TWO RIVERS CONNECTION





February 2024

Homestead Tax Credit

The **Homestead Tax Credit** is a state of Wisconsin tax benefit for renters and homeowners with low or moderate incomes. It is designed to lessen the impact of rent and property taxes. People who do not file Wisconsin state income taxes may still be eligible to claim a Homestead Credit.

Am I Eligible for the Wisconsin Homestead Tax Credit?

You may be able to claim the homestead credit if:

- You occupied and owned or rented a home, apartment, or other dwelling that is subject to Wisconsin property taxes during 2023; and
- You were a legal resident of Wisconsin for all of 2023; and
- You were 18 years of age or older on December 31, 2023; and
- Your household income was less than \$24,680 for 2023; and
- You meet one of the following conditions:
 - You (or your spouse, if married) had earned income during 2023; or
 - You (or your spouse, if married) are disabled; or
 - You (or your spouse, if married) are 62 years of age or older at the end of 2023.

What Counts as Household Income?

Household income includes all income reportable for tax purposes, plus certain nontaxable income. If you were married and lived with your spouse during all of 2023, you must combine your income and that of your spouse to determine your total household income. Examples of nontaxable income that are included for this purpose include: Social Security, Unemployment Compensation, child support, IRA contributions, and nontaxable scholarships.

How Much Can Individuals and Families Get Back from the Homestead Tax Credit?

The amount of the credit depends on income and on the amount of rent or property taxes. The maximum Homestead Credit is \$1,168.

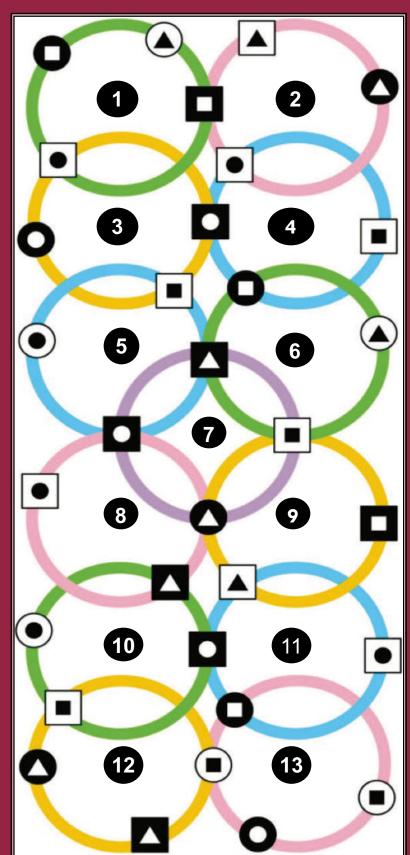
The ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties can assist residents with the preparation of Homestead Tax Credit.

Pepin County residents: Call 715-672-8945 or Toll Free at 1-866-578-2372 to schedule an appointment.

Buffalo County residents: Call 608-685-6310 to schedule an appointment. Buffalo County residents will have the opportunity to attend one of several community-based sites where ADRC staff will be available to assist in completing the Tax Credit forms. Watch the March newsletter for more details.



Twin sets! Find the two rings that have the identical signs on them. The signs may be in a different order from each other. (Answer key on page 11.)



Meet our NEW DEMENTIA CARE SPECIALIST: Chelsey!

Chelsey has spent the last five years working in the Buffalo/Pepin County Adult Protective Services Unit. She enjoys working with aging adults and their caregivers – helping to see that they have necessary



support and resources. If she looks familiar, it's because she previously worked within our ADRC, hosting memory cafés in Buffalo and Pepin Counties.

Chelsey is a life-long resident of Buffalo County and currently resides with her husband and daughter in the southern portion of the county. She enjoys spending time with family, scrapbooking, and completing homeimprovement projects.

In her role as the Dementia Care Specialist, Chelsey intends to create a number of opportunities to aid persons with dementia, and for their caregivers. She also intends to provide a number of educational opportunities to community members, service providers, and business owners — to help spread dementia awareness.

If you're looking to speak with Chelsey regarding dementia-related services, please contact her by phone at 715-279-7870.

