State’s positive cases flux down, but increase in other regions

Northwest Wisconsin cases up 23 from last week

Danielle Danford | Staff writer
NORTHWEST WISCONSIN – As of Monday, June 15, Wisconsin’s seven-day average for newly reported cases of COVID-19 had fallen to 254 cases, the lowest number all month so far. The month of June started out with the seven-day average for newly reported cases at 436. The state’s daily testing capacity for the virus reached 16,668 on Monday, with 68 labs performing testing for COVID-19. Since it first appeared in March, a total of 22,932 Wisconsin residents have tested positive for COVID-19, with the death toll at 694 people.

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control reported that the percentage of laboratory specimens testing positive increased slightly compared to last week. This increase was driven by increases in cases in the Northeast, Southeast, South Central and Pacific Northwest. The CDC also reports that while the number of specimens collected from children under the age of 18 is low, at less than 5% of all specimens, the percentage of children testing positive increased.

Red Cross now testing all blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies

Need for blood donors to help prevent summer shortage

SCF settles with Walmart on tax dispute

Cash refund and reduced property tax assessments approved

North Land president speaks with Luck board

Proposal to close Frederic base and move from volunteer to full time has caused “internal strife”
Top news stories five years ago included a county park becoming a party spot for disruptive youth, three brothers accused of running a cockfighting ring in Polk County and a former Polk County jailer entering a not-guilty plea to charges he sexually assaulted female inmates. St. Croix Falls’ Cassandra Leach, Miss Congeniality for the city, was about to enter basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina and was featured in a story titled “SCF’s royal solider.” In the Leader sports section, Grantsburg High School junior Delia Labatt was featured for breaking her own records at state track. Baseball regional and sectional finals were also highlighted. - File graphics

BARB ANDERSON HONORED AS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Each year the Grantsburg Rotary Club recognizes one of the excellent teachers from the Grantsburg School District. Barb Anderson was nominated for the Teacher of the Year Award by Grantsburg Elementary Principal Ibbi Olson. Anderson brings so many gifts and talents to the Grantsburg School District. She started the 4K Little Pirates program. She knows how to focus on the purpose of her program, which is to build a lifelong love of learning. Anderson’s classroom has a wide variety of activities. Students are given a lot of time to play and build relationships. She provides them with a “toolbox” to solve their own problems and guides them in a purposeful way through the process. Anderson is also very involved in other ways that lend to the advancement of the district, her program and Nelson School. She is the facilitator for her 4K team and increased weekly agendas, leads book studies and conducts a weekly meeting with her team. She not only teaches 4K and early childhood, but she is also a special education case manager. It is reported that “Barb is one of a kind and we are lucky to have her at the Grantsburg School District.” Shown in photo are Olson, Anderson and Steve Bont. – Photo provided

SINKING OF EVINRUDE

The iconic outboard engine business Evinrude, born in Wisconsin more than 100 years ago, has become a victim of the pandemic. In late May, BRP, the Canadian manufacturer of the outboards, said it was walking away from the brand, eliminating nearly 400 jobs at its factory in Sturtevant. “Our outboard engines business has been greatly impacted by COVID-19, obliging us to discontinue production of our outboard motors immediately. This business segment had already been facing some challenges, and the impact from the current context has forced our hand,” BRP president and CEO Jose Boisjoli said in a statement. The Milwaukee-Journal Sentinel reported that Evinrude dealers said they were stunned by the announcement that came as BRP was launching a new Evinrude engines in 2019. - Photo from evinrude.com

NEW LINEUP OF TITLES BY WHS PRESS

Discover intriguing stories, moving memoirs, and more in the lineup of new titles to be released this fall by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, including “Make Way for Liberty: Wisconsin African Americans in the Civil War,” by Jeff Kannel; “When the White Pine Was King: A History of Lumberjacks, Log Drives, and Sawdust Cities in Wisconsin,” by Jerry Apps; “Coming Out, Moving Forward: Wisconsin’s Recent Gay History,” by R. Richard Wagner; “Tending the Valley: A Prairie Restoration Odyssey,” a memoir by Alice D’Alessio; “The Old Timer Odyssey,” a memoir by Alice Wagner; “Tending the Valley,” a memoir by Alice Wagner; “When the White Pine Was King,” by Jerry Apps; and “Patrick J. O’Leary: A Lasting Legacy,” by Dennis L. Dresang. To learn more about these lead fall titles, as well as upcoming audiobook releases, visit shop.wisconsinhistory.org.
that was discovered mostly submerged

8, is Brian Medek, 52, of rural Centuria.

deceased in a pond on Hwy. 46 in the

box" retail settlement the city made

no date set as of press time.

and the like, with notes about each side

typical verbiage for payment schedules

a new claim for damages. Tax assess

in higher, Walmart claims the right to file

2020 assessment for the Hwy. 8 store is

tax bill allows for a refund of $5,866.59

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NORTHWEST WISCONSIN – Circuit
courts in Wisconsin’s 72 counties have received a total of 600,000 face masks purchased through the Director of State Courts office to assist in the advancing of in-person proceedings and jury trials. Local, Polk County received 4,000 masks and Burnett and Washburn coun-
ties received 2,000 each. Polk has two circuit court branches.

Courts are getting closer to returning to in-person proceedings and most will be facing a backlog of cases following re-
scheduled jury trials due to the pandemic.

“Under a Wisconsin Supreme Court order issued May 22, circuit courts must require everyone in a courtroom, jury room or other confined court-related space during a proceeding to wear a face covering,” noted a statement from the Wisconsin Court System. “The require-
ment is one of several prerequisites to resuming court proceedings, which were temporarily halted statewide by previous Supreme Court order. Courts must also submit plans out-
lining their plans to communicate with jurors about procedures and steps taken to reduce health risks, along with sig-
nage indicating the requirements of face coverings, hand-washing, etc. A list of county plans that have been approved can be found at wicourts.gov.

Gary King

Second person in
Burnett County
tests positive,
hospitalized

BURNETT COUNTY – The Burnett County Public Health Department re-
ported Thursday, June 11, that it had received notification of the county’s sec-
ond person with confirmed COVID-19. The individual is reportedly to be cur-
currently hospitalized. Contact tracing and investigation is underway.

“Burnett County Public Health and the Burnett County COVID-19 Response Team have been preparing for a positive COVID-19 test for some time due to the necessary steps to limit another spread. The order is gone, the virus is not,” said Bur-
nett County Public Health Director Greg Marsten.

Public health reminds everyone to do their part to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by following health guide-
lines to stay home and to avoid social gatherings with anyone other than peo-
ple who are in your household, no play-
dates, dinner parties, sleepovers, large family dinners or individual visitors. The use of a cloth face mask is rec-

One-vehicle accident victim identified

BALSAM LAKE – The Polk County Sheriff’s Office reports the driver found deceased in a pond on Hwy. 46 in the
town of Balsam Lake on Monday, June 8, is Brian Medek of rural Medek.

Medek was the driver of a Jeep SUV that was discovered mostly submerged

in the pond near Hwy. 46 at the intersec-
tion of 150th Avenue early Sunday, June 7. Medek’s body was not discovered until the following day. A search was

the case appeared in last week’s

Leader without the identification of the

driver. The full story, including identifi-
cation of the driver, was published online
((leaderregister.com) Wednesday, June 10.

Gary King

Weekly news. Daily. leaderregister.com

Cash refund and reduced property tax

assessments approved

Greg Marsten | Staff writer

ST. CROIX FALLS – Last week the St. Croix Falls Common Council approved a legal settlement between the city and

Walmart over disputed tax assessments, allowing for a tax settlement that goes back several years.

Walmart Inc. first filed a civil case against the city of St. Croix Falls in May of 2018. The lawsuit, involving the Arkansas-based mega

tailer has been lingering ever since, adding each year’s tax bill to the case as part of a joiner with the original civil court

The bulk of the background and legal argument was well out of the public eye, as backroom negotiations for a settlement to avoid a trial have been going on for some time, with the most recent actual court action being almost a year ago, when Judge Edward Vlack was assigned to the case, replacing Judge Daniel Tolan.

The city has been through several court cases and settlements since the negotiations began, with the city making a counteroffer in early April, which was referenced again last month, which the Walmart group eventually accepted. The final, agreed-to offer was approved by the city council on May 11 allowing for the case to be stricken from the court dockets.

In a nutshell, the settlement allows the three years of disputed taxes to be settled for a combined $21,157.86. The breakdown shows the final dollar amount, tax bill to allow for a refund of $5,866.59 for the 2017 tax year, $5,908.37 for the 2018 tax year and $8,382.90 for the 2019 tax year. The agreement also means the 2020 assessment for the Hwy. 8 store is “capped” at $10,545,408 for tax bill calcula-
tions. If the actual assessment comes in higher, Walmart claims the right to file a new claim for damages. Tax assess-
ments beyond 2020 are not addressed or referenced anywhere else in the docu-
ment. The agreement also stipulates the typical verbiage for payment schedules and the like, with notes about each side paying attorneys and legal counsel and costs, as well as timelines for payments and who processes that money.

In spite of the fact that the case has yet to be officially dissolved in court, Judge Vlack will need to sign off on the case, which will require approximately 20 days for dismissal filed on Thursday, June 11, but no date set as of press time.

In addition to the “big box” retail settlement the city made with Menards Inc last year, for far less than the retailer had sought, amounting to just over $13,000, with capped 2019 tax assessments and similar language. It is unclear how much that capped tax assessment affected the rest of the city’s finances, and how much of a “downstream effect” was seen, as the tax collect-
amount shortfall created by such a reduced tax bill must be made up, per se, by the other members of the tax district/resi-
dential taxpayers.

Just like the Menards agreement and case dismissal, the Walmart settlement infers no admission of liability on fair market value issues, which is the crux of the legal disagreement. That nonadmis-
sion of liability can serve as a sort of umbrella example for other commercial property owners or lessees seeking tax relief or taxed adjusted fair market values.

In a nutshell, setting FMVs is where Walmart and the city engage in their fight, trying to dissuade assessors from typical market value assessments on commercial property, using several approaches, commonly referred to as the “dark store” theory and based, in part, on a 12-year-old court decision involv-
ing Walgreens pharmaceuticals.

The dark store loophole is a legal the-
ory used across Wisconsin and many other states based on a past court deci-
sion, but the resulting legal argument or “theory” has become the go-to way for
larger retail operation to seek out dram-
aic reductions in their property tax assessments. Walmart would pursue such cases either through threat of legal action or in court, often resulting in out-of-court settlement for a bench trial but lead to smaller settlements and adjust-
ments to existing FMVs and prior tax assess-
ments.

In their original civil court com-
plain(s), Walmart asserted that their 2017, 2018 and 2019 property tax assess-
ments were excessive and should have been based purely on so-called compa-
nable sales price, not a mix of similar commercial properties, regardless of whether that property is occupied or vacant, which is the “dark store” term first originated. In essence, it sug-
gests that a store should be assessed as though it were “dark” and closed, and not used to its intended use.

However, there are several different bottlenecks in settling the case, such as a legal need, with multiple opinions on the va-
lidity and interpretations of the theory, which is based in part on the related
“Walgreens decision,” with legal cases arguing for lower FMVs based on a 2008 Wisconsin Supreme Court decision. That decision stated that, in essence, munic-
ipalities should base their tax rates on a lease or rental building that is cons-
structed to a business’ very specific specifications at the same rate as if the business took over the structure themselves and owned it.

That legal theory has also called into

questions another legal argument, or “im-
provements”) made to a building to suit a specific retailer actually reduces the value of the property, since those changes were made to enhance the pre-
vious or current operation, and may

delay the appeal of a property for a fu-
ture sale. However, it is no secret that commercial operations such as Walmart and other similar businesses cannot purchase or lease a former building, which are, ironically, the very things that might create the use of the noted store modifications or unique spec.

As one local assessor noted, if you build something akin to a $100,000 heli-
copter landing pad on your home, does it make it worth more money now as a “property improvement” or is that a hindrance now if you choose sell the home? And how does that apply to the property of the house? Should the taxes go up since the property was technically “im-
proved” or should they drop down to reflect how few people own helicopters? Should the home’s value now only address sales of homes with helipads? The argu-
ment/opinion has been used for every-
thing from bizarre paint colors to private tennis courts, swimming pools and even handicapped accessibility modifications, with no real clear answers.

In general, commercial lobbying groups and some legislators have sup-
ported the legal challenges by com-
mercial entities, such as Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, which has been maintaining a hard line against relief for municipalities that are ad-
versely affected by the dark store de-
cisions and settlements, which can do damage to both out-of-court settlements or refunds for a portion of the disputed past tax pay-
ments, which can burden municipal-
ties even further. Reduced future tax collections are the result of a reduced FMV number, which, conversely, means future tax liabilities are being paid away from the affected businesses, and onto other properties and taxpayers.

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courts branches.

If the settlement is in place, the case in question will be concluded by the court do-
courts.

Second person in
Burnett County
tests positive,
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The toughest decisions

The list of postponed community celebrations continues to grow, another area county fair added to the list this week. Some organizers are still struggling, obviously, with the decision to let their events be added to the list of cancelations. They - and we - are in a purgatory of sorts, seeking normalcy and the crowds of summer.

Add to the misery the fact that maybe half of us here in the “sticks” believe the risk is over or didn’t get the memo, or simply don’t care. It’s the “I just went on living my life” crowd among us that might be the most frustrated in losing out on parades and dances and fairs and events like the watercross at Grantsburg, an incredibly popular event canceled last week after considerable commiseration.

For many, including the “I invented social distancing before COVID-19” crowd, as well as those who are unable to get out to enjoy social events, this is just another summer.

What hurts the most for all of us, even if we haven’t felt it yet, is the damage to the local economy which is fragile to begin with, so dependent on these “good-weather months” to keep the money flowing, the jobs viable and the tax base available to run our schools and local government services. The Paycheck Protection Program and CARES Act monies from the federal government helped tremendously, and there are loan programs available, including a new one announced last week (see separate story) to help smaller businesses. There is also talk of another general stimulus package but smaller businesses. There is also talk of another general stimulus package but

There will be crowds but perhaps not as many in light of the difficult decisions to cancel the largest gatherings. Hats off to the decision-makers, the ones who sacrificed hours and weeks and months of planning in exchange for public safety. We can only hope next summer is appreciated and celebrated all the more ... and that it contributes to an economic windfall. - Gary King

In light of all this, community members, business owners who depend on the social gatherings and event organizers need some empathy and some applause for their actions in playing it on the side of caution and overall good. It should be noted here that the region’s largest employer, the St. Croix Valley Tribe, just recently reopened its largest enterprise – its casinos. They were under no obligation to follow state-imposed Safer at Home guidelines but closed down their casinos anyway, to be safe.

Although it’s obvious we are not Milwaukee or Minneapolis, we are not living in a bubble either and we are growing in population by the day as people escape to our neck of the woods over the next three months. There will be crowds but perhaps not as many in light of the difficult decisions to cancel the largest gatherings. Hats off to the decision-makers, the ones who sacrificed hours and weeks and months of planning in exchange for public safety. We can only hope next summer is appreciated and celebrated all the more ... and that it contributes to an economic windfall. - Gary King

Kaczmarski on WPR this Friday

POLK COUNTY – Polk County Public Health Director Brian Kaczmarski, who is also the chair of the Northwest Wisconsin Emergency Response Coalition, will be interviewed on Wisconsin Public Radio this Friday, June 19, concerning the current state of the coronavirus in western Wisconsin.

“The West Side” radio program begins at 10 a.m. on The Ideas Network stations of Wisconsin Public Radio: 88.3 WHWC-FM, Menomonie-Eau Claire, and 88.7 WRFW-FM, River Falls. The show will also offer a look at racial tensions and local responses in western Wisconsin, the focus of Friday’s program, which will commemorate Juneteenth, the anniversary of the abolition of slavery in America.

The show can be listened to via livestream at wrfw887.com/listen-live.html.

Vonnegut’s theory

Our annual salute to graduates, publishing photos on area graduations and information on graduation ceremonies, is included in this issue, published a bit later this year due to unusual circumstances, namely a worldwide pandemic. Most schools chose, via committee-like procedures, to push back their graduation ceremonies in order to provide a more traditional, in-person graduation experience, which is understandable, if not difficult, as the social distancing carries into the summer.

In these social-distancing times, it’s tempting to quote one of author Kurt Vonnegut’s interesting and somewhat unusual theories. Vonnegut, while alive, was one of the more sought-after commencement speakers by colleges, whose graduates undoubtedly had read, or had been assigned to read, at least some of his works. If you are unfamiliar, a simple Google search will fill you in on his literary prowess.

Years ago, very pre-COVID-19, Vonnegut spoke to graduates about his theory of spousal fights. They might be about money or power or something trivial that all couples tend to argue about. But Vonnegut said they were about something else.

