyser

Gregory Whitmore has found himself doing something he never expected — attracting statewide attention through grassroots organizing in response to the proposed Sandhill Solar project.

He and his brother, Brooks, preserve and manage approximately 197 acres of homestead, farmland, woods, and creek in rural Dallas through a family trust. Approximately 138 acres of that is tillable land, on which local farmers grow crops.

Gregory shared that if the approximately 1,039 acre Sandhill Solar comes to fruition, "Our homestead would be surrounded on all sides by the proposed development, with solar arrays, battery energy storage facilities, and a new, approximately four-acre electrical substation proposed immediately east of our property."

The land earmarked for the proposed solar project is private property, whose owners have entered into voluntary long-term lease agreements. In September, Sandhill Solar filed paperwork with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, who will decide if the project gets approved.

Gregory was initially approached in 2024 by a third-party group conducting outreach on behalf of MN8 Energy, the company behind Sandhill Solar. After learning the full scope of the project, the Whitmores declined to lease their land.

"While retaining ownership and responsibility for our portion of the property taxes, we would have surrendered substantial control over how

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



The Whitmore Family Farm in rural Dallas.



Gregory Whitmore's parents, Vivian and the late Blaine Whitmore. ***Photos submitted by Gregory Whitmore***

INSIDE



Homecoming pg. 4



Prairie View pg. 5



Homestead Hacks pg. 6



Dallas Oktoberfest pg. 10



Buckthorn Control pg. 11

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"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

— Melody Beattie

...“Whitmore” cont’d. from front

the land could be used and managed. Essentially, I felt the landowner would become little more than a conduit for the energy company. That went against everything I understood about owning and caring for land,” explained Gregory.

“As we connected with other residents, it became apparent that many people shared similar concerns about farmland preservation, local decision-making, and the rights of property owners who choose not to participate in these projects. That led us to establish Save Barron County Farms, Inc., a Wisconsin non-stock corporation dedicated to organizing residents, sharing information, and advocating for the preservation of agricultural land and rural communities,” said Gregory.

Both of Gregory’s parents’ families — Vivian and the late Blaine — have long histories of farming in the area, dating back to the 1920s. “The property where our homestead stands today was purchased by my grandparents in 1949. My parents operated a dairy farm about two miles south of Dallas from 1963 to 1996. It was truly a family farm, as everyone in our family had daily responsibilities and contributed to the life of the farm. They sold their herd in 1996 and began crop farming on our current homestead during their retirement.”

Gregory shared his views as, “We recognize that other landowners have the right to make their own decisions about their property. However, we also believe that non-participating property owners deserve meaningful consideration early in the process when large industrial developments are proposed immediately adjacent to their homes and farms.”

He added, “While Wisconsin’s regulatory process provides opportunities for public participation, we believe it does not adequately ensure that non-participating landowners have meaningful input early in the planning and siting process, before major decisions have already been made. That is why we are advocating for greater transparency, earlier notification, and stronger protections under Wisconsin law.”

The Whitmore Farm has hosted several events since May, including a town hall meeting with Congressman Tom Tiffany, Senator Romaine Quinn, and Representatives Duke Tucker and David Armstrong. “More than 300 people attended that event,” said Gregory.

Erik Olsen from Eminent Domain Services in Madison and Tom Wilcox from Farmland First spoke at a gathering in October. “We discussed township road protections, farmland preservation, the Public Service Commission process, and the importance of documenting potential project impacts,” said Gregory, adding, “These meetings brought together local residents, farmers, neighboring landowners, elected officials, and individuals from other Wisconsin communities facing similar developments.”

“What began as an effort to understand what was happening around our family farm and how that might potentially impact the value of our homestead quickly became a much broader community conversation about farmland preservation, property rights, and the future of rural Barron County. What has been remarkable is watching a local concern grow into a much larger conversation across Wisconsin,” he said.

“I think the most important part of this story is that ordinary citizens can organize and make their voices heard. That is a fundamental principle of American life. When we fail to exercise that right respectfully and persistently, we risk losing our voice, little by little. You don’t need to be a politician or represent a large organization to become involved in decisions affecting your community,” said Gregory.

WHAT’S ON OUR WEBSITE

We publish news as it happens at HayRiver-Review.com

A photo gallery from Oktoberfest in Dallas

Zoom and live stream links for the WI Public Service Commission’s meeting regarding a water rate increase

More information on the proposed Sandhill Solar project

Local organizations that received grants from the Community Foundation of Dunn County

Information about a recycling collaboration between Ridgeland Area Library and the Barron Area School District

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, at “Hay River Review”

Prairie Farm

Faith United Methodist Church Welcomes New Pastor

By Robin Burke



Pastor Don Lee and his wife, Yeji. ***Photo submitted by Don Lee***

Pastor Don Lee and his wife, Yeji, have moved to Turtle Lake where he serves as the pastor for Faith United Methodist Church in Prairie Farm, Parkview United Methodist Church in Turtle Lake, and Clear Lake United Methodist Church.

“I began serving these congregations in July, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to be part of these wonderful church communities,” he said.

Pastor Lee was born and raised in South Korea, and spent the first 30 years of his life there. Before coming to Wisconsin, they lived in Atlanta, Georgia, while he completed his Master of Theological Studies at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology.

Prior to moving to the United States, Pastor Lee served in several churches in South Korea and as a chaplain in the Republic of Korea Air Force. His experiences in ministry, military service, and international travel have given him opportunities to meet people from many different backgrounds and communities.

Having traveled and visited more than 30 countries, these experiences have taught Pastor Lee that a place becomes meaningful through the people we meet and the relationships we build.

They have been grateful for the warm welcome they have received from people in Prairie Farm and the surrounding communities. They look forward to getting to know their neighbors.

“We are adjusting well to life in Wisconsin and have really enjoyed pontoon rides on the beautiful lakes, all the beautiful greenery, and of course, Wisconsin cheese and brats! We also appreciate the warm and friendly people here,” shared Pastor Lee.

Worship services are Sundays at 8:15 a.m. at Prairie Farm, 9:30 a.m. at Clear Lake, and 10:45 a.m. in Turtle Lake.

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Spotlight on Red Cedar Symphony Musicians

By Cassandra Kyser

The Red Cedar Symphony is preparing to perform its "Happy 250th Birthday, America!" concerts in early November. Established in 1983, the symphony is housed at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake and draws talent from across northwestern Wisconsin.

Among those musicians is Angie Sutliff, who plays cello and is also the symphony's executive director. Her musicianship extends well beyond the Red Cedar Symphony. "My husband pastors Otter Creek Christian Fellowship in Wheeler, where I sometimes play on Sunday mornings with the worship team. I also perform solo or in small ensembles every Good Friday and Christmas Eve service at the church," shared Sutliff.

She added, "My husband and I plan to move back to Boyceville in the next year or so, where we lived for many years, and I hope to find performance opportunities there as well."



Angie Sutliff plays cello with the Red Cedar Symphony and is also the organization's executive director.
Photo submitted by Angie Sutliff

Sutliff's musical background has been lifelong. "As a very young child, I played violin. After that, I played piano for several years, then trumpet in Junior High School while I waited for the opportunity to play strings again. At that time, there was no junior high orchestra program in Menomonie. I had to wait for high school," she said.

"I played cello my Freshman and Sophomore years of high school until I moved away to Cumberland, where there was no orchestra program. I picked up the cello again as an adult, when one of my daughters decided to play violin. I have been playing again for 14 years."

One instructor, in particular, who Sutliff remembers is her former high school orchestra teacher John Utphal, who she describes as " a fantastic musician and a great teacher."

Another musician with the symphony is Karen Wilber, who many know as a music educator with the Clayton and Prairie Farm School Districts. She shared that this will be her first time playing with the Red Cedar Symphony, saying "I am the featured solo pianist playing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. I trained in Eau Claire and Raleigh, North Carolina." A press release from the symphony promises, "Concert-goers will be on the edge of their seats as Wilber's agile fingers dance up and down the piano keys."

The "Happy 250th Birthday, America!" concerts are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m., at Augustana Lutheran Church in Cumberland, and Sunday, Nov. 8, at 4 p.m., at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake. For more information, visit RedCedarSymphony.org.

