

Heartland Farm invites public to Open Farm Day

It's time for Heartland Farm's free annual Open Farm Day!

Visit the non-profit farm on Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to walk alpacas, make wildflower seed bombs, and hear stories for children. Watch a spinning demonstration from Sr. Jane, take a tour of the gardens and trails, visit the prairie labyrinth, feed Scottish Highland cows, explore creativity with a community weaving project, or symbolically adopt an alpaca.

While at the Farm, be sure to check out the gift shop full of unique products, including Sr. Imelda's soaps and jellies, homemade kitchen items, Sr. LeAnn's cro-

cheted alpacas, Equal Exchange teas and coffee, alpaca-fiber socks, hats, and scarves, and more. Be sure to have a cookie baked in the solar oven (weather permitting).

Farm friends JCA Highlands and Freaking Delicious Cheesecakes will be there.

A full schedule of events is available at heartlandfarm-ks.org/open-farm-day-2026/.

Open Farm Day is free to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Heartland Farm is located 1049 CR 390, south of Avenue X. Heartland Farm is the first farm on the west side of the road.

From Our ARCHIVES

By Linda Kenyon

10 Years Ago

April 6, 2016

La Crosse High School junior Jackson Dinsmore is the Class 2A State Powerlifting Champion in weight division 242. Dinsmore scored a total of 815, taking first place in squat with 350, second in clean with 240 and benching 225.

La Crosse High School music students qualifying for the KSHSAA State Music Contest are Matthew Frick, Ryan Hayes, Tristan Hasenfratz and Dalton Janousek. The students qualified for state by earning a I rating in the Regional contest. LHS senior Ryan Hayes earned a I on a vocal solo; freshman Matthew Frick earned a I on his saxophone solo and tenor saxophone solo; freshman Tristan Hasenfratz earned a I on her clarinet solo; freshman Dalton Janousek earned a I on his baritone solo.

25 Years Ago

April 5, 2001

Flames from a fire could be seen five miles out of town peeking above the tree line and the heat could be felt a block away. The empty 65,000 bushel elevator at Mid States Farmers Coop in Otis was scheduled to be demolished later this month, but when workers began cutting the metal braces with a cutting torch, the elevator was accidentally ignited just before noon Friday. Four Otis Fire Department vehicles and an ambulance were on the scene, along with dozens of spectators. Because the fire had quickly consumed the elevator, the fire department assumed a defensive position to protect the flat, the Mid State Farmers Coop building, the railroad tracks on the south side, and the 7500 volt power lines that hung near, said Assistant Fire Chief Tim Galusha. After two hours, the elevator was a pile of smoking rubbish. According to Galusha, the elevator had burned down to about three or four feet, which was pushed into the pit and covered with eight to ten feet of dirt. No one was hurt in the incident.

Fair Board and 4-H members planted 22 trees at the Rush County Fairgrounds Saturday around the carnival area and the barns. The group planted over \$1,000 worth of trees, which included Hackberry, Pear, Honey Locust and Silver Maple. The trees were purchased from the Larned Greenhouse with donations from Nekoma State Bank of La Crosse, Bison State Bank of Bison, and Golden Belt Telephone of Rush Center.

50 Years Ago

April 1, 1976

One of the oldest practicing physicians in the state, Dr. J.H. Baker of La Crosse died Saturday, March 27, at the Rush County Memorial Hospital. He was 87. He was engaged in general practice and in 1924 he built the Baker Hospital here, and practiced medicine and surgery. A member of the Medical Corps, he served in both World Wars. Funeral services were in the First Christian Church. Burial with graveside services by the La Crosse American Legion and VFW was in the La Crosse Cemetery.

Approximately 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, Golden Belt Telephone Association of Rush Center was notified that 2 exchanges, McCracken and Utica, were isolated from long distance telephone service. Upon investigating, it was found that a pedestal which is used for above ground treat-

ment of buried cable had been shot twice with a high powered rifle. The exchanges of McCracken and Utica were isolated until repairs could be made and service restored about 4:30 p.m. The crime is being investigated by the Rush County Sheriff's department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation was notified due to the seriousness of the crime and the interruption of long distance services which involves both intra-state and interstate traffic.

75 Years Ago

April 5, 1951

Four Rush county men have received notice of induction and they will leave here Tuesday to be sworn into the Army at Kansas City, Mo. The Rush county men are Rene B. Kerbs, Otis; Carl McCord, Rush Center; Richard D. Shiney, McCracken; and Gilman Jacobs, La Crosse. Induction of Kerbs and Shiney will probably be postponed until after the end of the school year. Both are students.

