Another turn of the dial
Gov. Evers announces expanded opportunities for certain nonessential businesses

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers announced Monday, April 27, another turn of the dial in expanding allowed operations for nonessential businesses, providing even more opportunities for businesses to get back to work. See Expanded opportunities, page 5

May 12 election to choose 7th District Congressional rep
Democrat Tricia Zunker and Republican Tom Tiffany are on the ballot

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – Voters in the 7th Congressional District, the largest congressional district by physical size east of the Mississippi River and encompassing most of northern Wisconsin, including Washburn, Burnett and Polk counties, will elect a new representative in a special election Tuesday, May 12.

On the ballot are Democrat Tricia Zunker and Republican Tom Tiffany. The winner will serve out the

See May 12 election, page 2
remaining six months of Sean Duffy’s five-year term. Duffy stepped down last September to spend more time with his family in light of the pending birth of his child with health complications. No matter who wins on May 12 the two candidates are expected to continue campaigning for the regular two-year term of the office which will be decided in the November general election. Even as they virtually campaign for the May 12 election, both candidates are reportedly collecting signatures to get on the November ballot, not an easy task during a pandemic. The May 12 election has been deemed a key race not only for 7th District voters but nationally, with results in Wisconsin are hoping to be a bit more presidential. The pandemic has not been a primary issue among these two candidates who each stepped away from public appearances to campaign from home, although both issued statements to WiFiP TV earlier this month regarding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. “I am closely monitoring the impact coronavirus is having on Wisconsin,” Tiffany said. “Protecting the health of our communities is imperative. The House will help pay for testing and offers paid sick leave, but it should be amended to fix its flaws such as the sick leave mandate that will harm small businesses.” Duffy responded, “I would have unequivocally voted for the coronavirus relief bill to provide free testing, paid sick leave, unemployment benefits, and food assistance to those in need.” Zunker noted. “Wisconsin families deserve a representative who will stand up for their health and safety.” “I’m looking around and I’m seeing the crisis with ginseng farmers, dairy farmers,” Zunker said. “They need to get a fair deal. Washington’s not helping. We need to support our communities here, and I believe I can do and be a voice for them.” Tiffany’s donors were Rep. Sean Duffy’s Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C. Among Tiffany’s donors were Rep. Sean Duffy’s campaign, which gave an additional $2,000, bringing the total donation to $4,000, and U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher’s campaign, which also gave $2,000. Tiffany received money from several political action committees, as well as nearly $175,000 from WisRed, an online fundraising platform created by the Republican Party. Zunker’s donations came largely from within Wisconsin, though some came from California, Minnesota, Illinois and Colorado. Among her donors was producer Michael Schar, former creator of the TV show “Parks and Recreation.” Tiffany, a longtime state senator, co-chaired the support of the Republican Party establishment, securing endorsements from former U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy, former Gov. Scott Walker and other leaders, as well as important conservative advocacy groups such as the National Rifle Association. Tiffany said he’d bring his legislative experience to Congress, according to a WPRI story. “That same common sense that we’ve brought to Madison, they need a dose of it out in Washington, D.C.,” he said. “That’s why every day, I will fight socialism, and I will defend freedom.” Both candidates are profiled in video interviews at wiseye.org.

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN – Registered voters have the option to request an absentee ballot by mail for the May 12 special election until 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 7. Registered voters can request an absentee ballot by mail, email, online or by fax. If you are a registered Wisconsin voter, you can download the absentee ballot application on the Wisconsin Elections website, elections.wi.gov, or by contacting your municipal clerk. You can find your clerk at myvote.wi.gov by searching for your voter record or performing an address search.

Registered voters have the option to request an absentee ballot by mail for this election until 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, as this is the last day a clerk can mail an absentee ballot to an elector. If the request is made in person at the clerk’s office, it can be mailed until 5 p.m. on May 8. A completed absentee ballot must be delivered no later than 8 p.m. on election day to be counted. The U.S. Postal Service recommends that absentee ballots be mailed one week before election day to arrive at the municipal clerk’s office in time.

Elections can vote absentee in person at their local municipal clerk’s office. When applying for an absentee ballot in your municipal clerk’s office, or another designated location for in-person absentee voting, ballots are cast immediately, sealed in a proper envelope and returned to a member of the clerk’s staff. No ballots may be taken out of the clerk’s office. An acceptable photo ID is required when voting by in-person absentee ballot. Each city, village and town in Wisconsin is responsible for setting the dates and hours of in-person absentee voting for their municipality. If you wish to find the dates and hours for in-person absentee voting where you live, contact your municipal clerk.
Graduation puzzle

Mary Striat | Staff writer
LUCK - Finding a way to honor graduating seniors with a ceremony that complies with the Safer at Home order, takes into account that school facilities and grounds are closed until June 30, and that even groups of up to 50 aren’t allowed until the state meets the Phase II criteria of Gov. Evers’ Badger Bounce Back Plan, is like putting together a puzzle with missing and moving parts.

Rules and orders keep changing, and it is unknown when any of it might be letting up.

The Luck School District has explored options that include a drive-in-movie setting, using the parking lot or football field, or using a nonschool open space, said Superintendent Cory Hinkel and 6-12 Principal Brad Werner at the April 27 meeting of the school board.

"Each of these would promote a large group gathering," said Hinkel, "which we cannot do."

In addition to violating the current orders, some of the possible scenarios also pose a liability risk. Some groups have been discussing or promoting a senior parade, but Hinkel worries about a variety of hazards for both the drivers and the people gathered on the streets.

According to Werner, there have even been discussions on doing a senior video/movie, bringing each graduate to the school one at a time to film in front of a green screen. However, he said, this is in violation of the state’s order that school facilities be closed until June 30.

Current social-distancing measures are set to end May 26, but even if Wisconsin is in Phase II of Badger Bounce Back, only 50 people could gather at any one time and place.

"That being said," Hinkel added, "things could change tomorrow, things could change in a week, things could change for the worse."

All present were in agreement that high school graduation is a milestone that cannot be canceled.

"It’s a big deal for the parents and for the students," said Hinkel.

"It’s an emotional issue for kids as well as moms and dads," said board President Jake Jensen, parent of a graduating senior.

The board agreed that parents and students should be surveyed to determine if there are any preferences about waiting to see if the state opens enough for a regular ceremony late in the summer, whether a virtual ceremony earlier is preferable, or possibly some other option not yet identified.

Jensen said Werner met Tuesday morning, April 28, to develop the survey, and it was put in the mail later that day.

On a related note, Hinkel explained Luck’s nonparticipation in #BeTheLightWI, a statewide effort to recognize Luck’s nonparticipation in #BeTheLightWI, a statewide effort to recognize the work of class of 2020 students.

Hinkel said that next month he will bring to the board a draft administrative rule allowing honorary diplomas to be issued based on age, attendance at Luck School and board approval.

Referendum
No discussion was held on next steps to be taken with the defeat of the $83.85 million referendum. However, Hinkel reported that April ballots around the state included 57 school referendums, and Luck is one of only five that failed to pass.

About one-third of the 57 were building referendums, and Luck’s was the only building referendum in the state that failed. The other four were operational referendums.

Other business
- Re-elected as board president was Jake Jensen, with all other positions and committees also remaining unchanged. Vice president is Todd Roehm, Sarah Cook is director/CESA representative, Rick Palmer is clerk and Amy Durbach is treasurer. Board meetings for 2020-21 were set on the fourth Monday of the month with the exception of May (except for Memorial Day, changed to May 18), November (changed to Nov. 16 for Thanksgiving week) and December (changed to Dec. 21 for Christmas party).
- The board approved payment of coaches for the spring season at a rate of 20% of full pay. It was noted that the work of coaching does not just happen during the actual sports season, so partial payment is fair
- Although Luck is meeting educational-hour requirements put forth in state statutes, the board approved a waiver of this requirement due to the COVID-19 public health emergency in the event Luck’s hours are ever contested. Also approved was a waiver of the educator effectiveness cycle as required by state statute, although evaluations and observations continue.
- The state has applied for the CARES stimulus funding and, if successful, has discretion in distributing funds, said Hinkel. Potential funding for Luck is based on 75% to 80% of its Title I budget, which in total is $90,000. "There are many unknowns with this money," said Hinkel, "and stipulations that could occur. Things are changing by the hour and that’s not how I like to do business."

School’s closed ... what’s next?

State tries to clarify the unknown, but wants to know what you did this spring

Greg Marsten | Staff writer
LUCK - The reality of closing schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year is still being parsed out across the region. The executive order was not unexpected amid the pandemic concerns, but the impact and ways to deal with the action are affecting every school board, administrator, teacher, student and parent of every student.

The decision for Luck will be sent to the board with specific information about every school district works to adjust everything from their graduation plans, or lack thereof, to distance learning challenges and how to keep students engaged, active, challenged.

Webster hires new superintendent
Becky Stadel | Staff writer
WEBSTER - The Webster Board of Education decided on Monday, April 27, to extend a contract for the district superintendent position to Jeff Fimreite. For the past 14 years, he has served as the superintendent for the Stoughton School District.

The school board selected Fimreite’s first superintendent job.

Fimreite was one of 15 people who applied to replace Jim Erickson, who will be retiring June 30 after 17 years as administrator. The school board plans to finalize his contract at its May board meeting and Fimreite would start July 1.

Also taking place was a reorganizational meeting. All officers and committee assignments remain in place from the prior term except Terry Larsen will now serve on the district leadership team.

FLOODING AT DEVILS LAKE

Tuesday, April 28, saw flooding at homes along the north side of Devils Lake north of Webster. - Photo provided
Don’t distance yourself from taking part in this election

Voters in northern Wisconsin will go to the polls May 12 – or send their votes – to elect just our fourth congressional representative in nearly 70 years.

A brief history lesson: Since 1952 just three people – Mel Laird, a Republican, Dave Obey, a Democrat, and Sean Duffy, a Republican – have “stood up” in the House of Representatives for the 7th District, a primarily rural district that went blue in four consecutive presidential contests, from 2000 to 2012, but went red for Trump in 2016. From a political pundit’s perspective, the May 12 contest provides a potential window to the winnable congressional seat in Wisconsin on November 3, 2020, as this election is meant to fill the 7th District Congressional seat last held by Sean Duffy. Duffy was a proven conservative and has deep roots in northern Wisconsin; he grew up on a dairy farm, graduated from the University of Wisconsin River Falls with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural economics, and owned a small business, Wisconsin River Cruises. He has been endorsed by President Trump, Sean Duffy and Scott Walker.

In the Wisconsin Senate, he fought to enact concealed carry and the Castle Doctrine. He has also voted to take taxpayer dollars from Planned Parenthood and ban late-term abortions.

Tom will work to reform government spending, lower your tax burden, limit government control over your personal decisions and protect your constitutional rights including the First Amendment, strong family values and the rights of minority and oppressed groups.

Tiffany works for big-money special interests

Tom Tiffany portrays himself as a populist property rights advocate who cares about the environment and is just looking out for the little guy. But, as soon as he is elected, he right away goes to work for big-money special interests and he does it at the expense of our water resources and local control.

Does anyone remember when Sen. Tiffany’s No. 1 priority was an iron mine in the Penokee Hills? His dream was to create a low-cost producer of iron ore by leveling the Penokee Hills and filling in the headwaters of the Bad River with the waste material. He “authored” a new law, largely written by the mining company. After repeatedly lying about the law, Tiffany admitted that the law was deliberately designed to allow damage to Wisconsin’s natural resources. Undoubtedly, Tiffany thought his legacy would be an iron mine in the Penokee Hills. Instead, his name will be forever stamped all over one of the most corrupt and destructive chapters in Wisconsin’s history. One of Tiffany’s political trademarks is to limit or eliminate local control on behalf of mining interests and real estate developers. He hasn’t always been successful. He twice tried, and failed, to restrict local control over frac sand mining, because of the opposition received from the towns during the public hearings. He realized that the way to destroy local control was to make sure that the next law never got a fair public hearing. He “authored” it in a budget bill. Because of his efforts, counties across the north were forced to spend an enormous amount of time and resources revving up their ordinances so that real estate speculators could chop even the tiniest of our lakes into 100-foot lots. Most recently, Tiffany’s dream came true when he was able to repeal the popular Mining Moratorium Law. The law was not a real moratorium but contained the “prove it first” provision that required the applicant to show that a sulfide mine operated and closed for a few years without polluting the environment. The law also weakened environmental and economic protections and restricted public process. There have already been serious repercussions from this law because counties were threatened into removing protections from their mining ordinances. In Oneida County, metallic mining was allowed as a permitted use in areas zoned for forestry, where the Lynne Deposit is located, and in areas zoned General Use, where Badger Minerals is exploring the possible extraction of iron ore deposits at the headwaters of the Wolf River. However, Tiffany did not receive the “public license” for his scheme to turn the North Woods into a mining district, when more than 62% of voters in Oneida County voted yes to a mine in the town of Lynne, just upstream of the Willow River, and counties, the Sokaogin Chippewa and the Menominee Nation are mobilizing to fight a sulfide mine in the town of Shoepke near the Wolf River, with Langlade County just downstream: passing a resolution opposing it. If Tiffany goes to Washington, he will continue to cater to big-money special interests at the expense of those who live and work here and at the expense of our water resources.

When Tricia Zunker goes to Washington, she will be a dedicated public servant and truly represent the people of northern Wisconsin.

An important election

May 12 marks an important congressional election to fill the vacant seat in our district. Why this outside attention to our Northwest Wisconsin election? The answer is follow the money. In one case, the three largest donors are from Illinois (Richard Uihlein donated $5.2 million in 2018), Pennsylvania and San Francisco. Nobody from Wisconsin. Why are these donors seeking representation in our district? How can we in Wisconsin expect to be heard when we all know that money talks the loudest and the Republican candidate is running with this kind of financial backing? Luckily, we have a choice to elect a candidate who rejects the Washington lobbyist groups in Tricia Zunker, a self-made leader, an attorney, a member of the Wausau School Board and a member of the Ho-Chunk Supreme Court. She will not be representing the interests of special interest groups. She is representing us. It is time to vote local, vote for Tricia Zunker.

Letters to the editor - Paid endorsements

Tiffany for 7th District

I endorse state Sen. Tom Tiffany to fill the 7th District Congressional seat last held by Sean Duffy. Tiffany is a proven conservative and has deep roots in northern Wisconsin; he grew up on a dairy farm, graduated from the University of Wisconsin River Falls with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural economics, and owned a small business, Wisconsin River Cruises. He has been endorsed by President Trump, Sean Duffy and Scott Walker.