Correction

In last month's article about the Sheridan Zion Lutheran Church and Cemetery Association, Pastor Adam Klefstad was incorrectly referred to as Eric. The Hay River Review regrets the error.

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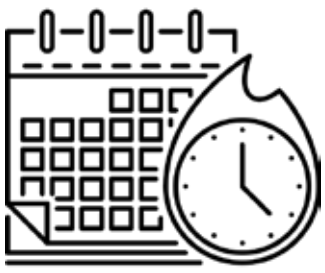
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HayRiver REVIEW



Please note the December and January issues have earlier deadlines than usual in order for us to accomodate the holidays.

Thank you for your understanding!

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A Business Built on Family, Flavor, and Community

Four Piggies BBQ

By Betty Glaser

I recently had the opportunity to visit with the owners of Four Piggies BBQ food truck. While this wasn't my first interaction with Mandy and Anthony Selkow, it was the first time I met with them as a representative of the Hay River Review, armed with a list of interview questions instead of simply stopping by for some delicious barbecue.

The Selkows barbecue journey began in August 2021 when they participated in their first event at Rainbow Valley Farms' Sunflower Field. What inspired them to start the business? Simply put, a love for smoking ribs.

Their business journey has been one of steady growth, beginning with a simple 10-by-10 tent, progressing to an auction trailer, then a camper, and eventually leading to the commercial-grade food truck they operate today. Longtime customers may even remember one of their previous trailers, which resembled a caboose.

Their equipment isn't the only thing that has grown over the years — so has their customer base and reputation. The Selkows strive to keep their prices family-friendly because they understand firsthand the cost of feeding a large family. Their menu features a variety of barbecue pork dishes, along with lemonade and popular dirty sodas that keep customers coming back.

This summer, the food truck's schedule included events in Ridgeland, Spring Valley, Menomonie, and Chetek.

The couple's story began long before Four Piggies BBQ was established. Mandy and Anthony were high school sweethearts at Barron High School. Today, Anthony works full-time for Zimmerman Concrete while Mandy is completing her final semester of college. As a stay-at-home mom, she is also able to spend valuable time teaching and raising their children while helping operate the growing business. Together, they have found a way to balance family life, education, work, and business ownership.

The name "Four Piggies BBQ" also has a special meaning. Mandy and Anthony are the proud parents of four children — Graysen, Landon, Kenny, and MaryAnne — making the business name a perfect tribute to their family.

Giving back to the community is just as important to them as serving great food. This year, Four Piggies BBQ introduced two specialty drinks, the "Pig Tank" and the "Piggy Rescue." For every drink sold, $5 is donated to a charitable organization.

This year's recipient is the Prairie Farm Fire Dept., a cause that is especially meaningful to Anthony, who serves as a volunteer firefighter. Over the years, Four Piggies BBQ has also supported organizations including the Menomonie Foster Closet, Benjamin House, and Half Fast Heroes.

For the Selkows, community involvement is more than making donations. Being involved helps build relationships, support neighbors, and create lasting memories. Looking ahead, they have their sights set on becoming a vendor at the Wisconsin State Fair. If their track record is any indication, there's little doubt they will continue to achieve great things.

Family remains at the heart of everything they do. Mandy credits much of her entrepreneurial spirit to her grandfather and father, both of whom owned businesses. Their guidance and support helped inspire her to pursue her own dream. And it seems the next generation may already be preparing to carry on the tradition. Their youngest child is often heard asking, "Is it time to go sell more ribs?"

As proud as the Selkows are of their business, they are quick to credit the support of their customers and what they affectionately call their "Piggy Family." "We want to thank our customers for believing in and supporting our small family business," they said.



Mandy Selkow sits inside the Four Piggies BBQ food truck during the Ridgeland Fair. ***Photo by Betty Glaser***



The name "Four Piggies BBQ" is a tribute to Mandy and Anthony Selkow's four children: Graysen, Landon, Kenny, and MaryAnne. ***Photo submitted by the Selkows***

"Every time you stop by our trailer, recommend us to a friend, come back for another meal, or tell us how much you enjoyed the food, it means more than you'll ever know. Y'all are the reasons we get up at 4 a.m. to start those smokers."

As a community member, I can honestly say their food is delicious, reasonably priced, and served with genuine care. It has been a pleasure to watch both their family and business grow. Four Piggies BBQ is proof that with hard work, determination, family support, and a passion for what you do, great things can happen one rib at a time.

Follow "Four Piggies BBQ" on Facebook to see where the Selkows' food truck will be next.

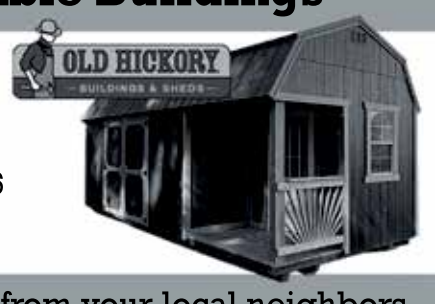
Homecoming Royalty



Congratulations to Prairie Farm High School's 2026 Homecoming Royalty. Front row, from left to right are Elise Lovelady, Kylie Kahl, Homecoming Queen Sydney Buck, Olivia Bever, and McKenna Ellsworth. Back row, from left to right are Dawson Dewey, Maxim Severson, Homecoming King Trig White, Justin Barnett, and Remi Hoff. ***Photo by Laura Christenson***

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Prairie View Grooming Opens in Rural Prairie Farm

By Cassandra Kyser

When Prairie View Grooming opened in October, it was the realization of a long-held dream of owner Jasinda Brown. "I chose this career because I genuinely love and enjoy it. Animals have always been my greatest passion. Creating a career around that passion is a dream come true for me. After over a decade of dog grooming I still love and thoroughly enjoy what I do," said Brown.

While this business is new, Brown has considerable experience in pet grooming. "I began grooming about a decade ago, right after I graduated high school. I completed a three-year on-the-job training course with a champion show groomer. I then went on to begin my journey as a business owner, running my own grooming salon at Black Brook Kennels for about two years. I knew I wanted to eventually have my in-home grooming salon, so from there I began the journey of creating what is now Prairie View Grooming."

The Baldwin area native and her family are newcomers to Prairie Farm. Brown shared, "My daughter just started Pre-K at Prairie Farm schools and we've had the warmest welcome. We're so excited for a long future in this town and can't wait to know it and its people better. We built this home and business as our permanent location, and we are so grateful to this community for welcoming us."



Jasinda Brown, owner of Prairie View Grooming, with furry friend Rudy. *Photo submitted by Jasinda Brown*

"Prairie View Grooming is welcoming new clients of every shape and size," said Brown. She has a S.A.F.E. certification from the American Kennel Club, which stands for Safety, Assurance, Fundamentals, and Education. "I swore an oath upon completion to prioritize pet health, comfort, and safety in my salon."

For those who need to drop their pets off for the day of a grooming appointment, Brown plans to soon offer a daycare option with indoor and outdoor play areas.

Prairie View Grooming is located at E2304 1450th Ave. in Prairie Farm, and can be reached at 715-688-9851. Visit "Prairie View Grooming" on Facebook for more information.

World Dairy Expo Championship



Kurschner's Super Premium Ice Cream in Chetek won First Place in three classes of ice cream flavors at the World Dairy Expo Championship Dairy Products Contest in Madison: Regular Vanilla, French Vanilla, and Regular Chocolate. Kurschner's also took home Second Place in the Dark Chocolate class.

Above, Ice Cream Maker Shyla Miller poses with the three First Place trophies. *Photo courtesy of Alan Kurschner*

Ridgeland Civic Club

Has Anyone Seen Santa?

By Betty Glaser

If you've driven past a Ridgeland Civic Club meeting lately and wondered whether we've completely lost our minds, you're not alone. After all, December is still several weeks away. But as every elf, reindeer, and small-town volunteer knows, Christmas magic doesn't happen overnight.

Members of the Ridgeland Civic Club have been quietly busy for weeks, making plans for one very important guest: Santa Claus himself. The biggest mystery, of course, remains how Santa will arrive in Ridgeland this year. Will he trade his sleigh for a motorcycle and cruise into town in holiday style? Or will the Ridgeland-Wilson Fire Dept. be called upon to escort him from wherever he decides to land his sleigh? At this point, your guess is as good as ours.