Registered nurses' salaries at the Rush County Memorial hospital took a \$90 cut in the March 29 edition of the News through a typographical error. Registered nurses are paid \$210 a month and not \$120 as the feature article stated.

100 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican
April 8, 1926

The United Telephone Company has a bunch of linemen in the county this week, moving all the poles back on their line north of town, to conform with the required width of the new Federal Highway No. 1. Most of the fences between town and the county line have been moved back, and the actual construction work will begin on the road just as soon as the weather permits.

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, with all members present. Very little business was done aside from the routine work of auditing vouchers and allowing the just claims. A committee of farmers from Big Timber appeared before the board and asked damages for the growing wheat which would be ruined because of the widening of the road. The Board agreed to allow the sum of \$10 an acre for this damage, and the committee was satisfied.

Frank Littler drove out two 22-14 Minneapolis tractors Saturday to be used in his farm operations northeast of McCracken. The tractors are powerful machines, and will "drag" six plows each easily. Frank has something like a 700 acre wheat crop this year, and expects to do better this the coming fall.

125 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican
April 5, 1901

April fool day was all right. A wet heavy snow fell all day and made lots of moisture for the wheat.

The Probate Judge of Gray county exchanges marriage licenses for coyote scalps. The boys say the girls are easier caught than the coyotes.

All of the skim plants are taking in tons and tons of milk at good prices, our hens are keeping the merchants jumping side ways in order to get cases enough to hold the product, while no one is complaining of hard times, wheat is selling at from 57 to 59 per bushel and the good of it is that quite a few of our people have some to sell.

-Rush County Commission Minutes-

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES Monday, March 23, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Chairman Mitchell Blackburn, Vice-Chairman Richard T. Luft and member Leslie Rogers were present. Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the March 16, 2026 minutes as presented. Commissioner Blackburn seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Deputy County Clerk Kristen Muller joined the meeting.

Chad Foust, Road and Bridge Supervisor, Brent Seltman, Assistant Road and Bridge Supervisor, and Luke Seltman met with the board. Supervisor Foust presented his weekly report. They graded in Banner, Big Timber, Center, Fairview, Garfield, Illinois, La Crosse, Lone Star and Pioneer townships. Sand was hauled in Belle Prairie, Center, La Crosse, Pioneer and Union; dirt hauled in Lone Star; shoulder work done in Garfield, Illinois, Lone Star, Pioneer and Pleasantdale; road elevation done in Belle Prairie, Center and La Crosse and a driveway done in La Crosse. Culverts were repaired or replaced in La Crosse and Lone Star and signs were repaired or replaced in Belle Prairie, Center, Fairview, Garfield, La Crosse, Pioneer and Union townships. The mechanics worked on truck #3 and did regular maintenance on county equipment. County Attorney Tony Rues joined the meeting.

At 9:15 a.m., Chairman Blackburn called the public hearing concerning the vacation of a one mile segment of Ave Q that dissects Section 24, Township 18, Range 20 and Section 25, Township 18 and Range 20 all West of the 6th P.M. Rush County, Kansas to order. County Attorney Rues, Supervisor Foust, Assistant Supervisor Seltman, and Luke Seltman were present. There were no questions asked about the vacating process. Commissioner Rogers moved to approve Resolution 2026-03, A Resolution Vacating a Segment of a County Road. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney Rues discussed county zoning concerns.

Craig Poe, Executive Director, and Karely Solis-Enriquez, Bilingual Outreach & Care Coordinator, with High Plains Mental Health met with the board. Mr. Poe presented the yearly report for High Plains Mental Health along with the budget request for 2027. In addition, Mr. Poe presented a separate request for county support for the operation of the new Crisis Intervention Center facility in Hays. The CIC will officially open its doors May 4 and will provide 24/7/365 therapeutic and psychiatric care for adults experiencing mental health or substance use crises. Ms. Solis-Enriquez discussed the QPR Institute training which stands for Question, Persuade and Refer – the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Mr. Poe thanked the county for their continued support and extended an invitation to the Open House Event and/or the Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting for the new CIC facility.

Correspondence was reviewed.

There being no other business before the board, Commissioner Rogers moved to adjourn at 11:39 a.m. and to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 30, 2026. Commissioner Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 30th day of March, 2026.