Did you know:

Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards annually, followed by children, mothers and wives. Needless to say, we've come a long way from 1913, which was when Hallmark Cards produced their first Valentine's card!

Happy Valentine's Day Everyone!

Dear Two Rivers Connection Reader:

As a reader of our newsletter, we want to thank you for your continued support of *Two Rivers Connection*. We strive to provide content that is relevant, useful, and informative.



The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) would like all newsletter recipients to take a minute and verify your mailing address. If there are any changes or if you are no longer interested in receiving the newsletter, please contact our office. We have a limited supply of newsletters, so it's imperative that we keep our mailing list as updated as possible. If you want to continue to receive your newsletter through the mail and have no changes to your address, you do not have to contact us.

If you'd like to continue to receive the newsletter in the mail each month, please consider making a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of postage. If you have already contributed in 2024 for the newsletter, please disregard. Your contribution can be sent to:

ADRC of Pepin County
Attention: Two Rivers Connection
740 7th Avenue West
Durand, WI 54736

Please know that there are three other ways you can receive/view our newsletter:

- Email If you have an email address, we will send you our monthly newsletter electronically. All you need to do is provide us with your email address by contacting our office.
- Pick Up We place copies of the newsletter at various locations around Buffalo and Pepin County each month.
- Our newsletters are posted monthly on the ADRC website <u>www.adrc-bcp.com</u> and on our Facebook page <u>https://www.facebook.com/ADRCBuffaloAndPepinCounties/</u>

Our office can be reached by calling us toll free at 866-578-2372 or emailing adrc-bp@co.pepin.wi.us

WANTED ADRC GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Buffalo and Pepin Counties is looking for a citizen to serve on the ADRC Governing Board starting in April 2024.

Qualifications:

- Individual must be at least 60 years of age and reside in Buffalo County (or be a family member of an individual age 60+)
- Shall not be employed by either Buffalo or Pepin County
- Shall not be employed by any managed care organization or an agency providing services through such an organization
- Be willing to attend scheduled Board meetings (either in-person or via zoom)

Board members receive a per diem for attending meetings and mileage reimbursement. Learn more about the ADRC by visiting www.adrc-bcp.com. Interested individuals should call toll free 866-578-2373 or email adrc-bp@co.pepin.wi.us to obtain an application.

The ADRC Governing Board will give equal consideration to all applicants. The submission of an application does not quarantee appointment to the ADRC Governing Board.

Specialist Spotlight

Your ADRC Specialist Team: (left to right)

Jennifer Nelson - ADRC Specialist Michelle Brown - ADRC Specialist Melissa Hovland - Disability Benefit Specialist Bernie Rogers - Elder Benefit Specialist Julie Fick - Elder Benefit Specialist Chelsey Herold - Dementia Care Specialist



Combating Loneliness

Around the globe, about 1 in 4 adults say they're lonely. The consequences of long-term social disconnection can be dire-everything from an increased risk of heart attacks to dementia and premature death. How people respond to loneliness, though, has a significant impact on how those feelings of loneliness impact a person's spirit, as well as their physical health. Dr Jeremy Nobel recently released a book, *Project UnLonely*, that looks at the effects of loneliness and offers a road map to making important connections that can help mitigate the effects of loneliness.



Research shows making art or even viewing the work of other people reduces levels of the stress hormone cortisol. It also increases levels of the feel-good hormones, including dopamine, endorphins and oxytocin. "So what the arts do is they relax you and put you in a good mood," Nobel says, which can help create an inviting vibe to connect. One of the goals of Project UnLonely is to encourage people to get started on their own. Here are some tips to get going.

1. Be curious

It's easier to connect with people if you have shared interests or experiences, so start paying attention to what's on your mind. What are you thinking about? What motivates you? What excites you? If you know what's meaningful or fun for you, it may lead you to an activity or creative outlet that connects you to people who share your interests.

2. Make something

This doesn't need to be anything fancy. Look for something that has meaning for you, such as planting an herb garden or making an old favorite from your mother's recipe book.

3. Take a risk by having conversations

Even if you're nervous about being judged or dismissed, putting yourself out there requires a bit of a risk, and it's the first step to authentic connection. So reach out to that new neighbor or stop for coffee after church service.

