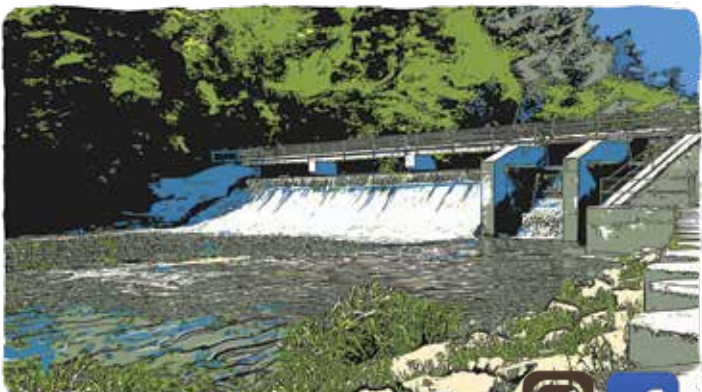


Hay River

Since 1987

REVIEW

August 2026



Honoring a Lifetime in Education

By Brianne McLennan

For nearly four decades, generations of Prairie Farm Elementary students were welcomed into kindergarten by Mrs. Lori Hamernick. After 39 years in the classroom, the Prairie Farm community recently gathered to celebrate a career defined by kindness, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to its youngest learners.

More than 100 family members, friends, former students, colleagues, and community members attended Lori's retirement celebration at the Ridgeland Community Center, where stories and memories highlighted the lasting impact she made throughout her career.

Looking back, Lori fondly remembers the early years when her classroom sat just steps from the school kitchen. Those students spent time baking bread and cooking together—hands-on lessons that quickly became cherished memories. As classrooms, curriculum, and teaching expectations evolved over the years, Lori continued to find creative ways to make learning engaging. Classroom quilts, collaborative books, and other projects gave every child the opportunity to contribute to something meaningful they could proudly share with their families. More importantly, those projects helped transform a classroom of

individuals into a close-knit community.

Lori always understood the importance of kindergarten. For many children, it is their very first experience with school, and she believed that first impression mattered.

"My number one goal was always to help students see that school is a wonderful place to learn and have fun," she said.

Anyone who has ever asked a five-year-old what they learned at school knows the answer is often short on details. Lori bridged that gap by faithfully sending weekly newsletters home to families. Each letter outlined upcoming lessons, classroom

"Education" cont'd. on page 6...



(Above) Lori's students decorated their own square to add to a classroom quilt.

(Left) Lori spends time with a former student, Racheal Kisch. *Photos submitted by Brianne McLennan*



Ridgeland Mural Dedication

By Donnette Mickelson

On Tuesday, June 30, I had the honor of dedicating the new mural painted by the Walldogs that is located on the south side of the former Jorstad's store building. This mural celebrates the history of the Ridgeland Fair in a visually colorful public art display. While there were many people who were involved in bringing this project to life, a special thank you goes to Dick and Elly Micheels, Corey and Donnette Mickelson, and Dunn Energy.

What follows here is the dedication from that evening.

Good evening everyone, and welcome to this special dedication of the historic mural created by the Walldogs for the Ridgeland Fair. Today we celebrate more than paint on a wall — we celebrate the people, stories, and traditions that built this community and continue to shape it today.

For generations, the Ridgeland Fair has been a gathering place where neighbors reconnect, families make memories, and hard work is proudly displayed. The fair has long reflected the heart of rural Wisconsin and the spirit of this community.

The fair began in 1924 when Louis Handorf made a motion that a fair should be held in Ridgeland. Since then, the fair has continued every year, except in 1946, when a polio epidemic swept the area, causing the fair to be canceled. In the early years, the fair was a one-day event, with exhibits of crops, flowers, and crafts, as well as food stands in the park, and of course, a parade. The first Ridgeland fair featured a horseshoe pitching contest, a tug of war between Barron

"Mural" cont'd. on page 15...

This mural celebrates the history of the Ridgeland Fair in a visually colorful public art display. *Photos by Donnette Mickelson*



INSIDE



Curd Classic

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Homestead Hacks

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Golden Touch

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4-H

pg. 12



By Barbara Petersen

School Supplies

We will begin collecting school supplies in August. Donations will go to the Ridgeland Dallas Elementary School in Ridgeland about the second week in September. We will have a box sitting in the hallway for any items you can supply. Think of items your children or grandchildren use—pencils, pens, rulers, crayons, markers, highlighters, tablets, pocket folders, etc. Maybe when you come to vote in the primary election on Tuesday, August 11, you can bring in a donation. Our children will certainly be thankful.

Summer Reading Activities

Our Summer Reading Activities will be winding down as we approach the end of August. Library visitors have been working on a path of stars that we use to tally library activities. Each participant—child, teen, or adult—gets a sheet of paper with the path on it. Stars are

The Book Report Dallas Public Library

filled in when books are read, visits are made to our library, or another library anywhere in the state, or weekly activities are completed. If you bring friends with you, another star can be filled in. Rewards for checking out materials (including movies), attending story time, doing paper puzzle pages or coloring contests, recommending materials, playing outdoors with our equipment, and keeping track of reading times are other ways to move along the path of stars. Each participant has a paper record, which is kept at the library and is updated at each visit. Our Librarians will help keep track of points for the rewards to be given out at our end-of-summer party on August 29.

Summer Reading Activities Party

The end of Summer Reading Activities Party will be Saturday, August 29, when we plan to hold our End of the Summer Party. Although the party is still in the planning stages, we know there will be prizes, refreshments, and indoor

and outdoor activities. We are asking the pubic for some prize donations. We would like some more rewards for children and adults. Please contact the Library if you can help—715-837-1186.

Wits Works in August

Wits Works continues on Thursday, August 13. We have a one-hour session the second Thursday of each month, from 1 to 2 p.m. We work to activate and improve our memories. This is a chance to socialize with other people as well as challenge yourself with puzzles and games. The sessions are free, and you can attend the ones that work for you. This hour becomes a good workout session for your brain. Join us for some fun with others who are challenging themselves and their brains.

New to Us

New to Us should maybe say New to You! We had two interesting guests a couple of weeks ago. A husband and wife visited the Dallas Library while taking part in the Summer Passport program,

getting their passports stamped when they visit a library. While visiting with the couple, we learned the lady was working on a history of small libraries in the area. She was very interested in our library’s history, the moves we have made (three buildings since 2010), public help, and volunteers. This history she is writing is her own personal project, but we did ask for a copy when she is finished. After a tour of our two rooms, they took her notes, their passports, and headed on their tour of small libraries; their next stop was to be the Clarella Hackett Johnson Public Library in Sand Creek!

Stay Connected

Library hours:
- Tuesday and Thursday- 2 to 6 p.m.
- Saturday- 9 a.m. to noon.

Like us on Facebook! Dallas Library - WI.

Email: dplibrary2018@gmail.com.

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

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

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

August Starts Off with a Barrel of Fun for the Community

By Betty Glaser

The Ridgeland Civic Club is excited to host our annual Family Fun Night on Tuesday, August 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. The evening also celebrates National Night Out, with a focus on family fun while giving everyone the opportunity to meet and interact with our local first responders. Fire Chief Matt Schleusner has been coordinating with the Prairie Farm Fire Department, Dallas Ambulance personnel, and the Dunn County Sheriff’s Department to make this year’s event one to remember.

What fun activities can you expect? Our fire department will once again bring its interactive obstacle course, along with an opportunity for children to safely handle a fire hose and “put out” a mock house fire. Returning by popular demand is the slip ‘n slide—a huge hit last year—so let’s hope for warm weather! We’ll also be offering

free face painting for children of all ages (yes, adults are welcome too!). Live music by Hap and Hawk, also known as John Lynch and Mike Schenker, will provide great entertainment throughout the evening.

