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Sheila Johnson

Your Local Realtor

O:715-743-2008 / Cell:715-896-8042
sheila@homesteadrealtyinc.com

The

Monday, February 23, 2026

Vol. 35, Issue 9

SHOPPER

CONTACT INFORMATION:

409 East Main Street
Black River Falls, WI 54615
PH: (715) 284-4304
~~~~~  
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480/80R46 AC85 ..... \$1,395  
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TM-600 ..... \$1,965

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12-16.5 \$315  
MITAS BIG BOY  
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\$179<sup>95</sup>

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# VOTE APRIL 7

I'm proud to announce my candidacy for the Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan School District Board of Education. My focus is simple: put students first, support and retain quality teachers, use technology responsibly, and ensure safe, respectful schools for every child.

I would be honored to earn your support at the polls this April as we work together to strengthen our schools and our community.

Thank you, Stephanie Werre.

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River Falls. For more infor- mation, time and place, call  
mation call 715-896-2853. Carol at 715-670-0585.



## BARN OWL

### First Anniversary!

#### WHAT'S WITH RIGHT AND LEFT?

Ever wonder why one party is called left-wing and another right-wing? Why are some are "leftists" and others from the "far right"?

In the early days of the French Revolution in 1789 a French National Assembly was called by the King. From the position of the speaker, people of different perspectives began to migrate to one side of the meeting hall or another.

**Commoners eventually sat to the left of the speaker. Nobility and clergy took seats on the right.**

Nobility didn't want change. They believed in the divine right of Kings and keeping power with the aristocracy. They held to standards of **authority, hierarchy, order, tradition, duty and nationalism.**

The left side of the hall believed in the rights of the middle class, common people and peasants. Drawing inspiration from the American Revolution a few years earlier, they believed people should have equal part in governing a country. They held to standards of **freedom, equality, reform of the status quo, the rights of man and internationalism.**

There are grades of loyalty on the right or left. Some extreme, some more in the middle. But the right still advocates for the aristocracy. The left, for the common people, workers and farmers. The left created social security, Medicare, Medicaid, the FDIC, public education and rural electrification. The right supports tax relief for the wealthiest, reduced government regulation of business, removal of social economic support and the free, unconstrained play of business and markets. They support limiting access to the vote and to women's health care options. The right supported slavery and the Jim Crow laws.

**And the right doesn't seem to mind that President Trump has referred to himself as "king".**

**BARN OWL NOW AVAILABLE IN TREMPPEALEU COUNTY NEWSPAPERS**  
By Ben Boardman and Friends.  
Paid by gifts from supporters  
Help us pay for BARN OWL space in the local paper. Submit comments or questions to 57boardman@gmail.com  
Celebrate the one-year anniversary of BARN OWL. Send a donation to PO Box 57, Melrose, WI 54642 or to buymeacoffee.com/barnowl01



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**HONEY BEES** for sale. 5 frame Nuc's with laying queen, brood, and feed. Ready first half of May. \$168 . 25+ \$155. 3# packages \$135. Mated queens \$30. W11805 Bush Rd., BRF.

**ELIMINATE RISING** fuel costs. Clean, safe and efficient wood heat. Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace. Heats multiple buildings. Available in dual fuel ready models. Call today. Wood Sales & Service, N5931 Hwy 54 W, Black River Falls. 715-284-9438

**POMERANIAN PUPPIES** For Sale! Dewormed, shots and vet checked very social. \$500. Call 715-654-5149.

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**JACUZZI BATH** Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-877-403-3670

# AND GOD SAYS...

We have in our DVD library a movie entitled, **Mandie and the Secret Tunnel by Lost World Pictures. This is a story about a young girl whose parents have died and she is left in the care of a mean foster mother who resents the fact that she now has an extra mouth to feed and a body to clothe. So Mandie finally runs away to her Uncle John's extravagant mansion. However, when she gets there, she learns that her uncle has been lost at sea and is presumed dead.**

Once his story gets out, two sets of relatives come to claim their inheritance, which could leave Mandie with nothing. The house staff, who is loyal to John and his niece Mandie, are trying frantically to find John's will, but to no avail. They share this need with Mandie, to enlist her help in finding it. It is urgent as they only have a limited time before the inheritance will be divided by the court.

As Mandie searches for the will, she has flashbacks to the story her father used to tell her night after night, so that she actually had it memorized. As she searched for the will and recalled the story, she began to realize that her father was really telling their family's story. She also realized that her father always told it exactly the same because the story contained clues to solving the whereabouts of the missing will. As Mandie continues to apply the lines of the story to the search for the will, she is able to solve the mystery of the missing will enabling her to receive her rightful inheritance.

So it is that, much like Mandie, who thought the story her father told was fiction, many people today think of the Bible story as merely fiction or a myth. Yet the truth is, that just as Mandie's story was true and was the key to her future, so the Bible is true and contains the key to our eternal future.

You see, the story never changed. It was always true, even though Mandie didn't know it at first. It was Mandie who changed in her understanding as she discovered the truth.

So it is with the Bible, it doesn't change. It is truth. It is we, not the Bible, that need to change. If we will humble ourselves before the Lord and confess that he is right and his word is true we will find the truth that enables us to receive the inheritance that God has provided for us— our eternal salvation.

And what is that inheritance exactly? Roman 8:16-17a declares that "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. And if we are children, then we are heirs: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ." There can be no greater inheritance than that.

