

From Our ARCHIVES

By Linda Kenyon

10 Years Ago

July 22, 2015

Sheriff's officers, EMTs and fire department volunteers from La Crosse, Rush Center, Nekoma and Alexander converged southeast of Alexander on Monday morning for a disaster drill sponsored by Mortenson Construction. The company is building 21 wind towers in the area and wanted to acquaint local responders on what to expect if ever called to the location for an emergency.

Hundreds of Kansas high school students and graduated seniors from the class of 2015 will converge on the Fort Hays State University campus this weekend for the annual Kansas East-West All-Star Shrine Bowl football game. La Crosse High School football standout Sheldon Schmidt will be playing on the West team. A select group of cheerleaders will also perform at the game. La Crosse High School cheerleaders performing include Brooklyn Burk, Courtney Gilbert, Cortney Woods, Emma Garcia, Lexi Anderson, Makayla Deuel, Mayce Deuel and Skylar Davis.

25 Years Ago

July 27, 2000

Almost exactly seven years ago, the Flood of '93 hit Rush County, and some feared that with the amount of this past week's precipitation, we would have a repeat. July 21, 1993 marked the beginning of a disaster in which Walnut Creek completely covered K-96 between Alexander and Nekoma. The highway two miles west of Timken was limited to one lane of traffic. In Rush Center, 20 inches of water flowing across US-183 closed that highway to all but large trucks, and Nekoma residents experienced water a foot deep. Timken families were evacuated, as almost five feet of water ran through the streets. But as for the past week, it seems that any worry about a repeat of the Flood of '93 can be put to rest, despite the heavy rains that began Sunday and ended six days later.

4-H Fashion 2000 Style Show construction winners are Lindsay Bartlett, Susan Oborny, Hayley Wells, Emily Humphey, Rebekah Cale, Sheena Wells, Nichole Stejskal, Angela Humphrey, Stephanie Keener, Emily Swartz, Samantha Keener and Angela Morgan.

50 Years Ago

July 24, 1975

Thirteen cars of a Santa Fe Train derailed at Nekoma at approximately 3:10 p.m. Tuesday afternoon. All 13 cars were loaded with wheat and approximately 43,000 bushels of wheat were dumped on the ground. Heat from the sun on the tracks is blamed for the accident which tore up the tracks for approximately 500 feet. The wheat is being picked up and transported to nearby elevators before the wreckage can be cleared away. There was no dollar estimate available at press time. According to reports only about 20 cars were able to be pulled away from the derailment scene.

The Retail Committee has planned a full day of fun for the children the opening day of the Rush County Fair. Sack Races will be the first event of the day at 10 a.m. downtown La Crosse. Catching the Greased Pig will be the next contest at 10:30 a.m. The Swimming Contest will be held at the La Crosse Pool from 11 a.m. until noon. The first event of the afternoon will start at 1:30 p.m. with Dimes in the Sand Pile. This is a new event and should be an event that all children will enjoy and be able to participate in. The Turtle Races will be held at 2 p.m. Now is your chance, kids, to get your turtles in good shape for the race. The egg throwing contest and the balloon throwing contest will follow.

75 Years Ago

July 27, 1950

Jay Pfeiffer celebrated his 6th birthday Monday with a party at the city park followed by a line party to the theater. Guests were Dwight Schneider, Gary Scheideman, Lois Koci, Linda Marie Ohlemeier, Linda Scheideman, Duane Wilson, Tommy Kelley, Mike Stephens, Bonnie Johnson, Joy Schwab, Susan Merrill, Becky Goetz, John Ficken, Joe Dale Whitley, Joe Berg, Raymond Shaffer, Sharon Forbes, Ruth Berg and the honor guest.

Member teams of the Rush County Baseball League will move into La Crosse's ball park this evening and pair-off for the conference's annual tournament. The single elimination tourney will run from tonight through Saturday evening and will feature competition from Bison, Albert, La Crosse, Rush Center and Nekoma.

