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Delivered Bi-weekly. May Publication dates are May 2nd, 16th and 30th. Look Inside For Local History, News & Events.



Shop the Pardeeville
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May 18-24, 2026

Round- up your grocery bill to the nearest dollar.
That amount will be donated to the

Rio



Unit 208.




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Sunday, May 24th
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Fax: 800-470-1186

jshropshire@ruralins.com

Premiums Paid Here, Stay Here To Keep Wisconsin Strong

"Call For A Quote"

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Rio Parish - Last Mass

514 Lincoln Ave - Rio WI
Sunday, May 17th at 1:00 pm

Bring a lawn chair!

This is the farewell to our wonderful church as it be. A light luncheon will be served following mass. Come and share a memory!

*In case of inclement weather,
it will be held Sunday, May 24th at 1 pm.*



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Columbia County Senior Dining Menu

MAY 18-MAY 22, 2026

MONDAY-Kielbasa w/Kraut, Baby White Potatoes, Apricots, WW Roll.
TUESDAY-Chicken Alfredo, California Blend Veggies, Mixed Fruit, Bread Stick.
WEDNESDAY-Sliced Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Broccoli Spears, Peaches, WW Roll.
THURSDAY- Hamburger Steak w/Mushroom Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Pears, WW Roll.
FRIDAY- Sloppy Joe on a Bun, Roasted Potatoes, Calico Beans, Tropical Fruit.

MAY 25-MAY 29, 2026

MONDAY-CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY.
TUESDAY-WW Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Lettuce Salad w/Dressing, Banana.
WEDNESDAY-Monterey Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Mixed Vegetables, Pineapple, BB Brownie.
THURSDAY- Pot Roast w/Gravy, Baby White Potatoes, Carrot Coins, Fruit Cocktail, WW Roll.
FRIDAY- Tuna Casserole w/Peas, Broccoli, Peaches

Columbia County Meal sites
Columbus 920-763-2124
Pardeeville 608-617-1821
Portage 608-742-9211
Poynette 608-635-2122 option 2

*Menu subject to change without notice.
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H. Stanley Judd

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Stork Watch



Area Birth Announcements

Have a Birth to Announce?
If you would like to announce a birth in the Rio Shopper, please call, or send information and phone number, (printed clearly) to Rio Shopper, 205 Lincoln Ave, P.O. Box 302, Rio, WI 53960. **There is no charge for these announcements!**

920-992-5253

Career Opportunities

Forging a Path: Women Welders

(NAPS)—“It is not for the faint of heart,” Erica Bridges said. Bridges is a Welding Technology student at Texas State Technical College (TSTC). She was referring to her field of study and to welding in general.

“I encourage it, though,” she added. “This is a really good money-making (career). The people that you will meet, they’re just one-of-a-kind people.”

In the heavily male-dominated industry of welding, only 5.1% of the workers are female, according to a 2022 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report. In the fall 2023 semester, TSTC had a total of 94 women and 970 men enrolled in Welding Technology.

What To Know

To help others understand, some female welding students, instructors and alumni from TSTC recently spoke of their experiences in welding and their love for it. They also talked about some of its challenges.

TSTC welding instructor Samara Flerer has seen positive changes in her 20-plus years of working in the industry, but said preconceived notions about female welders still remain.

“That climate has improved, (but) some days you have to put on your Teflon suit, go out there, get the job done, and let it slide off,” she said.

TSTC Welding Technology alumna Tatum McFarland echoed Flerer’s mentality about being among the few females in the industry.

“It hasn’t been easy,” McFarland said. “And you just kind of got to grow a backbone, more or less, to be able to work with (men).”

Haylee Phillips, a first-semester TSTC Welding Technology student, said that before beginning the welding program, she was worried about how she would be perceived by the male students.

“I was intimidated at first,” she said. “Especially a few weeks before school, I was like, ‘They’re going to treat me all weird because I’m a girl.’ But if you shut it off and go to learn, you’ll succeed.”