4. Find a group that matches your interests

Whether it's volunteering for a local cause or playing a board game, try to find others who share your interests. Participation in these activities can also boost your brain health while combatting loneliness.

5. Other people's loneliness matters too

Loneliness can spiral. Be kind to yourself and others. Be willing to share something about your own experiences of loneliness and encourage others to share theirs. Working toward a common goal of alleviating loneliness can benefit everyone.

Article submitted by Michelle Brown, ADRC Specialist of Buffalo County. Article is reprinted in part with permission from NPR. To read the entire article go to <u>'Project UnLonely' offers a road map to create connections and combat loneliness: Shots - Health News: NPR</u>

ALZHEIMER'S FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM



The Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program is help for those whose loved one has Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. The ADRC has funding to help support caregivers who are caring for a loved one with some type of dementia. Funds can be used to purchase services such as respite, day program-

ming, housekeeping products such as Life Alert or specialized equipment. The goal of the program is to support the caregiver. Caregiving is rewarding and tiring; our goal is to provide support to the caregiver, helping them maintain their health and enjoyment of life.

Income limit is \$48,000 per year, and some deductions are allowed for dementia related goods and services that are being paid for.

For more information on the Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program, please call the ADRC at 866-578-2372.



Riverview Quilters

Come join Riverview Quilters of Durand. They meet every Monday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Riverview Community Center, 606 W Madison St., Durand. Bring crocheting, knitting or any crafts you're working on. Generally, everyone works on their own projects. Occasionally, there is a group project for anyone who wants to work together. There is no instructor, but everyone is willing to share their knowledge if there are any questions. We meet to share hobbies and camaraderie. Please feel free to drop in with any questions you may have.

February Memory Café Hurlburt's Haven

As our new Dementia Care Specialist gets settled in her new role (shown on page 2), and the typical bitter cold weather we experience during February, we will continue the break for our Memory Café. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call us.

1-866-578-2372



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715-672-4049 hulburts-haven@hotmail.com



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My Choice Wisconsin is a managed care organization that serves government-funded programs to seniors and adults with disabilities in over 50 Wisconsin counties.

> Visit us today: mychoicewi.org/LPI 1-800-963-0035

For more information on your long-term care options, contact your local ADRC.

