

Hay River

REVIEW

Since 1987

FREE Community News



August 2025

A&M Sugarworks Investing in the Future How Sweet it Is

By Tommie Kelley

Nestled between Dallas and Barron is A&M Sugarworks and its sister company, Kripple Kreek. A&M Sugarworks is your one-stop shop for all your maple syrup supplies. They also offer consulting and woods walks to help you get the most use from your property regarding sugar making. Kripple Kreek is their finished product line. They sell quality pancake mixes, 100% pure maple syrup, and other maple products. Andy and Marylin Humphrey, a husband-and-wife team, own and operate both companies, and their young daughter Sawyer is already toddling along in her parents' footsteps.

Andy's parents purchased their farm in 1977, raising their five children on the farm and encouraging experiments and business ideas for each of their offspring. Some of these enterprises included the 3 Bar Tack Shop and Triple H Stables, created when two of Andy's sisters wanted to grow their FFA interest in horses and riding. Andy was no exception to the entrepreneurial spirit when he found some spiles in the junk drawer and asked about them. As it was early spring, Andy's Dad took him out to a small stand of maples and helped him tap his first trees, collect his first sap, and boil down his first syrup right in the house, causing

the wallpaper to peel in the kitchen, forcing them to relocate to a turkey cooker outside the house.

Marylin, originally from California, relocated as a child with her family and rode the same school bus as Andy, driven by Andy's Dad. One spring, while dating Marylin, Andy asked her to join in this magical right of spring, worrying her folks when hauling buckets of sap kept her out until well after dark. Andy and Marylin (the A and M of A&M Sugarworks) purchased the farm from his parents in 2017. They have been growing the business and their operations ever since.

Maplefarmers.com states that "it can take anywhere from 20 to 100 gallons of raw maple sap to make a gallon of syrup."

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The Humphrey family in their newly planted field of trees. They planted 3,500 new trees in two weeks. *Photo by Tommie Kelley*

Prairie Farm Area Veterans Memorial

By Ron Crosby

On June 30, Holum-Waite American Legion Post 259 of Prairie Farm broke ground on a Memorial to honor the veterans of Prairie Farm and the surrounding area. This memorial will be located right in front of the Prairie Farm Schools. Flag poles will be set in the coming weeks, and cement poured, completing the first phase of construction. Through the fall and early winter, Post 259 is accepting applications and orders for Memorial Markers for individual area veterans.

On the webpage www.pfamericanlegion.com, under the Memorial Markers tab, you can find information on how to request an application and an artist's rendition of the proposed memorial. Orders will be taken until the end of November, when a combined order will be submitted to begin engraving individual markers.

The basic requirements for inclusion in the memorial are an honorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States and some family connection to our community, however distant that may be. Individual

markers will be made of American-quarried black granite, 12 x 12 x 2 inches thick.

There will be room for five lines of text with 16 characters each. Blank spaces between text count against the 16-character limit. Typical information included is name, rank, branch of service, years served, and service locations. The price for the

"Memorial" cont'd. on page 3...

Ron Crosby (Left) and Corey Berghammer (Right) stand proudly at the location of the future memorial in front of the Prairie Farm Schools. *Photo submitted by Ron Crosby*



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Andy commented that in a good year, they can average 30 gallons of sap per tap and are currently capturing from approximately 20,000 taps. They made 9,000 gallons of syrup in 2025, sourcing from their own trees, leased stands, and purchased raw sap. Andy also offers site visits to assess syrup potential and assist landowners in setting up any type of sugaring operation.

Andy, Marylin, and Sawyer walked me around their place, highlighting the rich family and regional history. They showed the reverse osmosis (RO) system and shiny metal evaporator, which will allow them to make 55 gallons of finished syrup in under 25 minutes. The ten-stage RO system is an important piece of equipment as it allows them to take raw sap from 2 to 25% sugar in one pass, leaving the final concentrating step to the evaporator, saving time and fuel. They reuse the RO water to clean the sugaring equipment and often have enough residual water to fill the family swimming pool. They store sap in three 9,000-gallon tanks, with a 15,000-gallon permeate tank. Andy and Marylin are also adding onto the kitchen area, so they can do multiple operations simultaneously. They are applying for SQF (Safe Quality Foods) certification, opening possible opportunities with larger accounts like Walmart and Costco. Lastly, Andy showed me around the Bridge Shed, one of their proudest accomplishments. The primary building materials were salvaged from a bridge removed in Northern Barron County, providing shed rafters 3 inches thick and 32 feet long. Using mostly materials reclaimed from other sites, the roof is just about the only aspect not made with recycled materials. This not only saved them money, but it also fed their ingenuity and created a durable structure that fits just right on the farm property.

Andy and Marylin are also thinking about their daughter’s future, and any other children they may have. Andy joked that they started with Sawyer for the “S” in A&M Sugarworks and will see how far into the rest of the word they get as they build out their family. Marylin declined to comment on this idea as a goal, but shared a

brilliant smile and an easy-going shrug. We eventually made it out to a rolling field of newly planted trees in 60-inch tubes. Their 2025 EQIP grant from Barron County NRCS, working with Dave Richter, was a cost-share, with NRCS picking up the trees and tubes, and the landowner covering the cost of planting. Andy rented a tree planter for just over \$100, and with three people working the planter, planted 3,500 new trees in two weeks. Since planting in May, they are seeing less than 5% loss, likely due to consistent rain this year. If this many trees survive, they will need to thin, and may purchase a small tree spade, so they can transplant trees into a second corn field down the hill. Marylin said the new trees include sugar maples, white oak, and burr oak, balancing landowner needs and NRCS diversity objectives.

If you are interested in learning more about sugaring and the uses of maple syrup, their website (ampuremaplesyrup.com) and YouTube channel (Beyond the Drip @ AMSUGARWORKS) can help you learn more as well as get ready for spring and the sugaring season. Andy commented that all you need to make enough syrup for your own pancake breakfast is a spile and bucket, a large pot, and a thermometer. He suggests identifying trees in the fall since the leaves are so distinctive, and to leave the pot lid in the cabinet, since you are trying to boil away the water.