ATTEST: Tacy A. Keener, County Clerk

Mitchell Blackburn, Chairman

Law enforcement activity

Rush County Sheriff Mark Knowles reported law enforcement activity for March 22 through March 28.

There was 1 civil process paper served and 3 complaints of cattle out.

There were 3 arrests during the week.

On March 22, removed traffic hazard from the roadway in the 2300 block of U.S. 183, assisted in a civil matter in the 300 block of South Railroad Avenue in Timken, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 300 block of Peace Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with La Crosse Fire for an investigation of smoke in the area and grass fire, outside agency assist with K&O Railroad for crossing arm issues in Rush Center, outside agency assist with the City of La Crosse for a power outage in the 500 block of Maple Street in La Crosse, investigate a criminal deprivation of property in Rush Center, request to check a vehicle in the 3100 block U.S. 183.

On March 23, citizen assist for testing fire alarms in the 700 block of West 6th Street in La Crosse, investigation of a scam in McCracken, outside agency assist with EMS for a medical emergency in the 800 block of Poplar Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with Midwest Energy for traffic control in Rush Center, investigation of a scam in the 200 block of Walnut Street in Rush Center, outside agency assist with Ness County Sheriff's Office to make contact with an individual, returning found property in the office, citizen assist for a civil matter in Liebenenthal, assisted a motorist in the 3100 block of U.S. 183.

On March 24, investigation of suspicious activity in the 300 block of South Railroad Avenue in Timken, outside agency assist with EMS and La Crosse Fire for a fall victim in the 300 block of Oak Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for records at the Sheriff's Office, citizen assist with a VIN inspection in La Crosse, completed a booking for court purposes at the Sheriff's Office, outside agency assist with Ness County to contact an individual regarding mislaid property, investigation of an animal at large complaint in 2700 block of U.S. 183, outside agency assist with EMS for a fall victim in the 200 block of North Elm Street in Rush Center, investigation of an animal at large complaint in the 2100 block of U.S. 183, outside agency assist with EMS for chest pains in the 800 block of Main Street in Bison, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 300 block of Peace Street in La Crosse, investigation of a commercial alarm in the 100 block of West Lincoln Street in Rush Center, investigation of a driving complaint in the 100 block of North Main Street in Otis, citizen assist for information of a previous dog bite report in Otis, request to check a vehicle in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse.

On March 25, conducted a check in the area of the 1100 block of Peace Street in La Crosse, investigation of a 911 accidental

dial in the 300 block of Peace Street in La Crosse, investigation of an animal abuse in the 500 block of East 7th Street in La Crosse, lift assist in the 1700 block of Post Rock Drive in La Crosse, outside agency assist for Ellis County for mutual aid for a grassfire with Liebenenthal and McCracken fire, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 400 block West Locust Avenue in McCracken, citizen assist with a VIN inspection in La Crosse, investigation of animal neglect in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, investigation of criminal damage in the 200 block of South 6th Street in La Crosse, investigation of shots fired in Rush Center, investigation of a driving complaint in the 600 block of Main Street in La Crosse, investigation of a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of East Ash in McCracken.

On March 26, assisted with a civil standby in the 500 block of East 11th Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for information on reports in the Sheriff's Office, citizen assist for Municipal Court in La Crosse, investigation of a scam in the 300 block of South Railroad Avenue in Timken, outside agency assist with EMS for a medical emergency in the 200 block of West 16th Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for information on reports in the Sheriff's Office, citizen assist for accident information at the Sheriff's Office, citizen assist for accident information at the Sheriff's Office, investigation of telephone harassment in the 3800 block of Avenue V, conducted a check in the area for a leaning light pole on Main Street in Otis.

On March 27, citizen assist for an animal at large in La Crosse, investigate a traffic hazard in the 2100 block of U.S. 183, citizen assist for a car seat check at the Sheriff's Office, investigate a hit and run accident in the 1200 block of Peace Street in La Crosse, three citizen assists for a VIN inspection in La Crosse, investigate an injured cow at Highway 183 and Avenue X, outside agency assist for a fall victim in the 3800 block of Avenue V.

On March 28, investigate a scam in La Crosse, outside agency assist to locate a vehicle and trailer losing cargo, criminal trespass warning given in McCracken, citizen assist in the 100 block W 3rd street in Bison, investigate a 911 hangup 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.