Tiffany for the 7th Congressional seat in Wisconsin on Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

Alan K. Walker
Amery

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Karl A. Fate
Crescent

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JoAnn Hallquist
Amery
Letters to the editor

Prescription drug price reform

As candidates for president and Congress talk about their health-care plans, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that we are still in the middle of a pandemic. The coronavirus pandemic is not just a crisis for our nation; it is a crisis for the world. The virus has affected nearly every country and every continent. It has claimed the lives of millions of people worldwide. It has caused billions of dollars in economic losses. And it has had a profound impact on our daily lives. It has changed the way we live, work, and interact with each other. It has forced us to adapt and change in ways we never thought possible.

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PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM fact sheet released by the Center for Rural Affairs

LYONS, Neb. - The U.S. House of Representa- tion recently passed a bill that included a provision for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to be extended.

The PPP is a small business loan program created by the CARES Act in 2020 to provide urgently needed cash flow assistance to small businesses and fund paychecks for workers. The Center for Rural Affairs has been advocating for its expansion and improvement.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of rural communities,” said Rikk Johnson, director of the Center for Rural Affairs. “This extension means that more businesses can access the critical funding they need to stay afloat during these challenging times.”

The PPP was initially set to expire on March 31, 2020. However, in order to provide more time for businesses to apply for the program, the deadline has been extended to May 31, 2020.

Businesses can apply for the PPP through their local bank, and the application process is straightforward and user-friendly. The PPP provides a maximum loan amount of $10 million, and funds can be used to cover payroll costs, rent, utilities, and other necessary expenses.

“The PPP is a critical lifeline for small businesses, and we urge all eligible businesses to apply,” said Johnson. “This is a time of great uncertainty, but with the support of the PPP, small businesses can weather this storm and keep their employees working.”

For more information about the PPP or to apply for the program, visit sba.gov/paycheckprotection.

The Center for Rural Affairs encourages all eligible businesses to take advantage of this important program and reminds them to apply as soon as possible to ensure they receive the funding they need.
Coronavirus-related costs to village being monitored

Gary King | Editor

FREDERIC – Quite a bit of information was disseminated in a 30-minute telephone conference meeting of the Frederic Village Board on Monday, April 27, including reports of possible costs incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic and available maintenance while social distancing and reports from the parks director, library director and fire department.

Village President Becky Amundson welcomed board members via phone call, and asked them to verify themselves before speaking and then welcomed new board members Brett Daeffler and Jackie Peterson. She thanked outgoing board members Todd Miller and Bob Jorgenson for their years of service.

On the phone line for the meeting be- sides Amundson were Trustees Dr. Brad Harlander, Patty Svenson, Allan Lahit, Brett Daefller and Jackie Peterson, trea- sor Jer Phernetton, clerk Janice Schott, librarian Jenni Moll, parks director Brett Daeffler, library director Stacy Miller, and fire department Chief Tamara Larson, public works di- rector Bill Struck, parks director Rebecca Harlander and citizen William Johnson.

Brad Harlander asked if the pandemic was affecting the village financially.

Gary King

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Hospitals, ambulance services discuss level of preparedness

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer

POLK/BURNETT COUNTIES—The Leader has been receiving questions regarding the preparedness of hospital and ambu- lances services. Readers are wondering if their health care pro- viders are prepared as they need them, both now and in the event of an upcoming in COVID-19 cases as the state steps into a new phase.

In an effort to answer these questions, we also asked the hospitals were handling COVID-19 testing, and how area resi- dents can best keep up with their health needs.

Below are responses from the four hospital and ambulance services that are the primary providers in Polk and Burnett counties.

Amery Hospital and Clinic

“Amery Hospital and Clinic continues to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation,” said Rhonda Knutson, community relations and marketing. Latest information and resources can be found at healthpartners.com.

Outlining steps that have been taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Knutson said, “Earlier this year, HealthPartners established a COVID-19 Task Force and has been working with the CDC and COVID-19 and prevent the spread of the virus. In addition to this group, there are multiple local workgroups including reports from the parks director, library director and fire department.

The workgroup at Amery is ensuring that leaders and colleagues’ questions are answered and that guidelines and recom- mendations from the CDC, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and state and federal regulations are implemented.

Knutson said that AHC is working closely with the county, state and other organizations, including the Department of Health Services and state emergency management, to coordinate the facility’s response to COVID-19 in the local community.

“Among many operational changes to prevent the spread of this virus,” said Knutson, “HealthPartners has canceled all elective procedures and precautions have been taken to protect our staff and community. We have been out in the community being held over five days, and with people working individually. We also noted that the tourism industry is hoping for a “good strong comeback” from the lockdown, putting a lot of effort into a late-summer through fall recovery. We are still accepting homemade mask straps, meals to our staff and for visitors to wear a face covering for our telehealth appointments.

Community support for the hospital and clinic has been exceptional, according to Knutson.

“We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and support of the commu- nity,” she said, “We have received food donations for our care teams and employees. Thank you to all who have been in touch to help uplift our staff in this way.

Burnett Medical Center

“Best assured that Burnett Medical Center is prepared with adequate sup- plies of personal protective equipment, which people continue to follow these guidelines. We are still accepting homemade mask straps, meals to our staff and for our staff to wear a face covering for our telehealth appointments.

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Hospitals

from page 7

cleaning supplies and approved eye pro-
tective gear are still needed.

“While we are working hard looking at alternative supply chain op-
portunities and other vendors who may supply the units, they have dif-
ficult. We are monitoring supply levels and are working with the Department of
Health on requesting additional sup-
plies.

“We would love handmade masks and encourage any financial don-
ations to continue.

“It is especially important for com-
unity members who have the time to focus on overall health and any chronic con-
ditions at this time. SCRMC is offering telehealth appointments to those who meet
most conditions of the safety of your home. The care team is evaluating if pa-
tients have had previous appointments and will necessary precautions are taken for face-
to-face appointments. We encourage anyone who has a medical issue to call
715-483-2221 and schedule an appoint-
ment.

“If you are experiencing a medical emergency, please come to the emer-
gency department. SCRMC has proto-
colled on patient care and we want to ensure people get the care they need during this difficult time.

“Thank you to all behind the scenes working, Solin said, “We are working closely with the Wisconsin Department of Health on test-
ing recommendations. These require-
ments end the turnaround times are changing as more information becomes available, but we do have necessary sup-
plies to perform COVID-19 tests.”

SCRMC is working together with other health systems, the Department of Health and laboratories on new testing options as they are developed and ap-
proved.

“SCRMC is here for the commu-
ity. We encourage everyone to focus on their health and welfare by wearing masks, hy-
giene, schedule telehealth appointments when needed and abide by the Safer at
Home mandate.”

Amery Area/North Land Municipal Ambulance

Nicki Gullickson is manager of both
Amery Area Ambulance Service and
North Land Municipal Ambulance Ser-
vice.

Like emergency services across the
country, she said, both Amery and North
Land have seen a decrease in calls over
the recent weeks. Amery has experi-
enced a decline of about 50%, while North Land has seen a decrease of about
25%. The percentage of decline, said
Gullickson, is about 35%.

Precautionary steps such as masking by personnel, postponement of elective surgeries and encouraging the use of telehealth services are sending a subtle but inaccurate message leading people to wait too long to seek care.

“When people do go to the hospital, they are super sick because they’ve waited,” she said.

Amery and North Land have the sup-
port and equipment needed to meet the current and anticipated demand, accord-
ing to Gullickson, but this was not the case early in the declared health emer-
gency.

The services received no masks and
the first-round distribution of the national stockpile of PPE, she said. In the second round, masks were received, and in some third waves came through.

Now, however, more businesses are switching to the production of PPE and turning teams. “Our local community has been wonderful,” said
Gullickson, Amery and North Land contracted with a Minnesota-based up-
company that converted to pro-
ducing face shields and reusable gowns.

“We’re sitting pretty good right now,”
she said.

Ambulance workers cannot use hand-
made masks because they need a higher level of protection, but the homemade masks are being given to patients.

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ducing face shields and reusable gowns.
Man seriously injured in motorcycle-truck collision

CHISAGO COUNTY - A 32-year-old man from the North Brainerd, Minnesota, area suffered severe injuries when the Harley-Davidson motorcycle he was driving was struck by a Ford F-150 pickup on Interstate 35 at Athens Toll in the town of Lent at approximately 11 a.m. Saturday, April 25.

The driver of the pickup truck, a juvenile from Lakeville, Minnesota, was not injured and was taken by ground ambulance to Regions Hospital in St. Paul, according to a statement issued by Chisago County Sheriff’s Department Sgt. Steve Pouti.

CHISAGO COUNTY Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) was called to the scene at 11:18 a.m. to respond to a report of a motorcycle and truck collision. The CCSO’s Highway Patrol Division opened an investigation into the incident.

An initial investigation shows the driver of the pickup truck failed to yield the right of way to the motorcycle. There were no other contributing factors at this time. The accident remains under investigation by CCSO.

WIAA has canceled all spring sports but is allowing for 30 days of contact in July to be used for conference games. The local conference will not be holding any scheduled games due to the fiscal impact it would have on the upcoming school year, the cost for buses and umpires, also to protect the bus drivers and because athletes may have jobs and other commitments. Each district will be on their own to schedule nonconference play. The board will make a decision on that no later than the first part of June.

Committee assignments

Following the meeting, Pettis contacted the board members to appoint committees. Imme, Engstrom, Rhinohstrom and Pettis will serve on the budget, finance, personnel and negotiations committee. The board, buildings and transportation committee consists ofEngstrom, Kopecky and Pettis. On the policy, planning and curriculum committee are Highstrom, Duane Emery and Pettis. Five names first listed will serve as the committees’ chairs.

Upcoming meetings and events

April 30 – Budget, finance, personnel, and negotiations committee joint meeting from 4 to 9 p.m., broadcast via Zoom.

May 8 – Senior awards ceremony, 6 p.m., broadcast via We Are Siren.

May 13 – Policy, planning and curriculum committee, 6 p.m., broadcast via Zoom.

May 18 – Regular monthly meeting, 6 p.m., broadcast via Zoom. Date change due to Memorial Day.

June 3–Senior trip, pending COVID-19 restrictions.

June 12 – Prom, pending COVID-19 restrictions.

The 27 – Graduation, TBD, tentatively scheduled for Crooked Lake Park.

National Day of Prayer livestream event

FREDERIC - The Frederic Area Ministerial Association invites you to join them on Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m. for a National Day of Prayer livestream event. The National Day of Prayer was established in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The National Day of Prayer seeks to foster unity within the Christian church by encouraging and emphasizing prayer, reflection and meditation during this time. It is important to let others know that you are praying for them during this difficult time to contact us at 715-349-7600. We can assist you in connecting to resources and support. You may also contact the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Warmline. They will help parents to call at any time at 715-387-2799, extension 5, for nonemergency parenting advice on the day-to-day tribulations of child rearing for parents who may be unable to go to their church or need someone else to talk to.

If you have concerns about a child who has been abused or neglected or is at risk, please call 715-349-7600 during the normal hours of Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and ask for the access worker. After hours, you can contact your current County Sheriff's office at 715-349-2217 to report any concerns for abuse or neglect.

Try our e-edition free. leaderregister.com
Capitol sees spike in lobbying amid COVID-19 pandemic

Gov. Tony Evers’ declaration of a public health emergency and subsequent stay-at-home order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic set off an unprecedented flurry of lobbying, according to a WisPolitics.com review of records submitted to the state Ethics Commission.

The review provides an early look at lobbying efforts from March 12, the day Evers declared the public health emergency, through April 16, when Evers extended his stay-at-home order through May 26.

It found 268 15-day reports, filings that must be submitted to the Ethics Commission every 15 days or when the first lobbying communication on a bill, budget bill subject, proposed rule or topic on which the organization makes a lobbying communication. That total is more than 41/2 times the prior quarter’s same day lobbying efforts because the reported activities during that time period in the second year of a biennium is typically low.

The previous ceiling for 15-day reports submitted between March 12 and April 16 in an even-numbered year was 68, set in 2008. These have been tracked by the Ethics Commission and now the commission since 2003.

But while lobbying may have been up, while reported lobbying communication to the social-distancing guidelines put in place by federal and state health officials have made their efforts less effective.

John Schule, a lobbyist for the Wisconsin Building and Construction Contractors, said his communications with lawmakers have significantly changed.

“It’s a lot less face-to-face, obviously, a lot more calls, a lot more emails or texts,” Schule said.

Schule said that changed communication less effective “because it’s more disjointed, a legislator asks a question and you give an answer.”

While the pitch in a call and cannot pick up nonverbal communication,” he said, adding the change left less of an opportunity to sell someone.

Several other lobbyists who provided background information to WisPolitics.com said there was a lot of uncertainty.

Challenges for lobbyists have also extended beyond normal lobbying efforts. North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters lobbyist Andrew Disch said coronavirus forced the carpenters union to cancel its lobbying day, an event put on to allow organizations to mingle with lawmakers and promote their interests.

Disch said the decision to cancel the event came two days after Evers declared the public health emergency and the chapter’s leader, Mike Palm called for events with over 250 people to be canceled.

WisPolitics.com’s search of commission data provides an initial glimpse at lobbying efforts, it doesn’t yet provide a comprehensive look. For one, the reports don’t disclose hours or money spent on lobbying, or matters relating to the April 7 election.

Combined, those categories make up nearly all of lobbying efforts in the period between March 12 and April 16. A total of 222 groups representing nearly every aspect of the public and private sectors were responsible for those lobbying efforts. The groups ranged from organizations representing medical and personal care facilities, and construction and trade groups, to the YMCA and the Milwaukee Brewers.

The lobbyists who spoke to WisPolitics.com both on the record and on background for this story said early lobbying efforts all centered on the same theme: ensuring their industries were granted essential status so they could stay in business.

Disch and Schule successfully pushed for their industries to be deemed an essential industry.

Others didn’t fare as well.

More than 100 members of the Wisconsin Association of Commerce lobbyist Steve Baas told WisPolitics.com he faced challenges “not from the lobbying standpoint but from the organizational standpoint” in representing a group with members spanning virtually every category of the economy.

“You might like crazy to make 70% of your members happy, but the other 30% are lighting me up,” he said.

Baas said for the most part, MMAC members have been appreciative of efforts to lobby on their behalf.

“But that doesn’t change the fact that for some of them, there is going to be someone being appreciated for their efforts,” he said.

The Capitol Report is written by editorial staff at WisPolitics.com, a nonpartisan, Madison-based news service 136.

This information is a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state’s leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education. Learn more at wispoliticforum.org.

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Apply now for AARP Wisconsin’s “Small Dollar, Big Impact” grants

• Business support: Richard “Dick” Hartmann, economic development director at Miron Construction Co., (920) 574-0441. Fax: (920) 574-4018.
• General COVID-19 information: 211.

“Thank you for doing your part by continuing to practice social distancing, staying home if you are ill and washing your hands as often as possible.”

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Burrant County working to make Badger Bounce Back program work

BURNETT COUNTY – The Burnett County COVID Response Team has released COVID-19 response guidelines for residents, business owners and tourists informed.