**Written by George Jaderston and paid for by donations from supporters. For comments, call 715-896-2953. For support, send donations to P. O. Box 43, Melrose, WI 54642.**



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| Baking Caramels 13 oz.....                       | \$1.20   |
| Honey Nut Toasted Cereal 12.3 oz.....            | \$1.49   |
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| Maple & Brown Sugar Bacon 12 oz.....             | \$2.99   |
| French Roast Coffee K Cups 120 ct.....           | \$25.89  |
| Skipjack Tuna in Light Oil 4-3 oz.....           | \$2.39   |
| Dye Free/Scent Free Laundry Detergent 1 Gal..... | \$6.89   |
| Mushroom Alfredo Sauce 15 oz.....                | \$2.89   |
| Chocolate Milk 1/2 Gal.....                      | \$3.15   |
| Applesauce Original 28 oz.....                   | \$3.49   |
| Seasoned Pretzels 15 oz.....                     | 2/\$5.00 |
| Platinum Dishwasher Pacs 62 ct.....              | \$12.89  |
| Baked Veggie Snacks Variety Pack 6 ct.....       | \$2.69   |
| Mild Cheddar Slices 2.5 lbs.....                 | \$4.29   |

Store Hours: M-F 9-5, Sat 9-4, Sun Closed.  
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ADRC OF JACKSON COUNTY • MARCH 2 - MARCH 6

## SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM MENUS

All Sites Provide Bread & Butter, Milk or Coffee  
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL HOME-DELIVERED & STARRED (\*\*) SITES.

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**BLACK RIVER FALLS HOME-DELIVERED • MON-FRI**  
11am - 1pm • 715-284-1322  
All meals come with bread w/margarine & 1% or skim milk  
**MON:** Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, apple crisp  
**TUES:** Brat, pork & beans, mashed potatoes, kraut, peach sauce  
**WED:** BBQ meatballs, tiny whole potatoes, Mandarin oranges, peas  
**THURS:** Chicken pie over, mashed potatoes, apple juice, mixed green salad, pudding  
**FRI:** Breaded baked fish, mashed potatoes, fresh fruit, beets, custard

**TAYLOR GENERAL STORE & CAFÉ • MON-FRI**  
715-662-2225  
**MON:** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, fruit  
**TUES:** Popcorn chicken bowl, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit  
**WED:** Tacos, lettuce & tomatoes, tater tots, fruit  
**THURS:** Chili, grilled cheese, fruit  
**FRI:** Fish, potato, coleslaw, mixed fruit

**MELROSE • CONGREGATE • MON-THURS**  
Site Location: L&M Café, 608-488-2611  
Served 11am-1pm  
All meals come with bread & butter, 1% milk, coffee or tea  
**MON:** Chicken stir fry with oriental blend veg. over rice, gelatin w/fruit  
**TUES:** Liver & onions, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit  
**WED:** Ring bologna, cream potatoes, peas, fruit  
**THURS:** Fish, baked potato, squash, coleslaw, fruit

**MERRILLAN • CONGREGATE • MON-FRI**  
Site Location: Merrillan Café, 715-333-9200  
Served 11am-1pm  
All meals come with bread & butter, 1% milk, coffee or tea  
**MON:** Pork roast, mashed potatoes, peas, salad  
**TUES:** Roasted chicken, mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes  
**WED:** Hamburger steak, baked potato, green beans, salad  
**THURS:** Beef tips over noodles, carrots, salad  
**FRI:** Fish, potato, green beans/corn, salad, fruit

**MILLSTON • WED-THURS**  
Site Location: TK 400 Club, 715-284-0072 • Served 11am-1pm  
All meals come with bread & butter, 1% milk, coffee or tea  
**WED:** Breaded pork chop, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit  
**THURS:** Salisbury steak, tater tots, green beans, fruit





# You've Got the Whole FARM in Your Hands

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The first step is understanding your policy.  
Please contact us today to review your coverage options and discuss changes for 2026.



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**For information, to join our waiting list, or to schedule a tour, please contact 715-284-7077**

**404 County Road R • Black River Falls, WI 54615**



**5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNUAL**



**CUSTOMER  
APPRECIATION  
EVENT!**

**Mon., March 9–Sat., March 14, 2026**  
**10% OFF ALL Lumber paid that week!**

**Stop by for Customer Appreciation Day:**  
★ ★ ★ ★ **Friday, March 13** ★ ★ ★ ★  
— *LUNCH, COFFEE, COOKIES & DOOR PRIZES!* —

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call for pricing, 608-864-  
0906. Also, Parakeet for sale  
with bird cage and bird feed,  
Asking \$75.