"... What they’re really yelling at each other about is loneliness," he said.

"What they’re really saying is, ‘You’re not enough people.’ He suggested that each spouse could help their relationship by ‘becoming more people for each other.’ Simply by joining a ‘synthetic extended family.’"

I recommend that everybody here join all sorts of organizations, no matter how ridiculous, simply to get more people in his or her life. It does not matter much if all the other members are morons. Quantities of relatives of any sort are what we need.

And while he admonished those who created extended families out of “ghosts on the internet” saying, “get yourself a Harley and join the Hell’s Angels instead,” Vonnegut, if alive today, might have to reassess his words after witnessing the real relationships that have developed — lifelong relationships — via online communication.

In fact, people are more empowered today to link with others than any other time in history. An advantage undoubtedly and, of course, a pitfall in some instances.

But the author’s message still makes sense today. We need people in our lives and less social distance. In case you haven’t noticed, people who need people haven’t been the luckiest people in the world lately.

On that note we wish the best to area graduates who will be mastering their skills and months of planning in exchange for public safety. We can only hope next summer is appreciated and celebrated all the more ... and that it contributes to an economic windfall. - Gary King

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Letters may call in with questions and comments during the program at 800-228-5615. Archives of “The West Side” are available at wpr.org/programs/west-side.

Joe Heller

LISTED OR UNLISTED?

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LISTED OR UNLISTED?

Try our e-edition free of charge at leaderregister.com
Assembly Democrats to face more GOP opponents than in 2018

Assembly Democrats will face 22 more contested races this November than they did in 2018. Still, only a handful of those seats were even close to competitive in the 2016 presidential race, and only one is among Republicans in the House. Former state Sen. Jennifer Shilling, D-La Crosse, stepped down to take a private-sector job, and U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany, R-Minoqua, rejoined the Congress after winning the 7th Congressional District special election in April. Both of those seats will be filled in November.

Former DATCP Secretary-designee Brad Pfaff, Gays Mills nurse Jayne Swiggum and Paul Weber, who was found guilty in 2012 of causing a bomb scare at the State Capitol and was sentenced to a seat on the Democrat side. Former GOP state Sen. Dan Kapanke, of La Crosse, is the only Republican in the race.

For Tiffany’s former Senate seat, state Rep. MarkッLawrence, R-Irma, is in the race, as well as two Democrats: Wendy Klawitter and Ed Vocke.

The Capitol Report is written by editorial staff at WisPolitics.com, a nonpartisan, Madison-based news service that specializes in coverage of government and politics, and is distributed for publication by members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

Citizen Life

Open letter to county board

Dear Polk County Board,

On May 7 the Polk-Burnett chapter of Wisconsin Farmers Union, together with the St. Croix River Association, invited all of you to view the documentary, “Right to Harm” for free from the safety of your home. I’m sure all of you, even those who didn’t see it, the film is a documentary about factory farms as seen through the eyes of one community in a rural county, Polk and Burnett counties.

Four of those communities had factory farms in them – one hog, two chicken and one turkey operation, (Polk County).

Their stories describe in great detail how the lives of residents in these communities have been affected by both air and water pollution as residents, put up decadelong battles to stop the offending operations. None of them have succeeded. Everyone knows that once they are up and running they are almost impossible to get rid of.

The only success story was from Bayfield. The community there discovered that a company from Iowa was proposing to build a 26,200-hog farrowing operation on the shores of Lake Superior.

They organized themselves, fought hard and were able to stop it from being built. If this sounds familiar it is, because the same businesman, Jeff Sauer, who got kicked out of Bayfield has come to Polk and Burnett counties to try it again. As he has in Bayfield, he has run up a stiff wall of resistance from local people who love where they live and are doing all they can to stop the construction before it starts – which is the only way to win this battle. Now it is up to you all to put in place legal structures that make it too difficult for them to locate here. The Bayfield ordinance has been working for over a decade and yet Malon Malomoe keeps arguing against it because somehow, “it won’t stand up in court.”

The walked-down legal fact is that Polk County is proposing will not work. Changing setbacks from 100 feet to 200 feet will do absolutely nothing when the effects from these factories are measured not in feet but in miles.

I would suggest you get in touch with Mary Dougherty, now a member of the Bayfield County Board, who can run you through legal procedures and what still works. She is a colleague of mine through Wisconsin Farmers Union and I am proud to say she is a friend as well.

I was shocked to hear Brad Olson say at a recent meeting of the environmental services committee that “we have to decide if we are going to be an agricultural community or a retirement community.” If not, it is the best committee to offer to the people who live here are doomed. Get big or get out is not the future of agriculture in Polk and Burnett counties anywhere else. COVID-19 has shown that the industrial model is broken before 2018. Capital and corporate ag-corporations that control 80% of meat is running at 70% of normal production. Since March, smaller family farms and corporate farms which is the largest pork producer and process in the world, have quadrupled its export business to China while slaughtering 40% fewer hogs.

Meanwhile, shelves are running low in the local meat processing plants are epicenters of COVID outbreak. It must be understood that hog factories in Polk County will be lining up to help. Now is the time to re-create an agricultural community that works for everyone who lives and eats in Polk County.

Be brave, Mike Miles
Regional Sales Manager
Polk-Burnett chapter
Wisconsin Farmers Union

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Extended tax deadline nears

STATEWIDE – Wisconsin’s tax season was extended to July 15 this year due to COVID-19. The IRS extended the July 15 deadline for individual taxpayers, and many file taxes within a week of the extended due date to avoid potential interest charges.

There are advantages to filing sooner rather than later. You are more likely to get your refund faster, if you have one coming. If you owe taxes, you may still file now and wait until July 15 to pay. If you have questions or need assis-tance, there are free online tools available right now. The IRS and TaxPrep.com, individual customer service line at 608-266-2486. And if you are due a refund; and a mobile app available free of charge from the Apple or Android app stores.

Taxpayers will find some helpful resources available on DOR’s website at tax.state.wi.us. Wisconsin taxpayers can find free online tax help sites across Wisconsin and more information about them; an online appli-cation that will check the status of your refund; and a mobile app available free of charge from the Apple or Android app stores.

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Virtual opportunity to comment offered for July 1

Mary Stritar | Staff writer

BALSAM LAKE – If all goes as planned, Polk County will be holding a “virtual” public hearing set for Wednesday, July 1. The July 1 opportu-
nity is for individuals who were unable to have their comments video recorded rather than socially distancing in a con-
ference room at the government center to provide input at the July 8 meeting. The decision to move forward with the July 1 public hearing was made at the June 10 meeting of the environ-
mental services committee, with committee member Doug Route opposed. Other committee members are Tracy LaBlanc, Brad Olson, Lyle Doolittle and Chair Kim O’Connell.

Conditional use criteria

If approved in its current form, the conditional use permit for CAFOs in-
cludes 17 items of compliance that a CAFO applicant must meet. The criteria include requiring a nutrient management plan for all lands in the land base that will ensure the land base can handle the annually pro-
duced waste.

Compliance with state, federal and local regulations is included as a require-
ment, as well as the process for notifying local and state officials as well as the public of any spills. Previous livestock facility violations by the owners or par-
ticipants will be a factor in determining the application process and plans for the main facility must be designed profes-
sionally. The applicant must present a management plan for deceased animals is required.

Hauling of overflow loads during spring breakup must be approved by the town board, and no discharge into navigable waters or mapped wetlands is permitted. All livestocks on premises are counted toward total animal units.

Farm entrances must be at least 100 feet from a nonfarm residential di-
way, and any buildings housing live-
stock and feed storage can be no closer than 200 feet to the nearest property line.

The owner will provide a 24-hour contact number for the DNR in case of a spill. A spill must be cleaned up within five minutes of the farm.

Any suspected case of an environmen-
tal or human health hazard will be en-
tered to the county health department, which will follow up according to statu-
tory health practices.

Several other items were brought up as a concern by Supervisors Amy Mid-
dleton and Fran Duncanson of the board of health and human services.

Saying that she appreciates the amount of effort that has been put into the issue and adding that she doesn’t expect the committee to start over from scratch, O’Connell said she would like consideration of a zoning ordinance as well as the CUP.

Kim O’Connell.

The hearing will take place at the regularly scheduled meeting of the en-
vironmental services committee, with committee member Doug Route opposed. Other committee members are Tracy LaBlanc, Brad Olson, Lyle Doolittle and Chair Kim O’Connell.

STATEWIDE – On July 1, the Depart-
ment of Health Services will award $1.2 million in grants to 15 county Birth to 3 programs across the state that will pilot new and innovative efforts to improve outcomes for participating children. These grants will allow local areas to explore new and better ways to address the unique needs of children with develop-
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cues early and trigger action. Some pro-
grams are trying combinations of these approaches. All are based on a common understanding: early interventions can change the trajectory of a child’s future.

“Positive social and emotional de-
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velopment in infants and toddlers is the foundation for good mental health and well-being throughout life,” said Medicaid director Jim Jones. “This col-
nected for 2019 or 2018 federal tax return for business (If you started your business in 2020, you are not eligible for this grant). Additional tax return requirements are:

• IRS form 1065 Partnership Return (no K-1s required)
• IRS form 1120 Corporation Return (no schedules required except for IRS form 1120 S Corporation Return (no K-1s required)
• IRS form 1040 (sole proprietors) and the following:

The committee next meets Wednesday, June 24, at 9 a.m.

DHS awards $1.2 million to local programs in addressing the social and emotional needs of children

WEDC We’re Act! in Small Business applications openness

WEDC – Funded by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, the We’re All In Small Busi-
ness Grant Program will provide $2,500 grants to 30,000 Wisconsin small busi-
nesses to assist with the costs of busi-
ess interruption or for health and safety improvements, wages and salaries, rent, mortgages and utilities.

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible, businesses must:

• be a Wisconsin-based, for-profit business
• employ 20 or fewer full-time equival-
ent employees, including the owner;
• earn greater than $0 but less than $1 million in annual revenues (gross sales and revenues from all sources)
• have started operating prior to Jan.
• 2020, and have been in business as of July 1
• be a Wisconsin-based, for-profit business
• employ 20 or fewer full-time equival-
ent employees, including the owner;
• earn greater than $0 but less than $1 million in annual revenues (gross sales and revenues from all sources)
• have started operating prior to Jan.
• 2020, and have been in business as of July 1
• have started operating prior to Jan.
• 2020, and have been in business as of July 1

Application period

The online grant application will be accessible for just over a week, from 8 a.m. Monday, June 15, through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, June 23. A link to the ap-
lication will be posted on the webpage. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation will make clear on this webpage and through all of its commu-
nications channels when the application period begins and ends. Businesses in-
terested in receiving notifications about funding and other pandemic recovery efforts they can subscribe to receive regular alerts.

To be prepared

Applicants are encouraged to prepare for the one-week application period by gathering the following required docu-
ments:

• Financial statements for 2019 or 2018
• IRS form 1065 Partnership Return (no K-1s required)
• IRS form 1120 Corporation Return
• IRS form 1120 S Corporation Return
• IRS form 1040 (sole proprietors) and the following:

For more information

WEDC representatives stand ready to provide assistance to small business owners whose questions are not addressed in the FAQs. To reach a WEDC repre-
sentative, call 608-210-6780. As they are anticipating heavy call volumes, your patience is appreciated. You can also send your questions and inquiries by clicking the “Contact Us” button on the website, search.wedc.com, We’re All In grant.
**Devils Lake campground appeal denied**

Board of adjustment upholds land use committee's decision

**Becky Shabel | Staff writer**

BURNETT COUNTY – The first Burnett County Board of Adjustment meeting of 2020 occurred on Monday, June 1, with over 50 people attending to take part in the public hearing while practicing social distancing procedures. The agenda included only two variances and an appeal, but that appeal brought the masses to the county highway and for estry building west of Siren.

Wautoma resident Daniel Chelmo inherited land that flanks CTH A in the village of Webster and the town of Mee nor with an extension into the town of Ossian. His initial plan, presented to area municipalities in the spring of 2019, was to develop 240 camp sites but that was quickly reduced to 120 due to variances that would not allow that type of development in the village.

Chelmo then applied for a conditional use permit at the county for the remaining 120 acres on the north side of CTH A west of Devils Lake. He received an approval that filled a number of county and municipal requirements.

The June 2019 meeting left a number of questions for the committee and they deemed that more information was needed before a decision could be made. They granted Chelmo a three-month extension to gather the information. He was able to meet that deadline and the committee extended his time to February 2020.

Chelmo’s plans were ever-changing and a week before the meeting he sent a new site map with only 60 sites on 6 acres versus 120 sites on 12 acres. With multiple addendums presented, the committee voted to dismiss the original conditional use permit rather than give Chelmo another extension. They hoped that Chelmo would reapply with a cleaned-up application to allow the public and the committee to review a more streamlined project or application with his most current plans.

Following the dismissal, Chelmo filed a civil case against Burnett County Land Services asking the judge to overturn the land use committee’s decision. The case was put on hold because the appeal needed to be presented first to the county’s Board of Adjustment. From there it could go in front of the circuit judge and upward as needed.

The BOA decided to support the community,” the sheriff’s department spokesperson reads. “This notification is not for the public to share this information with the community,” the sheriff’s department spokesperson reads. “This notification is not for the public to share this information with the community.” According to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, a sex offender is being released back into the community. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections is committed to stopping the victimization of seniors.”

**Ghost busted**

K-9 officer locates suicidal man within minutes

**CHISAGO COUNTY - A man who violated a domestic assault no-contact order and who was reportedly suicidal was located by Chisago County Deputy Jake Johnson and K-9 Ghost on Monday evening, June 15.**

According to the Chisago County Sheriff’s Department, Johnson and Ghost were contacted by the Chisago County Police Department to help in the search for the man who had fled into the woods at approximately 8:15 p.m. The man had slit his wrist with a razor blade, was under the influence of meth and alcohol and had made threats of “suicide by cop.”

A perimeter was established by the Wyoming and Lakes Area police departments and Ghost began a track, starting where the suspect was last seen. Within four minutes Johnson and Ghost located the man living in swamp grass along the Sunrise River.

**DPI: Schools will reopen in fall**

**Guidelines coming**

STATEWIDE – The state Department of Public Instruction, in an email to school district administrators last Friday, June 12, said that it “expects schools to reopen in the fall.”

It also said it expects to release a list of guidelines this Monday, June 22, on returning to school amid the ongoing pandemic.

“The focus of this guidance is to provide considerations for district and school leaders to plan and implement a safe, efficient and equitable return to school,” Deputy State Superintendent Mike Thompson wrote. The DPI expects changes to school operations to address risks, factors to control the spread of the virus as well as meeting needs of students who can’t return due to health local or changing conditions of the pandemic.

Districts will likely need to provide ac tion and accommodate learning throughout the year to some students in addition to the regular school operation.

The schools closed the doors of their buildings in mid-March while continuing to provide distance learning and meals through multi booths Burner’s Safer at Home orders. – Gary King

**Sex offender will be “homeless”**

BURNETT COUNTY – A 35-year-old sex offender will be “homeless,” according to a news release issued by the Burnett County Sheriff’s Department.

William Cauley will be released today, Wednesday, June 17, from the Black River Correctional Institute. He will remain under the close supervision of local probation and required to follow specific and detailed rules prescribed by the Department of Corrections, including no unsupervised contact with minors, no contact with victims, cooperation with lifetime GPS monitoring and lifetime registration with the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registration Program.

Cauley was convicted of multiple counts of possession of child pornography in 2016. His status has been listed as “homeless” in the Burnett County area. The Leader reached out to law enforcement officials to explain exactly what that means. Watch our website, leadregister.com, for any updates to this story.

“Sex offenders have always lived in our communities but it wasn’t until Act 440 in 1997 which enabled law enforcement to share this information with the community," the sheriff’s department statement reads, "This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather it is our belief that an informed public is a safer public.” – Gary King

**AG advises public to be alert to increase in elder abuse**

MADISON – Attorney General Josh Kaul is recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15, by emphasizing resource availability to help protect Wisconsin’s older adults from mistreatment and Wisconsin’s new Elder Abuse Hotline: ReportElderAbuseWI.org and 833-586-0107. The June 2019 meeting left a number of questions for the committee and they deemed that more information was needed before a decision could be made. They granted Chelmo a three-month extension to gather the information. He was able to meet that deadline and the committee extended his time to February 2020.

Chelmo’s plans were ever-changing and a week before the meeting he sent a new site map with only 60 sites on 6 acres versus 120 sites on 12 acres. With multiple addendums presented, the committee voted to dismiss the original conditional use permit rather than give Chelmo another extension. They hoped that Chelmo would reapply with a cleaned-up application to allow the public and the committee to review a more streamlined project or application with his most current plans.

