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Masking the Northwoods

By Kathleen Marie Marsh

Three weeks ago, local nurse practitioner Peggy Christianson felt a need to help her community. She brought together people for a mission: mask the Northwoods towns of Lakewood, Townsend, and the surrounding area to meet the needs of patients during the Covid-19 Crisis.

Peggy saw the handwriting on the wall: the area was woefully short of PPE (personal protective equipment). She feared this would be a problem for both essential businesses that needed to stay open and for those who needed their services. She knew hospitals were working to find sources to obtain PPE, but small towns didn't have those connections and weren't yet aware of the need.

Peggy decided to use Facebook to send out a message asking for help. Within a few days, Community Health Mask Makers was established. Over 100 volunteers stepped forward; cutting, sewing, and delivering masks. Volunteers were organized into groups led by head seamstress Roxanne Wieland, procurement master Julie Palmer, head of delivery Kathy Jensen, business-contact coordinator Ann Hogan, master data collector Ashley Griffith, and fundraiser Mike VandeWalle.

Community members began donating fabric, thread, elastic, pipe cleaners, anything and everything needed, though some hard-to-find supplies had to be purchased. As of April 15, over a thousand masks have been made and delivered to local businesses such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, grocery stores, gas stations, and food pantry workers. To make the cloth masks as close to surgical masks as possible, HEPA filters cut from vacuum cleaner bags were put inside.

Soon, Peggy found a design for a 3D printed mask posted on Facebook by a clinic out west. She forwarded the design to Brian Van Eperen, FabLab Director at Wabeno High School, and Pat Lowery, retired WHS teacher currently working part-time for the DPI. Brian and Pat set out to see what they could do. Pat sent an email to high school and technical college teachers all across the state. Some of them have 3D printers at home; they started immediately making plastic masks. Soon the schools themselves began printing masks which serve as an amazing solution to the critical surgical mask shortage. At the present time, 20 schools throughout Wisconsin are making 3D masks that not only replace the surgical masks but can be reused. They have gone to police departments, fire departments, EMS personnel, and hospitals. Some schools are working directly with facilities in their area. Locally Crandon (Willy Krause) and Wabeno High School (Brian Van Eperen) are fiercely making masks at their sites. Roger Kieffer, Waukesha, has used his home 3D printer to help the cause.

Many in the community who were unable to help with production contributed money. Over \$8000 has already been raised to support the effort. Amazed by the response, Peggy says: "We will put our heads together to figure out where best to send any excess funds when all of this is over."

Continued on page 02

Tee Shirt Sale to help Community



The Forest County Chamber of Commerce and Creative Screen Printing/Northern Tees and Gifts has teamed up to make available these shirts that will be available in a variety of colors and can be found and ordered through Creative Screen Printing/Northern Tees and Gifts website. After purchasing online or by phone, curbside pick-up or mail delivery will be available.

100% of all proceeds go straight back into small businesses here in Forest County. The website to order is <https://www.creativecrandon.com/product-page/love-local>.

We all know the businesses are struggling and feel the heavy burden of worry during this time. Let's show and remind them that we are here and we are thinking of them.

The Easter Bunny did make it to Crandon!



The Crandon Lions didn't get to hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt, but the Easter Bunny did make a visit to Crandon and drive around waving at the kids. The Lion from the Crandon Lions Club went with the Easter Bunny.

They were accompanied by Richie Kulaf, a Fire Dept. member and Parker Fuller, a Crandon Police Officer. (The Lion is in the middle and Richie is to the right.)

Laona Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors Food Drive Auction

The Laona Area Chamber of Commerce (LACC) sends out heartfelt appreciation to all that donated to the 3rd Annual Full Tummies/Full Hearts Community Food Drive. The timing of COVID-19 at the same time as the drive could have been disastrous; instead, the result was miraculous! And because area pantries need our help now more than ever, the LACC board of directors has hatched a plan to take this event to the next level before we close it out.

Normally, prizes donated by chamber member businesses are given away to those who filled out a slip when donating, but due to Laona State Bank and Townsend Storage lobbies being closed for a good portion of the drive, there were very few slips. So instead of drawing for prizes, LACC would like to hold an auction for those prizes instead. Here's how it will work:

Photos of the donated items will be posted on LACC's Facebook page and will be labeled with its monetary value and a minimum bid amount. Each prize will have its own post and those who wish to bid will do so publicly by commenting on that prize's post. You may bid as often as you wish until the auction closes. Auction will begin Friday, April 24, at 12:01 a.m., and close at 11:59 p.m., on Thursday, April 30. As with all proceeds from the community drive, all proceeds of the auction will be split between the four local food pantries: New Hope Shelter (Crandon), NEWCAP (Crandon), Christian Food Pantry (Lakewood), and the Goodman/Armstrong Food Pantry.

Make sure to stay tuned to LACC's Facebook page! Questions regarding the food drive or auction may be directed to the Laona Chamber of Commerce at (715) 902-0810 or laonaareachamber@gmail.com. Together, we DO make a difference in our communities!

