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HayRiver

REVIEW

June 2026



(Top) Maygen & The Birdwatcher set to perform August 1.
(Bottom) Pert Near Sandstone was welcomed this season with a sold-out show on September 12.
Photos submitted by Katy Tessman

Everwood Farmstead Embraces The Season

By Katy Tessman

Everwood Farmstead Foundation opens its 14th season on Saturday, June 6, with an intimate barn performance by acclaimed songwriter and guitarist Courtney Hartman, joined by S. Carey and Ben Lester.

A Wisconsin-based, Colorado-born artist, Hartman has spent the past 15 years building a singular career across the bluegrass, folk, and indie music worlds. First gaining national recognition through her work with Della Mae, including a 2014 Grammy nomination, Hartman has become known for her intricate guitar work, deeply collaborative spirit,

and emotionally resonant songwriting.

Hartman’s newest album, “With You,” grew directly from her time at Everwood Farmstead during a writing retreat residency. While on the property, Hartman felt compelled to set aside the songs she had been finishing and instead begin writing about the transformative experience of becoming a mother. The project evolved into a collaborative album co-written with mothers working across the music industry, exploring care, creativity, and the quiet labor of staying alongside one another through life’s most demanding seasons. Humans

call this “community.” A surprisingly durable concept considering the internet exists.

“The property invites reflection in a way that changes people creatively,” said Everwood co-founder Bill Underwood. “Courtney’s new work is deeply connected to the experience she had while writing here, which makes this performance feel especially meaningful.”

Set on a 57-acre former dairy farm in Glenwood City, Wisconsin, Everwood Farmstead Foundation hosts performances, artist residencies, and workshops that connect art, nature, and

“Everwood” cont’d. on page 15...

June Dairy Month is Back!

By Donnette Mickelson

Wisconsin’s June Dairy Month began in 1937 as a way to help distribute excess milk and was officially proclaimed by the state in 1940. Today, this celebration honors all dairy products and the long tradition of the dairy industry in Wisconsin with events hosted in counties across the state.

Local readers are fortunate to have two dairy celebrations nearby. The Barron County Dairy Breakfast is being held at the Nelson Family Dairy Farm located at 903 7 1/2 Avenue, Barron, on Saturday, June 6th, from 6 to 11 a.m. It is a free will offering. Come enjoy a full breakfast on this

multigenerational farm and learn more about our rural neighbors.

The Dunn County Dairy Brunch will be held at Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, 3001 Country Road B, Menomonie, on Saturday, June 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visitors can enjoy grilled cheese sandwiches, ice cream, other dairy products, farm animals, and more. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

The dairy industry is significant in Wisconsin, contributing an economic impact of \$52.8 billion annually to the state economy. Wisconsin also leads the nation in cheese

production. Mozzarella is the champion of cheeses, with Americans eating 12.5 pounds every year, but that is only the start. Wisconsin

“Dairy” cont’d. on page 2...



(Above) Grilled cheese sandwiches remain a favorite at the Dunn County brunch. (Left) Cheese makers continue to experiment with different blends of seasoning combining traditional practices with unique flavors of other regions. *Photos submitted by Anna Dalka.*

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By Barbara Petersen

ADRC Classes in Dallas

A good brain workout is the Wits Works class, which is starting in June. What can you do to improve your brain?

We will offer a one-hour class on the second Thursday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m. 1. It is a chance to socialize with other people. Participants will enjoy challenging themselves with puzzles and games, giving their brains a good workout.

These sessions are free, and you can attend the sessions that work for you.

To sign up, call Trisha Witham at 715-537-6225 and ask to join the group at the Dallas Village Hall. Or you can email her at trisha.witham@co.barron.wi.us

The Boost Your Brain and Memory Class, which was planned to start in May, has been postponed until this fall.

Summer Reading Activities

We are busy planning Summer Reading Activities for children and adults. All

...“Dairy” cont'd. from front page

cheese makers actually produce 600 varieties, styles, and types of cheese, ranging from Beerkaese, similar to Limberger with a highly pungent but smooth creamy taste, to Juustoleipa, a squeaky cheese when served warm resembles bread.

Wisconsin is also the only state where cheesemakers can earn the title of Licensed Wisconsin Master Cheesemaker. To qualify, a cheesemaker must have at least ten years of experience with at least three years with the specific type of cheese you wish to earn a master certification. The program then requires three years of additional study with classes in cheese technology and water management, as well as an apprenticeship with cheese samples submitted and a final written exam.

Cheese makers are looking to the future by experimenting with spicy, ethnic flavors and marketing dairy products with higher protein, probiotics, and fiber.

The Book Report Dallas Public Library

will be welcome. Our program will go from June 4 through August 29. Registration will begin June 4.

We have a path of stars that we will use to tally library goals. Each participant 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.

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

Plant Sale

We were busy getting ready for our plant sale before the Memorial Day weekend. We will have more in our next issue of the Hay River Review

about our sale. Thank you in advance to all who donated or purchased plants.

New to Us

The village has placed a picnic table out in the play area. Now parents can sit in better comfort while watching their children.

If you choose to have a picnic, it is a nice spot. Just remember to throw any garbage in the trash can by the Village Hall / Library door.

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)



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship 8:00 A.M.
Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
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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.

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Hosted By The Rice Lake Area Men’s Club

Free Fishing Derby

Submitted by The Rice Lake Men’s Club

Nearly 500 youngsters ages 12 and under were registered for last year’s Rice Lake Area Men’s Club Free Fishing Derby. Club members are hoping for at least that many at this year’s event, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday, June 6, 2026, at Veterans’ Memorial Park and along the shore of Rice Lake.

A kickoff event for the Rice Lake Aquafest, the Derby is one of two public events hosted by the Club each year. The other is a wine and beer tasting fundraiser held in October. Kids who catch fish will be awarded coupons for treats and food by Club members who will be stationed along the shoreline. All registered children are eligible for prizes to be drawn at noon, including bicycles and helmets, scooters, and fishing poles.

But it’s not just the fish that will be waiting for the kids. There are plenty more activities on hand, and

refreshments too. Men’s Club members will serve hot dogs, chips, root beer, and water, each priced at 25 cents. Rice Lake Public Library will kick off its summer reading program with a bounce house, crafting, sweet treats, and a free book for every child who signs up.

Scouting America plans to set up an inflatable archery range, which will let kids test their skills with soft-tipped arrows. Young anglers are also invited to compete in a club-sponsored casting contest. Making memories for kids and their families is what the Fishing Derby is all about, according to longtime club members.

Dave Hildebrand said he’s watched many single parents – especially moms – bring their kids to fish. Dick Ballou said he gets a kick out of “just watching kid after kid run up to proudly show their catch and receive their prize.” And Tom Hover said that, except for live music concerts, the Derby is the best-attended Aquafest event.



Nearly 500 youngsters ages 12 and under were registered for last year’s Rice Lake Area Men’s Club Free Fishing Derby. Photo submitted by The Rice Lake Men’s Club.