100 Years Ago

La Crosse Republican

July 23, 1925

On Monday morning, as Chas. D. Kittle was going to the field with six horses, he lost control of the horses, and in the mix-up Charles was injured about the head. Medical aid was promptly summoned, and at first it was thought that the injury was only external, but about noon, things took a definite turn for the worse. Everything was done that could be done, but to no avail, and he passed away about 3:30 p.m.

Lightning struck the Bohemian Hall in Timken Sunday night and had it not been noticed by P.J. Kotal no doubt serious damage would have been done. Mr. Kottal proceeded to the roof with a bucket of water and put the fire out.

125 Years Ago

La Crosse Republican

July 27, 1900

On Thursday night a week ago some harvest men informed Sheriff Littler that as they were passing a couple of wagons east of town they saw an individual knocking a red mother hubbard right and left and it was screaming murder. While they were talking another individual came from the wagon accompanied by another mother hubbard. They were also badly frightened and said they were afraid the first mentioned individual had killed the aforesaid mother hubbard. Armed with a warrant, the sheriff and his son Will went and arrested the vicious individual and lodged him in jail. The balance of the mother hubbard outfit drove one team and wagon up near the jail and camped for the remainder of the night. Next morning the drunken individual in jail had "sobered up" and was fined 20 dollars and costs, amounting in all to 25 dollars, in Justice Hallock's court for assault and battery upon the mother hubbard. The mother hubbard was black and blue about its face and had been severely kicked and was vomiting occasionally. As soon as the trial was over the mother hubbard left town in a hurry to reach the other two humans who had gone to the wagon east of town. The drunken dog after paying his fine, hitched his team to the red wagon and the sheriff and undersheriff Boswell climbed in and they all went out to where the other delegation was to see that the ill-treated mother hubbard got its goods from its ex-Lord's wagon. When they arrived the would-be murderer fell on his knees before the injured mother hubbard and begged to go with it, and it gave in under new promises. The man's name was given as Chas. W. Tracy, a contractor on the Stillwell and Orient railroad, and said he was married but met the mother hubbard about a month ago and ran away with it. The sheriff ordered the outfits to leave the county. (Editor's note: A mother hubbard was a loose-fitting dress, but in this context it was used as a euphemism for a prostitute.)

-Rush County Commission Minutes-

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES Monday, July 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Chairman Leslie Rogers, Vice-Chairman Mitchell Blackburn and Member Richard T. Luft were present. Commissioner Blackburn moved to approve the July 7, 2025 minutes as presented. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The accounts payable checks, vouchers and register were reviewed and signed by the board.

Deputy County Clerk Kristen Muller joined the meeting.

The proposed 2026 budget changes were reviewed. Commissioner Luft moved to accept the proposed 2026 budget changes with a Revenue Neutral Rate of 102.424 not exceeding the 2026 Revenue Neutral Rate of 103.177. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously. The county will hold their proposed 2026 budget hearing on August 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Rush County Courthouse.

The road and bridge weekly report was presented for review. They graded in Alexander, Banner, Belle Prairie, Big Timber, Brookdale, Center, Fairview, Garfield, La Crosse, Lone Star, Pioneer and Union townships. Magnets were utilized in Belle Prairie, Big Timber, Illinois, Pleasantdale and Union; hauled sand in Garfield; did shoulder work in Center and removed trees in Garfield and Pioneer. Mowing was done in Belle Prairie, Brookdale, Fairview, Center, Pioneer, Pleasantdale, Lone Star and Union townships. The mechanics performed routine maintenance on county equipment.

Julie Yarmer, President, Hayden Friend, Sales Associate, and Hadley Gillum, Marketing with Freedom Claims, Inc., met with the board to present the mid-year review regarding the county's health insurance policy. Also present were Deputy County Clerk Kristen Muller, County Treasurer Christie Bittel and Register of Deeds Debi Wherry.

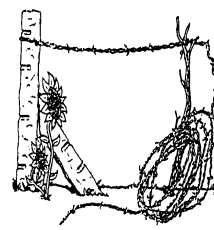
Correspondence was reviewed.