The county governor released the Badger Bounce Back program. The program is intended to provide direction and criteria for residents, businesses and public entities in Wisconsin. Other lobbying efforts have been made by local businesses, tourism organizations and community and they are eager to see our community flourish once again. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact the following:

Economic support: Great Rivers Consortium, 866-283-0012.

The COVID-19 fiscal fallout for cities and villages

While revenues for Wisconsin municipalities will likely be hit hard by the COVID-19 economic shutdown, some city and town governments here may see at least some benefits from their heavy reliance on property taxes and state aids to fund public services.

Still, Wisconsin municipalities nev- ertheless will experience some of the same daunting challenges and uncer-

tainty that will confront their citizens and businesses during and beyond the current crisis. Particularly for municipalities that rely more heavily on fees and taxes tied to tourism and visitor activity.

The property tax, on which Wisconsin municipalities rely much more heavily than municipalities in most other states, tends not to be as immediately impacted by sharp economic swings. And state aid, for now at least, is set as part of the current state budget that runs through June 30 of next year.

Some have encouraged fac-

tors notwithstanding, many likely challenges remain. For all Wisconsin communities, collections of certain user fees, from bus fares to zoo admissions to building inspections, as well as collections they begin through other violations, are likely to decline precariously.

Other challenges could include an increase in delinquent or unpaid prop-

taxes and fees and a failure of revenues in tax increment districts to grow at levels needed to service debt. Taken together, these unexpected COVID-19 fiscal challenges will carry into next year, when communities across Wisconsin prepare their 2021 budgets.

This information is a service of the Wis-

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FISCAL FACTS

Wisconsin Policy Forum

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Other challenges could include an increase in delinquent or unpaid property taxes and fees and a failure of revenues in tax increment districts to grow at levels needed to service debt.
Emergency detention for driver who fled accident scene

POLK COUNTY – A subject involved in a three-vehicle crash on Hwy. 46 Thursday morning just after 7 a.m. April 23, fled the scene on foot and after being located by a Wisconsin State Patrol trooper fled again on foot into a nearby cornfield. The subject was uncooperative and threatening harm to the trooper, who requested emergency backup. A good Samaritan stopped to assist, according to a statement issued by the Northwest Region Eau Claire Post of the state patrol.

The subject was taken into custody.

Support for Safer at Home efforts

MADISON – On April 23, 2020, more than 200 businesses, city, county and tribal government officials, medical professionals and organizations representing everything from labor and educators to religious entities, civil rights and vet groups met at the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development’s Madison office Wednesday to lend support for Wisconsin’s Safer at Home efforts.

“Without Safer at Home, our first responders would be at higher risk, we would endanger vulnerable Wisconsinites and in the words of the letter, ‘in the current economic recovery,’ the groups wrote. “Safer at Home is right for Wisconsin, its communities, businesses and workers.”

This letter was sent to the office of the governor, the legislature and the offices of the Wisconsin state legislature.

New but familiar food vendor at Luck

Mike Broten to Lake Management and Mike Miller to North Land Municipal Ambulance, where he currently serves as president.

The Polk County Sheriff’s Office handled an emergency medical detention for driver who fled accident scene.

Uncooperative and naked, subject fled into a nearby cornfield

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Luck goes with pass/incomplete high school grading system

Mary Stritat | Staff writer
LUCK – In an effort to avoid penalizing students who are just doing enough to get by are given a pass, but questioned whether it is fair if those who do less should get the same. A pass/incomplete system, Werner in Luck School Board member Todd Roehm. 

who feel there is no way they can finish all that they need and will give up. A pass/incomplete system might be a finish line. Passing, he said, is about growth and it’s different for each student.

Luck’s small size works in favor of a pass/incomplete system, Werner indicated, because teachers know their students so well. They know who is struggling and what they can offer. He also noted that Werner is moving ahead and learning.

Board member Todd Roehm told his colleagues that he is “mostly” in favor, but questioned whether it is fair if those who do just enough to get by are given the same “pass” as students who try to maintain their “A grades?”

“Is this really where we are?” he asked. “What about the kid who really works hard?”

His own son, said Roehm, works really hard, does well, and wants to see the grades on his report card.

“I really don’t think it’s the right thing to do,” Roehm said.

On the other hand, said board member Rick Palmer, some students have no help or support at home, or need to get outside of their home to find an internet connection. “That child is penalized because they don’t have the same opportunities,” said Palmer.

“Every school board in the state is having this conversation,” said Werner.

So far, according to Werner, Cumberland is the only district in Wisconsin to go with pass/incomplete, while a large number have chosen pass/fail. A handful of districts have even decided to keep both grades for this semester or trimester.

This is a unique time and situation, the board member told his colleagues.

Whether it is an opportunity for students to present well, he said, to give them a chance to learn. Some students might take advantage of the hands-on work and learning from home puts them at a disadvantage.

Some students don’t have adequate internet, some don’t learn as well when out of the classroom setting, some are watching younger siblings or don’t have parental supervision, he said. Some classes, like welding, are very difficult when the hands-on work cannot be done.

History class has a different setting, some don’t learn as well when out of the classroom setting, some are watching younger siblings or don’t have parental supervision, he said. Some classes, like welding, are very difficult when the hands-on work cannot be done.

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NORTHWEST WISCONSIN – Friends of Gandy Dancer State Trail sponsored an Earth Day 2020 cleanup from April 22-25, asking volunteers to sign up online for a section of trail. Workers brought their own gloves, tools and trash bags and family/friend groups were spread along the trail to maintain appropriate social distancing. The entire 47 miles of trail were covered during the cleanup day, according to organizers. Sixty volunteers spent 87 hours, much of it concentrated in and near the villages along the trail. With the Safer at Home order in Wisconsin and similar orders in Minnesota, the trail has been busy. Users are getting out into the fresh air and moving their bodies while following measures to stay safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. While some events on the trail have been canceled or postponed, there are still more than 30 events planned for the 2020 season.

“Beautiful day to spend a couple hours on the Gandy this afternoon,” said volunteer Mary Griesbach, who was out picking up trash with Chet Anderson. “Our section of the trail was fairly clean and we had encounters with bicyclists, walkers, baby strollers and a nicely behaved dog.”

“The Buley family got together and took care of beautifying the trail near Lewis.

PHOTOS BY MARY STIRRAT
Area nurse makes impassioned plea for continued social distancing

Spent three weeks treating COVID patients in Brooklyn hospital ICU

Gary King | Editor

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN - An area nurse who answered a call for more nurses and who spent the last three weeks working in a Brooklyn hospital critical care unit made an impassioned plea via a three-minute YouTube video to keep social distancing laws intact. Elizabeth Riley said she realizes many people in rural Wisconsin feel they are safer than those living in coronavirus hot spots like New York City.

"That's great – it helps us have a natural kind of buffer because we're spread apart by geography, but if we start allowing people to congregate when and where they want, especially when summer months come up and our beaches are more crowded and things like that – the disease will take hold."

She said as long as we don't have "re-bust testing" we won't know where the disease is.

"The virus doesn't see whether you are a Democrat or Republican or what color your skin is – it finds you and embeds itself and then it will go from you to everybody who is close to you – your family and friends.

Riley said she didn't want to sound like an alarmist but what she saw in the ICU at Brooklyn's Woodhull Medical Center is something she could hardly put into words; but she did attempt to convey the horror of what she experienced.

"People in an ICU with COVID don't slip peacefully away with their family members at their side – they are alone. They are alone and they code and they pound on their chest and it's noisy and it's awful and that's how people die with this disease."

She added, "You cannot lift this stay-at-home order. If you do you're not just signing a potential death warrant for yourself but for your children and grandchildren."

Riley was one of six health care professionals who made video statements on Friday, April 24, "to counteract the disinformation being spread through social media and irresponsible national media outlets to mobilize opposition to social distancing."

The video links are in a story, "Health care professionals speak out," on the leaderregister.com website, under COVID-19 stories.

Editor's note: The Sawyer County Register reported that Riley is presumed to be that county's third person to test positive for COVID-19.

Grantsburg summer school canceled

Grantsburg School athletic director Mike Amendson read the latest statement from the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association detailing how schools should handle spring sports. Amendson told the board the Lakeland Conference athletic directors met and voted not to schedule any conference games. "Most directors were solid in their belief their teams wouldn't play this season," said Amendson.

The board voted to approve the hiring of Debra Luddecke as full-time Grantsburg Middle School counselor.

The board approved hiring Amy Hart as a part-time cook's helper at the Grantsburg Elementary School.

The board voted to approve the alternative iForward virtual graduation ceremony plan presented by iForward Principal Constance Quade. Seniors dressed in their caps and gowns will each produce a video highlighting special and significant moments in their iForward education. The individual videos will then be combined into one presentation for all to view and have as a keepsake.

Grantsburg School Board President David Dahlberg administered the oath of office to re-elected board member Jason Burkman and newly elected board member Brian Handy at the board's April 27 meeting while everyone stayed at least 6 feet apart, in accordance with pandemic guidelines. - Photo by Priscilla Bauer

Grantsburg summer school session canceled

With no answer as to whether or not any swimming lessons could be held this summer, or even if the pool would open at all, the Grantsburg School Board voted to approve the school's $25,000 allotment to the village of Grantsburg for pool operating costs instead, per the village's request, for needed pool maintenance. - Photo by Priscilla Bauer

Grantsburg High School Principal Matt Haase presented several graduation ceremony options to the board. One of the options to hold a drive-in graduation ceremony was thought not to be doable due to the COVID-19 restrictions regarding social gatherings and the use of the school campus, which is closed until June 30.

"Graduation is on the minds of families and the high school staff is looking at how to make it work," commented Watt.

Haase stated there was no substitute for an in-person ceremony. If at all possible all would be in favor of having an in-person graduation later in the summer as their first choice, since seniors have indicated that's what they want.

Haase did say plans were being made for seniors to drive up and pick up their cap and gowns and diplomas, which would be allowed.

The board will revisit plans for an in-person commencement ceremony later in the summer, at their next regular meeting.

In other board business

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Haase did say plans were being made for seniors to drive up and pick up their cap and gowns and diplomas, which would be allowed.

The board will revisit plans for an in-person commencement ceremony later in the summer, at their next regular meeting.
STEVENS POINT – Logan Lillehaug, of Frederic, is among 32 WIAA statewide Scholar Athlete Award finalists. Sixteen senior girls and 16 senior boys from Waunakee to Washburn have been selected as finalists to receive the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association’s prestigious 2020 WIAA Scholar Athlete Award, underwritten by Marshfield Children’s Hospital. More than 400 Scholar Athlete Award finalists have been recognized since the program began in 1984.

Lillehaug has earned six varsity letters in basketball and golf. He also earned all-conference first-team honors in golf in three years. He was also team MVP in golf for three years and basketball two years.

To determine the top 32 finalists, four boys and four girls were selected, based on both athletic and academic achievement, from each of four WIAA divisions. “These extraordinary student athletes excel in both academics and athletics,” said Tom Shafaranski, assistant director of the WIAA. “Sixteen of this year’s 32 WIAA Scholar Athlete finalists have a grade-point average of 4.0 to date, while the average GPA is an amazing 3.94. All 32 scholar-athlete finalists have already earned a total of 313 varsity letters among their first 3-1/2 years of high school. That’s an average of 10 letters per athlete.”

The 2020 WIAA Scholar Athlete finalists will be recognized in a video to be posted May 15 on the WIAA website, wiaawi.org, and broadcast statewide by Fox Sports on several dates to be announced. The video includes a special message from Alec Ingold, Las Vegas Raiders fullback and former member of the Wisconsin Badger football team. Ingold, who graduated from Bayport High School in Green Bay, was named a WIAA Scholar Athlete finalist in 2015. Each 2020 WIAA Scholar Athlete finalist will receive a medalion, a certificate and a special plaque for display in their school’s trophy case.

Student athletes nominated for the award by their high school athletic directors, but not selected as one of the 32 statewide finalists, will be recognized locally by the school administration. For more information, visit wiaawi.org.

2020 scholar athlete finalists

"Indicates that the student is that school’s first statewide winner.

Division 1 boys

Devon Davey, Elkhorn, Elkhorn Area High School

Alex Martzhal, Appleton, Kimberly High School

Marc Sippel, Wausau, Wausau West High School

Alex Vance, Oconomowoc, Oconomowoc High School

Division 1 girls

Anne Dotzler, Waunakee, Waunakee High School

Brittany Helm, Muskego, Muskego High School

Maya Novack, Milwaukee, Cedarburg High School

Jadin O’Brien, Milwaukee, Divine Savior Holy Angels High School*

Division 2 boys

Luke Fox, Waukesha, Catholic Memorial High School

Logan Lillehaug, Frederic, Frederic High School

Luke Fox, Waukesha, Catholic Memorial High School

Division 2 girls

Lauryn Beigun, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin Dells High School

Kraus-Anderson to build new performing arts auditorium

Construction company worked closely with district to pass successful referendum

ST. CROIX FALLS – Kraus-Anderson Construction Company, one of the Midwest’s oldest and largest commercial general contractors and construction managers, has been selected to build a new music and performing arts auditorium for the St. Croix Falls School District in St. Croix Falls. The new facility’s primary goal is to provide space for educational purposes and will co-exist with the proposed Civic Auditorium in the city of St. Croix Falls.

On April 7, voters approved a $14 million district bond referendum project, which also features an improved $1.8 million fitness area that will provide additional space for class participation to occur in one location as well as increased resources and availability to athletic and fitness programs for extracurricular training. The project also includes a $525,000 bus garage addition to house and protect buses, district vehicles and maintenance equipment. The project is expected to begin in the spring of 2021 and will be completed in the fall of 2022.

Designed by DCWI, the new auditorium will accommodate the continued growth of the music program and performing arts, including theatrical productions, musicals and concerts and will also serve as a large group learning space, which frees up existing space to allow for additional educational programming. The 580-seat auditorium is modeled after the auditorium built in 2017 for Unity School District in Balsam Lake.

K-12 continues to lead the field of regional education construction projects and is currently ranked eighth in the nation in the construction of K-12 facilities by Building Design and Construction magazine. Over the past five years, K-12 has completed over $1 billion in K-12 projects. K-12’s comprehensive school construction services include facility analysis and budget approaches, leading to informed and successful referendum initiatives.

Kraus-Anderson has implemented stringent social-distancing practices and other elevated safety protocol on construction job sites, details of which can be found at krausanderson.com/about/kraus-anderson-responds-to-covid-19.
Golden eagles appearing more often in Wisconsin

Everyone loves the bald eagle’s good looks, piercing eyes and merciless temperament, but few sports teams claim the big raptor’s name. Whether you’re talking pro, college or high-school sports, “Bald Eagles” seldom flies as a team nickname. After all, most cheerleaders can’t bring themselves to jump around, shake their pom-poms and yell “Go Baldies, go!” or “You got this, Baldies!” as their beloved team takes the field or court.