Forest County Chamber Earth Day Challenge

The Forest County Chamber is hosting an Earth Day Challenge on April 22 (Earth Day)! We challenge our community members to clean up your yard, part of your house, or any outside area by April 22nd. We will award \$50 in Chamber Bucks to two lucky winners, one in each of the following categories

1. Most Improved Yard Award
2. Beautification Yard Award

Let's continue the movement already started in other Counties and show some positivity!

To be eligible in the Forest County movement, you must email or leave a comment on our web page, www.visitforestcounty.com with your "NOW" photo and then respond later with your "AFTER" photo.

We have also been approached by one of our local businesses; NRC, who requested to donate a monetary donation to this event. If you are a business, or person of interest and would like to make a donation to up the prize award, please reach out to us and as we receive updates, we will be sure to post to this event page!

Forest County Election results

The Spring Elections are now history. With poll workers behind plexiglass and distance between voters along with record absentee ballots. A brief rundown of the election in Forest County follows.

In the Democratic primary, Biden beat Sanders by a vote of 759 to 238. Trump carried the day with a total vote of 1,514 on the Republican ballot.

Jill Karofsky won the election over incumbent State Supreme Court Justice Kelly statewide, but Forest County disagreed, giving Karofsky 1,064 votes to Kelly's 1,499.

The Forest County Board will have some new faces at the table, when they can sit at a table! Cheri Collins is back on the Board in District 8, in Wabeno. Laabs won a victory as a write-in for District 12 with a grand total of 2 votes and no opponent. His stepping up gives the district a supervisor, when nobody else was interested. Lynne Black is the new supervisor in District 15, replacing Steve Bunda who stepped down. Unfortunately, there were no candidates for Districts 7, 13 or 19. It will be up to the new board to find an appointee for these positions to fill up the full quota of board members.

The Circuit Court Judge's position was retained by incumbent Leon Stenz, defeating challenger Robert Kennedy.

The City of Crandon has two new alderman. Alex Walrath will be representing District 2 and Brian Schultz District 4.

In the school board elections, 30 year incumbent Dave Ziolkowski was eased out of his position by Kimberly Gudowicz and Samantha R. Smith. The Laona, Wabeno and Crandon School District incumbents had no opposition.

County Board action critical on PSC broadband grant

The Forest County Broadband Commission was recently notified that the County's application for a major broadband expansion grant was approved by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. The award is a major step forward in providing internet service throughout the county. Forest County has long been identified as a 'significantly underserved rural Wisconsin county'. The award from the PSC allows for the build-out totaling \$1,898,400. The state grant provides \$939,600 with a match of \$750,000 from Forest County. Northwoods Connect, the service provider chosen by the county Broadband Commission will be contributing additional funds to bring the total to the full amount. In September, 2019, a total of \$24 million was set aside for state-wide broadband expansion grants. The PSC fielded 142 grants as of the December application deadline. A total of 72 grants were awarded with the Forest County grant being the 4th largest of grants awarded.

"The grant award is so important for our county" stated Mark Ferris, Forest County Broadband Commission Chair and FCEDP Executive Director. As stated in the grant application, the Commission identified three significant priorities for improved service; Emergency Services, Education, and E-Medicine. "The grant award meets those priorities. What we are experiencing with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are really impacted first-hand by our lack of county-wide quality broadband." I have had conversations with District Administrators of both Wabeno and Crandon Schools. Crandon Administrator, Larry Palubicki and Jeff Walsh, Wabeno have stated that access to broadband by the student populations puts limitations on what can be accomplished with on-line learning. While both districts have been creative in delivering education to their students, the lack of quality service creates a level of inequity due to inconsistent broadband." To paraphrase Mr. Palubicki's response, "education of our students has to be equitable, so without good district-wide broadband, we can't simply educate some and not all of our students." Ferris stated he'll be talking soon with Laona Administrator Jim Bradley and the Goodman-Armstrong Creek schools.

The availability of E-Medicine is also a subject of great concern during the pandemic. Ferris has talked with several residents having experienced the lack of in-person medical visits. "We are finding some medical offices limiting access to their health professionals through the

Continued on page 03

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 <p>MLS#183654 \$137,500 105 N. Crandon Ave. 3 Bd. - 2 Ba.</p>	 <p>MLS#183479 \$229,900 8885 Grass Lake Rd. 3 Bd - 2 Ba.</p>	 <p>MLS#183323 \$119,900 380 Cth DD 2 Bd -1 Ba.</p>

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Masking the Northwoods Cont. from pg. 1



Bruce and Cindy Resler sewing masks in their Townsend home.

As the need grows, so does the effort: "Recently we learned of a critical need of two hospital systems that many of our community members use for care," Peggy said. "We teamed up to send masks to Wisconsin Face Mask Warriors to help get those critical needs met. And, of course, we are still working to mask the Northwoods."

Written requests for masks can be dropped off at Nicolet Pharmacy in Lakewood or left in the drop-off area between the Bellin Health office and Nicolet Pharmacy. Open hours are Monday through Saturday; 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Businesses are welcome to request masks as well. Peggy is very grateful for the outpouring of community support for masking the Northwoods. She reiterates the sound medical advice that should help everyone stay safe: "Wash your hands, don't touch your face, and practice personal distancing."