There being no other business before the board, Commissioner Blackburn moved to adjourn at 10:19 a.m. and to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 21, 2025. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 21st day of July, 2025.

Leslie Rogers, Chairman

ATTEST: Tacy A. Keener, County Clerk



County Happenings

JULY

July 23 - Lone Star Community Club meeting, 7 p.m., Bison Community Building. Contact Ann Adams, 785-650-3261, for more information or to make a donation.

July 24 - Happy Age Club, 11:30 a.m., Otis Senior Center, 105 W. Fisher. Change of time for this month only.

July 28 - Government surplus commodities, 4-5 p.m., Sixty Plus, 704 Main Street, La Crosse.

July 28 - Government surplus commodities, 4-5 p.m., west door of City Hall, 105 W. Fisher, Otis.

July 30-31 - Rush County Fair

Wednesday - GBTA Hotdog Feed and SJN Bank Ice Cream 5:30-7 p.m.; Flag Ceremony, 4-H Opening Ceremony- 5:45 p.m.; Immediately Following is the 4-H Food Auction; RCAC Carnival (Rides Only) 7-11 p.m.; Mark Bishop (Sponsored by Rush County Churches) 7 p.m.; Seth Darby & Lonesome Express 8 p.m.

Thursday - RCAC Carnival 7-11 p.m.; 4-H Talent Show 7 p.m.; Fast Times - 80's Group 8:30-11 p.m.

AUGUST

August 1-2 - Rush County Fair

Friday - FREE Ice Cream with Midland Marketing 6 p.m.; Hot Laps at the Bullring 6:30 p.m.; Rumble at the Bullring 7:00 p.m.; 7-11 p.m. RCAC Carnival; Crazy Horse 2.0 10 p.m.-midnight.

Saturday - 5K Walk/Run 8 a.m.; Round Robin Showmanship 9 a.m.; Corn Hole Tournament 12:30 p.m.; 4-H Closing Ceremonies and Livestock Auction 5 p.m.; RCAC Carnival 7-11 p.m.; Magic Comedy with Keith Leff 7-8 p.m.; Jimmy Dee & The Fabulous Destinations 8-11 p.m.

August 5 - Walnut Valley Senior Cen-

ter meeting, 1 p.m., 220 Washington, Rush Center.

August 7 - Bison JOY Club, noon, Bison Community Building. (1st Thursday of the month)

August 9 - Timken Picnic.

August 11 - VFW meeting, 7 p.m., Fred Lohrey's Shop. (2nd Monday of the month)

August 18 - American Legion meeting, 7 p.m., Fred Lohrey's Shop. (3rd Monday of the month)

August 22 - American Red Cross Blood Drive, noon-6 p.m., La Crosse City Auditorium.

August 23 - Otis Back to School Bash - The Tumbleweed and Otis City Park.

ONGOING HAPPENINGS

Tumbleweed Farmers Market, 9-11 a.m., 114 S. Main, Otis. Every Saturday through the summer.

Rush County Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m., 5th and Main, La Crosse. Every Wednesday through September 10.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) - 5:30 p.m. every Thursday at Barnard Library, 521 Elm St., La Crosse. Everyone welcome. First meeting free.

Friendship Meals at 60 Plus, 704 Main, La Crosse. Call 785-514-5046 to order a meal or for more information.

Bingo and Cards at 60 Plus, 704 Main, La Crosse, every Thursday, 1-4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Barbed Wire, Historical, Post Rock, Nekoma Bank and Pleasant Point School museums. Open for the season. Summer Hours: (May 1 through Labor Day) Monday - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. No admission fees - donations requested. To schedule a tour call 785-222-2808.

~NOTICE~

The Rush County News welcomes photos of all local youth ball teams. Submit your photos, complete with identification, by e-mail to rcn@gbta.net, or bring to the News office at 809 Main in La Crosse. If you have any questions call 785-222-2555.