Andy and Marylin also host an Open House and Pancake Breakfast every year on the last Saturday of March. In good sugaring years, Andy will fill customers’ bottles directly from the evaporator at a reduced price. It doesn’t get any sweeter than that!



The evaporator is the final concentrating step that uses heat to produce finished maple syrup. Photo by Tommie Kelley

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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.
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Music in the Park

August 6

August 13

August 27

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Issue	Ad Due	Copy Due	Distribution
September	Aug. 22nd	Aug. 21st	August 29th
October	Sept. 26th	Sept. 25th	October 3rd
November	Oct. 24th	Oct. 23rd	October 31st

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LETTER to the Editor

I am so appreciative of the many greetings I received for my 100th birthday because of the article you graciously ran in an earlier edition of the Hay River Review.
I heard from fellow educators with whom I taught over the years, from friends and neighbors, from the congregation at West Akers Lutheran Church, and most welcome were the greetings from former students I taught at the Ridgeland School.
Some of those classroom experiences were more than 50 years ago!
Thank you to everyone who shared their kind comments and congratulations.
This has been a wonderful community to have lived in and served for now over a century. Continued best wishes to the Hay River Review for bringing that community together.
Sincerely,
Mae Ona Repp

Free Family-Friendly Bike Ride

By David K. Williams
Families looking for a safe bicycle riding opportunity are welcome to join the Menomin Meander on August 9th. The Meander follows the trail, which loops around Menomonie's Lake Menomin, about nine miles in length. The ride is totally free.
The ride begins with a helmet giveaway for kids, sponsored by the New Richmond law firm of Doar Drill and Skow, at 8:30 am, at the Dunn County Fairgrounds. The Meander ride will start at 9 am, with a ride leader to guide the bikers, and a sag wagon to follow in case anyone has mechanical difficulty or tires out. Road guards at the few strategic road crossings will help ensure safe riding.
Most of the route is on a segregated bike trail. Halfway around the loop at Wakanda Park, there will be a food and rest stop adjoining the playground area, which includes restroom facilities. The Menomin Meander is sponsored by the Menomonie Optimist Club, the City of Menomonie, and Culvers, which is providing free custard coupons for all riders.

...“Memorial” cont'd. from front

initial run of markers is \$175.00 each. Future orders will be higher.
Post 259 would like to acknowledge and thank the School District of Prairie Farm and Corey Berghammer, District Administrator, for their enthusiastic assistance with this endeavor.
Sincerest thanks to all who have contributed so far. We continue to take donations at Holum-Waite American Legion Post 259, PO Box 151, Prairie Farm, WI 54762.
Any questions may be directed to Ron Crosby at 715-296-6843

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"Where Old Friends Meet"

Celebrating Community, Tradition, and Togetherness

Ridgeland Fair

By Betty Glaser

This year marks a special milestone as we proudly celebrate the 102nd Anniversary of the Ridgeland Fair— a cherished local tradition that brings together families, friends, and neighbors for a weekend full of fun, festivities, and community spirit!

The celebration officially kicked off with the beloved Ms. Ridgeland Fair Queens Contest, where young women from the area compete not only for the crown, but for the honor of representing the heart and soul of Ridgeland. The contest celebrates poise, personality, and pride in our town's heritage — a perfect way to open our anniversary festivities.

From Friday, August 29, through Labor Day Monday, the Ridgeland Fair comes alive with four full days of fun, tradition, and hometown pride — offering something for every age and every interest.

This annual event is more than just a fair event. It's a community celebration rooted in generations of local tradition. From the earliest planning stages to setting up grounds and running concession stands, the entire fair is a labor of love

supported by volunteers, local organizations, families, and friends. It truly takes a village — and that village spirit is evident in every smiling face, hand-painted sign, and homemade pie.

Whether you're cheering at the demo derby, tapping your toes at the live music stage, admiring the horsepower at the tractor pulls, or watching little ones enjoy their first carnival ride — the Ridgeland Fair captures the essence of small-town America.

The fair's motto, "Where Old Friends Meet," rings true yearly as families reunite, neighbors catch up, and new friendships are formed. This end-of-summer tradition not only celebrates the season, but also serves as a heartfelt kickoff to the school year and a reminder of the strength and spirit of Ridgeland.

So come join us this Labor Day weekend, and experience the sights, sounds, and soul of the Ridgeland Fair — where memories are made, and where old friends (and new ones) always meet.



The Regional National Tractor and Truck Pull will take place Sunday, August 31, at 7 pm. Photo submitted by DM Mick

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Ridgeland

Civic Club Making Plans for Family Fun Night, and More

By Betty Glaser

The Ridgeland Civic Club is deep in the planning stages for one of our favorite annual events—Family Fun Night, which also coincides with National Night Out! One thing we can promise everyone in attendance: there will be something for all ages to enjoy. Come ready to have fun!

National Night Out is a nationwide event that brings together emergency personnel and community members in a relaxed, family-friendly setting. We'll be welcoming EMTs, firefighters, sheriff's deputies, and ambulance crews. Kids will have a blast trying on real

firefighter gear, carrying a hose, and even putting out a (controlled) house fire—oh my! The fire department is planning several interactive activities that are sure to be a hit with children of all ages.

But the fun doesn't stop there! We're currently exploring the addition of a bouncy house, and this year, FREE face painting will be offered for all children. Did I mention snow cones and cotton candy? Yummy!

Now, what about adults? Don't worry, we've got you covered, too! Enjoy delicious picnic food, browse local vendor booths, and bring a lawn chair and your dancing shoes. Sit back and enjoy live

music by John Lynch and Michael Schlenker—Hap and Hawk, proudly sponsored by Wirth Excavating.

So, mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 5, from 4 to 7 pm, and come enjoy a fun-filled night with your friends, neighbors, and local heroes.

But wait, there's more coming your way!

The Ridgeland Fair is just around the corner, and once again, we are hosting the Farmers Market over Labor Day Weekend (Saturday through Monday). Vendors are welcome to register for one, two, or all three days—or any combination! For more information or reserve your spot, email



This is a great opportunity for kids to dress up as first responders and meet our local heroes! *Photo submitted by Betty Glaser*

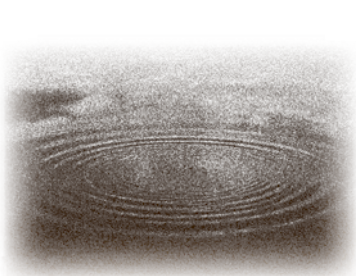
bls5524@yahoo.com or call Betty Glaser at 715-529-1451.

