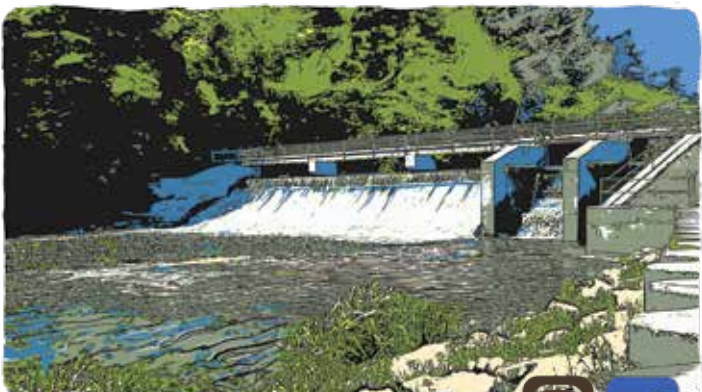


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Hay River

REVIEW

July 2026



Willard L. Hinzman ALA Unit 511 in Ridgeland

American Legion Auxiliary Kicks Off Summer

By Betty Glaser

Members of the Willard L. Hinzman American Legion Auxiliary Unit 511 have been busy kicking off the summer season with several community service projects and patriotic activities.

To show support for deployed military personnel, unit members placed yellow ribbons throughout the Village of Ridgeland and distributed Honorary Flags to families with loved ones currently serving overseas. Yellow ribbons will also be available to community members at the June 30 Farmers Market for a free-will donation.

The Auxiliary partnered with radio station WWIB to create 100 handmade cards that will be included in care packages sent to deployed service members.

The Auxiliary extends its appreciation to several local businesses for supporting its Poppy Donation Program, including Too Mixed Up in Otter Creek, the BP station in Dallas, the BP station in Wheeler, and Dairyland Café in Ridgeland. Donation containers were available at each location, allowing community members to contribute to the cause. Funds raised through the program will help support

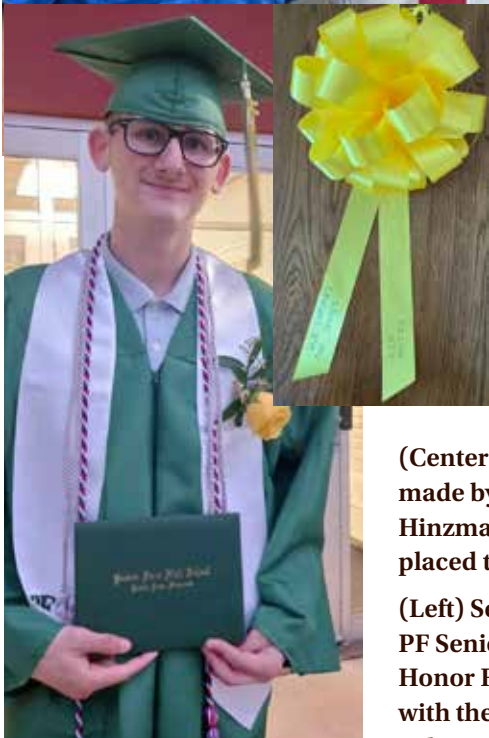
veterans at the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home.

Auxiliary members will also assist with the Farmers Market on June 30 by serving food—this is part of their commitment to community service. Hosted by the Community Improvement Committee, the evening will feature activities and attractions for the entire community. Highlights include the unveiling of the new Wall Dog mural, a display of hand-painted barn quilts created by residents, live music, and a variety of local vendors participating in the market.

“Legion” cont’d. on page 15...



(Above) Willard L. Hinzman, ALA Mary Peterson, presenting Kyla Fowler and Jen Shipley Kraucis an Honor Flag.



(Center) Yellow Ribbons made by the Willard L. Hinzman ALA Unit 511 and placed throughout Ridgeland.

(Left) Senior R.J. Hoffman, PF Senior, recognized with Honor Ropes for enlisting with the Navy. *Photos submitted by Betty Glaser*



Ridgeland Dallas Elementary

By Mackenzie Anderson

As another successful school year comes to a close, students, staff, and families at Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary celebrated a month filled with memorable events, special traditions, and heartfelt goodbyes. The school year officially concluded for students on June 3, marking the end of a year filled with learning, growth, and many memorable experiences.

One of the highlights of May was the annual All-School

Year-End Celebrations

Picnic, organized by the Ridgeland-Dallas Parent Club. Students enjoyed a day of fun and laughter as the Ridgeland-Wilson Fire Department (special thanks to Matt S. for always going above and beyond for our students) provided a giant slip-and-slide that quickly became a favorite attraction. Families and students were treated to delicious donuts from Misty Valley Bakery, while Parent Club volunteers organized games and activities complete with prizes for students. The event was a wonderful opportunity for the school community to come together and celebrate another successful year.

Students also enjoyed a trip to the splash pad in Rice Lake on June 2. The outing was made possible through funds provided by Alfalfa Fest and gave students a chance to cool off, stay active, and spend time with their classmates as the school year came to a close. The beautiful weather and excited smiles made it a perfect way to celebrate the final days of school.

“Year-End” cont’d. on page 2...

From an all school picnic, to visiting with our senior graduates, the end of the school year always boasts many opportunities to celebrate! *Photos submitted by Mackenzie Anderson*



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Birthday

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...**“Year-End” cont’d. from front page**

As the school year wrapped up, Ridgeland-Dallas staff and students took time to recognize and celebrate the fourth-grade class. Although it is never easy to say goodbye, the school community wished these students the very best as they prepare to begin the next chapter of their educational journey at Riverview in Barron. Their time at Ridgeland-Dallas has been filled with learning, growth, and friendships, and they will certainly be missed.

This year also marked the retirement of a beloved educator, Mrs. Carr. After 35 years of service in the Barron Area School District, Mrs. Carr is retiring and beginning a well-deserved new adventure. Throughout her career, including several years at Ridgeland-Dallas, she made a lasting impact on countless students and colleagues. This year, she served as one of the district’s substitute teachers, giving her the unique opportunity

to reconnect with former students across all district buildings. During the staff celebration, Mrs. Carr was presented with a fun garden decoration from the Synergy Cooperative store, something she had admired for years while passing it on her daily commute. The gift was a small token of appreciation for her decades of dedication and service. While she will be greatly missed, everyone is excited for her as she spends more time hiking, traveling, gardening, and making memories with family and friends during retirement.

The Ridgeland-Dallas community also said goodbye to Ms. Holly, who served as both the school cook and librarian. Her kindness, dedication, and care for students helped make Ridgeland-Dallas feel like home for so many children and staff members.

To honor both Mrs. Carr and Ms. Holly, the Ridgeland-Dallas staff gathered for a special lunch outing during the final week of school. It

was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their years of service, share memories, and thank them for the countless ways they have positively impacted the school community.

A favorite end-of-year tradition returned as members of the graduating class from Barron High School visited Ridgeland-Dallas one final time. The graduates walked the halls of their elementary school, sharing smiles, memories, cookies, and milk with students and staff. Younger students presented the graduates with drawings, words of encouragement, and thoughtful advice. Classrooms also hosted question-and-answer sessions, allowing students to learn more about life in high school and beyond from grads. Before leaving, some graduates even took one last turn on the playground, revisiting cherished memories from their elementary school days.

As another school year comes



From an all school picnic, to visiting with our senior graduates, the end of the school year always boasts many opportunities to celebrate! *Photos submitted by Mackenzie Anderson*



to an end, the Ridgeland-Dallas community looks back with gratitude on the experiences, friendships, and accomplishments that made this year special. Staff wishes all students and families a safe, enjoyable summer. Some students will have the opportunity to return in early August for summer school with Mrs. Anderson, while others will enjoy a well-deserved break before the

start of a new school year. No matter where summer takes them, the Ridgeland-Dallas staff looks forward to welcoming students back and creating new memories together next fall.



