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Chamber Business Advocate, July 1, 2024

1 message

Scott Rogers <rogers@eauclairechamber.org>

Thu, Jun 27, 2024 at 11:24 AM

Reply-To: Scott Rogers <reply-6ek1ep9l@eauclaireareachamberofcommerce.growthzoneapp.com>

To: rogers@eauclairechamber.org

Scott, you are receiving this e-newsletter because you have shown interest in public policy issues. Contact us if you don't want to receive future issues.



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Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce, Eau Claire, Wis.

Published the first business day of each week

[Business Advocate Past Issues](#)

[Public Meetings Calendar](#)

[Chamber Events Calendar](#)

[The Chamber's Advocacy Principles](#)

[The Chamber's 2024 Business Issues Agenda](#)

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Contact: Scott Rogers, VP Governmental Affairs

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Chamber Business Hours: Mon-Thu 7:30a-4:30p, Closed Fridays in July

Happy Independence Day! *The Chamber office will be closed on July 4-5.*

In this issue:

- CV Airport Commission considering EAS proposals
- Western Dairyland seeks public input on Day Resource Center
- Top 3 state Civics Bee finalists from the Chippewa Valley

- Leadership 2.0 application deadline July 12
- Election, state and regional stories
- National and economic stories
- Food for thought
- Mark your calendar

Note on article links: A subscription is required for those marked with "\$"
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Eggs & Issues: Understanding the downtown homeless issue

The purpose of this month's program is to shed light on the issues surrounding homelessness as they relate specifically to downtown Eau Claire. Our panel will seek to address these key questions: Who are the individuals experiencing homelessness that we see downtown and what are the issues they face? How does it affect downtown businesses, residents, and visitors? What measures are being considered and pursued to address these issues? Finding answers is challenging, but we hope this program will add clarity as the community wrestles with these questions. The discussion will include points of view from Western Dairyland, Hope Gospel Mission, the City of Eau Claire, downtown businesses, and community advocates.

- **Friday, July 19, 7:00-8:30 a.m.**, CVTC Business Education Center
[Click here for details and to register](#)

Eggs & Issues: Washington Update with the US Chamber

Hear the latest on federal policy issues and their impact on business from John Kirchner, Vice President, Midwest Region, Congressional and Public Affairs Division, US Chamber of Commerce. Get the insights into what's really happening in Washington that you won't see in the media, and a preview of what's at stake for the business community in the fall election.

- **Friday, Aug 23, 7:00-8:30 a.m.**, CVTC Business Education Center
[Click here for details and to register](#)
-

Advocacy Investors: Visionary Level



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CV Airport deliberating on two airline proposals

Current federal EAS contract for Sun Country flights up for renewal

At its meeting last Wednesday, the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport Commission heard details of the two proposals it has received for providing

passenger air service under the federal Essential Air Service (EAS) program.

The EAS contract is currently held by Sun Country Airlines, who took over the contract in December 2022 after the previous carrier, SkyWest (operating as United Express), announced it was pulling out of 29 EAS markets because of the pilot shortage. The two-year contract ends later this year, so the USDOT opened the opportunity for proposals for the service.

The EAS program was created under airline deregulation to provide federal subsidies, with some cost limits, to guarantee passenger air service to communities who would otherwise lose it.

At the June 26 Commission meeting, Mike Mooney from Volaire Aviation, the airport's consultant, outlined and compared the proposals received by Sun Country, who wants to continue serving the airport into 2028, and SkyWest, who wants to come back and has proposed a 3-year contract.

Sun Country provides several weekly flights to Minneapolis-St. Paul, and seasonal direct flights to Ft. Myers, Orlando, and Las Vegas, all using Boeing 737 jet aircraft. The proposal from SkyWest is for 12 round trips per week between Eau Claire and United's hub at Chicago O'Hare, utilizing 50 passenger regional jets. Under Sun Country's current contract, the airport has fewer weekly departures, but its ridership surpassed 50,000 passengers in 2023 for the first time since 2004. SkyWest said the pilot shortage has run its course and availability of pilots for its flights has stabilized.