The Men’s Club is an independent organization formed in 1984 from what had been two groups, an Optimist Club and an Exchange Club. It is dedicated to serving youth, primarily in the communities of Rice Lake, Birchwood, Cameron, and Chetek.

The Club meets at 7 a.m. each Tuesday at Stevie’s Restaurant, Rice Lake. Dues are \$30 annually. For information, visit <https://ricelakemensclub.com> or the club Facebook page.

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Ridgeland Dallas Elementary

By Mackenzie Anderson

As the school year comes to a close on June 3rd, students and staff at Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary are reflecting on a year full of learning, growth, fun, and memorable experiences. From exciting field trips to school-wide celebrations, this spring has been especially busy for our students and families.

During the first week of May, teachers were overjoyed with the heartfelt appreciation received from students, families, administration, and our wonderful parent club. The week was filled with kind notes, thoughtful gestures, and meaningful recognition that truly lifted staff spirits. We even had some baristas come visit us for a midweek pick-me-up, adding a fun and energizing surprise to an already special week.

One of the highlights of the year was the April field trip to the Children’s Museum of Eau Claire for our 4K, kindergarten, and 1st grade students. Thanks to the generous support of our parent club, students were able to spend the day exploring hands-on exhibits, engaging in creative play, and learning through interactive experiences. The trip gave students the opportunity to build curiosity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills while creating special memories with classmates and teachers.

Our older elementary students also have an exciting adventure ahead. Students in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades will travel to the Pioneer Village Museum on Friday, May 22nd. This educational experience, also funded by our amazing parent club, will allow students to step back in time and learn about local history through exhibits and hands-on activities. We are incredibly thankful for the parent club’s continued support in helping provide these opportunities for our students.

On May 7th, Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary also welcomed families for a special Spring Singalong celebration focused on springtime, friendship, and fun. Students shared



songs and performances that brought smiles to families and staff alike. Musical selections included favorites inspired by Jack Hartman, Bruno Mars, and Dan Seals, just to name a few. The event was a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their hard work and celebrate the season together.

On May 19th, Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary was excited to welcome the Class of 2026 seniors back for a special visit. Seniors took a final walk through the school halls, reconnecting with former teachers and reflecting on their elementary years. They also participated in a Q&A session with students, sharing advice, memories, and encouragement about their journey ahead. They also spent time with younger students, enjoyed cookies and milk, and played on the playground one last time together, making the visit even more meaningful.

Recently, Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary also held its annual Track and Field Day at the high school football field and track. The event was organized by our wonderful gym teachers, Ms. Stauner and Ms. Iverson, who worked hard to create a day filled with fun, teamwork, and physical activity for all students.

Students rotated through nine exciting events throughout the day, including sack races, long jump, long throw, relay races, obstacle courses, egg drop activities, and more. The event encouraged students to challenge themselves, cheer on classmates, and practice good sportsmanship. The day was filled with sunshine, warm temperatures, smiles, laughter, and plenty of school spirit as students enjoyed spending time outdoors with classmates and staff.

As the year winds down, students still have more exciting activities to look forward to. In late May, our annual all-school picnic will



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As another school year comes to a close, we are thrilled to share the excitement with our students! *Photos submitted by Mackenzie Anderson*

bring students, staff, and families together for fun games, outdoor activities, and time to celebrate another successful year. Once again, this event is made possible through the hard work and dedication of our parent club.

To wrap up the school year, students will enjoy a splash pad trip and pizza celebration, another special treat made possible by our Alfalfa Fest funds. These end-of-year activities are a wonderful way for students to celebrate their accomplishments and enjoy time together before summer break begins.

Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary is incredibly grateful for the support of our families,

staff, volunteers,community organizations/events/ and businesses, and parent club throughout the year. Their generosity and dedication help create meaningful opportunities and lasting memories for our students.

We have had a fantastic school year and are looking forward to summer adventures ahead. Some students will also return in August for a summer session at Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary, where they will continue learning, exploring, and having fun with classmates and staff. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back in the fall for another exciting year at Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary.

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The Wisconsin Curd Classic

By DM MICK

We are always looking for ways not only to have a little fun but also to bring people together. With the weather warming up and the excitement building, we too want to get together and enjoy the season. We thought June Dairy Month would be the perfect time to introduce our newest challenge to the area, the Wisconsin Curd Classic.

Starting June 1, eight local establishments will battle it out to see who can be the first to sell 300 orders of cheese curds. All of these establishments have been noted for their food and unique atmosphere, while boasting a strong local following. After the response

we got from the burger battle we hosted last October (soon to make its return), we thought we would find another way to celebrate our local establishments and give locals a chance to show their support in true Wisco fashion.

This event isn't over until 300 orders have been rung up, but we know with the local support we have, it won't take too long! During this event, each establishment was asked to give away a \$25.00 gift card to one lucky person who purchased an order of cheese curds during the event. Make this a reason to try something new this month! Venture out and try them all, and support your favorite by making more purchases! Follow us on Facebook during the event @ Hayriverreview.

The following establishments are locked in and ready to rumble in June:

- The Packer Inn**
- Sportsmen's Bar & Grill**
- Too Mixed Up**
- Drunk'n Monkey Bar & Hotel**
- Mix Up**
- Mixed Up Waterside**
- Raising the Bar Sports Pub**
- Poskin Lake Resort**

This event isn't simply about winning- it's a calling for you to try something different. We have so many great places to get food locally, yet many of us haven't ventured out to try them. We hope you have fun helping support these great local spots!



All Aboard with the Ridgeland Library Review

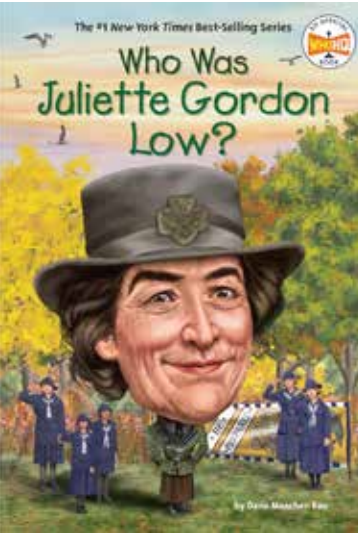
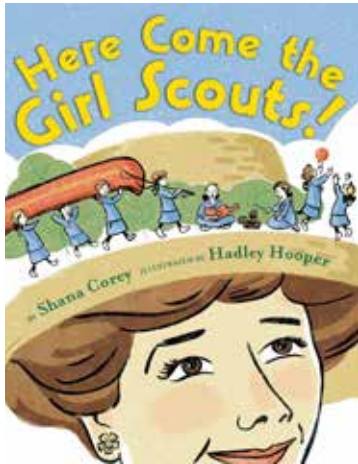
By Donnette Mickelson

There are many new books and activities added to the library. Be sure to check out this gem in our community. Two new books for young readers added to the collection in memory of Ruth Marty, who served as a Girl Scout leader for many years, were donated by Corey and Donnette Mickelson for their friends, Deb and Dennis Mathson.

