

From Our ARCHIVES

By Linda Kenyon

10 Years Ago

February 24, 2016

The size of the Brandon and Megan Fyler family of Albert has more than doubled with the arrival of their four baby boys on February 23 in Wichita. The babies, all fraternal, were born prematurely at over 30 weeks gestation in a "very quick, safe, completely natural birth. The Fylers already have one son, Colton, who will be 3 in May.

Cole Pierce, a sophomore at La Crosse High School, competed in the KSHSAA Class 5-1A State Swimming Meet held in Topeka. He qualified for state ranked 17th in the 500 freestyle with a seed time of 5:36.05. In preliminaries on Friday he placed 14th with a time of 5:26.86. In Saturday's finals he placed 15th with a time of 5:30.5, giving him two of his best times for the season. He is the son of Dean and Tanya Pierce of La Crosse.

25 Years Ago

February 22, 2001

The Golden Belt Homeschoolers placed first in the Science Olympiad Regional Competition held at Fort Hays State University. The Golden Belt Homeschool team consisted of 11 students in grades 6 through 9 who competed in the B Division against nine other middle school teams. Team members include Katie Somes, Bryce Friesen, Jonathan Bigelow, Josiah Bigelow, Katie Edwards, Amanda Lawrence, Chris Wyatt, Jake Somes, Greg Wyatt, Judah Bigelow and Willie Rolfs.

Valentine royalty of the Rush County Memorial Hospital Long Term Care are Princess Ruth Thielenhaus, Queen Rose Moore, King Alfred Urban and Prince Leonard Schmidt. The crowning was held during a Valentine's Day Party hosted by members of the Alexander Golden Keys last week at the LTC Unit. All of the residents received Valentines, candy and other goodies, which were donated by numerous organizations and individuals.

50 Years Ago

February 19, 1976

It was a family affair for the Obornys during the annual meeting of the Kansas Crop Improvement Association at the K-State Union in Manhattan. Edward Oborny Jr. was the 1975

Premier Seed Grower in Kansas, an honor that went to his father, Edward Sr., 25 years ago. Rush county has had six farmers chosen for the award. In addition to Ed Oborny Sr. and Ed Oborny Jr., others receiving the award were F.J. Pechanec, Timken, 1956; J.A. Vondracek, Timken, 1959; Alois G. Urban, Bison, 1962; and Henry Pechanec, Timken, 1969.

Steve Herrman, a Fort Hays State sophomore from La Crosse, is unbeaten this season in the half-mile run. Herrman and his teammates were in action Saturday as they hosted powerful Adams State in a track dual at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

75 Years Ago

February 22, 1951

Partial use is being made of the new \$60,000 grade school addition at McCracken. Twenty-eight first graders have started attending classes there. When the weather is warm, the music room is also being used. Full use of the addition is prevented because of lack of radiators for the structure. A lunch room and a class room are still not in use because of the lack of heat.

For the third game in a row, Alexander men have failed in the crucial final moments of a game and have lost by two points or less. Tuesday night Brownell beat the Whippets 39-40 after Alexander led throughout the game, until the final 50 seconds. With less than a minute to go the score was 39-34 Alexander. Then Horlick connected with quick field goals to put Brownell ahead and win the game.

100 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican

February 25, 1926

Clement L. Wilson, Tribune, president of the Kansas-Colorado Boulevard, recently received a letter from the State Highway Engineer stating that the Kansas-Colorado Boulevard is on the approved Federal Air map and has been given consideration as a state road, and that they are cooperating with the State of Colorado and numbered this road 96, which is the number of the route in Colorado.

After the snow storm an old-fashioned procedure was brought into play and four horses were often hitched to a wagon in which the boys and girls were brought to the schools, while the gasoline wagons rested in the garages.

-City of La Crosse Commission Minutes-

The regular meeting of the La Crosse City Commission was held on January 21, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. Present were Mayor Alan Sramek, Commissioner Bill Schroter, Commissioner Kim Peach, City Manager Lyle Hammerschmidt, City Clerk Kim Jay, and James Heifner.