Mrs. Claus recently shared a reassuring update from the North Pole. Santa is doing well and looking forward to his trip to Ridgeland. Apparently, he's been watching his diet and staying active between toy-making sessions. In fact, Mrs. Claus admitted she recently had to take in his red suit just a bit. Don't worry though; he's still planning to enjoy every cookie and glass of milk offered along the way.

When Santa makes his stop in Ridgeland, young and old alike can enjoy several interactive stations throughout the Community Center. And yes, the beloved homemade cookie decorating station hosted by Ms. Lilly will be returning. Children aren't the only ones welcome to grab a frosting knife and get creative. Last year, more than a few adults enthusiastically joined the fun, proving you're never too old to decorate a Christmas cookie. We may have even witnessed some quality-control taste testing of frosting before it made it onto the cookie.

It's almost time to dust off your Christmas spirit and gather the family. Santa is making room on his busy schedule for a stop in town, and we can't wait to welcome him back!

Mark your calendars for his visit on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. at the Ridgeland Community Center, 200 Diamond St.

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HOMESTEAD HACKS

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.

The Autumn Trickster

By Sam Dodge

As I sit down to compose my little one-way Hay River Review conversation with you, the stars are smiling down on a relatively balmy mid to late October evening. There are still tomatoes ripening on green vines in the hoop house and peppers blushing on thriving plants in our raised-bed gardens, even though we eschewed covering anything for the recent frost event.

Looking ahead at the 10-day forecast, there seems only a slim chance of another frost or freeze before the 1st of November. I'm a little leery of putting garlic in the ground with that much warmth in front of us, especially with how dry it's been.

All the Wisconsin seasons seem to have elbows that they like to jab into our ribs. Tricksters they are, laughing at the little plans of subsistence farmers and row croppers alike. A sense of humor is a downright handy tool to have in the chest when those weather elbows start flying. A sense of humor and a backup plan, I suppose.

We've yet to start a fire in the old wood furnace here, which is probably a good thing since I've been too busy with the extended harvest to climb up on the roof and look down the chimney. It was a shorter heating season last year, so I'm hoping the creosote isn't too thick in our large-bore smokestack. I might be able to get by without brushing it out, but I'll still verify before I trust.

That's contrary to my general policy in dealing with people, but smokestacks aren't as sensitive to my sense of humor — at least, I hope that's true. Seeing common decency in the people around me is easier than attributing such traits to chimneys or weather.

Getting back to the growing season (technically over, effectively still going gangbusters) we did bring in all the squash and pumpkins that were near ripe. We also dug all the sweet potatoes, as they don't cotton to having their tops frozen before they're in a nice warm space for curing. And that freeze on the night of the 17th did wilt every last squash leaf, so the sweet potatoes would have withered in that, too, if I hadn't already started them withering by yanking 'em out by the roots.

The house is full of boxes and bags, crates and colanders, full of late-season bounty. Jennifer fired the old wood cookstove in the outdoor kitchen today and blistered the skins of a whole passel of roasting peppers, and she's peeling them as I jabber at you here on my computer screen.

By the way, do you know if there's an official number defining what's in a "passel"? I know it's a bunch, if the pepper count is any indicator.

I'm still shuffling passels of wood up out of the woods, from one woodshed to another, and into the wood rack in our basement. I made the error of not getting enough wood cut last year to have seasoned for this year, so I actually bartered for some firewood this year. I'm not perfectly satisfied with the product, though, so I'm out looking for standing dead and deadfall to burn until the stuff I traded for cures out a bit more.

And I'm beating myself up by cutting ahead for year after next, which will be stacked in the woods since the slightly-less-than-seasoned stuff I traded for is occupying the new woodshed I built for next year's fuel. Joke's on me again!

I'm hearing more owls hooting in the dark of late, and more coyotes singing their jazzy dissonant arias on nearby hills, too. Is that the voice of the Trickster painting sonatas in the night air?

No fire in the furnace, maybe one in the firepit instead. Anybody want to come and howl with me?



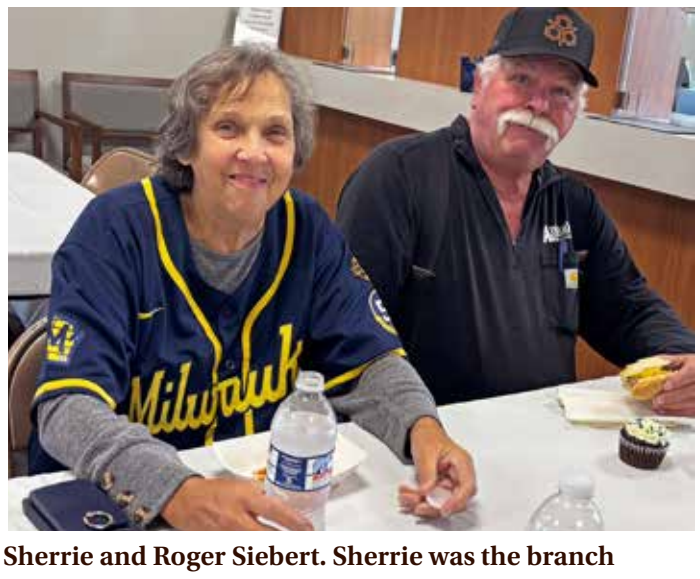
Harvest time yielded a slew of squash. ***Photo by Sam Dodge***

Grand Re-Opening

In mid-October, Dairy State Bank in Prairie Farm held a Grand Re-Opening to celebrate completed renovations. The event included a grill out and offered community members a chance to catch up. ***Photos courtesy of Dairy State Bank***



Kristina Clayton is the new teller in Prairie Farm.



Sherrie and Roger Siebert. Sherrie was the branch manager and lender 47 years, before retiring in 2024.

COLLEGE NEWS



We periodically publish graduation, scholarship, and other news about local college and higher ed students. While we receive this information directly from the educational institutions, some students may be missed. If you have college news to share, please email Editor.HayRiverReview@gmail.com.

UW-Eau Claire: Madalyn Larson of Prairie Farm received the Mark of Excellence Scholarship for the 2026-27 academic year.

UW-Stout Polytechnic: George Kyser of Boyceville received the Blue Devil Merit Scholarship for the 2026-27 academic year.

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Prairie Farm

Light Up Pioneer Park to Bring Holiday Cheer

By Cassandra Kyser

This December marks the fourth year of Light Up Pioneer Park (LUPP), a holiday attraction that offers a tour of lights and Christmas cheer in Prairie Farm. LUPP is an independently run event with the support of local organizations and community members. This year's co-organizers are Maranda Peltier and Tasha Singerhouse.

"Volunteers are welcomed and most appreciated for this event. Let us know when you would like to be available to help. Many hands make light work," shared Peltier and Singerhouse.

The event gives the community a way to remember their loved ones by decorating a memory tree, and businesses a way to advertise and bring holiday cheer into the community.

Memory trees: The pine trees in the park are wrapped with lights and decorated in memory of loved ones. Each tree will be labeled with a sign of who it is in memory of. If you wish to have a banner printed instead of a sign, these can be designed and purchased through Vistaprint.

The trees can be wrapped by the individuals/families for no fee. Or, the LUPP committee can wrap the trees for $50 when the supplies are provided or $100 if the LUPP provides the supplies and wraps the tree. Supplies needed for wrapping the trees are 100 feet of outdoor lights and an OUTDOOR extension cord.

To reserve a memory tree, contact Peltier and Singerhouse. Individuals can also reserve a tree at Pioneer Park by marking their name on the tag on the tree and the correlating sign-up sheet under the open end of the main shelter at the park. All trees need to be wrapped by Nov. 29.

Business displays: These displays are set up in assigned campsites around Pioneer Park. Each display will have an electrical hook up. The displays can be anything business and/or holiday related.

Please use lights, decorations, and extension cords rated for OUTDOOR use. Businesses are responsible for set-up, maintenance, and clean-up of the displays throughout this event.

To reserve a space for a business display, please contact Peltier or Singerhouse by Nov. 8. Business displays must be set up by Nov. 29. If fence posts are needed for stabilizing a display, businesses are welcome to get those in before the frost.

