

# From Our ARCHIVES

By Linda Kenyon

## 10 Years Ago

August 3, 2016

Musician Phil Vandel will perform at the Rush County Fair. Vandel has traveled the world with his music and continues to bring his powerful, unique style of singing, songwriting and guitar playing to audiences around the globe at nearly 200 shows per year. With performances throughout North America, including several shows each year in Las Vegas, he has literally performed everywhere from Hollywood to DC and Canada to Mexico. Vandel has been a band member for several multi-award winning groups and has appeared in Country Weekly Magazine, on CMT, GAC and on Country Radio Stations worldwide. (Ed. note: Phil Vandel Band is performing at this year's Rush County Fair on Saturday evening.)

Barton Community College has announced its list of graduates who earned associate degrees or certificates for career training during the spring semester of 2016. Area students included in the list of graduates are: Coryell Deege, Albert, A.A.S.; Katrina Froetschner, Albert, A.S.; Kerri Mitchell, La Crosse, A.A.S.; Caleb Maneth, Olmitz, A.S.; Brandon Wagner, Olmitz, A.A.S.; and Rebecca Kraisinger, Otis, A.A.S.

## 25 Years Ago

August 2, 2001

On Saturday night of the Rush County Fair, the Bison Playgroup will hold the first annual turtle races and shell decorating contests. Children can bring their decorated turtles at 7 p.m. to the carnival to compete for prizes for the best decorated shell, with the races to follow. Prizes going to both the fastest and slowest turtles in each race. There is no limit on how many times a turtle can be entered.

Several 4-H Shooting Sports participants and their parents gathered at Baker Memorial Sportsman Club for a Fun Night and shooting practice in the Archery, Air Pistol, Air Rifle and Shotgun divisions Wednesday. In the Archery competition, Scott Keener was named Grand Champion and Cale Yost was named Reserve Grand Champion. After the Air Rifle competition, Mark Horn was named Grand Champion. Reserve Grand Champion was Julie Woods. In Shot Gun, Grand Champion was Julie Woods and Reserve Grand Champion was Lance Irvin. In the Air Pistol competition, Grand Champion was Mitzi Holland and Reserve Grand Champion was Emily Humphrey. Shooting instructors on site were Ward Corsair, Norbert Moeder, Jason Pivonka and Leroy Penka.

## 50 Years Ago

July 29, 1976

An estimated 3,000 persons were in Liebenthal Sunday to help local residents celebrate their Centennial and the Bi-Centennial of the United States. The day was filled with festivities and people from the surrounding communities were on hand to make the celebration an event that all will remember for many years. A parade with 45 entries was the main attraction of the day. They all emphasized the birthday centennial theme, ranging from a huge birthday cake to bands, playing selections from the old German songs to the National Anthem. Highway 183 was blocked off and the parade journeyed down the Main Street which is the highway. Persons lined both sides of the street for several blocks. A German dinner was served in the evening to over 1,000 persons and everyone enjoyed the old German dishes.

The Kiwanis Club of Rush County is constructing a concession stand as a community project. It is being built on the Cookie League and Pee Wee League ball diamond, south of the football field at La Crosse High School. The project is being financed by the Farmers & Merchants State Bank and sponsored by the La Crosse Lions Club.

## 75 Years Ago

August 2, 1951

Kathy Cuthrell, 19-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Cuthrell, who live north of Otis, narrowly escaped death Tuesday evening when she fell into the livestock water tank on her parents' farm. Little Kathy wandered away from her parents who were in the barn milking at the time. Mrs. Cuthrell missed the child and stepped to the barn door expecting to see her in the yard. The child was not in sight. With motherly intuition, she ran for the stock tank. Kathy's knees were all that could be seen above the water. Acting quickly, she pulled the child from the tank and attempted to revive her without having had any previous experience with artificial respiration. After working for about 10 minutes, the child became conscious and has recovered with no serious effects.

Flood damages in Rush county have been estimated at \$212,750 by the county. Representatives from Rush, Barton, Ness and Lane counties are expected to hold a meeting soon to discuss a Walnut Valley Flood Control program.

## 100 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican  
August 5, 1926

The Rush County Common School Graduation Exercises were held at the La Crosse Opera House, Monday afternoon, August 2, at two o'clock. There were 128 graduates from the Rush County Common Schools, nearly all of whom were present at the graduation exercises. Howard Gentry, of District No. 8, La Crosse, received the highest grade - 96.8, and is therefore the honor graduate of this year's class. Others, whose average grade was above 90, are as follows: Eunice Conner, Carlos Schwindt, Mary Margaret Gillapsy, Edward Serpan, Estelle Clabaugh, Myrtle Owens, Carl Kaiser, Archie Graham, Rose Engals, Bulah G. Deem, Neva Hallett, Anna Harvey, Ralph Misegadis, Harold Bortz, Mildred Schlegel, Annette Jones, and Harry H. Riffel.

Unknown thieves broke into the P. Scheuerman's Sons store here Saturday night. A small amount of goods has been missed. The thieves plastered the glass of the south window with mud and crashed the glass in. It is supposed that such was done to deaden the sound of the crash. They then entered the store. A few suits are missing but the exact number cannot be determined. No money was taken although one of the drawers of the cash register was ransacked, the drawer containing the money was not touched. It is thought that the burglar alarm frightened them away. Suits were about the only things missed besides a few pair of socks, etc. No trace of the culprits has been found. - Otis Reporter.

## 125 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican  
August 2, 1901

Eggs are selling for only a few cents per dozen, having been as low as four cents not long ago. The extremely hot weather being the cause of their cheapness. Farmers can hardly gather eggs and get them to town before spoiling. A citizen bought a dozen at 5cts a dozen and says they are the dearest he ever bought, only two of the 24 were good. A merchant bought some eggs recently and had a batch of young chicks on his hands. He is now afraid of being arrested for buying property under false pretenses.

Geo. Seeley was threshing Monday afternoon for Phil. Wagner, southeast of Rush Centre, when the end of one of the wheat ricks was discovered on fire. Wheat was pitched on the blaze in such great forks full that the fire was smothered out. Mr. Seeley immediately came to town and purchased a 60 foot cable chain and attached his separator to the engine so in case of fire the machine may be pulled from the burning stacks.

# -Rush County Commission Minutes-

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES Monday, July 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Chairman Mitchell Blackburn, Vice-Chairman Richard T. Luft and member Les Rogers were present. Commissioner Luft moved to approve the July 13, 2026 minutes as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The payroll register was reviewed and signed by the board.

Trevor Deuel, Noxious Weed/Solid Waste Director, met with the board. Director Deuel discussed a leave request from an employee and stated they are spraying Johnson grass in the county.

Sheriff Mark Knowles met with the board to give an update on the in-car video and body cameras. He stated they would not be going with Sector Technology Group due to the additional costs that were not presented in the original quote approved by a motion on June 8, 2026. Commissioner Blackburn moved to rescind the motion made on June 8, 2026 for the quote from Sector Technology Group for 8 Getac Full System in-car and 8 body-worn cameras, 7 computers with docking and 8 Computer Vehicle Solutions with a 5 year warranty for a total of \$212,464.50 with \$162,000.00 to come out of the Equipment Reserve Fund and the remaining balance of \$50,464.50 to come out of the Sheriff's 911 funds. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The road and bridge weekly report was presented for review. They graded in Alexander, Banner, Big Timber, Brookdale, Center, Fairview, Hampton, Illinois, La Crosse, Lone Star, Pioneer, Pleasantdale and Union townships. Sand was hauled in Center, Illinois and Pleasantdale; tree removal was done in Hampton; culverts cleaned out in Pleasantdale and repaired or replaced in Belle Prairie township. Mowing was done in Banner, Center, Garfield and Hampton townships. The mechanics did routine maintenance on county equipment. Commissioner Luft relayed a grading concern on CR 110 north of Hwy 96 to Ave K.

Deputy County Clerk Kristen Muller joined the meeting. At 9:57 a.m., Commissioner Rogers moved to go into executive session for 10 minutes with County Clerk Keener and Deputy County Clerk Muller regarding non-elected personnel with Road and Bridge. Commissioner Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting returned to open session at 10:07 a.m.

Correspondence was reviewed.

The proposed 2027 budget changes were reviewed. Commissioner Blackburn moved to accept the proposed 2027 budget changes with a Revenue Neutral Rate of 103.926 exceeding the 2027 Revenue Neutral Rate of 97.115. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The county will hold their Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) hearing and proposed 2027 budget hearing on August 31, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the commissioners' room at the Rush County Courthouse.

It was noted there will not be a commissioners meeting held the week of August 3, 2026.

There being no other business before the board, Commissioner Blackburn moved to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. and to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 27, 2026. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 27th day of July, 2026.

ATTEST: Tacy A. Keener, County Clerk

Mitchell Blackburn, Chairman

# Law enforcement activity

Rush County Sheriff Mark Knowles reported law enforcement activity for July 19 through July 25.

There were 2 civil process papers served and 1 complaint of cattle out.

There were 4 arrests during the week.

On July 19, conducted a vehicle check in the 3800 block of K-4, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 200 block of East 4th Street in Liebenthal and the 600 block of East 10th Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with K&O Railroad for a traffic hazard in the 1000 block of U.S. 183, request to check vehicle in the 1500 block of U.S. 183, investigation of an unauthorized controlled burn in the 800 block of Washington Street in La Crosse, conducted a welfare check in the 700 block of East 6th Street in La Crosse, request to check subject in the 300 block of Main Street in La Crosse, assisted in a civil matter in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, investigation of a property damage hit and run accident on Main Street in La Crosse.

On July 20, investigation of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of Main Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for a business lockout, investigation of criminal threat in the 300 block of West 12th Street in La Crosse, conducted welfare checks in the 100 block of West 3rd Street in La Crosse and the 300 block of Elm Street in Rush Center, assisted in civil matters in La Crosse and by telephone, outside agency assist with Ministerial Alliance in the 300 block of Rush Center, citizen assist in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, removed traffic hazard from the roadway in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for information of a traffic stop in La Crosse, investigation of harassment in La Crosse, investigation of a driving complaint in La Crosse, assisted motorists in the 100 block of East 8th Street in La Crosse and Main Street in Otis, investigation of theft in La Crosse, investigation of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of Main Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for an animal at large in the 300 block of Elm Street in Rush Center.

On July 21, assisted in a civil matter by telephone, investigation of theft on Main Street in La Crosse, completed a booking for court purposes at the Sheriff's Office, citizen assist with fingerprinting for employment, investigation of a 911 open line in the 200 block of Walnut Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for a residence lockout, investigation of a scam in La Crosse.

On July 22, citizen assist for a VIN inspection in La Crosse, removed traffic hazards from roadway in the intersection of K-4 and Lincoln Street in La Crosse and the 2600 block of K-96, investigation of suspicious activity in the 500 block of Oak Street in La Crosse.

On July 23, outside agency assist with Ellis County for a transient transport to La Crosse, citizen assist with a vehicle lockout in the 700 block of Jefferson Street in La

Crosse, citizen assist for a VIN inspection in La Crosse, investigation of illegal trash dumping in the 2600 block of Avenue M, investigation of harassment in the 1700 block of Post Rock Drive in La Crosse, outside agency assist with the City of La Crosse for a water leak in the intersection of East 13th and Washington Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for a lost item in La Crosse, conducted a search warrant in La Crosse for a narcotics investigation, investigation of a suspicious activity call in the 600 block of Maple Street in La Crosse.

On July 24, walk in at the Sheriff's Office requesting information regarding a criminal investigation, outside agency with Ellis County for case assistance, investigation of an animal at large complaint on Avenue M, investigation of harassment in the 500 block of Poplar Street in La Crosse, removed traffic hazard from the roadway in the 2700 block of K-4, investigation of driving complaints on K-4 and on Avenue X., investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 400 block of West Locust Avenue in McCracken, investigation of noise complaints in the 200 block of West 2nd Street in Bison and in the 300 block of North 1st Street in Otis, citizen assist for a VIN inspection in La Crosse, investigation of a sexual assault crime in La Crosse, investigation of a disturbance in the 500 block of East 7th Street in La Crosse, conducted a check vehicle in the 300 block of Elm Street in Rush Center, investigation of an animal at large complaint in the 300 block of West 10th Street in La Crosse.

On July 25, investigation of a theft in the 600 block of Maple Street in La Crosse, conducted a check vehicle in the 1900 block of U.S. 183, assisted in a civil matter in La Crosse, investigation of a 911 accidental dial in the 400 block of West Ash Avenue in McCracken, investigation of a criminal trespass in the 900 block of Main Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with Kansas Highway Patrol for a domestic in the 400 block of East K-4 in La Crosse, outside agency assist with EMS for an injury vehicle accident in the 1500 block of K-96, investigation of a driving complaint on U.S. 183, outside agency assist with EMS for a medical emergency in the 700 block of East 9th Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with the City of La Crosse for a power outage.

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 other resources.