“Here Come the Girl Scouts!": The Amazing All-True Story of Juliette ‘Daisy’ Gordon Low and Her Great Adventure by Shana Corey, and “Who Was Juliette Gordon Low?" By Dana Meachen Rau.

There are also two new murder mystery games, “Murder at Mardi Gras” and “Champagne Murder.” Each party board game comes with party instructions on how to host a murder mystery party and solve the mystery with your friends as the characters at the party. Something that is sure to be a fun experience with loads of laughter. There are many games, puzzles, and kits for all ages that can be checked out from the library.

As we wrap up our year of painting barn quilts, there will be an art show extravaganza of all of the barn quilts painted over the last year on display at the Ridgeland



Farmer's Market on Tuesday, June 30th, from 4 to 7 p.m. Visitors will be able to see over sixty barn quilts in the park.

We will be unveiling the mural painted by the WallDogs as part of the Murals in Menomonie: A Brush with History festival on the side of Jorstad's store. This impressive piece of art will be a show stopper! As part of the farmers market, we will be serving Ridgeland's

famous grilled chicken dinner. There will be music by Dave Midboe, see the winners of the children's farm art contest, and have the opportunity to add to the time capsule. Be sure to save the date and plan on attending this community celebration.

As with an event of this size, we are looking for volunteers to help set up the quilt display and many jobs to help pull off this event. Donations can also be made at Security Bank in Ridgeland to help cover the expenses for the afternoon.

Our summer reading program will be getting underway with Moon Magic books and activities. There will be a patriotic activity to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country in July. Plus, we will have a New York Times bestseller as our new community read for adults. Check our Facebook page for updates.

We will be setting up a special space with equipment to transfer photographs, video, paper images to scan, slides, and negatives to a digital format. If you have Ridgeland memorabilia to share, contact Lon Christopherson for details on how to digitize your history for the library database. We can also make a digital copy for you of your photos.

“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert.” Andrew Carnegie



I'm a mostly self-educated putterer/maker/doer who has a hard time stopping his brain from thinking, his body from moving, and his hands from twisting and fixing bits of this and that into semi-useable gewgaws. Sometimes I get actual ideas, and sometimes I even make actual, useful things.

A Thoughtful Poem



A landscape full of inspiration. Photo by Sam Dodge

By Sam Dodge

roll and sway
broken glacial tilth
adrift; driftless
ragged edges
younger wrinkles
in ancient faces
washed-out limestone
crowns crumbled catacombs
sand, sandstone, geode
interrupted crystal

in rifts
in rolls and breaks
springs weeping eternal
sweeping pebbles and
sediment
aquifers in flux and stasis
creeks and cutting rivers

wandering these wooded hills
imagining indigenous
no traces
no arrowheads in this
winter-broken schist
a wandering in maples
drinking Spring
on the way to Summer
moving like water

until invaders came
struck off forests from
crests and vales
dynamited stumps
seems violent until
the terror of steel dinosaurs
broadsword teeth in flails

unleashed for mastication
ripped in deeper still
but left the tilts and edges
little mercies

progeny of Fjords
brought ghosts of gneiss
made molds, cast homes
big-window barns
well-loved
cattle
touched unimagined wealth
still reverent
now colossus machines
have eaten little dreams
spewed sickness with their
medicine
cesspools of soul-starved
chattel
crowded, milled
like gypsum
cobalt
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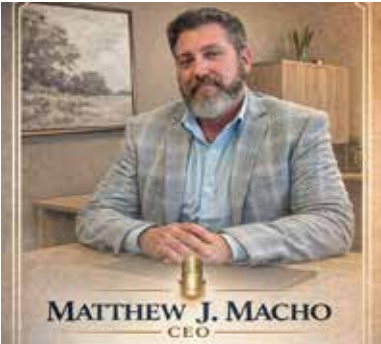


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WOODS & WATER

By DM MICK

Not long ago, many people laughed at the idea of asking a computer program for advice, information, or opinions. Today, phrases such as “I’ll ask ChatGPT” have become part of everyday conversation. Artificial intelligence, more commonly known as AI, has rapidly integrated itself into modern life through social media platforms, search engines, software programs, and countless mobile applications.

Whether people realize it or not, most individuals interact with some form of AI on a daily basis. From Facebook algorithms to Google search suggestions, the technology has established itself as a permanent fixture in society.

The question many continue to ask, however, is whether that development is ultimately good or bad.

The answer may depend largely on perspective.

Technology has always played a major role in the outdoor industry. It was not long ago that hunters and anglers rushed to purchase the latest trail cameras, GPS units, or advanced side-imaging sonar systems. Innovations once viewed as groundbreaking quickly became common tools in the field and on the water.

The Woods & Water column features our area’s incredible natural resources and tells stories from the outdoors. We will also provide information from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, such as events, season dates, and other important information.

A New Era for the Outdoors

Despite the growing conversations surrounding artificial intelligence, little discussion has centered around its role in conservation, hunting, and fishing. With that in mind, I decided to ask AI itself how it could impact the future of the outdoors.

Artificial Intelligence Emerging as a Tool for Conservation Efforts

By ChatGPT 2.0

Artificial intelligence is becoming an increasingly important tool in conservation efforts across the United States and around the world. While AI is often associated with business, technology, and social media, researchers and environmental groups are now using the technology to help protect forests, wildlife, waterways, and natural resources.

Supporters say AI could help conservation groups gather information faster and make better decisions, especially in rural and outdoor areas where monitoring large sections of land can be difficult.

One of the most common uses for AI in conservation is wildlife tracking. Cameras placed in forests and remote

areas can collect thousands of images every week. Artificial intelligence programs are now able to sort through those images quickly, identify animal species and help researchers monitor wildlife populations more efficiently than manual review alone.

Conservation groups say this technology can help track animals such as wolves, bears, elk, and migratory birds while reducing the amount of time researchers spend reviewing photographs.

AI is also being used to monitor forests and detect environmental changes. Satellite imagery combined with artificial intelligence can identify illegal logging, storm damage, insect infestations, and changes in tree health across large regions. This may help forestry officials and landowners respond more quickly to problems before they spread further.

In agricultural regions, AI technology may also help improve conservation practices by reducing waste and protecting soil and water quality. Precision agriculture tools can help farmers apply fertilizer and pesticides more accurately, lowering runoff into nearby rivers and streams. Some systems can even monitor moisture levels and recommend irrigation only when necessary.

Supporters believe these advancements may help balance production with environmental stewardship.

Water conservation is another growing focus for AI researchers. Artificial intelligence programs can analyze rainfall, drought conditions, and water usage patterns to help communities manage resources more



I also asked ChatGPT to create a graphic promoting AI use in conservation, and within seconds, I was provided this example. *Photo created by ChatGPT*

effectively. In areas prone to flooding, AI systems may also help predict rising water levels and improve emergency planning.