“No, folks only yell such endearments to the University of Southern Mississippi, and its American football team.”

Sports fans, especially, don’t care that most folks know about avian predators. “Golden eagle” sounds cool, and that’s all most folks know about avian predators. Sports fans, especially, don’t care that golden eagles are a distinct species, and that they’re seldom seen in southeastern Wisconsin or southern Mississippi, except maybe as rare strays in winter. These big birds were recently rare across all of Wisconsin, but they’ve become more common each winter in northwestern counties, as well as along the Mississippi River and southwestern Wisconsin.

Elsewhere, golden eagles live year-round from central Mexico to southern British Columbia. Other populations of golden eagles breed and nest each summer from Alaska to central Montana, and parts of far northern Ontario and Quebec. During winter, some migrate to the Appalachians and across much of the West, as well as parts of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas.

Golden eagles aren’t as distinctive as adult bald eagles, whose white heads and yellow beaks identify them near and far, even to the ornithologically challenged. Therefore, when a friendly guy from Cross Plains sent three photos of a darkly colored eagle with a bluish beak April 10, I balked when asked to identify it.

“Definitely a golden eagle,” Brady responded. He also said the eagle was likely born last summer. The giveaways are a white base at the tail, and even browning coloration across the upper wing instead of a tawny mottingle.

Not knowing when to quit, I sent Brady another eagle photo, which I thought was also a golden eagle. After all, it too had brown feathers, and I photographed it in 2013 while hunting elk in Idaho, near a large riverway.

“An immature bald eagle,” Brady wrote. “Goldens are rarely seen around waterways, and generally prefer uplands.”

But because we both lacked conviction, I emailed Verrier’s pictures to Ryan Brady, an ornithologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

“Certainly a golden eagle,” Brady responded. He also said the eagle was likely born last summer. The giveaways are a white base at the tail, and even brown coloration across the upper wing instead of a tawny mottingle.

Not knowing when to quit, I sent Brady another eagle photo, which I thought was also a golden eagle. After all, it too had brown feathers, and I photographed it in 2013 while hunting elk in Idaho, near a large riverway. Again, though, I was wrong.

“An immature bald eagle,” Brady wrote. “Goldens are rarely seen around waterways, and generally prefer uplands.”

Although neither species is endangered, Brady said the images were important to monitor, given recent concerns about lead poisoning in eagles.

“Definitely a golden eagle.”

“Definitely a golden eagle.”

“Definitely a golden eagle.”

At the University of Southern Mississippi, a golden eagle photo. It might be the only one I’ve even seen. “I never expected that golden eagle photo. It might be the only one I’ve ever get.”

Patrick Durkin, @pattiekdrnkoutdoors, is a freelance writer who covers outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. Write to him at 721 Wesley St., Waupaca, WI 54981; or by email at patrickdurkin56@gmail.com.
Lengthy foot chases and bizarre behavior in escape

Greg Marsten | Staff writer

ST. CROIX FALLS — What started as a confirmed double murder investigation turned into a wild and dangerous pursuit as authorities searched for the woman and her felon boyfriend.

The incident involved trips to the roof, running across the landscape, and finally leaping through windows and ultimately being wedged between a door, where police were forced to shoot a felon pinning a Polk County sheriff’s deputy to the free the felon. At one point the woman escaped through the roof, then down the path, then to the roof again before being finally led to the deputy to free her felon boyfriend, who escaped and was still at large at press time.

According to the PCSO probable cause report, the incident took place on the afternoon of Thursday, April 23, when the deputy accompanied two child protective service workers to the home of Melissa Diers-Leske, 26, St. Croix Falls. The mother was known to be around a wanted felon, Jason Diers-Leske, who had been through past contacts for being wanted for fleeing from an officer.

When the officials arrived at the home, a witness said a man had crawled out a window while the deputy came into the house.

The man who slipped out was Jason Diers-Leske, 22, who was listed as a felon in a foot chase around the outside of the home, where Diers-Leske reportedly knocked down a deputy and ran down the street, before being finally led to the home.

Jason Diers-Leske

The police then broke into the house and forced the doors, forcing the deputy to kick the door in, knowing the two CPS workers were inside with the other woman. The chase went back outside, where the deputy lost track of him, but then another officer spotted Diers-Leske crouching in a window. He again made his escape and returned to the house, where he was able to escape and flee.

According to the narrative, as the deputy was coming through the window, he was able to grab his wrist, but that was when the female suspect, Melissa Diers-Leske, got her hand on a deputy and started running, kicking and bending the officer’s wrist backward. The report noted that the man appeared to nearly get control of the taser and bending the officer’s wrist backward.

Diers-Leske, who then led the deputy on a foot chase around the outside of the home, where he tried to keep the officer out. The suspect also just missed seizing an electronic taser the deputy deployed.

However, the whole Badger Back Block Plan may be in jeopardy, as there are some counties, especially GOP lawmakers who have challenged Evers’ authorities on the closures, and are seeking an injunction, a restraining order in the Wisconsin Supreme Court to intervene. While it is unclear at press time what that means, the WIAA has received numerous petitions over the past week or so to extend the season, and the League will get control of the week to reply to the governor’s response.

There has been broad concern by legis- lators, society, and educators that the current guidelines for school health emergencies, such as "the total amount by which the school board reduced expenditures during, or because of, the public health emergency in each of the following categories: Utilities, Transportation, Foodservice, Personnel, and Legal and Court costs". Yes, Act 185 forces districts to calculate and guess how much money they saved during the last two years.

Act 185 also impacts the aforementioned DPI requirement and exam waiv- ers, on top of the so-called district report cards. Also addressed in the act are issues including health insurance plans, and Internet access problems. "The pandemic may be seen as the region on things like graduation cer- emonies, implementing distance learn- ing for the remainder of the year, and possibly into the summer school "sea- son."" Many districts are working under the assumption that they can possibly open on the second half of summer instruction, that is only hopeful, particularly when they must be likely wait- ing on pandemic impact numbers in the coming weeks and months before final- izing their plans.

As for this coming fall, there has been some talk or discussion of possibly start- ing school earlier than normal, to make up for lost time, but even just that is just a loose talk among state officials.

At this point it is assumed schools will start, as scheduled, in the fall, but nobody has made any assurances, and it will continue to rely on changing pan- demic numbers and the political dy- namics behind how that data is used or interpreted.

Yes, it is safe to say that graduating seniors are literally a sort of walking, talking, virtual, online, exam, whether they took the test or not.
Texas truck taken from car hauler; camper in Forest Lake

Greg Marsten | Staff writer

AMERY — An April 19 citizen report of an abandoned truck in a farm field with four flat tires led police to the site off 100th Street, near Amery, where they discovered a 2020 Toyota Tacoma with four slashed tires and Texas license plates.

The truck was reported stolen out of South St. Paul, apparently off a car hauler trailer destined for Chippewa Falls. An investigation in the truck suggested it had been used by a man named Jesse Anderson, 45, no known address. An investigation turned up that Anderson was living in a camper at a local campground, and when he was inter-}

31. Form a “green team” at your office to find cost-effective ways to conserve resources and promote sustainability.
32. Volunteer for a local environmental group and/or make a donation.
33. Pull out invasive plants in your yard or garden and replace them with native ones.
34. Turn off and unplug electronics you’re not using. This includes turning off your computer at night.
35. Install solar panels on your roof. Wow! Take the stairs instead of the elevator to save energy and get exercise.
36. Convince your school district or office building to choose reusable utensils, trays and dishes in the cafeteria.
37. Buy local food to reduce the distance from farm to fork. Buy straight from the farm, frequent your local farmer’s market, or join a local food co-op.
38. Lower the temperature on your water heater. Contact your utility company and find out about renewable energy options and free products they offer.
39. Visit a natural area in your county. We are so blessed to have so many!
40. Check out the website carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx to see what you really do with your carbon footprint.
41. Do not buy more chemicals or fertilizer than you need.
42. Reuse batteries and the rechargeable kind.
43. Converse with your local farmer or gardener to find out how you can conserve energy and water.
44. Contact your utility company and find out about renewable energy options and free products they offer.
45. If you can, get a leaf blower or a lawnmower that runs on electricity rather than gas.
46. Attend a natural area in your county. We are so blessed to have so many!
47. If you are receiving catalogs you do not purchase, contact the catalog company to be removed from their mailing list.
48. Check out the website carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx to see what you really do with your carbon footprint.
49. Be conscious of what food you have on hand so that you don’t have to waste it.
50. Share and spread the tips above! Happy Earth Day!
Gov. Evers directs DNR to reopen several state parks and forests with special conditions

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers has directed the Department of Natural Resources to re-open several state parks, forests and recreational areas originally closed due to unprecedented crowds and to prioritize public health. His directive came Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Refunds will be issued to all customers.

Limited numbers of remote, backpack camping sites at dozens of Brule River State Forest, Crex Meadows State Wildlife Area, Dunnville Wildlife Area, Flambeau River State Forest, Governor Erdahl State Forest, Governor Knowles State River, Meadow Valley State Wildlife Area, Tiffany Wildlife Area, Van Loon State Wildlife Area and Willow Flowage.

Volunteer activities remain suspended at DNR properties. All events and special event permits are canceled until May 26.

Take these precautions

A person who is infected with COVID-19 can spread the virus while they are sick and may remain contagious up to 3 days before symptoms start. If you are sick, are running a fever or have symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and isolate until symptoms improve for at least 24 hours.

Avoid touching your face; Avoid touching your face; Avoid touching your face.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and you are encouraged to frequently monitor the DHS website for updates, and to follow @DHSWI on Facebook and Twitter, or dhs.wi.gov on Instagram. Additional information can be found on the CDC website.

Together, we will bounce back

A resident who has said, public health is a team sport. We all have a part to play in the solution if we are going to be successful. So far, we've been greatly encouraged by the actions of Wisconsinites agreed with the decision to close schools and businesses, and many of you have stayed home and been stay at home. These efforts have been successful and the curve has flattened. The best news is that if we move too quickly to lift the Safer at Home guidelines, or if people start to ignore them, we will undo all the success we've made so far and we will reset the clock.

Now, I know we have to take action to support Wisconsinites through this crisis. With business closures for entrepreneuurs, a lack of child care for essential workers, and hours cut or jobs lost, many Wisconsinites are having a really tough time. That's why I signed a letter way back on April 1 urging legislative leaders to take action on proposals to support businesses, protect workers, and expand unemployment so all of our neighbors have the support they need to weather this storm. Yet most of those proposals have not been voted on, or so unfortunately our work as a Legislature is incomplete. For our state to really bounce back, we need to support folks right now and ensure they're in a position to succeed.

The latest Safer at Home social-distancing guidelines will take time, and we can only do so if everyone is pulled into the same direction. We need the Legislature, the governor and the people of Wisconsin to keep doing their part so we can move our state forward again, sooner rather than later.

State Sen. Patty Schachtner proudly represents Wisconsin's 10th Senate District with 178,250 constituents. The district covers parts of Burnett, Dunn, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties.

WASHINGTON COUNTY – The Washburn County Health Department reports that starting Friday, April 24, all residents of Washington County with symptoms of COVID-19 will be able to get tested with an approved hospital. However, testing is only considered for those experiencing symptoms, after a screening and on provider orders.

Northlakes Community Clinic in Mio- na is among the first to establish an emergency clinic to screen for COVID-19.

For patients who normally seek care at Northlakes Community Clinic in Mino- na who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, they should call the clinic at 715-284-8000 to start the screening and to speak to a medical provider.

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The WASHBURN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT reports that starting Friday, April 24, all residents of Washington County with symptoms of COVID-19 will be able to get tested with an approved hospital. However, testing is only considered for those experiencing symptoms, after a screening and on provider orders.

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Burnett County deaths

Burnett County Dispatch recorded the following incidents for the week of April 13: Two deaths, three abandoned vehicles, four alarms, five animal complaints, 24 civil matters, 12 traffic stops, 12 welfare checks, one found property, 20 suspicious activities, three 911 hang-ups, three transports, seven medical emergencies, eight disturbances, five citizen assists, one property damage, five erratic drivers, one test, one sex offense, four thefts, one fire, one motor vehicle accident, one burglary, two harassments, one fraud, one juvenile problem, one structure fire, one drug complaint, two ordinance violations, two agency assists, two suicidal threats and two noise complaints.

Siren Police Department

Siren Police Department recorded the following incidents for the week of April 13: Five traffic stops, five suspicious activities and one hit-and-run.

Burnett County deaths


PARTLY DIGITAL MEETING

The newly-seated Polk County Board of Supervisors met somewhat virtually last Tuesday, April 22. Most of the supervisors were on site in Balsam Lake, while several supervisors appeared by digital or telephone, although the public could only observe remotely.

Spraying for Gypsy Moths

Starting in May, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will spray for gypsy moths in 18 western Wisconsin counties, including Washburn, Burnett and Polk counties. Residents in the affected areas listed below can expect loud, low-flying, small, yellow planes as early as 5 a.m. “Aerial spraying is the most efficient and effective treatment method to help slow the spread and delay the impacts associated with gypsy moth outbreaks,” said Christopher Foelker, DATCP’s gypsy moth program manager. “It’s important to slow this invasive pest. Well-established gypsy moth populations cause damage to forests which impacts natural resources, wildlife, tourism and the timber industry.” Aerial spraying in western Wisconsin will focus on where gypsy moth populations are low or beginning to build, in an attempt to slow them from moving farther west. DATCP’s plan is to start in southern Wisconsin in mid-May and end in the northern part of the state in July. Maps of treatment areas are available at datcpgis.wi.gov/maps/?viewer=gm. For more information, visit datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/GMAerialSpray.aspx. To receive up-to-date information on treatment plans during the spray season, you can do any of the following: sign up for email updates. Call toll-free at 800-642-MOTH or visit facebook.com/widatcp and twitter.com/widatcp.

Keep in Touch with Northwest Wisconsin When You Are at Home, Work or Play

View any of this week’s 5 current editions of the ADVERTISER on your computer, tablet or mobile device.

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**Notice of Employment Opportunity**

**Grantsburg School District**

**April 20, 2020**

**Job Title:** Physical Education Teacher Online, Part-Time (0.25 - 0.50 FTE), Forward, School District for the 2020-2021 school year

**Job Description:** This position is for a part-time Technology Education Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year serving students in grades 6-12.

**Qualifications:** Forward Wisconsin’s Online Charter School (grades 6-12) is seeking an innovative and creative technology education teacher. Applicants must have the appropriate Wisconsin Teaching License to teach students in 6th - 12th grade or ability to obtain certification and a strong propensity to deal with aspects of the personal, social, and academic needs of middle and high school students. Applicants should possess the skills necessary to communicate effectively with parents and parents’ ability to direct work from home. Teachers work in robust online classrooms between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. student attendance in live lessons is required.