As LUPP approaches, there are some key dates to keep in mind:

Nov. 8 and 22, 12-3 p.m. On these days only, equipment and help available for set up including wrapping memory trees. If you bring your lights on these days we are happy to assist with wrapping your trees. Set up on your own can be done at any time.

Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m. Santa's Workshop event kicks off LUPP. Activities include complimentary cookies and cocoa served by the Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, campfires, complimentary wagon rides, and plenty of photo opps. This event will be walk-through only.

Clean-up: Tentatively scheduled for Jan. 2, dependent on the weather.

Donations of supplies can be dropped off at the park with arrangement. Financial donations can be made at the park during the event in one of the donation boxes or via Venmo @ LightUpPioneerPark. There will be an Amazon wishlist posted in the near future.

Peltier and Singerhouse expressed their appreciation in advance. "Thank you for your time and help with this project. We look forward to bringing holiday cheer into our community."

Pioneer Park is located at 213 8 ½ St. in Prairie Farm. For more information and updates, follow "Light Up Pioneer Park" on Facebook. Contact Tasha Singerhouse at 715-418-1600 or Maranda Peltier 715-642-3007 with questions.

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Friends of the Ridgeland Area Library Hosts
Spirits in the Night
Wine & Craft Beer Tasting Event



Saturday November 7th, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Ridgeland Community Center
100 tickets available
$25 per person in advance, $30 at the door. Tickets available at Security Bank & Coates Corner Market.
All proceeds go to library improvements

Looking for In-home Help?
Check the Resource Guide at
adrcconnections.org
or call 715-537-6225 for help connecting to local resources
ADRC
Aging and Disability Resource Center
of Barron and Rusk Counties



All Aboard with the Ridgeland Library Review

Discover Your Library This November

By Donnette Mickelson

The monthly challenges continue at the library. Stop in to make a craft, check out a new book, do a puzzle, and connect with others to earn a charm. There are activities for all ages and can be completed during library hours.

New Books

We have several new books that are ready to check out.

"Swan Song: Diana my Sister," by Charles Spencer. This much anticipated biography of Princess Diana is sure to be a hot check out.

"Driftless Treasure," by Sue Berg. This Wisconsin author brings Iraqi artifacts, a bomb, and a dead body all together in this gripping mystery.

"Stitched," by Eli McCann. This book brings the quilting world to every reader with a snarky, heartfelt group of quilters and a high stakes quilting competition.

Spirits in the Night Fundraiser

The annual fundraiser is Saturday, Nov. 7 from 4-7 p.m. at the Ridgeland Community Center, 200 Diamond St. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Security Bank in Ridgeland. Come sample craft beers, wines, and sodas. Raffle basket tickets will be available for purchase at the event.

The Ridgeland Area Library is located at 115 Diamond St. in Ridgeland, and can be reached at ral@ridgelandarealibrary.org. For more library news, follow "Ridgeland Area Library" on Facebook.

..."Trout" cont'd. from front

46F-50F. We learned that we needed a better way to keep the trout out and away from the recirculation inlet."

This year's Advanced Biology students are using that knowledge and experience as they provide hands-on care for the eggs, and ultimately, young fish. The students will manage the brook trout through daily feeding, weekly water quality checks, and water exchanges. Hanestad noted that the tank must maintain a temperature of 46F-50F, even throughout water exchanges.

If raising the brook trout is successful, the fish will be released in May, tentatively into Little Granite Lake by Cumberland.

In the March 2025 issue of the Hay River Review, David K. Williams wrote about the state's brook trout in "Brook Trout Are in Trouble." That article can be accessed at hayriver-review.com/post/brook-trout.

School District of Prairie Farm

November 2026

Corey Berghammer, Superintendent • John Casey Fossum, Principal

715-455-1861 www.prairiefarm.k12.wi.us

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

Principal's Report

It has been a great start to the 2026-2027 school year. Our fall activities are beginning to wrap up and the transition to winter activities is taking place. The middle and high school quarter one will conclude on November 2nd with report cards being mailed out the following week. The elementary which runs on the trimester schedule will not conclude until November 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 Elijah Wendt and Remi Hoff as their Panthers of the Month. Staff recognized these individuals by writing, "Elijah Wendt has had a great start to his freshman year. Eli has an incredible work ethic and has an academic curiosity that brings a high level of learning to the classroom. Eli participates and questions concepts allowing for a deeper understanding of material. Eli is also a member of the cross-country team and has been a great asset to the high school team. Congratulations Eli!" and "Remi Hoff has had a great start to the 2026-2027 school year. Remi has stepped up as a senior leader and been active both in and out of the classroom. Remi helped organize the senior breakfast, put in countless hours of volunteer time on the tractor project, and helped lead the football team to an incredible season. Great job Remi!"

The middle school has selected Dane Bruder and Jacob Fossum as their Panthers of the Month. Staff recognized these individuals by saying, "Dane is a great student to have in class. He's always "locked-in" and ready to learn. He's enthusiastic about every topic and participates eagerly in class discussions. He gets his work done on time and does a great job on his assignments. Dane also has a great attitude which creates a positive learning environment for everyone. Not only that, but he's polite and friendly to classmates and teachers alike and he's always ready and willing to help. All these traits make Dane an awesome student, friend, and role model!" and "Jake Fossum has had an excellent start to the school year. He's come in hot, burning up the academic, social, and academic scenes at Prairie Farm Middle School. Some of his teachers have even called him a Rock Star because of his high level of performance. His work completion and effort are exemplary. He stays focused and on tasks, contributes positively to class discussion, and always tries his best. His work is done to a high level, he scores well on assignments, and he has a good attitude while doing it. He's respectful to his teachers and treats his classmates well. Mr. Jake Fossum is an example of what a Prairie Farm Panther should be."

The elementary school nominates one student from each class and the following students were recognized at our monthly Panther Paws Celebration: Brooks Buckley, Lucie Kneifl, Landon Selkow, Elena White, Elaine Schillinger, Rowynn Delik, Calvin Cadman, Carson Cadman, Evey Henning. Congratulations to all students on being selected for this award.

The Prairie Farm School District held its fall session of parent teacher conferences on Thursday, October 8th. Thank you to all the parents that came out to discuss their children's progress. If you were not able to make it feel free to contact your child's teacher at any point for an update on progress.

Students in the elementary had the opportunity to throw water balloons and pies at district administrators and school staff. Based on a fall reading incentive program, students earned balloons based on the number of books read at home with the top reader in each class getting to throw a pie. The incentive was also extended to the middle school also, and a few select teachers were hit with water balloons from top readers. Thank you to Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Brown for setting up the challenge and for all the participation by both students and staff.

The district had another successful homecoming week with lots of dress up days and special events. The students, staff, and community showed great support throughout the week. A special thanks to the Leadership council and advisors Laura Christenson and Alethea Seeger for their efforts in planning an exciting week.

The district is excited to once again welcome the community back for the 2026 Veteran's Day Program. The program will take place at 9:30 am on Tuesday, November 11th in the large gym.

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

November 2	End 1st Quarter (MS/HS)
November 11	Veteran's Day Program – 9:30 a.m.
November 20	End 1st Trimester (ELE)
November 23	Teacher Inservice- No School
November 24-27	Fall Break-No School

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

From the Superintendent

We have had a great first couple of months of school, with lots of wonderful memories being made. We recently completed our first PFC homecoming week. This year we had Powder Puff flag football games, bonfire, class volleyball games, our skit competition, parade and several other fun events throughout the week. We had a fun new tradition start this year with the PFC Cross Country team running the game ball from Turtle Lake to Clayton for the football game. It was a perfect Saturday for a football game and when the final whistle blew, we saw our PFC Bearcats come out with the homecoming win. We are proud of all of the time, effort and success our students, staff, and coaches have had this fall season.

It is hard to believe that we are finishing up the fall sport season and already preparing for the winter seasons. The winter transportation plan is in the works, as we are finalizing a few dates. It will look very similar to last year, where PFC teams will practice every other week in Prairie Farm or Clayton. Vans will continue to be used whenever possible to save on costs.