DHS Approved 4/22/2021

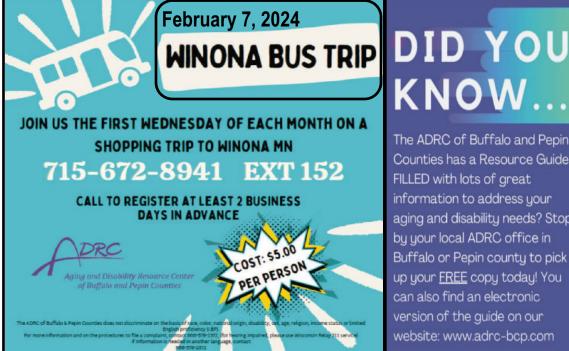
DONNA MAE'S PANTHER CAFÉ

GILMANTON: MONDAY-FRIDAY (11:00AM-12:00PM) 715-946-3139 NELSON: MONDAY-THURSDAY (11:00AM-12:00PM) 715-673-4070

PEPIN: MONDAY- FRIDAY HOME DELIVERED AND CARRY OUT ONLY (11:00AM-12:00PM) 715-442-2289

February 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dates Salad Option 1st - 2nd Grilled Chicken 5th - 9th Crispy Chicken 12th - 16th Taco 20th - 23rd Chef 26th - 29th Grilled Chicken	Served with each meal: Milk		1 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Lettuce Salad, Garlic Bread, Pears, Cake	2 Cod, Potato Salad, Beans, Coleslaw, Bread, Cake
5 Ham Steak, Cheesy Potatoes, Carrots, Bread, Mandarin Oranges, Cake	6 Baked Chicken, Stuffing, Cranberries, Corn, Bread, Peaches, Cake	7 Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Bread, Pineapple, Cake	8 Cheeseburger on Bun, Baby Red Potatoes, Carrots, Banana, Cake	9 Cod, Mashed Potatoes, Beans, Coleslaw, Bread, Cake Pepin HDM: Chicken instead of Cod
12 Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked American Fries, Carrots, Fruit Cocktail, Cake	13 Broasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Bread, Applesauce, Cake	14 Tater Tot Hotdish, Peas/Corn, Bread, Tropical Fruit, Banana, Cake	15 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Bread, Pears, Cake	16 Cod, Baked Potato, Beans, Coleslaw, Bread, Cake
19 CLOSED ** PRESIDENT'S DAY	20 Creamed Chicken on Biscuits, Peas, Corn, Mandarin Oranges, Cake	21 Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Salad, Bread, Peaches, Cake	22 Boiled Dinner (Ham, Potatoes, Carrots, Rutabaga), Bread, Pineapple, Cake	23 Cod, Potato Salad, Beans, Cole- slaw, Bread, Cake Pepin HDM: Chicken instead of Cod
26 Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Bread, Banana, Cake	27 Broasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Bread, Fruit Cocktail, Cake	28 Philly Beef Sandwich, Baby Red Potatoes, Lettuce Salad, Applesauce, Cake	29 Scallop Potatoes w/Ham, Carrots, Bread, Tropical Fruit, Cake	



KNOW...

The ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties has a Resource Guide FILLED with lots of great information to address your aging and disability needs? Stop by your local ADRC office in Buffalo or Pepin county to pick up your FREE copy today! You can also find an electronic version of the guide on our website: www.adrc-bcp.com

Resource **Booklet**



Wasn't it strange not to have snow until well into January? It was an advantage for those traveling during holidays to be with family. Also, we did not have a bill for plowing our driveway or shoveling our sidewalk at Riverview Center and that is a good thing. By the time you read this article, we will have settled down for a long winter's nap. Not so at Riverview Community and Senior Center.



B 4C 02-1035

Our Fundraisers last year were well attended and successful, and we appreciate all of you who made this possible. However, due to the increase in cost of, maintaining the Center, we found it necessary to reach out and ask for donations from businesses in Durand to assist with repairs and expenses that we are facing. Our automatic door opener and our television broke down and needed to be replaced. For the safety of our seniors and those who lease our space, we are having a professional evaluation of the premises for needed repairs.

Thankfully, there was an almost immediate response reaching out to businesses, from Jerry and Sue Bauer, as well as Eau Galle Cheese. Through the Eau Claire Community Foundation, Jerry and Sue Bauer have generously set up quarterly donations to the Pepin County Council of Seniors Citizens. Responses from several others including NTEC, Security Financial Bank, Komro's Sales and Service and Rock Falls Area Sportsmen's Club arrived at an opportune time. Bless all those willing to help our community center.

Remember to renew your membership before April 1, 2024, to become eligible for the discounted member rate for leasing the Center.

Lets have some fun! Join us on February 8th from 1:00pm - 3:00pm for Valentine Bingo. Call the Center at 715-672-4101 for more details.

Looking forward to Spring, improvements at Riverview, new Senior activities, growth in memberships, and Easter lilies. *Marge Briggs*