And of course, no Ridgeland Fair would be complete without a parade! Civic Club member, Karen Groepper, is already hard at work brainstorming this year's float theme. While we won't give it all away just yet, here's a little hint: from rocks to muscles

and somewhere in between, you'll find us! Stay tuned for more hints and details in the coming weeks.

We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 6 pm at the Ridgeland Area Library.

Come whenever you can—laughs are guaranteed!



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

By Doreen Olson

This month, I want to talk about the name for this column- The Ripple Effect. It's something beautiful that happens when you do something small—like donating a single item—and it goes on to touch lives in ways you may never see.

Doreen Olson truly understands the founding pillars of a community. Through her work with Mission Restoring Hope, she has taught the joy of serving others and helping those in need in our local communities.

Small Acts of Kindness Make a Big Difference

At Mission Restoring Hope, we see this every day.

When you drop off a box of gently used clothes or an extra set of dishes, it may feel small—but to someone else, it's everything. One item given in love can ripple out to bring comfort, dignity, and hope to someone who's lost so much.

Imagine you wake up one day, and everything you own is gone. A fire, a storm, or a life crisis has taken it all. You're standing in a motel room with nothing but the clothes

on your back. Suddenly, the most basic things—like a fork, a towel, or a clean pair of socks—become priceless.

That's where your donation steps in.

A pair of soft jogging pants you no longer wear becomes the perfect fit for a man recovering from illness who hasn't had a comfortable pair of pants in months.

A set of kitchen utensils you decluttered last spring now helps a woman who just moved into her first

apartment after escaping domestic violence.

A pair of sneakers that sat in your closet too long is now walking miles on the feet of someone who lost everything in a house fire.

That box of children's clothing you almost threw out? It found its way to a family rebuilding after a flood. And those clothes gave a little boy a shirt he proudly wore to his new school.

Sometimes, we distribute these items ourselves. Other times, we pass them on to other trusted organizations or missions when a need arises elsewhere—locally or even across the country. No matter how it's used, your donation is doing something powerful.

It's creating a ripple.

Every act of generosity creates a wave of kindness. You may not see how far it goes—but we do. And we're deeply grateful.

So, if you've donated to Mission Restoring Hope—thank you. And if you're wondering whether that extra towel, those mittens, or that blanket could make a difference—the answer is yes. It already has.

Together, we're not just giving stuff away.

We're restoring hope—one household at a time.

And it all starts with one small ripple.

Want to Be Part of the Ripple?

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CAR SHOW

Alfalfa Fest

Supporting The Community

By DM McLennan

In a town where neighbors look out for one another, Prairie Farm is once again preparing to showcase the spirit of community during its 23rd annual Alfalfa Fest on Aug. 2.

The day-long event at pioneer park is packed with family-friendly activities, food, and fundraising — all aimed at supporting those in need. Since its founding, Alfalfa Fest has raised more than \$500,000 for local residents facing emergencies and hardships.

From morning until night, attendees can enjoy live music, events for all ages, and a wide variety of food. A chicken dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., featuring brats, hot dogs, water, and milk. Burgers will be available throughout the day, and the What’s Your Scoop Ice Cream Truck will be on-site to satisfy sweet cravings.

The festivities also include a silent auction, live auction, and door prize drawings. Raffle tickets, sweatshirts, T-shirts, caps, and can

koozies will be available for purchase, with proceeds going toward the event’s charitable efforts.

Organizers say the annual festival is more than just a good time — it’s a way to strengthen the bonds of a small-town community that prides itself on helping its neighbors.

For those looking to enjoy a day of fun while giving back, Alfalfa Fest is an opportunity not to be missed.



A look at the 2025 t-shirt design. Photo submitted by DM McLennan

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Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club

Dairy Days Re-Cap

By Cindy Miller

The annual Dairy Days celebration, held July 11-13, brought the community together for a weekend filled with tradition, food, and family-friendly events.

Friday night kicked off with a well-attended tractor pull. A large crowd gathered to enjoy the event while community volunteers served up hamburgers, fresh-cut fries, and cheese curds. Saturday’s duck race saw all 500 ducks sold, with winners announced and plenty of smiles captured in event photos. On Sunday, the Grand Parade marched through town, featuring floats including this year’s crowd favorite, “Making a Splash Since 1959.”

Clyde, the growing community garden snake, continues to expand with new colorful additions. Organizers encourage residents to keep adding to Clyde, celebrating creativity and community spirit.

Looking ahead, the August monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Prairie Farm Community Center. The following evening, Tuesday, Aug. 5, the area will host National Night Out from 4 to 7 p.m., with school supply donations available for students in the Prairie Farm, Ridgeland, and Dallas school districts while supplies last.



Nikki Lindemer was our 1st place winner of the duck race!



Having a blast during the parade!



Clyde keeps growing! Help us continue to add color and fun as Cylde grows. Photos submitted by Cindy Miller

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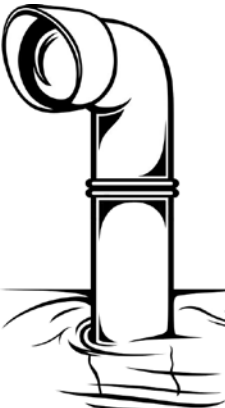
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hayriver-review.com/submit



School District of Prairie Farm

August 2025

Corey Berghammer, Superintendent • John Casey Fossum, Principal

715-455-1861

www.prairiefarm.k12.wi.us

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

Principal’s Report

We hope everyone had a safe 4th of July and has been 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 the Skyzone Trampoline Park where students got to literally bounce off the walls. 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 8th. This serves as the kick off to the start of the 2025 - 2026 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 2025 session of swimming lessons will wrap up on July 17th. 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 has 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 three days a week from 7:00-8:30 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 Orlando, Florida. The students did a phenomenal job and represented Prairie Farm in an outstanding manner. Great job to all in involved in this program!