Another TSTC Welding Technology student, Alondra Ramos, is pursuing welding despite a lack of encouragement from her parents.

“I didn’t have a lot of support coming into the welding industry and doing this,” she said. “I’m here to prove them wrong in a lot of stuff. I always got pushed down, but I’ve always tried my hardest to come out on top and to prove everybody wrong.”

What It’s Like

Flerer acknowledged the fact that being a welder can be grueling.

“Welding is not for everybody,” she said. “Some aspects of welding can be extremely physically demanding, and you have to be able to work in that environment.”

Phillips feels the same way but said the effort is worth it.

“It’s hard,” she said. “I mean, it’s hot all the time. I’m sweating from the minute I walk into the shop in the morning until I leave in the evening. You’re lifting heavy stuff, your arms get super tired, and you’re in uncomfortable positions. I think there are a lot of women who just aren’t interested in that type of lifestyle for a career path. But me, I mean, I know the money that comes with it, so I’m willing to suffer a little bit.”

Why They Do It

Despite the challenges, each woman spoke to a love of welding that outweighs any obstacles.

“It’s like an escape from the world; it’s like you’re at peace,” Ramos said. “Most of my stress goes away when I’m under the (welding) hood. I love it.”

Phillips said, for her, it is the satisfaction of being able to look at something that she has had a hand in building.

“It’d be cool to see a rocket that I welded something on go up into space and be like, ‘I was a part of that,’” she said. “I get to look at my work and see what it’s for, and see that I helped. That’s pretty cool.”

Flerer encouraged those with a love for welding to pursue it despite any roadblocks that may come their way.

“Regardless of who you are, if you love it, seek out those opportunities that will allow you to be in an environment that works for you,” she said. “Don’t be afraid to try out a job, and if it doesn’t work out, move on to the next thing. Don’t call it failing. It’s figuring out where you fit.”

Where To Learn More

For further information, go to tstc.edu.

• With 10 campuses across the state, Texas State Technical College helps to strengthen the Texas workforce with highly skilled, technically competent graduates. Operating on a unique funding model based on student employment outcomes, the college celebrated 55 years of service to the state of Texas in 2020.



Rio Community Library May News & Events

M & W-10:00am-8:00pm T,R,F-10:00am-5:00pm S-10:00am-3:00pm
(920) 992-3206 www.riolibrary.org

Monthly Events:

The Rio Community Library Board will meet on the 6th of the month. All are welcome.

The Book Club book is *Swan Song* by Elin Hilderbrand. Copies available upon request.

Storytime is on Wednesdays at 9:30 am. Any child 5 and under with their parents can attend.

Lego Club meets every Thursday from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm. All ages are welcome!

Special Events:

RALF Artisan Fair:
May 9th : 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
@ the Elementary School

The last Storytime of the month will be May 20th.

Lego Club will not meet during the Summer and will start up again when school begins

The Library will be closed on May 25th for Memorial Day and May 30th

Upcoming Events:

The Summer Reading theme this year is **Unearth a Story!** The reading program will begin on June 8th and fun programs will start right after. More information can be found on our website or by signing up!

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Save the Date

RIO ALUMNI BANQUET

JUNE 6 2026 4:00 PM

Rio Fire Station



Rio American Legion Memorial Day Weekend - 2026

On Sunday, 5/24, the Rio American Legion will be at the Bonnet Prairie Cemetery at 9:30 where members of the church, community, and veterans will be saying a few words on the meaning of Memorial Day. Along with the readings there will be some patriotic music and a presentation of the names of the women and men from the Rio area who have paid the ultimate price while still serving in the military. The public is very welcome to this event. Bring a lawn chair for the cemetery event. Rain will move us to the BP church.

All are welcome to the Sunday afternoon brat fest at the depot starting at 4:00 PM and going to 6:30 PM, or until supplies run out. The Rio American Legion Auxiliary will be selling baked goods for the event too. Along with the brat fest there will be some family fun. A DJ/karaoke performance will be available, along with some lawn games. Rain will move the cookout to the Rio legion on the corner of E. Harvey and Union St.