The Prairie Farm Civic Club will be hosting a table with free backpacks and school supplies for children. In addition, the Ridgeland Civic Club, in collaboration with the Hay River Review board members and staff, will host a children’s table filled with fun prizes. These items were generously donated by a community member who wanted to give back in honor of her sister. Please stop by and let your child choose a free treasure to take home. We are truly grateful for this thoughtful and generous donation.

Ridgeland Civic Club members recently enjoyed a summer barbecue at one of our members’ homes. While

we had a wonderful evening together, our creative minds were already hard at work planning this year’s Labor Day parade float. Let’s just say that where there’s smoke doesn’t always mean there’s fire! We aren’t ready to reveal our theme just yet, but we’re excited to share it with everyone when parade day arrives.

Finally, we’re still looking for vendors for our Labor Day Farmers Market, which will be held September 5–7. You can’t beat the price! Booth fees are just \$15 for one day, \$30 for two days, or \$40 for all three days. If you’re interested in reserving a booth, please contact Betty Glaser at 715-529-1451 or bls5524@yahoo.com.

We hope to see everyone on August 4 for an evening of family fun, community spirit, and making memories together!

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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.

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LETTER to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My one comment that I would have to make regarding the Sandhill Solar letters to the editor in the last edition is that I thought the letters were alarmist instead of informed. The project actually has a decent amount of detail published on a website, and the property owners involved could be found by matching a project map with GIS data. I wrote an email to the project via the contact tab, and they got back to me.

The project (as stated) is all on private land with the landowners voluntarily participating and being compensated for the solar being placed. No use of eminent domain was involved. I agree that there are concerns. I wouldn't want to be forced to be part of a solar development, but that doesn't seem to be the case here.

Solar installs on farmland are better than a lot of other things, and the land won't be tilled, so saving some carbon there in addition to the energy being produced. In my opinion, the most concerning thing is that these projects (Sandhill Solar [900 acres] and a larger development near that, which is further along - Maple Grove Solar [1200 acres]) are approved by a state-level board, and decisions supersede any local zoning.

I'm not sure that makes sense. I'd argue that the authors of the letters should be talking to the landowners directly if they object. It seems that much of the land involved in the Sandhill Solar project is held by a single land trust. The landowners agreed to be part of the project.

Sincerely,
Shawn Kelley

Dairy State Bank Lobby Closed– Drive-Up Only Hours For Now

By Sarha Baumgard

Prairie Farm, Wis. —Dairy State Bank in Prairie Farm has limited and drive-up-only hours until roughly the beginning of October due to an extensive remodeling project.

Although the doors are sometimes propped open, the lobby is closed. Customers can do their banking at the drive-up from 12 noon to 4:30 pm on weekdays and 8:30 am to 12 noon on Saturdays.

Because the lobby is closed, customers will need to call the bank at 715-455-1339 and make an appointment to:

- Open an account
- Access a safe deposit box
- Inquire about or close a loan

The bank will be completely closed for three days during August. Once specific dates are determined, bank staff will communicate with customers and notices will be posted on the bank website, Facebook and Instagram.

“We apologize to our Prairie Farm area customers for this inconvenience. However, this remodeling project is necessary and will provide a more pleasant space for customers and employees,” said Joe Kinnear, Northern Region President.

The construction project will result in updated customer spaces, a redesigned teller area, enhanced security and a more modern office overall.

Headquartered in Rice Lake, Dairy State Bank is a locally-owned, community bank serving Northwest Wisconsin for more than 70 years. Locations also exist in Birchwood, Bloomer, Colfax, Cumberland, Downsville, Haugen, Menomonie, Rice Lake, Turtle Lake and Wheeler. Dairy State Bank is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and is an Equal Housing Lender.

For more information about Dairy State Bank and its services, call 715-455-1339 or visit www.dairystatebank.com.

The Hay River Review Crowns 1st Annual Wisconsin Curd Classic Champion!

By DM MICK

Sportsmen’s Bar and Grill claimed the title in the first Wisconsin Curd Classic after selling more than 300 orders of cheese curds during June Dairy Month.

The contest, hosted by The Hay River Review, challenged eight local restaurants and bars to be the first to sell 300 orders of cheese curds. The event was designed to celebrate Wisconsin’s dairy industry while encouraging residents to visit local establishments and support community businesses.

Each participating business is known for its own specialty, from homemade pizzas, burgers, fish fries, and signature cheese curds. The competition highlighted the important role local restaurants and taverns play in the community. Many of these businesses support

local organizations, school programs, athletic teams and fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Sportsmen’s Bar and Grill in Ridgeland has built a reputation for giving back to the community. Owner Adam and his staff regularly support local events, organizations and residents while providing a gathering place for families and friends.

With strong support from loyal customers and first-time visitors, Sportsmen’s Bar and Grill reached the 300-order milestone in just over four weeks to win the competition.

The victory came during another milestone for the business as Sportsmen’s Bar and Grill celebrated its 10th anniversary. The restaurant marked a decade of serving food and bringing the community together, making the Wisconsin Curd Classic

title an added reason to celebrate.

We hope this event becomes an annual tradition that continues to promote local businesses while celebrating Wisconsin’s dairy heritage.

A very special thank you to all the great businesses that participated in this event:

- Sportsmen’s Bar and Grill
- Too Mixed Up
- Mixed Up Waterside
- Mixed Up Staples Lake
- Drunk’n Monkey Bar and Hotel
- Packer Inn
- Poskin Lake Resort
- Raising The Bar Sports Pub



Owner, Adam Shipley, continues to create unique food offerings. Since the Burger Battle last October, Adam has created weekly burger specials showcasing tastes from across the country. Photo by DM Mick



All Aboard with the Ridgeland Library Review

Weeding at the Library

By Donnette Mickelson

Weeding is a necessary evil of gardening. Some people find it cathartic, while others use other gardening techniques to avoid or lessen the task of weeding. Gardeners know that it is important to eliminate weeds so that the wanted plants have the space and nutrients needed to grow, flourish, and produce.

Weeding has also been happening in our local library, and it is not in the adjacent history park, but inside the library with our book collection. Libraries are consistently adding new materials based on trends and new releases. In order to make room for new books, it is important to deselect some of the older books, books with duplicate copies, or books that are no longer popular.

We are always looking for suggestions of what to add to the library, so be sure to stop in and see what is new in the library.

The library held its barn quilt art show in the park on June 30th, and it was amazing to see all of the creativity and artistry created by our community members. Barn quilts provide a public art display that is accessible to everyone. The classes were so popular that we are able to add additional classes beginning this fall thanks to a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board. Stay tuned for future class dates that will be posted in the paper as well as on our Facebook page.

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Duck, Duck, Cash!

By Maranda Peltier

The Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club held its annual Duck Race fundraiser on July 11th at noon as part of the Prairie Farm Dairy Days activities. The north-blowing winds made the south-flowing river race a bit difficult for even the best duck wrangler; however, reinforcements were called in, and the race was underway. While hopeful spectators watched from the dam, ten winning ducks crossed the finish line, with the last duck lazily making its way to get the five-dollar entry back to its sponsor.

The civic club also participated in helping with the tractor pull concession stand by serving scrumptious burgers, hand-cut fries, and the best cheese curds in town! They also walked in the parade with a beautiful red, white, and blue themed float complete with Uncle Sam, the Statue of Liberty, and one

very warm American Eagle. Thank you, everyone, for your support in our club. We love providing help, beauty, and fun to our community. Also, congratulations to all our winners!

1st place, \$500- Roland Bulman

2nd place, \$200- Margie Bergmark

3-5th places, \$100- Carrie Amundson, Cora Ayers, Crystal Vaughn

6-10th places, \$50- Carson Cadman, McKenna Eiden, Tasha Singerhouse, Theresa Marske and Kori Moen

Last Duck, \$5- Janice Roemhild

The Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club meets on the first Monday of every month, 6 p.m at the Prairie Farm community center. Come join the fun! *Photos submitted by Maranda Peltier*



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Alfalfa Fest to Bring Family Fun to Prairie Farm

By Brianne McLennan

Families from Prairie Farm and nearby communities are invited to attend Alfalfa Fest 2026 on Saturday, Aug. 1, at Pioneer Park. The event will feature food, games, live music and auctions throughout the day.