The 2025-2026 school year will kick off with its annual open house on Wednesday, August 27th. 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 2nd 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
Pre K-12 Principal
School District of Prairie Farm
715-455-1861 ext. 258

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 2025-26 school year with staffing, facilities, and scheduling. We are certainly looking forward to having students and staff back in the building.

Before the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year, the district was able to purchase a used truck for the maintenance department. This department was able to come in under our budgeted amount for the year allowing us to consider a purchase. Rather than transferring the remaining funds into Fund 46 from Fund 10, we decided to use this money on a need for the district. The current plow/ sanding truck we have is in need of some fixes and also it only serves a single purpose to the district. For the district to continue to stick money into a piece of equipment of its age and its limited use, does not make sense. The truck we purchased will allow us to have a versatile piece of equipment that can serve us in variety of ways. A truck has been on the districts long range plan for a number of years, so we are excited that we were able to purchase it. We will be adding a used plow and sander to the truck in the future. The old yellow plow/ sand truck will become available for sale in the coming months.

This fall will also bring some changes to the athletic department. In August we are starting the PFC Cross Country Co-op (prior to this we had a co-op with Turtle Lake) we are also having our first ever PFC girl’s golf team. Prairie Farm- Clayton middle school and volleyball teams will also be starting their season in August. We are excited to be able to provide safe, consistent and appropriate opportunities for our student athletes. We are working on the practice and events transportation plan for this fall for our student athletes and coaches. Final details on the transportation plan will be shared in the coming weeks.

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. Thank you all for your continued support of the Prairie Farm School District. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

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

Summer School Has Been Enjoyable!



Ms. Smith’s summer school class did STEM-based Rubber Duck Challenges and Cardboard Creations.



Our PrairieFarmPanthers celebrated summer school with a super fun field trip!

What’s Happening

- August 13
- 6th Grade Orientation @ 6:00 p.m.
- August 27
- PreK-12 Open House 2:00-6:30 p.m.
- Picture Day 2:00-6:30 p.m.

First day of school for students is September 2, 2025

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRAIRIE FARM
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
July 14th, 2025—6:00 p.m.—IMC
MINUTES

Members Present: Nelson, Bates, Cadman, Miller, Richards, Roemhild
Members Absent: Hansen

- A) Call to order (subject to Section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes) by President Roemhild at 6:00 p.m.
Mission Statement: The Prairie Farm School District in partnership with family and community provides educational experiences which foster academic excellence, lifelong learning and citizenship.
- B) Pledge of Allegiance
- C) Adopt Agenda
Motion by Cadman to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Nelson.
Motion carried.
- D) Minutes of June 16th, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
Motion by Richards to approve the minutes from the June 16th, 2025 Regular Board Meeting, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- E) Reports
- 1) Athletic Director’s Report-Alethea Seeger
 - 2) PCSA-ESEA Audit Report
 - 3) PFC Athletic Co-op
 - 4) 2024-2025 Budget
- F) Business
- 1) Public comment residents/parents
 - 2) Health insurance for 2025-2026
Motion by Richards to continue with United Health Care for health insurance for 2025-2026, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
 - 3) Student board members for 2025-2026 school year
Motion by Miller to approve the student school board members for the 2025-2026 school year, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
 - 4) Student Academic Standards for 2025-2026
Motion by Nelson to approve the Student Academic Standards for 2025-2026, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
 - 5) PFC coaches handbook
Motion by Cadman to approve the PFC coaches handbook as presented, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
 - 6) PFC coaches salary/longevity schedule
Motion by Richards to approve the PFC coaches salary/longevity schedule, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
 - 7) School board goals for 2025-2026
Motion by Nelson to approve the updates to the board goals for 2025-2026, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
 - 8) Payroll check deposit in the amount of \$263,813.93
Motion by Bates to approve the payroll check deposited as presented, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried. Roemhild abstained.
 - 9) Financial report: AP in the amount of \$221,414.68, direct withdrawals in the amount of \$148,237.22 and PCard withdrawals in the amount of \$23,104.89
Motion by Cadman to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
 - 10) Committee and other reports, information or comments
 - a) Community and Engagement Committee update for July 14, 2025
 - b) Strategic Plan information
 - c) Veteran’s Memorial update
 - d) Other information
Mr. Berghammer reported there will be a technology audit on August 18, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. and he informed the board of the student school board expectations.
 - 11) Future meetings, Monday, August 18th, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
 - 12) Motion and roll call to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) of the Wisconsin Statutes, to consider the employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of support staff, supervisors and teaching staff employees under which the Board has jurisdiction.
Motion by Miller to go into closed session at 7:47 p.m., seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
Roll call: Cadman, yes, Nelson yes, Richards yes, Bates yes, Miller yes, Roemhild yes
 - 13) Roll call and return to open session
Motion by Miller to return to open session at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
Roll call: Richards yes, Bates yes, Cadman yes, Nelson yes, Miller yes, Roemhild yes
 - 14) Resignations
 - 15) Contracts
 - a) Emma Regalado, Title I paraprofessional for the 2025-2026 school year
 - b) Candi Hartung, food service employee for the 2025-2026 school year
 - c) Milissa Stanley, food service employee for the 2025-2026 school year
 - d) Rachel Turenne, School Counselor for the 2025-2026 school year
 - e) Kristine Giammattei, First Grade Long Term Sub, for 2025-2026 school year
Motion by Nelson to approve the contracts as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
 - 16) Possible action from items in closed session
No action taken.
 - 17) Adjournment
Motion by Miller to adjourn at 8:21 p.m., seconded by Bates. Motion carried.

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.

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 Top Erasers
- 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 Dif erent Colors / Designs
- 3 – Glue Sticks
- Scissors



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



LESS IS PLENTY

By Darlene Ramos

The times, they are divided.

Particularly so, few would argue. In that vein, “we the people” are often advised to leave our echo chambers and get in the presence of those who think differently. Have conversations and discover we still have a lot in common.

Within my home or in the company of mostly “like minds”, I admit I have found that leaving harmony behind is a hard thing to do. I like my comfort zone! I have never thrived well with discord. Discord makes the heart race in a negative way that pains the heart and soul.

In strange, but sensical ways, we find some differences hard to accept. Even when we know the innate goodness of people, it is tempting to dwell more on the inflammatory wedges, just as we do with a splinter in the flesh.