Monday 5/25, Memorial Day programming starts at the Catholic cemetery at 9:00 with a three volley salute to those women and men who paid the ultimate price. The next stop is the Ohio cemetery at 9:30 for a repeat. Our final program is at the Rio Middle/High School at 10:30 where the school music department will be offering some patriotic music and a few words will be cited on the purpose of Memorial Day, along with the list of those from the Rio area who paid the ultimate price. The program will culminate with a 3 volley salute to those we honor and remember on this Memorial Day. Everyone is welcome to these events too.



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DEADLINES



DISPLAY: Monday - 5 PM CLASSIFIED: Tuesday - Noon RIO SHOPPER 920-992-5253



Save the Date

RIO STREET DANCE

AUGUST 15 2026



HELP STOP

Illustration of a house on fire with a firefighter. PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY! TAKE THE MYSTERY OUT OF FIRE PLAY by teaching your children that fire is a tool - NOT A TOY! Courtesy of... Rio Fire Dept. & Fall River Fire Dept.

FIRES

View the current Shopper at: www.columbiacountynewshub.com

LOCAL BLOOD DRIVES

Poynette High School

Thursday, May 21, 2026

108 N. Cleveland St., Poynette WI 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

For an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS 1-800-733-2767



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**Galaxy S26**

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For the most current schedules go to your school website

**Rio Baseball**  
 Tuesday, May 19  
 Varsity vs. Fall River 5:00  
 Thursday, May 21  
 Varsity @ Fall River 5:00

**Fall River Baseball**  
 Tuesday, May 19  
 Varsity @ Rio 5:00  
 Thursday, May 21  
 Varsity vs. Rio 5:00

**Rio/Fall River Softball**  
 Tuesday, May 19  
 Varsity vs. Cambria-Friesland  
 @ Fall River 4:00

**Rio Track & Field**  
 Tuesday, May 19  
 Track Invite @ Rio 4:30  
 Tuesday, May 26  
 WIAA Regional @ Markesan 3:00

**Fall River Track & Field**  
 Tuesday, May 19  
 Track Invite @ Rio 4:30  
 Tuesday, May 26  
 WIAA Regional @ Markesan 3:00

*This schedule courtesy of . . .*

**Save the Date**

**RIO ALUMNI BANQUET**

**JUNE 6 2026**  
**4:00 PM**

**Rio Fire Station**

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**HALL RENTAL**

Rio American Legion

The Rio American Legion post is available for gatherings up to 50 people. The cost for a non-member is \$50.00 per day. Call Jerry at 920-988-3389 or George at 920-382-3588 for more information or to make a reservation.

**Rio Depot Park Shelter**

To make reservations for the shelter. Call Stan Stoffet at 920-992-5106 or Kacy Falk at 920-484-8022. *If no answer, please leave a message, it will be returned.*

**SHELTER PRICE \$50**  
 If cleaned after event, \$25 will be returned

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check out more at: [www.grandparayoutdoors.com](http://www.grandparayoutdoors.com) 107 SOUTH MAIN ST, FALL RIVER 920-484-3414

\*\*\*  
 "Spring fever, Spring is here at last.  
 Spring fever, my heart's beating fast. Get up, get out.  
 Spring is everywhere."  
 Elvis Presley  
 \*\*\*

\*\*\*  
 "Never ignore someone who cares for you because someday you'll realize you've lost a diamond while you were busy collecting stones."  
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**Save the Date**  
**RIO ALUMNI BANQUET**  
**Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**

All are Welcome!