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**Reports of elder abuse in Wisconsin increased by nearly 171% between 2001 and 2018, as shown in findings by the World Health Organization.”**

**Forty percent of Wisconsin residents face. (doj.state.wi.us/news-releases/63808) According to the World Health Organization, elderly abuse is “a single, or repeated instance that causes harm or distress to an older person” and can be “physical, psychological, sexual or financial.” It can be “a single act, or repeated acts,” including no unsupervised contact with minors, no contact with victims, cooperation with lifetime GPS monitoring and lifetime registration with the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registration Program. Cauley was convicted of multiple counts of possession of child pornography in 2016. His status has been listed as “homeless” in the Burnett County area. The Leader reached out to law enforcement officials to explain exactly what that means. Watch our website, leadregister.com, for any updates to this story. “Sex offenders have always lived in our communities but it wasn’t until Act 440 in 1997 which enabled law enforcement to share this information with the community,” the sheriff’s department statement reads, “This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather it is our belief that an informed public is a safer public.” – Gary King

**Preliminary plans for a campground north of Webster show another set of changes. Continuous variations prompted county officials to ask for a new application to be submitted after months of being in limbo.”**

Photo by Becky Shabel

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**Preliminary plans for a campground north of Webster show another set of changes. Continuous variations prompted county officials to ask for a new application to be submitted after months of being in limbo.”**

Photo by Becky Shabel
Committee updated on COVID-19 related issues

“A marvelous job of keeping things moving along”

Priscilla Bauer | Staff writer
SIREN – The Burnett County Public Safety Committee listened as department managers gave updates on how staff members have been managing county government during the COVID-19 crisis during the committee’s Thursday, June 4, meeting.

Emergency Management Department manager Jim Tolbert reported his department has been working to keep up with securing supplies needed for COVID-related use.

“For the last several months, I have been working full time with the COVID-19 response team primarily in a logistics capacity in support of the public health and county admin leaders,” Tolbert told the committee. “We are in fairly good shape in terms of personal protection equipment supplies that are anticipated to be needed if Burnett County experiences an outbreak of COVID-19.”

“PPE conservation measures have been defined and communicated to the community and will be used for extra staff hours.

“COVID-incurred expenditures. The county has already spent for COVID-related expenditures has primarily been used for extra staff hours.

“The biggest chunk has gone for salaries. Staff has been recording COVID-related time on their time sheets.”

Tolbert also reported on the operation and maintenance of the county communications towers. He said he is given regular updates on all the towers.

Tolbert told the committee the emergency management department had contracted for $280 per hour for external radio services to manage wildlife issues at the towers.

Committee member and county Supervisor Cary Lundberg asked Tolbert if there was a supply of spare parts for the towers and suggested an analysis of towers be done.

“We will be working with the RACOM company, which maintains the electronics and communications towers, to determine what spare parts make sense to stock,” answered Tolbert.

Tolbert’s report also stated remote monitoring on the sites seems operational. One tower (jackson) was missing a power fail relay, which would send a signal indicating if the tower is powered, and if so, by line or generator. A generator is being purchased by RACOM and will be installed by Maurer Power.

On a related communications matter, Tolbert told the committee there have been issues with dispatch being unable to understand transmissions from portable radios in the field. ‘There have been significant issues with the mobile units,” said Tolbert. “Radio programming was checked and found to be correct. RACOM has been contacted and their preliminary analysis showed ‘atmospheric disruptions.’

A tech is being scheduled to visit. The situation has not been resolved. RACOM is working on the problem and we are awaiting a progress report.”

Currently, court hearings are being done virtually, with one court hearing having to be postponed due to a Zoom connection problem and not due to any issue with the county’s new communications system.

“I feel bad for the staff when court re-openers,” commented committee member and county board Supervisor Dorothy Richard. “They will have such a backlog.”

Burnett County Sheriff Tracy Finch said she didn’t know how long the judge planned to continue the virtual proceedings.

Finch reported Chad Brugman had been promoted to field services sergeant. “Chad brings many years of law enforcement to Burnett County. He was a St. Croix Tribal Police Department captain and subsequently a corporal for the Spooner Police Department. He also has prior military experience. He is currently one of the commanders for our emergency response team. Chad has a level head and strong leadership skills.”

The committee was given an update by Finch and county Administrator Nate Ehalt on a $640,000 federal grant received to implement a youth alcohol and tobacco prevention program, for which the Burnett County Citizens Auxiliary will be the fiscal agent.

Ehalt told the committee the program will be spread out over a five-year period and will be used for drug education programs.

“It is currently in the formation process,” said Ehalt. “There will be training associated with the grant, after which more activity will be seen in the next few months.”

“The Burnett County Coalition on Drugs, Burnett County law enforcement and the sheriff’s department, and the county have gotten behind this grant and are working with the auxiliary,” noted county board and committee member Gene Olson.

When contacted later about receiving the grant, citizens auxiliary member and program coordinator for the new program, Lisa Slater, commented, “We are really excited to make a difference in our communities with helping our youth to make good choices and find more positive outlets instead of using alcohol or tobacco/vaping.”

“We are doing training of how to navigate through all of these pandemic challenges,” explained Slater. “We are in the process of recruiting sectors and youth to join us.”

Slater added the Burnett County Prevention Coalition would be the group organizing the grant task.

“Brigidet Geihs, chair of the Burnett County Prevention Coalition, with her vision and experience will be directing us as what to do,” said Slater.

According to Slater, an office for the program has been established and will be staffed continuously in the former office of Bont Chiropractic in Grantsburg.

At the close of the meeting, county board Supervisor and committee Chair Gerald Pardun took a moment to convey his personal observations on how the county departments have handled operations during the COVID-19 shutdown.

“It’s amazing what the Burnett County departments have done during COVID. They have done a marvelous job of keeping things moving along. This has been a difficult time for everyone and we are most appreciative as a board for their work, keeping the government going and providing leadership for our county.”

Eighth OWI in Osceola

Man almost struck four other cars with his canoe out back

Greg Marsten | Staff writer
OSCEOLA – A man was driving a truck with a canoe sticking out the back nearly struck several cars as he negotiated the vehicle around downtown Osceola on Sunday, June 14, according to the probable cause report filed by the Osceola Police Department.

The issue came to light on the evening of Sunday, June 14, and led to recommendations by Osceola Police for felony OWI (fifth) and OWI (fifth) as well as having open intox convictions, although due to past legislative policies, they may not all count as “related” OWI convictions in Minnesota.

Anderson was placed under arrest and reportedly has seven previous OWI convictions, although due to past legislative policies, they may not all count toward his current charge, which were still pending at press time.

He was initially charged with felony OWI (fifth) as well as having open intoxicants in the vehicle.

The Frederic School District’s technical education department has continued to expand. As part of the 2019 schoolwide referendum, the technical education department is being reconfigured. Existing masonry interior walls were removed in early June to expand the technical education department, encompassing an additional learning space. New construction has begun on interior walls. The additional space and new configuration will allow Frederic School District’s Viking Manufacturing Products to have a dedicated area. The update will allow for more work space for technical education classes moving forward. - Photos provided

TECH ED DEPARTMENT EXPANDS

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JOURNALIST HONORED BY BOARD

After 17 years of reporting on local government and community events, Lynda Berg Olds, center front with flowers, is retiring from Ledger Publications. Her last meeting was the June 10 meeting of the Luck Village Board, where village President Dave Rasmussen thanked her for her work and her fair reporting. Saying the board was honored to share her last meeting with her, Rasmussen said, “We’ve really appreciated you covering our meetings. It’s been a privilege to have you on board.”

Greg Marsten | Staff writer

ST. CROIX FALLS – The St. Croix Falls Board of Education met virtually on Tuesday, June 9, where among the items they considered was the future of classes this fall, and what having students back on campus may entail, with interim facility usage being a first step toward that possibility.

The board meeting was also a chance for district Administrator Mark Burandt to outline many of the issues lingering as the pandemic impacts become more clear.

“There are lots of questions,” Burandt said as he pointed out some of the most critical. “First off, how is this going to affect enrollment? Some students who have home-schooled ... or schooled virtually ... may not return. What about extracurriculars? If we don’t have the extracurriculars, that will affect our enrollment and costs ...”

Burandt went over a long list of issues the pandemic has forced every school board to consider or at least prepare for, including staffing issues, where he said the state Department of Public Instruction is recommending a “wait-and-see” approach.

Burandt pointed out the budget uncertainties, as they were expecting an increase in per pupil aid of around $175, but the state forecasts are too unpredictable at the moment, with uncertainty over a budget repair bill or other state- and federal-levied budget uncertainties in legislation that could affect enrollment.

He also mentioned issues of added buildings and grounds costs, for cleaning, maintenance and personal protection equipment, upon any opening or even partial plans, and suggested there would be additional costs for nursing and staffing. But other questions remain, on things like the long-term cost to the district from health care insurance impacts, how to deal with large crowds at events, or even questions of class size.

“If this (pandemic) has taught us anything, it’s how to be flexible,” Burandt said as he presented three options to the board on how to deal with buildings and grounds usage this summer, with the three possible options.

“Everything we do needs the blessings of the county health department,” Burandt said as a preface to the discussion. “Option one, is allow nothing, like now. Option two is to reopen as though nothing is going on, like last year.”

But it was the third “option” that seemed more like the plan, as Burandt outlined a plan that would allow for school-sponsored events only, and class-size limits at 10 people for athletic practices, weight room activities or other practices or conditioning in the gymnasiums.

“At this point, no locker room usage, they would need to bring all their own stuff, water, etc.,” Burandt said. “The water fountains would be only for water fills.”

He said the interior doors would be blocked open, except for entrances, with minimal free-weight usage allowed, since lifters would need a spotter close beside them. Additional hand-sanitizing kiosks and stations would be placed around the school, and the areas used would be very limited.

“Fewer facilities to clean,” Burandt added, pointing out that the regimen for athletic training usage would also mean no socializing before or after. “Once the session is done, they’ve got to leave the school building and grounds.”

Burandt praised the seniors who had their graduation parade, including events before and after, and pointed out how “very respectful” they were when they had to come in to the school. He said that the reopening would need to be slow and likely just for training, at this point.

“No competitions yet,” Burandt said with a sigh. “In my opinion, we’re not there yet.”

Board member Brent McCurdy noted that all sports have some sort of issues to deal with, in the new reality of pandemic concerns.

“All sports, really, outside of running, it’s hard to social distance,” McCurdy said. “Better thing is when they’re done, to clean off items and keep your hands clean.”

Burandt said they have several other issues to deal with this coming week, including how to best deal with their kid’s care program, now that more people are returning to work and will need child care. He also noted the need to prepare for reopening things like driver’s education, as well as finalize summer school plans.

“If nothing changes, we’d like to do our June summer school in late July or early August,” Burandt said. “That gives us a chance to ‘test drive’ a few things.”

The board took no action on any of the items discussed, but like every school district in the state, they will have many issues to consider in the coming months, as the impacts become more clear and answers are needed at several levels.

Burandt said he had talked about the reopening plans with several superintendent around the county, but said that they all are waiting for additional direction and guidance.

“In the next week or so, we’ll have more details,” Burandt said in closing.

In other board business

• The board approved a policy change to address and add a policy on memorial services and funerals on district grounds, which was discussed at length in recent weeks. They also approved minor changes to the middle school student handbook.

• The board approved the hire of Amy Klein as the new varsity cross-country coach, and approved the resignations of Douglass Snyder as a custodian and Genny Nunes as a bus driver.

• They approved transferring an $8,000 energy rebate to their Fund 46, to be used to help them to use it for underdesignated long-range capital expenses and improvements, after waiting five years.

Polk County and St. Croix Tribe receive state grant for new Birth to 3 programming

POLK/BURNETT COUNTIES – On Wednesday, July 1, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services will award $1.2 million in grants to 15 local county Birth to 3 programs across the state that will pilot new and innovative efforts to improve outcomes for participating children. Polk County and the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin were awarded $60,400 for their programming.

These grants will allow local areas to explore new and better ways to address the unique needs of children with developmental delays and disabilities. Some will aim to increase coordination between different partners trying to help the children. Some will offer new training for staff and families. Some will try out new tools to help identify children’s issues early and trigger action. Some programs are trying combinations of these approaches. All are based on a common understanding; Early interventions can change the trajectory of a child’s future.

“Positive social and emotional development in infants and toddlers is the foundation for good mental health and well-being throughout life,” said Medicaid Director Jim Jones. “This collaboration between our state and local programs is expected to produce findings that can be used to shape the future design of early intervention programs across Wisconsin. The heightened attention in these pilots on infants and toddlers that have experienced abuse and neglect focuses our efforts on our state’s most vulnerable children.”

The Birth to 3 Program is an early intervention program provided by counties to support children under the age of 3 who have developmental delays or disabilities. More than 30 local programs submitted applications for this competitive opportunity. Some counties applied individually, while others worked together as consortia to submit their applications.

Applications for these grants had to show they would: Target the social and emotional needs and development of children in the Birth to 3 Program. Design a program that would, at a minimum, help children who were enrolled in Birth to 3 because of incidents of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Include efforts that are meant to benefit overall family health and help families better care for their child. Aim to reduce future incidents that would cause the child to re-enter the child welfare system.

Awardees will report back to DHS on measures developed specifically for their projects. DHS will use the results to inform which innovations Wisconsin might want to implement statewide. The initiatives supported by these grants will run through the end of 2021.
North Land president speaks with Luck board

Proposal to close Frederic base and move from volunteer to full time has caused "internal strife"

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer

LUCK – North Land Municipal Ambulance Service, serving the villages of Luck and Frederic along with eight towns in Polk County and one in Burnett, is considering far-reaching changes that proponents say are necessary for the financial viability of the organization and to better serve their residents.

The discussions, which include transitioning from the current volunteer service to a full-time paid service, closing the Frederic base and at some point potentially merging with the Amery Area Ambulance Service, are not going completely smooth, according to Mike Miller, president of NLMA and the village of Luck’s designee to the NLMA board.

Miller was speaking at the Wednesday, June 10, meeting of the Luck Village Board, where he read and discussed the formal proposal that consists of transitioning to a full-time service and closing the Frederic base.

The proposal was discussed at the May meeting of the NLMA board, originally scheduled for April but postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was developed by NLMA manager Nikki Gullickson, who Miller, who also manages the Luck Municipal Ambulance, said in response to indications from the state of Wisconsin that paramedics will be required moving toward a full-time service.

"We have to look at the long-term effects of how we are going to survive," Miller told the board. "We're also looking at the financials, and how to survive."

Rasmussen said he appreciated NLMA’s move to be proactive, adding that he was concerned about the state making a move to mandate the change. He questioned whether the mandate would eventually be expanded to require changes with volunteer fire departments as well.

"I really see an issue with mandating that you go from volunteer service that has worked for a long time," he said, "and mandating that you go to full time."

Miller, while saying he was "very grateful" for all the volunteers through the years, disagreed. Service times are suffering due both to the COVID-19 pandemic and to fewer and fewer people being willing to volunteer in general.

"We’re out of service a significant amount of time," he said.

Regarding a future merger with Amery Ambulance, Miller said that discussions are ongoing and there is "nothing even close to being decided."

He said that NLMA is looking at the possible merger because Amery has already transitioned to a paramedic service.

Rasmussen told Miller that he would like additional information on the potential mandate that Miller sees "coming down the pike" so that he can talk with area legislators.

He also asked if the entire NLMA board felt as Miller does, supporting the move to full-time and eliminating the Frederic base, and Miller said that they just found out about the potential mandate.

Miller said the service is not looking at the change in order to make money, but money is needed to survive and they want to save money in order to maintain and improve services.

"We feel we’ll have a stronger ambulance by doing it this way," Miller said.

Communities served by NLMA will eventually become more involved in the discussions about merging with Amery, he said. There are currently no commitments made and things are still being investigated.

However, he added, they feel that closing the Frederic base "is a good thing for us."

Internal problems

Miller several times indicated that not all is well within the ambulance service and its governance.

"We have a real problem now in our company," he said.

The proposal has "created a huge problem in Frederic," Miller said.

He added that he is concerned about the fact that an NLMA board member contacted four of the seven Luck Village Board members, asking if they had heard anything about the proposal.

"As you can tell, we are having issues within our company to the point where, as far as I'm concerned, that person went behind my back," he said.

Miller said he felt concerned he was being undermined. "I really feel I was," he said.

As far as including the village board not having been informed of the proposal, Miller said that the ambulance service postponed its April meeting until May. The proposal had been "generally" discussed prior to that meeting, but no proposal was presented until the May meeting.

Luck’s June 10 meeting was its first village board meeting since the ambulance board met, said Miller, and he had intended to inform the village at that meeting.