Conservation officers and anti-poaching organizations are also beginning to use AI-powered systems to detect suspicious activity in protected areas. Audio sensors and surveillance programs can identify gunshots, chainsaws, or unauthorized vehicles in remote regions, helping authorities respond more quickly to illegal activity.

Despite the potential benefits, some experts caution that artificial intelligence should not replace human knowledge and field experience. Conservation work often depends on local understanding of land, wildlife behavior, and environmental conditions that technology alone may not fully recognize.

Others raise concerns about cost and accessibility. Advanced AI systems, drones and satellite monitoring programs can be expensive, making it difficult for smaller conservation groups or rural communities to fully adopt the technology.

There are also concerns about data privacy and

the environmental impact of large-scale computing systems. AI programs require significant energy and infrastructure, leading some critics to question whether the technology’s environmental footprint could eventually offset some of its conservation benefits.

Still, many environmental researchers believe artificial intelligence has the potential to become one of the most useful conservation tools of the coming decades when paired with responsible management and local expertise.

In rural regions like northwestern Wisconsin, where forestry, agriculture, and outdoor recreation play a major role in the economy and culture, some residents believe AI could eventually support efforts to protect wildlife habitat, improve forest management, and maintain water quality for future generations.

Conservation organizations continue emphasizing that technology alone will not solve environmental challenges. However, supporters say AI may help communities gather better information, respond to threats faster, and make more informed decisions about protecting natural resources.

As artificial intelligence continues to develop, conservationists across the country are watching closely to see whether the technology can help preserve the outdoors while supporting the people and industries that depend on it.

Faith United Methodist Church
159 10th St., Prairie Farm
June 7 Holy Communion
June 21 Happy Father's Day
June 28 Farewell Party for Pastor Vicky
Worship @ 10:00 a.m.
Potluck to follow

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

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School District of Prairie Farm

June 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

As we say good-bye to the 2025-26 school year, I would like to thank the staff, students, school board, and community for a great year. This year has been filled with some wonderful memories, new relationships have been built and successes throughout the district can be found. One area of success that I am very proud of was our 2024-25 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Accountability Report Card. It showed that the Prairie Farm School District “Exceeds Expectations” in all areas of requirement put forth by the Department of Instruction. This success was earned by students, staff, parents, and community. Another success is our students and how they represent themselves. Whether it is a Prairie Farm or PFC extracurricular or activity our students and leaders do a great job of representing the pride of our community.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026. It has been a real privilege for me to have spent the past few years with this group. To see where this group began and to see them grow into seniors has been enjoyable. The Class of 2026 has been great examples of kindness, hard work, and leadership. I look forward to seeing the positive impact each of these students make as they move into their next chapter of life. Good luck Class of 2026, keep making us proud!

It was disappointing to learn that the state Senate rejected the 2026 May Special Session Assembly Bill 1. As a district leader, it will remain my mission to ensure every child receives the quality education they deserve, despite the increasing financial pressures public schools face. This bill would not have offered a total solution to the school funding challenges in Wisconsin or address all of the issues that leave districts no choice other than seeking referenda to maintain student programming. However, it would have provided some relief to school districts and property taxpayers during this time of inadequate state funding which forces local property taxpayers to burden an increasing share of public school costs in Prairie Farm and around the rest of Wisconsin. It is my hope that our legislators can work collaboratively together to find a resolution that our students, our district, and our community can get behind. Until then the surplus of funds we have all been hearing about will remain in Madison, while taxpayers and school districts continue to struggle.

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

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



On Friday, May 22, 2026, students and staff celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by wearing red, white and blue.

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

Principal’s Report

The end of the 2025-2026 school year is quickly approaching and spring events continue to be in full swing. Graduation is set to take place on Friday, May 22nd at 7:00 PM in our large gymnasium. The school year will officially wrap up for students on Wednesday, June 3rd at 12:15.

The middle school and high school staff select students each month who have shown improvement or gone above and beyond in some area of academics or extra-curricular activity. This month the high school has selected Kira Dunn and Rosa Columbo as its Panthers of the Month. Staff wrote, “Kira has been a consistently high performer both in the classroom as well as in her extracurricular activities. She has excelled in every advanced science course that is offered by Prairie Farm High School. In addition to her work in the classroom, she has been a leader outside of the classroom by mentoring multiple young athletes and competing at an extremely high level all season.” “Rosa is a very dedicated and conscientious student. Rosa always goes above and beyond. She has excellent critical thinking skills and is eager to learn at every opportunity. With track, Rosa is very coachable and willing to try new events. She is an asset to the Prairie Farm High School student body. Great job Rosa!”

The middle school has selected Emily Segebrecht and Charlianne Erickson as their Panthers of the Month. Staff wrote, “Emily, your commitment to success and willingness to always do your best truly stand out. We are proud of your achievements and appreciate the effort you bring each day. Keep up the great work!” “Charlianne consistently demonstrates an exceptional work ethic and a high level of classroom engagement, frequently exceeding expectations. She is a natural leader who sets a positive example through her kindness and respect for others. Her enthusiasm is evident in everything she does, showing a remarkable commitment to both her academic and personal growth. She has set herself up well for the transition to high school.”

The elementary school recognized their Panthers of the Month at a recent celebration. Congratulations to Myles Knutson, Grace Smith, Felix Johnson, Gibson Hoff, David Page, Oliver Smith, Payton Wormer, and Sam Link on being selected for this award.

Summer School is set and ready to roll, this year’s session will start on June 8th and run through June 25th.

I want to thank all students and staff for an outstanding year. I hope everyone has a great summer and we look forward to seeing everyone in the fall!

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

Summer School

June 8-25, 2026

Students entering PreK-8th grade
are welcome to attend.

Breakfast: 7:45-8:30 a.m.

Class: 8:30-12:00 p.m.

Lunch: 11:45-12:30 p.m.

Free meals will be served to anyone 18 and under in
the commons.

Questions can be directed to Michelle Buckley in the
elementary office. 715-455-1861

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRAIRIE FARM

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

May 18, 2026—6:00 p.m.—IMC

MINUTES UNAPPROVED

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

- A) Call to order (subject to Section 19.83 Wisconsin Statutes) by President Roemhild at 6:01 p.m.
Mission Statement: The Prairie Farm School District in partnership with family and community provides educational experiences which foster academic excellence, lifelong learning and citizenship.
- B) Pledge of Allegiance
- C) Adopt Agenda

Motion by Cadman to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.