Comparing each airline's first-year forecast, Sun Country estimates a total of 50,027 passengers on 512 total flights, with a subsidy per passenger of \$135 and a total subsidy of \$6.7 million. SkyWest estimates a total of 34,944 passengers on 1,211 flights, with a subsidy per passenger of \$169 and a total subsidy of \$5.9 million.

According to the consultant, the bottom line is that the Commission has two good proposals from strong airlines, but can select only one under the federal subsidy program. Although the decision on which carrier will be made by US DOT, the consultant said the airport's recommendation is likely to be accepted. The airport's deadline is July 23 to provide a letter to US DOT.

The Commission met in closed session after Wednesday's presentation and accepted the recommendation of the consultant to interview each airline as the next step. There may also be private negotiations with each carrier as the Commission moves towards a recommendation.

During the public comment portion of last week's meeting, a few individuals favoring each carrier made comments about their preferences. The Chamber's Vice President Governmental Affairs, Scott Rogers, thanked the Commission and Airport Director Charity Zich for its work two years ago to maintain commercial service, and expressed confidence that they would carefully consider the best interests of the airport and the wider community.

Individuals interested in providing feedback to the Airport Commission can do so by emailing admin@chippewavalleyairport.com

More information:

[About the Chippewa Valley Airport](#) (Chippewa Valley Airport)

[SkyWest proposal](#) (SkyWest)

[Sun Country proposal](#) (Sun Country)

[Essential Air Service Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Chippewa Valley Regional Airport)
[Sun Country, SkyWest seek Chippewa Valley air service](#) (Leader-Telegram \$)
[Chippewa Valley Regional Airport discuss EAS proposals alongside community](#) (Leader-Telegram \$)
[People share thoughts on the CRVA's EAS proposal](#) (WEAU 13 News)
[Meetings to continue as leaders decide what airline should serve Chippewa Valley next](#) (WQOW News 18)

Western Dairyland seeks public input on potential Day Resource Center

Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council has opened a new survey for public input as it works with partners to detail plans for a potential Day Resource Center in downtown Eau Claire to help individuals experiencing homelessness.

More information:

[Resource Center planning information page](#) (Wisconsin Dairyland)
[Community input survey](#) (Western DairyLand)
[Readiness Planning Study Case Summary](#) (Western Dairyland)
[Video: June 18 Day Resource Information Meeting](#) (Western Dairyland, YouTube, 1 hr, 16 mins)
[Partners Searching for Day Center Site to Serve the Homeless](#) (Volume One)

Meeting this week...

Eau Claire Plan Commission

- Monday, July 1, 7 p.m. [Agenda Packet](#) (38 pages)

Includes a public hearing on rezoning property at 4808 Hamilton Ave. for Gateway West Apartments proposed by Wurzer Builders, postponed from the June 3 meeting (See pages 16-37 of the Agenda Packet)

Advocacy Investors: Advocate Level



Top 3 state Civics Bee finalists from the Chippewa Valley Rya Mousavi from DeLong wins first place

Rya Mousavi, a student at Eau Claire's DeLong Middle School, has been named the first-ever Wisconsin Civics Bee champion. Rya competed against seven other finalists from around the state in Madison on June 14, answering Civics trivia questions and presenting portions of her submitted essay.

The competition, the first-of-its kind in Wisconsin, was organized by the WMC Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. It is modeled on traditional spelling and geography bees, encouraging students to share ideas for improving their communities and show their enthusiasm for civics.

Earlier in the year, students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades were invited to compete in regional bees, hosted by the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, the Racine Area Manufacturers & Commerce, and the Wausau Chamber of Commerce. Winners of the regional bees participated in the state finals. The Eau Claire Chamber invited students in our region to compete in the Wausau competition.

2nd and 3rd place finishers also from area

Rya won a \$1,000 cash prize for the victory, and will represent Wisconsin in the inaugural National Civics Bee national championship in Washington, D.C., in the fall for a chance to win prizes worth more than \$50,000. Megan Christensen from Colfax Middle School and Elissa Karls from DeLong Middle School placed second and third, respectively, and earned cash prizes as well.

"Congratulations to Rya and all of the other finalists for making Wisconsin history," said WMC President & CEO Kurt R. Bauer. "We're thrilled to partner with other chambers to build enthusiasm for civic engagement and United States history through this competition."