## HOME TALENT 2026 RIO Railmen

- May 2 @ Utica  
 Rio 3 - Utica 7
- May 10 @ Reedsburg - 1 PM
- May 17 Columbus - 1 PM
- May 21 Lodi - 8 PM
- May 24 @ Sun Prairie - 1 PM
- May 25 DeForest - 1 PM
- May 31 Poynette - 1 PM
- June 5 @ Black Earth - 7 PM
- June 7 @ Montello - 1 PM
- June 11 @ Monona - 7:30 PM
- June 14 @ Cottage Grove - 1 PM
- June 18 @ Lodi - 6 PM

**Save the Date**

**RIO STREET DANCE**

**AUGUST 15 2026**

**The Rio Shopper**



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 \$10.00 up to 20 words. 15 cents/each additional word.

## MOVING/DOWN-SIZING SALE

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May 21-23 - Thursday - Saturday

8:00 am to 3:00 pm

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## We make your business insurance our business.

We want to be your business partner when it comes to your contracting insurance protection.

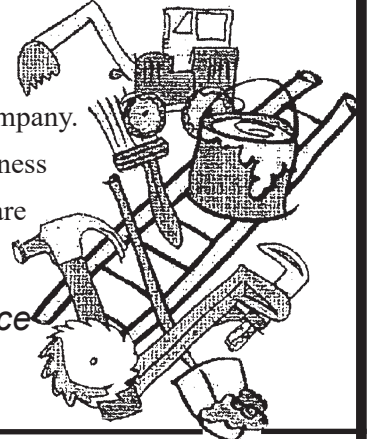
Contact us today for quality business protection from

Auto-Owners Insurance Company.

We'll take care of your business insurance, while you take care of business!

Auto-Owners Insurance

Life Home Car Business  
 The "No Problem" People



**Richards Insurance**

125 S Ludington St., Columbus, WI 53925

PHONE: 920-623-5700

FAX: 920-623-5713

## Rio Shopper

205 Lincoln Ave., PO Box 302  
 Rio, WI 53960 • 920-992-5253

Email info: [rioshoppernews@gmail.com](mailto:rioshoppernews@gmail.com)  
[www.columbiacountynewshub.com](http://www.columbiacountynewshub.com)



**Offices Hours: Call Ahead**  
 (CLOSED Saturday, Sunday & Holidays)

CLASSIFIED ADS must be paid for BEFORE publication. Please have your credit/debit card ready when you call.

### DEADLINES:

Display Ads - Monday at 5 PM

Classifieds - Tuesday 10 AM

HOLIDAYS require EARLIER DEADLINES!

Watch for notice of exact dates.

Thank You - \$20 • Special Occasion ads - \$35

## Stork Watch

Area Birth Announcements

Have a Birth to Announce?

If you would like to announce a birth in the Rio Shopper, please call, or send information and phone number; (printed clearly) to Rio Shopper, 205 Lincoln Ave, P.O. Box 302, Rio, WI 53960. There is no charge for these announcements!

920-992-5253



Like us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/therioshopper](http://facebook.com/therioshopper)

LOCAL WORSHIP

OLIVET CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship: Sunday at 9 am  
Sunday School: after Worship - 10 am

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Web page: [olivetucc.org](http://olivetucc.org)

313 W. Prairie St.  
Columbus WI 53925

View the current Shopper at:  
[www.columbiacountynewshub.com](http://www.columbiacountynewshub.com)

Bonnet Prairie Lutheran Church

N3694 Old F. Rd., Rio  
Phone: 920-992-3200



Bonnet Prairie Lutheran  
In Person Service,  
plus Zoom & Parking lot  
by listening to FM 87.9

Sunday

Sunday School will be the  
first and third Sunday of the  
month beginning in  
September.

(Sept. will be 2nd & 3rd Sunday)

8:30 to 9:20 am.

Sunday School is for  
students age 3-High School.