Commissioner Peach motioned to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting, Commissioner Schroter seconded the motion. Motion carried - 3-0.

February meeting dates: 11th and 25th.

Commissioner Schroter motioned to approve the bills to be paid, Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried - vote 3-0.

City Manager reported on the following: will be taking sealed bids for the sale of the landfill building; Engine #2, testing, Midwest Energy wholesale electricity changes, air compressor; letters concerning shipping containers and building permits; blade for dump truck; electric and water sales for 2025; quote from Mayer for manhole repairs; electric project at nursing home; Commissioner Schroter asked about the railroad tracks on Main Street and supplying water to another town; Commissioner Peach asked about school signs on Main Street; Commissioner Peach motioned to go into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel for 5 minutes at 5:58 p.m. Commissioner Schroter seconded the motion. Motion carried - 3-0. James Heifner left the meeting at 5:58 p.m. Executive session ended at 6:03 p.m. Commissioner Schroter motioned to go into the Executive session with the city manager present for 10 minutes. Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried - vote 3-0. Executive session ended at 6:13 p.m. Commissioner Peach motioned to go into Executive session for 10 minutes. Commissioner Schroter seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Executive session ended at 6:23 p.m.

Mayor Sramek motioned to end the meeting at 6:29 p.m. Commissioner Peach seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Law enforcement activity

Rush County Sheriff Mark Knowles reported law enforcement activity for February 8 through February 14.

There were 17 civil process papers served and no complaints of cattle out.

There were no arrests during the week.

On February 8, investigation of a non-injury vehicle/deer accident in the 3600 block of K-96, investigation of a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of East 11th Street in La Crosse, investigation of an animal bite in the 200 block of West Ellen Avenue in Otis, outside agency assist with Bison, Timken and La Crosse Fire Departments for a grass fire in the 2000 block of CR 320, investigation of harassment in the 500 block of East 11th Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for records request, outside agency assist with Barton County for an investigation of 911 accidental dial in the 1600 block of CR 370.

On February 9, conducted a check in the area of the 1500 block of CR 220, investigation of a driving complaint at the intersection of Main and West 1st Street in La Crosse, investigate a report of a hunting complaint, outside agency assist with McCracken and La Crosse Fire Departments for a vehicle fire in the 2400 block of K-4, citizen assist for a VIN inspection in La Crosse, returning property at the Sheriff's Office, citizen assist for found property at the Sheriff's Office, investigation of a domestic disturbance in the 1700 block Post Rock Drive in La Crosse, conducted motorist assists in the 2700 block of U.S. 183 and the 2300 block of Avenue G, citizen assist for information at the Sheriff's Office, conducted a welfare check in the 500 block of East 5th Street in La Crosse.

On February 10, requests to check vehicles in the 1700 block of Main Street in La Crosse, the 3300 block of K-96 and the 1600 block of Main Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for property at the Sheriff's Office, investigation of a scam in La Crosse, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 400 block of East 12th Street in La Crosse.

On February 11, investigation of suspicious activity in the 100 block of West Eagle Street in Otis, investigation of found property in the 400 block of East K-4, investigation of a child in need of care report made to DCF, investigation of a 911 open line in the 300 block of Peace Street in La Crosse, citizen assist with a VIN inspection in La Crosse, citizen assist for a vehicle on the side of the road in the 1900 block of U.S. 183, investigation of a driving complaint in the 2300 block of U.S. 183, outside agency assist with EMS for a medical emergency in the 500 block of Washington Street in La Crosse.