By Barbara Petersen

ADRC Classes in Dallas

Wits Works started in June. It is a one-hour session on the second Thursday of each month, from 1 to 2 p.m., that works to activate and improve your memory. Wits Works gives you a chance to socialize with other people as well as challenge yourself with puzzles and games. This hour becomes a good workout session for your brain.

These sessions are free, and you can attend the ones that work for you. There is plenty of room to add more people to the class. If you missed the first session, you are certainly able to join us at any time. There is also a printed schedule that you will receive to encourage you (and others) to attend future sessions.

Our next meeting is on July 8th, and the theme is “Happy Birthday, America.” People can just show up at Wits Works since the leader does have extra materials. We can take care of registration later. To sign up, call Trisha Witham at 715-537-6225 and ask to

The Book Report Dallas Public Library

join the group at the Dallas Village Hall. Or you can email her at trisha.witham@co.barron.wi.us

People who wish to attend can also join the group that meets for the ADRC Senior Dining lunch at Dallas Lutheran Church. We enjoy a good meal and have fun there, too!! If interested, please call Darby Smith at the ADRC (715-537-6225) and ask to join the group in Dallas.

Come join us for a fun, lively brain challenge! After challenging your brain, you might want to visit the library!

Summer Reading Activities

The Summer Reading Activities for all ages have started. We have a path of stars that we will use to tally library activities. Each participant—child, teen, or adult —will get a sheet of paper with the path on it. Stars will be 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, coloring contests, recommending materials, playing outdoors with our equipment, and keeping track of reading time are other ways to move along the path of stars. Each participant will have a paper record, which will be kept at the library and updated at each visit.

Our Librarians will help keep track of points for our rewards to be given out at our end-of-summer party on August 29.

Plant Sale

Although we have had more plants in the past, we consider this year’s plant sale a success. We made over \$50, which will be used for books and supplies. Thank you to all who donated plants and also to all who made purchases.

New to Us

June is Dairy Month. We want to commemorate the dairy industry by serving root beer floats on

Tuesday, June 30, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Stop in and get signed up for our Summer Reading program as well as enjoy a root beer float!

Passport Program at the Library

Many of the local libraries are taking part in a Summer Passport program. You will get a passport to take to libraries you visit over the summer. When you stop at a participating library, the librarian will stamp your passport. See how many stamps you can get over the summer!

Library Closed July 4

The Dallas Library will be closed Saturday, July 4, so our Librarians can enjoy 4th of July events with their family and friends over the weekend.

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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS to the Editor

We are Greg and Brooks Whitmore, and our parents, Blaine and Vivian, farmed for several decades in the Dallas area. Our family's farming history in that area dates back to the late 1920's.

We are launching SaveBarronCountyFarms.org to share information about MN8's proposed solar development "Sandhill Solar" in southern Barron County near Cty. Hwy A and State Hwy 25, and to encourage residents to speak up before the project moves further along.

Many county residents may not yet be aware that in March of this year, MN8, a New York City-based renewable energy developer, contacted landowners in a letter stating that it is currently advancing a proposed solar project called "Sandhill Solar," an approximately 900-acre, 100-megawatt solar development.

This is not a small project with a few solar panels placed here or there. It is an industrial-scale energy proposal in an area of productive farmland, family homes, local dairies, creeks, woods, wildlife, and rural roads.

MN8 has not yet filed its formal application with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Once it does, the PSC process begins. For a 100-megawatt project, the approval decision rests with the Public Service Commission in Madison, not with a local township or county board vote.

That makes early public involvement now even more important. Residents should contact their local town officials, county supervisors, state representatives, federal officials, and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission now. Even if the final approval rests with the PSC, local, county, state, and federal officials need to hear clearly from the people who are affected.

We believe in landowner rights. We also believe large land-use decisions should not come at the expense of neighboring homes, productive farmland, local dairies, drainage, property values, wildlife, and the

long-term character of rural communities.

At this point, MN8 is not providing further details in writing regarding the specifics of their proposal, only in person and on Zoom. Affected residents deserve clear written information before this project moves further along, including current project maps, proposed setbacks, visual simulations, road impact details, and long-term protections for farmland, homes, waterways, and surrounding properties.

This issue is bigger than one family or one farm. It raises an important question for all

of Barron County farmland: should productive farmland be converted into industrial-scale energy development, and who gets a meaningful voice before that happens?

We encourage residents to contact township officials, county board members, state and federal representatives, and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

More information is available at SaveBarronCountyFarms.org and on the Save Barron County Farms Facebook page.

Sincerely,
Greg Whitmore

I am a land owner near the proposed 900-acre solar development near Ridgeland/ Dallas and have many concerns regarding health/ environmental hazards and the impacts of the unknown. This is not a small project. Can you imagine looking out of your property and all you see are solar panels? As we all know, this is just the beginning.

Our goal as Americans should be to preserve productive farmland, property values, healthy food production, and the protection of the environment.

This proposed solar project involves 900 acres of productive farmland and

is known as Sandhill Solar (MN8 Energy) in southern Barron County. Project transparency is an issue.

At this point, I'm encouraging everyone to get involved. Residents should contact their local town officials, county supervisors, state representatives, and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC). The final decision will rest with the PSC, so act now. For additional information, contact SaveBarronCountyFarms.org and the Save Barron County Farms Facebook page.

Thank you,
Roxie Knutson

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Issue	Ad Due	Copy Due	Distribution
August	July 24th	July 23rd	July 31st
September	Aug 21st	Aug 20th	Aug 28th
October	Sept 25	Sept 24th	Oct 2nd

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Little Beaver School Memories Live on

By Anitta Anderson

On Saturday, June 6, 2026, former students of Little Beaver School and other interested residents gathered at the Sheridan Town Hall in northern Dunn County to share memories and stories about the historic school.

Little Beaver was a one-room schoolhouse located at the corner of County Highway F and Little Beaver Road, now known as 1300th Avenue. The school operated from 1881 until 1958, when rural schools in the county were closed as part of a consolidation effort. The school was named after nearby Little Beaver Creek.

Before consolidation, students attended high school in Prairie Farm. When Little Beaver School closed in 1958, families were given the option of sending their children to either Prairie Farm or Boyceville to complete their education. At the time of the closure, the school had 23 students in grades 1 through

8. Twelve students chose to attend school in Boyceville, while 11 enrolled in Prairie Farm.

About 40 people attended Saturday's gathering. Participants shared memories of attending the school and recounted stories from the community's past.

Copies of a memory book compiled by Susan Klefstad Lamb and Anitta Reber Anderson were available for purchase during the event. The book will also be available at the Ridgeland Public Library and through the Dunn County

Genealogical Society for those interested in learning more about the history of Little Beaver School.

(Clockwise)- Janelle Schlough Cadman (left) and Anitta Reber Anderson (right).

(Left to right) Angeline Schlough Luckwaldt, Ivan Schlough, and Betty Schlough Hill attended Little Beaver in the early 50's.

Arnold Tjelta and Janet Anderson Tjelta.

(Left to right) Phyllis Schlough, Neil Schlough, and Bud Cadman. Photos submitted by Anitta Anderson

Photos submitted by Anitta Anderson



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The 2026 Barron County Fair is Almost Here!

By DM MICK

Mark your calendars for July 15–19, 2026, because the Barron County Fair is back in Rice Lake, bringing five days packed with family fun, exciting entertainment, agricultural traditions, delicious fair food, and memories that will last a lifetime. Whether you’re a lifelong fairgoer or planning your very first visit, there’s something for every age to enjoy at one of northwest Wisconsin’s favorite summer traditions.

Kick Off the Fun on Tuesday!