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AREA CHURCH SERVICES

- **Cathedral Church of the Northwoods Arbutus/Lutheran Church, ELCA**, W6607 Church Ln., Pearson, invites any and all to worship with them Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School is at 11 a.m. Communion is open to all on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. For more information, call 715-484-5055 or 715-219-6363.
- **Forest Larger Parish Presbyterian Church** – Sunday Worship: Lakewood – 8:00 (15552 Hwy. 32), Wabeno – 10:00 (4347 North Branch St.), Laona – 11:30 (5265 Linden St.). Call 715-473-3603 for more information.
- **St. John's Lutheran Church** - N8934 Hwy 55, Pickerel - Sunday: 8 a.m. Bible Class, 9 a.m. Worship; Wednesday: 4-4:30 p.m. Call 715-484-3382 for more information. **St. John Lutheran Church, Pickerel**, is holding Lenten services Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM. The topic is "Ironies of the Passion."
- **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (LCMS)**- 1507 N Lake Ave, Crandon. Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. 715-478-3555.
- **St John Lutheran Church (LCMS)**- 5502 Beech Street, Laona, Sunday Service at 8:00 a.m. 715-674-3836.
- **Trinity Evangelical Church (WELS)** - 1741 Forest Avenue, Wabeno. Sunday morning service at 9:30 a.m.; Youth Bible Study at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Bethel Baptist Church** - 1761 East Ave., Wabeno. Sunday Worship Service at 9 a.m., Wednesday Prayer & Bible study 6 PM (winter-time 2PM). Pastor Benjamin Larson (715) 610-1420
- **Lakeland Baptist Church** - Sunday Service at 10 a.m, Sunday School 9 a.m. Sunday night at 5 p.m. Prayer meeting Wednesday 6 p.m.
- **St Paul Lutheran (WELS)** - 501 N Park Ave, Crandon. Sunday worship at 9:15am. 715-478-5620 NorthwoodsLutheran.org
- **Christ Lutheran (WELS)** - 9139 S Main St, Hiles. Sunday worship at 7:45am. 715-478-5620 NorthwoodsLutheran.org
- **Praise Chapel** - 200 East Sixth St., Crandon, Sunday Service - 10 a.m., Wed. kid's Club - 3:15 p.m., Bible Study Wed. - 6:30 p.m.
- **St. Joseph's Catholic Church** - 208 N. Park Ave., Crandon, Saturday Service 5 p.m. Sunday Service 9 a.m. 715-478-3396.
- **St. Luke's United Methodist Church** - 301 South Lake Ave., Crandon, Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. 715-478-3797.
- **Argonne United Methodist Church** - 7945 Pine St., Argonne, Sunday Service 8:30 a.m. 715-478-3797.
- **Gospel Mission Fellowship** - 1901 Hwy 8 E. in Monico, WI. Sundays 10:30 a.m. – come join us in worship, prayer and a time in God's word. www.gospelmissionfellowshippcg.org
- **Upper Room Church** - 18805 State Highway 32, Townsend, Prayer 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship at 10 a.m., Bible Study 10 a.m. Tuesday. Pastor Jim 715-850-0733
- **St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)**, 17963 Hwy 32, Townsend, No public worship; services online; go to www.stjohn-townsend.360unite.com
- **St. Mary's Catholic Church** N9184 WI-55, Pickerel, WI 54465. Mass on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. and Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
- **Living Faith Church of God** - 202 S. Hazel Dell, Crandon. Services Sunday at 4 p.m. & Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

- **Town of Wabeno** has set the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. to hold Town Board Meetings.
- **Crandon American Legion Post 94** - First Thursday of every month (except Sept.) at 7 p.m. at the new American Legion Hall.
- **Overeaters Anonymous meeting** - Thursday at 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. in Associated Bank at 210 S Lake Ave., Crandon. Contact Debra at 715-784-0031 for more information.
- **Stitch'n Sisters Needlework Group** - We invite anyone interested in needle arts to join us Tuesdays from 9 a.m. – noon in the Associated Bank Community Room, located at 210 S. Lake Ave., Crandon.
- **Elcho Area Community Food Pantry** moved into a new location at 11224 Antigo St., Elcho, WI 54428. It will be open each week: Mon. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Wed. 4 – 6 p.m. and Thur. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. If any further information is needed please contact David A. Schindler at (715) 610-5886.
- **Forest County Humane Society** - Open to public Wednesday - Friday, 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for more info. 715-478-2098.
- **Forest County Humane Society Meeting** - Every fourth Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the training center at the shelter. The public is always welcome.
- **Town of Nashville Town Board Meeting**- Wednesday March 18th 7:00p.m. Nashville Town Hall North
- **Bridge Community Dental Health Clinic** - This project serves people of all ages in Forest County for people who have Badger Care, medical Assistance & UNINSURED to schedule an appointment call (715) 848-4884.
- **Town of Lincoln Board Meetings** - 2nd Monday of each month, 6 p.m., Town of Lincoln Hall.
- **Tops** - will meet at Wabeno Town Hall on Mondays. Weigh in at 7:45 a.m. with meeting following at 8:00 a.m. For more info call 715-473-2613.
- **Support Group for Parent of Children with Disabilities** - Call Chris at 715-784-0058.
- **Survivors of Suicide Support Group** - Support group for those who have lost a loved one to suicide will gather the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. until noon at the Curran Building located at 315 South Oneida Avenue in Rhinelander. For info call Sue at 715-275-5399.
- **Crandon Public Library Board Monthly meeting.** 6 p.m. Lower Level. 715.478.3784. www.crandonpl.org. Second Wednesday of the Month.
- **Nashville Town Hall Craft & Flea Market**, located at Hwy 55 and B, south of Crandon, will be closed until spring 2020.
- **Forest County ATV Association** - Monthly meeting the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m., in the Laona Senior Community Building, back entrance.
- **14th Annual Goodman-Armstrong Creek PTO Smelt Fry**: Sunday, April 5, 2020 is cancelled.
- **Town of Nashville Town Board Meeting**- Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. in Nashville Town Hall North.