Finally, I would like to give an update about our Early College Credit Program and the Start College Now Program that are offered to junior and seniors at the Prairie Farm School District. These are programs that allow high school students to take college level courses while still in high school. Through these programs, students can earn both high school and college credits at the same time, helping them get a head start on their post- secondary education. Early College credit typically includes courses from universities or colleges, while Start College Now often focuses on technical or career-orientated classes offered through technical colleges. These programs can save our Prairie Farm students time and money by reducing the number of courses they need to take after high school. Prairie Farm has a had a number of students take advantage of the benefits that come from these programs in the past. We currently have over 20 students enrolled in one of these programs.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

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

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

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

A) Call to order (subject to Section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes) by President Roemhild at 6:01 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 Miller. Motion carried.

D) Minutes of September 21st, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
Motion by Richards to approve the minutes of September 21st, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.

E) Reports
1) Principal's report/good news
2) Student school board members- Sydney Buck, McKenna Ellsworth, Mya Hagen
3) Athletic director's report

F) Business
1) Public comment residents/parents
2) Budget 2026-2027
Motion by Nelson to approve the budget for 2026-2027 as presented, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
3) Local tax levy for 2026-2027
Motion by Richards to approve the tax levy of $2,215,643 for 2026-2027, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
4) Dairy State Bank as the public depository for school district funds
Motion by Nelson to approve Dairy State Bank as the public depository for school district funds, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
5) WASB delegate and alternate for the state convention
Motion by Nelson for Miller to be the WASB delegate and Roemhild to be the alternate, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
6) Early College Credit Program (UW/private colleges) and Start College Now Program (WI Technical College)
Motion by Nelson to approve the Early College Credit Program and Start College Now Program as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion approved.
7) Title I School Wide Plan
Motion by Cadman to approve the Title I School Wide Plan as presented, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
8) Capital Improvement Plan
Motion by Richards to approve the Capital Improvement Plan as presented, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
9) Early graduation request
Motion by Nelson to approve the early graduation request, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
10) Policies
Second reading
a) 8120-Volunteers
Motion by Richards to approve the policy as presented, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
Technical Corrections
b) 2131.01-Reading Instructional Goals, Assessment, and Interventions
c) 2522-Instructional Media Centers
d) 3160-Pre-Employment Physical Examination
e) 4160-Pre-Employment Physical Examination
f) 5330-Administration of Medication/Emergency Care
g) 5451.01-Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship
h) 6610-Nondistrict-Supported Student Activity Accounts
i) 7440.01-Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring
j) 7450-Property Inventory
k) 7455-Accounting System for Capital Assets
l) 8540-Vending Machines
11) Donations
a) Alfalfa Fest, $1,000, food service fund 21
b) Alfalfa Fest, $5,000, student support account
Motion by Nedland to approve the donations, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
12) Payroll check deposit in the amount of $219,573.61
Motion by Nelson to approve the payroll check deposit as presented, seconded by Miller. Motion carried. Nedland and Roemhild abstained.
13) Financial report: AP in the amount of $149,862.82 direct withdrawals in the amount of $107,320.40 and PCard withdrawals in the amount of $26,428.28
Motion by Richards to approve the financial report with the noted correction, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
14) Committee and other reports, information or comments
a) Update from business operations committee meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2026
Mr. Berghammer reported there will be joint school board meeting with Clayton some time in November. He also gave an update on the business operations meeting that was held on October 14, 2026
b) Curriculum update for 2026-2027 school year
The next curriculum meeting will be November 12, 2026
c) Other
School Board Convention will be held January 20-22, 2027
15) Future meetings, Monday, November 16th, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
16) 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.
17) Roll call and return to open session
18) Resignations
a) Tom Schaffer, PFC Middle School Football Coach
b) Delilah Micheels, Cub Care Employee, effective October 22, 2026
Motion by Richards to approve the resignations, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
19) Contracts
a) Tanner Whitman, Route Driver, effective October 19, 2026
b) Shawn Schradle, PFC Middle School Boys Basketball Coach, 2026-2027 school year
c) Jess Norum, FCCLA Assistant Advisor, 2026-2027 school year
d) Laura Christenson and Tricia Smith, NHS Co-Advisors, 2026-2027 school year
Motion by Nelson to approve the contracts, seconded by Richards. Motion carried.
20) Possible action from items in closed session

G) Adjournment
Motion by Nedland to adjourn at 6:46 p.m., seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.

State Bound!



Congratulations to PFC Bearcats freshman Kaci Dunn, who punched her ticket to the WIAA State Cross Country Championships!

Kaci had an incredible race at Sectionals, finishing 4th overall and earning her spot among the best runners in Wisconsin!

As just a FRESHMAN, Kaci has already made her mark on Bearcat Cross Country, and we couldn't be more proud of her hard work, determination, and dedication!

Screening for Birth to 5 years-olds

Thursday, November 5, 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, November 5, 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, November 5, 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 schoool office. We will be also notifying the radio and television outlets.

Dallas Oktoberfest

Community, Kubb, and Fun

By Cassandra Kyser

This year's Oktoberfest was a success, marked with several events including a weiner dog race, kubb tournament, and car show.

"We had a fantastic 30th year this year and all events went really well. We are so thankful to all of our sponsors and the people who helped out that day," said Dallas Community Alliance member Karla Knutson.

Oktoberfest attracted attendees from near and far. Knutson shared that the winner of the beloved weiner dog race, Morton, was from Missouri. His owner, Emily Carlson, was up here visiting family.

The winning teams for the kubb tournament were: 1st Place - Madison Kubb; 2nd Place - Down Bad; 3rd Place - Misfits; and 4th Place - Kubb de Grace.

Proceeds from the annual event go towards the park or village needs. "We did complete our playground equipment project this summer so our next project will be the building next to the ball field, which is in desperate need of repair," said Knutson.

Oktoberfest 2027 calendars are still for sale for $20, and can be mailed out. Contact the Dallas Community Alliance at dcalliance@yahoo.com to order a calendar.

Visit HayRiver-Review.com to see more photos of this year's Oktoberfest. Follow the annual festival on Facebook at "Dallas Oktoberfest - Dallas, Wisconsin First Saturday in October."



(Top) Members of the Oktoberfest Committee. Front row: Jane Koonce, Diane DuPont, Beverly Borgen, Lynnette Borgen, and Emma Johnson. Back row: Chad Knutson, Lynn Anderson, Karla Knutson, Kelly Glaser, Brad McGary, Pat McManus, Wayne Borgen, and Greg Glaser. ***Photo courtesy of Dallas Oktoberfest***





The kubb tournament, car show, and musical entertainment all proved to be popular at this year's Oktoberfest. ***Photos by Joan Feldman-Plumb***

Traditional and Green Skills Event Seeks Presenters, Public Input

By DKO Pike and Shawn Kelley

What have you done to help a neighbor recently? Do you know their names and what skills they have? Could you ask them for help or offer yours when they need you?

Those are the principles we bring to planning the 2027 Traditional and Green Skills Event (TGSE), scheduled for Saturday, March 6 at Prairie Farm High School.

The idea behind the event is to meet neighbors, learn what they know and how to perform complicated tasks efficiently. These skills and community building help all of us to more happily and easily survive the challenges of life.

Our team of planners continues to grow and thrive. We build on the enthusiasm each of us has to drive this full day of presentations toward the best conclusion — everyone leaving with their notebook and mind full of new knowledge, including names and contact information for people who live close to us.

As we plan for the 2027 TGSE, we are looking for YOUR input. Do you have a subject you could teach a small group for an hour to 90 minutes? Maybe you have questions about running your home, such as how to preserve food you harvest from your garden, or where to find the best seed for the vegetables you love to eat all winter long.

To help get you thinking, our theme for 2027 is "Rising to meet the challenges of our times." Our speaker tracks will include:

- Water and weather
- Growing, harvesting, and preserving food
- Community resources
- Managing the land
- Managing ourselves
- Classes for kids

Are these the right topics? Who from our community would you like to hear present their skills? Please share your ideas for classes or speakers by emailing kelley@hayriverti.org.

For more information about the annual Traditional and Green Skills Event, visit hayriverti.org and follow "Hay River Transition Initiative" on Facebook.