The excitement actually begins Tuesday, July 14, and it’s one of the best values of the entire week. Admission to the fairgrounds is FREE, making it the perfect opportunity for families to experience the fair early. Tuesday night also features special carnival ride pricing just for the little ones, with discounted “Tots” rides designed especially for younger children. It’s the perfect chance to introduce your kids or grandkids to the

magic of the midway without the crowds of the weekend. Enjoy the opening ceremonies, delicious fair food, livestock judging, and watch the fairgrounds come alive as another unforgettable fair gets underway.

Brand-New Hands-On Attraction!

One of the most exciting additions to this year’s fair is found inside the petting zoo, where kids won’t just get to meet farm animals—they’ll get the chance to climb inside agriculture itself! New for 2026 is an interactive Combine Cab Simulator, giving children a realistic, hands-on experience operating modern farm equipment. Future farmers can sit behind the controls, explore what it’s like to harvest crops, and learn more about the technology that helps feed the world. This incredible educational exhibit is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Ag Risk Insurance and was expertly welded and constructed by

Tyler Cress. Their partnership has created an experience that blends agriculture, education, and fun in a way kids won’t soon forget. It’s one more reason why the Barron County Fair continues to celebrate the importance of agriculture while creating exciting new experiences for today’s families.

Five Days Packed with Entertainment

Every day offers something different at the Barron County Fair. Livestock shows highlight the hard work and dedication of local youth exhibiting dairy cattle, beef, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, rabbits, and horses. Visitors can watch skilled exhibitors compete while learning about Wisconsin’s rich agricultural heritage.

The midway returns with thrilling carnival rides for every age. From gentle rides for young children to exciting attractions for thrill-seekers, there’s plenty of excitement waiting all week long. Unlimited ride wristbands are available throughout the fair, making it easy to spend the day enjoying your favorite rides.

Throughout the grounds, you’ll also find balloon artists, Nick’s Kids entertainment, hot wheel races, educational exhibits, commercial vendors, and interactive activities for the entire family.

Special Events Every Day

The Barron County Fair schedule is packed with events from morning until night. Wednesday features Junior Small Animal judging, Junior Cat Show, Sheep Show, and evening Harness Racing. Thursday is always a family favorite with Kids Day, featuring FREE admission for youth ages 15 and under until

4:00 p.m. Families can enjoy youth livestock shows, veggie races, cookies and crowns, rabbit judging, pedal pull competition, and evening harness racing. Friday celebrates Senior Day, with horse and dairy competitions, crop judging, goat shows, Little Shepherds, and an exciting evening Demo Derby that promises plenty of action.

Saturday turns up the excitement with horse shows, livestock auctions, Catholic Mass, and the always-popular Truck & Tractor Pull Extravaganza, bringing horsepower and roaring engines to the grandstand.

Sunday wraps up the fair with worship services, the State Fair Day Parade, drill team performances, dairy competitions, horse-drawn wagon rides, free tractor and combine rides for kids, open dairy judging, project releases, and the crowning of the Fairest of the Fair.

Agriculture Comes Alive

The Barron County Fair is proud of its agricultural roots, and visitors will have countless opportunities to learn about farming, livestock, conservation, and food production. Be sure to visit the Ag Adventures Tent, where families can enjoy educational activities throughout the fair. The Education Station inside the Expo Building also provides engaging exhibits that make learning fun for children and adults alike. From baby animals in the petting zoo to the brand-new combine simulator, the fair offers countless ways for visitors to connect with Wisconsin agriculture.

Delicious Fair Food

No fair visit is complete without enjoying all your favorite fair foods.

Whether you’re craving cheese curds, corn dogs, fresh-squeezed lemonade, barbecue, mini donuts, ice cream, roasted corn, funnel cakes, cotton candy, or something new, the fairgrounds are filled with delicious options to satisfy every appetite. Come hungry—you’ll leave happy.

Affordable Family Fun

The Barron County Fair continues to offer one of the best entertainment values of the summer. Adults can choose between daily admission or season passes, while children receive discounted pricing. Kids five and under are admitted free, and Thursday’s Kids Day and Tuesday’s free admission make it even easier for families to enjoy everything the fair has to offer. Seniors receive special admission pricing on Friday before 4:00 p.m., and active-duty military personnel are admitted free with identification.

Make Memories That Last

The Barron County Fair is more than rides and livestock—it’s where generations come together. It’s watching your child ride their very first carnival ride. It’s cheering during the Demo Derby. It’s enjoying an ice cream cone while listening to live entertainment. It’s seeing young exhibitors proudly show the animals they’ve spent months preparing. It’s climbing into a combine cab, petting farm animals, and discovering something new about agriculture. It’s neighbors meeting neighbors, families spending time together, and a community celebrating everything that makes Barron County special.

Whether you come for one evening or spend the entire week, you’ll find laughter, learning, excitement, and traditions around every corner.



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July 5- Worship @ Clear Lake UMC 10 a.m. Potluck to follow
July 12- Ecumenical Service 9:30a.m. @ ULC park

Pastor Vicky Strupp
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Hay River Quilters’ 28th Annual Quilt Show

By Connie Huber

Hay River Quilters are holding their 28th Annual Quilt Show in conjunction with the Prairie Farm Dairy Days celebration. The quilt show will be held on Saturday, July 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Prairie Farm Community Center. Daily admission is \$2.00 with proceeds going to the Prairie Farm/Ridgeland Food Pantry. Our annual raffle proceeds are used for our various community projects, such as a \$250 scholarship to a Prairie

Farm High School graduate, emergency and comfort quilts, and honor quilts to local Veterans. Raffle prizes include: 1st place prize is a queen-size quilt, 2nd place prize is a wall hanging, and 3rd place prize is a table runner. This year’s prizes are from the “Raise the Roof” pattern by Carrie Nelson. The quilts are made with log cabin blocks and sawtooth stars using the “Kansas Troubles” fabric line. Raffle tickets are 6 for \$5.00 or a \$1.00 each, with the drawing held at 3 pm on Sunday.

One of the special features of the quilt show is a Bed Turning Presentation featuring patriotic theme quilts to honor the 250th Anniversary of our Country. We will also be displaying quilts from last year’s challenge projects. One of our challenges was to make small quilts based on children’s books. The quilts and books will be donated to a charity that gives quilts to children in need. The other challenge project was to make quilts from fabrics that were black and white, plus one other color. You are invited to come and view the piecing and quilting talents of our club members and enjoy a cup of coffee and water, plus a cookie or two!



This year’s prizes are from the “Raise the Roof” pattern by Carrie Nelson. Photos submitted by Connie Huber



HOMESTEAD HACKS

By Sam Dodge

It was a rollercoaster Spring here in Hay River land. The ups and downs of temperature and precipitation made doing all the Spring things a bit more of a conundrum, but I think we’ve made it through to Summer with our intentions intact. I won’t wax too self-congratulatory, though... who knows what curveballs and sliders the summer might bring? The meteorologists and climatologists are telling us to brace for a raging El Niño the likes of which modern humans might never have seen. Supercharged weather systems and climate catastrophes would appear to be in the cards for many of us Earth people. I added another rain collection system to the infrastructure; another set of gutters on a metal-roofed outbuilding with a 275-gallon tote as the receptacle. I try to improve

our capacity every year. We’ve seen significant periods of drought almost every recent summer, which is something we don’t remember having had to contend with in past gardens. Good to have plenty of water on hand, or that’s my philosophy anyway. At Wiseacres, we don’t have a functioning crystal ball. The Elements have a way of humbling us, teaching us over and over that the best laid plans can become pipe dreams at a moment’s notice. Life is risky stuff! I’ll consider myself extremely fortunate to have a roof over my head, good water to drink, and a ready supply of food. As to all those best-laid plans, the early drought convinced us to plant a little late. We got most of the garden in by mid-June, a couple of weeks tardy in relation to a “normal” season. Seems

Nature, The Wisest Instructor

Garden fresh strawberries make the moments a touch slower. Photo by Sam Dodge counterintuitive, what with the earlier Spring warm-up, but all the little plants really only started crowding their seed trays after the first week of the month. We “listened” to them. We hope they’re happy little “Nature” cont’d. on page 15...