**Requirements:** Teachers working for Forward/Grantsburg School District work from home. Teachers work in robust online classrooms between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and student attendance in live lessons is required. We follow a traditional school schedule and operate much like a traditional school; we just do so in the online digital environment.

**How to Apply:** Apply online via WECAN: https://wecan.education.wisc.edu/ or before May 13, 2020. The position is open until filled. Please include a letter of application, letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, and a copy of your WI teaching license should be uploaded to WECAN and included as part of the application process.

**Contact:** Mrs. Constance Quade, Forward Principal
500 East James Ave.
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constance.quade@iforwardwisconsin.com

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Grantsburg, WI 54840
constance.quade@iforwardwisconsin.com
The topic of the meeting is POLK COUNTY SHORELAND PROTECTION ZONING ORDINANCE No. 08-20, which enacts amendments to the existing shoreline protection ordinance. The amendment includes provisions for a Residential buffer zone, which was not included in the previous ordinance. The new zoning ordinance aims to protect water bodies by setting a 300-foot buffer around public shoreland protection areas, and land uses. The intent of these regulations is to prevent harmful conditions, such as control building sites, for fish and aquatic life, and to regulate land use activities accordingly.

The Town of Clam Falls, Polk County, is accepting sealed bids for the following projects before sealing:

- **Bid # Description**
  1. **Crack Seal 115th Street North of Hwy. 35.**
  2. **Crack Seal 90th Street.**
  3. **Crack Seal 90th Street.**
  4. **Chip Seal 80th Street from 315th to 320th.**
  5. **Chip Seal 80th Street from 315th to 320th.**

Any questions on these projects, please contact Troy, at 715-371-8347 or info@clamfalls-wi.gov.

The ordinance includes regulations pertaining to setting future agenda items. No substantive discussion will occur concerning the consent agenda items.

### FREDERIC BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order by School Board Members present: Mr. Holicky, Mr. Ennis, Ms. Lillehaug, Mr. Engen and Ms. Karl.

2. Presentation of minutes to the Board of Education or to the School District Administrator report.

3. Motion by Mr. Ennis to review the minutes, Seconded by Ms. Karl.

4. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the minutes, Seconded by Mr. Engen.

5. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the minutes, and Motion by Mr. Ennis to approve the minutes, Seconded by Ms. Karl.

6. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the minutes, Seconded by Mr. Engen.

7. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the minutes, Seconded by Mr. Ennis.

8. Action Items:
   - a. Reports of various groups.
   - b. Reports of various groups.
   - c. Reports of various groups.
   - d. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the motions, Seconded by Mr. Engen.
   - e. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the motions, Seconded by Mr. Engen.
   - f. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the motions, Seconded by Mr. Engen.


### VILLAGE OF DRESSER BOARD OF ELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

1. President Mr. Holicky calls the meeting to order.

2. The board members present:
   - Mr. Holicky, Ms. Ennis, Ms. Lillehaug, Mr. Engen and Ms. Karl.

3. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the minutes, Seconded by Mr. Engen.

4. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the minutes, Seconded by Mr. Engen.

5. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the minutes, Seconded by Mr. Engen.

6. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the minutes, Seconded by Mr. Engen.

7. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the minutes, Seconded by Mr. Engen.

8. Motion by Mr. Holicky to approve the minutes, Seconded by Mr. Engen.

TOWN OF DANIELS REQUEST FOR BIDS

Invitation to Bid

The Town of Daniels reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids shall be submitted in a lump sum per road as listed above. Bids can be submitted in sealed envelopes to: Sherril Anderson, Clerk, 715-866-8213 or via email to: sanderson@polkcountywi.gov before 2:00 p.m. on May 7, 2020. No0. 2. Responses to questions concerning this project will be available on or about May 4, 2020. Any questions, please contact Sherril Anderson at 715-866-8213.

Bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. on May 11, 2020 at the Daniels Town Hall, 414 W. Farms Rd., Daniels, WI 54833. For入围 details, please contact Sherril Anderson at 715-866-8213.

TOWN OF DAVIS INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Davis, Polk County, is accepting sealed bids for the following projects (no subcontracting):

1. #1: Pavement Maintenance - $5000
2. #2: Pavement Preservation - $2,000
3. #3: Crack Seal 119th and 350th to dead end.
4. #4: Pavement Maintenance - $2,000
5. #5: Crack Seal 315th (from 110th) and 120th (to town line).
6. #6: Pavement Maintenance - $2,000
7. #7: Burnikel Road - approximately 1/2 mile of 2-1/2" chip seal.
8. #8 Blacktop 95th hot mix with 2" thickness and with 20' wide shoulder.
9. #9: Stretch Seal 108th from 115th to 120th.

Sealed bids must be submitted to the Clerk, Sherril Anderson, 715-866-8213, by May 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. The bid opening will take place at 2:00 p.m. on May 11, 2020 at the Davis Town Hall. All interested bidders are encouraged to attend.

PUBLIC NOTICE ELECTRONIC BALLOT TABULATION

Under Wisconsin State Statute 5.96, public tests of the electronic tabulation machines will be held at the following locations. Tabulators will be tested to ensure that they will correctly count the May 12, 2020, Special Election for Congress and County officials with no recounts and will be tested to ensure that they will count the November 3, 2020, general election.

Notice of Open Book

TOWN OF BALSAM LAKE

Notice is hereby given that the Open Book for the Town of Balsam Lake will be held on Monday, May 11, 2020, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 27313 State Highway 10, Balsam Lake, WI 54810. The meeting is for the purpose of the Board of Review and procedures required if appearing before the Board.

Any questions on these projects, please contact Troy, at 715-371-0697 or email troy@polkcountywi.gov. Bids will be opened, reviewed and awarded on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 during the Board of Review meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Clam Falls Town Hall.

Any questions, please contact Troy at 715-371-0697 or email troy@polkcountywi.gov.

Notice of Open Book

TOWN OF BALSAM LAKE

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Order of Business:

1. Opening of Meeting
2. Call to Order
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Call to Order
5. Call for Public Comment
6. Presentation “Rules and Responsibilities for County Officials” by Kerri Harter, Clerk, 715-463-2461
7. Committee of the Whole:
   a. Organizational Matters: Recommendations Concerning County Officials
   b. Organizational Matters: Recommendations Concerning Commissions
   c. Organizational Matters: Recommendations Concerning Commissions

Any questions on these projects, please contact Troy, at 715-371-0697 or email troy@polkcountywi.gov. Bids will be opened, reviewed and awarded on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 during the Board of Review meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Clam Falls Town Hall.

Any questions, please contact Troy at 715-371-0697 or email troy@polkcountywi.gov.
NOTICE OF OPEN BOOK TOWN OF LORAIN

Pursuant to Sec. 70.45 WI Statutes, the Town of Lorain assessed property in the Town of Lorain on or before the 1st day of May, 2020. A public meeting will be held on the 18th day of May, 2020, at the Town of Lorain town hall, 600 N. Union Street, Lorain, Ohio 44052, at 11:00 a.m. Notice is hereby given, this, the 27th day of April, 2020.

Susan E. Hughes, Clerk

BLACKTOP BIDS WANTED, L.R.I.P. PROGRAM

The Town of Siren is seeking blacktop bids for approximately 4100 linear feet of roadway. The work must be completed by July 1, 2020. Bids will be due to the Town Hall at 10:00 a.m. on May 19, 2020. Town Hall is located at 101 S. Main Street. Bids can be faxed to 715-454-2255. There is a 2% crown in the road. The work will be done by 6-10-20. Backfills will be provided and must be placed with a paver at a 2% crown. Light shaping before paving will be required. Contractor to provide bid pricing based on cost per yard of paver blacktop furnished and installed. Please contact Town of Siren for maps of paving areas. The Town of Siren reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids must be sealed and labeled “blacktop bid”. Bids must be received in Town Hall by May 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The Town of Siren reserves the right to extend this date. Notice is hereby given that the Village of Dresser, Polk County, Wisconsin, through its Village Board of Review, will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bistro of the Village of Dresser at 132 High Street, Dresser, Wisconsin. Notice is hereby given for the Village of Luck, Siren, WI 54872 and Grantville, WI 53250. Deadline to apply: May 4, 2020.

Mary Hunter, Clerk

NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW OF TOWN OF OAKLAND

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review for the Town of Siren of Burnett County will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2020, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Siren Town Hall, 2240 South Long Lake Road. For appointments call 877-521-4157. Please be advised of the following requirements to appear before the Board of Review. All persons must have written objection or requirement appearing before the Board.

No person shall be allowed to appear before the Board of Review, to testify by the Board of Review, or to contest the amount of any assessment if the person has been provided a reasonable written request by certified mail, return receipt requested, to appear before the Board of Review, and any person who has not appeared before the Board of Review, to testify by the Board of Review, or to contest the amount of any assessment before the Board of Review, is not entitled to appear before the Board of Review.

No person may appear before the Board of Review, to testify by the Board of Review, or to contest the amount of any assessment unless at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the Board of Review, the person has been provided written objection or requirement appearing before the Board.

A person may bring to the Board of Review a representative of the person's rights to the assessment with the person's written objection or requirement appearing before the Board, but no other persons may speak for the person. A person may appear before the Board of Review, to testify by the Board of Review, or to contest the amount of any assessment before the Board of Review, if the person has been provided a reasonable written request by certified mail, return receipt requested, to appear before the Board of Review, to testify by the Board of Review, or to contest the amount of any assessment before the Board of Review.

Burnett County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF DANIELS REQUEST FOR BIDS

Paver patching 1,700 square yards on various Daniels town roads. Writings must be furnished and installed in an area that must be compacted and must be placed with a paver at a 2% crown. Light shaping before paving will be required. Contractor to provide bid pricing based on cost per yard of paver blacktop furnished and installed. Please contact Town of Daniels for maps of paving areas. The Town of Daniels reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids must be sealed and labeled “blacktop bid”. Bids must be received in the Village Clerk’s office by May 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The Town of Daniels reserves the right to extend this date. Notice is hereby given for the Village of Luck, Siren, WI 54872 and Grantville, WI 53250. Deadline to apply: May 4, 2020. Mary Hunter, Clerk

TOWN OF DANIELS

Burnett County is seeking blacktop bids for approximately 1,700 square yards on various Daniels town roads. Bids will be due to the Village Clerk’s office at 10:00 a.m. on May 19, 2020. The work will be done by June 10, 2020. Backfills will be provided and must be placed with a paver at a 2% crown. Light shaping before paving will be required. Contractor to provide bid pricing based on cost per yard of paver blacktop furnished and installed. Please contact Town of Daniels for maps of paving areas. The Town of Daniels reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids must be sealed and labeled “blacktop bid”. Bids must be received in the Village Clerk’s office by May 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The Town of Daniels reserves the right to extend this date. Notice is hereby given for the Village of Luck, Siren, WI 54872 and Grantville, WI 53250. Deadline to apply: May 4, 2020.

Mary Hunter, Clerk

VILLAGE OF DRESSER

POLK COUNTY ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION

Pursuant to Sec. 70.45 of Wisconsin Statutes, the assessors of the Town of Siren and Village of Luck, in Polk County, Wisconsin, shall be held on Thursday, the 7th day of May, 2020, at the Dresser City Hall, located at 115 Main Street West, Dresser, Wisconsin, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The Open Book session provides property owners with opportunities to question the assessors. The assessors shall be provided with a copy of assessments. The assessors may also provide an answer to objections, if any, that have been filed and, if so, which member will be re- moved from the hearing, including the support of program and college initiatives. For complete job description, information on how to apply and to visit our website at: www.wisc.gov/about-wis/work/employment

Deadline to apply: May 4, 2020

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College is seeking a learning-focused, creative and dynamic individual to teach in the new Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Computer Science program. This program is offered within the Department of Transportation Special Provisions for Performance Based Maintenance, Section 3, Bidder’s. The person wanting to be on the agenda, please contact Mary Hunter, Clerk, at 715-349-5119.

Mary Hunter, Clerk
A message from Corona
by Vivienne R. Reich

The earth whispered but you did not hear
The earth spoke but you did not listen
The earth screamed but you turned her off
And so I was born.
I was not born to punish you
I was born to awaken you.

The earth cried out for help.
Massive flooding
But you didn’t listen
Burning fires
But you didn’t listen

Terrorizing tornadoes
But you didn’t listen.

You still don’t listen to the earth.
When ocean animals are dying due to pollutants in the water.

Glaciers melting at an alarming rate
Severe drought.

You didn’t listen to how much negativity the earth is receiving
Nonstop wars
Nonstop killing.

You just kept going on with your life.
No matter how much death there was.
No matter how many killings daily.

It was more important to get the latest iPhone released.
When all this is over and I am gone.

I am here to awaken you.
Again, I am not here to punish you.
Because the gondola boats that pollute the water.

And the air we breathe.
Skies are clear blue because factories are not.

And now, the ice is gone.
And I made the world stop
The things you would use to forget about the earth.
Your outings.

I took away your comforts.
I give you respiratory issues.
You are only worried about YOUR survival.
Now you are like the earth.

I’ve made you take refuge.
I’ve made you finally listen.

What the earth was trying to tell you.

But now I am here.
And I have made the world stop in its tracks.
I made you finally listen
I made you take refuge.
I made you stop thinking about materialistic things.

Now you are like the earth.
You are only worried about YOUR Survival.
How does that feel.
I give you fever … as the fires burn on earth.
I give you fever stories.

As pollution filled the earth’s air.
I give you weakness as the earth weaken every day.

I took away your comforts.
Your outings.

The things you would use to forget about the planet and its pain.
And I made the world stop
And not stop.

Earth has better air quality.
Skies are clear blue because factories are not spewing.

Pollution unto the earth’s air.
The water in Venice is clean.
Dolphins boats that pollute the water are not being used.

YOU are having to take time to reflect on what is really important.
Again, I am not here to punish you
I am here to awaken you
When my time is over and I am gone.
Please remember these moments.

Listen to the earth
Listen to your soul.

Stop polluting the earth.

Stop fighting amongst each other.
Stop caring about materialistic things.
And start loving your neighbors.

Start caring about the earth.
And all its creatures.

Start believing in a creator.

Because next time I may come back
even stronger …

Signed,
Coronavirus.

Marilyn Rae (Sudmeier) Berg

Marilyn Rae (Sudmeier) Berg, 83, of Luck, Wisconsin, met her maker in the early morning hours of April 23, 2020. She had been living on love, in her own home, for more or less the past year, when she was not surrounded by her three children, as well as two very caring caregivers, as she fought to overcome a series of medical maladies. She was tired at the end – and ready to move on to greater glory.

Marilyn was born Jan. 18, 1937, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Carl Ekblad and Ingrid Liljedahl Louise Sudmeier. She graduated from South High School, was the Minneapolis Aquatennial queen, sailed to Europe on the Queen Mary and later came home and went to business school. She met her husband, Robert Mark Berg, singing in the church choir. They were wed in August of 1957 and to this union three children were born, Stephen Matthew, Lynda Christine and Susan Elizabeth.