- D) Reorganization Items
- 1) Selection of board officers
- a) President-Roemhild
- b) Vice President-Nelson
- c) Clerk-Richards
- d) Treasurer-Bates
- Motion by Nelson to keep the board officers the same as 2025-2026, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- Motion by Miller to nominate Justin Nelson for vice president, seconded by Richards. Motion carried.
- 2) Designation of regular board meeting dates
- Motion by Cadman to keep the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. for board meetings, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
- 3) Designation of official newspaper
- Motion by Nelson to designate the Barron NewsShield as the official newspaper, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 4) Designation of board minutes publication
- Motion by Bates to approve the Hay River Review as the official paper for the board minutes publication, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- 5) Appointment of WASB assembly delegate and attendee for January 2027
- Motion by Nelson to appoint Bonnie Roemhild as the WASB assembly delegate and Carla Miller as alternate, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
- 6) Approve Squires, Waldspurger, and Mace P.A. as the school attorney for 2026-2027
- Motion by Nelson to approve Squires, Waldspurger, and Mace P.A. as the school attorney for 2026-2027, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
- 7) Board committee assignments
- Motion by Richards to approve the committee assignments as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- E) Minutes of the April 20th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- Motion by Nelson to approve the minutes of the April 20th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, seconded by Miller. Motion carried.
- F) Reports
- 1) FCCLA Update-Tammie Law
- 2) Principal's good news report-Mr. Fossum
- 3) Student board members
- Spencer Roemhild and Sophie Bergmann
- 4) Athletic director's report-Alethea Seeger
- G) Business
- 1) Public comment residents/parents
- 2) Policies-second reading
- a) 0100-Definitions
- b) 0142.7-Orientation
- c) 1210-Board-District Administrator Relationship
- d) 1230.01-Development of Administrative Guidelines
- e) 2261.01-Parent and Family Participation in Title I Programs
- f) 2431-Interscholastic Athletics
- g) 5112-Entrance Age
- Motion by Nelson to approve a-g policies, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 3) Policies-first reading
- a) 5136-Personal Communication Devices
- b) 5411-Third Grade Promotion and Retention: At-Risk Students
- c) 6320-Purchasing
- d) 8462-Child Abuse and Neglect
- e) 9215-School Support Organizations
- No action taken.
- 4) Association for Equity in Funding Membership for 2026-2027
- Motion by Richards to approve the Association for Equity in Funding Membership for 2026-2027, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- 5) Northwood Technical College Drivers Education Contract for 2026-2027
- Motion by Nelson to approve the Northwood Technical College Drivers Education Contract for 2026-2027, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
- 6) North Lakes Community Clinic Dental Agreement for 2026-2027
- Motion by Nelson to approve the North Lakes Community Clinic Dental Agreement for 2026-2027, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 7) Randall Therapeutic Services Memorandum of Understanding for 2026-2027
- Motion by Cadman to approve Randall Therapeutic Services Memorandum of Understanding for 2026-2027, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
- 8) Cub Care Employee and Parent Handbook for 2026-2027
- Motion by Richards to approve the Cub Care Employee and Parent Handbooks for 2026-2027, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.
- 9) Prairie Farm School District Student/Parent Technology Handbook, Technology Repair Procedures and Cost Handbook, Technology Replacement Schedule for the 2026-2027 school year
- Motion by Richards to approve the Prairie Farm School District Student/Parent Technology Handbook, Technology Repair Procedures and Cost Handbook, Technology Replacement Schedule for the 2026-2027 school year, seconded by Bates. Motion carried.
- 10) High school hockey co-op
- Motion by Miller to approve to move forward with applying for the hockey co-op, seconded by Richards. Motion failed 2-5.
- 11) Donations:
- a) Ridgeland Reds, \$500 to the volleyball program and \$500 to the general school fund
- b) Prairie Farm Lions Club, \$5,000 for tractor restoration project
- Motion by Bates to approve the donations as presented, seconded by Nelson.

- Motion carried.
- 12) Payroll check deposit in the amount of \$206,330.78
- Motion by Nelson to approve the payroll check deposit as presented, seconded by Bates. Motion carried. Roemhild and Nedland abstained.
- 13) Financial report: AP in the amount of \$144,762.25, direct withdrawals in the amount of \$119,097.85 and PCard withdrawals in the amount of \$22,931.83
- Motion by Bates to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Richards. Motion carried.
- 14) Committee and other reports, information or comments
- a) superintendent's report
- Mr. Berghammer gave an update to the board regarding the incident that happened on May 15, 2026, the PFC transportation and coaches cost from the winter season and scheduled student school board interviews for 5 p.m., June 15, 2026.
- 15) Future meetings, Monday, June 15th, Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 16) Motion and roll call to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c)(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.
- No closed session.
- 17) Roll call and return to open session
- 18) Resignations
- a) Michelle Buckley, Middle School Girls Basketball Coach, effective April 28, 2026
- b) Kristine Giammattei, Paraprofessional, effective June 3, 2026
- Motion by Nelson to approve the resignations as presented, seconded by Nedland. Motion carried.
- 19) Contracts
- a) Jessica Norum, Summer FCCLA Assistant, for the 2025-2026 school year
- b) Corey Berghammer, PFC Head Girls Basketball Coach, for 2026-2027 school year
- c) Deb Peterson, Summer School Food Service Employee for 2025-2026 and Food Service Employee for the 2026-2027 school year
- d) Dan Brown, PFC Boys Golf Coach, for 2026-2027
- Motion by Nelson to approve the contracts as presented, seconded by Cadman. Motion carried.
- 20) Possible action from items in closed session
- H) Adjournment
- Motion by Richards to adjourn at 8:14 p.m., seconded by Bates. Motion carried.



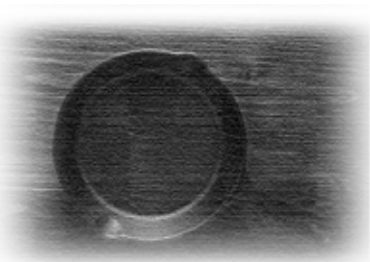
Parents and the community enjoyed the Spring middle school band and choir concerts on May 8, 2026.

What’s Happening

June 3 Last Day of School-Dismissal @ 12:15 p.m.

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 auto-mated calls, emails, or text messages, please contact the schoool office. We will be also notifying the radio and television outlets.



IRON SKILLET

By DM MICK

That time of year is finally here, when the temps are rising, and pan fish will be spawning. Many love searching for beds and landing aggressive fish this time of year. If you are looking for a simple and quick fish fry, we have you covered!

Ingredients:

- 1 lb of bluegill fillets
- ½ cup yellow cornmeal
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp salt (to taste)
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- ½ tsp cayenne pepper
- ½ tsp lemon pepper

Cast iron adds a rustic touch to meals and is always an excellent choice for home-crafted meals. Do you have a favorite cast-iron skillet recipe? Send us an email with your recipe and any family story you'd like to share! We'd love to feature your story with our readers. Email us at editor.hayriverreview@gmail.com.

Pan Fish Frenzy

- lard or vegetable oil for shallow frying
- lemon wedges
- your favorite tarter sauce

Instructions:

Rinse fillets in cold water and drain. Then be sure to pat them completely dry.

Mix the breading in a bowl, along with the spices.

Drop fillets a few at a time in the breading mix, completely covering

Heat the skillet with medium to high heat, adding enough lard or oil to fill half the skillet

Oil should be roughly 350 degrees and can be tested by dropping some breading in the oil. If it starts to sizzle and float, it is ready.