Youth Hunting



Sven Carlsrud of Boyceville with his 8-point buck.
Photo submitted by Mike Carlsrud

Prairie Farm American Legion
Post 259 & Auxiliary

Pancake Breakfast
Bake Sale & Gift Basket Fundraiser

Sunday, Nov 8th, 8am - Noon
Prairie Farm Community Center

Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Apple Sauce, Milk, Juice and Coffee
provided by Holum – Waite American Legion Post 259 and Legion Auxiliary

Bake Sale proceeds will support the "Believet Canine Service Partners" providing service dogs to veterans struggling with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injuries and other disabilities.

Proceeds from basket sales will support the Honor Flight Program for veterans.

Remaining donations and proceeds will support completion of the Prairie Farm Area Veterans Memorial and Maintenance for our Legion Hall.

Donations may be mailed to the American Legion at
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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.

A Villain Lurks in Our Midst

By DKO Pike

As we travel rural routes in Dunn County these mild fall days, we can be lulled into complacency by the beauty from the array of fall colors displayed by native trees and shrubs.

Do not be fooled. If you are observant, you may also become aware that there is evil lurking there. Once it gets a foothold it can take over woodlands. As its common name implies, buckthorn has dangerous thorns and forms thickets so dense it is nearly impossible to travel infested lands.

Worse yet, it exudes a chemical, like our native black walnut, that inhibits the growth of formerly dominant native trees as well as shrubs and ground layer of perennial flowers. Left unchecked, it will prevent native trees from reproducing. Imagine returning to an open woodlot you had known decades ago to find only buckthorn — an impenetrable wall of stems with thorns making walking and hunting impossible, and all the oaks dead.

Buckthorn berries look nutritious for birds, but its scientific name gives away another problem. Rhamnus cathartica can kill songbirds, as it causes severe diarrhea. In the winter, the evidence stands out with telltale blue streaks across the snow.

How did we end up with this mess? Plant collectors found this tough shrub in Eurasia with a climate even worse than Northwestern Wisconsin. That explains why it stays green longer than our local native species. It was brought here as a hedge plant.

Some plants die when cut to the ground, yet buckthorn responds with renewed vigor. Return to where a single stem was cut down a couple of years earlier and you will find dozens of shoots springing up from that stump. Snap off the top and new shoots emerge from just below that break. If you seek to control it with pruning you are engaged in a long struggle that buckthorn often wins when you tire of returning several times a year, cutting shoots for years. It seems to chuckle at your efforts.

If you are up for the battle against buckthorn, here's what works best:

1. Tackle the female plants loaded with fruit first. Cut them now, lay them on the ground, and cover with other branches to keep birds from consuming the berries. After passing through a bird's gut the excreted seeds are ready to germinate.

2. Pull up any seedlings that are up to ½" diameter stems. A wide blade maddock is an excellent tool to help loosen the soil around the offending plant. Pack soil back into the hole and hang the buckthorn on a branch to keep roots in the air to ensure it doesn't continue to grow.

3. If it is too large to pull, cut it off at the ground. Promptly treat the stump with a proven herbicide at the proper concentration. Weed killers are often just 3% active ingredient. To kill buckthorn, 18-20% is required. A small amount applied to the rim is easily applied with a sponge or low pressure spray bottle.

Triclopyr amine is the active ingredient in Ortho's "Brush-B-Gone." It is reliable without dilution. Glyphosate is another. These are dangerous herbicides that require caution. Read and follow safety instructions. Only a small amount is required when applied to cut stems in the fall. This technique does not work in the spring as sap is rising.

Put in some effort now and make a difference against the spread of buckthorn. Imagine the oak forests you can save from this scourge. (Perhaps you expected this column to be about politics?)

If you would like to help control this villain in your neighborhood, call me, Douglas Owens-Pike, for support at 715-658-1911. Or hire one of our local companies, such as 4-Control in Menomonie (see ad below).



Buckthorn is easy to spot in the fall in Wisconsin, as it is one of the few plants still green.

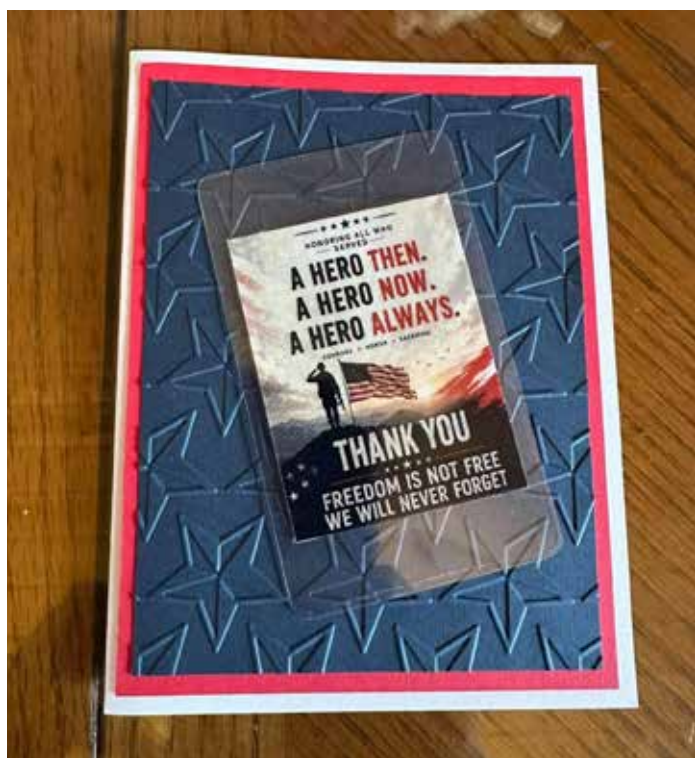


A close-up of buckthorn berries, which can be fatal for songbirds as they cause excessive diarrhea. ***Photos by DKO Pike***

Veterans Day Cards

Members of the Willard L. Hinzman American Legion Auxiliary Unit 511 in Ridgeland recently made 280 Veterans Day cards. Auxiliary member Betty Glaser shared, "They will be distributed to our local veterans and also hand delivered and distributed to the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home."

The inside of each card reads, "With grateful hearts, we honor your service and sacrifice. Thank you for standing for our freedom and for the generations who follow. You are remembered, appreciated, and never forgotten." ***Photo by Betty Glaser***





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4-H GROWS HERE

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.

By Ann Lee , Dunn County 4-H Assistant Educator

The community recognizes the important work that Dunn County 4-H does for its youth. On Sept. 24, the Dunn County 4-H Leaders Council received a $2,500 grant from the Community Foundation of Dunn County for the Dunn, Eau Claire, and Chippewa County 4-H Art U program. This grant, fully funded by the Scot Miller Family Memorial Fund, will spark creativity across generations with virtual art classes led by UW-Stout students as they make connections with 4-H youth from Dunn, Eau Claire, and Chippewa Counties and youth in the community.

The grant is important because aside from helping with the costs associated with the program, it will also pay for ALL of the art supplies for the upcoming Art U Program which runs from Feb. 18-March 18, 2027. This means that because of the generosity of the Community Foundation of Dunn County, area 4-H'ers and community members in grades K-12 may participate for FREE!

Project Discovery Day

Dunn County youth in kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to attend the 4-H Project Discovery Day on Nov. 14 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Dunn County Government Building in Menomonie. Project Discovery Day provides hands-on opportunities for youth to try out different 4-H projects.

This year's event features some of the most popular 4-H projects. These include Dogs (homemade collars), Crocheting, Cloverbuds (fingerprint magnets), Food Preservation (freezer jam), Horse, Mechanical Sciences (force and motion experiments), Foods and Nutrition (no bake desserts), and Art Appreciation (seed art). To read about the Project Discovery Day's projects, visit go.wisc.edu/2026-project-day-projects.

To register for Project Day, visit go.wisc.edu/2026-project-discovery-day-registration. 4-H is an organization that includes the whole family. With that in mind, we ask that an adult attend with the youth.

Join 4-H

If you live in Dunn County and don't want to miss out on 4-H activities like these, join Dunn County 4-H today! For more information about these events, call Zachary Rozmiarek at 715-232-1636 or visit our Facebook page, "Dunn County 4-H."