The festival begins with activities at 11 a.m. and is designed to offer something for people of all ages. Organizers are also asking community members to bring a copy of a photo of a loved one to be displayed on the Alfalfa Fest Memorial Wall with the theme, "Let their light shine on."

Live music by Greg Chovan and a bake sale will take place all day. Children can enjoy a

scavenger hunt and games beginning at 11 a.m. Visitors can also take a hayride through the park or spend time at the playground.

Food will be available throughout the day. The Beer Belly BBQ Team will serve a chicken dinner from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Brats, hot dogs, burgers, water and milk will also be available. Makenna Farrington's "What's Your Scoop" Ice Cream Truck will be at the park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A silent auction will run from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., followed by door prize drawings from noon to 2:30 p.m. A live auction will begin at 3 p.m. and will be conducted by Lake Boehm and Bryce Hanson. Some of the featured

auction items include two Canadian fishing trips along with many other prizes. A Fuzzy Duck Auction will take place after the live auction.

Festival merchandise, including raffle tickets, sweatshirts, T-shirts, caps, and can koozies, will also be available for purchase.

Alfalfa Fest is an all-volunteer event. Money raised during the festival will be donated to Home Health & Hospice at Marshfield and St. Croix, as well as educational programs that benefit students in the Prairie Farm, Ridgeland/Dallas, Clayton, Clear Lake, Boyceville and Glenwood City school districts.

The festival will be held at Pioneer Park, 213 8½ St., Prairie Farm. We encourage everyone to come out and enjoy a day of family-friendly activities while supporting local causes. The money raised is used to support many functions in our community!

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HOMESTEAD HACKS

By Sam Dodge

My friends, it’s been a helluva July. If I had a sidewalk, you can bet I’d have fried my eggs on it most days. Staying cool and subsistence farming are pretty much mutually exclusive in a summer like this, but we crazy garden gurus persevere.

Lettuce, broccoli, cilantro, and many other staples here have shot up and bolted as I’ve rarely seen before. Tree and bush fruit is running early and going fast, requiring daily attention and picking so it doesn’t ferment on the spur or cane. The pie cherries gave their last fruit by the 15th. The raspberries finished with a flourish by the 25th, and we have 15-gallon bags full in the freezer. The blueberries came in so heavy they bowed their canes right to the ground on some of the bushes. They’re in a pretty well-protected, partially shaded area; I think we’ll still be picking those in the first week of this month.

We got everything in a little late this year due to the odd spring, but it’s all hurrying to produce for us. I thought I’d steal a few new potatoes from a couple of hills on the 21st, discovered baking-sized spuds, and stopped at 1 hill... plenty of little ones to fry for a side

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.

Hot Enough?

to a nice local sirloin on the grill. Broccoli side shoots for green stuff, as all the heads were already in the freezer. I’m wondering if any of my fall apples will refrain from falling before the 1st of October. It’s a heavy crop on most of the trees, so I’ve been thinning them a lot. Would be a branch-breaker season if I didn’t.

All the fun stuff that needs to be done when it’s a blast furnace outside! I’m very grateful I’m not bucking hay bales. I’ve watched the little songbirds lining up at our various bird baths; their little beaks hanging open as they queued up for a splash. We’re finding more drowned rodents in our various water pails and barrels than we can remember in any previous years.

The extra rain-gathering infrastructure has been indispensable. I’m thinking of setting up more third-world-inspired repurposed metal-roof shelters not only for additional water-gathering capacity but for more shady space too.

They say, “don’t sweat the small stuff”, but just about anything will get you sweating when it’s like this. I’m super-glad we have good well water here. I’m sucking it down like it’s going out of style. I sure

hope that aquifer holds up! On the bright side, I’ve gotten pretty well acclimated to the heat. Might have to develop an Alabama drawl here pretty soon...

But the extra sweat is paying off, and if it doesn’t hail a blue streak (fingers crossed!), we’ll be putting up a bumper crop of just about everything we’ve planted. The tricky (and probably expensive) part will be keeping everything that we want to store fresh properly chilled. I’m not quite ready to invest in a walk-in cooler, but if things keep going as they’ve been going, it will become a necessity. The root cellar has only held proper chill from late November until early March in recent years.

If they could ease up on all those wildfires, and if they’d have me, I’d be tempted to move north of the border. As it stands, maybe I’ll demand some tariffs for the smoke they’ve been sending us. Dang Canucks are doing it on purpose, I tell ya!

Well, that’s about enough rambling from the Wiseacres Asylum for one issue. Y’all stay hydrated, friends and neighbors!



July bounty!



It’s pie time! Photos by Sam Dodge

...“Education” cont’d. from front

activities, and conversation starters to help parents connect with their children about what they were learning. Those newsletters became a hallmark of her classroom, keeping families involved and reminding parents that while their children thought they were simply having fun, they were learning every day. Over the course of her career, Lori wrote and sent more than 1,500 weekly letters home.

Reading was another cornerstone of Lori’s classroom. She spent every spare moment sharing books with her students, nurturing both a love of reading and a lifelong curiosity.

When asked what made nearly four decades in the classroom so rewarding,

Lori credits the people around her—the Prairie Farm school family, the students who walked through her classroom door each year, and the supportive community that surrounded them all.

As she reflects on 39 years of teaching, Lori says her greatest joy was watching children grow in confidence over the course of a single school year. By the time they left her classroom, they had not only learned their letters and numbers but had also discovered that school was a place where they belonged—a place to learn, explore, and have fun.

For the countless students whose educational journey began in Mrs. Hamernick’s classroom, that lesson may be the one that has lasted the longest.



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

Holding up, not holding out

LESS IS PLENTY

By Darlene Ramos

Taking this book off my bookshelf, the binding held me captive.

As you can see, it is coming apart at the seams. It’s so fragile I wondered- Will it last another reading? But I did really want to read it again. I thought: “It’s so old, it might even be collectible. But if I tape it, I can read it. This story I loved will come to life again.”

I really don’t care about the value of a book; it’s a story

that sweeps me so. I thought to tape it the next day, and I opened it carefully that very moment.

But the condition of the binding still mesmerized me. It set me thinking of our very old house. Our house tells a story, too. It is of sound bones and “spine”, but it’s nonetheless very “used”. What hasn’t killed it (the elements) hasn’t made it stronger. We’ve had to “tape” it together to keep it viable. Abandoned for decades, it HAD begun to fray in earnest before we came along.

The woods alongside it always make me think of encroachment. If we don’t

do our part, the trees will overtake. These country places make a perfect storm for battles of wills, between what people can do and what the natural forces can do. If someone hadn’t come along as we did, this house would have been consumed by the woods long ago.

How long will we hold up? Will the next people nurture it with more miraculous tape? Will there be next people? Or will it eventually come apart at the seams? I stared at the binding of the book and thought all this.

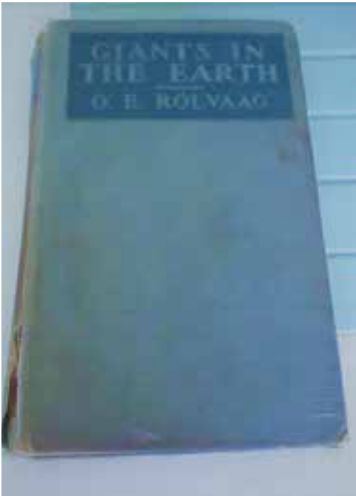
We’ve unrolled so much “tape” here. In some ways our home’s soundness seems

Not every person will see the binding of a book and think all this, let alone write words about it! But you, dear readers, are stuck with what I come up with, I am afraid. If you have ideas you think I would like for future topics, please mention them to me on Facebook “Less is Plenty” or email me at yorba73@yahoo.com.

better than it ever was, but that’s because we didn’t let the “binding” go. There’s a lot of promise for more stories to take shape here, and we’ll keep trying to make them and always hope who comes along next will have a big roll of strong tape, too.