So I have not been great about seeking out unlike minds. When it comes to general friendliness, I’m all in. But for the deeper relationships I’m something of a shrinking violet.

It’s interesting when fate takes hold, though...

We came to Wisconsin over three decades ago and found “like minds” almost from the start. As well, the opposite. We had good times with good friends and enjoyed passing small talk with almost anyone else that we didn’t become particularly friendly with.

One neighbor I came to know through her father, with whom we went to church with. We were always pleasant with each other, but it just never went deeper than an occasional phone visit or chat when running into each other at the market. We each had positive enough impressions of each other, but perhaps we also honed in on ways we were different from each other, too. We shared some mutual friends, but for the

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.

Binding Ties in Divided Times

most part, went on our merry ways without developing much of a friendship at all.

For some time, I even thought she was annoyed with me. At times (wrapped up in the politics of the day) I posted social media content that I knew we were miles apart on. I may not be all that “social,” but social media does sometimes have its way with me!

Just when I thought I’d gone a bridge too far, she began to phone me regularly. Her beloved husband of five decades was in health crisis and had been for years. Things were looking bleaker, and she was sensing a shift. Time with him was getting more precious, and she needed to prepare for whatever might come next.

It puzzled me because it was evident she had many, many people to reach out to. I was more the one who could go days without seeing or talking to anyone other than my closest circle of family and friends—and a small circle it was at that.

My friend (for soon I would think of her as not just my neighbor anymore) didn’t know it, but I needed her more than she needed me. Something was happening in my own life that seemed unfixable, too. Something equally life-affecting that was consuming my every thought and dragging me down every

single day.

As the days and each new phone call unfolded, we shared more and more with each other. We left politics out of things and focused on lifting each other up. We prayed for each other in the language of our mutual faith beliefs. We laughed and we cried together; we revisited our childhoods and described our family customs and the pleasures of our youth. We talked food and shared recipes. She had this wonderful idea that we should be in each other’s physical presence and create pretty arrangements to beautify our homes at Christmas.

In the book “Lily’s Promise” by Lily Ebert, Ebert describes trying to overcome horrid memories of imprisonment in a concentration camp and the extermination of beloved family members. Much later in life, she and others spearheaded a Holocaust support group, gathering often to share time together.

Amazingly, this group of like minds in some ways could not share deep thoughts without sometimes getting angry at each other. Some believed that those who had fled persecution and were able to avoid round-ups into extermination camps knew nothing compared to others. Some intimated that very young children didn’t know suffering as older ones did, by



A gift from the author’s friend in time of need
Photo by Darlene Ramos

virtue of being “only babies.” Most had differing views related to how long or how hard the world looked the other way.

Politics divide, as it always has. The author concedes some things were never settled, never seen in the same way by those who had lived that history most distinctly. Rather than destroy needed connection, the people agreed they would play card games or take art classes together, instead.

It takes work to leave politics out of things and to focus only on what unifies. In this, we are going to sometimes take risk anyway, when things seem that important. When

fate brings people together in extraordinary circumstances, let no human put asunder. I knew my neighbor for thirty years before she became a real friend, a very present help in time of trouble, and I to her!

I don’t believe we human beings are much in charge of anything. There are practical ways to fulfill obligations and wage duty-bound wars, yes. But whenever needed, move onto the next topic if possible! It may not save the world, but it might save our respective world.

Just maybe, saving one respective world will merge and morph into saving countless more!

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August Birthdays

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Ray R. 5 th	Aaliyah M. 9 th
Mafra Y. 29 th	Sky H. 13 th
	Jorey F. 25 th
	Chrissta 26 th
	Anita F. 28 th

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Local Farmers Open Their Farms



Cultivating the Commons Seeds encourages plants to go to seed so they can carefully collect, dry, and offer locally hardy options for home and market gardeners.



Blackbrook farm encouraged visitors to walk the farm road to visit the greenhouses and see the cattle and chicken coops. *Photos by Tommie Kelley*

By Tommie Kelley

Summer is not only the season of festivals and fairs, but also the best time to visit local farms for tours and on-farm purchases. This year especially, farms are lush with the regular rain benefitting produce and livestock.

On July 12, the Apple River Farm Tour highlighted farms around Amery and River

Falls, including several that have been highlighted in past issues of the Hay River Review. This year's farm tour was sponsored by the Farm Table Foundation, Lakewinds Food Co-op, and the Amery Economic Development Group. The brochure with details and contact information for each farm can be found at appleriverfarmtour.com.



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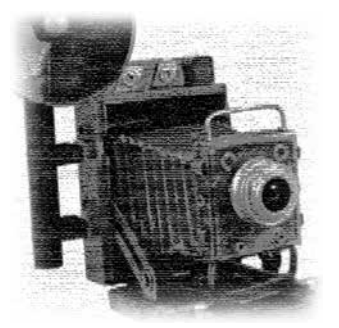


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PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST

By Lon Christopherson

A few miles north of Ridgeland in Barron County, at the junction of Highway 25 and 2 1/2 Avenue, sits an abandoned schoolhouse. This school was officially known as School District #1 Dallas Township, The Francis Scott Key School, but was more commonly referred to by the area residents as the simply the Key School, or the Cole School which was the name of the family who once owned the property.

The official name was in honor of Francis Scott Key, who during the War of 1812 witnessed the twenty-five-hour bombardment of America’s Fort McHenry by the British Navy. Early the next morning, he saw the American flag raised over the fort, and he was inspired to write a poem he called “The Defense of Fort M’Henry”. The poem was later set to music and renamed the “Star Spangled Banner”, which later became America’s national anthem in 1931.

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.

The Francis Scott Key School



The Key School as it looks in 2025. Photo by Lon Christopherson



The seesaw pictured was common playground equipment found at most rural schools. The buggy placed on the school roof was the property of Bertha Anderson. I am guessing it may have been a Halloween prank by some of the older boys attending school there at the time. I’m also guessing Bertha wasn’t too happy! Photo Submitted By Carol Rumpler

The Key School was typical of most rural schools, with one large classroom containing rows of desks for the students of grades one through eight who would receive their formal education there. A bell located on the roof would signal the start of the day, as well as call students in after noon hour and recess.