AREA AA MEETINGS

- **AA Meetings - Back Door Group** - Open meeting Thursday nights at 7 p.m., Lakewood Lakes Country Library. Call Mary at 715-276-2318 or Bill at 715-882-3512.
- **AA Meeting** - Antigo Hospital, Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.
- **AA Meeting** - White Lake, Sundays at 10 a.m. at the White Lake Community Center on School St.. Mike at 715-882-8901 or Bill at 715-882-3512.
- **AA Meeting** - Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Carter Springs. Contact Peggy at 715-889-3116 for more information.
- **Wellbriety 12 Step Meeting (AA/NA)** - Mondays at 6 p.m. - ? lower level of FCP Museum, Mish•Ko•Swin Lane, Crandon. Call Brooks Boyd for info at 715-889-4902.
- **Lost Marbles Group - Open AA meeting** - Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. Forest Larger Presbyterian Church. 4374 N. Branch, rear entrance, side door. Park in back next to the Wabeno High School.

WABENO SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Official vote totals for the School Board Election held on April 7, 2020 for the School District of Wabeno Area as reported by the towns are as follows:

Forest County Area: Lori Mattern 889 Oconto County Area: Janet Opiela 926

Lori Mattern, elected to a 3-year term, representing the Forest County Area.

Janet Opiela, elected to a 3-year term, representing the Oconto County Area.

Bids & Notices

Public Hearing Agenda Request for Waivers School District or School Board School District of Laona Virtual Meeting Monday, April 20, 2020 5:10 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Frank Shepard Jr.
3. Verification of Notice Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.84
4. Approval of Agenda
5. New Business (Potential Action Items)
 - A. Public Hearing - Request for Waiver of Instructional hours, per Wisconsin Statute 118.38(1)(b) due to COVID-19 Pandemic
 - B. Resolution to Approve Waiver of Instructional hours per Wisconsin Statute 118.38 (1)(b) due to COVID-19 Pandemic
6. Adjourn:

Notes: "This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. This will be a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The agenda could be subject to last minute change(s)"

Regular Meeting Laona Board of Education 5:30pm Virtual Meeting Monday, April 20, 2020 at 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Frank Shepard Jr.
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Public Forum (10 Minutes)
5. Consent Agenda
 - A. Bills and Claims
 - B. Meeting Minutes
6. Items for Discussion and/or Action
 - A. Certified Staff Negotiations
 - B. Neola Policy po0167.1
 - C. Neola Policy po8420.01
 - D. Neola Policy Updates First Look
 - E. Lamers Bus Company
 - F. Start College Now - Mr. Bertrand
 - G. 2019-2020 Educator Effectiveness Update
 - H. Sixth Grade Class Trip Discussion
 - I. Prom Discussion
 - J. Senior Banquet/Graduation Discussion
 - K. Liquidated Damages (Contract language change)
 - L. Administrator Evaluation
7. Informational Items:
 - A. Business Manager's Report
 - B. Elementary Principal's Report
 - C. Administrator/HS Principal's Report
 - D. Board Member Reports
8. Enter Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee.
 - A. Personnel
 - B. Certified Staff Negotiations
 - C. Administrator Evaluation
9. Return to Open Session to possibly take action on items discussed in closed session.
10. Adjourn:

Notes: "This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. This will be a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The agenda could be subject to last minute change(s)"

Vet's Corner

The VA has decided to suspend the in-person examination option.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, VA recognizes the value of social distancing and the need to reduce the amount of face-to-face contact. On April 2, 2020, the VHA temporarily discontinued performing C&P exams in order to prioritize resources for essential and critically needed health care services in this emergency

This directive also eliminates in-person examinations except in urgent care situations and reduces the number of people entering VHA facilities in order to protect employees and patients. VHA will conduct some C&P examinations through tele-exams and ACE where possible.

Out of an abundance of caution for Veterans and medical providers, VBA is similarly suspending in-person C&P examinations until further notice and will continue to conduct C&P exams through ACE and Tele-C&P, when possible.

STAY SAFE

Robert W Koplien CVSO Forest County Veteran Service Officer

robbkoplien@co.forest.wi.us

Veteran's Memorial Park Closed Until Further Notice

In an effort to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of our community the Veteran's Memorial Park will not be opening until further notice.

Please email carly@co.forest.wi.us or call (715)478-3475 with questions.

Notice Town of Lincoln Annual Meeting Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

*The regular April Town Board meeting will follow the annual meeting and will not be held on 4/13/2020.