9:30 am Worship

Council Meets 3rd Mon. of Month  
WOC Meets last Weds. of Month

Faith Bible Church

N4777 Elm Street - Rio, WI 53960

Pastor Ramsey Bobzin  
920-992-3274

[www.fbcario.org](http://www.fbcario.org)

Come pray, sing and worship Our God and Our Savior - The Lord Jesus Christ. Join us every Sunday and throughout the week as we study the "Bible" Chapter by Chapter, Verse by Verse and Word by Word.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 AM WORSHIP/CHILDREN'S CHURCH & NURSERY  
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY EVENING: Prayer and Praise - 5:00 PM

TUESDAY'S: Women's Bible Study, 9:30 AM

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 1:00 PM - Call for Details

2ND SATURDAY/MONTH: Men's Prayer Breakfast-7 AM

Sermons can be heard on our website:  
[www.fbcario.org](http://www.fbcario.org) or Facebook

Let not your heart be  
troubled: ye believe in God,  
believe also in me.

John 14:1



YOU'RE INVITED TO ...

Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:30 AM

Wed. Bible Study 6 PM

Pastor: Mark Brandel

rev.brandel@hotmail.com

Growing in grace since 1853



Wyocena Community Church

[wyocenachurch.com](http://wyocenachurch.com)

608.434.2470

164 E. Franklin St

PO Box 873

Wyocena, WI 53969

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



HOURS

Monday & Wednesday: 9 AM - 8 PM

Tues., Thurs. & Fri., 9 AM - 5 PM

Saturdays - 9 AM - NOON

109 Edgewater St., Cambria

920-348-4030

[www.jmml.org](http://www.jmml.org)

WIRELESS INTERNET  
ACCESS AVAILABLE

Weekly Preschool Story Time  
& Adult Book Club Monthly

Book Drop Available F & M Bank in Friesland & the Library

Rio Community Library

HOURS

Mondays & Wednesdays

10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

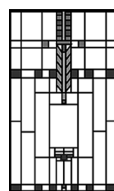
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturdays - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Closed Sundays & Holidays

email: [questions@riolibrary.org](mailto:questions@riolibrary.org)

website: [www.riolibrary.org](http://www.riolibrary.org)



920-992-3206

Please review the guidelines  
when entering the library  
324 W. Lyons St.  
We also offer  
curbside pick up.

Attention Rio Area Food Pantry Customers!

Please come to the front door  
of the pantry to pick up your  
order form which will be filled  
and brought to your car.

RIO FOOD PANTRY

104 Lincoln Ave., Rio

Serving the Rio, Otsego, Doylestown, Cambria and Friesland areas/School Districts.

OPEN 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month

10:00 AM - Noon

EVERY 4<sup>th</sup> MONDAY

we will also be open from 5 PM to 6 PM

Donations of food & money are accepted during open hours. Monetary donations can also be sent to Rio Area Food Pantry PO Box 355 Rio WI 53960

Checks should be made out to the Rio Area Food Pantry.

For more information contact Gina Gray (608)234-7454, Bob

Risgaard (920) 992-5258, or Jim Nelson (920) 992-3618.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

COLUMBUS/FALL RIVER FOOD PANTRY

APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING INFORMATION

(effective January 1, 2025)

We serve Thursdays, 4:00 pm to 6:45 pm, by appointment.

We are located in the back of the Columbus Community Center,  
125 N Dickason Blvd, Columbus.

Call 608-893-3079 to schedule an appointment.

If your call is not answered, please leave a clear message with your name and phone number. Messages will be checked daily.

Si Ud. necesita ayuda con la comida, favor de llamar al 920-287-8122 y pida Marcos para programar una cita.

Thank you to the following churches for serving:

Connection Church - Pastor Jamie Turner \* St. Jerome Catholic Church - Father Jim Leeser \* Faith Lutheran Church - Pastor Andrew Perger \* Olivet Congregational UCC \* Zion Lutheran Church - Pastor Tim Schwartz \* First Presbyterian Church \* Columbus United Methodist Church - Rev. Sang Wook Park \* Columbus Community Church of the Nazarene - Pastor Chris Baker \* Wisconsin Academy - Pastor Jonathon Fetrick

RIO AMERICAN LEGION ROOM RENTAL

The Rio American Legion has a room for rent that will hold approximately 50 folks for a seated event. The facility has AC, a gas stove, microwaves, refrigerator, with tables and chairs already in place. If interested in renting call Jerry at 920 988-3389 or George at 920 382-3588.



WYOCENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Monday 9am - 5pm  
Tuesday & Wednesday 9am - Noon & 1pm - 5pm  
Thursday 10am - 3 pm  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday - Closed

Offering copy/fax service during normal hours,  
no appointment necessary

Bread Basket

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Located in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, Entrance on Towyn Street

Bread Basket Food Pantry will be by appointment only.

Contact Joanne Sanderson; 920-348-5568

or the Church office; 920-348-5859.

Serving residents of the Cambria School District

MONETARY DONATIONS may be sent to Joanne Sanderson,  
Treasurer, W2207 Vaughn Rd., Cambria, WI 53923.

HALL RENTAL

Rio American Legion

The Rio American Legion post is available for gatherings up to 50 people. The cost for a non-member is \$50.00 per day. Call Jerry at 920-988-3389 or George at 920-382-3588 for more information or to make a reservation.

The Rio Shopper



LIKE US ON  
facebook

JOIN THE RIO AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TODAY!

OUR MEETINGS: Third Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at the RAHS Museum, 126 Lincoln Ave., Rio  
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

View our picture gallery & stories on our Facebook page. For more information or

“WE NEED TO COLLECT & PRESERVE”  
- Don Hohlstein

**Hottest Truck Stop is in Rio Wisconsin in 1960**



This is Strauss Chevrolet in Rio in 1960 and by Hottest Truck Stop I do not mean a place to eat, but rather a great place to buy a truck. The received a full-page newspaper spread, a special plaque from Chevrolet and lots of great publicity. They were recognized as Columbia Counties new truck sales leader for the previous 30 days. Rip Einerson was the salesman and if any of you knew Rip, he was a great salesman. Walter Strauss built this dealership in 1938 after having one on Wells Street since the 1920's. Good cars and good service.



L-R Duane Nelson, Joe Kehoe, Carl Beier, Walter Wendt, Dick Strauss, Rip Einerson, Roy Cutsforth, Charlie Strauss, Francis James, and Phil Nelson

By: Darlene Lerum

RIO HISTORY AD SPONSORED BY:



A tree grows,  
a memory lives on...

**Grasse**

*Funeral Service*

401 Angel Way Rio / 119 Industrial Dr. Pardeeville  
920-992-3434 or 608-429-2020

**HALL RENTAL**

Rio American Legion

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Like us on Facebook

[facebook.com/therioshopper](https://facebook.com/therioshopper)

Memorial Day  
**WORD SEARCH**



- American Battle Cemetary Ceremony
- Country Flag Freedom
- Honor Memorial Military
- Service Uniform War



**Save the Date**

**RIO STREET DANCE**

**AUGUST 15 2026**

Join us at the ...  
**LEGION BRAT FRY**  
Sunday, May 24th  
4 pm to 6:30 pm  
at the Rio Depot Grounds  
**Rain or Shine!**  
In case of rain at Legion Hall!

**RIO AMERICAN LEGION ROOM RENTAL**  
The Rio American Legion has a room for rent that will hold approximately 50 folks for a seated event. The facility has AC, a gas stove, microwaves, refrigerator, with tables and chairs already in place. If interested in renting call Jerry at 920 988-3389 or George at 920 382-3588.



Are you looking for a spiritual change, or to grow in Christ? Come check out Olivet. We offer both spiritual and sustenance food, family fun, and fellowship.

It's up to you to take that first step, then we will do the rest.

Weekly Sunday services are at 9 a.m. so you can view them online or attend in person. See you soon -

Olivet Congregational UCC  
313 West Prairie St.  
Columbus, Wisconsin 53925  
920-623-5140  
[www.olivetucc.org](http://www.olivetucc.org)

**Stork Watch**  
Area Birth Announcements  
**Have a Birth to Announce?**  
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