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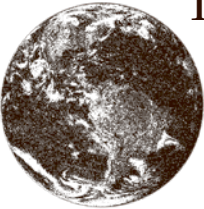
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SUSTAINABLY YOU HOW TO THRIVE



By DKO Pike

Perfect 73 degrees outside with a gentle breeze. No serious mosquitoes yet this season.

Though fireflies here have been giving us a wonderful show around dusk.

A couple of weeks ago, I arrived at the home where I have been managing the front yard for native diversity these past fifteen years. This yard serves as one example, in a vast sea of suburban manicured lawns, to be an island of native habitat.

The plants here nurture endangered pollinators while

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.

Outrage in the Suburbs

encouraging roof runoff to soak into the ground. That water, saved from storm drains, reduces subsequent downstream erosion, instead benefiting three mature white pine trees, along with native flowers and grasses. My landscaping company started this effort about twenty years ago. I took over the management about ten years ago when my client asked me to continue tending the gardens. Despite living in California, she has rented this home since she moved away. Even today, she remains dedicated to its proper care.

Years ago, the beginning of this transformation was helped by a grant from the local watershed district. We first skimmed off the sod, then shaped rain gardens at

the end of two downspouts carrying rainwater from the roof, and sowed the right mix of species to complete the design.

Recently, I was planning to spend an hour digging undesirable seedlings and a few other isolated weed problems. I was shocked to find the site had been mowed tight, to the ground. Even the clippings were all hauled away.

Who could have done this? The previous tenant had moved away. The new tenant had not yet moved in. I knew the former tenant would not have taken such a drastic step, as we had been friends and often talked when I was there working. It could not have been the management company. They were doing work inside, completing minor repairs and painting, and had instructions to communicate to the new tenant that they would have

access to the back yard, but not to do any cleanup to the front yard.

I suspected it was a neighbor. I first visited with a fellow directly across the street. We had interacted several times over the years. He kept a neat lawn with a traditional showy horticultural bed around the foundation of his home. I doubted he would have done this. He said he had only seen the management company and was unaware that the gardens had been mowed. I reported the sad news to my client and sent photos. She was outraged and called the local police, who said they would investigate.

Just this past week, I stopped again to take photos and assess what species were able to recover. Fortunately, we have been getting some rain, which helps revitalize the stressed plants. New shoots were springing forth. A few had buds where the mower missed cutting earlier spring growth.

Coincidentally, the neighbor on the West side was in her front yard mowing. I reluctantly went over and interrupted. I was aware that she didn't like this landscape, as she had always been aloof

whenever I saw her coming and going. Other neighbors out strolling with kids and dogs often stopped to chat, and gushed about how much they loved all the blooming plants and abundance of pollinators they could see just walking past.

I didn't ask her name. I informed her I work for the owner of the rented home and was surprised to find it mowed. Did she know anything about that? After denying she had any awareness of what had happened, she said, "Frankly, I find that landscape disgusting. I'm especially offended by those dead stalks." I had trimmed them away from the edges, but most of last year's growth had been left standing.

Her straight talk offended me, making any response challenging. Plus, I guessed that any attempt to inform her of the values that had been impacted by this mowing would not change her aesthetic appreciation. Thus, I didn't use this opportunity to explain how those standing hollow stems are winter homes for a variety of desirable insects. I just

“Outrage” cont'd. on page 16...

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Aging and Disability Resource Center
of Barron and Rusk Counties



United Lutheran Church

Prairie Farm, WI

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

July 5th & 19th Communion
July 12th Dairy Days Community Worship 9:30am
Music provided by Sam & Shady
Immediately following the worship service there will be aBBQ Luncheon w/Pie & Ice Cream Social
Free will offering

Phone-in: 534-444-4222
YouTube Live: United Lutheran Church Prairie Farm (no longer available to view on Facebook)
Pastor Sara Feld (715) 455-1454
www.ulcprairiefarm.com

Summer’s Flying By— And We’re Having Fun Every Minute!

By Betty Glaser

The Ridgeland Civic Club is busy putting the finishing touches on Family Fun Night and National Night Out activities, which will be held during the Farmers Market on Tuesday, August 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. in Ridgeland Village Park. Club members will be serving hot dogs and brat dinners, offering free face painting, and providing music in the park for all to enjoy.

The Civic Club is once again partnering with our local Fire Department and EMS personnel to make the evening a memorable event for families. National Night Out is an excellent program

that helps the community build relationships with neighbors and create safer neighborhoods. It promises to be a night filled with fun, laughter, and community spirit—a chance for everyone to be a kid again.

Is it too early to start thinking about a float for the Labor Day Parade? Heavens, no! In fact, members begin tossing around ideas for the following year's parade as early as October. Designing and building the float is one of the club's favorite traditions. We will be gathering at John's home to share ideas, enjoy each other's company, and let our creative juices flow.

Speaking of Labor Day, vendor registration is now open for the Farmers Market, which will be held September 5–7. Anyone interested in setting up a booth can stop by Security Bank or contact Betty at bls5524@yahoo.com or 715-529-1451 for more information. Vendors may participate for one day, any combination of two days, or all three days. All vendors are welcome, and four have already signed up. Fees for one day \$15, two days \$30, and all 3 days are \$40.

As summer races by, the Ridgeland Civic Club looks forward to bringing the community together for more fun, fellowship, and small-town traditions. If you would like to join in on any of the activities hosted by the Ridgeland Civic Club, let us know, or feel free to attend one of our meetings. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Ridgeland Area Library.



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School District of Prairie Farm

July 2026

Corey Berghammer, Superintendent • John Casey Fossum, Principal

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

From the Superintendent

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. We are just about halfway through our 3- week summer school program. We have had approximately 70 students participating in our summer learning opportunity. A special thanks to our entire summer school staff for their dedication and hard work to make this a wonderful learning experience for our students.

We are busy with various updates and projects around the district this summer. Our maintenance staff is working on some updates to our high school math and social studies classrooms. We will be installing new lighting, a new ceiling and painting the walls in these learning spaces. Next summer, we will be putting in new flooring. We will also be repainting the walls and updating the speaker systems to these rooms.

We are continuing our project of repainting all of the door frames in the high school wing and the doors and frames in both gyms. We will also be sealcoating and restriping the front parking lot, fitness center parking lot, and the blacktop in front of the bus garage. This will be taking place near the end of July. We will be sharing information concerning the exact dates of this project, as it could affect the availability of the fitness center for a few days.

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

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

Principal’s Report

The district wants to thank all of our students, community, and staff for another great school year! We had a great month of May and end of the 2025-2026 school year with multiple awards banquets, field trips, concerts, graduation, and a trip to state track. Thanks to all the parents and community members for the support during these final events.

Graduation took place at 7:00pm on Friday, May 22nd in the large gym. The ceremony went extremely well and we appreciate all the efforts made by the graduates, families, and staff to hold this important event. Thank you to all who attended this celebration of the class of 2026. We wish the class of 2026 the best of luck as they embark on their new adventures.

The district kicked off its summer school program on June 8th and the session will run through June 25th. There are about 70 students in grades PreK-8 enrolled in the session this summer and students have been participating in a number of enrichment activities.

The strength and conditioning program is currently running Monday - Thursday mornings from 7:30-9:30. Any student in grade 6-12 is welcome to attend.

The FCCLA national qualifiers are gearing up for their national competition in Washington DC in early July. We wish the participants and advisors safe travels and the best of luck at this competition.