I read recently that the younger generations are resenting the old folks for staying in their homes too long. There’s a housing shortage, you know! They want to start families and make new homes for themselves, sometimes out of the old folks’ homes.

I get it. If building or buying



new is unreachable, maybe Grandma and Grandpa should make room and move on.

Oh, that we had more than but one house to live in! It is an especially delicious thought for many of us that a child or grandchild will move on in when we move on out.

Sometimes, they can’t or don’t want to. The location doesn’t work, or the timing, maybe even just the style.

We’re not ready till we’re ready, and often this goes both ways. We worked hard on and for this place. We stamped it with our yearning and dreaming, lately come to fruition. These places are often paid for, with the essentials now being managed by Social Security and small other incomes. We’d have to sell to move on, knowing loved family members have expressed their own yearning for the time they might be here as we are now.

We live for them yet, and so we stay, still trying to play a part in their futures.

So don’t resent the old folks too much, young ones! We have our reasoning for staying on, and part of it is about security in YOUR older ages, too.

In my fondness for old books, I have read and reread many. Sometimes aging pages get brittle, so that a fold I’ve made to mark a place can’t hold up anymore and even departs into my hand.

But the story is still vibrant. We are like that, our physicality becoming frail but our spirits still able to soar at whatever puts wind under our sails.

I recently found a new copy to put this old book to rest. New people in our home would put us to rest, too.

The time will come when new stories will take place by new human beings in this home, but the old stories will not go away!

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School District of Prairie Farm

August 2026

Corey Berghammer, Superintendent • John Casey Fossum, Principal

715-455-1861

www.prairiefarm.k12.wi.us

Principal’s Report

We hope everyone is having a great summer and enjoying the many activities summer presents. As we approach the end of July a number of summer activities begin to finish up while a whole new set get ready to kick off.

The district’s summer school program has wrapped up with a fantastic group of energetic learners. This session included a variety of classes and field trips, thanks to all who participated and facilitated the events. Summer school finished up with a trip to Skate City and a viewing of Toy Story 5. Students did an excellent job throughout the summer school session and we look forward to welcoming them back in a little over a month.

The annual activities code meeting took place on Tuesday, July 7th. This serves as the kick off to the start of the 2026 – 2027 school year as many activities are preparing to get started early in the month of August. If you were unable to attend, please pick up the required paperwork from the office prior to your sport or activity beginning.

The 2026 session of swimming lessons wrapped up on July 16th. Thank you, Mrs. Seeger, Jennaye Brekke, Ashley Grandbois, and Maynard Hoff, for helping make this great service possible for the students of the Prairie Farm District.

Mr. White and other PFC coaches have a hard-working group of students that are currently attending the district’s strength and conditioning program. These students get up early to improve themselves in multiple fitness areas. The program runs four days a week from 7:30-9:30 AM. It is great to see the dedication put forth to improve their physical fitness.

Mrs. Law and the Prairie Farm FCCLA chapter recently attended the National FCCLA Leadership Conference in Washington DC. The students did a phenomenal job and represented Prairie Farm in an outstanding manner. Great job to all in involved in this program!

The 2026-2027 school year will kick off with its annual open house on Wednesday, August 26th. Open house is available to all students preK-12th grade. Please stop in at any time between 2:00-6:30 pm to drop off materials, meet your teacher, and see some of your classmates. We look forward to seeing you! School Pictures will also be taken during this time, please stop in the large gym to have your son’s/daughter’s school picture taken.

The first day for students, grades PreK-12, will be Tuesday, September 1st starting at 8:00am. We look forward to welcoming students back and kicking off the school year.

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

Sincerely,
Casey Fossum
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

Where did June and July go? It is amazing how quickly the seasons go by! We are coming to the tail end of the youth summer ball season, and before we know it the fall sport seasons and fall activities will be underway. The district office is busy planning for the 2026-27 school year with staffing, facilities, and scheduling. We have been receiving our new curriculum for the upcoming school year and are excited to put this new information to use. There is also a number of technology changes for the new school year, along with our new exterior door access system that was installed this past spring. We are certainly looking forward to having students and staff back in the building and starting the new school year.

This fall will also bring exciting changes to the athletic department. For the 2026-27 school year we will be including all MS/HS sports in our PFC co-op, with the exception of wrestling, which will remain in our co-op with Chetek-Weyerhaeuser. We are excited to be able to provide safe, consistent and appropriate opportunities for our student athletes. We are currently working on the practice and events transportation plan for the upcoming fall. Final details on the transportation plan for this fall will be shared in the coming weeks. Something else that will be new this fall is how we will be sharing district and athletic event information this fall. All events, games, and school happenings will be available on a new platform called Bound. This information will still be found on the School District of Prairie Farm, but will look a little different from what we have had in the past. We will be sharing more information concerning Bound and how to access necessary information with our families and community in the coming weeks.

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 July 13th, 2026—6:00 p.m.—IMC MINUTES UNAPPROVED

- Members present: Nelson, Nedland, Cadman, Miller, Richards, Roemhild
Members absent: Bates
- A) Call to order (subject to Section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes)
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 Nelson to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- D) Minutes of June 15th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
Motion by Nelson to approve the minutes from the June 15th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
- E) Reports
- 1) PFC Athletic Co-op Update
The co-op had a discussion on transportation, open coaching positions, and other daily and seasonal operating procedures.
- F) Business
- 1) Public comment residents/parents
The board read a letter that was sent by a member of the community regarding security of the school, glass doors can be vulnerable to forced entry and visibility within the school.
- 2) Policies-Second Reading
- a) 1213-Student Supervision and Welfare
- b) 01240-Evaluation of the District Administrator
- c) 3213-Student Supervision and Welfare
- d) 4213-Student Supervision and Welfare
- e) 8462-Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect, and Sexual Misconduct
Motion by Richards to approve the policies, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
- First reading
- f) 5885-Student School Board
- g) 7217-Weapons
- 3) Student board members for 2026-2027 school year
Motion by Nelson to approve Sydney Buck, McKenna Ellsworth and Mya Hagen as student school board members for the 2026-2027 school year, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

What’s Happening

August 11	6th grade orientation-6:00 p.m.
August 26	PreK-12 Open House 2:00-6:30 p.m. Picture Day 2:00-6:30 p.m.

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

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.

Prairie Farm FCCLA National Leadership Conference and STAR Event Competition

PRESS RELEASE July 17, 2026
Submitted by Tammie Law, Prairie Farm FCCLA Adviser

The 2026 FCCLA National Leadership Conference (NLC) took place in Washington DC, from July 5th – July 10th drawing more than 10,000 FCCLA Members, Advisers, and guests from across the US including Puerto Rico and American Samoa who gathered for competition, leadership development, career exploration, recognition, service, and connection.. 14 Prairie Farm FCCLA members attended conference leadership activities, competed in STAR events and explored all the DC has to offer.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a student-led organization supporting youth on their journey to become the leaders of tomorrow and helping them address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA has over 240,000 members and more than 5,400 chapters across the nation. Programs are planned and run by members and it is the only career and technical student organization with a central focus on careers that support families. Through classroom instruction and hands-on FCCLA experiences, students develop leadership, workplace readiness, technical, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills while preparing for careers that strengthen families, industries, and communities.