***This Week's Specials • This Week's Specials • This Week's Specials***

- **Cooked Glazed Chicken Dumsticks**, 3 lbs. .... **\$7<sup>35</sup>**
- **Cooked Breaded Chicken Thighs**, 3 lbs. .... **\$7<sup>65</sup>**
- **Johnsonville Bacon/Cheddar Brats**, 19 oz. (Case of 12, \$32.45) ..... **\$2<sup>95</sup>**
- **Sliced Roast Beef**, 2 lbs. (Case of 6, \$43.75) ..... **\$7<sup>95</sup>**
- **Johnsonville Farm Grande Pepperoni**, 7 oz. (Case of 9, \$7.85) ..... **95<sup>c</sup>**
- **Oscar Mayer Sliced Honey Ham**, 1 lb. (Case of 8, \$14.30) ..... **\$1<sup>95</sup>**
- **Jimmy Dean Sausage Patties**, 30 oz. .... **\$4<sup>75</sup>**
- **Hormel Mac & Cheese Tray**, 20 oz. (Case of 6, \$14.60) ..... **\$2<sup>65</sup>**
- **Old Orchard Cranberry Juice Concentrate**, 12 oz. (Case of 12, \$14.85) ..... **\$1<sup>35</sup>**
- **Velveeta Cheese Slices**, 5 lbs. .... **\$13<sup>75</sup>**
- **Monterey Jack Cheese Loaf**, 5 lbs. .... **\$13<sup>75</sup>**
- **Prairie Gold Wheat Berries**, 50 lbs. .... **\$33<sup>50</sup>**
- **Montana All Purpose Flour**, 10 lbs. .... **\$8<sup>95</sup>**
- **Marshmallow Mateys Cereal**, 15.6 oz. (Case of 9, \$16.25) ..... **\$1<sup>95</sup>**
- **Snyders Thin Pretzels**, 3.5 oz. (Case of 12, \$6.05) ..... **55<sup>c</sup>**
- **Kraft Honey Mustard Dressing**, 1 lb. (Case of 6, \$8.55) ..... **\$1<sup>55</sup>**
- **Nature Valley Honey Vanilla Yogurt Bark**, 5 oz. (Case of 4, \$7.15) ..... **\$1<sup>95</sup>**

**FRESH PRODUCE** 

**Russet Potatoes**  
**30<sup>c</sup>/lb., \$12/50 lbs.**

**Apples:** Gala, Golden Delicious, Crimson Crisp, Jonagold, Fuji, Ever Crisp

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**WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, & EBT SNAP CARDS**

*The Black River Falls Area Foundation (Foundation) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting community organizations and students in Jackson County. Its success depends on people donating their time, talents and money.*

## BRF Area Foundation's Newest Trustees

The Foundation is pleased and excited to announce our newest Trustees, Pat Anderson and Ann Homstad. On January 1, 2026, they will join current Trustees Brad Chown, Ashley Ahl, Marianne Torkelson, Kristi Hanson, Dr. Nicholas Kitowski, Paul Millis, Jack Taylor, and Dennis Young to complete the Foundation's Board.

Patrick (Pat) Anderson grew up in the Black River Falls area and graduated from BRF High School in 1976. After several years in the workforce, he returned to school, at UW La Crosse as a married non-traditional student. Upon graduating with a bachelor's degree in Accountancy, Pat and his wife Cindy moved to Marshfield, Wisconsin where he became a licensed CPA. After four years in public accounting, he joined the finance department at Roehl Transport, Inc., retiring in 2020 as their controller. While living in Marshfield, Pat was very involved in the community, being an active member of several boards, including the Marshfield Optimist Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry and his favorite, the Marshfield Area United Way. Pat and Cindy recently moved back to the BRF area where Pat looks forward to once again making a difference in his community.

Ann is a mom to two adult sons, Alex & Luke. She graduated from Black River Falls High School and holds a BA and MBA from UW-Madison. A former banker, Ann worked with families and businesses on their financial goals for many years after which she served as the executive director of a foundation dedicated to mental health and suicide prevention. She is a founding member and past president of Impact100 Greater Milwaukee, a women's collective giving group which has given \$3.6 million in grants to the greater Milwaukee area since 2015. Retirement now allows her to spend considerable time in the BRF area and Ann is excited to bring her nonprofit experience in grantmaking, board development, and fundraising to the BRF Area Foundation. She is honored to be following in the footsteps of her father, Gil Homstad, who founded the Black River Falls Area Foundation during his tenure as Black River Falls Rotary president.

The Foundation sincerely appreciates Pat and Ann's willingness to share their time supporting our community. We look forward to the experience, insight, and ideas they will bring to our organization. Thank you and WELCOME!

We would also like to acknowledge, **with sincere appreciation and gratitude**, the donors who continue to support the Foundation. Your generosity allows us, in turn, to support the organizations that support our community.

**The Foundation is pleased to share additional information with anyone who is interested. If you would like a free copy of our annual report and you are not on our FRIENDS mailing list, please contact the Foundation office by calling or texting 715-284-3113 or send an email to [ExecutiveDirector@brfareafoundation.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@brfareafoundation.org).**

**AD DEADLINE  
WEDNESDAY @ 3:00PM**

# Clark County Humane Society's Pet of the Week

## "INDIGO"

Indigo is the  
CCHS Pet of the Week!

Indigo came to CCHS as a stray towards the end of December, being found in the Hixon Township area. This sweet girl is a 1 year old (estimated Date of Birth 12/22/24) Shepherd mix and weighs roughly 62.8# currently. She is so very pretty with her short-haired black and white/tan coat. She has perky ears and warm brown eyes, too. Indigo is the embodiment of a ray of sunshine! She is a happy gal with so much love overflowing from her heart! Indigo is a bit of an attention hog and would love an active forever family that she doesn't have to share. With any rescue, training and socialization are incredibly important to the success of the dog. Please apply to adopt Indigo today! You can submit your adoption application on our website: [www.cchs-petshelter.org/applying-to-adopt](http://www.cchs-petshelter.org/applying-to-adopt).



February just got meow-gical at Clark County Humane Society! Love is officially in the air. A wonderful supporter is sponsoring cat adoption fees all month long, so you can swipe right on your purrfect match for an everlasting love without the fee. We're incredibly grateful for this special supporter's kindness, and can't wait for you to meet your forever Valentine. Standard adoption policies and procedures still apply. We have an amazing group of cats and kittens at the Shelter to pick from right now. Warning: falling in love is basically guaranteed!