The annual activities code meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7th in Clayton at 6:30 p.m. This will be a joint meeting for any Prairie Farm or Clayton student in grades 6-12 interested in participating in athletics or co/curricular activities.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRAIRIE FARM
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
June 15, 2026—6:00 p.m.—IMC
MINUTES UNAPPROVED

- Members present: Nelson, Nedland, Bates, Cadman, Miller, Roemhild
Members absent: Richards
- A) Call to order (subject to Section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes) by President Roemhild at 6:00 p.m.
Mission Statement: The Prairie Farm School District in partnership with family and community provides educational experiences which foster academic excellence, lifelong learning and citizenship.
- B) Pledge of Allegiance
- C) Adopt Agenda
Motion by Cadman to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- D) Minutes of the May 18th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
Motion by Bates to approve the minutes of the May 18th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- E) Reports
- 1) Veteran’s Memorial update
Members of the post came and gave an update on the memorial
- 2) principal’s good news report-Mr. Fossum
- 3) athletic director’s report-Alethea Seeger
- F) Business
- 1) Public comment residents/parents
- 2) Policies-second reading
- a) 5136-Personal Communication Devices
- b) 5411-Third Grade Promotion and Retention: At-Risk Students
- c) 6320-Purchasing
- d) 9215-School Support Organizations
- Motion by Cadman to approve the policies as presented, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
- 3) Policies-first reading
- a) 1240-Evaluation of the District Administrator
- b) 1213-Student Supervision and Welfare
- c) 3213-Student Supervision and Welfare
- d) 4213-Student Supervision and Welfare
- e) 8462-Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect, and Sexual Misconduct
- No action taken.
- 4) 2026-2027 (FY 27) preliminary budget
Motion by Nelson to approve the 2026-2027 (FY 27) preliminary budget, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 5) General liability, auto, property and worker compensation insurance for 2026-2027
Motion by Nelson to approve the general liability, auto, property and worker compensation insurance for 2026-2027, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
- 6) WIAA membership for 2026-2027

- Motion by Nelson to approve the WIAA membership for 2026-2027, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- 7) Lakeland Conference 2026-2027 membership
Motion by Cadman to approve the Lakeland Conference 2026-2027 membership, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 8) Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) membership for 2026-2027
Motion by Bates to approve the Wisconsin Association of School Boards membership for 2026-2027, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- 9) Northlakes Community Clinic Agreement for 2026-2027
Motion by Bates to approve the Northlakes Community Clinic Agreement for 2026-2027, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
- 10) SAGE/AGR report
Motion by Cadman to approve the SAGE/AGR report, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
- 11) Student fees, season passes and food service prices for 2026-2027
Tabled until July.
- 12) Prairie Farm Schools activity, practices and games policy
Motion by Miller that all practices for grades K4-8th need to be done by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during the school year, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- 13) PFC logo
Motion by Cadman to approve the PFC logo as presented, seconded by Nelson. Motion by Nelson.
- 14) PFC Coaches Handbook 2026-2027
Motion by Nelson to approve the PFC Coaches Handbook 2026-2027 as presented, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- 15) PFC Athletic/Activities 6-12 Code Handbook 2026-2027
Motion by Nelson to approve the PFC Athletic/Activities 6-12 Code Handbook 2026-2027, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- 16) Prairie Farm Elementary Student/Parent Handbook 2026-2027
Motion by Miller to approve the Prairie Farm Elementary Student/Parent Handbook 2026-2027, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- 17) Prairie Farm Middle/High School Student/Parent Handbook 2026-2027
Motion by Cadman to approve the Prairie Farm Middle/High School Student/Parent Handbook 2026-2027, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 18) Prairie Farm Elementary Teacher’s Resource Packet 2026-2027
Motion by Nelson to approve the Prairie Farm Elementary Teacher’s Resource

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

- Packet 2026-2027, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
- 19) Prairie Farm Middle/High School’s Resource Packet 2026-2027
Motion by Bates to approve the Prairie Farm Middle/High School’s Resource Packet 2026-2027, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- 20) Payroll check deposit in the amount of \$203,124.00
Motion by Bates to approve the payroll check deposit as presented, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried. Roemhild and Nedland abstained.
- 21) Financial report: AP in the amount of \$144,080.55, direct withdrawals in the amount of \$126,707.24 and PCard withdrawals in the amount of \$38,298.12
Motion by Cadman to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 22) Committee and other reports, information or comments
- a) Superintendent’s report
Mr. Berghammer reported that the installation of the doors with the new system is almost complete The bus garage parking, fitness center parking and front of high/middle school parking lot will be seal coated/striped at the end of July. Update classroom and flooring projects were discussed.
- b) Strategic Plan
- c) PFC co-op committee meeting, Monday, July 13th, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Prairie Farm IMC
- d) Other
Mr. Berghammer reported that Prairie Farm is up to fill a seat on the CESA board.
- 23) Future meetings, Monday, July 13th, 2026, Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 24) Motion and roll call to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c)(f) 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.
- 25) Roll call and return to open session
No closed session.
- 26) Resignations
- a) Scott Mateski, PFC head softball coach effective June 30, 2026
- b) Jessica Norum, High School Social Studies Teacher, co-prom advisor and NHS advisor, effective June 4, 2026 and FCCLA assistant advisor, effective July 12, 2026
- c) Lori Pickard, PFC Middle School Assistant Track Coach, effective May 27, 2026
- d) Jess King, PFC Middle School Assistant Track Coach, effective May 27, 2026
- e) Dan Brown, PFC Middle School Boys Basketball Coach, effective June 4, 2026
Motion by Cadman to approve the resignations as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 27) Contracts
- a) Erin Tomlinson, High School ELA Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year
- b) Brandt Buckley, PFC Softball Head Coach for the 2026-2027 school year
Motion by Bates to approve the contracts as presented, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- 28) Possible action from items in closed session
- G) Adjournment
Motion by Miller to adjourn at 8:41 p.m, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.

Elementary and Middle School Supply List

PK-5 Elementary

Non Skid Tennis Shoes to Keep at School for Phy-Ed

Pre- Kindergarten

1 Change of clothes in Ziploc bag

Regular-Big Kid Sized Backpack

2 Heavy Plastic Two Pocket Folders

4x6 Framed Family Picture

1 – Box Crayons

3 Glue Sticks

Beach Towel

1 – Box Markers (Classic Colors)

1 Box Kleenex

Kindergarten (No names on supplies)

Large Bath Towel for Rest Time

Paint Shirt (old t-shirt works)

Headphones - No Earbuds

1 Box Kleenex

1 – Box Crayons

Crayola Watercolor Paint Set

2 – Wide Lined Notebooks

Change of Clothes in Ziploc Bag

1 Box Markers - Thin Supply Box
9” x 5”

10 – Pencils (not plastic or glitter coated)

3 – Glue Sticks Scissors

1 – Zipper Pencil Pouch to Fit in 3 Ring Binder

3 – Plastic Folders with Metal Prongs (green, yellow & blue)

2 – 1” Three Ring Binder(white)

1 - Box Color Pencils

Large Backpack

Grade 1

4- Pocket Folders

1 - Pkg. Pencil TopErasers

1 – 1” 3 Ring Binder

1 – Box Crayons

1 – Box Markers (Classic Colors)

9x5 Supply Box

3 – Wide Ruled Notebooks (Spiral)

1 – Box of Kleenex

1 -Bar Eraser (Pink Pearl)

3 – Glue Sticks

10 #2 Pencils (not plastic coated)

Backpack

Paint Shirt

1- Highlighter Headphones - No Earbuds

Scissors

Grade 2

1 – Box Crayons 2- Pkgs. #2 Pencils

1 Box Kleenex 4 - Wide Ruled Notebooks (Spiral)

Headphones - No Earbuds

4 Highlighters 1 - 1” Binder

Zippered Pencil Bag (No Pencil Box)