Leaders aren't born. They're grown. 4-H – For You – For Me – For Fun – For Life



Dunn County 4-H member Cora Nigon teaches a youth how to work with a puppy during the 2025 4-H Project Discovery Day's Dog Project Session. *Photo by Zachary Rozmiarek*

Where do you read the Hay River Review?



David Williams of Menomonie took his copy of our October issue with him to the Netherlands. Here he and his grandson Thomas are at the Grote Markt in Groningen. "The church in the background is the Martinikerk," noted Williams.

Where do you read the Hay River Review? Send us your photos!

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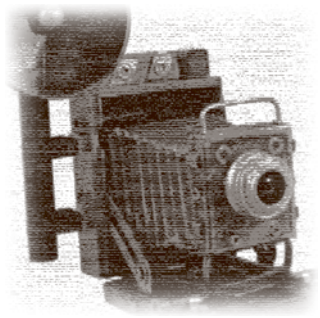
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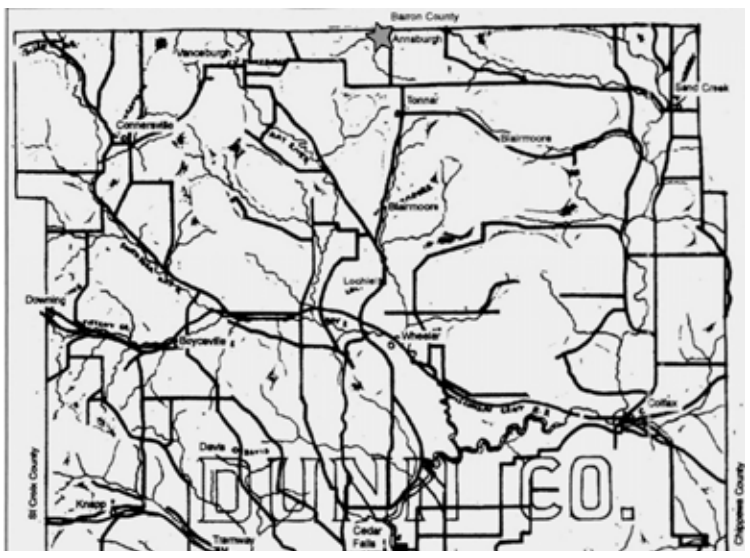


PHOTOS
FROM OUR PAST

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.

By Lon Christopherson

The Short History of Annsburg



An 1890 map of Dunn County shows Annsburg just south of the Barron County line. Later sources indicate the hamlet may have been further north, in Barron County. ***Image courtesy of Dunn County News***

The story of Annsburg, Wisconsin is a short one. As the logging crews of the Knapp-Stout Company moved through the area in the late 1800s and cleared the land, there was an increase in settlers to northern Dunn County. This created the need for a new post office in the area.

The August 1, 1890, issue of the Dunn County News announced that a new post office, named Annsburg, had been established in Wilson Township in northern Dunn County, near the Barron County line. Henry Schnare was appointed the postmaster, and the post office was to be supplied by a semi-weekly mail run from Prairie Farm. Other sources later claimed the post office was located across the line in Barron County.

Annsburg — also spelled Annesburg and Annsburgh — was a small hamlet, with a cheese factory and a general store to serve the needs of the farming community settling the area. Schnare operated the cheese factory for a time, and later Fredrick Grover took over the operation.

In 1894, Fredrick married Miss Jennie Ovitt of Spring Brook. The marriage was short lived, however, as tragedy struck six years later in 1900. Fredrick had gone to work in the morning. Jennie decided to catch a horse they had and ride to the cheese factory, which was a mile from their home, to see him.

Jennie reportedly tied one end of the rope around her neck and put the other end around the horse. Something frightened the horse and it bolted before Jennie could mount. The Dunn County News reported the horse ran wild for an hour, dragging her with it.

A man passing by saw Jennie and tried to render aid, but the horse took off again. The newspaper's account of her fatal injuries are graphic.

Jennie was laid to rest in nearby Greenwood Cemetery in Dallas Township.

Shortly after this terrible accident, the railroad came to nearby Ridgeland. Annsburg was deserted as its post office and few residences moved to the new village, and Annsburg was no more.

As for Fredrick, he moved to Washington state and remarried. He died in 1949 and is buried in Sedro-Woolley, Skagit County.

Unfortunately, no known photographs taken in Annsburg exist. What we have left are maps, and the headstones of some of the hamlet's residents.

Sources: The Dunn County News and Find a Grave. Research and text by Lon Christopherson

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

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Nov. 2	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Club w/potluck at Ridgeland Community Center, 12:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	Prairie Farm Civic Club Mtg at Prairie Farm Community Center, 6 p.m.
Nov. 3	Dallas Library Food Drive begins, w/donation box at Library
Nov. 5	Ridgeland Area Library Board Mtg at Ridgeland Area Library, 6 p.m.
Nov. 7	Spirits In The Night Fundraiser hosted by Ridgeland Area Library at Ridgeland Community Center, 4-7 p.m.
Nov. 5	Dallas Library Donation Tree for hats & mittens will be ready
Nov. 5	Dallas Library Board Mtg, 6 p.m.
Nov. 12	Dallas Library hosts Wits Works at Library, 1 p.m.
Nov. 16	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Club w/potluck at Ridgeland Community Center, 12:30 p.m.
Nov. 16	Willard L. Hinzman American Legion Post 511 & Auxiliary Unit 511 Mtg at Ridgeland Community Center, 6 p.m.
Nov. 19	Ridgeland Civic Club Mtg at Ridgeland Area Library, 6 p.m.
Nov. 19	Dallas Library hosts Hunters Bake Sale during open hours
Dec. 5	Ridgeland Civic Club welcomes Santa at Ridgeland Community Center, 10 a.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 clerk@tn.vancecreek.wi.gov
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

Public Service Commission to Decide on Water Rate Increase, Solar Project

By Cassandra Kyser

The Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin has two Barron County matters on its docket: a proposed water rate increase for the Village of Dallas and the proposed Sandhill Solar project.

Village of Dallas Water Rate Increase

An application for a water rate increase was filed in January of this year. The Docket ID for this matter is 1520-WR-102. The PSC case coordinator is Alex Hanna, who can be reached at Alex.Hanna@wisconsin.gov.

A PSC public hearing is scheduled for Nov. 12, 2026, at 3 p.m. This meeting is accessible via phone by calling 1-312-626-6799 and entering meeting ID 809 513 2930#. The meeting may also be accessed via Zoom and live stream; please visit apps.psc.wi.gov for those links.

Sandhill Solar

In September, Sandhill Solar LLC filed a pre-application for the construction of an approximately 1,039 acre solar energy facility in rural Dallas. The Docket ID for the project is 9848-CE-100. The PSC case coordinator is Allison Martinson, who can be reached at allison.martinson1@wisconsin.gov.

At the time this article went to press, no PSC public meetings or PSC public comment periods were scheduled for Sandhill Solar.

About the PSC

Wisconsin's PSC is responsible for the regulation of the state's public utilities, including those that are municipally owned: electric, natural gas, water, and certain aspects of local telephone service. The PSC does not regulate cable TV, cellular phones, cellular towers, internet service providers, LP gas, or fuel oil.

The PSC is located at 4822 Madison Yards Way, North Tower - 6th Floor, Madison, Wisconsin, 53705-9100.

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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.

Night Sights

By Martha Wright

A large fiery ball with a stream of flame behind it sizzled across the night sky above my car. I was headed home after work, listening to the radio while my thoughts lazily looped through the shift I had just finished and the things I had to do before I could fall into bed. But now, I was thoroughly awake, feeling like Chicken Little in the old nursery tale, who thought the sky was falling.

That was the most memorable sight from any of my trips home after work. Now that I am no longer doing so, I realize that eight years of driving home in the middle of the night meant that a portion of my time in nature, small though it was, happened under the night sky. Constellations, shooting stars, moon phases, and even satellites were things I noticed while I was driving, or as I walked from car to house after arriving at home.