The many tall windows of the school provided lots of natural lighting, and the tall chimney was connected to the furnace that provided the building’s heat in the cold winter months. It was one of the teacher’s duties to arrive

early and get the fire going so the schoolroom was warm by the time the students arrived. The Key school was closed when school consolidation occurred in the mid-1950s, with students becoming part of the Barron Area School District. The black and white photo provided by Carol Rumpler looks at the school in 1950 as it was nearing the end of its service to the community.

Some area students who attended the school over the years were from the Lentz, Vergin, Cole, Thompson, Keller, and Anderson families, as well as many others.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
-Hillsdale, Wisconsin-

Sundays

Sunday School: 9:45am
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Kids 4 Truth and Teen Group: 5:30pm during school year
Evening Service: 7:00pm

Wednesdays

Wednesday Evening
Prayer Meeting: 7:00pm

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PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF WISCONSIN TOWN OF WILSON, DUNN COUNTY

Notice is hereby given per Statute.60.12(3) that a Special Town Meeting of the Town of Wilson, Dunn County, will be held at the Town Hall location E5506 1370th Ave, Ridgeland on August 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Purpose of this meeting is to vote on whether to purchase and relocate the town hall to the insurance building at 120 Main Street E in the Village of Ridgeland.

Dated this 30th day of July, 2025
Denise Schlough, Town Clerk



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CWD, WDNR #561
Jeff Haughian,
CWD, WDNR #6562

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at the Ridgeland Farmer’s Market
AUGUST 19TH, 4–7 PM

1/4 chicken, corn on the cob,
baked beans, dessert, and water.
Hot dogs are also available.
Supper is free will donation.



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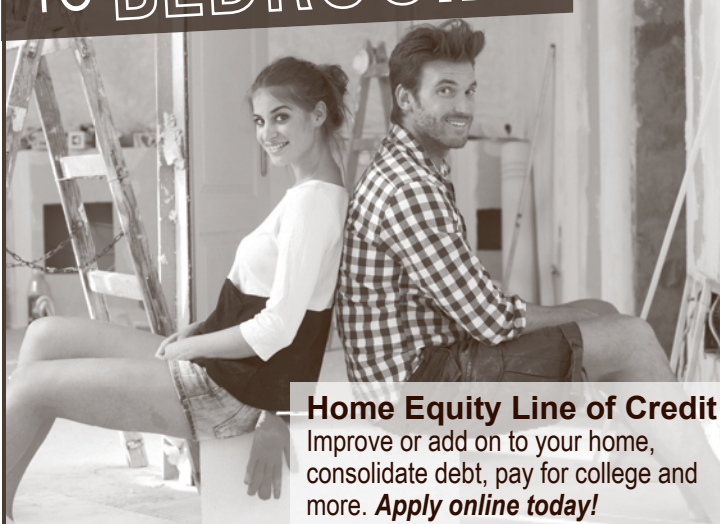
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By Barbara Petersen

“Breakout: the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, Korea, 1950”

Given in memory of Larry Reichert is the book, “Breakout”. The book tells how three regiments of the 1st Marine Division were “strung out” over 80 miles of mountain road under Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s order. The 12,000 Marines found themselves surrounded by 60,000 Chinese soldiers. Although they were given up for lost, the Division fought their way out of the frozen mountains, while being constantly attacked by the Chinese.

Author Martin Russ tells of the courage of the men who

The Book Report

Dallas Public Library

faced sudden death as they tried to get back to American lines. All the while these men were struggling, they took the dead and wounded with them. This book will make a time during the Korean War come alive for you.

You will find “Breakout: the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, Korea, 1950” by Martin Russ on our non-fiction shelves—number 951.9.

What’s New at the Library

We have recently been cataloging many nonfiction books. We use the Dewey Decimal system, so numbers range from 000 to 900, with many categories in between.

Some of the recent books include: “Between Two Worlds: My Life and Captivity

in Iran”, “The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven”, “Rocks and Minerals”, “Spontaneous Healing”, “Cooking Light Soups and Stews”, “Mexican Fiesta!”, “Ultimate Book of Historic Barns”, “Miniature Quilts”, “Quick Method Quilts”, “Life Among the Lutherans” (Garrison Keillor), “Operator—Firing the Shots that Killed Osama Bin Laden”.

You will notice a wide variety of topics in many areas. It is easy to overlook true stories, which almost read like fiction, because these are in the non-fiction collection. When you visit us next, maybe see what we offer that is separate from our fiction books.

School Supplies

As in the past, we will have a box set out in the hallway for people to bring in school supplies. At the beginning of September, the supplies will be taken to Ridgeland Dallas Elementary School in

Ridgeland. Please contribute crayons, colored pencils, notebooks, etc.

Summer Fun for All at the Library

Summer Fun at the Dallas Library has kept our librarians busy helping the children with their projects.

For August, we plan to have the special activities listed below from 2:30 to 5:30 pm.

August 5—Coloring (crayons, colored pencils, markers, etc.)

August 12—Games Inside and Outside (Board, Card, Scavenger Hunt, Teams, Relays)

August 19—Perler Bead Projects

August 26—End of Summer Celebration

You will notice that these activities may also appeal to adults. Our Summer Fun events aren’t just for children. Adults are very welcome, too!

At each event, we also have puzzles, word games, coloring sheets, and other activities available. Young and old can come at any time to work on a

project, although it is helpful to be earlier rather than later. If a project doesn’t get done, it may be finished the next time the Library is open. We also plan to host movies/ videos on Saturday mornings.

We plan to create a nice diversion from the long hours of some summer days. Please watch our Facebook pages for more information. August events will be listed in the August Hay River Review.

Stay Connected

Library hours:
Tuesday and Thursday- 2 to 6 pm
Saturday- 9 am 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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also uploaded after worship is finished

The Future of Freedom

By DM McLennan

Kelvin Klefstad, a Ridgeland native, has recently been showcased in American Connections Media Outreach. A Prairie Farm graduate, Kelvin has gone on to serve in the United States Navy and is currently in his first phase of training. Once his training is complete, Kelvin will be serving aboard or in support of one of the Navy’s three types of submarines: fast-attack submarines, ballistic-missile submarines, or guided-missile submarines. Thank you for your service, Kelvin, and best of luck to you and your endeavors!