The highly anticipated Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events were at the heart of the conference. Prairie Farm joined over 5,500 FCCLA Members competing in 36+ events, where they were recognized for their proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills, and career preparation. The collaboration between youth and adults in managing the events and evaluating participants allows students to develop real-world skills and gain valuable insights. STAR Events support student development and guide them toward successful career pathways. Spencer Roemhild helped to plan and lead state meetings and award ceremonies as the outgoing Wisconsin FCCLA State First Vice President while she and members had the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, skills, and abilities by actively addressing essential issues concerning families, careers, or communities. By researching and implementing projects to advocate for positive change, students acquire valuable skills needed to thrive in the 21st century.

Competition is always tough at nationals as teams and individuals must qualify by placing first or second in their home state competitions. This year Prairie Farm represented Wisconsin with top individuals in 2 teams in Parliamentary Procedure and one individual in Leadership. Parliamentary Procedure Level 3 is one of the most competitive events with teams from around the country that have honed their skills at using Robert’s Rules of Order to run a mock business meeting and test their knowledge with a 20 point exam based on the National Association of Parliamentarian certification test. Prairie Farm’s Level 3 team including Reid Christopherson, Addy Lentz, Cooper Berends, Jackson Regalado, Trig White and Gavan Hanson earned Silver. Our Level 2 Parli team including Krys Jacobson, Anastasia Nedland, Jack Fossum, Eli Lambert, Haydn Sempf, Brittany



Graunke and Amber Smith earned place on stage for Top 10 honors with a 7th place overall and earning Silver. Spencer Roemhild earned Silver for her Leadership project in which she explored her leadership resources and potential. Each project exemplifies dedication, creativity, and

commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of others. These accomplishments at the national level are a testament to hard work, teamwork and we are so very proud of them!

Members, Mrs. Law (adviser), Mrs Norum (assistant adviser), chaperones Bonnie Roemhild and former WI State FCCLA president Scotlyn Roemhild, Crystal Nedland, Tim Norum, Greg Christopherson and Ken Misselt also attended conference sessions and served as STAR Event evaluators. During our free time we were able to check out many of the National historic places in DC including a tour of the Capitol, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, numerous Smithsonian on the National Mall, the Lincoln Memorial and so many more via our segway tour of the city.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us get to DC. A great big Thank You to our families, the Prairie Farm school district, Booster Club, Prairie Farm Lions Club, numerous others who donated to our student fundraising and the Prairie Farm community for their ongoing support and encouragement. We couldn’t participate in this awesome leadership experience without you!

- 4) Student Academic Standards for 2026-2027
Motion by Nelson to approve the Student Academic Standards for 2026-2027, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

5) WiRSA Membership for 2026-2027 school year
Motion by Richards to approve the WiRSA Membership for 2026-2027 school year, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.

6) Prairie Farm Employee Handbook for 2026-2027
Motion by Cadman to approve the Prairie Farm Employee Handbook for 2026-2027, seconded by Richards. Motion carried.

7) Memorandum of Understanding: Media Specialist with Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area School District for 2026-2027 school year
Motion by Nelson to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Media Specialist with Chetek-Weyehaeuser Area School District for 2026-2027, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.

8) 66.03 Agreement; Middle/High School Music Teacher with Clayton School District for 2026-2027 school year
Motion by Richards to approve the 66:03 Agreement, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

9) Student fees, season passes and food service for 2026-2027 school year
Motion by Nelson to approve student fees, season passes and food service for 2026-2027 school year, with the change of approving free home games for students, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.

10) School board goals for 2026-2027
Motion by Nedland to approve school board goals for 2026-2027, seconded by Richards. Motion carried.

11) Donation of \$200 from Barron Electric Cooperative to FFA Chapter
Motion by Nelson to approve the donation as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.

12) Payroll check deposit in the amount of \$250,141.67
Motion by Cadman to approve the payroll check deposit presented, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried. Roemhild and Nedland abstained.

13) Financial report: AP in the amount of \$171,047.03, direct withdrawals in the amount of \$252,761.01 and PCard withdrawals in the amount of \$24,043.33
Motion by Richards to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.

14) Committee and other reports, information or comments
a) Superintendent’s report
Mr. Berghammer reported that new flooring in needed areas will be put in the high school and elementary school. We will be seal coating the parking lot next week and will be removing two trees out front of the school.
- b) Other information

15) Future meetings, Monday, August 17th, 2026, Regular Board Meeting and Special Board Meeting (work on strategic plan), Monday, August 17th, 2026 at 5:00 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.
Motion by Nelson to go into closed session at 8:04 p.m., seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
Roll call: Cadman yes, Richards yes, Miller yes, Nedland yes, Nelson yes, Roemhild yes

17) Roll call and return to open session
Motion by Richards to return to open session at 8:21 p.m., seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
Roll call: Nelson yes, Nedland yes, Miller yes, Richards yes, Cadman yes, Roemhild yes

18) Resignations
a) Shonda Anderson, Middle School ELA Teacher, effective July 6, 2026
b) Kevin Anderson, Special Education Teacher, effective July 7, 2026
c) Jordan LaBlanc, PFC Middle School Girls Basketball Coach, effective June 8, 2026
Motion by Nelson to approve the resignations as presented, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.

19) Contracts
a) Austin Capelle, High School Social Studies Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year
b) Diane Huiras, Media Specialist for the 2026-2027 school year
c) Clara Fettig, 4th Grade Long Term Substitute for the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year
d) Laura Christenson, PFC Assistant Track Coach for the 2026-2027 school year
e) Jessica King, PFC Assistant Track Coach for the 2026-2027 school year
Motion by Nelson to approve the contracts as presented, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.

20) Possible action from items in closed session
No action taken.

G) Adjournment
Motion by Richards to adjourn at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.



Ridgeland Dallas Elementary

By Mackenzie Anderson

As summer begins to wind down, the staff at Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary has been busy enjoying family, hobbies, travel, and preparing for another exciting school year. We are looking forward to welcoming students back and sharing several exciting updates with our school community.

This year, Ridgeland-Dallas will continue our combined-grade classroom model with PK/K, 1st/2nd, and 3rd/4th grade classrooms.

A New Year, Same Dedication

We are also excited to welcome Head Start into our building, creating even more opportunities to support our youngest learners.

Our dedicated staff has certainly made the most of their summer. Ms. Link, who is beginning her 46th year as our office secretary, has been keeping busy tending to her beautiful yard and flowers. Ms. Joy, a paraprofessional entering her fifth year at Ridgeland-Dallas, enjoyed plenty of sunshine, gardening, family and friends, and a special trip to New York to visit her daughter. She has also been learning to play pickleball

and will be coaching middle school cross country alongside Ms. Beebout this year.

Ms. Nicole is beginning her ninth year as a paraprofessional at Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary. She has spent her summer enjoying time with family, gardening, relaxing at the cabin, and celebrating a new chapter as an empty nester. Our custodian, Mr. Schafer, has been hard at work preparing the elementary schools for another great year while also making time to visit his new grandchildren.

Ms. Beebout is entering her 24th year of teaching and her

12th year at Ridgeland-Dallas. This summer she has enjoyed local community events, pickleball, and a memorable family trip to Canada and Niagara Falls. She is also looking forward to assisting Ms. Joy as a middle school cross country coach.

Mrs. Anderson spent June teaching science during summer school before focusing on growing cut flowers, creating colorful bouquets, and spending time with family. She recently returned from a western road trip filled with incredible wildlife sightings, and even had a surprise reunion with Ms. Iverson at Wall Drug in South Dakota!

We are also excited to welcome several new faces this year, including a new cook, a new third- and

fourth-grade teacher, and our new music teacher, Mrs. Bloom. Returning specialists include Ms. Iverson (physical education), Mrs. Zueger (art), and Mrs. Schill (school counseling).

As we look ahead to the new school year, families should note a few important dates. Summer school begins August 3 at both Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary and Woodland Elementary. Student Goal Setting Conferences will be held on August 19, and the first day of school is August 26. The staff at Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary is excited for another wonderful year of learning, growth, and making memories together. We look forward to welcoming students and families back soon!