1 - Bar Eraser & 2 Pkg. Tip Erasers

4– Pocket Folders of Different

Colors / Designs

3 – Glue Sticks Scissors Backpack

1 – Box Markers



Grade 3

1 - Wide Ruled Notebook (Spiral)

Scissors

Headphones - No Earbuds

1 – Box Crayons

Zippered Pencil Case

2 – Folders

2” Three Ring Binder

3 – Glue Sticks

1 Box Markers - Wide

1 - Large Box Colored Pencils

1- Package of Tip Erasers

3 Pkg. - Pencils

1 – Box Kleenex

Grade 4

Please No: 3 Ring Binders or Trapper Keepers, Mechanical Pencils or Pens

4 - Wide Ruled Notebooks

2 - Pocket Folders

1 – Box Crayons

Zipper Pencil Case (No Pencil Box)

2 Highlighters

3 – Glue Sticks

1 - Pkg. Pencils with Erasers

Earbuds or Headphones

1 - Box of Colored Pencils

Scissors

Grade 5

6 - Notebooks

Ruler (12 inch - 30 cm)

Calculator

1 - Box Crayons, Markers or

Colored Pencils

1 - Pkg. Pencils

Scissors

9 - Pocket Folders

Earbuds or Headphones

Grade 6, 7, & 8

5 – Single Subject Notebooks

1 – 1” 3 Ring Binder

1 – Composition Notebook for 8th Grade

1 - Box of Colored Pencils

1 - Bar Eraser

1 - Pkg. Pencils

Earbuds

2 - Pens (Blue - Black)

2- Composition Notebook for 6th & 7th Grade

1 - Box Kleenex (Give to Homeroom Teacher)

Calculator 5 - Pocket Folders with Three Hole Punch



Tie dye for the win! The bright colors matched the big smiles. Students chose an inspirational message to iron on their custom shirts too!

Emergency Closing Information

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

What’s Happening

July 7 6:30 p.m. Activity Code Meeting at Clayton

Five Days of Family Fun Await at the 2026 Dunn County Fair

By Brianne McLennan

Summer in western Wisconsin wouldn’t be complete without a trip to the Dunn County Fair, and this year’s celebration promises five unforgettable days of entertainment, agriculture, music, and hometown tradition. From July 22-26, the fairgrounds in Menomonie will once again become the gathering place for families, friends, neighbors, and visitors looking to experience everything that makes a county fair special. With affordable admission, free parking, nationally recognized entertainment, thrilling carnival rides, livestock competitions, and plenty of opportunities to support local youth, the Dunn County Fair continues to be one of the area’s best summer traditions.

Unlike some events that focus on just one attraction, the Dunn County Fair offers something for every member of the family. Whether your perfect fair day includes riding roller coasters, watching livestock shows, cheering during grandstand events, browsing exhibits, enjoying live music, or simply indulging in your favorite fair foods, you’ll find plenty to fill an entire day—or even several.

One of the fair’s greatest strengths is its affordability. Admission is just \$5 per person, children ages six and under are admitted free, and parking is completely free, making it an easy outing for families of every size. Visitors who plan to attend multiple days can also purchase an affordable season pass and enjoy everything the week has to offer without breaking the budget.

Of course, no county fair is complete without a midway, and the Dunn County Fair delivers with Badgerland Midways, bringing approximately 20 rides, games, and classic carnival attractions to Menomonie. From gentle rides for younger children to adrenaline-pumping favorites for thrill seekers, the midway offers excitement from open until close each day. Families looking for the best value will especially appreciate Thursday’s Two-Credit Ride Day, when every ride costs

just two credits, making it one of the most budget-friendly days to enjoy the carnival. Unlimited ride bands are also available throughout the week for guests who simply can’t get enough.

Music lovers have plenty to look forward to this year as the iHeart Media Stage hosts a diverse lineup of entertainment throughout the fair. Wednesday evening kicks things off with Home Grown Tomatoes, bringing a crowd-pleasing mix of classic rock, country, pop, jazz, and dance favorites. Thursday features one of Wisconsin’s own as Chris Kroeze, runner-up from NBC’s The Voice, headlines an evening concert that is sure to draw fans from across the region. Throughout the weekend, additional performances from The Holy Rocka Rollaz, Tucker Baker Band, Uncle Muskrat, Bear Creek Band, and The Memories Gospel and Variety Shows provide live entertainment for nearly every musical taste.

Beyond the music and midway, the Dunn County Fair proudly celebrates the agricultural traditions that have shaped the county for generations. Livestock barns will be bustling with activity as local youth proudly exhibit cattle, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, rabbits, horses, and more after months of hard work and preparation. These exhibits showcase not only quality animals but also the responsibility, leadership,

and dedication developed through 4-H, FFA, and other youth agricultural programs. Visitors can walk through the barns, meet exhibitors, ask questions, and gain a greater appreciation for Wisconsin agriculture firsthand.

Competitive exhibits extend far beyond the livestock barns. The fairgrounds are filled with displays featuring photography, artwork, quilting, baking, woodworking, gardening, crafts, and countless other talents from youth, adults, and senior citizens throughout Dunn County. Every building offers something new to discover, making it easy to spend hours exploring the creativity and craftsmanship of local residents.

Grandstand events add another level of excitement throughout the week. Fans of motorsports can enjoy the popular Red Cedar Speedway events along with crowd favorites like truck and tractor pulls and demolition-style entertainment that have become staples of the Dunn County Fair experience. These events continue to draw enthusiastic crowds year after year and provide plenty of action once the sun begins to set.

Of course, many visitors come to the fair with one goal in mind: the food. The aroma of fresh cheese curds, grilled burgers, barbecue, mini donuts, roasted corn,

funnel cakes, fresh-squeezed lemonade, ice cream, and countless other fair favorites fills the grounds from morning until night. Whether you’re grabbing a quick snack between events or making a meal out of sampling several different vendors, the Dunn County Fair delivers all the classic flavors people look forward to every summer.

The fair also provides an excellent opportunity to support local businesses and organizations. Commercial vendors from throughout the region showcase products, services, home improvement ideas, handcrafted goods, and community resources. Visitors often discover unique gifts, learn about local services, or simply enjoy visiting with the businesses and organizations that help strengthen the community throughout the year.

Perhaps what makes the Dunn County Fair truly special isn’t any single event—it’s the atmosphere. It’s children laughing on carnival rides, grandparents sharing stories while watching livestock shows,

neighbors catching up over lemonade, and families creating traditions that span generations. It’s a place where agriculture, entertainment, education, and community all come together in one welcoming celebration.

For more than 140 years, the Dunn County Fair has remained committed to providing an entertaining and educational event for people of all ages. That mission is evident in every exhibit, every performance, every competition, and every smiling face found throughout the fairgrounds.

Whether you’re planning your first visit or returning to a tradition you’ve enjoyed for decades, make plans now to experience everything the 2026 Dunn County Fair has to offer. Bring your family, invite your friends, come hungry, stay for the music, cheer for the exhibitors, and enjoy five days that celebrate the very best of Dunn County.

The countdown to fair week has begun—and Menomonie is ready to welcome you.

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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.

Summer
Fair Season

By Ann Lee

4-H Members make a difference in our community. In preparation for Memorial Day, members of the Little Elk Creek 4-H Club replaced flags and markers at the graves of veterans at Froens Cemetery. Dunn County 4-H staff are grateful to Nancy Quilling for coordinating the event, Eldon Hilson and Mark Weber for providing a list of veterans, and the Heckendorf family for properly disposing of the old flags at Fleet Farm.