The Luck Board of Directors met, said Miller, and he had intended to inform the village at that meeting.

Miller said that the same evening that the Luck Village Board was meeting, June 10, Gullickson was meeting with ambulance employees in Frederic. He said he expected "really strong feelings" to be brought out.

"We want employee feedback," he said, "but we can't let employees determine what's best for North Land."

NLMA board members are appointed by their individual communities, said Miller. Each board member is required to do a "balancing act," looking at what is best for their community but also how to best maintain the ambulance service as a viable company.

Sometimes these two responsibilities do not balance very well, he said. Continuing a quality service includes hard decisions.

"I'm sorry to say we've had a lot of strife lately," Miller told the board. "It's going to be a challenging few years for North Land."

Mayors served by NLMA went through a time of uncertainty back in late 2017 and early 2018, when discussions that started in Frederic were taking place regarding whether to stay with the service.

Communities served by NLMA, in addition to the villages of Frederic and Luck, are the towns of Bone Lake, Clam Falls, Georgetown, Laketown, Lorain, Luck, McKinley and West Sweden in Polk County and Trade Lake in Burnett County.

Mike Miller, Luck’s designee to and president of North Land Municipal Ambulance board of directors.
Summer school attendance “absolutely outstanding”

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer

BAISAM LAKE – Five years ago the school districts of Unity, Frederic and Luck banded together to contract with Kobussen Buses to provide transportation services. Now, in an effort to be more “efficient and effective,” the three are forming a transportation cooperative so they don’t each need to negotiate independently.

The plan was rolled out last week at the June 9 meeting of the Unity School Board of Education, when district Administrator Brandon Robinson noted that working cooperatively rather than independently would result in a consistent contract between the three districts.

Since 2015 when the districts first contracted with Kobussen, the bus terminal has been located at Unity. Each district has sold its own buses in the meantime to fund other school expenses.

Forming the transportation cooperative includes formation of a transportation cooperative board with a representative from each school. A former (resigned) bus driver who is a school board member, Ryan Peterson, was appointed as Unity’s representative.

The cooperative is legally formed by a 66.0301 intergovernmental agreement.

Unity School District is encouraging social distancing with signage around the property, including one sign that seems to fit Wisconsin particularly well.

Unity will be the fiscal agent, authorized to pay attorney expenses when required and then be reimbursed by the other school districts. Otherwise, each district will be billed for its own transportation services, said Robinson.

Summer school

Summer school at Unity this summer is “on-demand,” and has drawn more than 250 students as of the June 9 school board meeting.

Dates are June 8-26, Monday through Friday, and it is being done online. Students can still register and do not need to be present online at a set time each day.

Robinson called the response “absolutely outstanding,” adding that staff didn’t know whether students would be tired of online learning. Instead, he said, they are “thirsty for more.”

“It’s very exciting we have so many participating,” he added.

Students are able to register for a variety of classes, from math and reading growth to cooking and baking, virtual field trips, art or building projects and film and theater experiences. There are options like board games, technology experiences and outdoor activities as well.

Add-ons are also being offered, including virtual fishing complete with video and instruction, virtual sports experiences, virtual play experiences, virtual social and emotional learning and interactive cooking experiences.

Students are being grouped by grade and interest and materials are being provided either online or via the bus routes.

Personnel

With thanks for her dedication and years of service to the Unity School District, the board accepted the retirement resignation of Karla Cook. Cook is retiring after 29 years at Unity, working in the copy center, as an educational assistant, in food service and as the district’s substitute caller.

Approved for hire were Kevin Harris for high school math and physics, Meredith Sorel as middle school band teacher and Hannah Bokor as a middle school teacher.

Harris is originally from Prescott and is a UW-River Falls graduate with experience teaching in the United Kingdom. Sorel received her music degree at UW-Superior and has a teaching degree from St. Cloud University. Bokor is a UW-Eau Claire graduate.

Other business

• The board voted not to increase lunch prices for the 2020-21 school year. Weekly prices for breakfast and lunch are $18.50 for pre-K through fourth grade, $21.25 for grades 5-12, and $30.75 for adults. Breakfast and lunch for the week for seniors is $25.

• Elementary Principal William DeWitt said that the year-end report for the achievement gap reduction program (small class size) required testing that could not be done due to the school closure. In lieu of the regular report, the state requested submission of the process that will be used this fall to determine where students are at academically and what modifications to the curriculum will be in place to accommodate any needs.

• Robinson reported that this month the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Department of Public Instruction will be providing guidance on how schools can reopen in the fall, and what local decisions should be made.

• The board approved the 2020-21 WIAA high school membership renewal and the student accident insurance. The premium was $13,594, and the school received a $1,300 credit in the premium due to the COVID-19 closure, said finance director Kara Holden.

Summer projects include new bleachers at the stadium, along with a new handicap accessible ramp, concrete pad for the concession stand, new fencing and a new press box. The old bleachers were more than 40 years old and were extensively repaired after a 2010 windstorm. The project has no budget impact because a previous loan is now retired.
McConkey is selling a record amount of firearms and shooting gear at his two top dealerships in the USA. He started out in Danbury as a kid with a 12-gauge shotgun.

Danbury native and gun store owner notices increase in gun sales

McConkey often points to NRA programs and literature when he speaks with new gun owners, as, since 1871, the NRA has been the standard-bearer for firearms safety and training. If you’re a new gun owner, or want to introduce someone to firearms, he explains that everyone must start with the NRA’s Gun Safety Rules, which are a concise and easy-to-understand explanation of the safest way to handle, use and clean firearms.

He also often recommends the NRA’s Guide for New Shooters. This guide takes readers through what to expect at a shooting range, the gear they will likely need, as well as safety rules and shooting tips and a lot more.

Next, new gun owners can check out the NRA-created videos on safe, proper gun handling and more at the NRA’s own YouTube Channel. One great video all new gun owners should check out is “NRA Mentor – Gun Safety,” which simply and clearly presents the rules for real gun safety.

McConkey also noted that women are the fastest-growing segment of new fire-arms owners. He has seen this firsthand. To serve all of these new gun owners, the NRA recently launched NRAWomen.com. This site covers everything for women, including information and advice on firearms training, self-defense, hunting and range activities like shoot- ing days.

Most hunters and anglers learn their many skills with help from others, but mentors often take turns sharing their boat or blind while giving lessons. – Photo by Patrick Durkin

DANBURY/BURNSVILLE, Minn. – As happened in many gun stores around the nation, The Modern Sportsman in Burnsville, Minnesota, saw gun and ammunition sales rise as fear over COVID-19 increased.

Located just 20 minutes southwest of Minneapolis, the establishment features a retail outlet, a 16-lane indoor range and classrooms for firearms education and training.

“We saw a real spike in sales at the end of March,” said owner John McConkey. “And many, many of these customers were first-time gun buyers. Literally, half the people coming in had no idea you had to have a background check done before you could buy a gun. They knew very little about firearms and zero about gun laws.”

Sales continued to hold far above the norm at McConkey’s business through April and May.

“As soon as we put out ammunition and new guns, they are gone,” said McConkey. “Our inventory can’t keep up with demand.”

McConkey has owned The Modern Sportsman since 1996, and has seen sever- al spikes in gun sales. “Every one of those surges was tied to the political un- certainty, to politicians saying they were going to pass more gun-control laws and to take away people’s firearms. This time? People are scared. They want to be able to protect themselves and their families. And for the first time, a lot of these people are starting to realize what the Second Amendment really means. They are realizing they have a responsibility to help train and educate all these new gun owners,” McConkey said. “The new gun owners we see here are very focused on gun safety and they are eager for training.”

“Every one of our employees is eager for training.” Pat McConkey said. “Our inventory can’t keep up with demand. But they are scared. They want to be able to protect themselves and their families. And for the first time, a lot of these people are starting to realize what the Second Amendment really means.”

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LEADER OUTDOORS

Golf course season has been “outstanding”

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer
LUCK – Whether it’s because of what’s going on in the world or in spite of it, the Luck Municipal Golf Course is having a great year.

“Play has been outstanding,” said course Superintendent and General Manager Kevin Clunis at the June 10 meeting of the Luck Village Board. “Blame it on the virus. Our rounds are up 38% over last year.”

In fact, he said, business is up 16% over 2016, which until now was considered the best year ever. Greens and cart fees are up, said Clunis, but food is down.

The golf course offered a four-year membership, which brought in nearly 100 new members and helped cash flow at the “lean” beginning of the season. The clubhouse upstairs is open, with patrons practicing social distancing and the staff sanitizing.

“The course is in great shape,” Clunis continued. “Golfers are extremely happy.”

However, he said, “the closer you get to perfection” with the course, the more you notice the small imperfections.

Clunis removed his superintendent/general manager hat and put on the hat of interim clubhouse manager, a position he has filled since the resignation of Gwen Anderson this spring.

“There are a lot of details to that job,” he said, adding that the golf commission will be discussing what to do with the position.

As interim manager, he said, a sale was held on clubhouse merchandise to eliminate inventory, and for the time being only balls and gloves will be carried. Some tournament groups canceled but others, like the annual W.I.N.G.S. fundraiser, are being held virtually.

One more hat, he said, is that of campground host. The municipal campground adjacent to the golf course has eight camping spots, all wired for hook-ups.

In addition to taking reservations, he said, he is responsible for making sure the campground is mowed and cleaned up and the rest rooms are in decent shape.

The campground is not designed for big campers with bump-outs he said. Some trees need to be taken down and the sites leveled to better accommodate those who stay there. The water hose lies over the road, he said, and gets driven over and damaged.

“We need to make some improvement there,” Clunis said. He added that the bathrooms could “use a face-lift” and the closest dump station is in Siren.

“There are some things we can do better down there,” he told the board.

In other golf course business, the board approved the annual agreement between the village and the clubhouse.

Other business
• The board approved a picnic license for the fire department corn feed on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 1 to 11 p.m.
• At the recommendation of the public works committee, the board voted to hire Eileen Tomlinson for three to five hours a week as a gardener in the parks and rec department. The board also approved the annual compliance maintenance report for the wastewater treatment plant, which has a grade-point average of 3.76.
• Village President Dave Rasmusen expressed appreciation for all the extra work village employees have been doing. “Thank you for the job that you’re doing,” he said. “It’s been tough and I appreciate your diligence.”

The Luck Municipal Campground has eight sites but was not designed for large campers with bump-outs. On weekends the campground is filled. – Photos by Mary Stirrat
Mayfly

I was the first one to arrive for the show. I always like to get there early, that way I’m sure to get my money’s worth, although this show was free. All the best ones are, it seems.

The others came in time and took their place around me, while still keeping a respectable distance. There was plenty of room for all of us, although most were just there for the free food. I didn’t come for the food, I wanted to see the show and like the opening band at a big name concert, I wanted to see it all.

First it was the grackles, followed by the Blackbirds, including two of the yellow-headed variety, a species I hadn’t seen in years. A few robins and other smaller songbirds gathered in the trees and bushes behind them too.

Next came the seagulls, drifting in from across the lake like oversized snowflakes as they settled on the lake’s mirrorlike surface. There was none of the squabbling among their kind you see at parks and other places where our kind gather. There would be plenty for everyone.

Before long a squadron of mostly flightless gese arrived, several families that had merged together swarmed into the seating area. The goslings were 2 months old now and beginning to stray from the protection of the adults, acting like excited kids on a sugar high. Then came the turtles, their heads poking out of the water as they gauged the distance to the bullrushes along shore where the frogs had gathered too. The last arrival was a blue heron that waded the shallows in front of me. His targets, just like mine, were the fish that had gathered for the anticipated feast.

The summer sun had just touched the western horizon on this, the longest day of the year. Clear skies and the western horizon on this, the longest day of the year. Clear skies and the western horizon on this, the longest day of the year. Clear skies and the western horizon on this, the longest day of the year. Clear skies

Northern Exposure

Dave Lenz

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COVID-19 update/page from 1

ing positive for COVID-19 is higher than adult age groups.

Total positive cases for the United States reached 2,085,769 on Monday, with 21,957 as new cases that day. The national death toll has reached 115,644, with 1,338 fatalities on Monday.

In Washburn County the TEFAP food pantry notes that after the implementation of new food pantry rules, a total of 2,135 households were served in May, a 21% increase compared to 1,767 households served in April.

The new income threshold was proposed by Wisconsin’s TEAP Advisory Council and approved by DHS and the United States Department of Agriculture to assist families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new policy went into effect on June 1 and will affect all pantries from the first day they open this month, since some pantries are only open once or twice a month. Households affected by job losses may be eligible if their income drops below specific levels in any given week.

Enrollment at a participating pantry is confidential and requires only proof of address and identification. Individual participating in the Food School Nutrition, WIC and Senior Meals programs may participate without proving their income status.

In Washburn County the TEFAP food pantry is available through Indianhead Area Agency on Aging.

State increases food assistance

Wisconsin households with incomes below 300% of the federal poverty level are now eligible to receive a monthly share of locally grown, Grade-A foods that include meat, vegetables, fruit, juice and more from any food pantry associated with The Emergency Food Assistance Program. For a household of one, that income threshold is $3,280. The larger the household, the higher the income threshold. Previously TEFAP’s qualifying income threshold was 185% of the federal poverty level.

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Seven stakeholder groups represented for future plans

Greg Marsten | Staff writer

BALSAM LAKE—With a variety of trail issues facing Polk County over the years, including the controversial future of the Stower Seven Lakes Trail, there is a new effort to establish a specific group meant to address the future of trail and park management in the county, which the full county board unanimously approved on Tuesday, June 16.

According to environmental services director Bob Kazmierski, the effort began with new Polk County Parks and Trails coordinator Ben Elfelt, who has led an effort to establish the Polk County Parks and Trail Advisory Group, dubbed TAG, which is meant to create and develop a long-term comprehensive county plan for the seven parks and over 400 miles of trails of all flavors.

The resolution before the Polk County Board of Supervisors was extensive, noting the need for the TAG, which would be made up of representatives from seven user groups: biking; hiking/walking/running; ATV/UTVs; cross-country skiing; equestrians; camping and snowmobiling, with a goal of better deciding on utilization of current or future funding, grant applications, corridor creation or maintenance, interlinking of trails, easement acquisition, as well as the development of actual long-range plans, in part so controversial multiuse trails are not as necessary.

The TAG group would also include two county board supervisors, one of whom would chair the group which would be made up of seven members, with user groups each having one representative. Polk County Administrator Vince Netherland said he does not want each stakeholder representative to be just the most vocal lobbyist, but instead someone with a relevant background that would assist and add to the group’s recommendations.

Kazmierski gave a brief presentation at the latest meeting, and it was met with full support, with two clarifying amendments to the resolution, one of which was by Supervisor Mike Prichard, who wanted their mission to include promoting “health and quality of life” among other goals, which include creating interlink trail plans and ways to make it so trails don’t need to be shared so often among user groups.

“It’s a new concept,” Kazmierski said, noting that the need has arisen in part out of the contentious emotions coming out of the master plan creation for the Stower Seven Lakes Trail, which has had a variety of user groups seeking to use the former railway. “This is meant to help make Polk County a destination for our day trippers and tourists.”

He also said that the goal would be for the TAG to create a truly new outdoor recreation plan for Polk County, using up to $50,000 to hire an outside advisory group to help them with the plan. The TAG would also work with municipalities, utility companies and others to work with existing trails and access points to enhance current trails and recreational offerings.

“Many municipalities have planned their accessiblity around their trails,” Kazmierski added. “This is an opportunity to work with them.”

All seven stakeholder members would have an equal vote, and while there would be county board representation on the committee, they would not vote.

The TAG would be purely advisory, and the members would not be bound to do anything.

“I think this TAG really fits into our big picture, of how do we connect to municipalities and other counties,” Supervisor Amy Middleton said. “This is our time to really showcase Polk County. I’m very excited about this!”

Others showed similar enthusiasm, and the TAG effort was endorsed solidly by every committee it has gone through, with the full board approving the effort with the noted $50,000 budget to get the Polk County Outdoor Rec Plan off the ground, using an outside consulting group.

Supervisor Jay Luke was hoping that the TAG effort means they can apply for even more grants, with specific plans in place, even if they might be specific to one user group.

“Hopefully, it can be a little more civil than it’s been in the past,” Luke said.

Kazmierski assured them that the TAG was meant to help all user groups with trail and park development, and that means some grants and funds would be earmarked for such specifics, with a goal of all users having equal representation.

“I think there’s space for all of them — so every user group has an opportunity to recreate,” Kazmierski said in closing.

The TAG approval means they will start the process of seeking member applications, and they will need to amend the 2020 budget at the next meeting to use the $50,000, which will come from a designated professional services line item to start.