# CLARK COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

12-3 PM Mon / Wed / Fri / Sat • 7.5 mi. SE of Neillsville on Hwy 73  
W3926 St. Hwy. 73, PO Box 127, Neillsville, WI 54456

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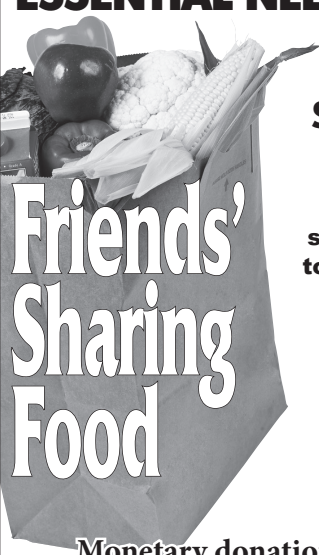
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# ALMA CENTER HUMBIRD-MERRILLAN FFA CHAPTER

## Lincoln ACHM 2025-2026 Events

It has been a whirlwind year of growth, service, and leadership for the Lincoln ACHM FFA Chapter. From the halls of the National Convention in Indianapolis to the local farms of our own backyard, our members have been busy embodying the FFA motto: *Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve*.

### Building the Foundation: Leadership and Learning

The year kicked off with our officer team attending the Fall Leadership Workshop at CFC, setting a high bar for the months to follow. Early in the fall, our 7th, 8th, and 9th-grade members traveled to Stevens Point for the **FIRE Conference**, where they gained first-hand experience in leadership opportunities and discovered how they can contribute to the future of our chapter.

In November, the momentum continued as 10th and 11th graders headed to Wisconsin Dells for the **Mission and Impact Conference**. There, they focused on peer motivation—learning how to encourage fellow members to get involved and make the most of their FFA journey.

### From Alma Center to Indianapolis

One of the season’s highlights was the trip to the **National FFA Convention**. Six of our members joined a bus of fellow Western Wisconsin FFAs for the trek to Indianapolis. The journey was a masterclass in modern industry, featuring tours of the **DeLong Export Company** to learn about global trade and the **CASE IH plant in Racine** to see agricultural machinery production in action. At the convention, students explored future career paths, post secondary educational opportunities and the latest technological advancements in agriculture.

### Rooted in Community

A hallmark of the Lincoln ACHM FFA is its connection to the local community. This year’s activities included:

- **The Widows Fair:** We successfully sold meat, cheese, and plants grown in our own Ag Department. We are incredibly grateful to our partners, Hixton Cheese & Village Mart and Falls Meat Service, for their support.
- **Ag Night:** An educational evening for parents and younger students to showcase the benefits of Agricultural Education.
- **Farmer Appreciation:** Members baked and delivered cookies to local farmers as a small token of thanks for their tireless work.
- **Christmas Tree Pick-up:** A holiday service project to help neighbors clear out their homes after the break.
- **Canned food Drive:** We are accepting canned food donations as part of our FFA week to be donated to the local food pantry.

### Looking Ahead: FFA Week and Beyond

The busy schedule doesn’t slow down in February. We are currently preparing for LDEs (Leadership Development Events), CDEs (Career Development Events), and working hard on proficiency applications and scholarships.

### Join us for National FFA Week!

We have a full week of festivities planned, including:

- **Ag Literacy Day:** Engaging with our elementary students to teach them about the world of farming.
- **The Community Dinner:** We invite everyone to join us on February 24th at 6:30 PM for a meal and fellowship.
- **Chapter Fun:** Dress-up days and FFA games will be held throughout the week to celebrate agriculture in our community.

### A Heartfelt Thank You

Our success is a direct reflection of the support we receive. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to our Alumni and the entire community. Your continuous support is more appreciated than you know.

To stay updated on all our upcoming events and see photos of our members in action, please follow us on Facebook @LincolnACHMFFA.



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Black River Falls FFA Chapter

National

FEBRUARY 21-28, 2026

FFA WEEK

Black River Falls FFA

2024-2025 Activities

The Black River Falls FFA theme this year is “Picture Yourself in FFA - We May Stand Out, but We Stand Together.” Our officer team created this theme at our annual summer officer retreat. We created it with the thought that our activities in agriculture and FFA help us to create community and a place where all can belong. Here is a brief overview of some of our events this past year.

**Chapter Meetings-** Officers and members come together to talk about new and old business. With these meetings, we can talk about what members have done and what is coming up for them to be involved in. We started to have more people come and be a part of FFA with door prizes and snacks available.

**Notes and Floats-** Writing “thank you” notes to everyone who has helped out our FFA chapter. Our FFA members thank everyone that helps with activities and events that we host. It shows our gratitude towards everyone that took time out of their day to help. Hopefully, they will want to help us again in the future with activities and events. It’s important to FFA because having the community come together is something that we love to see along with having a good time and memories being made with people of our community.

**Fair/Football Concessions-** Made chocolate shakes to sell at our Jackson County Fair and home football games. These concessions raise money for members to be able to go on FFA experiences and participate in activities around the community.

**Food 4 America-** This was where we had 4th graders come to Jackson Electric Cooperative to learn about agriculture through stations and a demo from Jackson Electric Cooperative. Stations included plants, animals, and a food web along with singing the traditional Milk Song.

**Crop Walks-** This is a part of our FFA Student Cooperative where students go out to our chapters test plot field at Jackson Electric Cooperative. Members check the crops and learn about agronomic aspects happening at our field from our agronomist at Allied Cooperative. This year, for our experiment, we tested microbial activity between cover crops and non-cover-crops. We buried underwear to test the soil health. The faster the cotton disintegrates (leaving only the waistband), the more active microbes (bacteria) are present, indicating a healthier, more fertile soil. We have local farmers come and help us plant the crops along with

harvesting.

**Land Lab Learning-** This is where we get to grow our sweet corn and have hands-on labs for Plant Science. We also sell our sweet corn to our community from our land lab. Members were able to connect with their community better. We have had bees in the past and we’re hoping to get bees again to help pollinate our crops. The sweet corn sold out in an hour this past year. **World Dairy Expo-** Members traveled to Madison and walked around to talk to vendors about ag related topics, specifically dairy aspects.