I found a kindred spirit in the Japanese artist Syo Tatsu, who also loves nature and the sky at night. On March 24, 2026, he posted to his Facebook page a beautiful piece of artwork depicting the night sky. It is titled "Symphony" and is accompanied by this poem:

> The night is full of life
>
> A chorus of the living things
>
> Songs of the stars and moon
>
> A symphony of the night

There were many nights, usually in the winter, when the chorus of the stars was so bright and the sky so deep that I just stood in the yard gazing upward, my breath steaming around me, until I had to go in to warm up. In the summer, I could bring out a reclining lawn chair and fall asleep while contemplating the symphony of the Milky Way and the constellations.

The Big Dipper is the easiest star pattern for me to find, and I can locate the Little Dipper by following the path that liquid would take if poured from the Big Dipper. This leads to Polaris, the North Star, and the last star in the handle of the Little Dipper. The dippers are not constellations on their own — they are parts of larger constellations known as Ursa Major, the Great Bear, and Ursa Minor, the Lesser Bear.

A constellation I look for in winter is Orion, the hunter. His distinctive belt of three stars points to Sirius, usually the brightest star in the sky. Sirius is part of the constellation Canis Major, the Great Dog, and is known as the Dog Star. I developed an affinity for Sirius when I read the children's book "Dogsbody" by Diana Wynne Jones. In the story, the star is trapped on Earth as a dog and must solve the mystery of his exile from the heavens.

Dozens of shooting stars have caught my eye over the past eight years. These are meteors, small pieces of space debris from a comet, or an asteroid, burning up as they enter Earth's atmosphere. Meteor showers have an annual schedule because the earth completes a circuit around the sun once a year, passing through the same debris each time.

Most of my shooting star sightings happened during one of the regular showers, especially the Perseids which occur in August, peaking around Aug. 12. Peak dates and viewing information for all of the meteor showers can be found on the American Meteor Society's website. On a clear night at the right time and place they can be spectacular shows with as many as 100 meteors an hour.

The American Meteor Society has an explanation for the spectacular show the night my sky was falling. The fireball I saw on Jan. 24, 2026 around 12:30 a.m. was visible from several states in the upper Midwest and even into Canada. They deemed it a dead satellite that reentered the atmosphere, burning up as it fell.

To view artist Syo Tatsu's work "Symphony," visit the online version of this article at hayriver-review.com/post/night-sights.

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The Book Report

Dallas Public Library

By Barbara Petersen

Hunters' Bake Sale

When Security Bank was still in town, the Library sponsored a Hunters' Bake Sale. Well, we are going to offer this again.

On Thursday, Nov. 19, we will start our bake sale in the Village Hall. Although we call it a "Hunters' Bake Sale," it is really for anyone who needs a treat or two. Watch for posters and Facebook posts for exact times.

Also, we encourage our patrons and library friends to contribute baked goods and snacks to our sale. These should be brought in earlier on Thursday or perhaps on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

We plan to continue to sell on Friday and maybe Saturday, if we have enough goodies. Again, please watch our Facebook page for information. Before heading for your deer camp, stop in to purchase some delicious treats. We look forward to reviving our Hunters' Bale Sale.

Caring for Others

We will set out our box for food donations on Tuesday, Nov. 3. We collect food and other items for those who aren't as blessed as we are. We plan to take the donations to the Barron Food Pantry in time for Thanksgiving, and then again right before Christmas.

We will also put out our Mitten Tree. We collect mittens, hats, scarves, slippers, etc. for those who don't have warm clothing for the winter weather. Some of our items are used by our teachers for students who get wet during recess so they don't have to sit in wet clothing. Please be generous in your donations to our food box and Mitten Tree!

Wits Works

Wits Works, an ADRC-sponsored program, continues on Nov. 12. The one-hour session on the second Thursday of each month, from 1-2 p.m., is a good workout-session for your brain.

We also enjoy a chance to socialize with other people as well as challenge ourselves with puzzles and games. Socialization is one of our prime goals as we enjoy challenges and sharing stories, as we work on various word challenges.

Join us on the 12th for some fun with others who are challenging themselves, as well as having a good time. Feel free to bring a friend.

Oktoberfest Sale

Thank you to everyone who came to our Oktoberfest Sale. We had a remarkable response and found that our root beer floats were a particular attraction.

We had received a number of garage sale type donations that we put up for sale in the Village Hall meeting room, too. So, books, donated items, floats, pop, and water available for purchase made for a record sale. Thank you to all who joined us and made purchases.

Bike Rack

Earlier this fall, our village maintenance person built a bike rack out of a wooden pallet. We were surprised and happy to see that the village has replaced our wooden bike rack with a nice metal one.

We needed to solve the problem of bikes lying on the sidewalk or being locked to the tree. Thank you so much for a sturdy bike rack that is being used and keeping the sidewalks safer!

Winter Hours

We will change our hours in November: Tues. & Thurs. from noon to 5 p.m. and Sat. from 9 a.m. to noon. If there are no visitors during the last hour, we may change the Tues. & Thurs. closing time to 4 p.m. We will see what happens with the last hour as winter progresses. Any changes in hours will be posted on our Facebook page.

Library Board Meeting

Our next Library Board Meeting is Nov. 5 at 6 p.m. The public is encouraged to join us.

Stay Connected

Facebook: "Dallas Library - WI." Email: dplibrary2018@gmail.com. Mailing address: Dallas Public Library, P.O. Box 84, Dallas, WI 54733. Physical address: 100 Dallas St. West, Dallas, WI. Telephone, shared with the Village Office: 715-837-1186. Feel free to leave a message.

Autumn Fun and Community Spirit

Ridgeland Dallas Elementary

By Mackenzie Anderson

From "Toy Story" treats to muddy boots at the pumpkin patch, fall has been full of laughter, learning, and community at our school. As the leaves turn, we are grateful for the families, staff, volunteers, and local partners who make these experiences possible. Here's a look at what we've been up to, and what's ahead.

We kicked off the season with a Family Fun Night hosted by our Parent Club. Hallways buzzed as students sampled "Toy Story"-themed snacks, made crafts inspired by favorite characters, and settled in to watch "Toy Story 3." It was an evening of kids making memories, caregivers connecting, and our school feeling like a cozy night at the theater. Thank you to the Parent Club for planning every detail and to everyone who came out.

That same spirit fueled the launch of the Parent Club's chocolate bar fundraiser. We're grateful to the local businesses that purchased boxes and to the families selling candy bars to support our school. These efforts fund student experiences and classroom needs, from enrichment events to supplies that enhance daily learning. We so appreciate the storefronts displaying boxes at their counters and the neighbors who choose a treat that also benefits kids. Your sweet support makes a difference.





Students enjoyed a field trip to Midwest Harvest Hills. Above, Attia Hanson, Kayleigh Schulner, Theodore McCormick McGoldrick, and Paetyn Marquardt pet a bunny. Right, Maddix Free had fun in the corn pit. ***Photos submitted by Mackenzie Anderson***

Looking ahead to November, the Parent Club will roll up their sleeves to make pans of lasagna for our annual Take-and-Bake fundraiser. This tradition warms dinner tables and strengthens the programs we offer. We appreciate every volunteer who preps and assembles, and every neighbor who brings a pan home.

A highlight of the month was our whole-school trip to Midwest Harvest Hills. PreK through grade 4, and many parent chaperones, braved the rain for a day on the farm. The weather couldn't dampen smiles as students met animals, learned how pumpkins float and grow, and dove into the corn pit.

We're proud of our students and grateful to live in a town that shows up for its schools. Thank you to everyone who volunteers, donates, and cheers us on. Tune in next month to hear about our Halloween festivities around town!

We also welcomed George Christenson and the Alfalfa Fest Crew. Their generous donation to Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary goes directly to our students, supporting events across the year and providing supplies for students and staff that enrich learning. Gifts like this help us say "yes" to opportunities that spark creativity and belonging. Thank you, George and the Alfalfa Fest team, for investing in our kids!

Trunk or Treat

The Prairie Farm PTO held its second annual trunk-or-treat event on Sunday, Oct. 25. Over 20 organizations and businesses registered to hand out candy and bring Halloween cheer to the community.

Attendees voted for the best decorated display. This year's winners were: 1st place - United Lutheran Church, 2nd place - Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club, and 3rd place - Prairie Farm Fire Dept.

To see more photos, visit "PTO of Prairie Farm Wisconsin" on Facebook.
Photos courtesy of Prairie Farm PTO









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