Kelvin Klefstad (Right) is pictured receiving the Motor Machinist Mate Dewey Dalwitz Award. Photo submitted by Tiffany Kelfstad.

Hay River

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The following cemetery plots at West Akers Cemetery are considered abandoned by the Wisconsin statutes. If ownership is not established within 60 days of this publication, they will be returned to West Akers Cemetery. If there are any questions, call Dennis Karlstad at 715-643-2534.

Ida and Christian Swenby R.R. 3 Boyceville. Died 1955. Plot 4

Herman, Hilda, and Tobias Peterson. Died in 1917, 1918, and 1941. R.R. 2 Prairie Farm. Plot 6

John, Claud, and Torgine Forseth died in 1913, 1928, and 1946. R.R. 2 Prairie Farm. Plot 8

Clara Hovda Died in 1942. RR1 Clear Lake. Plot 11

Gina and Simon Waalen. Died in 1919 and 1935. R.R. 2 Prairie Farm. Plot 11.

Oden Gravermoen R.R. 2 Plot 16 Prairie Farm. No markers or additional information

Ole and Carl Gravermoen Died in 1922 and 1913. Plot 19. R.R. 2 Prairie Farm

Ingeborg and Ole Gunnes Died in 1936 and 1948. Plot 20. R.R. 2 Prairie Farm

Ed Gordon. R.R. 2 Prairie Farm. Plot 08.

Olof Torgeson. R.R. 2 Prairie Farm. Plot 23.

Carl, Emial, and Oline Christianson. Died in 1886, 1921, and 1920. R.R. 1 Clear Lake. Plot 33.

Oden Gravermoen Plot 35. R.R 2 Prairie Farm.

No further information J. Hendrickson Plot 40. No further information

Anton and Bertha Olson died in 1964 and 1954. R.R. 1 Prairie Farm. Plot 93

Inga and Ole Korsbon Died in 1972 and 1961. R.R. 2 Prairie Farm. Plot 128

Andrew and Helga Erickson. Died in 1922 and 1941. R.R. 2 Prairie Farm. Out lot 2

Ed Arnson Out lot 8. No further information



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715-641-1254 or 715-455-8061

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

- Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29AA Meeting- 6 to 7 pm at the Fire Hall in Clayton. For more info, call Dave C. at 715-948-4235
- Aug. 2Alfalfa Fest- 10 am to 6 pm at Pioneer Park
- Aug. 4Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Party- 12:30 pm at the Ridgeland Community Center with potluck lunch
- Aug. 4Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club meeting- 6 pm at P.F. Community Center
- Aug. 5Summer Fun at the Dallas Library: Coloring- 2:30 to 5:30 pm
- Aug. 5Ridgeland Farmers Market from 4 to 7 pm at Ridgeland Park. Family Fun Night/National Night Out EMS. Food served by the Ridgeland Civic Club. School supply donations to the Prairie Farm/Dallas/Ridgeland school districts.
- Aug. 5John Lynch band playing at Ridgeland Farmers Market- 5:30 to 7 pm
- Aug. 7Ridgeland Area Library Board Meeting- 6 pm. at Library
- Aug. 12Summer Fun at the Dallas Library: Indoor and Outdoor Games- 2:30 to 5:30 pm
- Aug. 12Ridgeland Farmers Market from 4 to 7 pm at Ridgeland Park. Food served by the Dallas Ambulance
- Aug. 18William L. Hinzman American Legion Post 511 and Auxiliary Unit 511 Meeting- 6 pm at the Ridgeland Community Center
- Aug. 18Ridgeland Senior Citizens 500 Card Party- 12:30 pm at the Ridgeland Community Center with potluck lunch
- Aug. 19Summer Fun at the Dallas Library: Perler Bead Projects - 2:30 to 5:30 pm
- Aug. 19William L. Hinzman American Legion Post 511 Flag Retirement Ceremony- 5:30 pm at Ridgeland Farmers Market
- Aug. 19Ridgeland Farmers Market from 4 to 7 pm at Ridgeland Park. Food served by the Ridgeland-Wilson Fire Department
- Aug. 20Prairie Farm Sportsman’s Club monthly meeting- 6 pm at Buckhorn Bar
- Aug. 26Summer Fun at the Dallas Library: End of Summer Celebration- 2:30 to 5:30 pm
- Aug. 26Dallas Library Board meeting- 6 pm at the Library
- Aug. 28Ridgeland Historical Meeting- 5:30 pm at the Ridgeland Library
- Aug. 29Ridgeland Demo Derby- 8 pm at Edlon Luer Field
- Aug. 30Dallas Library closed for Labor Day Weekend
- Aug. 30Fun Run and Walk- 8 am Ridgeland Community Center
- Aug. 30Tractor Ride- 8:30 am at Synergy Co-op in Ridgeland
- Aug. 30Car show 10 am to 2 pm at Corey’s Repair Lot
- Aug. 30- Sept. 1Ridgeland Farmers Market Arts and Crafts- 10 am to 5 pm in the Ridgeland Community Center Parking Lot
- Aug. 30Bean Bag Tournament- 11 am under the Tent in the Ridgeland Park
- Aug. 30Ridgeland Street Dance- 8 pm under the tent in the Ridgeland Park
- Aug. 31Ecumenical Church Services- 10 am under the tent in the Ridgeland Park
- Aug. 31State Sanctioned Pedal Pull- 11 am under the tent in the Ridgeland Park
- Aug. 31NTPA Regional Truck & Tractor Pull- 7 pm at Eldon Luer Field
- Sept. 1Midwest Horse Pullers Associated Pulling Contest- 9 am at Eldon Luer Field
- Sept. 1Ridgeland Grand Parade- 1 pm
- Sept. 1Music Under the Tent by Karjackers DJ- 3 pm in the Ridgeland Park

Put your event on the Community Bulletin Board by contacting Alicia Krusey at akrusey@dairystatebank.com or 715-234-9181 ext. 144.