**National Convention-** Eight Black River Falls FFA members went to Indianapolis, Indiana to partake in sessions and talk to vendors in the expo about ag topics. The members toured to DeLong Port and CaselH. They listened to inspirational speakers and learned about how to be proud of themselves. Members went to the Expo where they were able to talk to career experts and colleges. Members learned about different agriculture related topics. They could learn about college and could be offered along with courses that they give and provide.

**Mission Impact Conference-** Seven FFA members went to Wisconsin Dells to attend different leadership sessions. They learned the four pillars that build up leadership: direction, voice, strategy, and initiative. With these four pillars, they learned how to be a leader for others and what came with being a leader. Members were able to learn and apply those to their life and take action in situations.

**Fall Leadership Workshop-** Members went to Cochrane-Fountain City where officers got split up to go to their officer groups with the state officer. Here they learned more about their position and how to serve our chapter. Members also had the opportunity to talk with other FFA chapters in a group with the state officer at the FLW. Other members who attended learned what it entails to be a

leader.

**Leadership Development Event-** Members compete against other FFA chapters at the LDE like Parliamentary Procedure, Creed Speaking, Quiz Bowl, and more. Members learned how to push themselves forward and put themselves out there. Some of our teams did move on to Sectionals, but all the teams worked hard. There is food and drinks that are provided to the members that went and everyone has a fun time competing and hanging out with other chapters.

**Cheese and Sausage-**Members go around the community getting orders for people that want cheese or sausage, which then they deliver. This fundraiser allows us to get to know our community more. The money we raise from selling cheese and sausage goes back to our chapter allowing our members to be able to go places like Bruce Mound, conferences, and community service activities that are held.

**Christmas Tree Pick-up-** Members go around the community riding on a hay wagon attached to a truck to pick up live trees to recycle them at the fair grounds. Members love this activity because they get to ride on the back of a hay wagon along with participating in an ecofriendly recycling of christmas trees . Our members picked up 75 christmas trees and we’re always hoping for more trees to be picked up next year.

**WAXX104.5 Radio-** Our officer team was interviewed by members of the station in the ag room where we had to answer questions about ourselves and our chapter activities.

We are grateful for our community, alumni members, and members as we continue to “Picture Ourselves in FFA while Standing Out and Standing Together”.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sienna Koebler  
2025-26 Black River Falls FFA Reporter



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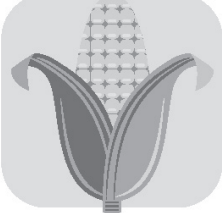
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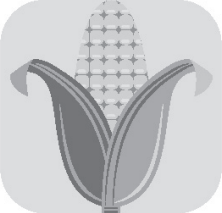


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# Blair - Taylor FFA Chapter

## 2025-2026 Blair-Taylor FFA

Blair-Taylor FFA has had a busy and event-filled year! After electing new officers and hosting our annual banquet in April, we kicked off the FFA year by hosting our 3rd Annual Elementary Ag Day. Many members showcased safety around animals and equipment, followed by the well-known Drive Your Tractor to School Day.

We then participated in the Taylor Memorial Pull, which had a great turnout. Members volunteered their time alongside the Taylor Alumni, who continue to support our chapter in so many ways. Classroom learning stayed active as well, with FFA involvement through our plant sale, helping get the Blair Community Garden up and running, and having an entire class compete in the Trempealeau County Land Judging Contest, which was held in Blair.

Members traveled to Madison for the Wisconsin State FFA Convention, where nine attendees participated in workshops and a flag ceremony. Two members also served as delegates, helping make important decisions for FFA. Additionally, members assisted with serving meals to hundreds of attendees. Three members, Jake Kling, Josie Edie, and Jacob Olson, received their Wisconsin State FFA Degrees. Brenna Thorson and Katerina Barczak earned Gold Proficiency Awards in Beef Entrepreneurship and Vegetable Production.

During the summer, members served over 1500 milkshakes at the Blair July 3rd Fireworks. In July, members attended their annual FFA Officer Training at Jellystone in Warrens, WI, alongside Eleva-Strum FFA and Spring Valley FFA. This was a fun and productive experience focused on bonding and preparing for the year ahead. Officers built leadership, communication, and teamwork skills through activities such as a home-made rodeo relay, meal planning, beach soccer and volleyball, and the well-known water fight.

Many members showcased their animals at the Jackson and Trempealeau County Fairs, where they did a phenomenal job. As school resumed, members helped kick off Blair Cheese Fest by serving milkshakes and cheese curds for three days and handing out milk during the parade. This was another excellent opportunity to volunteer and support the Blair Alumni, who are always there for us.

On September 15, five officers attended the Fall Leadership Workshop hosted at CFC, where they connected with other FFA members and gained valuable leadership skills related to social media, officer roles, and more. On September 30, thirteen members traveled to Madison for the World Dairy Expo, participating in Dairy Cattle Judging, Milk Quality Products Judging, and Forage Management. All members performed exceptionally well. We also hosted a pumpkin carving and decorating recruitment night.

We also introduced several new events this year. Members began visiting Grandview Care Center monthly to spend time with residents through activities such as a barn dance, crafts, and conversation. Another new event was Donut Runs, where members delivered donuts to local farmers as a small thank-you for their hard work.

Later in the fall, six members attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis from October 29 to November 1 alongside Melrose-Mindoro FFA. Members enjoyed informational tours, workshops, and convention sessions, and capped off the experience by attending the World's Toughest Rodeo. As part of the fall incentive trip, members also enjoyed a paintball outing with Melrose-Mindoro.