TOWN OF CRANDON ANNUAL MEETING

The Town of Crandon will hold their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall

Ron Cole
Clerk
Town of Crandon



Formerly dba Antigo Eye Care Center
Dr. Peterson & Dr. Beyersdorf, Optometrists
Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
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Broadband Cont. from pg. 1

traditional office visits.” E-Medicine (or E-Health) is a fast-growing approach being used by health providers. “Again, quality broadband dictates the use of E-Medicine” “Without broadband access, we’re potentially compromising our residents’ health.” Ferris went on to say, we (Forest County) has the solution at our fingertips with this PSC grant. We have to make sure the County acts in a timely fashion on formally accepting the grant.”

On multiple occasions the County Board has supported the broadband initiative with Board action. With the formal award from the PSC, the County Board will now need to pass a resolution to accept the grant. The County Towns Association has been unanimous in their support of the broadband project. Twelve of the fifteen town/city governments have voted to participate in the funding of the county’s portion of the project. It is anticipated that virtually all towns will participate. Ferris commented, “We believe we have a good plan in place. The plan creates seventeen towers strategically placed throughout the county. We’ve minimized the towns’ participation at \$2,000 annually for ten years. We have not received formal response from our Native American tribes yet, but both have been an important part of the Broadband Commission and moving this forward. The health pandemic has slowed the signing of some of the agreements. I’m confident we’ll get to the finish line.”

Ferris went on to say, “one of the questions we’ve had is from those who currently have access to internet service and the thinking that everyone in the county has similar service. True, certain areas do have acceptable, affordable service. But that is just not the case throughout our county. We must improve the service county-wide. I truly believe this is the most important decision the county will make to improve Forest County on many levels; economic development, education, emergency services, e-medicine, and quality of life”

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FOR SALE: Ash paneling, \$1.75 sq. ft. and cherry paneling, \$2 sq. ft. Call for information at 715-889-1503. **Betc38**

FOR SALE: Toshiba L650 Series \$100 Personal computer. Colman Camper - Roanoke Destiny. Crank up model. Sink never used, stove seldom used. Sleeps 6 \$1,200 OBO. Call 715-649-2023 **B4**

WANTED: 1,000 gallon propane tank in new condition. Call 715-882-2952 **P04**

FOR SALE: 48' treated dock. 4x6' sections with a 4x6' side dock added on the end. 10'-12' ramp to the dock all with steel posts and all the hardware can be seen at 1881 Hwy. Q Crandon. Call 1-920-213-1590. Asking \$500 OBO. **P2**

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Ascension Medical Group launches dedicated respiratory care site in Rhinelander

(Rhinealnder, WI)- Ascension Medical Group Wisconsin is launching outpatient Respiratory Care Sites dedicated to care for COVID-19 suspect or confirmed patients.

These sites are designed to offer care for patients with acute respiratory illnesses in a controlled, and safe care environment to minimize the spread of COVID-19 to otherwise healthy patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The goal of these respiratory care locations is to treat those who need immediate care for coughs, sore throats and other respiratory infections but are neither critically ill nor need to be seen in the Emergency Department," said Stewart Watson, M.D., North Region Vice President of Clinical Services, Ascension Medical Group Wisconsin. "Clinicians and associates at these locations are specially trained in use of personal protective equipment and disinfection that will take place during and between each patient visit."

Starting Monday, April 13, a Respiratory Care Site has been established at Ascension St. Mary's - Rhinelander, located at 2251 North Shore Drive. Hours of operation will be 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Patients seeking care will need to undergo a respiratory illness screening process before visiting or

Continued in next Column ➡

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gaining entry to a respiratory care site, to ensure they receive the appropriate level of care. "People with shortness of breath or chest pain, should still seek care at an emergency department," added Watson.

Patients can be screened for respiratory illness care by a Registered Nurse by calling 715-361-4850 or by contacting their local Ascension Medical Group provider office, or via Ascension Online Care (ascension.org/OnlineCare).

Respiratory Care services offered on site include an in person full evaluation of acute respiratory concerns, specimen collection for influenza, COVID-19 and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) with X-ray services available as needed.

"Patients who need to be seen will be given directions to our Respiratory Care Site where they can be safely evaluated and treated, including imaging and lab where appropriate," added Watson. "Patients who do not need to be cared for in person will receive directions to a drive-thru testing location if needed along with a stay at home recommendation with a care management plan that may include a regular touch base with their provider via Ascension Online Care or phone call."

Ascension Wisconsin has established a dedicated telephone resource for COVID-19 questions. This can be accessed 24/7 by calling 1-833-981-0711. Direct access to COVID-19 online information from Ascension can be found here: healthcare.ascension.org/COVID-19. This online resource now includes a useful self assessment tool.

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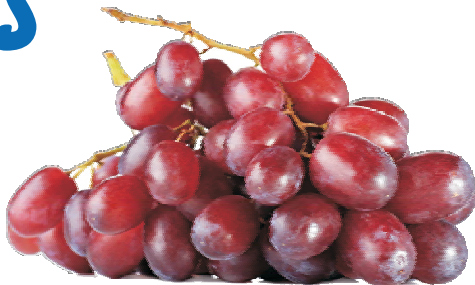


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Death Notices

Wagner, Robert D. 85 of Townsend WI, passed away Tuesday April 14 2020. Complete obituary to follow after memorial service is scheduled. Lloyd Fulcer Funeral Director is assisting family, 715-473-2541.