CORRAL BAR & RIVERSIDE GRILL

DURAND: TUESDAY- FRIDAY (11:30AM-1:00PM) 715-672-8936

February 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Served with each meal: Milk			1 Chicken Drummies, Tater Tots, Baked Beans, Wheat Bread, Apple	2 Swedish Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Sliced Carrots, Wheat Bread, Pears
	6 Pork Chop w/ Mushroom Gravy, Baked Potato w/Sour Cream, Wheat Bread, Fruit Cocktail	7 Tator Tot Hotdish, Creamy Coleslaw, Whole Grain Muffin, Mandarin Oranges	8 Chicken Alfredo, Lettuce Salad w/ French Dressing Garlic Bread, Applesauce	9 Baked Cod w/ Tarter Sauce, Baked Potato w/Sour Cream, Baked Beans, Wheat Bread, Pineapple
Call previous day by 1:00pm to order lunch.	13 Baked Ham, Sweet Potatoes, California Blend Veggies, Wheat Bread, Banana	14 Broasted Cod w/ Tartar Sauce, Baked Potato w/Sour Cream, Glazed Carrots, Wheat Bread, Peaches	15 Beef Roast, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Corn, Wheat Bread, Tropical Fruit	16 Fish Sandwich on Bun, Tarter Sauce, Split Pea Soup, Tomato Juice, Fruit Cocktail
Salad Options: Chef Salad Chicken Fiesta Seafood Salad Taco Salad	20 Baked Chicken, Baked Potato w/Sour Cream, Harvard Beets, Wheat Bread, Apple	21 Lasagna, Mixed Vegetables, Lettuce Salad w/French Dressing, Garlic Bread, Strawberries	22 Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Cauliflower w/ Cheese Sauce, Wheat Bread, Pineapple	23 Stuffed Shells, Squash, Tomato Juice, Wheat Bread, Pears
	27 Barbecue on Bun, Bean Soup, Tater Tots, Grapes, Dessert	28 Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Glazed Carrots, Wheat Bread, Peaches	29 Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Broccoli, Lettuce Salad w/Ranch Dressing, Garlic Bread, Applesauce	

INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERNCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS? Then we need you!

Buffalo and Pepin Counties Senior Nutrition Program is looking for volunteers to join the Nutrition Advisory Council.

- For just a couple of hours every 3 months, you can let your voice be heard.
- Provide recommendations regarding the food preference of participants.
- Provide recommendations regarding days, hours, and locations of meal site operations.
- Represent and speak on behalf of nutrition participants.
- Provide recommendations regarding meal site environment furnishings with regard to disabled and handicapped participants.
- As an organized group, give support and assistance to the on-going development of the nutrition program.
- Promote advocacy.

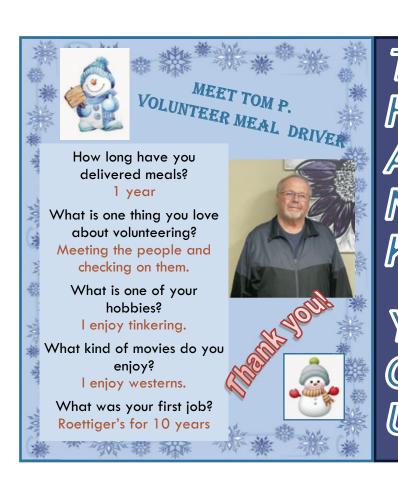
Contact Matt/Nutrition Program Coordinator for more information.

Phone: 715-672-8941, Ext 172





Matt Bertelson



ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties has a website and Facebook page!

You'll find great information and tools to help you find the assistance you may be looking for.

Website: www.adrc-bcp.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/

ADRCBuffaloAndPepinCounties

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Buffalo & Pepin Counties, also known as the ADRC, is the first place to go with aging and disability questions. We are a warm and friendly "information station" where you can obtain accurate, unbiased information related to aging or living with a disability.

No internet? No problem!

Just give us a call.

866-578-2372





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This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0102-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.



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THE LOST PIRATE

BUFFALO CITY: MONDAY-THURSDAY (11:45AM-12:15PM) 608-248-2683 HOME-DELIVERED MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY ONLY

February 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 Baked Chicken, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Baked Beans, Fruit	Served with each meal: 1% Milk Whole Wheat Bread
5 Fish Sandwich w/ Cheese, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Fruit	6 Hamburger Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit	7 Pork Roast, Baked Beans, Marinated Tomato Salad, Fruit	8 Chicken Alfredo, Garlic Toast, Side Salad, Fruit	
12 Sloppy Joe, French Fries, Baked Beans, Carrots, Fruit	13 Beef Stroganoff, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Corn, Fruit	14 Chicken & Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit	15 Spaghetti & Garlic Toast, Corn, Side Salad, Fruit	Call previous day by 1:00pm to order lunch.
19 CLOSED PRESIDENTS DAY	20 Pork Chops, Baby Red Potatoes, Broccoli, V8 Juice	21 Philly Cheese Steak, Sweet Potato Puffs, Cucumber Salad, Fruit	22 Chicken Patty Sandwich w/Cheese, Vegetable Soup, Fruit	Salad Options: Taco Ham Chicken
26 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Carrots, Fruit	27 Creamed Chicken over Biscuits, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit	28 Cheeseburger, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Fruit	29 Baked Fish, Baked Potato, Side Salad, Fruit	



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- Social Interaction
- Mental Health Referrals
- ☐ Vision/Hearing Screening
- ☐ Community Resources
- Neck & Shoulder Massage



(507)-457-2891 www.bridgeshealthwinona.com





Need A Ride?

The ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties may be able to help.

Transportation program for anyone 60 years and older or any age with a disability who needs help with transportation

Call 715-672-8941 ext 152 to get an application or schedule a ride



♦ Location ♦ Milton Town Hall

S2794 State Road 88 Fountain City, WI 54629

♦ Dates & Times ♦

Select Thursdays 10am-4pm

Jan. 18, 25 Feb. 1, 15, 22, 29 Mar. 14, 21

AMERICAN LUTHERAN HOME

MONDOVI: HOME DELIVERED & CARRYOUT MEALS ONLY (M-TH) 715-926-4962

February 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 Split Pea Soup w/ Ham, Veggie Blend, Cottage Cheese, Bread, Fruit	Served with each meal: Milk
5 Bratwurst on Bun, Baked Beans, Sauerkraut, Fruit Cocktail	6 Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Broccoli, Bread, Pears	7 Creamy Spinach Chicken, Carrots, Butter Peas, Bread, Apple Crisp	8 Beef Roast w/ Gravy, Baked Potato, Squash, Bread, Mango & Blueberry Mixed Fruit	
12 Polish Sausage, Sauerkraut, Baked Beans, Bread, Mandarin Oranges	13 Beef Stew, Coleslaw, Carrots, Bread, Blueberries	14 Turkey w/Gravy, Stuffing, Broccoli, Whole Wheat Dinner Roll, Cherry Delight	15 Hamburger Steak w/Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Pumpkin Blondie	Call previous day by 1:00pm to order lunch.
19 CLOSED The state of the sta	20 Fish, Seasoned Red Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Whole Wheat Dinner Roll, Grapes	21 Cheeseburger on Bun, Broccoli Ranch Salad, Diced Tomatoes w/Italian Dressing, Carrot Cake	22 Chili, Crackers, Celery w/Dip, Bread, Fruit Pie	Salad Options: Taco Chef (Turkey, Ham) Chicken Tender
26 Lasagna, Broccoli, Salad w/ Dressing, Bread, Mandarin Oranges	27 Baked Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Country Trio, Whole Wheat Dinner Roll, Peaches	28 Swiss Steak w/ Tomatoes, Stewed Tomatoes, Garlic Parmesan Mashed Potatoes, Cherry Crunch	29 Split Pea Soup w/Ham, Veggie Blend, Cottage Cheese, Bread, Fruit	



ANSWER KEY

THE TWO CIRCLES THAT HAVE THE SAME SYMBOLS ARE CIRCLES 5 & 10.

Did you know we accept EBT benefits for senior meals? Call us today to learn more, at 866-578-2372.













Records kept by the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club show Phil has predicted 107 continued winters, and only 20 early springs as of 2023. According to the Stormfax Almanac, that works out to a 39% accuracy rate for Phil.



Thank You!

Thank you from the Riverview Community Center!

Donations:

Erv & Donna Lauer, Farkle Players, Eau Galle Cheese Factory, Durand Women's Club, Judy Reetz, Rock Falls Sportsman Club, Ntec, Bauer Built, Inc., Pamela A. Baier, Komro Sales & Service

TWO RIVERS CONNECTION

ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties 740 7th Ave. West Durand, WI 54736

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COMMUNITY CONTACTS!

ADRC of Buffalo & Pepin Counties: 1-866-578-2372 or adrc-bp@co.pepin.wi.us

Please add or remove my name to/from the mailing list for the Two Rivers
Connection newsletter (Circle One)

Name: ______

Address: _____

City: ______ State: _____ Zip____

Spouse's Name: ______

Donation Amount: \$_____

Please return to: ADRC of Buffalo and Pepin Counties

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