Dunn County 4-H wishes a warm welcome back to Sam Stephens as their Summer Intern. Sam recently graduated from UW-River Falls with a degree in Agricultural Marketing Communications and Agricultural Business. On coming back to Dunn County



(Above) Little Elk Creek 4-H Club Members replacing flags and markers for veterans at Froens Cemetery for Memorial Day. Photo submitted by Ann Lee

(Right) Dunn County 4-H Summer Intern, Sam Stephens. Photo submitted by Ann Lee

4-H, Sam said, "I can't wait to reconnect with all of you and jump back into the work that makes this community so special." She continued, "After the summer, I'll be looking for a full-time role in agriculture and community engagement. When I'm not working, you'll find me baking, fishing, or enjoying the outdoors."

There is still time for 4-H members in grades K-5th grade to sign up for Dunn County's 4-H Summer Project Days held on Fridays in June and July. These fun activities include Fishing Fun on June 12, Splash Science on June 26, Edible Engineering on July 10, and DIY Recycled Paper and Stamps on July 10. Sign up for one or all by going to www.4honline.com.

Jumping right into summer and fair season, there's a new event at the Dunn County Fair this year-the Rabbit Hopping Competition. Rabbit Hopping is an official animal sport where domestic rabbits are led through a



course by their owners and encouraged to jump over small hurdles. Rabbit Show Hopping (Kaninhoppning) started in Sweden in the 1970's. The world record for the highest rabbit jump is 42.1 in. According to Alyssa Casper, the 4-H Leader for the Rabbit Hopping Project, Rabbit Hopping is a great way for the 4-H members to bond with their rabbits. It is a good exercise for the rabbit and a good learning experience for the 4-H'er. She said, "We have a great group of kids who love working with their rabbits."

For a hopping good time, be sure to go to the Small Animal Building on Thursday, July 23, at 9 a.m. to watch Dunn County's new Rabbit Hopping Competition.

Also, new this summer for 4-H members in grades 3-6th is Outdoor Adventure Days at Hoffman Hills State Recreational Area on June 29 and 30 at 4:30 p.m. There will be lots to see and do with 2 days of hiking, exploring



Ella Casper and Shania Casper training their rabbits at the 4-H Rabbit Hopping practice as they prepare them for the Dunn County Fair's Rabbit Hopping Competition. Photo by Zachary Rozmiarek



Pictured is Hattie Brunner encouraging her bunny to jump over a hurdle at the 4-H Rabbit Hopping Practice in preparation for the Dunn County Fair's Rabbit Hopping Competition on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. on July 23. Photo by Zachary Rozmiarek

nature, crafts, games, camp songs, skits, and more! Registration is open at www.4honline.com and will close on June 15.

Dunn County 4-H Summer Softball is starting for its members. The Juniors (8-12 years old) will be playing on Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m., and Seniors (13 years old and up) will be playing on Tuesday nights at 7:30 p.m. Visit our softball page for

the 2026 schedule, consent forms, and more at <https://dunn.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/projects/4-h-softball/>.

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.



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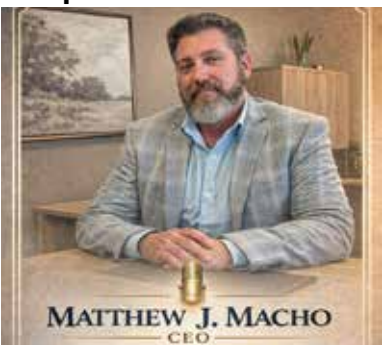
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FIELD & WOODLAND WANDERINGS

By Martha Wright

In the dim light under the trees, I walk into a spiderweb right across my face. As I clean off my glasses, I realize that I have overcome at least some of my fear of spiders. Years ago, a small spider letting itself down from the corner of the windshield in my car had me scrambling into the backseat to get away. Now my first thought is for the poor architect who spent hours crafting what I have wiped away in one brief blunder.

I believe I can date my newfound tolerance of spiders to a time in the recent past when I found a goldenrod crab spider (*Misumena vatia*) on my shirt. Bright yellow and smooth, it looked less threatening than any spider I had noticed before. I paused for a moment to appreciate its beauty before brushing it off onto some vegetation.

After that, I began to notice crab spiders more often, but sometimes they were white. Curious if the yellow and the white were the same species, I looked it up in *Spiders of the Northwoods* by Larry Weber. Goldenrod crab spiders do indeed come in either white or yellow, and they can change color from one to the other, or even to pale green, although it takes days to make the switch. Color-changing helps crab spiders hide and ambush other insects.

Nothing showcases the web-weaving abilities of a few spider species more clearly than an orbweaver's spoked web hung with dew droplets in the early morning. When I see one, I always stop to appreciate the intricacy and symmetry of these creations. Many orbweavers create a retreat for themselves off to the side, where they can wait for prey to get caught in the web, so they are not in evidence when the web is wet with dew or rain.

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.

Tangled Webs

Black and yellow garden spiders (*Argiope aurantia*) are orbweavers that I often see in my garden and in the tall grass around it. They weave a large zigzag down the center of their web and then position themselves right in the middle of it instead of waiting in a retreat. Besides helping to camouflage the spider, the zigzag glows under ultraviolet light, and scientists think this attracts insects.

Another orbweaver is the catfaced spider (*Araneus gemmoides*); I grew up calling it the brown barn spider. Many of them made webs in the windows of the barn where flies and other insects were abundant. The size of these still makes me shiver. Years ago, one spun a large web between the couch and the coffee table in my living room. That had to go! In the barn, they are helpful, but not in my house!

Funnel webs also show up in the early morning dew, spun in the grass near the ground. I can look out through a second-story window and see how plentiful they are. Grass spiders (*Agelenopsis* sp.) are responsible for the funnel webs on the lawn, but the funnel webs I find among the fallen leaves in the woods are more likely the work of the amber-colored medicine spider (*Coras medicinalis*).

Sitting up late one night, reading a mildly scary book, I caught a movement out of the corner of my eye and looked down just in time to see a spider run under the couch. Talk about the stuff of nightmares! A large hairy spider that runs across the floor, or the ground outside, where they belong, is probably a wolf spider (family *Lycosidae*).

Wolf spiders are ground dwellers that pursue their prey. I see them outside at night when their eyes shine in the light from my flashlight. But on a less creepy note, I have seen a mother wolf spider carrying a multitude of baby spiders on her back. They do this to protect their young for a week or two after they hatch.

Spiders are important to the ecosystem as they prey on insects, helping to keep populations in check. They can also become prey. I saw a wasp, once, that I thought was caught in a web, but when I looked closer, I realized it was attacking the spider. Several species of wasps consume spiders or feed them to their young.

While I may never fully overcome my aversion to most spiders, I appreciate them, and the part they play in nature—at least from a distance. And I can tolerate the occasional web across the face in the woods, knowing that it is not there to capture me.



A white crab spider on red clover



A black and yellow garden spider near the house



A funnel web in the woods. *Photos by Martha Wright*

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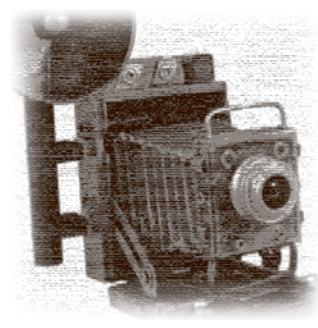
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PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST

By Lon Christopherson

Two hundred and fifty years ago, on July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress of the United States voted in favor of independence from Great Britain’s rule. Two days later, on July 4th, the thirteen American colonies formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, forming a new nation. Of course, England wasn’t having any of that, and the Revolutionary War began. The war lasted until 1781, when the British surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, to General George Washington. July 4th became

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.

a National holiday in the United States, with citizens celebrating with fireworks, picnics, and parades.

