



26 Central Wisconsin players to keep eye on

SPORTS, 2B

DAILY TRIBUNE

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WISCONSIN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Wisconsin Rapids School District administrative offices USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN FILE PHOTO

Admin staff will recommend keeping Sept. 1 start date

Erik Pfantz
Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Families and staff members in Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools recently shared their opinions on a potential earlier start date on future school calendars.

District administrative staff will recommend an unchanged Sept. 1 school start date for WRPS district students in the 2026-27 school year to the School

Board at its regular meeting on Nov. 10, Superintendent Ron Rasmussen said in an email to a Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune reporter.

Committees of the School Board have discussed the possible change for several months after a survey taken in spring 2025 revealed 63% of district staff and 60% of parents approved of the School Board’s consideration of a revised school year schedule featuring an earlier start date than the usual first week of Sep-

tember, board member Kathi Stebbins-Hintz said in the Oct. 13 School Board meeting.

The 18-member Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council of Lincoln High School and Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School students unanimously approved the earlier start date in an earlier meeting, Rasmussen reported in the September Education Services Committee meeting.

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Take a survey on the future of Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools

Nida Tazeen
AI-assisted reporter
Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools is seeking community input through a survey to address school funding, facility improvements and long-term planning.

The district is exploring options to address a projected \$3.5 million budget deficit, replace outdated infrastructure and improve learning spaces, according to a community announcement. The survey will also help determine whether future referendums are needed to support operational and capital needs.

The district will use the survey results to determine which improvements

to prioritize and how to move forward responsibly.

“We are facing challenges that require thoughtful planning and community support,” Superintendent Ronald Rasmussen said. “This survey gives our residents a direct voice in shaping the future of our schools. We want to hear

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\$1M bail for man arrested following homicide

Karen Madden
Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – A Wood County judge set a \$1 million cash bail the afternoon of Nov. 3 for a 34-year-old man arrested after an Oct. 31 homicide.

According to a probable cause statement filed Nov. 3 in Wood County Circuit Court, Randall E. Harris Jr. was arrested on suspicion of first-degree intentional homicide in the death of his father, Randall E. Harris Sr. Wood County Circuit Judge Nicholas Brazeau Jr. set the bail and scheduled Harris’ next court appearance for Nov. 11.

According to court documents, on Oct. 31 a caller reported a disturbance in the 500 block of 11th Street North. The caller said there was a loud banging and she needed police.

Police contacted the caller in front of the house and found a man lying in a neighbor’s driveway with a 6-inch cut on the back of his head, according to the documents. The man said Randall Harris Sr. may be dead in the basement of the house where the call came from and he thought Randall Harris Jr. did it.

Police found Randall Harris Sr. dead in the basement with a cut covering his entire forehead. He was seated on the floor with his back to a bed surrounded by a large pool of blood, according to court documents. They found a wallet on the bed next to where Randall Harris Sr. was on the floor. The wallet had a Wisconsin identification card for Randall Harris Jr., according to documents.

The woman who made the call said she was awoken by the sound of gunshots coming from the basement. The woman said the man found in the driveway had been sleeping in a bedroom across from hers and he went down to the basement to see what happened. The woman said the man came back up the stairs moments later being pushed by Randall Harris Jr., according to documents.

The woman said Randall Harris Jr. grabbed a large knife from a kitchen drawer and attempted to stab the man, according to documents. Randall Harris Jr. then went back downstairs and the other man went out the front door

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