Carolyn L. Bath, age 82, of Wabeno, passed away March 31, 2020 at St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay under the care of Unity Hospice. Memorial services will be announced at a later date. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.weberhillfuneralhome.com

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Senator Baldwin to President Trump: Wisconsinites Need Personal Protective Equipment and Medical Supplies Now

Wisconsin has received only a fraction of the PPE and medical supplies requested from the federal government WASHINGTON, D.C. As Wisconsin anticipates continued growth in the number of COVID-19 cases, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin is urging President Donald Trump to take swift action and deliver the personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies the state of Wisconsin has repeatedly requested before it's too late.

Wisconsin has received only a fraction of the supplies it has requested from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and some outstanding orders from Wisconsin entities have been redirected. On April 10, the Green Bay Press Gazette reported that an order of 1,000 N95 masks ordered by the Brown County Sheriff's Department and the Green Bay Police Department were instead sent to an unspecified location. In her letter to President Trump, Senator Baldwin notes that Wisconsin still has not received a single ventilator, as well as the full amount of requested PPE for essential workers, and demands the Trump administration act now to get Wisconsin the supplies they desperately need.

Baldwin writes, "Throughout this entire crisis, HHS and FEMA have failed to provide a sufficient explanation or any transparency on how decisions are made with respect to disbursement, other than to offer that these vital and limited supplies, such as PPE and ventilators, are delivered to 'hot spots.' It is unclear how your ever-changing response team defines 'hot spot' and there appears to be no strategy for delivering PPE and ventilators to areas of future need."

She continues, "Our response to this crisis could have been bolstered by early interventions and information. According to media reports, intelligence community analysts had warned that a novel coronavirus could be a cataclysmic event as early as November and reports about the virus began appearing in the President's Daily Brief in early January. Yet it appears you did not take action to ramp up the production of any critical supplies in preparation."

Senator Baldwin notes that President Trump did not fully utilize his authority under the Defense Production Act, before the country reached its current shortage, to increase production of PPE and medical supplies. Baldwin introduced legislation to trigger the full authority of the Defense Production Act without delay to massively scale up production of PPE and medical supplies.

Baldwin concludes, "It is past time that you take action to demonstrate leadership and support our states. I look forward to your response and more importantly, to the action you will take to address these concerns."

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COVID-19: Safer at Home is working Keep up the good work, Wisconsin!

People across the state of Wisconsin have risen to the challenge of COVID-19 by changing the way they work, play, and interact with friends and family. By staying Safer at Home, practicing physical distancing, and continuing to wash hands and cover coughs, Wisconsinites are making a difference and beginning to flatten the curve.

According to the model created by DHS, Wisconsin was projected to have 22,000 infections by April 8, which would have ultimately resulted in somewhere between 440 and 1,500 deaths. These numbers were based on projected significant exponential growth in positive cases; however, since the Safer at Home order, there has been a decrease in exponential growth in the number of cases. Wisconsin's rate of doubling of infections was 3.4 days in early March and, over the past two weeks, the rate of doubling is now approximately 12 days.

"Without effective treatments or a vaccine, the only way to slow the spread of COVID-19 is through non-pharmaceutical interventions that help us maintain physical distancing," said Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist Dr. Ryan Westergaard. "The Safer at Home order has been our main intervention in Wisconsin, and we are beginning to see the results."

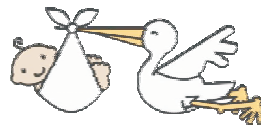
"Limiting physical contact between people is our only tool at slowing the spread of this virus," explained Secretary-Designee Andrea Palm. "We will continue to work through our statewide response to develop capacity to implement effective containment strategies across the state. These are critical next steps to prevent a future surge of cases."

By staying Safer at Home, the people of Wisconsin are taking the steps needed to make a difference during this pandemic. Safer at Home is working, and it is saving lives.

For up-to-date information about Wisconsin's COVID-19 response, visit the DHS COVID-19 webpage and follow the Forest County Health Department on Facebook.

Submitted by the Forest County Health Dept.

Birth Announcement



Kenneth Frederic IV (KJ) was born on March 28th, 2020 at 10:52 A.M. at Aspirus birthing Center. He weighed in at 4 pounds 8 ounces and was 18 and one half inches long. His proud parents are Kenneth Carroll the III and Melinda (Lindy) Carroll. The family resides in Cavour, WI. Congratulations to the young family!

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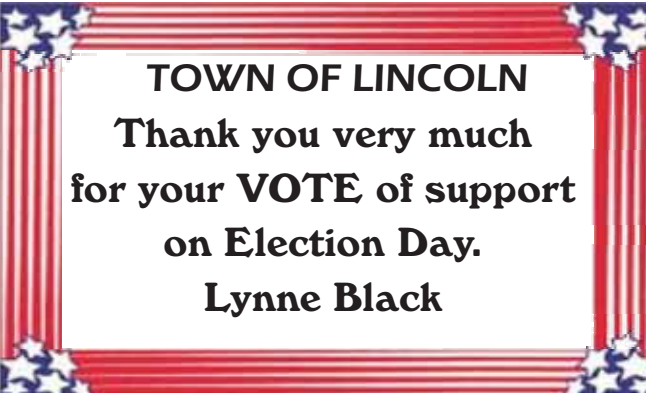
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Lynne Black

Nicolet registration underway as college moves forward in virtual world

While the Nicolet campus is physically quiet due to COVID-19 Safer at Home guidance, the college is humming along in the virtual world as students finish up Spring Term classes online and enroll in upcoming offerings for Summer and Fall Terms.