Such a celebration was in full force in Ridgeland. Wisconsin on the fourth of July in 1915, when Prairie Farm photographer Harry Buck came to town and captured these images of the day. A band led the parade through the streets of the village, which was lined with folks dressed in their Sunday best. The band was followed by several vehicles decked out in patriotic gear. This year marks America’s 250th birthday, and celebrations will again be the scenes of fireworks, food and fun. Stay safe, everyone, and enjoy the holiday! Happy 250th Birthday, America!

America’s Birthday



A parade entry in 1915.



Not sure what event is happening here, but one spectator is wearing a George Washington wig.



The parade heads East past what was once the home of Lampert Yards.
Photos submitted by Lon Christopherson.

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June 30	Ridgeland Area Library/Community Improvement Committee Serving at Ridgeland Farmers Market, 4- 7 p.m.
June 30	Ridgeland Community Celebration- Walldogs Mural, BBQ Chicken, Music, Barn Quilts all in the Village Park, 4 - 7 p.m.
July 4	Ridgeland Area Library and Dallas Library Closed
July 6	PF Civic Club Monthly Meeting at PF Community Center, 6 p.m.
July 6	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Club with Potluck at Ridgeland Community Center, 12:30 p.m.
July 7	Riverglen Shared Ministries for Ridgeland Methodist Church Serving at Ridgeland Farmers Market, 4 - 7 p.m.
July 9	Dallas Library Wits Worth Activity, 1 p.m.
July 10	PF Dairy Days Tractor Pull - PF Civic Club Serving Hamburgers and Homemade Fries in Food Stand, 6 p.m.
July 11	PF Dairy Days Duck Race at Pioneer Park, 12 p.m.
July 14	Ridgeland Lutheran Church Serving at the Ridgeland Farmers Market 4 - 7 p.m.
July 16	Ridgeland Civic Club Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 6 p.m.
July 20	Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Club with Potluck at Ridgeland Community Center, 12:30 p.m.
July 21	Pine Creek Church Serving at the Ridgeland Farmers Market, 4 - 7 p.m.
July 28	Ridgeland Campground Serving at the Ridgeland Farmers Market, 4 - 7 p.m.
July 30	Ridgeland Historical Committee Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 5:30 p.m.
July 30	Dallas Library serving Root Beer Floats in honor of June Dairy Month, 2:30 - 5 p.m.
August 4	Ridgland Civic Club hosts Family Fun Night at the Farmers Market, 4 - 7 p.m.

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

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REVIEW



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

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

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

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Contact Town Clerks for details	
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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
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Town of Wilson	Denise Schlough 715-949-1938 ddtsschlough@mosaictelcom.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

Parkman School Reunion

Sunday, August 2nd

Tim Hafele is inviting all former students and teachers to his home (the former site of Parkman School), to a reunion on Sunday, August 2nd 2026.

You will be able to walk around the grounds where you once played so many years ago.

Plates, eating utensils, beverages, and coffee will be provided. Just bring a dish to pass.

Dinner will be served around 12:30 p.m.

If you have any interesting, memorable items or memories to share, be sure to start thinking about them, too. Thank you in advance to Tim!

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...“Legion” cont’d. from front

The American Legion Post 511 awarded a \$500 scholarship to senior Kelsea Clark. She attended Chetek High School and is the granddaughter of Auxiliary member Sheri Clark.

Becky Steffe also presented Prairie Farm senior R.J. Hoffman with a military graduation honor cord in recognition of his enlistment in the U.S. Navy.

Both Auxiliary and Legion members recognized local families with Blue Star Service Flags. The blue star on the flag represents a loved one serving in the military, either overseas or stateside. The first banner commemorating military service was flown in 1917 by an Army captain whose two sons were fighting on the front lines. The flag was adopted as an unofficial symbol representing a child in service and later came to honor loved ones of all ages serving their country.

Community members presented with Blue Star Service Flags included:

Kelvin Klefstad, deployed with the Navy, presented to his mother, Tiffany Klefstad, and sisters, Avery and Sadie.

Jarita Roux, deployed with the National Guard, presented



(Right) Willard L. Hinzman, ALA Mary Peterson, presenting Tina Aune with Honor Flag. *Photos submitted by Betty Glaser*

(Above) Willard L. Hinzman, American Legion Commander, Michael Steffe, presenting senior Kelsa Clark with a \$500 scholarship. (Left) Willard L. Hinzman, American Legion Commander, Michael Steffe, presenting senior Kelsa Clark with a \$500 scholarship.



The Auxiliary thanks the community for its continued support of veterans, military families, and patriotic programs throughout the year.

...“Nature” cont’d. from page 6

green truth-tellers. We’ll have a better idea come harvest time.

I think Nature is my wisest instructor. She’s had a few eons to establish Her various curricula. She’s not always even-handed in dishing out the lessons, but I think that’s part of what makes Her an effective teacher. She shows me that there’s nothing hard and fast about life except the occasional swift kick in the pants. She illustrates that I hold no certainty, only opinions; I can only act on my cogitation, whether it be educated guesses or a shot in the dark. To act as though I can be absolutely certain of anything is the quickest way to appear a buffoon.

So I try not to say, “I know it’s going to rain,” or “That person is an idiot.” I try to say “I think” or “I feel”. I do my best to let anyone I’m expressing myself to know that I’m working my way, guessing my way, learning my way through this unpredictable wonderland of living. Sure, it can be scary to approach anything without certainty in our arsenal. But I’m venturing a strong guess that certainty is the biggest pipe dream. I think certainty is probably the most dangerous principle anyone can embrace, for themselves and everyone around them.

So I’ll do my best to approach every new season as an adventure and a lesson. Feels like a good way, especially in

these times when everything feels more uncertain. As I’m writing this, all my rain tanks are full. The little plants in the garden are green and growing. The birds are singing, the frogs are chirruping away in the weeds and trees. The Japanese beetles that devastated a whole lot of things around here last year haven’t consumed a single rosebud that I can tell. I’m eating garden-fresh, delicious strawberries. In this moment, it’s easy to feel snug and smug. But I’m guessing it won’t be long before I’m knocked ass over teakettle again, and I strongly hope that I can put away any certainty that has encroached and be properly humbled (and educated) by the experience.


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REVIEW



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...“Outrage” cont’d. from page 7

said my client had a big investment in the plants and my time taking care of them.

I could have presented her with a long list of reasons why her immaculate lawn was a problem ecologically, versus the natural gardens, now shorn. Those native plants provide critically important food and cover for a variety of insects. Those insects form

the base of the food chain for a wide variety of song birds nesting in nearby shrubs and tree branches.

Even the city park system manages most areas for active play. Lawns are needed for baseball, picnics, a place for people to walk their dogs, and to play with children. Anywhere nearby, it is hard to find the diversity of native species we had restored to her

neighbor’s front yard.

Certainly, there is a vast gulf between those who would rather mow than learn about the values of natives. It requires time and effort to establish a wild garden. Cutting grass is satisfying and leaves a clean, neat, green carpet. More time is required to get to know the desired species and how to weed out the bad. Yet, it has been documented that our health and happiness improve with less mowing and more time spent among the flowers and pollinators.

This example of societal unwillingness to accept diversity illustrates our inability to collaborate with natural landscapes. This need for control prevents learning from the plants. Prevents understanding additional values they can provide people, for both food and medicine, as well as the insects and birds supported naturally, just by allowing them to grow.

April 3, 2026 Following spring cleanup, after trimming dead stalks away from the street, driveway, and entry walk, swept clean; before it was mowed. *Photos by DKO Pike*



July 16, 2021 plants in bloom: black-eyed Susan, purple giant hyssop, and bee balm/’Monarda’. A partial list of pollinators feeding on these species: wavy-lined and southern emerald moth, common eupithecia, silvery checkerspot butterfly, and mining bee; long-horned bees, bumble bees, small resin bees, leaf-cutter bees, silver spotted skipper, great spangled fritillary butterfly; and hermit sphinx moth, snout moths, black sweat bees.



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