They had a dream to live a joyful, peaceful life in the country. So they bought a beautiful 40-acre hobby farm situated across from the seventh hole on the Luck Golf Course, the “Circle 7,” just a half-mile down the road from Marilyn’s in-town home, across from Yvonne’s family restaurant.

At the beginning of the Chippewa Trail, where Marilyn and Lynda lived out her years. Marilyn had lived in the Lucky community for the majority of her life, having worked many years for the Variety Club Heart Hospital. She had done all things to help Heal and V.A. patients, such as she did a great many other things. Among them were running the Duff’s Celebrity Golf and Tennis Tournament for many years, raising millions for the Variety Club Heart Hospital and organizing the Great Airplane Toss at the Metrodome, fundraising for the National Kidney Foundation. Bob’s work was in advertising and sales promotion and he traveled extensively, often with the family in tow. The couple later landed on Fox 9 radio, where Lynda was the executive secretary for the Jaycee National Convention. They enjoyed a relationship that endured until her death.

Marilyn was well-loved in the community and known for her sparkly hats. She never missed an event and she was also known for her sparkly hats. She never missed an event and she was an avid garage-saler. She made the world stop.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents; and also many, many cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations to help cover final expenses can be made at swedberg-taylor.com.

Marilyn was survived by her children, Stephen (Melody) Berg, Lynda (Dicks) Olds and Susan Matsuak; grandchildren, Chase Berg, Winston Cluett, Matthew (Alisha) Matsuak and Alida Matsuak; great-grandchildren, Jack, Leo and Emersyn Matsuak; her brothers, James (Jillian) Sudmeier and Paul (Helen) Sudmeier; and nieces, nephews and other extended family.

Her grandchildren adored her – and she them. “Grandma GC” was special to her and we will all dearly miss her.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents; and aunts and uncles.

In the care of her children, Stephen (Melody) Berg, Lynda (Dicks) Olds and Susan Matsuak, great-grandchildren, Chase Berg, Winston Cluett, Matthew (Alisha) Matsuak and Alida Matsuak; great-grandchildren, Jack, Leo and Emersyn Matsuak; her brothers, James (Jillian) Sudmeier and Paul (Helen) Sudmeier; and nieces, nephews, and other extended family.

Her grandchildren adored her – and she them. “Grandma GC” was special to her and we will all dearly miss her.

Due to this COVID-19 monster, we can’t have funerals, services, per say, but we will have a Celebration of Life at home, to be announced at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations to help cover final expenses are appreciated. For now, a memorial parade in Marilyn’s honor will be held this Friday, May 1. The new drive-by parade will line up by the Big Butternut boat landing at 1:45 p.m. and the route will be clearly marked.

Cars, trucks, ATVs or any method of transport is acceptable, but one must abide by social distancing and not leave vehicles. The family will be gathering in the yard at Marilyn’s, 1446 Chippewa Trail, Luck, WI, 54853. There will be a big box to toss a card in if you like, but we can’t pass out memorials. If you miss Marilyn – till she hears it in heaven.

Lorraine G. Fagnan

Lorraine G. Fagnan, 79, of resident of Siren, Wisconsin, passed away on April 24, 2020. A memorial Mass will be held at a later date. A full obituary will follow.

Lowell Britz

Lowell G. Britz was born Sept. 1, 1947, at the hospital in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, at that time it was a three-story building. From that day forward he continued to love life and gain many achievements. Lowell passed away on April 27, 2020, at Fairview Lakes Hospital in Wyoming, Minnesota.

Growing up, the church was always the center of his life. His father and mother, Ephraim and Dorothy, and his older siblings, Yvonne and Wayne, attended Zion Lutheran Church in Chicago City, Minnesota. Lowell’s first love was singing in the choir, but he also took a leadership position being president of the church council.

Lowell was a member of the Harrisburg Glee Club. He sang bass and composed music. He spoke of his stint as president of Highlanders 4-H Club and the fun he had showing Holstein cattle at Chisago County Fair. She was a member of the Minnesota Glee Club and had served as president. She was also a member of the Minnesota Education Association. He then would go on to teach one year at the Centennial District, two years in California, 16 years at Chisago Lakes, Minnesota, and 20 years in Orlando, Florida. Even after retirement, he sub taught for many years. He continued to be a leader among the Highlanders, but he had also taken his music education to the next level.

Music played a major role in Lowell’s life. He also found a love for musical theatre. He had several leads in high school plays, but he always fondly recalled his role as Baron Von Trapp in the Masques Theatre. In Florida he continued his involvement in church choirs but added eight years of performing at the Disney Epcot Christmas Candlelight Processional to his repertoire.

His friends will tell you that Lowell was the “glue” that held them all together. Once you were a friend of Lowell, you were a friend for life. You could expect a telephone call from him. He would arrange dinner and an outing. One of his special groups was the St. Cloud Tonal Chords. He loved the fact that he was able to be the center of his life. His father and mother, Ephraim and Dorothy, and his older siblings, Yvonne and Wayne, attended Zion Lutheran Church in Chicago City, Minnesota. Lowell’s first love was singing in the choir, but he also took a leadership position being president of the church council.

Due to this COVID-19 monster, we can’t have funerals, services, per say, but we will have a Celebration of Life at home, to be announced at a future date.

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Bless you all.
The woodland hepatica flower is a sure sign of spring. These woodland flowers break through the leaf litter in early spring and grow for the short time that the forest canopy is still open, allowing the sunshine to reach these delicate flowers. – Photo by Larry Samson

DISC GOLF, ANYONE?

Despite the lonely nature of this photo, disc golf is seeing a rise in popularity among local residents and visitors. This sunset photo shows hole No. 15 at Tjader Acres Disc Golf along Hwy. 70 east of Siren. The course is always open and owner Jon Tjader said he is adding another course to the east. It’s a relatively inexpensive activity at $5 a day. – Photo courtesy Jon Tjader

THE 10TH HOLE BAR & GRILL

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715-866-7107 • OPEN FOR TAKEOUT

EVERY TUESDAY
3-8 P.M.
BROASTED CHICKEN SPECIALS
$10.50
2 Lbs. Broasted Jumbo Chicken Wings & 1 lb. fries:
~ OR ~
4 Pc. Broasted Chicken Dinner, mashed potatoes, gravy, coleslaw & rolls.

CALL 715-866-7107 TO PLACE YOUR ORDER!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6
3-8 P.M.
SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS
~ OR ~
OUR FAMOUS STEAK BITES
$8.50

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2nd Shift - $11.25/HR
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NEW DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Knapp, Wisconsin’s adjutant general, has announced that Brig. Gen. David W. May will assume the role of Wisconsin’s deputy adjutant general for the Air National Guard. May currently serves as the commander of Volk Field Air National Guard Base, in Camp Douglas, which includes the Combat Readiness Training Center, the 128th Air Control Squadron, and the 120th Weather Flight. He succeeds Brig. Gen. Gary L. Ebben, who retired in February after nearly four decades of service. With this appointment, May received a promotion to brigadier general effective April 16, and he assumes responsibility for the more than 2,300 airmen of the Wisconsin Air National Guard including flying wings in Milwaukee and Madison, and the combat readiness training center at Volk Field. – Photo provided

4K Calling All Future Cardinals!

4K and Kindergarten Registration Packages Available for 2020/21 School Year at Luck Elementary

Our 4K program is full days, five days a week. Only those Kindergartners not in our 4K program need to register. Stop by for a registration packet or call to have one mailed to you:

School District of Luck
810 South 7th Street
Luck, WI 54853
715-472-2152

GuARD MEMBERS RETURNING HOME

Around 150 Wisconsin National Guard soldiers are expected to return home in the coming days. Members of the 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, they are demobilizing at Fort Hood, Texas. Approximately 400 soldiers were deployed to Afghanistan in July to serve as security for coalition forces and about 250 remain in the country. The return of National Guard troops is part of a larger drawdown of military forces in Afghanistan. As they serve overseas, other members of the Guard are assisting with the state’s response to the COVID-19 crisis, including staffing polling places during the April 7 election due to a shortage of poll workers. Several Guard members have since shown symptoms of the coronavirus. – Photo from the National Guard

Introducing CroixCares

SCRMC’s Virtual Health Platform

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Even as everyone spends more time at home, we know that life still happens. Through this technology, we will be able to see you for everything from allergies to medication checks and sinus infections to rashes. The best part is we can do this all from the comfort of your favorite chair.

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A message to all students

The Spooner Elementary School staff had a unique and important message for their students. – Photos provided
Things I might've hoarded, and why it's sort of OK

If you need any basketball inflator needles, I know a guy. He's part of my family and if I can set you up, baby, easy and cheap. Good quality basketball inflator needles, too, just like Michael Jordan and LeBron use. The real things, man. Just lemme know, kay?

So, ah, what have you “sort of hoarded” in recent weeks? No, come on, it’s OK. Let’s talk about this. My grandma popped the pope a few years ago for his favorite candy bars stashed aside in a Vatican pantry.

Personally, I’ve made sure I have plenty – two months’ worth – of my go-to plastic cat-box liners, and I have a good six-month-supply of my favorite flavor of antiperspirant – which is probably the last thing I need in quarantine. And, of course, I have lots of ammo and camo face paint, to protect me from the zombies with bad eyesight, as well as, sadly, more basketball inflator needles than my re-maining years will ever justify.

The needles are courtesy of my stepbrother, Jerry. His thing will be a sort of constant family activity. And, of course, it doubles as a sort of reminder on the “state of the world” at the moment.

Quick background: Jeremy was living in North Carolina until last year, when he moved to Italy to be with his fiancee. Christmas week he returned to Flor-ence, Italy, on a student visa, good for one year with two renewals. He’s enrolled in school studying Ital-ian and working at his editing job remotely. I know. Tough scenario, huh? Lucky he’s a great guy or I’d hate him and his life.

Jump ahead two months, to early February – Flor-ence is part of a true pandemic “hot zone.” The college he attends, where his fiancee is an instructor, is shut down and will be closed for many months. Instead of living in a tiny apartment for the shut-down, the two of them took a train trip to Pescara, where her mother lives, near the ocean. They learned there the day that all of Italy was shut down, and they have been stuck there for what may be up to four or five months. They are at 10 weeks already. They’ve been on full lockdown over six weeks longer than we have. They’re only allowed to leave the apartment to go to the store, and even then, only to the store closest to them. No more brief exercise outings.

Now understand, my stepbro Jeremy is a giant, pushing 6-1/2 feet tall, with a penchant for college hoops any North Carolinian understands. I only play him when I drink heavily, so I have a solid excuse for his thrashing me.

So, as he was trying, like many of us, to stave off a “pandemic body,” six weeks ago Jeremy ordered a basketball from Amazon-Italy, noting there was a seemingly never-used hoop on the beach, just a block away.

Of course, the ball arrived flat. He was able to track down an air pump several days later, I guess in a nearby shop, and had it delivered. But no needle to get the pump to work for the basketball, which I think is a grand allegory for how the world was less than wholly prepared for the pandemic and was too late with their orders when the reality struck and the science-types were allowed to do the math.

But hey, it’s 2020, so Jeremy was able to order a needle from Amazon! But, shoot, they wouldn’t de-liver it because, well, medical supplies were a prior-ity. Imagine that. Priorities.

But, like my old Twin Cities neighbor, “Michigan Bruce,” Amazon knows a guy, who knows a guy.

Then Jeremy got an email saying they would de-liver his basketball needle order after all, but he had to order at least 20 needles. My guess was they were on “a special truck” for a little “fast service fee.”

But hey, it’s 2020, and my stepbro is safe and feeling stressed, compared to handle.

Of course, two days before Jeremy’s lifetime/bas- ketball-team-worthy supply of basketball needles arrived almost in time, but not quite. It means he probably has a corner on the market for basket-ball needles along the Adriatic Sea, and he is ready to bounce a ball with abandon – once he can.

You can guess what we’re getting for Christmas from my oh-so-funny stepbro this year.

In spite of my lightheartedness, please take this pandemic seriously, and try to laugh when you can. It may not really be the best medicine, but the side effects are generally pretty good.

I will also admit I’ve been a fast junk of my fa-vorite bean dip.

Dill pickle chips

I certainly love to bake and cook, so I do love most spices. The only spice I am not fond of is rose-mary. I don’t like the smell or the taste. Rosemary is one of those love-it-or-hate-it spices. It is also a part of the mint family so if you are not fond of mint, you may not like rosemary either. My favorite spice is dill. Dill technically isn’t a spice, it is an herb; the bay leaf would be considered an herb too. Herbs are the leaves of the plant and spices come from the nonleaves part. Grandma used to say every dip up has a few of his fa-vorite spices added to her house for the weekend. I wanted to stop at the store so bad to get a bag of my delicious dill pickles, but she said she had used up all her house. So we went on, past the gas station, past the grocery store, past the dairy. We were getting farther and far-ther away from any civilized dill pickle chip stores.

And I had no iPhone because they weren’t invented. Why was I being tortured? “Just stop for the chips, Grandma,” I pleaded.

“Oh, no. We have some at home,” she insisted.

“OK,” I said. I had no choice, I wasn’t 16, I couldn’t drive.

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This is my stepbrother’s view of the Adriatic Sea in Pescara, Italy, where he’s in “lockdown.”

Dill pickles are great. Just for fun and meal ideas I am going to provide you with the top 10 most common spices and a meal that comes to my mind to incorporate them into:

1. Black peppercorns: This spice makes me think of fettucine Alfredo. Fresh-ground black pepper on any pasta is actually great.

2. Ground cinnamon: This spice makes me think of homemade oatmeal raisin cookies.

3. Chili powder: Of course, chilli. I like to make my chili spicy instead of sweet. But I know a lot of peo-ple who add brown sugar to theirs. Tip: if you end up making your chili too sweet, add black coffee.

4. Hot red chili flakes. I love spicy foods but my kids aren’t fond, so I usually stay away from this spice, but when I use it, I use it in chicken or beef enchiladas.

5. Cumin. This one I don’t use a lot of but I know it goes well with chicken. So if you like the earthy taste of cumin, add it to the chicken before grilling.

6. Ground ginger. Molasses cookies! I know some people love a little more or a little less ginger to their recipe depending on which they prefer. I’ve always preferred more ginger in the molasses cookies.

7. Nutmeg. A little goes a long way! Honestly, I can only think of pumpkin pie. Which, for some reason sounds really good right about now. It can be Novem-ber already if you bake one.

8. Smoked paprika. OK, I never claimed to be a chef. Deviled eggs?

9. Dried oregano. Oregano is good with so many things I can’t just name one. Lamb, chicken, seafood, tomato pastas and potatoes.