In December, we hosted our first Frost Fest, which was a huge success. Planned by Officer Jadrean Borreson, the event welcomed over 50 community youth for a fun and memorable evening. On February 4, fourteen members participated in the LDE Speaking Contest hosted at Blair-Taylor, including Parli Pro, Employment Skills, Discussion, Quiz Bowl, and Creed Speaking. Additionally, fifteen members have been working hard on Proficiency Applications, along with four State Degree applications, and we look forward to continued growth in our program.

Blair-Taylor FFA has truly had a jam-packed year filled with enriching experiences, leadership development, and community involvement. As we celebrate FFA Week, we sincerely thank our community, alumni, and supporters for everything you do for our chapter. Your support makes these opportunities possible, and we look forward to continuing to grow and build the future of agriculture!

## National FFA WEEK FEBRUARY 21-28, 2026



2025-2026 Officer Team  
Ms. Monson, Brenna Thorson, Leo Slaby, Justin Kling,  
(Front) Jadrean Borreson, Julia Brown, Ruby Herried



World Dairy Expo Competitors



Pumpkin Carving Membership Night



WI State FFA Convention



Parli Pro Team

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# MELROSE - MINDORO FFA

## National FFA WEEK FEBRUARY 21-28, 2026

### 2025-2026 Melrose-Mindoro FFA Highlights

#### Melrose-Mindoro FFA Wraps Up Another Successful Year

The Melrose-Mindoro FFA Chapter has had another busy and successful year, beginning last spring with our Annual Awards Banquet and the selection of a new officer team. The officer selection process includes a written application, interview with industry professionals, student vote, and final placement.

This year’s officers are:  
President Danica Stello, Vice President Alexiah Stanton, Secretary Lauralee Stanton, Treasurer Alanah Paulson, Reporter Emily Lachmiller, and Sentinel Payten Craig. Since being elected, this team has worked hard to plan and lead chapter activities.

One of their first major events was Food for America, hosted at Jason and Shelby Weihrouch’s farm, where fourth graders rotated through agricultural learning stations led by FFA members. In May, over 10 students participated in Drive Your Tractor to School Day.

June brought the Wisconsin FFA Association State Convention in Madison. The chapter proudly supported alumna Jazmin Wagner as she completed her year serving as State FFA Secretary. The chapter received the Pride Award for the second consecutive year for adding 10+ new members. Jacob Geirtych earned a Blue Jacket Legacy Award, Janae Waughtal received her State Degree, and several members were recognized in the state art contest.

Over the summer, officers held their annual retreat to plan meetings and events. Members also showcased projects and livestock at local county fairs. In August, Janae Waughtal was selected for the National FFA Chorus—an honor awarded to only 80–100 members nationwide.

This fall was packed with events. Members competed in the Overall Carcass Show hosted by Brock’s Butcher Block and attended Fall Leadership Workshop at CFC. In October, members traveled to Madison for the World Dairy Expo, enjoyed incentive activities like paintball and visiting Whitehall’s Haunted Forest, and delivered 90 boxes of donuts and 180 milks to local farmers during the annual Stay Safe & Sweet event, thanks to donations from Kwik Trip!

Five members attended the National FFA Convention & Expo, where they toured agricultural operations, visited the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, attended convention sessions, and cheered on Janae as she performed in the National FFA Choir.

In December, the chapter held a successful fruit, meat, and cheese fundraiser supporting local businesses such as Milkhouse Market. Officers also organized a give-back night assembling cake baskets for local food pantries. Danica Stello was awarded an SAE Grant from the Wisconsin FFA Foundation for the third consecutive year—an impressive accomplishment.

Recently, 11 members competed in Leadership Development Events, including Quiz Bowl, Speaking Events, Discussion Meet, and Employment Skills. The Quiz Bowl team and Payten Craig will advance to district competition.

National FFA Week celebrations will be held in early March and will include dress-up days, an all-staff breakfast, boys’ volleyball, Ag Olympics, and the always-anticipated staff showmanship contest.

*The Melrose-Mindoro FFA Chapter would like to thank the community for its continued support. Our success would not be possible without you!*



Officer Team



Jayce Stetzer



State Convention

*“Future Farmers of America” was founded by a group of young farmers in 1928. Their mission was to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population. They taught us that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting – it’s a science, it’s a business and it’s an art.*



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To access the bidding documents, email  
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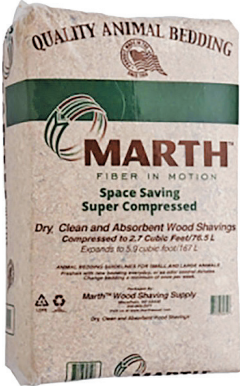
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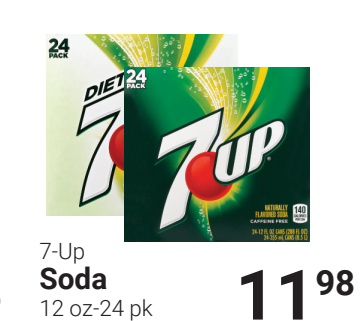
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**Application Deadline: March 1, 2026**  
**Questions?** Call Clark County 4-H at 715-743-5121



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Jackson County – Black River Falls

Jackson County is seeking to fill an Economic Support Specialist position at the Department of Health and Human Services. This position serves as a primary contact for persons seeking help through Public Assistance. This position determinations and completes case management of Economic Support Programs. Duties include screening, interviewing, and gathering and verifying information to determine eligibility when processing applications and renewals; re-determine eligibility based on reported changes and; accurately maintaining all financial and other data relevant to consortium cases and case management.