In other county board business:

• The board unanimously and enthusiastically approved accepting three specific donations to law enforcement, including $1,750 from Robert C. Brown for a law enforcement camera drone, for search and rescue, replacing their current drone, which is too small to carry a modern forward-looking infrared camera, used in searching.
• They also accepted a $1,000 donation for the North Wisconsin Towing Mounted Search and Rescue, to be used for similar drone purchase and search/rescue efforts, needed for dementia patients, children or others who may be lost.
• Sheriff Brett Waak outlined the donations and praised the donors and groups, noting that the Brown family has been a longtime supporter of law enforcement donations, going back to the 1970s. He said that the new technology “is a real lifesaver” and allows them to work more quickly in finding lost or confused residents.

The board also accepted a $3,300 donation from the nonprofit Criminal Justice Collaboration Counsel, which includes a big-screen TV, computer, microphone and video camera on a cart at the jail, which Waak said will be used for a variety of things, including court proceedings, education, training and video visitations.
• “We really appreciate all these generous donations,” Waak said, as the board echoed his thanks and approval.

• Netherland gave a bit of background on his efforts to follow through on a recent resolution the board passed to investigate ways to save the Clam Falls Dam, which is owned by Northwestern Wisconsin Electric, which has applied for a DNR permit to draw the flowage down this summer, with eventual removal of the dam.

Netherland noted that there are many possible parties involved, including NWE, the town of Clam Falls, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Wisconsin Legislature and people who live on the Clam Falls Flowage.

Netherland said he is trying to find someone or some group to take ownership of the dam, and is hoping that NWE seeks to delay their drawdown permit, so he can find a new owner.

“But I don’t have anybody quite yet,” Netherland said, noting not only the cost to repair but the long-term maintenance, liability and repair costs, which he said the two local state legislative representatives have said they would try to get a bipartisian, earmarked funding effort at the state level to help with those costs, but that it requires a delay in the process of drawdown and removal.

“They’re a risk,” Netherland said of dams in general, pointing at two recent breeches in Michigan and Ohio that cost millions and threatened lives. “That’s why liability insurance is so expensive.”

The board took no further action on the issue, but Netherland will keep them apprised and up to date on the efforts.

• The board began their meeting with a tree planting dedication on the Government Center south lawn, honoring the late Supervisor Jim Edgell, who passed away recently. His wife, Beverly, and his family members were present as they said several words in his honor and presented a plaque, which will be placed near the tree.

Beverly Edgell posed with the plaque and tree where it will reside, honoring her late husband, Supervisor James Edgell.

The tree was planted on Tuesday, June 16, at the Polk County Government Center, in honor of Supervisor Edgell, who passed away recently. - Photos by Greg Marsten

The TAG approval means they will start the process of seeking member applications, and they will need to amend the 2020 budget at the next meeting to use the $50,000, which will come from a designated professional services line item to start.

In other county board business:

• The board unanimously and enthusiastically approved accepting three specific donations to law enforcement, including $1,750 from Robert C. Brown for a law enforcement camera drone, for search and rescue, replacing their current drone, which is too small to carry a modern forward-looking infrared camera, used in searching.
• They also accepted a $1,000 donation for the North Wisconsin Towing Mounted Search and Rescue, to be used for similar drone purchase and search/rescue efforts, needed for dementia patients, children or others who may be lost.
• Sheriff Brett Waak outlined the donations and praised the donors and groups, noting that the Brown family has been a longtime supporter of law enforcement donations, going back to the 1970s. He said that the new technology “is a real lifesaver” and allows them to work more quickly in finding lost or confused residents.

The board also accepted a $3,300 donation from the nonprofit Criminal Justice Collaboration Counsel, which includes a big-screen TV, computer, microphone and video camera on a cart at the jail, which Waak said will be used for a variety of things, including court proceedings, education, training and video visitations.
• “We really appreciate all these generous donations,” Waak said, as the board echoed his thanks and approval.

• Netherland gave a bit of background on his efforts to follow through on a recent resolution the board passed to investigate ways to save the Clam Falls Dam, which is owned by Northwestern Wisconsin Electric, which has applied for a DNR permit to draw the flowage down this summer, with eventual removal of the dam.

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LINE SAYS A MEETING SHOULD BE "REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC." TO ACHIEVE THIS END, MOST PUBLIC BODIES HAVE FULLY OR PARTIALLY DROPPED MEETING ROOM REQUIREMENTS AND AFTER A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT MEETING ROOMS.

IN FACT, DOZENS OF WISCONSIN COURTROOMS ARE NOW LIVESTREAMING THEIR PROCEEDINGS. INSTEAD OF MEETING IN A SINGLE LOCATION, COURTROOMS CAN BE ACCESSED INTERACT IN A ZOOM SCREEN. THE VIDEO IS MIRRORED TO YOUTUBE LIVE FOR THE PUBLIC TO WATCH IT LIVE.

IN DANE COUNTY, A BALLOON CARTS A WHEEL WITH A WEB-CAM FROM CELL TO CELL, WITH THE SADLY MASKED INMATES SEEN FROM HOME.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW John Faust

Victim chases suspects in car, who drop trailer

Greg Marsten | Staff writer

MILLTOWN – An early-morning report of a car breaking into a storage facility from a storage facility from a November burglary was followed by a later call from the owner of the business, who said he was following the suspected vehicle with a trailer on Hwy. 35.

The incident occurred on the early-morning hours of Wednesday, June 3, and according to the report narrative, it appeared to the victim as though there was another car following the truck.

Wisconsin police union supports choke hold ban, "bad cop" registry

STATEWIDE – The head of the state’s largest police union says his group supports a measure that would ban choke holds as well as other reform measures aimed at increasing police accountability.

Jim Sensenbrenner of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, said officers in Wisconsin already are taught not to use choke holds, and he said the union supports banning the practice in law.

Amid a national wave of protests following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody, Democrats in the state have unveiled a set of police reform that includes a choke hold, and the practice has been a part of other police killings.

Palmer commented on the proposals in an appearance on “Two Bald Guys,” an online public affairs program of the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service.

"There’s a perception that police unions protect bad cops," he said. "I can tell you, from our experience, we don’t view our role that way. There are officers we encounter that don’t belong in the profession, and we have to be responsive to that."

The WPPA represents more than 10,000 officers in 300 departments in Wisconsin. Milwaukee police are represented by their own union.

Another reform being widely discussed by policymakers is a “defund police” movement, which has been interpreted as everything from abolition of police departments to shifting resources to social services.

Palmer and Wausau Police Chief Ben Bliven, who also appeared on the program, supported bolstering mental health services and agencies other than police that can respond to those in need. But they argued that reducing funding for police departments could mean the elimination of some progressive, community-oriented programs and training.

And Palmer said police opinion has been on the side of the police. The WPPA conducts a poll each year with St. Norbert College gauging public attitudes toward police. In 2019 poll found that 82% of Wisconsin “Good, white respondents and 68% of nonwhite respondents, saying “Having a well-funded police department is essential to our way of life.”

Palmer and Bliven both stopped short of supporting one key provision in the federal reform package. Repealing laws that protect officers from civil lawsuits, they said, could make it harder to recruit new officers into the profession.

Local theft thwarted, sort of

State DOJ sweeps Luck residences

Greg Marsten | Staff writer

BALSA LAKE – The Polk County Sheriff’s Department worked with the Wisconsin Department of Justice’s investigation bureau to search for and recover stolen and lost property, including a stolen wallet and checkbook.

The investigation involved a search for a stolen vehicle and a stolen trailer, which was later recovered in a nearby field.

The trailer was stolen from a residence in the town of Luck, and the suspect was later arrested in a neighboring town.

Two charged with child porn

Local News Matters

JUNE 17, 2020 - INTER-COUNTY LEADER - NEWS SECTION - A - PAGE 17

Keeping an eye on government from home

In March, as Wisconsin enacted Safer at Home, state and local governments scrambled to build new ways to govern from remote locations while complying with open meeting laws. In the face of COVID-19, we still have the right to watch public bodies in action.

In the interest of government transparency, people all across Wisconsin can now watch the live-streamed workings of government on our phones, tablets, and computers.

The statutes say a meeting should be “reasonably accessible to members of the public.” To achieve this end, most public bodies switched to videoconferencing systems such as Zoom and GoToMeeting. Many conferencing systems offer a telephone option, too.

And some meetings can still be viewed on open public bodies in action is the best way to see that our elected and appointed officials are honest, hardworking and dedicated to their task – or not.

Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the University of Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council, wisfoi.org, a group dedicated to open government. John Faust is a council member and a computer consultant in Jefferson.
**Tipped off but items still found**

**Greg Marsten** | **Staff writer**
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**MILLTOWN** – Acting on a tip of methamphetamine possession and possible dealing at a location in Milltown, police conducted a search of a residence belonging to Mark E. Larson, 36, which also included the search of a Grantsburg man who was with Larson and standing in the yard at the time of the search. He was named as James Barnes-Morris, 20, of Clear Lake. The Larson residence yielded a bounty of meth and paraphernalia, much of it in a bag inside a pile of tires outside as well as in vehicles and on the property. The result included an extensive list of items used in possible or suspected distribution, such as digital scales, many pieces of smoking items with meth residue and evidence of packaging, even a “home test kit” for meth, as well as a variety of drug implements.

As the two were placed under arrest it was revealed that they appeared to have been tipped off by another suspect, which is why the items were in the bag outside, in the tire pile. Larson was later taken into custody on possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear, disorderly conduct, domestic abuse enhancer, criminal damage to property. James Michael Barnes-Morris, 20, of Grantsburg, was also charged with misdemeanor parathyphine possession, again as party to a crime, as well as felony bail jumping, as a repeater. He is also charged with misdemeanor paraphernalia possession, as both a repeater and party to a crime. He originally appeared in court on Tuesday, June 9, where the judge set a $500 bond. He was later reduced to $500. His next court appearance is a slated for August, before Judge Jeffery Anderson. He had originally told the deputy that he fled because his license was suspended. He was also under the influence and registered a blood alcohol concentration nearly twice the legal limit to drive. His bond was originally set at $1,500 but was later reduced to $500. His next court appearance was a slated for August, before Judge Jeffery Anderson.

**100 mph and “way too much” alcohol**

**Greg Marsten** | **Staff writer**
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CLEAR LAKE – A passing Polk County sheriff’s deputy noticed a truck stopped at a stop sign for a really long time, with the driver possibly falling asleep on the early morning hours of June 7 near Clear Lake.

The deputy turned around and pulled behind the truck to get out of his squad car, which is when the driver apparently came awake and accelerated and took off down Hwy. 63, headed south, causing oncoming traffic to pull over to avoid a head-on collision.

The driver eventually stopped on Hwy. 63, admitted to police that he had “way too much alcohol” and was identified as James Williams, 20, Deer Park. He was later charged with two felony counts of fleeing police and second-degree reckless endangerment. He is also facing misdemeanor operating while intoxicated charges, as well as two host of traffic charges, including unnecessory speed, driving on a suspended license and failure to stop at stop signs.

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**St. Croix Tribal Police Dept.**

St. Croix Tribal Police Department recorded the following incidents for the week of June 1. Two suspicious activities, two thefts, one car towed for street parking, one fireworks complaint.

- Two suspicious activities
- Two thefts
- One vehicle fire
- One burglary
- One noise complaint
- Three structure fires
- Seven accidents involving deer
- Ten alarms
- Four medical calls
- 15 civil matters
- 22 back

** Burnett County bookings**

Burnett County Sheriff’s Office booked the following people for the week of June 8.

- Brent G. Berg, 42, Frederic, possession with intent to manufacture/deliveramphetamine
- Wendy B. Campbell, 44, Frederic, manufacturing and deliveryamphetamine
- Cameron L. Chapman, 17, Siren, knowingly fleeing an officer, OWI
- Dalton T. Chapman, 17, Siren, disorderly conduct, domestic abuse enhancer, criminal damage to property
- Michael J. Denasha, 20, Siren, operating without owner’s consent, resisting or obstructing an officer, operating while revoked, probation violation
- Meghan M. Maty, 20, St. Paul, possession of THC, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear
- Alyssa E. Noll, 18, Siren, disorderly conduct, domestic abuse enhancer, criminal damage to property
- Louis R. Olyote, 36, Onalaska, attacking, operating without owner’s consent, failure to appear
- Melissa J. Partlow, 34, Menomonie, probation violation
- Tony L. Sheffler Jr., 29, Webster, receiving stolen property, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear

**Siren Police Department**

Siren Police Department recorded the following incidents for the week of June 1. Two suspicious activities, two thefts, one car towed for street parking, two found properties, two suicidal subjects, seven accidents involving deer, 10 alarms, four medical calls, 15 civil matters.
The Polk County Environmental Services Committee will hold a meeting on the following: Consideration of the Proposed Amendment to the Local السعودي.2020.07.16 - INTER-COUNTY LEADER - NEWS SECTION - A - PAGE 19

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Polk County Environmental Services Committee will hold a public hearing on the Proposed Amendment to the Local Land Information and the Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, the 7th day of July, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., at (715) 554-7733, FAX: (715) 485-9246.

Department of Land Information Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at (715) 554-7733, FAX: (715) 485-9246. The Polk County Environmental Services Committee will hold this meeting. Please use the links, phone number and password to join. The July 8 meeting and video recordings will be held at the following location:

Polk County Government Center, County Board Room, 100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake, WI 54810 or on the County website at: http://Land Information, 100 Polk County Plaza Suite 130, Balsam Lake, WI 54810.

The July 8 meeting and video recordings will be held at the following location:

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**NOTICES/Employment Opportunities**

**Application for License**

Application for Retail Class B License to sell intoxicating liquors, beer, malt beverages and ready-to-drink mixes.

To the Town Board, Town of Clam Falls, Polk County, Wisconsin. The undersigned,

Patty Fredericks, Agent, Sundown Saloon, Inc., 3508 Highway 35, Lewis, WI 54837; Leonard Chuke, Sho'nuff, Bar-Ni-Grill LLC, 1161 Main Avenue, Lewis, WI 54837;

Hereby make application for Class B malt beverages and intoxicating liquor licenses to be used from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

Dated June 8, 2020

Janie Schmidt, Clerk - Town of Clam Falls

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**Notice of Sealed Bids**

**Town of Milltown**

May 18, 2020

To All Residents of the Town of Milltown:

The Town of Milltown will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 18, 2020, immediately after the Regular Town Meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Government Center in Balsam Lake, WI 54810 on July 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

You are being sued as a defendant to a Claim for money ($10,000 or less).

You must file a written answer with the Clerk of Circuit Court no later than June 6, 2020.

You must appear at Polk County Courthouse, 1005 Main St., Balsam Lake, WI 54810 on July 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

You may wish to consult with an attorney.

Dated June 6, 2020

Stephanie Larsen, Clerk

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**Notice of Sealed Bids**

**Town of Balsam Lake**

The Town of Balsam Lake is seeking sealed bids for the seal coating of 1.1 miles of 24" sewer main within the Town of Balsam Lake.

Bids should be received by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020, at the Government Center, 205 Main Street, Balsam Lake, WI 54810.

Dated June 16, 2020

Sharon Jorgenson, Clerk of Circuit Court

---

**Notice of Hearing**

**The Village of Siren**

The Village of Siren will have a Special Village Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. Agenda will be posted prior to the meeting at Village Hall and on the Village’s website.

Dated June 16, 2020

Thomas J. Scherer, Village Clerk-Treasurer

---

**Notice of Sealed Bids**

**Town of Luck**

The Town of Luck is seeking sealed bids for the construction of the concrete ramp at the Village Park in Luck.

Bids should be received by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020, at the Government Center, 205 Main Street, Balsam Lake, WI 54810.

Dated June 16, 2020

Sharon Jorgenson, Clerk of Circuit Court

---

**Notice of Hearing**

**The Village of Luck**

The Village of Luck will have a Special Village Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. Agenda will be posted prior to the meeting at Village Hall and on the Village’s website.

Dated June 16, 2020

Thomas J. Scherer, Village Clerk-Treasurer

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**Notice of Sealed Bids**

**Luck School District**

**Custodial Position**

The Luck School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, national origin, religion, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

We are taking applications for part-time custodial positions (29.5 hours per week). Any questions, contact Larry Olson at 715-263-5511.

**Sr. Quality Assurance Technician**

The Grantsburg Public Library Seeks

AN ORGANIZED & DYNAMIC LEADER TO DIRECT THE OPERATIONS OF THEIR LIBRARY

Responsibilities: Under the direction of the board of trustees, this position manages all aspects of library operations including but not lim- ited to budgeting, personnel management, policy development, collec- tion development, services, programming, facility maintenance, market- ing and advocacy. The position will include the following duties and some evenings.