If you have any tried-and-true recipes you’d like to share or if you want my recipes for any of the meals listed, email me editorialcopyed@yahoo.com.
My pet fish Bob

For some reasons, I always like keeping a fish tank in my house. We’ve moved around the country a few times, and to keep my pet fish safe or some reasons, I always like keeping a fish tank in my house. We’ve moved around the country a few times, and to keep my pet fish safe or some reasons, I always like keeping a fish tank in my house. We’ve moved around the country a few times, and I’ve been doing with the other pet fish that didn’t want to have a conversation, you better talk fast.

So, how much time can I spend talking to you, oh, 9o9?

“Ah, forget it, just call me Bob, OK?”

“Deal; Bob it is. Mind if I ask you why always swim upside down I thought you were dead and I was ready to give you a proper burial at the lake.”

“No, I just love to swim upside down as I can have a better view of what is going on around and beneath me. By the way, what is this proper burial at the lake?”

“I would just flush you down the toilet and sing the Navy’s Fight Song which I learned from my Barbershop Chorus.”

“That’s terrible, man.” For the first time, I sensed a little resentment in Bob’s voice. “Well, that’s what I’ve been doing with the other pet fish that didn’t make it in the past. No fuss, no mess. Simple and easy. Do you know how much it would cost for a spot in the pet cemetery?”

“No, let’s not talk about that right now. By the way, why are you still up when everyone is zonking?”

“Oh, I think I had too much tea today. Goodness, this is so strange, finding myself talking to Bob, especially this 9o9 can talk! “Excuse me,” I said, “I thought your name was Bob, no!?” I asked.

“Ahh, Pete, life is not what it seems it is. By the way, I assume your name is Pete, right? As I’ve heard your wife calling you different names. By the way, I assume that she is your wife as she shows up every morning. And just how many names do you have?”

“Don’t mind about my names, Bob, let’s go back and talk business. So, what’s this swimming upside down business?”

“I don’t know, I just like to look at life from a different angle. I guess I got the best of both worlds. It is amazing, isn’t it? Can you imagine if you had eyes in the back of your head?”

Hmm, I never thought of that, I thought. Just what would the world look like if my eyes were in the back of my head instead?

Just then, I heard Bob say, “Oh no, the moon has moved you’d better get.”

Before I could say another word, the room had turned dark and I couldn’t see Bob anymore. The next morning when I fed my fish, Bob was waving his fin, like he was excited seeing an old friend. I wondered what happened last night, was it the effect of the tea? The full moon? Did I have a conversation with Bob? He is still swimming upside down, and quickly swam away when I poked his belly. I guess he wasn’t ready for his burial at the lake yet.

I’d better cut back on my tea consumption; and I have to wait for the next full moon to find out if there is anything new with Bob. I hope he’ll make it till then.

Recycling Control Commission wishes you a Happy 50th Anniversary of Earth Day!

To celebrate, here are 50 Earth Day tips and ideas:

1. Clean up a local park, river or beach.
2. Use environmentally friendly, nontoxic cleaning products.
3. Replace inefficient incandescent lightbulbs with efficient LEDs to reduce your carbon footprint by 450 pounds a year.
4. Carpool, ride your bike, use public transportation or drive an electric or hybrid car to reduce your carbon footprint by one pound for every mile you do not drive.
5. Keep your tires properly inflated and get better gas mileage to reduce your carbon footprint 20 pounds for each gallon of gas saved.
6. Turn off your computer at night. If you fly five times per year, those trips are likely to account for 75% of your personal carbon footprint. Yikes!
7. Stop using paper bags to online businesses especially single-use plastics like bottles, bags and straws.
8. Recycle paper, plastic and glass to reduce your garbage by 50% and your carbon footprint by 1,200 pounds a year.
9. Donate your old clothes and home goods instead of throwing them out. When you need something, consider buying used items.
10. Use cloth towels instead of paper ones.
11. Change your paper bills to online banking. You’ll be saving trees and the fuel it takes to deliver your bills by truck.
12. Reduce documents online instead of printing them.
13. When you need to use paper, make sure it’s 100% post-consumer recycled paper.
14. Use a two-sided printer whenever possible.
15. Collect used printer, fax and copier cartridges to recycle.
16. Convince your school district or office building to choose reusable utensils, trays and dishes in the cafeteria.
17. Use reusable bottles for water and reusable mugs for coffee.
18. Bring reusable bags when you shop (if we are allowed to after COVID-19).
19. Pack your lunch in a reusable bag.
20. Organize to have healthy, locally sourced food served in your school district cafeteria, or organize a composting project.
21. Buy local food to reduce the distance from farm to fork. Buy straight from the farm, frequent your local farmers market, or join a local food co-op.
23. Grow your own organic garden, or join a farm share group.
24. Reduce your meat consumption to curb carbon emissions from the livestock industry.
25. Compost kitchen scraps for use in your garden, turning waste into fertilizer.
26. Take a shorter shower and use a water-saving showerhead.
27. Fix leaky faucets and showerheads.
28. Run your dishwasher only when it’s full to save water and energy.
29. Conserve water outdoors by only watering your lawn in the evening or at night. Use drought-resistant plants in dry areas.
30. Wash your clothes only when necessary, use cold water and line dry.
31. Form a “green team” at your office to find cost-effective ways to conserve resources and promote sustainability.
32. Volunteer for a local environmental group and/or make a donation.
33. Pull out invasive plants in your yard or garden and replace them with native ones.
34. Turn off and unplug electronics you’re not using. This includes turning off your computer at night.
35. Turn off lights when you leave a room.
36. Install solar panels on your roof. Wow!
37. Take the stairs instead of the elevator to save energy (and get exercise!).
38. Move your heater thermostat down 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in the summer to reduce your carbon footprint by 2,000 pounds.
39. Lower the temperature on your water heater.
40. Contact your utility company and find out about renewable energy options and free products they offer.
41. Use energy-efficient appliances and electronics.
42. Use rechargeable batteries for your electronics and recycle them when they are spent.
43. Attend a hazardous waste collection event to properly dispose of hazardous chemicals and other wastes. Check nwprc.com for updates.
44. Check out the website carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx to see what your personal carbon footprint is!
45. Do not buy more chemicals or fertilizer than you need.
46. Visit a natural area in your county. We are so blessed to have so many!
47. If you are receiving catalogs you do not purchase from, call and ask to be removed from their mailing list.
48. Napkins, facial tissue and paper towels are not recyclable.
49. Be conscious of what food you have on hand so it doesn’t go to waste.
50. Share and spread the tips above! Happy Earth Day!
Raven watch

The ravens are back. Last year they had a nest right on my hik-
ing path but I didn’t notice it. I never saw the nest. The babies were 5 feet off the ground, and I was not feeling too stupid about that because the nest is more than 100 feet in the air. I didn’t notice a thing until the chicks started coming out. One morning I was on the trail when I saw a raven without a body. I just handed them tickets for the show. He’d say, “They’re building a nest right here!”

The other day I got back from my hike and my husband, Peter, asked me, “Did you see the ravens?”

“I went out to look and he was right. It seemed a little late to get started, but there was a pair of ravens building an enormous nest in the top of the tall pine tree by our side of the home. It was impressive. So now I have two homesteads to keep an eye on, two sets of predators to listen for, and one more reason to make certain the lid to my garbage can is down tight.”

Till next time, Carrie

Classen’s memoir is called “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at Carrieclassen.com.

The great divide

Many of us have taken strong positions during this pandemic and present each other with interesting and provocative commentary. You can hear it everywhere in social media. People continue to either side of this issue. We are talking more, posting more, either, open businesses and save jobs, or stay safe at home and continue quarantining. We write more with conviction and zeal, knowing in our hearts that we are right and that all other opinions are wrong. Both are citing positions that represent two sides of the coin, with neither side meeting the other.

When I think about these discussions as an inter-
esting metaphor, I imagine being on the edge of the Grand Canyon, shouting out into the void, just as emo-
tional as anyone. One hears an echo come back, but that sound is just one side of the coin. The search for unity with one another leads us only to a place where we are right and that all other opinions are wrong.

The good news for all of us is that our choices are not as binary as we would like to consider. We do not have to choose one position or the other. We can gain great value through diversity of thought, open-
ing ourselves to hearing the arguments of those with ideas that differ from mine. I find writing and sharing my thoughts with others by way of this column a challenge. I am often at first too stuck in the positions I take. If I had the steadfast conviction of my positions, I would not feel regret as I sometimes do. I find that I am less content with what I have written following each column that comes from my mind. Have I listened to other ideas that differ from me that I might have missed? Although social networking has allowed us to reach across the globe to share ideas, we have failed to create a truly open environment where different ideas are valued and considered. An idea that does not match our own is quickly shouted down and widely criticized, yet it is only diverse perspectives which provide true creativity. We are failing to cre-
ate new visions for our collective future using social media. We are missing those next-generation ideas which could eclipse current ways of thinking. Our politicians are no better. They stand in their corners and come out fighting every time instead of trying to craft a solution that is built upon the best of both ideas. Differing positions of each side would evolve over time into a better position than either side alone could create.

Music Memo

Indianhead Barbershop Chorus

The Indianhead Barbershop Chorus annual Har-
vest of Harmony is not confined to locals only. You can name people from 10 cities outside of our region who have purchased tickets to the show from me over the years. Among the out-of-state people who have been most loyal would have to be Joe and Judy DeBaets, from Illinois. They have only missed one year, due to sickness, but even that year they purchased tick-
ets. They have also become a great help in selling the Harvest of Harmony, and they have become a trusted friend. Some of us in Minnesota learned about our chorus from Judy and now they have become regulars at our show as well. Rick and Kay Olson come every year, and Rick would come and sing with us every week, except for the hundreds of miles he would have to drive. I had my picture taken with those folks after the show and wanted to pay tribute to their faithful atten-
dance. I’ve always said that it wouldn’t be any fun to sing without a great audience, so thanks to everyone who has come. We hope you can come on Oct. 10 and make this an annual event. More details will follow about the show. Save the date. - Ken Mother

Among the out-of-state people who have been most loyal would have to be Jack Overby and Earl Hillstad, wereamong the out-of-state people. Their friends from Minnesota learned about our chorus from Judy and now they have become regulars at our show as well. Rick and Kay Olson come every year, and Rick would come and sing with us every week, except for the hundreds of miles he would have to drive. I had my picture taken with those folks after the show and wanted to pay tribute to their faithful attendance. I’ve always said that it wouldn’t be any fun to sing without a great audience, so thanks to everyone who has come. We hope you can come on Oct. 10 and make this an annual event. More details will follow about the show. Save the date. - Ken Mother

Among the out-of-state people who have been most loyal would have to be Bob and Judy DeBaets, from Illinois. They have only missed one year, due to sickness, but even that year they purchased tick-
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“Even a drizzle can cause a ripple that becomes the next wave”

Steven Covey wrote a book titled “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.” It is a book that impacted me in a number of ways. It is something where you take the lid off, you see the whole nest. I didn’t notice a thing until the chicks started coming out. One morning I was on the trail when I saw a raven without a body. I just handed them tickets for the show. He’d say, “They’re building a nest right here!”

The other day I got back from my hike and my husband, Peter, asked me, “Did you see the ravens?”

“I went out to look and he was right. It seemed a little late to get started, but there was a pair of ravens building an enormous nest in the top of the tall pine tree by our side of the home. It was impressive. So now I have two homesteads to keep an eye on, two sets of predators to listen for, and one more reason to make certain the lid to my garbage can is down tight.”

Till next time, Carrie

Classen’s memoir is called “Blue Yarn.” Learn more at Carrieclassen.com.
The good, the bad and who we are
Part II

S
o, how indeed has this ideal of civil (not word of civilization) behavior been going for us these days?

What would you say if your neighbor suddenly started selling baby parts at his garage sale? I know what I would say and do! You could probably guess that reaction. A man I talked to recently in the library said, “I wouldn’t care, what’s that to me?” There are words I had to say to him, loudly.

My words to him started with “curious.” It’s like something in a book I read now and then. (The Russian word is Aypa.)

There are several religious beliefs that tell me not to be evil in some way. Unfortunately, they don’t tell me how to really do it. Be nice, be kind and not be evil in some way. Unfortunately, they don’t tell me how to really do it.

I want to use an example of a deity that was the object of a newspaper article that I read recently. It’s not the first article that I have read about this deity, but I will use it as an example.

The article was about a deity that was worshipped in ancient times. The author of the article described the deity as follows:

“…The purpose of this article is to examine the role of the deity in the society of ancient times. The deity was worshipped by a large number of people, and its worship was spread throughout the region. The deity was believed to have the power to protect the people from any harm, and its devotees would often make offerings to it in order to gain its favor.”

This is the role that I have in mind when I say that I want to use this deity as an example. The article itself does not provide any specific information about the deity or the society that worshipped it. However, it does provide a general description of the role of the deity in the society.

“The deity was worshipped by a large number of people, and its worship was spread throughout the region. The deity was believed to have the power to protect the people from any harm, and its devotees would often make offerings to it in order to gain its favor.”

This information is important because it provides a general understanding of the role of the deity in the society. It also allows us to understand why people would want to worship the deity and what they believed it could do for them.

The article itself does not provide any specific information about the deity or the society that worshipped it. However, it does provide a general description of the role of the deity in the society. This information is important because it provides a general understanding of the role of the deity in the society. It also allows us to understand why people would want to worship the deity and what they believed it could do for them.

In conclusion, the role of the deity in the society is important because it allows us to understand the significance of its worship and why people would want to worship it. It also provides a general understanding of the society itself and the role of religion in it.

The role of the deity is also important because it provides a general understanding of the role of religion in society. It allows us to see how religion can be used to promote the well-being of a group of people and how it can also be used to control a group of people. The role of the deity is also important because it allows us to see how religion can be used to promote the well-being of a group of people and how it can also be used to control a group of people.

In conclusion, the role of the deity in the society is important because it allows us to understand the significance of its worship and why people would want to worship it. It also provides a general understanding of the society itself and the role of religion in it. The role of the deity is also important because it allows us to see how religion can be used to promote the well-being of a group of people and how it can also be used to control a group of people.
Grantsburg Public Library

Curbside pickup service
Grantsburg material can still be requested by calling the library at 715-463-2244 or by using an online form found on our website, grantsburglibrary.org.

Social media events
Youth services librarian Sara is offering two Facebook Live events each week, including Thursday’s “Youth Storytime” and the upcoming “Join Sara Storytime” for the younger set. The library’s Facebook page is a great place to get all the latest library news.

Temporary library card
Never actually sign up on a Grantsburg Public Library card? Don’t worry, Wisconsin residents can now sign up for a library card on the library’s online registration system. When you sign up, you’ll get access to over 300,000 free e-books through OverDrive, plus access to an array of research databases.

Balsame lake Public Library

Curbside pickup service
The library has started a curbside pickup service beginning the week of April 27.