Sheridan Zion Lutheran Church Celebrates 135th Anniversary

By Donnette Mickelson

A small white country church sits South of Prairie Farm and southwest of Ridgeland on County Road VV. This simple traditional building harkens back to our early pioneers who moved to Wisconsin and began building communities. The church sits as a reminder of these early pioneers who were dedicated to having a building for religious purposes as well as education and social events.

In 1890, a group met in the Washburn Farm School House to form a congregation of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. A church was soon formed and remained active until 1960, when it was turned over to the cemetery association, which still maintains the building and grounds. Through the early years, parts of the church were added as funds

were raised. An original 26x36-foot building 16 feet high was built in 1891. In 1901, the church was built, and a \$71 bell was added.

**Sunday,
August 30, 1 pm
N12896 Cty Rd VV
Ridgeland, WI**

The organ purchased in 1906 for \$105 is still in the church. At first chairs were used and pews were not purchased until 1911 with funds raised by the Young People's Society. There were many social activities whose purpose has been forgotten over time. Listed in the church record books are money makers such as shadow sociable, measuring party, hardtime

sociable, doll sociable, scrap social, and a bouquet social.

Today, the descendants of the church have an annual meeting each May to review the budget and determine maintenance needs of the church and grounds. In this year of 2026, the church will be celebrating its 135th anniversary with a short service, potluck picnic, and fundraiser. A special barn quilt painted by Donnette Mickelson will be dedicated, as well as opening remarks by Adam Klefstad. This short program will be followed by a potluck dinner. Everyone is invited to attend, and the church will be open for viewing. Bring your own chairs, beverage, and a dish to pass. We hope to see you there!

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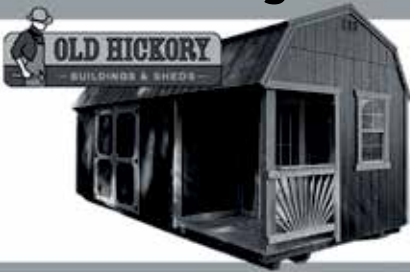
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FIELD & WOODLAND WANDERINGS

By Martha Wright

In ancient Greece, King Midas was granted a wish that everything he touched would turn to gold. I am reminded of that story when I look over the fields and roadsides in August and see the bloom of all the goldenrod (*Solidago* genus). It is nature’s own golden touch that begins in late July and continues into September, or even October.

Other than people with seasonal allergies, I would guess that most of us do not give goldenrod much thought. Only recently did I learn that there are over 100 varieties around the world. Twenty-four are native to Wisconsin. Ten of those are widespread across the state, with Canada goldenrod (*S. canadensis*) being the most prevalent one that we see in fields and ditches.

Zigzag goldenrod (*S. flexicaulis*) was the variety that started me on my quest to learn more. I would never have thought of goldenrod as a woodland plant, but I found this unique one with its large oval leaves and a single tall stem of flowers growing among the trees. Then I discovered grass-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*) along the edge of a field. True to its name, the leaves do indeed look like grass.

Other varieties have common names that reflect the appearance of the plant, such as tall, hairy, velvety, wrinkle-leaved, or blue-stemmed. Some names indicate that the plant is found in a swamp, prairie, or northern bog, or growing on a dune or a cliff. There are even two species (*S. bicolor* and *S. ptarmicoides*) called white goldenrod because of the color of their flowers.

When I walk the native prairie wildflower trail in Lake Wissota State Park near Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, one of the plants I look for every summer is stiff

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.

A Golden Touch



Bees love goldenrod pollen

goldenrod (*S. rigida*). The leaves are rounder and more fleshy than common goldenrod, but the plant is named for the stiff basal leaves growing near the ground. One time I found it covered with black-striped yellow goldenrod soldier beetles (*Chauliognathus pensylvanicus*).

Not surprisingly, a plant this widespread supports a huge population of insects. Many native bees depend on goldenrod pollen and some even feed exclusively on it. There are insects that change the growth pattern of the plant, like the goldenrod ball gall fly (*Eurosta solidaginis*), which lays its eggs in the stem, causing a round ball to form around the larva. The goldenrod bunch gall midge (*Rhopalomyia solidaginis*) makes the plant halt normal upward growth and instead grow a cabbage-like cluster of leaves to shelter the larvae.

Returning to the topic of seasonal allergies, according to an article from the Pennsylvania State Extension, “Goldenrod: Not Just Another Pretty Face,” by Denise D’Aurora, goldenrod pollen grains are carried by insects because they are too heavy and sticky to be windblown. The real allergy-causing culprit is ragweed, which blooms at the same time; its flowers are tiny, green, and unnoticeable. D’Aurora says the lightweight pollen of ragweed “may remain airborne for several days and can wreak havoc with seasonal allergy sufferers.”

Goldenrod pollen is rich in protein and full of fats and minerals. Monarch butterflies depend on it for sustenance before their fall migration. I have never personally foraged goldenrod, but after finding a recipe for Goldenrod Cornbread on the website of the Chestnut School of Herbal



A goldenrod bunch gall shelters insect larvae.

Medicine (chestnutherbs.com) in Asheville, North Carolina, I may have to try it.

The same website also lists several medicinal uses for the plant. Goldenrod tea made with dried leaves, stems and flowers is useful for healing urinary tract infections and kidney stones. A goldenrod tincture dries up congestion in sinuses, making it soothing for allergies. A poultice or oil can be applied to skin for wound healing, and a mouth rinse is helpful for inflammation of the mouth and throat.

King Midas’ golden touch did not work out so well, and he begged to have it removed after he turned his own beloved daughter into a golden statue. Nature’s golden touch, however, in the form of the goldenrod plant, is truly a natural treasure in many ways.



Zigzag goldenrod grows in the woods. Photos by Martha Wright



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4-H
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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.

Summer Camp

By Ann Lee

Attending camp gives many young people a chance to grow. This summer, Dunn County 4-H offered two types of opportunities for its members to go to “camp.” First was our traditional 4-H Summer Camp where 4-H Youths in grades 3-6 attended base camp at Kamp Kenwood in Chippewa Falls while youths in grades 7-9 attended camp at Lake Wissota State Park for an Outpost Camp experience. Second was our new Outdoor Adventure Days at Hoffman Hills State Recreational Area, which was held on June 29 and 30th for 4-H members in grades 3- 6. Dunn County Educator, Zac Rozmiarek, explained. “Camp is an important part of the 4-H program. Studies



4-H youths role-playing at the 4-H Summer Camp at Lake Wissota State Park. Photo by Zachary Rozmiarek

have been done that show the social-emotional benefits that going to camp provides for youth. That is why, in addition to our overnight program, we presented the Outdoor Adventure Days. This program allowed kids who could not go to camp to have a similar experience.”

Dunn County 4-H Summer Softball is in full swing for its members. Juniors (8-12 years old) play on Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. and Seniors (13 years old and up) play on Tuesday nights at 7:30 p.m. Visit the Dunn County 4-H softball page for the 2026 schedule, consent forms, and more at <https://dunn.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/projects/4-h-softball/>.

Because 4-H offers a variety of projects, its members experience many interesting activities and learn important life skills. During a Summer Project Day event on July 10, I taught 4-H Youths ages Kindergarten-3rd grade how to make recycled paper, ink stamps, and sun catchers out of easily accessible materials. Not only did they have fun with the activities, but they gained life skills by practicing

how to listen, share, and cooperate. This made for a positive experience for everyone.

