



Weather
Partly sunny, breezy
Today **82** Tonight **58**
Details, **Page 12C.**

Sports
Ramblers stay on top of Western Cloverbelt. **1D.**



Business
Treasury news spurs rally on Wall Street. **9A.**



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INSIDE



City/Region
EC boy will have his photo up in Times Square. **1B.**



Getting Out
Bowhunter's success prompts reflection on sport. **1C.**

Nation/World
I-35W bridge opens to rave reviews in Minneapolis. **3A.**

Opinions
National View: Voters should focus on the economy. **10A.**

State
McCain, Palin stump together in Green Bay. **4A.**

Index
Aces on Bridge.....11C
Business.....9A
City/Region.....1B
Classifieds.....4C
Comics/crossword.3C
Entertainment.....8A
Horoscopes.....12C
Movie listings.....8A
Obituaries.....2B
Opinions.....10A
Sports.....1D
Sudoku.....9C
TV/Dear Abby.....6A

TOMORROW



News
Pepin gospel group has plenty of energy.



For county, less goes out, more comes in

Aborted jail project means big cut in spending, but more taxes will be collected



McCarty

By Andrew Dowd
Leader-Telegram staff

Spending in next year's Eau Claire County budget will drop significantly as the county jail project is on hold, but more taxes will be collected.

County Administrator J. Thomas McCarty released his budget recommendations this week, and they include about a 20 percent drop in spending after last year had an increase of almost 22 percent.

"There's two major reasons for the difference," he said.

The County Board voted last month to suspend work on the jail project to allow a special committee to make recommendations on the county's space needs and what should be built. Last year, the county expected to spend \$20 million in 2009 on the jail, but McCarty is budgeting only a quarter-million dollars for more courthouse security.

The other reason spending dropped is because federal and state aids for long-term care of the elderly and disabled adults are being gradually transferred to the private sector. When the privatization takes full effect, McCarty said, it will move about \$13 million from the county's Human Services Department to provider Community Health Partnership.

See **COUNTY**, Page 5A

	2008	2009 Proposed	Percent Change
Spending	\$102.1 million	\$82.2 million	-19.5%
Tax Levy	\$23.1 million	\$23.5 million	+1.7%
Tax Rate*	\$3.62	\$3.55	-1.9%

*Per \$1,000 equalized valuation

Source: Eau Claire County Staff graphic by Kathy Nelson

FINANCIAL CRISIS

World in turmoil over U.S. economy

U.S. Federal Reserve, five other central banks take joint action to pump up sagging markets around the globe

By Tim Johnson, Shashank Bengali and Tom Lasseter
McClatchy-Tribune

BEIJING — Signs of crisis rippled around the globe Thursday as fears that the ailing U.S. financial system would drag down the rest of the world ricocheted from trading floors in Singapore to the streets of Hong Kong and energy markets in Europe.

While markets gyrated, Russia's president made an unusual appeal for the United States to calm the global financial turmoil it had unleashed and oil-producing countries scrambled to cope with lower prices, indications that the crisis has the potential to reshape politics, as well as finance.

Inside

■ U.S. stocks soar on news of possible government intervention. **Page 9A.**

■ National view: Candidates, voters should focus on economy. **Page 10A.**

Around the globe, fear pervaded trading floors, leaving many traders dazed. "People are shell-shocked," said Tim Condon, the Singapore-based chief Asia economist for ING Bank. "No one is doing very much. They're just sitting on the sidelines trying to preserve their cash."

"The only question on people's lips is which institution will be next to fail."

The U.S. Federal Reserve and five other major central banks took unprecedented joint action to prop up world markets, injecting \$180 billion in credit that stopped a wild fall in stocks in East Asia and stabilized markets in Europe.

Hong Kong's main Hang Seng index fell 7.7 percent in the morning before closing virtually flat. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index ended down 2.2 percent, a three-year low. South Korea's Kospi lost 2.3 percent, and China's Shanghai index dipped 1.7 percent.

See **ECONOMY**, Page 2A



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Thursday at the Kremlin in Moscow, "We hope the administration of the United States will handle the grave financial turmoil, which is significantly affecting many countries."

Associated Press

UW-Stout students enroll at record clip

Numbers are up at UW-Eau Claire too

By Leader-Telegram staff

Enrollment has hit an all-time high at UW-Stout, officials announced Thursday.

The fall head count at the Menomonie university was 8,776 students, up 3.5 percent from last year. The total is the highest enrollment in the institution's 117-year history.

Administrators attribute the increase to improved recruiting efforts, especially online.

"We're reaching prospective students the way they want to be reached — and that's electronically," said Cynthia Gilberts, the university's admissions director.

Officials frequently e-mail prospective and new students. UW-Stout's admissions Web site contains a message board and student profiles.

"We're connecting with them emotionally," Gilberts said. "We do a lot of social networking."

Enrollment also has jumped at UW-Eau Claire this fall. Preliminary figures show 10,877 students, an increase of 2.7 percent from last year.

See **STUDENTS**, Page 2A

Students

UW-Stout
2008: 8,776
2007: 8,477
2006: 8,370
2005: 7,895
2004: 7,547

UW-Eau Claire
2008: 10,877
2007: 10,593
2006: 10,505
2005: 10,566
2004: 10,540

Honey, please pass me the genetically altered food

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Super Chicken strutted a step closer to the dinner table Thursday.

The government said it will start considering proposals to sell genetically engineered animals as food, a move that could lead to faster-growing fish, cattle that can resist mad cow disease or perhaps heart-healthier eggs laid by a new breed of chickens.

The rules will also apply to drugs and other medical materials from genetically engineered animals.

U.S. supermarkets currently sell no meat from genetically engineered animals. But a Boston-area company called Aqua Bounty Technologies hopes to win approval next year for its faster-growing salmon and make the fish available by 2011.

"It tastes just like any other farm-raised salmon," said vice chairman Elliot Entis, who has sampled it.

See **FOOD**, Page 2A