On February 12, investigation of an animal barking complaint in the 700 block of

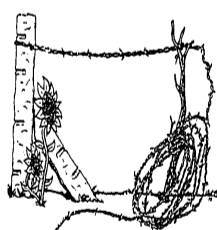
West 10th Street in La Crosse, investigation of a driving complaint on K-4, outside agency assist with Rush County Indiana Sheriff's Office, regarding a civil matter, outside agency assist with community corrections in the Sheriff's Office, citizen assist for testing fire alarm in the 800 block of Locust Street in La Crosse, assisted with a medical emergency on K-4 heading to La Crosse, citizen assist with a VIN inspection in La Crosse, outside agency assist with McCracken and La Crosse Fire Departments for a grass fire in the 3100 block of CR 110, report of an unauthorized burn in the 3300 block of CR 320, motorist assist in the 1100 block of U.S. 183, outside agency assist with DCF for a child in need of care in La Crosse, outside agency assist with Ellis County for a driving complaint on U.S. 183.

On February 13, assisted a motorist in the 800 block of West Union Street in Rush Center, citizen assist with a VIN inspection in La Crosse, investigation of a possible sign down in the 1000 block of U.S. 183, investigation of an animal bite in the 800 block of Locust Street in La Crosse, assisted in a civil matter in the 400 block of Elm Street in La Crosse, request to check a vehicle on Main Street in La Crosse, investigation of a non-injury vehicle/deer accident involving 2 vehicles in the 1400 block of K-96, outside agency assist with EMS for a fall victim in the 100 block of West Fisher in Otis.

On February 14, request to check a vehicle in the 100 block of North Main Street in Rush Center, outside agency assist for city lights out in La Crosse, information from K&O Railroad for crossing activation in McCracken, citizen assist with a VIN inspection in McCracken, citizen assist for locksmith in the 100 block of West 4th Street in Liebenenthal, conducted a check in the area of the 100 block of West Fisher Avenue in Otis, investigation of a driving complaint in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with EMS for a fall victim in the 700 block of West 6th Street in La Crosse.

Anyone noticing anything out of the ordinary occurring in the county is encouraged to contact the Rush County Sheriff's Office, 785-222-2578 or if it is an emergency call 911.

You can also follow us on Facebook at Rush County Sheriff's Office. Also check out our new app on Google Play and in the App Store on your mobile device, by downloading Sheriff Connect. Once you are in the app, search for Rush County Sheriff's Office. This app will connect you to get notifications in case of an emergency, plus it provides many other resources.



County Happenings

FEBRUARY

February 18 - Ash Wednesday.

February 20 - EMT Leroy Penka come-and-go retirement party, 3-6 p.m., La Crosse City Auditorium.

February 21 - Rush County Historical Society annual meeting, 1 p.m., Barbed Wire Museum meeting room. 120 W. 1st, La Crosse.

February 21 - Heritage Mass, Bishop John Brungardt, celebrant, 4:30 p.m., St. Joseph Church, Liebenenthal.

February 22 - Building the Faith presentation on Volga German Settlements in Rush County, 2 p.m., Kansas Barbed Wire Museum, 120 W. 1st Street, La Crosse.

MARCH

March 3 - Walnut Valley Senior Center meeting, 1 p.m., 220 Washington, Rush Center.

March 5 - Bison JOY Club, noon, Bison Community Building. (1st Thursday of the month).

March 7 - Chicken Noodle and Chili soup supper, Hope Lutheran Church, Rush Center, 5-7 p.m., free will offering. Bake sale plus raffle with drawing for \$500 Beef Bundle, Pieced Quilt and 43" Smart TV. Door prizes drawn throughout the evening.

March 8 - Daylight Saving Time begins.

March 9 - VFW meeting, 7 p.m., Fred Lohrey's Shop. (2nd Monday of the month)

March 14 - St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Rush Center.

March 15 - Walnut Valley Senior Center Potato Bar, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 220 Washington, Rush Center.

March 16 - American Legion meeting, 7 p.m., Fred Lohrey's Shop. (3rd Monday of the month)

March 20 - Spring begins.

March 26 - Happy Age Club, noon, Otis Senior Center, 105 W. Fisher.

ONGOING HAPPENINGS

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. Closed for the season. 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.