Qualifications: Candidates must be eligible for Wisconsin Grade III library director certification. Administration and library experience is pre- ferred. The ideal candidate shall also possess excellent interpersonal skills, the ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with the staff, the board, the Village of Grantsburg and community organizations. Knowledge of library practices, technology and trends is required. Compensation: The annual salary is based on qualifications and expe- rience, however, the minimum salary is $32,000 plus an excellent benef- its package which includes participation in the Wisconsin Retirement System. This is a full-time position.

To apply: Please email your resume and cover letter by July 8, 2020, to the Library Search Committee at davegrantsburgpubliclibrary.com.
Katie Grace Budge

Katie Grace Budge, 78, of Frederic, Wisconsin, passed away unexpectedly on June 9, 2020, at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Katie was born on May 19, 1942, to parents Janice (Carlson) and Michael Budge.

Katie had what we refer to as the “Budge ticker” and her heart decided it had just enough of this world. Katie’s form of heaven will surely include lots of animals and lots of people she loved. She was an animal person more than a people person and, honestly, there’s nothing wrong with that.

She enjoyed watching the Vikings and giving people crap about it. In her younger years she spent her time camping and fishing and often took her younger brother and sisters, instilling in each of them a deep love for the outdoors.

Katie loved her nieces and her great-nephews. She was a wonderful aunt, teaching them where to look for worms (always under an old log) how to bait a hook and how to cast a line. She enjoyed sitting at the end of the dock with her family, watching the birds and shoot the knowing you what.

Katie was a good cook but was pigeonholed into making and remaking a couple of her signature dishes, beer can chicken and spinach dip. She hated peas till the very end. We will think of her every time we see a bear or eagle or the pickiest eater of Jan’s six kids. We miss her terribly, but the very end. We will go on record saying she was the best word to the hospital from her place of residence in Luck, Wisconsin.

Katie was a very happy young man. He liked to be outdoors, shooting, hunting and fishing. He was excited about his work at Bishop in Baldwin, Wisconsin. He enjoyed lawn mower racing. He enjoyed his friends and family. He liked to think of himself as a grumpy old man. The most important thing in his life was his love for Ashley and his two young boys.

He was survived by his parents, Roger Philip DeSpiegelaere and Kara Mae (Kepple) Gray (husband, Terry); sister, Samantha Mae DeSpiegelaere; grandparents; four great-grandchildren; three sisters, Charlotte Anderson, Lorraine (Donald) Korts and Cheryl Hart; brother, Gary Gill.

Katie will be laid to rest at the Jackson Cemetery with close family and friends. I can’t mention them all.

A funeral service was held Saturday, June 13, at 1 p.m. at the St. Croix Falls Church of Christ, 715-472-2444 and the Northwest Wisconsin Cremation Center in Milltown, Wisconsin, ccremationcenter.com.

Carol B. Peterson

Carol B. Peterson, 94, of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, passed away on Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

Carol was born in Grantsburg on May 19, 1926, to Carl and Clara Hanson (Bieder man). She lived on the farm in the town of Wood River near Babbitt by Big Wood Lake in the early years.

Her father passed away when she was age 11, which was difficult, but the family worked together to stay on the farm. They were a close-knit family.

Carol was confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church and graduated from Grantsburg High School in 1944. She went to college at Polk County Normal and became a teacher and taught for eight years in the Grantsburg area.

She married Carl A. Peterson on Aug. 30, 1952, at the English Lutheran Church in Grantsburg. To this family four children were born, David, Janet, Marilyn and Scott. The family was fortunate to adopt a fifth child, Scott, a few years later.

Carol was a Bible study leader and Sunday school teacher at Trinity Lutheran Church and later at Cary-vary Covenant Church. The family was honored to be named Wisconsin Farm Family of the Year in the 1960s.

Carol was the best cook a woman could be, who loved being in the kitchen. She lived her life knowing the Lord Jesus Christ until her life on earth was done and went to be with the Lord, a life’s race well run, and lived for her Savior.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Carl A. Peterson on Sept. 20, 1997; her son, David, on March 6, 2003; her infant grandson, Adam; and siblings, Clarence Johnson, Vernon Johnson, Marion Jensen, Evelyn Jorgenson, Noble Hanson and Dorothy Jones.

She was survived by her brother, Earl Hanson; and her children, Janet Peterson, Marilyn (Paul) Huskamp, Dale Peterson and Scott (Debra) Peterson; seven grandchildren, Beth (David) Thompson, Nathan Huskamp, Matt Peterson, Bryan (Becky) Peterson, Amanda (Sharengland) Peterson, Isaac Peterson and Carolyn (Connor) Myers; several great-grandchildren, Malachi, Savannah and Soren Thompson, David and Elliott Peterson; along with another great-grandchild due July 2020. She is also survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

A funeral service was held Saturday, June 13, at 1 p.m., at Calvary Covenant Church in Alpha with Pastor Steven Follette officiating. Her interment was at Riverside Cemetery in Grantsburg. Pallbearers were Matt Peterson, Nathan Huskamp, Bryan Peterson, Isaac Peterson, Shari Englund, Carolyn Myers and honorarary pallbearer David G. Thompson.

Arrangements were entrusted to Swedberg-Taylor Funeral Home, Grantsburg, Wisconsin. Online condolences can be made at swedberg-taylor.com.
Thank you

We want to thank everyone that remembered us with cards, phone calls or driving in while honking and waving at us on our 70th-wedding anniversary!

You all made the day even more special!

God bless you, Paul and Joyce Bille
TO PERFORM AT MAKE MUSIC DAY

Back Then will be performing outside of Traditions in Frederic on Sunday, June 21, at 1 p.m., as part of Make Music Day, a free celebration of music around the world. See separate story. -Photo provided

At Parson will be performing in Webster at noon on Sunday, June 21, as part of Make Music Day. Free music is lined up in both Webster and Frederic for Make Music Day celebrations. In Webster, free music performances will be in the street outside The Vault music store and in Frederic outside One 10 Gallery, Traditions and at the Frederic Art Center. For music times and performer updates, check makemusicday.org/burnettcounty and fredericarts.org. Social distancing is suggested. -Photo provided

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Take a LOOK at THIS!

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$15.99
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Sale
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Pack of 2
PAP-480415

Universal Assorted Gel Ink Pens
Sale
$7.99
Set of 8
UNV-59725

Check out our catalog online at iccpaonline.com
Sale valid through July 2, 2020

INTER-COUNTY COOPERATIVE PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
303 Wisconsin Ave. N
Frederic, Wis.
715-327-4236

715-349-2560

715-468-2314

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NOW HIRING

PRODUCTION

24138 Ellis Avenue • Siren, WI 54872

2nd Shift - $12.50/Hr

3rd Shift - $13.00/Hr

northstates INDUSTRIES, INC.

Contact and/or send resume to Mark Foote
715-349-5591 • mfoote@northstatesind.com

Retirement RECEPTION

for

DOUG PANEK

Come wish Doug a Happy Retirement and enjoy coffee, lemonade and cookies with him.

Thursday, June 25
2-4 p.m.

at Inter-County Cooperative Publishing Association
303 Wisconsin Ave. N.
Frederic, WI

INTER-COUNTY LEADER

for

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Universal Assorted Gel Ink Pens
Sale
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Frederic, WI

Follow the Leader.
leaderregister.com
ICCPA presents scholarships to area graduates

FREDERIC – For the 22nd consecutive year, the Inter-County Cooperative Publishing Association, which produces the Inter-County Leader and Washburn County Register newspapers and the Advertisers, has presented scholarships to one graduate at each of eight schools in the area.

This year, the cooperative presented a total of $4,000 in scholarships to outstanding seniors at Frederic, Grantsburg, Siren, Webster, Luck, Shell Lake, St. Croix Falls and Unity high schools.

ICCPA publishes the only cooperative-owned weekly newspapers in the nation, the Leader, established in 1933 by area farmers who sought a voice, and the Register, acquired by the co-op in 2004.

The cooperative has presented at least one scholarship to area graduates since 1989. In 1998, the cooperative began giving its $300 scholarship to a graduate at each of the seven public schools in Burnett and Polk counties, and the cooperative’s board of directors voted that same year to raise the amount to $750, beginning with the 1999 scholarships. This year the scholarship was reduced to $500 in light of the pandemic’s impact on the economy.

In 2005 Shell Lake became the eighth area public school to receive the cooperative’s yearly award. Recipients of the scholarships are chosen based on academic excellence, an interest in journalism or photography and on recommendation by scholarship committees.

Receiving the Inter-County Cooperative Publishing Association scholarships this year were Tate Ovik, Frederic; Jillian Seeger, Grantsburg; McKenna Delany, Luck; Jordan Webster, Siren; Tayla Lundberg, Shell Lake; Noah Kazmierski, St. Croix Falls; Allison Lawrence, Unity; and Katelyn Tegarden, Webster.

Members of the cooperative’s board of directors are Chuck Holicky, Frederic, chair; Amy Dueholm, Luck; Karen Krouch, Siren; Charles Linden, Frederic; and Peter Kwong, St. Croix Falls. The manager of the cooperative is Doug Panek.

– Gary King

Unbelievable!
The abundance of news you’ll find in the Leader. Subscribe today!
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RENSATIONS

Work is progressing nicely on the renovations at the Luck Village Hall. The renovations are designed to provide better security, more efficient work areas and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. At the service counter inside the vestibule are village treasurer Laurie Cook, left, and village clerk Lori Pardun. Inside the secure area are the work spaces/counters and meeting room, where public works director Seth Petersen, left, and village clerk Lori Pardun finish putting up new blinds.

– Photos by Mary Stirrat
Niece shares info on headstone found in Frederic

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer

FREDERIC – In early May the Leader published a story on a headstone found under a set of porch steps during a remodeling project. The headstone belonged to Sigurd C. Magnuson, who died May 10, 1948, about two months before he turned 37 years old.

Magnuson’s niece, Virginia (Magnuson) Sommerfeld, of Frederic, provided some additional information on Magnuson and his family:

“Sigurd C. Magnuson was the name on a tombstone found near the porch of a family in Frederic. This was ‘a surprise find’ reported in the May 6, 2020, edition of the Leader.

“Sigurd Magnuson’s family had lived in that same home for many years. Sigurd served our country for several years and was honored as a WWII Air Corps staff sergeant.

“He grew up near Luck and was born to immigrant parents, Ingvald and Signe Magnuson. He married Florence Skow in 1940 at the home of her parents, Henry and Emma (Johansen) Skow, who were also from the Luck area.

“Sigurd and Florence had a son, Richard, who graduated from Frederic High School in the early 1960s. Sherry and Bonnie Paulson became a part of the family and also lived in the home where the tombstone was recently found.

“Sigurd’s brother was Harold (Agnes) Magnuson of Frederic. His sisters were Esther (Francis) Lundeen, also of Frederic, and Florence (Harold) Forse of Moose Lake, Minnesota.

“Virginia (Magnuson) Sommerfeld has fond memories of her Uncle Sigurd.”

Florence Magnuson died Sept. 11, 2006, at United Pioneer Home in Luck. She was 89 years old and had lived her entire life in the Luck and Frederic area.

Her obituary explains that she was a gardener and cook who generously shared “the fruits of her labor” with others. She worked in Frederic for Dr. H.E. Witte, the Frederic Clinic and the Frederic nursing home, and was active in her church and the community. – Mary Stirrat, with information submitted by Virginia Sommerfeld

Sigurd C. Magnuson, a WWII Air Corps staff sergeant, was born July 2, 1911, and died May 10, 1948. – Photos courtesy of Virginia (Magnuson) Sommerfeld

This is the former Magnuson farm in Frederic, where Sigurd Magnuson’s original headstone was found earlier this year. Magnuson is buried at St. Peter’s Cemetery north of Luck and the stone had been replaced.
More to the story from page 1

Bernett County - Martine Cao is from Salt Lake City, Utah. His family are immigrants from Vietnam and he is the only one of his family members to be born here in the United States. He is the youngest of nine kids. Cao graduated from the University of Utah with three degrees, in international studies, marketing and Spanish. This summer he will be working in western Wisconsin until the end of August. The books he sells range from information for parents of newborns and early learning, all the way up to SAT and ACT prep for college. He is very excited to serve the families of Wisconsin, especially with the craziness that COVID-19 has brought to the school system. He travels all across the country; last summer he was selling books in Pennsylvania. He will be selling educational resources – books, websites and apps, in Burnett county. This will help him to pay off his student loans. There’s no pressure to purchase. If you would like more information, follow Cao on Facebook at Martine “The Education Man” or @MartineTheEducationManCao on Instagram.

Jessica Janes got math and social studies books and The Princeton Review’s College Entrance Advantage to help her son Jordan save time with school, ace the SAT and ACT and get scholarships. Martine Cao said, “Jordan is super bright and Jessica wants him to have the best future.”

The Rombach family got the Bible Atlas for the kids’ Bible educational needs. “Such a fun, awesome family,” Cao said.

Terry Neuman got Destiny the platinum set for all her subjects throughout school, “top 100 essays,” “top 12 AP and honors courses” and the Princeton Review’s #1 College Entrance Program. “Awesome family that wants Destiny to have the best future possible!” said Martine Cao, “The Education Man.”

On Monday, June 8, Martine Cao checked with Burnett County Clerk Wanda Hinrichs and deputy clerk Kim Johnson; they gave him permission to work in the county. Martine Cao will be driving around in his blue Subaru WRX. If you see him and would like to purchase books, please give him a wave! – Photos provided

Darcy Kolander | Staff writer

Martine “The Education Man” Cao in area
Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative to hold 82nd-annual meeting online July 8

CENTURIA – Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative will hold its 82nd-annual meeting Wednesday, July 8, at 1 p.m. via a telephone call-in and on the Internet. The meeting will be held this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We invite co-op members to attend from the comfort of their homes,” states Board President Ed Gullickson. “The Board of Directors, Northwest Passage. Healthy Minute is brought to you by Healthy Burnett.

COVID crankiness? You’re not alone …

As our lives have been impacted by a whole range of direct and indirect consequences of COVID-19, we have grown weary, irritable even, at the mere mention of the topic. We are living in a world with rapidly changing rules and recommendations and many of us are sick and tired of being sick and tired! This may have as much to do with the disruption to our lives as it does with what we have lost.

We all do things and each day in service of maintaining our mental health. Some of the most important things that we do, we scarcely even notice. We wake up and engage in our morning routines, go to work, chat with friends. We most often do these things without thought or intention about just how important these activities are in keeping us grounded and stable. If nothing else, this period of Safer at Home has taught us just how important these small things are in maintaining our sense of feeling OK. Human beings are creatures of habit – we all thrive on at least some routine in our lives.

When that is disrupted by events outside of our control it can bring an overall unease for us. Human beings require at least one genuine relationship in their lives to experience emotional comfort. Connection helps to make us feel safe and capable. In the absence of that, we can feel a bit empty or drifting.

So, keep those of you out there feeling unsettled, on edge, irritable, or a general discomfort with, take it as evidence of your humanity. This is confirmation that we need each other. So, let’s all make the effort to maintain our routine, our coffee routine and we need to give ourselves and one another a bit of loving kindness. Hang in there! Nothing lasts forever.

Submitted by Angela Frederickson, LCSW clinical direc- tor, Northeast Psychology. Healthy Minute is brought to you by healthyburnett.org.

Homemade with Love

Darcy Kolander

boiling water, but never oil, as the sauce won’t stick to the pasta.

In a saucepan, heat up butter and add garlic (do not burn).
Add cream, stir slowly, then shredded cheese. Season to taste. Add grated Parmesan cheese, or more cream to make it thinner.
Add cooked pasta to the sauce and let it simmer. The sauce will be thicker.
Enjoy!

If you have any tried-and-true recipes or have tried any- thing, mail me at editoralcopyed@yahoo.com.

I could pick any one food to live on for the rest of my life. And I would choose cheese. And bread. And beer. I grew up in Wisconsin, that pasta would more likely than not have extra cheese. Going to Olive Garden, I always order the pasta with extra cheese. Going to Olive Garden, I always order the pasta with extra cheese. Going to Olive Garden, I always order the pasta with extra cheese. Going to Olive Garden, I always order the pasta with extra cheese.

My rows aren’t straight but my vegetables are growing. And entering the next, his spirit kept lingering on earth as he has to warn his lover about some emergency. The story of ghosts, spirits and hauntings of different worlds started to haunt me again. No, I have not actually seen a ghost, or any spirits in different forms yet I’ve heard so many different stories that I tend to believe their existence, just to be on the safe side.