**Requirements:** A High School Diploma or equivalent. Post-secondary coursework in Business Administration, Economics, Accounting or Communications along with experience in income maintenance preferred. Possess and maintain a valid Wisconsin Driver's license. Economic Support New Worker Training and CARES/CWW Certification must be obtained within six months of hire.

2026 Wage Range: \$23.91 - \$25.95 per hour plus excellent County benefit package and State retirement plan.

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2026 Wage Range: \$23.91 - \$25.95 per hour, newly hired dispatchers will likely be assigned to 2nd or 3rd shift. Dispatchers are on a schedule rotation which may require them to work on holidays.

Learning the skills and receiving training is, of course, essential. However, you must also be able to think clearly under stress, not “burn out” easily and must be able to do several things at once without losing track.

If you think you have these qualities we're looking for and willing to make this commitment to be held to these standards, scan the QR code or visit our Employment Opportunities page at [www.co.jackson.wi.us](http://www.co.jackson.wi.us) to apply. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent. First review of applications will be March 6, 2026.



**Jackson County Human Resources Department**  
307 Main Street  
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**Job Summary**  
The Town of Mentor is looking for a dependable and hardworking Maintenance Worker. This position helps keep town roads, parks, buildings, and public areas safe, clean, and in good condition. The right person will enjoy working outdoors, using tools and equipment, and helping the community. **This job includes year-round maintenance, but also requires snow plowing and storm cleanup, sometimes for long hours during winter and weather emergencies.**

**Job Duties**

- Inspect and maintain town roads, sidewalks, parks, and buildings
- Fix minor problems and report any safety concerns
- Perform basic repairs such as plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, and mechanical work
- Operate equipment such as mowers, power tools, snowplows, grader, and front-end loader
- Help with building maintenance, including heating and cooling checks
- Keep simple records of work completed
- Respond to residents in a helpful and professional way

**Qualifications**

- Maintenance or repair experience is preferred, but training is available for the right candidate.
- Skills in welding, electrical work, plumbing, or carpentry are a plus
- Ability to safely use tools and equipment
- Valid driver's license and CDL preferred
- Must have the ability to stand, stoop, walk, push, pull and be able to lift heavy objects and work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Prefer someone who lives in the Humbird, Merrillan, Alma Center, Fairchild area

**How to Apply**  
Apply at [indeed.com](http://indeed.com) or download application at [www.townofmentorwi.gov](http://www.townofmentorwi.gov).

Can also apply in person at **Mentor Town Hall:**  
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**715-964-1019**



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EMPLOYMENT

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CITY OF NEILLSVILLE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Heavy Equipment / Water and Wastewater Utility Operator

The City of Neillsville is accepting applications for a full-time Heavy Equipment / Water & Wastewater Utility Operator. Position duties are split between the Water and Wastewater Utilities.

Applicants must have or be able to obtain a Wisconsin Class B CDL with air brake endorsement and required water/wastewater certifications within three (3) years. Position includes on-call and weekend rotation.

Starting wage: **\$22.24-\$25.74/hour DOQ**, plus excellent benefits.

Apply by 3:00 p.m. March 6, 2026 at Neillsville City Hall, 106 W. Division Street, or email cover letter, resume, and application to [luke.friemoth@neillsville-wi.com](mailto:luke.friemoth@neillsville-wi.com).

EOE

NOTICE

In order to establish an eligibility list, the **NEILLSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT** will be accepting applications for new Firefighters living or working in the Neillsville Fire District.

Applications may be obtained from the **City Clerk's Office at 106 W. Division Street Neillsville, WI 54456**

Applications will be accepted at the City Clerk's Office until February 27, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

*The Neillsville Fire Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

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TOWN OF LOYAL

Road Patrolman

**Overview/Purpose of Position:**  
The Town of Loyal is accepting applications to fill Patrolman position. The Patrolman performs a variety of routine and relatively complex duties including grading, truck driving, snow plowing, operating a variety of small tools, operating light and heavy equipment, operator level mechanical tasks and perform manual work.

**Requirements:**  
Applicants must be 18 years of age, have a High School Diploma. Minimal two years of experience working in equipment operation or truck driving. An equivalent combination of education and experience will be taken into consideration. Applicant must be able to work overtime on short notice and be available for call in work outside of normal work hours including nights, weekends, evenings and holidays. Applicant must have the ability to complete routine forms and apply concepts of basic mathematics. Applicant must be willing to perform manual labor tasks. Applicant must be able to interact positively with the public and Town Board.

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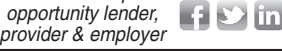


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**NATIONAL FFA WEEK FEB. 21-28, 2026**

**Neillsville FFA**



**Happy National FFA Week!**

Over the past year, Neillsville FFA has been busy with leadership events, community service opportunities, and competitions! The Neillsville FFA is currently sitting at a membership of 114 students! Also, on February 25th, the Neillsville FFA is turning 96 years old!

**Leadership Opportunities:**

The Neillsville FFA took time this past year to travel to the State FFA Convention in Madison! While there, students sat in on the general sessions, walked through the Career Expo, members officers Karcyn and Shaylen served as voting delegates, and we enjoyed some of the attractions in Madison. Neillsville FFA was awarded the PRIDE (Promote. Recruit. Inspire. Develop. Educate.) Award - awarded to chapters with a least a 10 member, membership increase.

**Community Service Opportunities:**

Every month we visit the Neillsville Retirement Community and put on a fun activity for the residents and bring snacks. Some of the highlights include our summer Pet Parade, our Christmas Party, Prom Fashion Show, and regular BINGO visits. Neillsville FFA can also be found completing the clean up at the Marshfield Dog Show, clearing tables at the Neillsville Dairy Breakfast, and fall Alumni Pancake Breakfast, and helping prepare the lights for the Schuster Park Lights in Neillsville. In October we can be found trick-or-treating for canned goods for the local food pantry.