Returns
• We will not be accepting any returns directly.
• All items will have due dates extended until June.

Library events
• The library is transitioning into this new phase. If you have any questions call us at 715-485-3215 or email us at library@balsamlakepl.org.

Our mission statement
The Balsam Lake Public Library provides materials, resources and services that enhance and contribute to individual knowledge, enlightenment and enjoyment, creating a vibrant center of community activity.

Frederic Public Library

E-books may be used on the Gandy

But not to exceed 30 mph
Becky Strabel  Staff writer
BURNETT COUNTIES – Social distancing has extended the feeling of cabin fever, but this past weekend we took a break from the confinement to spring. Burnett County Forest and Parks Director Jake Nichols told the county board on Tuesday, April 21, that trails are open and outdoor recreation can be enjoyed while using safety measures.

In the last few years, e-books have gained popularity and people have been able to receive free e-books through the Aging and Disability Resource Center, if criteria are met.
**St. Croix Valley Senior Center**

**Pat Wilts**

We will continue to clean and make some more improvements in our building while we are closed to the public. The board meeting minutes are posted on our outdoor bulletin board; when you walk by read it if you would like to know our plans and needs. We have ordered a new furnace and air conditioner; we received three bids and have decided who will do the job for us. They will be installing it soon. This will be a job we will enjoy the benefits from for some time, I am sure. We have received donations for the furnace and air conditioner. Please remember to renew your membership now, not at the end of our business year. Membership is $12 per year or $100 for a lifetime member. We still have regular bills as everyone does, so we need your support. Thanks for your support.

**Dewey-LaFollette news**

**Karen Mangelsen**

Sympathy is extended to U.etsi Zeiner and family due to the death of her brother-in-law. Recent veterans of Hank and Karen Mangelsen were Lida Nandquist, Wayne and Marie Romoss. MaryAnn Pam Bentz, Leroy Nelson, Debby Irene and Donnie Lindquist. In each instance, face masks were used and/or social distancing was practiced. Leroy Nelson and Lida Nandquist called on Gerry Howey and friends coming soon during the week. Social distancing was observed.

**Grantsburg Senior Center**

**Wenhe**

The HSBC shelter is located in the Peggy Schilling Animal Adoption and Education Center at 7410 CTH D, P.O. Box 621, Webster, WI 54895, telephone, 715-349-2368; email, resuce.hsic@gmail.com. Check our Facebook, facebook.com/humaneanimalsocietyoftwcvarity.

**Siren news**

**Bev Beckmark**

Not long after the test of the year, hastily pre-empted that the way the winter was going, more than likely would end up with a cold, wet spring. He was right. It made us into the cold; however, we really haven’t seen a lot of the wet part. It has gotten rather dry, so much that we can’t burn our barn bar- nel until it greens up. I sure wish it would warm up and stay warm. There’s so much to do in the flower beds. Most of my perennials have yet to poke their heads out. My dahlias are standing tall and it won’t be long before they are nodding their yellow heads. For some reason the crouches failed to show. They make a very different sound having fun alone. I can’t believe it has been over six weeks of being grounded. It’s funny how grounded to a kid is a pun- ishment, but for now it seems to be a safety meas-

**Spring with pets**

Springtime in Wisconsin brings the warmer tem- peratures we look forward to. Your pets are also anxious to get outdoors to enjoy grass under their feet and sunshine on their faces. These warmer temps bring a list of helpful tips to keep your pet happy and safe.

**St. Croix Valley High School**

**Wendy Mangelsen**

One of our snowboard couches has his site filled with their trailer at the park. I know the couple who own it are still in Arizona and you judge. I understand the park rules for now with the stay home plan are that they can park their trailers, they just cannot live in them until the ban is lifted. The weekend was absolutely what we all needed, the warm sun and getting out for fresh air. Many took the opportunity to work on those flower beds and lawns.

**Springs in Wisconsin brings**

**Romans**

Sirens, and snowmobiles are the worst. Never leave your pet in your ve-

**Weekly news daily.**

**leaderregister.com**

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**POLK COUNTY – This year, more than 1,400 students auditioned for 428 positions in five ensembles in the Wisconsin School Music Association State Honors Project. Every student who auditioned should be proud of their accomplish-

**year old, an adoptable 1 year old gray and white short haired with jade eyes. This foster stray is medium in size but big in heart. Oliver is not only handsome, he is also amiable and outgoing, relating along well with other cats and chil-

**Big Ol’ Boi**

This 12-pound shorthair is not only large and in com-

**Wenthe**

HSBC staffers are using their downtown space to spruce up the un-

**Grantsburg Senior Center**

**Wenhe**

To stop the spread, we need to be considerate of our children and friends. This is the time of year that we should be our best. Remember, you are our future. Stand strong and believe in yourself.

**A boy, Isaiah Charles Ellenburg, born April 16, 2020, to Kayla and Rudy Ellenburg, of Clear Lake. Isaiah

**Beverly Mangelsen**

The springtime online community fundraiser, giveBIG St Croix Valley, was a smashing success for nonprofits in our area. With the help of our community, the 24-hour fundraiser was a huge boost to charitable services making a difference. The dona-

**2020 High school state Honor projects results**

**Wenthe**

The springtime online community fundraiser giveBIG St Croix Valley, was a smashing success for nonprofits in our area. With the help of our community, the 24-hour fundraiser was a huge boost to charitable services making a difference. The donation made to Amml Memorial Humane Society will help animals in the shelter and in homes. We want to thank everyone who donated. We wouldn’t be able to help them without you.

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Frederic’s top ten seniors

Frederic’s top ten seniors are pictured back row (L to R): Tate Ovik, Andrew Tinman, Logan Lillehaug, Adam Dreier and Richard Bugella. Front: Megan Williamson, Brian Erickson, Kincade Engen, Elaine Lahti and Teresa Neely. — Photos provided

Kincade Engen, son of Troy and Pam Engen, has been named valedictorian for the graduating Class of 2020. Engen is planning to attend a four-year university in the pursuit of an engineering degree.

Logan Lillehaug, son of Rob and Carey Lillehaug, has been named salutatorian for the graduating Class of 2020. Lillehaug is planning to attend the University of St. Thomas.

Adam Dreier, son of Dave and Traci Dreier and Sarah Lemieux, has been selected as the recipient of the Technical Excellence Scholarship for the graduating Class of 2020. Dreier will be attending Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College - Rice Lake with a major in construction and cabinetmaking.
God wants you healed

I needed healing but I didn’t know it. After a divorce and several years living a godless life, I tired of my lifestyle and sought a pastor who would pray for me. Unexpectedly, God’s Holy Spirit healed me of physical and emotional pain. At first, I was pretending to be happy and independent. I embraced God’s love, salvation and healing and it has brought me joy and peace like never before.

Since then I have held a strong interest in the subject of divine healing, having seen or heard about others who also experienced God’s healing touch. So I recently wrote a book, “God Wants You Healed: 31 Devotional Keys for Healing Body, Soul and Spirit.” With the Lord’s help, I hope to have it available soon.

IN THE NEWS

\[ ... \]

Helping kids navigate current events

Q: The past couple of months have been so hard for everyone. Beyond the immediate thought of “just get through it,” I’m struggling to grasp a lesson out of this time. What’s your take?

Jim: We’re probably all guilty of taking our blessings for granted. So, I think the biggest challenge we face may be to live every moment focused on what truly matters. After all, tragedy has a unique way of bringing us true comfort.

When crisis rocks our lives at a foundational level, we need something to comfort us that goes even deeper. There are only two things in life that we can count on to do that – the love and support of family and friends, and, most importantly, the bedrock of faith. Nothing besides love and an eternal perspective can reach into our suffering and bring us true comfort.

Q: No matter where we have turned these past weeks – TV, internet, social media – it’s just nonstop bad news all the time. I’m concerned about how such things impact my kids. Do you have any advice?

Danny Huerta, executive director, Parenting & Youth: This world can be a scary place. Even “normally” media is constantly filled with bad news – from acts of violence to natural disasters to (now) a pandemic. It’s tough enough to deal with these tragedies as adults, let alone talk to our children about them.

While parents shouldn’t draw attention to every troubling event in the news, some are so widely publicized they can’t be avoided. In those circumstances, it’s a good idea to patiently and lovingly talk to your kids using age-appropriate language. In as simple terms as possible, explain that hurt and pain are parts of our world. But strongly reassure them that you’ll always do everything in your power to protect them. Remind them that dedicated people (first responders, medical professionals, law enforcement, military members) stand ready to help us. Most of all, model faith and hope in God.

Keep in mind, too, that physical touch can be an important part of these conversations. When children are feeling uncertain, a parent’s hug can go a long way toward comforting their fears.

It’s important to invite your kids to share what’s on their heart as well. Allow them to question or comment, but don’t overload them with information. Be sure to limit exposure to ongoing coverage, particularly graphic video images. Finally, remember that various personality types and ages handle such events differently. Many children want to know how it all applies to their own lives, if they are safe and what they can do to help.

Helping kids navigate troubling news isn’t easy, but caring, faithful parents can be a key source of strength, comfort and security. For more, see FocusOnTheFamily.com.

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\[ ... \]
Powerful sunshine is making short work of snowdrifts and lake ice. Birds are returning. Green shoots are rising. Buds are expanding. Whatever else is going on, spring is not canceled! As I continue to share with you pages from the Forest Lodge Nature Trail’s new interpretive booklet, this week’s selection takes us through the seasons, from winter birds, to summer birds, to late-summer flowers and pollinators. Please remember that this trail and many others are closed to the public, in alignment with current federal, state and local guidance for social distancing. Happily, nature is everywhere and you can still make observations as you hike close to home.

**Birds in the winter**

Pause for a moment and listen. Can you hear the “chickadee-dee-dee” call of a black-capped chickadee? The nasal “yank-yank-yank” of a red-breasted nuthatch? The sharp “pik” note of a downy woodpecker? These are some of the intrepid birds who spend all winter in our woods. How can they survive the bitter cold while other birds fly south? It’s all about food and shelter. These hardy neighbors are able to find seeds and insect larvae all year-round. Eating helps them stay warm, as does taking shelter in a tree cavity or dense evergreen trees at night. As you continue down the trail, look for holes in trees and woodchips on the ground. These may be places where a woodpecker has been feeding.

**Summer birds**

Summer is an exciting time on the Forest Lodge Nature Trail. Not only are plants growing and insects buzzing, but hundreds of species of birds migrate north to these woods in order to find seeds and insect larvae all year-round. The flowers and grasses were planted in 1968, to create a prairie habitat. Prairies require regular fires to prevent trees and shrubs from taking over. Under the blazing sun of late summer, colorful blossoms fill this open space. The flowers and grasses were shrunking. Still, you can find the fuzzy hairs on their bodies and pollen baskets on their legs to carry the protein-rich resource, but some drops off in alignment with current federal, state and local guidance for social distancing. Happily, nature is everywhere and you can still make observations as you hike close to home.

**Prairie flowers and pollinators**

Under the blazing sun of late summer, colorful blossoms fill this open space. The flowers and grasses were shrunking. Still, you can find the fuzzy hairs on their bodies and pollen baskets on their legs to carry the protein-rich resource, but some drops off at each flower. The colors, shapes and scents of flowers are intended to attract bees and other pollinators. Happily, we can enjoy them, too. Next, seeds develop. Flowers can’t move to go find a mate, so they enlist the help of wind, water, birds and insects to move their pollen around. Do you see any bees? Bees seek out pollen to feed their young, so they are naturally the most effective pollinators for many flowering plants. They use fuzzy hairs on their bodies and pollen baskets on their legs to carry the protein-rich resource, but some drops off at each flower. The colors, shapes and scents of flowers are intended to attract bees and other pollinators. Happily, we can enjoy them, too.

**Orange-belted bumblebees often visit the flowers of rough blazing star flowers in late summer. - Photos by Emily Stone**

Thanks to Wisconsin Master Naturalist Volunteers Thom Gerst and Kay Meyer for their help in drafting this booklet! Emily’s second book, “Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elf’s Skinner,” is now available to purchase at cablemuseum.org/book. Or order it from our friends at redberrybooks.com to receive free shipping!

For more than 50 years, the Cable Natural History Museum has served to connect you to the North Woods. The museum is currently closed due to COVID-19, but they are still building their new exhibit and bringing you educational content. Connect with them on Facebook and Instagram to see what they’re up to.
NEW HAMPSHIRE/POLK COUNTY – Erik Barstow, one of the area’s most well-known photographers and a former Marine, has temporarily returned to Polk County after his business on the east coast was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Being home and quarantining has made this visit different, as Barstow is used to visiting friends and family when he’s in the area.

In the spring of 2014, Barstow decided to invest in a hostel/bed and breakfast, purchasing the White Mountains Lodge and renaming it the Rattle River Lodge & Hostel, in Shelburne, New Hampshire, located on the Appalachian Trail.

With his business shut down for now, Barstow, a St. Croix Falls native whose photography has been featured in the Inter-County Leader many times, has applied for assistance through the SBA Disaster Relief, but the process has been slow and that money is mostly intended for retaining employees with not much help toward day-to-day operations.

In addition to the COVID-19 crisis, there is a 50-year-old stream that splits off the Rattle River into Barstow’s backyard, which fills a pond that guests know and love. The infrastructure that controls the amount of water that runs into this stream has been destroyed by storms, causing advanced erosion. The state approved a limited use permit (with zero funding) to allow Barstow to add some protections to keep the water from flooding the hostel, but he was relying on this year’s profit to build a protection barrier to help with future flooding.

To cover the operating costs, insurance, taxes and create a proper protection barrier, the estimated cost is currently hovering around $25,000. Due to the extenuating circumstances we are all facing in the current climate, he won’t be able to come up with the funds required to perform these necessary repairs. If he can obtain the financial means required, he will be able to hire the right people and obtain the right equipment and materials to protect the hostel. The rest of the funds will go to keeping the lights on until he is able to resume normal operations.

“I am humbled by your continuing love and support, and feel reluctant to reach out during these challenging times. I know as a community we will emerge strong and keep Rattle River alive for all the future campfires and memories,” said Barstow.

To donate, please visit gofundme.com/f/rattle-river-hostel-covid-19-support/donate.

- Darcy Kolander

“Feathers in the wind. The tree plucks the feathers out. I love the wind’s sounds.”

In a New Light is a therapeutic nature photography project at Northwest Passage. To see more of the kids’ photography, visit inanewlight.org.

Erik Barstow, one of this area’s most well-known photographers, has returned to Polk County after his business on the east coast was shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. - Photos provided

The Rattle River Lodge and Hostel sits on the Appalachian Trail, against the backdrop of the Carter-Moriah Mountain Range, and is gateway to the Presidential Range of the White Mountains. Built in 1877, this renovated New England Colonial home on 7.4 acres does not lack for services, amenities or modernity, while still keeping its original charm.