Growing up in Hong Kong, I remember that our family shared a flat in an old building which had three stories. We happened to live on the third floor, sharing the space with other family members. I was probably 3 or 4 years old then. My YeYa (grandpa on my father’s side) had left for Peru for opportunities when I was born. My YeaYea (grandma) would keep an eye on the young boys – my brother and I, and our two cousins. To keep us safe, and to tell us stories to retain our attentions. She would keep a straight face, and to this date, I don’t remember if she was trying to be funny or not. She would tell us stories of how

In general, white wines pair best with lighter, milder cheeses while your stronger-flavored cheeses, like blue, pair with reds. Wisconsin is known mainly for its mozzarella cheese. Here are some of the best pairings: Sauvignon blanc and Wisconsin brick cheese; cheddar and aged Parmesan; Champagne and baby Swiss; cabernet sauvignon and blue; and pinot noir and colby. And for the beer drinkers! Blue cheese and IPA’s; pinot noir and colby; aged cheddar and Belgian ale; and cheeses and ciders and lager.

We are always looking to improve our service to our members and community.

If you have any questions please contact us at 715-593-2171 or email us at info@polkburnett.com.

Join us online July 8, the annual meeting will be recorded for viewing at a later date. Printed reports will also be available at co-op offices and upon request following the meeting.

Registration for Polk-Burnett’s online annual meeting opens June 15 on polkburnett.com. Once members are registered and have received a registration confirmation email, they will be able to join the online annual meeting July 8. No special software is required to join, you simply need a computer or mobile device with audio and an internet connection is needed.

For more information, call 800-421-0285.

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HOMEMADE WITH LOVE

Darcy Kolander

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Healthy Minute

Drought to you by Healthy Burnett

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative to hold 82nd-annual meeting online July 8

The sauce will be thicker.

Season to taste. Add more cheese to have a thicker sauce, or more cream to make it thinner.
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I don't think it's my imagination that Father's Day seems like a last-minute add-on. "Oh! We have Mother's Day. We probably should do something for fathers..."

On Father's Day, a bouquet of flowers or brunch seems to do nicely every year. There isn't an equivalent gesture for Father's Day. The gift suggestions prove seventy percent of all seem to be sheepish, "a watch? A wallet? A gas grill? A "whiskey set"?"

Since my dad's watch and wallet are with him 90% of the time and he, in fact, lives in his car, I know my dad wouldn't drink whiskey if you paid him. My dad has now spent more time retired than he spent working, which is a wonderful milestone. He was hired while he was still in college to work as an engineer and he stayed with the same company his entire career. My dad got up on his toes to reach it.

My dad was always ready to try something new. He raised bees in the backyard and helped us dip candles in his workshop and polish agates in a tumbler. I remember the sound of the rock tumbler, polishing away, and a perfectly smooth agate coming out.

Then, every July when the plant where my father worked was shut down, my family would pile into the car pulling a pop-up camper and head out on vacation.

The story goes that my sister and I were quarreling, and we generally got along pretty well. A full day in a hot car could get on anyone's nerves. On this particular day, we were arguing about (of all things) who was going to get in the lake first once we got to the campground.

Dad was driving. Mom was sitting in the front seat with the dog. My sister and I were busy squabbling and no one saw my father as he quietly emptied his pockets, removed his belt, and silently unhooked his seatbelt. (This was before cars had all the buzzers and bells.) We drove into the campground, and the moment we hit the parking spot, my father threw open his door and sprinted straight to the lake and dove in. My sister and I sat there in stunned silence.

I don't remember what happened after that. I just remember my father, flying into the lake, proving both of us wrong, and what an amazing dad he was, in one lightning move.

My dad doesn't move quite as fast these days. He calls himself "an old geezer," although I can't imagine anyone else does. He still builds things in his wood shop and splits wood with the log splitter and rides bike with Mom. He still routinely surprises us. And he still listens to my worries and complaints of his daughters.

My sister and I hand these worries to him like rough stones and my dad handles them like the agate polisher we had as children. By the time my dad is through with them, our worries are worn smooth. Our worries are no longer sharp or dangerous. They are polished to a gentle luster by our dad's loving concern.

Happy Father's Day.

Till next time,
Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.
Gary and Terri Anderson are shown with their children, Jeff, Todd and Chris, and the day-old triplet calves that were garnering a lot of attention on their farm in Falun in May of 1980. The couple had 28 milk cows, and discovered the triplets when they went out for morning milking. The 8-year-old Holstein cow gave birth to the two bull calves and one heifer calf overnight on her own.

Dream connection

How do you teach a method of connection? What do we connect with? Or who do we connect with? The biggest question for Jack, what IS connection? The subject just “happened” to come up in one of the myriad books that Jack leaves around the Gator house. Perhaps you know, or are, one of those people who reads when eating, before sleeping, when waiting for those two things. Skimming, flipping through chapters, some of the pages dog-eared in a good place to start again.

So, the subject of connection was in one of those scattered piles throughout the house and it stopped Jack’s thought train with screeching brakes and a scattered piles throughout the house and it stopped Jack’s thought train with screeching brakes and a

Connection. Why would he want to connect with someone he has never seen, but just read about? Perhaps in a dream about Ernest Hemingway. Why had he just? Why try to connect with a great author who has left the world decades ago? Perhaps there is a way to connect with him by reading his writing and taking notes. Was the dream a connection with Jack’s memory, one which Jack has been missing or ignoring for decades? The dream seemed to be from Jack’s best friend, who tells him these things. It was a vivid dream. Jack was in the big city and drove by a splendid home that triggered a memory of connection. He went up the sidewalk to the familiar home and was welcomed in by several people who knew him. The memory of living across the street and being mentored by Henningsway when Jack was a boy flooded in. The books from the fabulous library loaned to him, hours sitting with “Papa” and being told, someday he would be writing truth with skill to make images with his words. Stories of adventure. The dream ended with one of the daughters telling Jack it was so good to see him again and would he like to stay for a while? There was a loud noise that sounded like explosions and

Jack Gator’s GRACE NOTES

Norn Peterson

Jack was awoken suddenly with a strong desire to remember the dream by writing it down. At 4 a.m. (The sound sounded like the summer people having fun blowing things up. It was only the family dog.) It seemed the dream was a message from Jack himself. Deep in rem sleep, dreading up “connections” that surfaced as reality sleeping dormant. Or was the dream a connection with someone else that had spoken it? Jack likes to write about life, but to develop a story like this one was perhaps ego and desire palpable. Still remembering the dream Jack knew what the connection was and with who. It was encouragement and confirmation from one of the greatest authors ever known. Keep writing, stay steady and tell the truth, Jack. Don’t try and make your writing original, write the truth and write the story as best you can and originality will come forth. Indeed, the question of “what is truth” was asked centuries ago and the answer was silence. The truth of that life was obvious and the words written about that life still capture and hold us. When truth is revealed, it is a beauty sought. Sometimes only five words can take your breath away and be remembered forever.

Connection. As coming awake again from the dream of life. The reason, the hope, the answer to so many questions. The book that can be read way he just had? Why try to connect with a great author who has left the world decades ago? Perhaps there is a way to connect with him by reading his writing and taking notes. Was the dream a connection with Jack’s memory, one which Jack has been missing or ignoring for decades? The dream seemed to be from Jack’s best friend, who tells him these things. It was a vivid dream. Jack was in the big city and drove by a splendid home that triggered a memory of connection. He went up the sidewalk to the familiar home and was welcomed in by several people who knew him. The memory of living across the street and being mentored by Henningsway when Jack was a boy flooded in. The books from the fabulous library loaned to him, hours sitting with “Papa” and being told, someday he would be writing truth with skill to make images with his words. Stories of adventure. The dream ended with one of the daughters telling Jack it was so good to see him again and would he like to stay for a while? There was a loud noise that sounded like explosions and
LUCK – The following scholarships, awards and recognition were given out at a virtual awards night on Wednesday, May 13, for the Luck Class of 2020. A total of $128,000 was distributed in scholarships and awards.

Anastasia Adams, Aliyah Arellano, Bob Berger, Cassie Johnson, Dane Jensen, Keaton Johnson, Kellan King, Brandon Linder, Luca Nieman, Julie Haasnoot, Abby Alderman, Isabella Langer and Rebecca White

Luck Community Graduate Fund, $100, Brandon Linder

Luck Community Graduate Fund, $150, Timo Tinney

Luck Community Graduate Fund, $50, Jena Hershfield, Anna Hershfield, Sam Dreger and Kullan Parks

Luck FFA Alumni, $100, Andrew Opel and Hope Hihn

Luck Girls Booster Volleyball, $500, Morgan Weidman

Luck Boys Booster Football, $500, Brandon Linder and Mitchell Steele

Luck Community Graduate Fund, $100, Alex Mysicka, Todd Burger and Grace Thoreson

Luck Community Graduate Fund, $500, Taylor Dierks, Morgan Weidman and Alex Mysicka

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Unity Scholarships 2020

FREDERIC – Frederic seniors received over $30,000 in scholarships from local sponsors during Frederic’s scholarship and awards night. The following is a list of the recipients:

Anna Antonich Scholarship, $1,000
Kristin Baldwin, $500
Bremer Bank, $1,000
Lila and David Ingalls, $500
American Legion Post 132 Auxiliary, $500
Charles E. Lewis Community Scholarship, $500
Linda and Dan McCauley, $1,000
American Legion Post 132 Auxiliary, $500
Campbell County Community Education, $500
Cassie and David Farnum, $1,000
Daisy and David Ingalls, $1,000
Jessica and Joe Johnson, $1,000
Daisy and David Ingalls, $1,000
Daisy and David Ingalls, $1,000
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Daisy and David Ingalls, $1 Benson Ace Hardware presents scholarships to Frederic Grads

FREDERIC – Benson Ace Hardware presented its first Helpful Place Scholarships to Frederic High School 2020 graduates Adam Dreier and Kaitlin Wylick. The program is available to Webster and the area in high school. Each year, Benson Ace will provide $500 education scholarships to two graduates from each school. Dreier will attend Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College – Rice Lake to study construction and cabinetmaking. Wylick, in following the steps of family members with trades careers, plans to work as a licensed carpenter. Wylick will attend Minnesota State Community and Technical College Wadena. He will study electrical power distribution, with his sights set on working as a lineman like his father.

“We are extremely proud that Adam and Kaitlin are our first two scholarship recipients,” said Benson Ace general manager Mike Kreski. “We look forward to supporting more Frederic and Webster students pursuing careers in trades.”

To help support students considering a skilled profession, Benson Ace Hardware makes scholarships available to seniors with a grade-point average of 2.5 or higher, who will attend a technical/trade school or work as an intern/apprentice with an employer in trades like HVAC, plumbing, electrical, engine repair, welding or construction.

Applications for Class of 2021 Frederic and Webster graduates will be available in early 2021.

Steve and Deb Benson, who returned to the area from Florida to help their family, purchased the Benson Ace hardware business in 2002. Beginning in 2015, the Benson’s purchased property and businesses to the south of downtown Frederic and, with help from the familia, opened the second location in Webster.

Both Benson Ace Hardware stores are now Webster High School graduates.

Benson Ace Hardware presents Scholarships to Frederic Grads

Pictured (L to R): Adam Dreier, Tate Ovik, Zac Benson and Steve Benson. – Photo provided
Summer reading begins at the Luck Library Monday June 15. Join us as we move into summer fun. Due to the nature of the times, all the fun programming you have come to expect will be offered online from a link on our library website – lucklibrary.org or just google Luck Library and click on our website link. Reading records will be available at the library to pick up Monday, June 15, as well, for those who are long for the feel of a real book in their hands. We have many new books to choose from and are eager to see all of our kiddos again and hear what you have been up to. Remember, reading is a skill that needs to be practiced. Committing 20 minutes of every day to reading makes you smarter, kinder and more relaxed. Reading can even change your brain. A 2013 study discovered that when people read fiction with a strong narrative and plot, their brains continue to behave differently hours and even days later. The brains of readers show increased connectivity in the left temporal cortex, the region responsible for language receptivity, even hours after they've stopped reading. This suggests that reading can train the mind and boost neural function through a process that's similar to muscle memory.

Reading helps families bond. Reading doesn’t have to be a solitary activity. When parents read out loud to their children, they can pass on the benefits of reading and encourage meaningful interactions. To reap the positive effects of reading to kids, parents should stick to physical picture books. A recent study found that print books, in contrast to tablets and e-readers, can promote the deepest connections between caretakers and children.

The final great reason to jump into the library’s summer reading program is for the great prizes. Earn weekly prizes from the library when you complete your reading minutes for the week. Also, remember that the Luck Library is open with some safety protocols and no public bathrooms. So plan your trip accordingly and have a happy, smarter, relaxing, empathetic, bonding summer.

Library FAQs

Is the Frederic Library open? Yes! The library is open. However, you must call ahead to make an appointment.

Why do I have to make an appointment? The library is committed to making both staff and patrons safe. To do so, we need to limit the number of people who come in the library at any one time. That includes staff.

Do I have to wear a mask? Yes, a mask is required inside the building. More evidence shows that wearing a mask slows the transference of the virus. If you have a medical condition that determines you cannot wear a mask, please consider placing requests for books and using curbside pickup.

Are the computers available? Yes, you can call ahead to use our computers.

What materials can I check out? All materials are available to check out, books, DVDs, audiobooks, music CDs, magazines ... and yes, the bicycles and kickball bats.

What hours are you open? Our hours have changed to accommodate the health of the community. Current hours of staff and curbside pickup are: Monday and Tuesday, 1-5 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; Thursday, 2-5 p.m.; and Friday, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Summer reading at the library

Summer reading has gone digital! Find us on Beanstack – online or on the app. Log your reading progress over the summer and complete fun activities to unlock badges and win prizes! Each badge you unlock awards you a ticket for you to enter into our prize drawings.

Youth summer reading program runs from Monday, June 15, to Saturday, Aug. 15. Adult summer reading program runs from June 15 to Friday, July 24.

Library News

Balsam Lake Public Library

The library continues to be closed to the public, but we are offering curbside pickup. We are working on a plan to reopen for some services in the near future. Check our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

Curbside pickup

You may request items using our online catalog, by emailing the library or by calling. Only Balsam Lake items are available at this time, so requests for items from other libraries will be filled, however, you may contact any library that is offering curbside pickup to request items to pick up directly from them.

Pickup times will be scheduled in 15-minute increments and items will be placed outside the building. All items will have due dates extended until July 1. Returns must be put in the outside drop box. Further details and instructions on how curbside pickup works can be found on our website: balsamlakpl.org or contact us via phone: 715-485-3215, or email us at library@balsamlakpl.org. Our online resources are still available as well.

Call us for recommendations if you need help choosing books or DVDs etc. Curbside pickup on hours of staff and curbside pickup are: Monday and Tuesday, 1-5 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; Thursday, 2-5 p.m.; and Friday, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Summer reading has gone digital! Find us on Beanstack – online or on the app. Log your reading progress over the summer and complete fun activities to unlock badges and win prizes! Each badge you unlock awards you a ticket for you to enter into our prize drawings.

Frederic Public Library

How do you keep materials safe? All returned materials will go through a 72-hour quarantine. It has been determined that cardboard and paper will not sustain the virus for more than 24 hours. So to protect our staff and our patrons, we keep everything sealed until the requisite time has passed. Please use your own caution when taking materials home from the library.

Do I have to do anything special when I enter the library? • You will be asked at the entrance and ask that you use it before touching any materials in the library.

• Please be mindful of social distancing.

• Libraries are still here to help you. So please feel free to ask for assistance.

Can I use the MORE system to order books? Yes, the MORE system is up and running. Please be patient when requesting materials. To handle items as safely as possible the materials are placed in quarantine after being handled. This slows down the process of delivering materials to different libraries.

How will I know I have materials to pick up? You will be contacted in the manner you have designated. Once you have been informed that you have materials available you must call the library to make an appointment to pick up item(s). Please let us know if you wish to have curbside service.

Will I have fines on materials? You may keep materials at home during the closing of the library? At times on materials checked out before the Safer at Home order will not have fines. Please remember when you return materials that it may be several days before they are checked in due to quarantining material.

What if I have lost materials during this time? Please contact the library and let us know if you have any problems returning materials.

How will I know I have materials to pick up? You will be contacted in the manner you have designated. Once you have been informed that you have materials available you must call the library to make an appointment to pick up item(s). Please let us know if you wish to have curbside service.

Library News

Balsam Lake Public Library

We Are

2020 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

- READING CHALLENGES
- TAKE AND MAKE ACTIVITIES
- EARN BADGES
- WIN PRIZES

Get ready for summer at the library! Frederic Public Library’s summer reading program launches Monday, June 22. Register your child for summer reading challenges and prizes on the Beanstack app or at FredericLibrary.Beanstack.com. ~ Photo provided

Ever, we are diligent about monitoring the health of our community. We will change to accommodate the health of the community. Questions, comments, concerns, contact the library at 715-327-4979 or email library@fredericlibrary.org.