Dunn and Pepin County 4-H are excited to announce a new event called the Woodland Makers and Explorers Program, which will be held at Caddie Woodlawn Park on August 10 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. This program, which is open to all 4-H Youth but is geared towards youths in Kindergarten-Third grades, will provide opportunities for them to explore nature and try hands-on pioneer-style activities like butter making, pinecone bird feeders, and other woodland crafts. Youths are encouraged to celebrate creativity, teamwork, and the



Dunn County 4-H Adventure Days. Pictured are visiting Intern Emma Friesth, Cora Nigon, Gabby Wantoch, Dalila Wantoch, and Lillianna Bushendorf. Photo by Zachary Rozmiarek



Summer Project Day on July 10. Pictured are River Keeler, Averie Litzkow, and Porartho Rayeed making foam stamps to decorate the recycled paper that they made and wooden trays. Photo by Ann Lee

natural beauty of the park by being a part of this fun, skill-building day! 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.

Are Carbon Credits In Your Future?

By David K. Williams

Like many readers of the Hay River Review, my wife and I own a number of acres of woodland. Several years ago we became members of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA), a nonprofit whose stated mission is to conserve and enhance the private woodlands of the state.

The WWOA publishes an excellent quarterly journal for members. The Summer 2026 edition contained an intriguing article entitled “Wisconsin’s forest carbon programs,” by Scott Hershberger, Keith Phelps and Peyton Higgins. Their article summarized information from the Wisconsin Forest Carbon Program’s webpage (go.wisc.edu/forest-carbon), to which I would refer readers of this article. There is also an excellent webinar on YouTube from UW-Madison Extension entitled “Introduction to Forest Carbon Programs” that I would highly recommend.

Carbon credits and carbon markets work on the knowledge that trees are excellent at not only pulling carbon from the air (via pulling CO2 through the photosynthesis process) but also storing it long-term in the tree’s trunk, roots, branches, and leaves. “Forests across the United States reduce the overall U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by roughly 12% each year,” notes the website for the Family Forest Carbon Program (FFCP) (familyforestcarbon.org). That number could be doubled, according to the FFCP, with proper forest management practices.

The WWOA article notes that a number of programs are now available to owners of smaller woodland areas, to allow them to sell carbon credits to organizations like the Family Forest Carbon Program. One carbon credit is one metric ton of carbon dioxide either removed from the atmosphere or not emitted into the atmosphere.

Those credits then are used/sold to companies that are polluting with greenhouse gases to offset that pollution. The WWOA article reviewed two other companies: Forest Carbon Works (forestcarbonworks.org) and LandYield (landyield.com).

Woodland owners who enter into carbon contracts with companies like these three essentially agree not to harvest their timber for a specified period (typically at least 20, and as much as 100 years), thus allowing that woodland to continue to store existing carbon and increased carbon over those years. The land owner is paid a set sum for each acre of woodland accepted into the program. The Family Forest Carbon Program, for example, currently offers \$10.50 per acre per year for at least a 20-year period. A woodland owner could benefit financially by simply allowing woods to grow.

“Credits” cont'd. on page 13...

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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

While usually I dig up history through old photos, newspapers, and other local sources, I also sometimes use a shovel! A few years before I retired from my job as a machinist, I took up the hobby of metal detecting, and still enjoy it today. It provides exercise, fresh air, and a chance to dig up some interesting items, along with lots of junk, of course, but you never know what you may find! One of the questions people most often ask of metal detectorists is, "What's the best thing you have ever dug up?" While it may not be my most valuable find, my favorite is a couple of items



Some of the coins I have dug up are no longer produced by the U.S. Mint. Top Row: Morgan Silver Dollar, Silver Barber Quarter, Silver Washington Quarter, Buffalo Nickel. Middle Row: Silver Roosevelt dime, Silver Barber Quarter, Silver Mercury Dime. Bottom: Indian Head Penny and Lincoln Wheat Penny. Still searching for a half dollar!

dug up in the backyard of the home I grew up in.

My Dad served in World War II in the Pacific as a member of the 96th Division, "The Deadeyes," as part of an anti-tank platoon in Okinawa and Leyte. Sometime in the 1980s, he applied for and received the medals he had earned during his service. When asked what happened to the originals, the story he told was that Mom had let my two older sisters pin them on their doll's clothes, and they had lost them somewhere in the yard back in the mid 1950s. Flash forward to 2020 and the backyard, to when metal detecting became Medal detecting, and to my surprise I unearthed Dad's combat infantry badge! About a year

later, I found another piece of it, along with his division's insignia pin! Dad passed away in 2007, but I think he would have loved to see these original items.

Of course, not everything you find is a treasure; in fact, most things will probably end up in the trash, and for every old coin you find, you may find a hundred modern ones. But finding an item from the past that someone may have used or treasured 100 years or more is worth the hunt. The three rules to remember when metal detecting are: 1) Always ask Permission on private property. 2) Always fill in your holes, and 3) Take the trash you dig with you!



A few of Gordon Christopherson's lost items dug up from his World War II Service.



A variety of items you may find metal detecting, from square nails to cap guns. Photos by Lon Christopherson

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...“Credits” cont'd. from page 12

At first blush, this sounds almost too good to be true. In a current period where timber markets have shrunk, and demand for forest products is low (the Barron County Forester quipped to me not long ago that “Pulp is a four-letter word!”), carbon credits might allow an owner to reap some financial benefit from woodlands.

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But there are ethical questions surrounding carbon credits. A dive into those ethical questions yields a variety of webpages with cautions. To its credit, the Family Forest Carbon Program notes that the ethical intent of carbon programs is to create “additionality”, i.e., that woodlands will actually add additional carbon sequestered in the trees. Their approach to meet this standard is to work with the landowner to improve a woodland stand, thus making it possible to remove additional carbon from the atmosphere.

Other ethical issues include avoiding corporate greenwashing, where carbon credits get sold to a heavily polluting company, allowing the company to balance its emissions on paper without actually reducing its emissions. There's also the question of the long-term nature of contracts—do you really want to saddle a future owner of your woodland, whether family or other

buyer, with a contract that will prevent them from other uses of the woodland? Most contracts allow continued use of the woods for hunting, fishing, or firewood gathering, for example, but extensive cutting of timber would not be allowed.

The WWOA article is not recommending for or against woodland owners entering into carbon contracts, but trying to help prospective sellers understand both benefits and risks. The article concludes with a variety of considerations one should ponder before jumping into a contract. They acknowledge that carbon markets are rapidly developing, and encourage further review of that University of Wisconsin forest carbon website—and talk with either your county forester or consulting forester if you already work with one. Carbon credits may be a part of your future, but cautious exploration is important at this stage of this growing industry option.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Dallas Library Collecting School Supplies in the Month of August

August 3	Prairie Farm Civic Club Meeting at Prairie Farm Community Center, 6 p.m.
August 3	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Club at Ridgeland Community Center with Potluck, 12:30 p.m.
August 4	Family Fun Night - National Night Out - Ridgeland Civic Club Hosting at Ridgeland Village Park, 4 - 7 p.m.
August 4	Family Fun Night - National Night Out - Prairie Farm Civic Club Distributing School Supplies at Ridgeland Village Park, 4 - 7 p.m.
August 4	Family Fun Night - National Night Out - Hap & Hawk Band (John Lynch), 5:30 p.m.
August 6	Dallas Library Board Meeting at Library, 6 p.m.
August 11	Prairie Farm Parents Club Serving at Ridgeland Farmers Market at Ridgeland Village Park, 4 - 7 p.m.
August 17	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Club with Potluck at Ridgeland Community Center
August 17	Willard L. Hinzman American Legion Post 511 and American Auxiliary Unit 511 Meeting at Ridgeland Community Center, 6 p.m.
August 18	Ridgeland - Wilson Fire Department Serving at Ridgeland Farmers Market at Ridgeland Village Park, 4 - 7 p.m.
August 20	Ridgeland Civic Club Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 6 p.m.
August 25	Dallas Ambulance Serving at Ridgeland Farmers Market at Ridgeland Village Park, 4 - 7 p.m.
August 27	Ridgeland Area Library Historical Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 5:30 p.m.
August 29	Dallas Library End of Summer Program Party (still planning time)

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

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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

Robert M. Anderson

October 18, 1927 – June 8, 2026

Robert M. Anderson, 98, of Albuquerque, NM, passed away peacefully on June 8, 2026, after a long, fruitful life. He lived through nearly a century of history, meeting each chapter with a smile and determination to not only work hard, but also to enjoy life. From building one of the first milking parlors in Wisconsin to designing commercial horse-drawn carriages and restoring antique popcorn wagons, Bob's life was filled with friends, customers, and travel to places across the United States. He also touched countless lives in Barron County through his volunteer work at the Barron County Historical Museum and community involvement in Chetek, WI.

