

# Now & Then in Ripon ...

Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society



THE 1946 AND 1947 Ripon Tiger track and field team set plenty of school records. submitted photo

## Ripon has won 28 state track and field events, two team titles

With the WIAA State Track & Field Championships taking place Friday and Saturday, the Ripon Historical Society looks back at some of the memorable events in Ripon High School's track and field history.

Fifty years ago this spring, two high jumpers finished their high school careers with a third-place team finish at the state track meet. Bob Sather won the high jump with a 6-foot, 5 inch straddle jump. Earlier in the season, he set a new school record with a 6-10 jump.

Between him and teammate Jim Kohl, Ripon earned points in three field events and two track events to earn a team bronze medal.

Before Sather and Kohl came along, no Ripon athlete had jumped higher than 5-9.

While checking the WIAA track archives, the historical society learned that Ripon High School athletes have won 28 events at state since the start of record keeping in 1895.

It also discovered that the first wins occurred as early as 1906, when Walter Simmons won the 440-yard dash with a time of 53.2 seconds. He repeated the win in 1907.

Also in 1906, William Cowan won his broad jump event at 20-8.6 Frederick Everhard was a multi-event athlete in those days and, in 1909, won the 220-yard dash in 28 seconds.

Just like today, meets were held at Ingalls Field. Cinders made up the track surface and fans blocking the track could cost an athlete a race.

Individual efforts highlight the 1946 season with Jim Davis winning the 440-yard dash in 52.5. Local sports editor Don O'Brien wondered how much faster Davis could be if he were really challenged. That question played out in 1947 with the battle of sprinters Eugene Jess of Ripon and Don Bauer of West Bend. They met several times over two seasons, with Bauer usually coming out the winner.

During the 1947 season,



WALLY MILBRANDT CROSSES the finish line as photographers snap pictures during his 1968 track and field season. submitted photo

Jess turned the tables with a school-record time of 10 seconds in the 100-yard dash at the Little Ten Conference Meet, followed by a time of 10.1 to win at state.

The 200-yard dash was so close the judges couldn't decide until a photo was produced that showed Jess the winner.

Ripon High School has won the Class B Division twice. The first time was in 1968, when the mile relay team and Wally Milbrandt's mile run secured the team win for coach Tom Callen. The following year, Bill Bumby's 440-yard dash win at 49.8 seconds and the mile relay team's repeat win in the rain brought Ripon within 2 points of another team state title.

The second state team title was earned by the 2006 Ripon boys' track and field team, with wins in the 800-meter relay, triple jump, discus and shot put. Additional second-place finishes secured the Class 2 championship for coach Jayson Duffy's squad.

State individual event wins did not necessarily guarantee a team win as shown with two

event wins and a runner-up team finish in 1928.

The opposite was true in 1954, when there were no event wins but enough points were earned for a runner-up finish for coach Jim Seidl's team in 1954.

Ripon hosted the Class B and/or the Class C state tournaments from 1958-61 and again in 1964-65. These are just some of the interesting stories of Ripon's track history.

For more state results visit [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org)

Those who have information or photos of Ripon High School track and field relays, races and records they would like preserved in the Ripon Historical Society's archives may email [riponhistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:riponhistsoc@gmail.com) or call 920-748-5354.

*The Ripon Historical Society is the oldest continually operating historical society in Wisconsin. It is open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

For more information follow us at Facebook/[riponhistory](https://www.facebook.com/riponhistory) or [www.riponhistory.org](http://www.riponhistory.org).

# Ripon Common Council approves changes to employee handbook

By Kaitlyn Scoville

The Ripon Common Council met Monday, May 22 to review and approve changes and additions to the employee handbook brought forward by City Administrator Adam Sonntag, who said the information hadn't been extensively changed since 2012.

He said at the last meeting that the handbook was inconsistent between departments, and that conversations were had with city staff "to make sure their concerns are being addressed in meaningful ways."

"Ninety percent of the language in the handbook remains the same," Sonntag added.

Ald. David Gallops clarified a couple of things with overtime pay and weekend work.

"It's basically saying the work week is the work week. Right now you have a set schedule, 7:30 [a.m.] to 3:30 [p.m.], and any time before that and any time after that is time and a half," he said. "So we're taking all that away on this. It's a little convoluted for me, but now it's saying that all day Saturday and Sunday is time and a half, correct?"

Sonntag affirmed this.

"That's taking a pretty good hit for the public works and water department(s). ... I just believe we're taking too much away, and we should give a little bit [back]," Gallops said.

Sonntag told the group that these changes were made to be simplified and consistent between departments.

"Water and wastewater have a history of having the on-call schedule. There's a person on-call every week, they are required to work on the weekends when they're on call," he said. "In terms of the work schedule, this simplifies the work schedule to be uniform across every department. We have to be careful about where we go with this."

An amendment was made and approved to the handbook to change the guaranteed one-hour on-call pay to two hours.

In addition to looking at the employee handbook, the Common Council adopted a retirement health savings (RHS) program that was created as a result of the employee handbook changes, which will be for sick leave payouts upon retirement, city documents say.

### In other news

In other news from the meet-

ing:

► Amber Kilawee with the Fond du Lac County United Way spoke to the group about its Disaster Volunteer Reception Center. It is a long-time partnership with Fond du Lac County Emergency Management and the Fond du Lac County Public Health Department.

"June, July and August are our most predominantly natural disaster zones for tornadoes in particular. We want to create some awareness for what the Disaster Volunteer Reception Center can offer to communities in the event of a natural disaster. The goal is to help manage spontaneous volunteers."

Those interested can sign up at [FondyVolunteers.org](http://FondyVolunteers.org), where further communication will be sent out for orientation dates and other activities.

► The Common Council also approved a zone change request from Alliant Energy to build a utility operations center at N8747 Douglas St., now annexed into the city on the 1000 block of Douglas Street. The structure is slated to have garage bays and indoor and outdoor storage.

► The following community members were also appointed to select city boards and commissions:

#### Parks and Rec Committee

- Jason Kimpel through April 30, 2024
- Tiffany Millin through April 30, 2027
- Jason Mansmith through April 30, 2027

#### Plan Commission

- Mark Denkert through April 30, 2026

#### Police Commission

- Arlo Reichter through April 30, 2028
- Kevin Rosenau through April 30, 2028

### Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from the May 31st issue of The Commonwealth Express

OCHS	STACK	SLAP	CAPOS
THAW	COCOA	TERA	IRONY
TIMEGONE	BY	RATS	ARLES
SEEPED	TASSEL	ELMO	
POTPIES	MURPHY	OIL	SOAP
TREES	ARRAS	STATINS	
ABRAHAM	LINCOLN	USS	
ARAL	SINECURE	SKI	
DAYS	CRAB	TANG	STAN
OSAKA	CHRISTMAS	ISLAND	
ATHENA	ALLIE	COARSE	
BROWN	UNIVERSITY	DIVAN	
LOOS	DOCU	NAES	NEST
ESS	LIBERALS	LARA	
SIB	DAMIEN	CHAZELLE	
ANIMALS	BETAS	AREAS	
FIGURE	OFEIGHT	RELEASE	
LAND	SIRREE	DEFECT	
AMIGO	TERN	FOREFATHER	
METER	IROC	TREVI	EERO
EYERS	SERE	DEDEE	DRAB

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