More information:

[National Civics Bee information](#) (WMC Foundation)

[Eau Claire Area Student Named Wisconsin Civics Bee Champion](#) (WMC news release)

[Delong Middle School student named Wisconsin Civics Bee champion](#) (WEAU 13 News)

[Delong Middle School student makes history winning the first Wisconsin Civics Bee](#) (WKBT News 8000)

[DeLong Middle School student wins Wisconsin Civics Bee](#) (WQOW News 18)

[Chippewa Valley students place as finalists in Wisconsin Civics Bee competition](#) (Leader-Telegram \$)

[DeLong Student Wins First-Ever Wisconsin Civics Bee](#) (Volume One)

More local stories...

[City of Eau Claire News Updates](#) (including weekly City Manager's Update)

[New Health Co-op Seeking Chippewa Valley Residents, Physicians as Members](#) (Volume One)

[Chippewa Valley couples expand access to care months after HSHS and Prevea closures](#) (WKBT News 8000)

[Eau Claire Co. named ACT Work Ready Community](#) (Volume One)

[EC City Engineering Department anticipate access to newer tech will help in traffic study](#) (Leader-Telegram \$)

[City of Eau Claire to Expedite Removal of Infested Ash Trees \(WQOW News 18\)](#)

[From homeless to hopeful: Local vet discusses Klein Hall and second chances \(Leader-Telegram \\$\)](#)

[Saving money and energy: UW-Stout recognized for its sustainability journey \(WQOW News 18\)](#)

[UW-Stout honored with award for energy efficiency, sustainability \(Leader-Telegram \\$\)](#)

Introducing Leadership 2.0
Now Accepting Applications for the Class of 2025
Applications are due by Friday, July 12

The Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting applications for the Leadership 2.0 Class of 2025. Leadership 2.0 is the next step in developing and strengthening your leadership skills and is especially relevant for individuals who have graduated from Leadership Eau Claire or other similar programs. The sessions are tailored to elevate participants' leadership capabilities to unprecedented heights. Monthly meetings will begin in September 2024.

More information:

[Leadership 2.0 \(Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce\)](#)

Or contact Kaitlyn Molis at molis@eauclairechamber.org

Advocacy Investors: Catalyst Level

Benedict Sales & Service	Godfrey & Kahn	PESI, Inc.
BMO Bank, N.A.	Hoelt Builders, Inc.	Prevail Bank
Cascades Tissue Group	Marshfield Clinic -	Silver Spring Foods, Inc.
CCFBank	Medical Center - Eau Claire	Trubilt Collision Center
City of Eau Claire	McDonough Manufacturing Company	U.S. Bank
Double Forte	Miron Construction Co., Inc.	
Eau Claire County		

Election updates...

Primary Election: Tuesday, Aug 13

General Election: Tuesday, Nov 5

Register to vote, find what's on your ballot: [MyVoteWisconsin](#)

[Marquette Law School Poll: Biden and Trump tied among registered Wisconsin voters, Baldwin leads Hovde in US Senate race \(Marquette Law School Poll\)](#)

[Marquette Law School Poll: 54% think jury was correct in finding Trump guilty in New York state trial \(Marquette Law School Poll\)](#)

[Biden, Trump tied in Wisconsin in latest Marquette poll \(WPR\)](#)

[Bipartisan group of Wisconsin lawmakers join pro-democracy effort \(Journal-Sentinel +\)](#)

[Republican National Convention to build on Milwaukee's growing visibility, tourism leader says \(WPR\)](#)

['Big deal': Former Governors Thompson, Walker work to unite GOP, stump for Trump \(CBS 58\)](#)

[WEC staff: Vos recall organizers submitted enough signatures, but legal question remains \(WPR\)](#)

[Enough signatures collected to force recall election for Wisconsin GOP leader, commission says \(AP\)](#)

[Eric Hovde pushes Tammy Baldwin to agree to more debates in Wisconsin U.S. Senate race \(Journal-Sentinel +\)](#)

[With Tammy Baldwin polling stronger than Joe Biden, could Wisconsin see a split outcome? \(Journal-Sentinel +\)](#)

[Disabled Wisconsin voters can get ballots via email, court rules \(The Cap Times\)](#)

[\\$607M property tax hike for Madison public schools now up to voters \(The Cap Times\)](#)

Has your district changed? All new maps now in place.