Add fillets to the oil and be sure to give each fillet space. Adding too many will drop the temperature too much. Cook for about 3-4 minutes per side or until the outside turns a golden brown. This should easily flake with a fork.

Once done, add to a paper towel to remove excess oil

This is a simple, time-tested recipe you can change and make your own. Simply add the seasoning you wish.

An early summer fish fry is always a great way to end a day, but a simple recipe like this can make it easy to cook up a catch quickly with little mess.



One of the greatest feelings is providing meals fresh from our local resources. Photo by DM MICK

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Prairie Farm Celebrates Memorial Day

Warm sunshine welcomed many neighbors who came out to celebrate Memorial Day this year at Pioneer Park.
Photos by Renee Bartz



Looking for In-home Help?

Check the Resource Guide at **adrconnections.org** or call 715-537-6225 for help connecting to local resources



United Lutheran Church
Prairie Farm, WI

June worship time 9 am

CLICK's last day will be Wednesday, June 3rd at 6 pm.

Communion on the 7th & 21st

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Facebook Live:

Facebook.com/ULCPrairieFarm
also uploaded after worship in finished

Pastor Sara Feld (715) 455-1454
www.ulcprairiefarm.com



FIELD & WOODLAND WANDERINGS

By Martha Wright

There is a trail of yellow blazes across our state. I spotted these 2-inch by 6-inch rectangles painted on trees and posts several years ago when I discovered the Grassy Lake segment of the Ice Age Trail (IAT) just north of Barronett, Wisconsin. I had heard of the National Scenic Trail, but this was my first encounter. A short distance into the hike, a new wildflower caught my

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.

Blazing a Trail

interest, but some friends were waiting to meet for lunch, so I promised myself I would return another day.

Before I could fulfill that promise, though, I went hiking at Straight Lake State Park west of Cumberland, where I recognized the yellow blazes again. As I hiked the trail along the lake, I came around a bend to view large stepping stones arranged to cross a river. It is a picturesque spot, and one of the most photographed aspects of the IAT. I credit that spot and that moment as the beginning of my love for Wisconsin's National Scenic Trail.

Once the trail got my attention, I began to see it everywhere I went. I found the western terminus, where it ends—or begins, depending on which direction one hikes—at Interstate State Park in St. Croix Falls. I came upon it where it passes through Brunet Island State Park, near Cornell. When I explored the Dells of Eau Claire County Park east of Wausau, it showed up again. When I visited Lapham Peak State Park between Madison and Milwaukee, it was also there. I even saw a sign for it on a remote road in the Blue Hills east of Rice Lake.

What is this trail, and why does it appear in so many places? I went to the Ice Age Trail Alliance's website (iceagetrail.org) to do some research. Originally, it was the vision of Ray Zillmer, a Milwaukee attorney and conservationist in the 1950s. He pictured a park that wound across the state, outlining the edge of the Wisconsin glacier from the last ice age 10,000 years ago. His desire was to highlight the glacial features that form our state's landscape.

Zillmer's vision was picked up by Henry Reuss, a congressman in the 1970s, who sponsored the bill that inducted the Ice Age Trail into the National Trails System. He also wrote the



A yellow blaze trail marker holds its place along the tree bark.



The stone crossing at Straight Lake State Park. Photos by Martha Wright.

guidebook, On the Trail of the Ice Age, in 1976. In 1979, Reuss collaborated with 20-year-old Jim Staudacher, who became the first person to through-hike the trail from one end to the other.

Staudacher's hike helped to confirm how many miles long it truly was, what the trail conditions were, and how much work needed to be done. "Trail" cont'd. on page 15...

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Stage is Set for Prairie Farm Dairy Days

By **Brianne McLennan**

Once again, locals will come together this summer to celebrate Dairy Days, a long-standing community tradition filled with family activities, food, entertainment, and hometown pride. The celebration is scheduled for July 10-12 and will feature events throughout the village for all ages.

The weekend begins Friday, July 10, with free-will donation ice cream cones served by the Prairie Farm FFA at Synergy from noon to 3 p.m. Later that evening, the Prairie Farm Lions Club Tractor Pull will take place at Pioneer Park beginning at 6 p.m. Organizers said two sleds will be running during

the event, which has become a favorite attraction for area tractor enthusiasts.

Saturday’s schedule is packed with activities beginning at 9 a.m. The Tractor Ride Meet at Pioneer Park invites participants to bring tractors for a scenic ride through the countryside. Entry fees include lunch, and trophies will be awarded. Hay wagon rides will also be available for those who wish to participate without bringing a tractor.

Also beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday is the Beef and Dairy Show at Prairie Farm High School, sponsored by the Prairie Farm FFA Alumni. Young exhibitors will have the opportunity to showcase their livestock while families and

community members gather to support local agriculture.

Sports tournaments and competitions will take place throughout the day. The Randy Roemhild Memorial baseball and softball tournaments begin Saturday morning at Panther Park, while a bean bag tournament will be held at Gosnell’s Packer Inn in the afternoon. A wiffle ball tournament at the Prairie Farm Village Field is scheduled for 5 p.m.

The Hay River Quilters Show will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Prairie Farm Community Center, displaying quilts and handcrafted projects from local quilters. The Prairie Farm Ladies Civic Club Duck

Race will begin at noon at Pioneer Park, giving folks a chance to win cash prizes.

One of the most anticipated events of the weekend, the demo derby, will begin at 4 p.m. Saturday at Pioneer Park. Sponsored by the Prairie Farm Lions Club and Fire Department, the event is expected to draw large crowds. Saturday night will conclude with fireworks at 10 p.m. at the Prairie Farm Village Field.

Sunday’s events begin with an outdoor ecumenical church service with music at United Lutheran Church at 9:30 a.m. A free-will offering lunch featuring barbecue sandwiches, pie and ice cream will follow the service.

Additional Sunday activities include the continuation of the Hay River Quilters Show, concession stands and root beer floats at the Prairie Farm Fire Hall, and the annual grand parade down Main Street at 1 p.m. Organizers said parade lineup will begin at Prairie Farm High School before the parade travels through downtown.

The celebration wraps up Sunday afternoon with a bouncy house and kids’ pedal pull at the Prairie Farm Fire Hall, giving younger attendees one last activity before the weekend concludes.

This event is always a great chance to show your support for our local community. If you are looking to socialize, meet new people, or simply get out and enjoy summer, this is it!



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.

Generation Celebration

By **Ann Lee**

Last month, we offered a cross-generational 4-H program called Generation Celebration, where youths were able to meet and interview residents of the Neighbors of Dunn County Nursing Home. This turned out to be a meaningful program for both the youths and the residents. As the 4-H youths listened to the amazing stories told by their new friends about their lives and childhood, they learned a lot about history, but more importantly, they learned that they had a lot in common. Some even discovered that they had special connections.