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TOWNSHIP & VILLAGE MEETINGS

Contact Town Clerks for details

Township/Village	Clerk/contact info.
Town of Arland	Pam Fall 715-455-1074 pamela.fall@thrivent.com
Town of Dallas	Karolyn Bartlett 715-837-1039 townshipofdallas@yahoo.com
Town of New Haven	Katie Bovee 715-643-3703 clerk@townofnewhavenwi.com
Town of Prairie Farm	Vicki Buck 715-495-2798 buckdv@chibardun.net
Town of Sand Creek	Pam Meinen 715-205-3511 sctown@chibardun.net
Town of Sheridan	Joe Boesl 715-205-6193 clerkofsheridan@gmail.com
Town of Vance Creek	Glennis Lynch 715-357-1432 vcclerk04@gmail.com
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 villagepf@chibardun.net
Village of Ridgeland	Kristin Huset 715-949-2265 bkhuset@chibardun.net



FIELD & WOODLAND WANDERINGS

By Martha Wright

My weekend began to resemble the children’s book “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie” by Laura Numeroff. In the picture book, a boy offers a cookie to his pet mouse, and the mouse then wants a glass of milk to go with it, after which he needs a napkin for his milk moustache, and so on. Each thing leads to something additional until they have come full circle back to the cookie.

If you give a naturalist a moth field study, she will decide she should add a tour of a butterfly farm, and if she is going to tour a butterfly farm, she might as well attend a pollinator class. After getting done with all of that at midnight, she will decide

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.

Butterflies and Moths

to camp instead of driving home so late. After camping overnight, why go home right away in the morning when she could do some hiking?

The sign on the door of the butterfly house says, “Please check your hair and clothes for butterflies before leaving.” Inside, there are plants that butterflies love, like common milkweed and butterfly weed, potted in large tubs around the room, with vines climbing the end wall. Butterflies are everywhere. Most of them are monarchs, but I see others called mourning cloaks and question marks. Located just outside Alpha, Wisconsin, near Grantsburg, the farm is called Designed for Discovery.

During the summer months, the hoop house where the butterflies grow is open to the public. In front of the room, there is a feeding station with swabs that can be dipped in sugar water to feed the butterflies, and there are benches beside a fountain in the center where

water trickles from the ceiling onto rocks below. Part of the business of the farm is selling butterflies for release at events, like weddings or funerals. It is a great alternative to helium balloons that often have unfortunate consequences in the natural world.

The moth field study, which is hosted by Crex Meadows State Wildlife Area, just north of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, starts at 9 pm. This is the pinnacle of my weekend. Lauren Thomas, a Wisconsin DNR educator, starts with a short classroom session to show us slides of moths she is hoping we will get to see. Along with being a great activity to get the public familiar with moths, it also helps the Department of Natural Resources conduct a census of native moth species in the area.

Next, we move outside, behind the nature center, where a sheet is already hung with lights trained on it. The dusk deepens, and insects and moths begin to collect on the sheet. There are around twenty people in the class, and some of those who step forward to take pictures have moths (and mosquitoes) landing on clothing and hair, as well as the sheet. The first moth that lands on one attendee is a banded tussock (Halysidota tessellaris), tan with bark-like markings on its wings and blue and yellow stripes on its head.

As people consult the various field guides placed on a table nearby, names are flying



A monarch butterfly in the butterfly house



Banded tussock moth. Photos by Martha Wright

around, like slug moth, sulphur moth, geometer, leaffolder, tiger, lacewing. When I approach the sheet, a small white moth comes out of the dark and lands on my boot. Many moths are closely similar and challenging to identify, but someone suggests it could be a miller moth (Acronicta sp.). They are also called Owlet moths, and looking at its face, I see a distinct resemblance to an owl.

Several moths land on the ground instead of the sheet,

and an azalea sphinx moth (Darapsa choerilus) is in danger of being stepped on, until one of my classmates picks it up. After being rescued, the large moth hangs around on her shirt for several minutes, while we all take photos. I am surprised when a black and white moth flutters in to land on the sheet close to my head. It is a virgin tiger moth (Apantesis virguncula). This moth is in the family that starts life as woolly bear caterpillars.

When I finally crawl into my sleeping bag at a campsite in Governor Knowles State Forest near the St. Croix River, my brain is buzzing with moth names, and I can still see insects on a white sheet when I close my eyes. It was a satisfying introduction to several moths I had not seen before. Crex Meadows is hosting a pollinator hike in the morning, and the Sandrock Cliff Trail in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is another path I would like to hike. I decide to choose one in the morning, and I fall asleep listening to a light rain.



St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Service at Ridgeland Park
August 17 at 10:30am
Regular Worship at 8am
Phone in for service
(534) 444-4150

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Pastor Roger Quandt (715) 949-1650



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- Tour the Park on a Hayride
- Enjoy the Playground at the Park

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Proceeds are donated to Home Health & Hospice at Mayo, Lakeview, and St. Croix, and for the educational needs of students in Prairie Farm, Ridgeland/Dallas, Clayton, Clear Lake and Boyceville.

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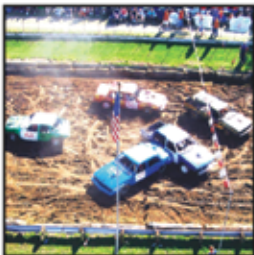
COMMUNITY FAIR

Aug. 29, 30, 31, Sept. 1, 2025

FRIDAY • AUG. 29

DEMO DERBY

8:00 p.m. -
Eldon Luer Field
For more information
call 507-421-1521
ADMISSION:
Adults \$15.00;
Children 12 & under
\$5.00



SATURDAY • AUG. 30

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.
Vending in designated areas only. Call 715-529-1451.

Car Show

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Corey's Repair lot.
Don Link: 715-949-1814

Street Dance

CONTRADICTION
8:00 p.m. - Midnight

SUNDAY • AUG. 31

Ecumenical Church Services

10:00 a.m. - Under the tent - Bring your own lawn chairs.

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

7:00 p.m.
Super Farm • Diesel Trucks
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Mini Rods • Limited Pro Stock
Limited Light Super Stock



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MONDAY • SEPT. 1

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 608-347-3225 for information.

Music Under the Tent

3:00 p.m. - Karjacks DJ



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



~ SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 ~

QUEEN PAGEANT

6:00 p.m. - at Community Center. For information call 715-308-4082.



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