"The transition to holding all classes online and conducting other business remotely actually went quite smoothly," said Dean of Enrollment Erika Warning-Meyer. "All of the services we offered before the pandemic are available today, just sometimes in a slightly different format."

In late March, all face-to-face classes that were in progress switched over to an online format. The college also quickly put systems in place for current and future students to take care of a myriad of other services either electronically through email or video conferencing or over the phone.

"A lot of our departments already had most if not all of these processes in place," Warning explained. "So that helped a lot and made for a pretty quick switch to get everything done that needed to be done without having to meet face to face with anyone," Warning explained.

Nicolet services and departments that are available include Advising and Registration, Disability Support Services, tutoring labs and 24/7 online tutoring services through NetTutor, career exploration, admissions assistance and processing, the Financial Aid Office, emergency financial assistance through the Nicolet Foundation, the Academic Success Center, and the Nicolet Library.

Other areas that are available to students are the Transitions Counseling services and the Information Technology Help Desk.

Warning stressed that anyone considering attending Nicolet this summer or in the fall should contact the college to move ahead with their plans.

"We know the current situation we are all in is temporary," she said. "This will pass. But a college education, it's important to remember that that pays dividends for a lifetime."

For COVID-19 updates from the college, visit nicoletcollege.edu and click on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource and Updates link at the top of the homepage. The college's website also contains information on all aspects of the college. Individuals are also encouraged to contact the college at (715) 365-4493 or by email at inquire@nicoletcollege.edu.

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HELP WANTED

Notice for Armstrong Creek Road Maintenance Supervisor

The township of Armstrong Creek is now accepting Applications for the full time position of Road and Maintenance Supervisor for the township of Armstrong Creek. A description of the position includes general and winter road maintenance, oversight of community center and townships garage, oversight and care of other city properties, management of additional seasonal summer and winter help, and general maintenance of city equipment. Hourly wage with retirement benefits. Applications to be turned in by May 4th, 2020

Resumes should be sent to: Howard Young
8105 Highway 101
Armstrong Creek, WI 54103
Phone: 920-737-1163

Senior Chatter

Protect yourself from tax season scams COVID-19 Local Information and Tips

How to maximize your FoodShare Benefits

By the GWAAR Legal Services Team

Whether or not you receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through Wisconsin's FoodShare program, we could all use extra tips and reminders for smart food shopping. This article offers suggestions on how to stretch your food dollars by planning ahead, budgeting, making smart food choices and preparing low-cost recipes.

BEFORE Shopping

- Plan your weekly meals and snacks. Preparing in advance will help you know what you need and also help you put leftovers to good use.
- Use store circulars and go online to look for coupons, sales and store specials. Only use coupons to buy foods you normally eat. Make sure the coupons give you the best value for your money.
- For added savings, sign up for the store discount card or bonus card at your local supermarket.
- Have something to eat before you go shopping. It's easier to stick to your shopping list when you are not hungry.

DURING Shopping

- Try store brands. They are usually the same quality and cost less.
- Compare products and prices for the best deal. Use unit pricing and also the Nutrition Facts labels to get the best product for your money.
- Check "sell by" or "use by" dates. Buy the freshest food possible.

AFTER Shopping

- Store food right away in the refrigerator or freezer to keep it fresh and safe.
- If you buy a large amount of fresh food like meat, poultry or fish, divide it into meal-size packages, label the food, and freeze it for later use.
- Use food with the earliest expiration dates first. BEST BUYS for COST and NUTRITION BREADS AND GRAINS
- Choose whole-grain breads. Look for bargains on day-old varieties. Buy regular brown rice and old-fashioned oats and grits instead of instant varieties to save money and consume less sugar, salt and calories.

VEGETABLES

- Buy large bags of frozen vegetables. When choosing canned vegetables, look for "low sodium" or "no added salt" on the label.
- FRUITS
- Buy fresh fruit in season – it generally costs less. Frozen and canned fruits are available year-round, can save you money, and have similar nutrition values to fresh fruit.

LOW-FAT OR FAT-FREE MILK PRODUCTS

- Buy low-fat or fat-free milk, yogurt, and cheese in the largest size that can be used before spoiling. Typically, large containers cost less per serving than smaller sizes. Ultra-pasteurized milk found on store shelves has a longer expiration date and won't spoil as fast.

MEAT AND BEANS

- Dried beans and peas are a good source of protein and fiber. They can last a year or more without spoiling. Canned tuna packed in water is an inexpensive healthy protein choice. Light tuna has less mercury than white (albacore) tuna.

For more information, or to locate a retailer near you that accepts FoodShare benefits, visit the USDA website at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>.

CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION TEACHER

The School District of Wabeno Area is looking for a Jr./Sr. High School Technology Education Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. We are proud of our technology education area with updated equipment and a Fab Lab located along with the classroom.

We offer our students a digital fabrication experience through the use of 3D printers, laser engravers, robotics systems, plasma cutters, welding, and computer numerical control routers (CNC machines) with the assistance of the instructor.

Our technology education teacher must be able to help Wabeno Area students imagine a project, plan a design for it, create it with the Fab Lab equipment, and learn how to implement best designs for high quality projects. This lab will also be open to our community members.

The selected candidate must demonstrate a passion for technology education and the advancement of these skills, be committed to strengthening community and student engagement in the area of technology education, and develop strong partnerships with the local business communities.

Requirements: Candidates must have appropriate DPI licensure (Technology Education 1220).

How to Apply: Interested and licensed candidates may apply on WECAN or may submit a letter of interest, resume, transcripts, copy of license(s), and three (3) current letters of reference to: Jeffrey Walsh, District Administrator, School District of Wabeno Area, PO Box 460 Wabeno, WI 54566. This position will remain open until filled.

The School District of Wabeno Area is an Equal Opportunity employer. The School District does not discriminate against applicants or employees based on race; age; sex or sexual orientation; creed or religion; color; handicap or disability; marital, citizenship, or veteran status; membership in the National Guard, state defense force, or reserves; national origin or ancestry; arrest or conviction record; use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours; or any other characteristic protected by law.

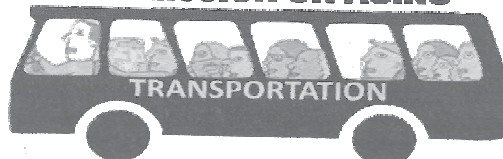
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FOREST COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING



BUS SCHEDULE

Due to **COVID - 19:** We will only have bus transportation on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The bus is only transporting within Forest County.

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INTERVENTIONIST

The School District of Wabeno Area has an opening for math interventionist for the 2020-2021 school year. We are looking to hire a full-time teacher to work with our 5K-8th grade population and to provide interventions for our students and collaboration with our math teachers. This position requires an elementary teaching certification and we would prefer an interventionist endorsement or a strong background in mathematics Instruction. There are also many coaching and extra-curricular opportunities available for additional experience and compensation.

Requirements: Candidates must have appropriate DPI licensure. (Regular Education 1777; Elementary/Middle Level Education 1088,1083)

How to Apply: Interested and licensed candidates may apply through WECAN or may submit a letter of interest, resume, transcripts, copy of license(s), three (3) current letters of reference to: Jeffrey Walsh, District Administrator, PO Box 460 Wabeno, WI 54566. This position will remain open until filled.

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Forest County Commission on Aging Nutrition Program



SENIOR MEALS

CRANDON, WABENO, LAONA

Monday - April 20 - Beef pot roast, mashed potato, Harvard beets, dinner roll, apple pie square

CRANDON, WABENO, LAONA, ARMSTRONG CREEK

Tuesday - April 21 - Chef salad with turkey, egg, tomato, cucumber, vegetable barley soup, sourdough bread, banana cake

CRANDON, LAONA, ARMSTRONG CREEK

Wednesday - April 22 - Pulled pork on a bun, coleslaw, fruit, pumpkin pie

WABENO CONGREGATE & HOME DELIVERED

Thursday - April 23 - BBQ chicken, potato salad, baked beans, dinner roll, peach cobbler (Served at Laona Citizen Center)

ALVIN - Closed for the month of May

JARS - Closed for the month of May

The local number for the ADRC: 478-2162 is no longer in service. The only number for the ADRC is the 800-699-6704.

Please register with Commission on Aging - 478-3256.

JARS - 4863 Elm St., Laona, WI 54541. Closed until further notice. Site Manager is Peggy Alderton at 715-889-3116.

Crandon site manager Pat Raml is at 715-478-0742 (home) or 715-478-3040 (site). Serving at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Alvin site manager Florence Kostka at 715-545-4063 (home) or 715-545-3323 (site). Meals canceled until further notice.

Laona site manager Peggy Alderton at 715-889-3116 (cell). Meal served at 12:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Wabeno site manager Linda McEwen at 715-889-0123 (cell). Meal served at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Home delivered on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Armstrong Creek site manager Sharon Giles at 715-674-3532 (home) or 715-336-2218 (site). Meal served at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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Swans show up on Lake Metonga



On the Friday before the big snow hit, these swans were photographed on Lake Metonga near the Veteran's Memorial Park. There were actually three more off camera resting on the remaining ice. It makes you wonder..Did one of the swans ask the other who it was that invited the Canada goose to hang out with them?

***I don't care how bored I get stuck
in this house, I'm still not folding
these clothes!***



To all of our valued guests,

In accordance with the most recent guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control, we will be suspending operations temporarily due to the coronavirus outbreak. The closure will begin at 5pm, Wednesday, March 18. Employees will be paid during the closure.

"At this time, the health and safety of our guests and the 200+ team members of Potawatomi Carter Casino Hotel is our top priority," said Stacey White, General Manager of the property.

We will remain in communication with local health officials and follow the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control.

Please follow all of our social media channels for future updates.

**POTAWATOMI
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