For example, when Gene Knutson was talking with 4-H’er Milo Beyrer and his mother, Stephanie Beyrer, they realized that he had actually known Milo’s great-grandfather. Gene also mentioned that he had bought a Belgian stallion from Milo’s grandfather.

Another amazing result of this program was how the residents thrived when they talked with the young people. Because the 4-H’ers asked specific questions, the residents started remembering more details from their childhood to share than if they had tried to just talk about themselves on their own. One story led to another. These wonderful outcomes were not entirely accidental. To help people make stronger connections during the interview, Zachary Rozmiarek, the Dunn County 4-H Educator, had the youth write down what their hobbies and interests were when they registered for the program, later, Kathy Asper, from Menomonie, instructed the youth to choose interview questions that were interesting to them, and then, Alyssa Stelter Neighbors Life Enhancement Mentor/ Volunteer Coordinator, chose residents who had similar interests to be paired up with the youth. On April 28, at the Neighbors, there was a Generation Celebration Day where families of the participants gathered, and the 4-H youths introduced their new friends with information they had learned during their interview.

Fair season is just around the corner. Look for our 4-H Activity Booth at the Colfax Free Fair on Thursday, June 18, and visit our 4-H Activity Barn at the Dunn County Fair on Thursday, July 23 – Sunday, July 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We also have several 4-H events coming up for our members. Summer Project Days will be held on Fridays in June and July for members in grades K-5th. The dates and activities are as follows: June 12 - Fishing Fun, June 19 - Splash Science, June 26 - Edible Engineering, and July 10 – Paper and Stamp Making. 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.

For more information about these events or 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 by calling Zachary Rozmiarek at 715-232-1636. To see more of our activities, visit our Facebook page.



Milo Beyrer and Gene Knutson during the Generation Celebration Day at Neighbors of Dunn County on April 28. Photo by Zachary Rozmiarek

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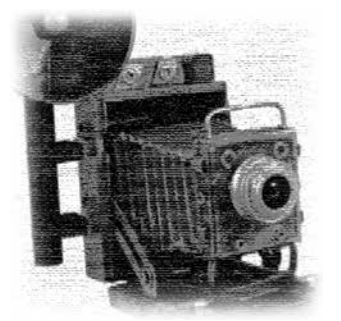
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PHOTOS FROM OUR PAST

By Lon Christopherson

The village of Hillsdale sits on both sides of Highway 25 about halfway between Ridgeland and Barron. The original Hillsdale was founded around 1872 by A. D. Mooney of Indiana, who located a sawmill about a mile south of the present site of Hillsdale. A post office was located there, and the place was called Mooney’s Mill. In 1882, the lumbering firm of Lee and Dickerson, also from Indiana, arrived in the area with their saw mill and crew of workers. They bought all the railroad-owned land in the area for \$1.25 an acre, harvested the timber, then sold the land to their workers and new settlers to the area for \$2.50 an acre. They also bought out Mooney’s operation and renamed the village Hillsdale. Things changed around 1900 when Woodbury Grover built a store on the site of the village’s present location. At first called New Hillsdale, the coming of

the railroad to this new site caused the abandonment of the original Hillsdale, and eventually the “New” was dropped from the village name. The railroad brought growth and prosperity to the town. By 1922, Hillsdale was the home of two general stores, one hardware store, a confectionery and cigar store, a restaurant, a garage, a blacksmith shop, a barber shop, a bank, a post office, a lumberyard, a stock yard, and a warehouse for potatoes and one for hay and grain. There was also a telephone exchange in the village, along with two churches, a creamery, and a state-graded school, which was built in 1913. A pea vineyard was later operated nearby as well. As time passed and automobiles and trucks began to take over much of the railroad’s business, the village of Hillsdale gradually began to shrink. Today, Hillsdale remains, but not nearly as vibrant as it once was.

The Ridgeland Library has added a History Room to its building with a pair of locking cabinets. If you have any Ridgeland area memorabilia you are willing to donate or temporarily share with the History room, you can drop them off during library hours. Please let us know your name and whether it is a loan or a donation. Thank you!

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.

Hillsdale



The Depot in Hillsdale, Wisconsin, around 1910.



The M.E. Church, now abandoned, still stands on the west side of Hwy 25.



The Hillsdale Stars Baseball Team.



The new Hilldale School, 1913. Photos submitted by Lon Christopherson



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Walk Down Memory Lane

Take a peek at these photo features from our June issue in 2021!

(Clockwise) Spencer Wold pitched for the Prairie Farm Panthers in a recent game against the Clear Lake Warriors. *Photo submitted by Jonathan Frarck*

Jada Kahl pitched for the Prairie Farm Panthers in their season opener on May 4, 2021, against the Bruce Red Raiders. *Photo submitted by Jonathan Frarck*

They may be a nuisance in adulthood, but when they are so small, one’s heart can be completely melted by their sweet spots and big, innocent eyes. This little fawn was born in the middle of the flower field at Winnowburrow Farm & Florals on May 24. It was later seen bounding behind its mother in a nearby meadow. *Photo by Bonnie Warndahl*



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TOWNSHIP & VILLAGE MEETINGS

Contact Town Clerks for details

Township/Village	Clerk/contact info.
Town of Arland	Pam Fall 715-455-1074 pamela.fall@thrivent.com
Town of Dallas	Karolyn Bartlett 715-837-1039 townshipofdallas@yahoo.com
Town of New Haven	Katie Bovee 715-643-3703 clerk@townofnewhavenwi.com
Town of Prairie Farm	Vicki Buck 715-495-2798 buckdv@chibardun.net
Town of Sand Creek	Pam Meinen 715-205-3511 sctown@chibardun.net
Town of Sheridan	Joe Boesl 715-205-6193 clerkofsheridan@gmail.com
Town of Vance Creek	Kara Norberg 651-491-3067 clerk@tn.vancecreek.wi.gov
Town of Wilson	Denise Schlough 715-949-1938 ddtsschlough@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

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

June 1	Prairie Farm Civic Club Meeting 6 p.m.
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Ridgeland Farmers Market - Ridgeland Village Park, 4 - 7 p.m.
June 2	Ridgeland Community Improvement Committee Serving at Ridgeland Farmers Market, 4 - 6 p.m.
June 2	Ridgeland Farmers Market Music by Hapy & Hawk, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
June 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, and 25th	Dallas Library activities, 2 - 6 p.m.
June 4	Ridgeland Area Library Board Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 6 p.m.
June 4	Dallas Library Summer Reading Activities
June 6, 13, 20, and 27th	Dallas Library Activities every Saturday, 9-12 p.m.
June 9	Prairie Farm/Ridgeland Ridgerunners Snowmobile/ATV Serving at Ridgeland Farmers Market, 4 - 7 p.m.
June 18	Ridgeland Civic Club Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 6 p.m.
June 15	Willard L. Hinzman American Legion Post 511/ Auxiliary Unit 511 Meeting at Community Center, 6 p.m.
June 16	RD Elementary Parents Club Serving at Ridgeland Farmers Market, 4 - 7 p.m.
June 23	Ridgeland St. Pauls Lutheran Church Serving at Ridgeland Farmers Market 4 - 7 p.m.
June 25	Ridgeland Historical Meeting at Ridgeland Area Library, 5 p.m.
June 30	Ridgeland Area Library/Community Improvement Committee Serving at Ridgeland Farmers Market, 4- 7 p.m.
June 30th	Ridgeland Community Celebration- Walldogs Mural, BBQ Chicken, Music, Barn Quilts all in the Village Park, 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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MICKELSON’S BOOK BINGE

By Donnette Mickelson

A museum heist that did not involve priceless art or jewels was conducted by Edwin Rist at the British Museum of Natural History in Tring, Hertfordshire, England, in 2009. One can surmise from the book title what was stolen- feathers. Not just feathers, but three hundred rare bird specimens prized for their feathers, used in the art of Victorian fly tying.