Bob was born on October 18, 1927, in Dallas, WI, to Matthew and Bertha Anderson. Bob is survived by daughter, Anita Husby of Albuquerque, NM, grandson Jeffrey Husby of Orlando, FL, granddaughter Shannon Collins of Denver, son-in-law Tom Collins of Basalt, CO, and great grandson Joshua Husby of Orlando. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Louise (Knutson) Anderson, and daughter Jane Collins.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, September 5 from 1-3 PM in Menomonie, WI at Old Town (903 Cedar Falls Road). All who knew Bob are invited to attend.



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...“Mural” cont’d. from front

and Dunn County men, a ladies’ nail driving contest, foot races for children and adults, and an afternoon baseball game. Through the years, the fair has held other events like a rodeo, dairy cattle judging, go-kart racing, horse pulling, and of course, the demolition derby and tractor pull. The modern-day Fair continues to provide fun for all, and has now become a four-day affair, with a demolition derby on Friday night, a street dance on Saturday night, the big tractor pull on Sunday night, and winding up on Monday with a morning horse pull and the afternoon grand parade.

After over one hundred years, the Ridgeland Fair continues

to be an event the whole family can enjoy and is truly a place where old friends meet.

This mural captures those memories and preserves them for future generations. It honors the farmers who worked the land, the families who volunteered countless hours, and the community members who kept traditions alive year after year.

Ole Jorstad and his wife Bertina, along with business partner A. Pomgratz, were running the Ridgeland Supply Company Store when Ridgeland started in 1900. After a fire destroyed much of Ridgeland’s business district along South Diamond Street in 1905, the brick building

still standing here today was built. It operated as a store for over 100 years. Even my mother-in-law Jeanette worked at the store in the 1960’s and 70’s. The store continued to operate well into the 2000s as Jorstads Store, at which time Larry Jess, Corey Mickelson, and the late Brian Wirth purchased the building and made much-needed repairs and updates. Thank you to these community members who were so willing to have this mural placed on the building and for their value to the community and understanding why it is important to continue improving our community.

Art has a unique way of telling stories when words alone cannot. Every image, every detail, and every brushstroke in this mural reminds us where we came from and why our shared history matters. It is a tribute to resilience, community pride, and the simple moments that become lifelong memories.

A project like this does not happen without dedication and teamwork. We extend sincere thanks to the artists, organizers, volunteers, donors, and community members who helped bring this vision to life. Your efforts have created something that will inspire pride and conversation for years to come. I encourage everyone to add your name and a few thoughts to our library time capsule, which is by the food stand, to remember this moment in time.

As we admire this mural and celebrate the history it represents, we must also



This mural celebrates the history of the Ridgeland Fair in a visually colorful public art display. *Photos by Donnette Mickelson*

remember that the future of Ridgeland depends on all of us. The traditions, events, and community spirit that make this town special do not happen on their own. They happen because people step forward to volunteer, share their talents, and give their time. Whether it’s helping with community events, serving on local committees, supporting the fair, or lending a hand when needed, every volunteer makes a difference. We invite everyone here tonight to become part of Ridgeland’s next chapter. Together, we can preserve our history, strengthen our

community, and ensure that Ridgeland continues to thrive for generations to come. As we dedicate this mural today, may it serve as a reminder that history is not only found in books — it lives in our communities, our traditions, and the people gathered here tonight.

May this mural continue to honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire future generations to cherish the legacy of the Ridgeland Fair. Thank you. Let’s enjoy this special celebration together, and let’s continue building a community we are proud to call home- a place where old friends meet.



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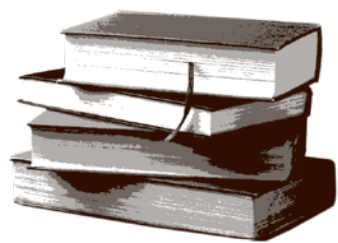
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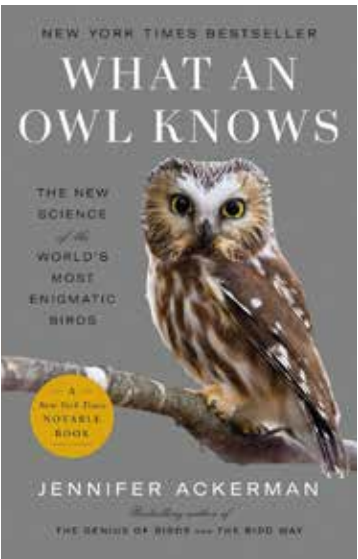
MICKELSON’S BOOK BINGE

By Donnette Mickelson

If owls are not one of your favorite birds, they will be after reading this fascinating book. Learn how researchers are using modern technology to study these elusive birds. Owl species are difficult to study because they are masters at not being seen or heard, because that is what has made them a successful

“What an Owl Knows” The New Science of the World’s Most Enigmatic Birds By Kirk Wallace

species. It is a readable and enjoyable book because Ackerman brings us science in an understandable and interesting way. Who knew that owl feathers are pink under a black light! She not only covers owls found all over the world, but owls in our own backyard along with the history, myths, and folklore associated with owls. If you have ever heard the banter of owls at night, you know how magical they are. This book will deepen your appreciation of owls and how we can protect these fascinating birds.





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SATURDAY • SEPT. 5

Fun Run & Walk

TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 1/2 mile, 7 & under; 1 mile, pre-teen; 8:30 a.m. - 2 miles & 10K, all ages.
PLACE: Community Center. Cost: 12 & Under - \$10.00 - 13 & Over - \$15.00. No cost for 1/2 mile participants. Pick up registration blanks at Crosby-Nelson Insurance Office in Ridgeland or call 715-949-1593. Awards & Prizes - T-shirts or bags for all participants

Tractor Ride

8:30 a.m. Registration at Synergy Co-op.
For more information call Curt at 715-790-2081 or Jim at 715-949-1284.

Bean Bag Tournament

11:00 a.m. under Tent. Open doubles \$20.
For more information call Adam at 715-418-9330.

Arts & Crafts Farmers Market

LOCATION: 1/2 block south of carnival in the Community Center parking lot.
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat., Sun. & Mon.
Rent a space and bring your crafts, artwork and produce to sell or trade. Entry blanks - Stop at Security Bank.
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Car Show

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
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Street Dance

CONTRADICTION
8:00 p.m. - Midnight

SUNDAY • SEPT. 6

Arts & Crafts Farmers Market

Continued from Saturday

State Sanctioned Pedal Pull

11:00 a.m. Registration - Under the tent - Free

NTPA Regional Truck & Tractor Pull 6:00 p.m.

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MONDAY • SEPT. 7

Midwest Horse Pullers Assoc. Pulling Contest

9:00 a.m. - Admission: Adults \$5.00;
Kids 12 & under - \$3.00. Eldon Luer Field

Arts & Crafts Farmers Market

Continued from Saturday & Sunday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Grand Parade

1:00 p.m. - All floats, bands and novelties units welcome.
Call 715-308-5135 for information or go to ridgelandfairparade@gmail.com

Music Under the Tent

3:00 p.m. - Karjacks DJ



Stripes Shows On The Midway - Games • Rides • Concessions
- Wristbands - Saturday & Sunday \$20.00 - Noon - 4:00 p.m. -

~ SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 ~
QUEEN PAGEANT
6:00 p.m. - at Community Center. For information call 715-308-4082.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK