

From Our ARCHIVES

By Linda Kenyon

10 Years Ago

August 17, 2016

Rush County landowners received recognition from their peers at the Rush County Farm Bureau Association annual business meeting. Thielenhaus Brothers, Richard and Lukes Thielenhaus, of Bison were presented the Natural Resources Award. The Century Farm winner was Jared Petersilie with Doug and Jean Petersilie. The Petersilies own 160 acres of SE 1/4 of section 12-20-24 in Ness County. Farm Family of the Year for Rush County was awarded to Bob Keener and Shelley Oelkers of La Crosse. The winners of the Farm Bureau Safety Poster contest were Clara Thielenhaus, daughter of Lukes and Catherine Thielenhaus of Bison. She won first place in the county contest and second place in the state competition for Division I. Mariah Werth, daughter of Harland and Lori Werth, La Crosse, received first place for Division II.

A Second Chance thrift shop donated \$1,000 to the McCracken Museum, based on its sales during the week of the Rush County Fair. Sales for the week totaled \$600. The thrift shop's board matches sales made at the thrift shop during Rush County Fair week up to a maximum of \$1,000. This is the first year the maximum was reached.

25 Years Ago

August 16, 2001

For nearly 45 days, county crops have been bombarded by triple-digit temperatures, with the only relief coming from an occasional temperature in the 90s. Rush County is also falling behind quickly in moisture, which has doubled the problem. Overall, in layman's terms - the corn has had it. Milo seems to be holding its own in most of the area, but there are still some spots that may also end up as feed.

A group from Rush County Methodist Parish Mission Group went to Wichita Monday. They worked for Starkey Inc., a non-profit organization that provides independent living/work for mentally disabled individuals. Kathy and Ted Bannister and Hannah, Kara Kenyon, Joel Reichel, Ashley and Levi, Angela Humphrey, Sarah Miller, Joshua Jecha and Alwyn Moran painted four houses. They also went to Joyland, Exploration Place and the Mall. They returned Wednesday.

50 Years Ago

August 12, 1976

The Rush County Fair was held August 5-7 this year and as last year, the tractor pull was one of the most popular events. According to Jim Ball, superintendent of the event, this was the biggest crowd ever to attend the event with approximately 800 people attending. There were 32 tractors entered in the competition and 14 garden tractors with 45 pulls being taken. Announcer for the evening was Don Appel, formerly of La Crosse, a radio disc jockey at Garden City. The pull began on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and lasted until approximately midnight with attention and competition keen to the end.

The Rush County Toddler Contest proved to be a very popular attraction at the fair. Winners in the girls 18 months to 2 years are Christina Misegadis, first; Jenny Bailey, second; and Dawn Galusha, third. Boys 18 months to 2 years are Wade Georg,

first; Tyler Flamik, second; Tod Basgall and Glenn Herman, tied for third place; and Kevin Schaffer, fifth. Girls 3 to 4 years are Rene Legleiter, first; Stacy Warren, second; Amy Woods, third; Beth Schwindt, fourth and Melissa Engel, fifth. Boys 3 to 4 years old are Brian Crowell, first; Chad Kreutzer, second; Wade Phillips, third; Billy Harp, fourth; and Brad Bailey, fifth.

75 Years Ago

August 16, 1951

Four La Crosse Boy Scouts will turn cowboy next week when they head for Philmont Boy Scout camp in New Mexico for a week's outing in the mountains taken by horseback. Explorer scouts going on the trip are Leland Van Osdol, Richard Blair, David Jefferies and Bob Wilson. The scouts will ride over mountain trails in the 130,000 acre ranch, camp in mountain valleys and sleep under the stars.

The Loretto baseball team copped third place honors in the Hays baseball tournament Sunday night by defeating Ness City 4-3 in 11 innings. Jim Pivonka was the big gun for the Loretto team. He banded in all four runs, and won the game in the last of the 11th when he smacked a single with one out and the sacks full. Pivonka also brought the game into extra innings, when he doubled and brought Premus Suppes in with the tying run with two out in the last of the ninth. Pinky Klein was the winning pitcher.

100 Years Ago

The La Crosse Republican

August 19, 1926

Bertha Katherine Russell had a party on the occasion of her 13th birthday, last Friday, the 13th. Thirteen girls participated, and all enjoyed a line party at the movie Uncle Tom's Cabin in the evening.

The following tonsillectomies were performed at the hospital this week: Lucile, daughter of Mrs. Ralph Plotner of McCracken; Charles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Pozalek of Rush Center; Edward, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wyman of La Crosse; Charles, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Walker of La Crosse; Olinda, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Stieben of Bazine; and LaVerda, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walther Berg of Albert; and Dora, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John K. Brack of Otis.

125 Years Ago

August 16, 1901

The La Crosse Republican

A.E. Whiteman had a 40 acre field of wheat threshed one day last week that yielded 25 bushels to the acre. For a dry year and a farmer 71 years old, that is not so bad.

J.W. McLaughlin was up from Hoisington Monday. He came on the fast train which was two hours late caused by the train having to back down the road a couple of stations to "pick up" two or three of the train crew who failed to get aboard after crossing a switch.

Master Paul Bunn, the youngest son of B.H. Bunn, a 10 year old lad, experienced a painful accident last Friday evening. He was thrown by a horse about dark north of Rush Centre, and one of his arms dislocated both at the shoulder and the elbow. The little fellow displayed plenty of grit in the placement of the dislocated joints, plainly showing he is "a chip off the old block."

-Rush County Commission Minutes-

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES Monday, July 27, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Chairman Mitchell Blackburn, Vice-Chairman Richard T. Luft and member Les Rogers were present. Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the July 20, 2026 minutes as presented. Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Chair called for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chad Foust, Road and Bridge Supervisor, met with the board and presented his report for review. They graded in Alexander, Brookdale, Fairview, Illinois, La Crosse, Lone Star, Pioneer and Pleasantdale townships. Sand was hauled in Alexander, Brookdale, Center and Pioneer; patching done in Banner, Big Timber, Illinois, Lone Star and Pioneer; dirt hauled in Big Timber, Center and La Crosse; cornerstones located in Banner and ditch work done in Pioneer township. Mowing was done in Banner, Center, Garfield, Lone Star, Pioneer and Union townships. Culverts were cleaned out in Alexander and Hampton and replaced in Big Timber township. The mechanics worked on truck #48, trailer #51 and did routine maintenance on county equipment. Supervisor Foust stated they will be patching/chip sealing on CR 320 south of Hwy 96 starting August 3, 2026. Commissioner Rogers relayed a culvert concern on CR 170 approximately a half mile north of Ave G and a sand request on CR 140 north of Ave D. Commissioner Blackburn relayed a road concern regarding the culvert installed on CR 320 between Ave O and Ave P. Commissioner Luft requested culverts be installed on CR 260 north of the end of the runway and on the south end across the road from the conservation dam driveway. Commissioner Luft stated there are a lot of roads in the county that are overcome by weeds and need graded.

Vanessa Randa, County Treasurer, presented new bank signature cards for the Commissioners to sign.

As a reminder, there will not be a commissioners meeting held the week of August 3, 2026.

The Canvass of Votes for the August 4, 2026 Primary Election will be held on, August 10, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in the Rush County Courthouse.

There being no other business before the board, Commissioner Blackburn moved to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. and to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 10, 2026.

Commissioner Luft seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 10th day of August, 2026.

ATTEST: Tacy A. Keener, County Clerk

Mitchell Blackburn, Chairman

-City of La Crosse Commission Minutes-

The regular meeting of the La Crosse City Commission was held on July 22, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. Present were Mayor Alan Sramek, Commissioner Bill Schroter, City Manager Lyle Hammerschmidt, City Clerk Kim Jay, and James Heifner.

Mayor Sramek motioned to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2026 meeting, Commissioner Schroter seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Joe Proffitt attended the meeting to give an update on his property - he still has some fence to complete and needs to move the trailer. He will attend the meeting held on August 5th. Joe left the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

August meeting dates: 5th and 19th, 2027 Budget Hearing will also be held on the 19th.

Commissioner Schroter motioned to pay the bills, Mayor Sramek seconded the motion. Motion carried vote 2-0.

Mayor Sramek motioned to pay Morgan Brothers Construction \$7,194.50 from Capital-Street for patches, curb and gutter, Commissioner Schroter seconded the motion. Motion carried vote 2-0.

Commissioner Schroter motioned to approve the building permit for Jann Bisterfeldt-patio, deck, and pavilion, Mayor Sramek seconded the motion. Motion carried vote 2-0.

City Manager reported on the following: water line improvements; Jeff McAlister property development; accident at city dump and swimming pool; 5th Street crosswalks; signage on 5th Street; blue dump truck; insurance for power plant; Midwest Energy contract; water plant pickup.

Mayor Sramek motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m. Commissioner Schroter seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Law enforcement activity

Rush County Sheriff Mark Knowles reported law enforcement activity for August 2 through August 8.

There were 7 civil process papers served and 7 complaints of cattle out.

There were 2 arrests during the week.

On August 2, traffic stop ending in an arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol in the 500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, investigation of phone harassment in Alexander, investigation of 911 accidental dials in McCracken and in the 1200 block of Avenue E in McCracken, investigation of suspicious activity in the 1200 block of East 9th Street in La Crosse.

On August 3, motorist assist on U.S. 183, removed traffic hazard from the roadway in the Alexander area, investigation of lost property reported at the Sheriff's Office, prisoner transport from Barton County to Trego County for court purposes, citizen assist to check window tint, citizen assist with fingerprinting for employment, citizen assist with Ministerial Alliance in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, assisted motorist sin Rush Center and in the 3300 block of K-4, request to check area in the 400 block of Washington Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with EMS for a medical emergency in the 300 block of South Elm Street in Rush Center.

On August 4, citizen assist for information for a civil matter, investigation of a driving complaint on U.S. 183 in Rush Center, completed a booking for court purposes at the Sheriff's Office, citizen assist with Ministerial Alliance in La Crosse, citizen assist for a fall victim at the courthouse, investigation of a public nuisance at the courthouse, 2 citizen assists with VIN inspections in La Crosse, investigation of a 911 abandoned call in La Crosse, citizen assist for a civil matter, investigation of criminal threat in Rush Center, investigation of an animal at large in the 1500 block of Main Street in La Crosse.

On August 5, investigation of a traffic hazard in the 2600 block of U.S. 183, investigation of a theft in the 300 block of Elm Street in La Crosse, investigation of driving complaints in Bison, the 1700 block of K-4 and 9th Street in La Crosse, investigation of a scam in La Crosse, checked on a

subject in Bison, outside agency assist with EMS for a medical emergency in the 2400 block of K-4.

On August 6, investigation of a medical alarm in the 300 block of South 5th Street in Otis, investigation of driving complaints on U.S. 183 and West 7th Street in La Crosse, citizen assist for a VIN inspection in Timken, assisted motorist in Rush Center, investigation of a 911 accidental call in La Crosse.

On August 7, assisted a motorist in the 2500 block of U.S. 183, investigation of a 911 open line in the 2300 block of CR 360, citizen assist for a VIN inspection in La Crosse, conducted welfare checks in the 700 block of Pine Street in La Crosse and an individual on CR 320, investigation of driving complaints on CR 310 and 8th Street in La Crosse, citizen assist regarding an unusual letter in the mailbox in La Crosse, investigation of a noise complaint in the 700 block of Peace Street in La Crosse.

On August 8, investigation of an unattended death in the 100 block of Court Street in Liebenthal, assisted in a civil matter in La Crosse, investigation of an animal complaint in the 500 block of Main Street in La Crosse, outside agency assist with KDOT for a broken sign in the intersection of CR 150 and K-4, outside agency assist with EMS for heat exposure in the 200 block of North Locust Street in Timken, request to check vehicle in the 2600 block of K-4, investigation of an injured animal on Main Street in Bison, investigation of a traffic hazard in the 1800 block of K-96.

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.

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