...“Everwood” cont’d. from front

community. The Foundation’s 110-year-old barn has become known as an intimate listening room destination within the St. Croix River Valley arts corridor.

The 2026 Artist Series also includes performances by:

August 1: Maygen & The Birdwatcher

August 29: S. Carey (SOLD OUT)

September 12: Pert Near Sandstone (SOLD OUT)

On Saturday, August 15, Everwood will host its annual CULTIVATE fundraiser, an afternoon of music, food, and community supporting the Foundation’s mission, featuring a performance by Leslie Vincent.

The Foundation will also offer artist workshops throughout

...“Trail” cont’d. from page 11

Today, it is about 1200 miles long, with roughly 700 of those miles being a finished walking trail. The remaining miles require road walks between trail segments, as the IAT Alliance is still working to purchase all the land needed to connect the ends in one unbroken stretch. Some of the trail miles cross private land thanks to landowners who believe in the project and are willing to allow hikers on their property.

“The Feather Thief”

By Kirk Wallace

This book is more than a true crime book because it incorporates ornithology, fly fishing, and e-fencing or selling stolen goods online. Ultimately, the crime is committed because of the desires of the ultra-wealthy and what others are willing to do to belong to this elite sector of fly tying and collecting rare items.

Wallace is an experienced fly fisher and, using his background knowledge and interest in the subject it able to lay out the story for anyone to find it engaging and compelling. It is especially riveting because the crime intertwines so many subjects relating to birds and bird

history into the narrative. I found it a very interesting and intriguing book, so be sure to add it to your books to read.

the season, including:

June 13: “Intro to Relief Printmaking” with Lindsey Reyes

July 18: “Country Dance” with Howdy Partner Dance

September 26: “Podcasting: Planning, Hosting & Editing” with Julie Censullo

Since 2012, Everwood has donated half of all pay-what-you-can Artist Series ticket proceeds to local school arts programs through its Aspiring Artists Fund, contributing more than \$70,000 to arts education across western Wisconsin. A rare example of people actually putting money back into the arts instead of merely posting “support local artists” between doomscrolling sessions.

The 14th season also continues a new chapter of organizational growth

following the addition of Pursuits Coordinator Katy Tessman in 2025.

“We continue to believe that artists need spaces where meaningful work can happen slowly, thoughtfully, and in connection with nature,” said co-founder Chris Everett. “Courtney’s story is a beautiful example of what can emerge from that kind of environment.”

Tickets and season information are available at Everwood Farmstead Foundation

About Everwood Farmstead Foundation

Everwood Farmstead Foundation is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization located in Glenwood City, Wisconsin. The Foundation hosts inspiring spaces for artists to perform, teach, and work in a natural environment.

of the day on a finished trail that had not been there in the morning.

People who hike the entire Ice Age Trail, whether straight through or one segment at a time, are called “Thousand-Milers,” and as of 2026, there are nearly 700 who can claim that title. I do not aspire to be a Thousand-Miler, but I do plan to continue hiking the Ice Age Trail wherever I find it. And someday, I still plan to make good on my promise to return to the Grassy Lake segment.



LESS IS PLENTY

By Darlene Ramos

How much of life do we miss caring about what others think?

A friend once told me a flowerbed could not have purples and reds together. She said it was “tacky,” and so I felt tacky myself, loving mixed purple and red flowers as I do.

I suddenly thought: “Oh no! She can never come to my house!”

I loved that girl, who is in heaven now. I would have loved she visit my home, but I confess, whenever I thought of it, I cared so much what SHE thought, I never did push it. She can’t “come” to my house now, but she probably sees my red and purple flowers from above.

I still wonder if she left this earth thinking people were uncouth to mix reds and purples! But, having known her overall kindness, I do think she would have been even more mortified to know how I took those words to heart.

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.

Beware the Empty Garden

I didn’t defend my favorite flower combination. Years later, when I operated a specialty lunchroom, groups of women would arrange tea parties and arrive happily dressed in red hats and purple garb. It was actually a thing--older women gathering casually in those exact vibrant colors to display their spirit and encourage friendship with each other.

I would always think of my friend and how wrong she was! But it was I who allowed her words to hamper my own spirit of friendship, I know!

A little difference of opinion. I did in time see that what matters to one person hardly does to another, and very often there’s not much we can do about it except try to live our best life anyway.

I try to do that, with a line from a vintage movie recently having pounded home this nail of a realization for me:

In it, the loved matriarch of a family lives in her lovely home that she rarely likes to leave. After a full life building up her reputation and being well-recognized in her community, she decides she just wants to stay home and enjoy her comfortable quarters. But something big is happening one evening, and

her family urges her to attend an event at an elegant hotel dining room. They press her and press her until finally she declares firmly, “NO, I don’t think so! I would rather have my double chins in private, thank you.”

Ahhh. I get it! Those telltale signs of aging--double chins, lines and wrinkles, sagging, spots, bumps, and tummy rolls--need I say more?! All the things young people don’t imagine until the dreadful invaders have crashed through the door and clicked the lock, without a key.

She stayed home because the old girl wasn’t what she used to be. She wanted to be remembered for her former self, but she was still of this earth. That could involve a whole lot of time, not doing what a person might still enjoy doing!

I’m a lover of the home, but it should be about natural inclinations, about loving peace and comfort and the home folks and home doings. It shouldn’t be about wanting to hide your life or even your own self, you know?

My friend, who called herself a “garden snob,” would have been sad to know I let her opinion bother me so much, but that is on ME. I should



More purple than blue is the author’s favorite.
Photo by Darlene Ramos

have just said to her, “Hey, come on over to my house, I love red geraniums with purplish lobelia, that’s my favorite combination!!”

Like a garden, people do grow, but so often it remains that we are who we are, and we like who and what we like. Outside of the atrocious, we are going to witness differing viewpoints in our circles of

humanity, and we are going to love people anyway. If it’s unacceptable stuff, we’ll move on to other humanity.

But caring too much about what others think is not the way to grow a lifetime, OR a flower garden!

I should know. I am my own life coach on this, but following my own advice is a column for another time!

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