To see what district in which you now vote, see the link below to access the interactive map on the Wisconsin Legislature's web site. Check the boxes at the upper left to select Assembly, Senate, and/or Congressional Districts. Zoom in to find your location and your district.

[Link to 2024 legislative maps \(Wisconsin Legislature\)](#)

Who's running in Wisconsin Legislative races?

Wispolitics.com has been tracking the new districts and candidate filings. To see who has filed to run for the Legislature in the state, see the links below:

[2024 Wisconsin Assembly races \(WisPolitics.com, with maps\)](#)

[2024 Wisconsin State Senate races \(WisPolitics.com, with maps\)](#)

[Assembly members facing primary challenges \(WisPolitics.com\)](#)

[Incumbent lawmakers facing no major party opposition \(WisPolitics.com\)](#)

[Who's running in Wisconsin's 2024 legislative primaries \(Wisconsin Examiner\)](#)

Congressional Primary

In the 3rd Congressional District, three Democrats, Rebecca Cooke, Eau Claire, State Rep. Katrina Shankland, Stevens Point, and Eric Wilson, Eau Claire, are seeking the opportunity to challenge incumbent Republican Derrick Van Orden, Prairie du Chien.

[Here's who is running for Congress in Wisconsin \(The Cap Times\)](#)

More state and regional stories...

[Home affordability in Wisconsin hit 'all-time low' in May, Realtors association says \(WPR\)](#)

[The immigrant population of the Fed's Ninth District has grown: What does it mean for the](#)

[labor force?](#) (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis)

[What to know about Ed Policy: Packers' future leader spent much of his life around professional football](#) (Green Bay Press-Gazette +)

[Wisconsin chef Dan Jacobs talks about his near win on "Top Chef"](#) (Wisconsin State Journal +)

[Appleton to receive \\$25 Million federal grant for transit/housing project](#) (WBAY)

[Is the new Milwaukee sales tax delivering for the city?](#) (Journal-Sentinel +)

Advocacy Investors: Investor Level

Ayres Associates	Eau Claire Co-op Oil/	Morrie's Eau Claire Subaru
Bauman Associates, Ltd.	Chippewa Valley Energy	NBI, Inc.
Brotoloc North	Global Finishing Solutions, LLC	NEI Electric Inc.
Cellcom	Huebsch Services	OakLeaf Clinics, SC
Choice Products USA, LLC	King Pin Management	The Phoenix Taproom & Kitchen
City of Altoona	Landmark Company	WGOW-TV 18
Compeer Financial	Lee Beverage of Wisconsin LLC	WRR Environmental Services Co., Inc.
Eau Claire Auto Group	Markquart Motors	

National and economic stories...

[Federal Reserve says all 31 banks in annual stress test withstood a severe hypothetical downturn](#) (CNBC)

[Federal court backs Missouri AG motion to block Biden's 'illegal' student loan handout plan](#) (Fox Business)

[Supreme Court sets up wealth tax battle for Congress](#) (The Hill)

[Supreme Court Rejects GOP-Led Suit Claiming Government Censored Social Media](#) (Wall Street Journal)

Food for thought...

[How Schools Can Help End The Phone-Based Childhood](#) (Carolyn Bryk, After Babel)

COVID-19 Resources:

[Eau Claire County COVID-19 Information Hub](#) (Eau Claire City-County Health Department)

Mark your calendar:

Eggs & Issues

- [Friday, July 19](#)

- [Friday, Aug 23](#)
All upcoming Eggs & Issues programs

Golf Day in Eau Claire

- [Monday, Aug 5](#)

Business After Hours

- [Monday, Aug 12](#)

Partisan Primary Election

- [Tuesday, Aug 13](#)

"Bravo to Business" Awards

- [Wednesday, Oct 23](#)

31st Annual Chippewa Valley Rally

- [Wednesday, Mar 5, 2025](#)

Public Meetings Calendar

Click the link above for the our regularly updated schedule of public meetings.

Thanks for reading this issue of Business Advocate. If you have comments or questions, contact Scott Rogers, Vice President Governmental Affairs, at 715-858-0616 or rogers@eauclairechamber.org

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