**Competitions:**

LDE's (Leadership Development Events) aka Speaking Contests are a big deal for Neillsville FFA members! There are 7 different contests that the members can participate in - this year we had entries in every contest! We had two entries in Middle School Quiz Bowl, Employment Skills, Creed. Entries also included Discussion Meet, Extemporaneous Speaking, Prepared Speaking, and a Parliamentary Procedure Team! Success was found and entries in Employment Skills, Extemporaneous, Prepared Speaking, and Parliamentary Procedure will be advancing to Sectionals in March. CDE's (Career Development Events) are coming up in March. Neillsville FFA has the following teams: Dairy Evaluation, Horse Evaluation, Livestock Evaluation, Wildlife, Agronomy, Milk Quality & Products, and two Middle School Agriscience Teams.





NATIONAL FFA WEEK FEB. 21-28, 2026

Each year, FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week. It’s a time to share what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day.

What better way to show your support of FFA than to get involved in FFA Week? Whether it’s in person, on the phone or via social media, be sure to share your FFA stories during #FFAweek!

# Greenwood FFA



**State Convention:** Back in June, eight of our FFA members went to the Wisconsin State FFA Convention. Greenwood FFA came excited, having a strong presence. This year highlights include two State Degree recipients, Tysen Lindner and Madison Stieglitz, a 2-Star National Chapter Award Rating and one member, Tatym Travis serving on the State Public Relations Team. Additionally, Tysen Lindner was recognized for placing 3rd of 72 applicants for her Dairy Production Placement Proficiency. Liv Lucas was recognized for placing 1st in the Beef Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency category. Liv went to represent Greenwood FFA at the National FFA Convention where she earned a gold rating!

– Liv Lucas, Chapter President



**Officer Retreat:** The Greenwood FFA Officer Team traveled to the Three Loons Cabin in Phillips, WI this past July for our officer retreat. During this retreat we created our Program of Activities, which included planning FFA meetings, new middle and high school activities, community service projects and expanding our Food for America program. We also did fun activities such as fishing, board games, making smores and telling stories. This officer retreat brought our team closer together and was very beneficial in creating our goals for the new school year!

– Addy Bieneck, Chapter Reporter



**Blood Drives:** Each year the Greenwood FFA chapter holds two blood drives through the American Red Cross. One is held in November and the other in March. During our November blood drive, we exceeded our goal by collecting 42 pints of blood. The next blood drive will be on March 27th from 9:00am-2:00pm. The Greenwood FFA encourages students, alumni, and community members to participate in the blood drive to help save lives!



**Clark County Fair:** The Clark County Fair was a huge success for the Greenwood FFA! Members showed a variety of animal species, and various projects Greenwood FFA was well represented throughout the beef, swine, sheep, poultry, dairy and goat barns. Highlights of the county fair included Madison Stieglitz winning Grand Champion Market Goat and Tatym Travis winning Grand Champion Senior Beef Showman, Reserve Champion Senior Swine Showman and being named the Supreme Showman. Liv Lucas also claimed the title of Reserve Champion Senior Beef Showman and competed in Supreme Showmanship. Jack Williams won Grand Champion Goose. Greenwood FFA also won the Herdsmanship Award for the sheep and goat barns. Many members also participated in the Clark County Kids Rodeo, and our own Madison Stieglitz was named 1st Attendant for the Clark County Fairest of The Fair!

– Tatym Travis, Chapter Vice President

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# FARM TOUR 2026

## Tuesday, March 10 • Marshfield Area

Mid-State’s 2026 Farm Tour, presented by Fox Cities Builders, is an in-person showcase of innovative technology and agriculture practices designed to help producers enhance their operations. All are invited, including current and past students, farm families, agribusiness partners, and other community and business associates.

### This year’s event includes:

- **Field Presentation** at Marshfield Agricultural Research Station featuring
  - Adam Abel, State Grazing Land Specialist
  - Jamie Patton, State Agronomist
- **Farm Tour** at Elusive Hill Dairy
- **Lunch and Networking**
- **Keynote Address:** Jamie Patton, State Agronomist, will highlight current trends and practical applications in soil health and regenerative agriculture.

### Tuesday, March 10

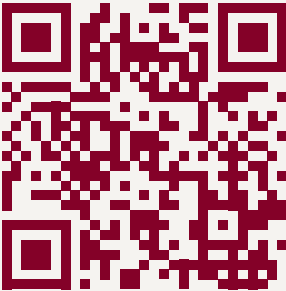
### Marshfield Area

Activities begin at 9:00 a.m. • Specific times vary by pick-up location  
Cost: \$10 • Group Rate (5 or more): \$7 per person

Visit [mstc.edu/farmtour](https://mstc.edu/farmtour) for more information about bus pick-up locations, tour stop details, updates, and registration. Registrations must be received by Tuesday, March 3.



REGISTER AT [MSTC.EDU/FARMTOUR](https://mstc.edu/farmtour)



### Questions

If you have questions about this event, please contact:  
[ce\\_events@mstc.edu](mailto:ce_events@mstc.edu) • 715-389-7026

If you have a disability and require accommodations to participate in this activity, contact the event coordinator as soon as possible, ideally 14 days in advance.

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Vice President – Human Resources; 500 32nd Street North, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494; 715.422.5325 • [AAEO@mstc.edu](mailto:AAEO@mstc.edu). 1/2026 - AC