DISCOVERY KITS DISTRIBUTED

On Monday, June 15, the Frederic School District delivered 200 Discovery Kits to student homes. These kits are the first steps in keeping students engaged in learning over the summer without the need for a screen. These Discovery Kits include hands-on learning from cupcake making to geoaching. This learning opportunity is open free of charge to any school-aged children. To learn more or to register please visit fredericisd.org. ~ Photos provided
Summer is lemonade season. This past week-end, HSBC was the lucky recipient of some pro- duced two-youngsters’ hard work. Two pairs up to Addison and Norah for generously helping to donate our homeless pets. It is also time for Music in the Park. Join HSBC at 6 p.m., Thursday, July 2, at Crooked Lake Park. Enjoy the music and stories of Bill and Kate in this open air event starting at 6:30. HSBC will be on hand with the companion stand. Molly endorses con- cessions, especially hat con- gratuate meals will NEVER be resuming for some time. Thus, there will be no evening dining for the rest of this year. We hope things can resume to the normal soon.

Remember, you can call in and order a meal during normal business hours. Please call in advance the day before, 715-463-2890 or email us at glug118@gmail.com.

Upcoming events
Business meeting: Tuesday, July 21, p.m.
Pink Squared open Wednesday, Sunday, July 17.
Fun with friends, coming soon!

Dottie is a 5-year-old Australian sheep- herder mix, medium-large size and weighs 45-50 lbs. She is very sweet and an easy going lady. Dottie loves to play with other dogs and would do well in a home with another dog. She is 6 months or older on the first day of class.

Park. Humans will practice social distancing for everyone’s safety. There will be a maximum of six dogs per class for lots of individual attention. All breeds and sizes are welcome but they must be 6 months or older on the first day of class. No dog park experience on-off-leash play history.

The June session begins Sunday, June 21, at 1 p.m., Tuesday, July 1, at 6 p.m. The Dog Park Prep class is $75. All proceeds from this class will benefit Awenal Memorial Humane Society. Check out the class description and register online at upwashhumane.org.

Dog parks aren’t for every dog, but if you’ve been wondering whether or not it’s right for your dog, this class is a great place to start. It will help you make informed decisions about participating, contact Casey through the contact form on her website.

Dottie was adopted from HSBC in 2015, but unfortunately her owner passed away and so she was returned to the center. She is very easygoing as far as her new family is concerned and will do well as long as she is given the proper treatment.

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Brown-headed cowbirds and bison

My hike on the Centennial Trail in Wind Cave National Park in western South Dakota had been wonderful. I felt like Laura Ingalls Wilder as I strolled over the rolling prairie hills, dodged buffalo chips on the trail and photographed wildflowers taking advantage of spring. Thankfully, the hot sun was offset by a cooling breeze.

Twice the trail ran right through the center of prairie dog towns. Their alarm calls were incessant and pushed before me in a wave, with the closest little rodents chattering from out of sight inside the entrance to their burrow. The bell-like tones of meadowlark calls rang out across the prairie, and repeatedly I searched for the vocalists who sounded much closer than their actual perch. The volume of their songs was impressive.

The prairie's wide-open horizon seems to encourage resilience. Back at my car, I quickly settled in for an afternoon of driving west. Pa Ingalls would have understood the feeling.

I didn't get very far, though. Where the park road met the highway, a pair of bison grazed on the shoulder. If it was just those two great, shaggy beasts, I might not have stopped, but around their heads fluttered personal flocks of brown-headed cowbirds. The shiny black birds, with namesake brown heads, pecked at the ground right in front of the bison's giant heads, played leepfrog over their humped backs and generally acted just like brown-headed cowbirds are supposed to act. Glad that no one was with me to roll their eyes at my excitement, I swung onto the shoulder, rolled down a window and picked up my camera from the passenger seat.

Now, brown-headed cowbirds are not my favorite birds. My parents and naturalist friends have always given them the evil eye. Arthur Cleveland Bent, an acclaimed ornithologist of the early 1900s, called the cowbirds the “noisy, evil and impostor.” Its scientific name, Molothrus ater, means “dark grey beggar.” While they are native to the Great Plains as a species as lazy lazy birds, many parasitize the nests of more praiseworthy songbirds.

Female brown-headed cowbirds lay their eggs in the nests of smaller birds and let other parents do the hard work of feeding their hungry chicks. Cowbird eggs hatch first, and their chicks grow faster than the others. By virtue of being the tallest brood in the nest, the cowbird babies get more food. Their gain is another’s loss, and their success comes at the expense of one or more of the host mother’s own young.

While most birds don’t seem to recognize the cowbird eggs or chicks as alien invaders, some do. House wrens puncture cowbird eggs. Yellow warblers build a new nest right on top of the invaded one, smothering their own eggs as well. Robins, catbirds and a few other birds with big beaks toss out the strange eggs. I feel like giving them all a high-five for not being duped.

But on a birding walk last spring with Laura Erickson -- a wonderful Duluth-based birder, author, educator and scientist -- I gained a whole new perspective on the cowbirds’ predication.

These maligned birds once depended on the bison’s feeding to flush tasty insects, and on their heavy hooves to break up tough prairie sod, which made seeds available despite the birds’ scrawny feet.

The problem was that bison herds moved regularly, and the birds had to follow. That transient lifestyle wasn’t conducive to settling down and raising a family. The cowbirds’ only option was to deposit their eggs in the nests of birds who could find food even without the bison, and hope for the best.

Hope isn’t their only strategy. A female cowbird lays about one thick-shelled egg each morning, and can lay 40 or even 60 eggs in a season. Using radar-tagged birds, scientists discovered that females will spend the morning in nest-rich habitats like forests and edges. They may silently observe potential hosts in preparation for a “mission impossible”—style egg-laying operation; walk around in dense ground cover looking for nests; or fly noisily through the shrubs, hoping to flush a mother and home in on a target.

They spend their afternoons foraging in more open habitats. Sometimes they’ll even return to a parasitized nest to check on and feed their own young. Once fledged, the young cowbirds instinctively seek flocks of their own kind.

This worked out pretty well when there were still plenty of bison moving freely across the plains. Nomadic cowbirds rarely parasitized the same nest repeatedly, so their songbird hosts recovered easily from the reproductive setback. The problems came when pioneers settled the plains and replaced nomadic bison with fenced cattle, tilled farmland and backyard feeders. The birds adapted well to the new scheme, which allowed them to spread into new territory, where songbirds weren’t used to their skullduggery, which could now be concentrated instead of scattered. Their success came at the expense of their reputation, though, and cowbirds are now an unwelcome visitor in backyards from California to Maine.

Is it really their fault? Like so many animals, they evolved to live in a world that we have changed almost beyond recognition. But there, on the side of the road surrounded by vast prairies and restored herds, they were behaving exactly like they should. They still aren’t my favorite birds, but for just a moment I could really appreciate the cowbirds’ place in the world.

Then, restless as ever, the two bison moved on. I put down my camera, rolled up the window and continued west.

Emily Stone is the naturalist/education director at the Cable Natural History Museum. Her second book, “Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skinner,” is available to purchase at cablemuseum.org/books and at your local independent bookseller.

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 educational content. Connect with them on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and cablemuseum.org to see what they’re up to.

Red Cross now testing all blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies

Urgent need for blood donors to help prevent summer shortage

$5 Amazon.com gift card for all who come to give in June

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Beginning today and for a limited time, the American Red Cross is testing all blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies, providing donors insight into whether they have been exposed to this coronavirus. At the same time, there continues to be an urgent need for blood donations as hospitals resume surgeries and treatments that require blood products.

Antibody testing will indicate if the donor’s immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether they have developed symptoms. Donations will be tested using samples pulled at the time of donation and sent to a testing laboratory where they will also undergo routine infectious disease testing. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within seven to 10 days in the Red Cross blood donor app or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. The test has been authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

“Apart from an organization dedicated to helping others, the Red Cross is pleased to provide more information about COVID-19 to our valued donors,” said Dr. Erin Goodhue, executive medical director of direct patient care with the Red Cross Biomedical Services. “If you are feeling healthy and well, please schedule an appointment to not only help saves lives but also learn about your potential exposure to COVID-19.”

The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test.

Donation appointments can be made by downloading the free blood donor app, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767) or en- abling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. Thanks to Amazon, all those who come to give June 1-30 receive a $5 Amazon.com gift card via email.

Blood drive safety precautions

To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follow the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions, including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff, have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance. The following local blood drives have been scheduled:

Polk County

Stony Monday, June 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Amery Chevrolet, 1101 Cornwall Ave.
Tuesday, June 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Amery Chevrolet, 1101 Cornwall Ave.
Clayton

Wednesday, June 24, 2-7 p.m., Clayton School, 221 Prentice St. S.

Cushing

Monday, June 29, noon-6 p.m., community center, 2510 241st St.
A hummingbird got its beak stuck in my window screen one day when it mistook my red fruit bowl for a flower. It freed itself, thankfully. As hummingbirds flit from flower to blossom, another, sometimes they encounter nectar so deep they appear to nearly bury themselves in the blossoms. They find its food value worth the effort.

Anything valuable is worth digging deeply for, like precious gems that lie hidden beneath the earth's surface. It's nearly burying in the blossom. Nectar stored so deep, they appear to another, sometimes they encounter flowers. Hummingbirds flit from one blossom to another, sometimes they encounter flowers.

Make your plans before it's too late
Q: As a single woman, how important is it that I have a will? Is this something I should be concerned about?
Jim: That all depends. Under most circumstances it’s advisable for you to have a will, but the precise course of action you should follow will be determined by the specifics of your situation. Obviously if you’re a divorced or widowed mother of dependent children, it’s critical that you have a will. This determines not only how your children are provided for financially, but also who has responsibility for caring for them in your absence.
If you’re single with no children, a will may still be important. For instance, if you own property of any kind, a will ensures that it will be distributed as you wish. The more assets you accumulate over the years, the more valuable the need for a testamentary document of some kind.
When you don’t have a will prepared, you place the burden of distributing your property on someone else— who may or may not understand your values and desires. That’s why it’s wise to make your plans now before it’s too late. A single person without dependents can often make a significant impact through charitable giving with a wisely constructed estate plan… but only if they have specified their wishes in writing.

Many people procrastinate when it comes to making provisions for the transfer of their wealth. We all gravitate toward easy and routine actions rather than the difficult and important ones. We’re also intimidated by the emotions that might be brought to the surface by a frank and open discussion of a subject like death. Those emotions are understandable, but they don’t change the fact that we’re all responsible to steward the resources God has entrusted to us for our care in the wisest manner possible.

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Q: How can I help my child have a more positive outlook?
Danny Huerta, executive director, Parenting & Youth: The most important factor is to model a positive outlook yourself. We’ve all seen cartoons where a woman’s mind is portrayed in “thought bubbles.” That’s a great visual representation of what’s happening inside each of our brains.

My own thought bubbles can get filled with negative stuff, especially when I’m worried or anxious. Negative thoughts are common because our brains are poor at making predictions. Instead of making accurate forecasts including good outcomes, we often project our worries onto the future. One of our goals as parents is to manage our own thoughts and be effective models for our kids.

There are just three ways our thinking can mislead us, especially in times of stress, insecurity and fear:

1. Catastrophizing – We can easily become convinced the worst is going to happen. Seek accurate perspectives and fix your thoughts on the present, not the future.
2. Discounting the positive – Sometimes our filters screen out positive input. If someone compliments you on being a great parent, it might be easy to say, “Well, you don’t see me every day.” Don’t deflect affirmation! Accept the positive.
3. Personalizing – You may assume circumstances are personal to you. For instance, when a friend fails to return a text, the immediate assumption might be discouraging. “Did I do something wrong?” We can train our brains to look at other possibilities: “My friends might be busy, or they might be spending time with their family right now.” Don’t assume everything is about you.

Thoughts are contagious. The better you become at corralling your own, the better you’ll be able to model this for your children—and you’ll see the difference in their “thought bubbles.”

* * *

Jim Daly is a husband and father, an author, president of Focus on the Family and host of the “Focus on the Family” radio program. Catch up with him at jimdalyblog.com or at facebook.com/DailyFocus. Copyright 2019 Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80905. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Distributed by Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106; 816-581-7500. This feature may not be reproduced or distributed electronically, in print or otherwise, without written permission of Focus on the Family.

Brought to you by: Webster Area Catholic Churches
Webster

Church listings sponsored by the following area businesses:

- **ALPHA**
  - **BASS LAKE LUMBER**
    - Complete Line of Building Supplies & Lumber
    - Cabin’s Stains
    - Grantsburg, Wis.
    - 715-488-2471 or 715-327-8766

- **FREDERIC**
  - **DAEFLLER’S QUALITY MEATS, INC.**
    - Wholesale & Retail Meats
    - Custom Butchering & Processing
    - Phone 715-4456

- **CARLSON-ROWE FUNERAL HOME**
  - Frederic, Wis.
  - 715-327-4875

- **INTER-COUNTY COOPERATIVE PUBLISHING ASSCOC.**
  - Printers & Publishers
  - Office Supplies
  - Frederic, Wis. - 715-327-4256
  - Shell Lake, Wis. - 715-468-2314
  - Siren, Wis. - 715-349-2560

- **STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES**
  - Cory T. Arnold, Agent
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- **NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN ELECTRIC CO.**
  - “Your Electric Servant”
  - Serving Polk & Burnett Counties
  - “Use Energy Wisely”

- **LUCK**
  - **VAN METER’S MEATS**
    - Government Inspected
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    - Ham & Bacon Carb & Smoked Sides and Quarter of Beef and Pork Shoulder
    - Old-fashioned Meat Counter
    - Tim Van Meter and Ross Anderson, Owners
    - Luck, WI 54853
    - Plant 715-472-2141

- **SIREN**
  - **D & L FINANCIAL SERVICES**
    - 10022 Elbow Lake Road
    - Siren, WI 54872
    - 715-689-2559

- **WEBSTER**
  - **HOPKINS SAND & GRAVEL, INC.**
    - Sand, Gravel, Ready-Mix
    - Concrete, Black Dirt, Deyer Work, Landscaping & Septic Tanks Installed
    - Hwy. 35 North
    - Webster, Win.
    - 715-866-4157
    - M.P.R.S. #0059

- **SWEDBERG-TAILOR FUNERAL HOME**
  - Webster, Win.
  - 715-866-7131

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**Any area business wishing to sponsor the church listings should contact the Leader at 715-327-4236.**
GRADUATE HAS LOCAL TIES

Tatiana Posustic recently graduated from St. Anthony Village High School. She received one of the two Burnett County Community Education scholarships awarded this year. She is the daughter of Paul and Sonya Thompson, and granddaughter of Gary and Judy Marek, of Grantsburg.

Fit My Life programs include

- Accounting
- E-CHLD (online version of early childhood education)
- ENTR-Paramedic
- Farm Operation
- Gerontology – Aging Services Professional
- Human Resource Management
- Leadership Development
- Nonprofit Leadership
- Paramedic Technician
- IT – Web and Software Developer

Learn more about Fit My Life and register to the virtual event at witc.edu/fitmylife. Registrants will receive a link to attend the virtual event.

WITC is grateful to all its community partnerships. Your support of the WITC Foundation is essential to student success. For information on how to contribute, visit witc.edu/donate.

WITC invites public to virtual open house

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN - Between work, child care and many other responsibilities, going back to school might not feel like an option for many. To accommodate those who may not consider college an option, WITC launched Fit My Life programs, a new way for students to take classes that work around their busy schedules. WITC invites the public to a virtual open house on Thursday, June 25, from noon to 1 p.m. to learn about Fit My Life programs.

WITC, designed Fit My Life programs to do just that, fit your life. Fit My Life programs accommodate WITC's students' lives by providing an option of a part-time, evening and/or weekend core course schedule throughout the student's entire education, making it easier to work around child care, work and other responsibilities. As a virtual event, those in attendance will learn what Fit My Life is all about and will have the option to attend virtual breakout sessions to learn more about Fit My Life program instructors, plus, receive a promo code to apply for free for fall term, which starts on Monday, Aug. 24.

GRADUATE FROM ST. MARY’S U OF M

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Local students at Bethel University in St. Paul who have already been named to the dean's list for academic excellence for the spring 2020 semester are listed below. The dean's list honors students who achieve an outstanding scholastic record during a semester with a grade-point average of 3.6 or greater.

Balsam Lake

Chase Hemme, senior, son of Brad and Shannon Hemme.

Cushing

Delia Labatt, senior, daughter of Mary Labatt.

Dresser

Journie Rosenow, junior, daughter of Peter and Jean Koezl.

GREEN BAY – The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay named undergraduate student Jenna Laqua, of Amery, with semester highest honors for the spring 2020 semester. Students who earn a 3.6 grade-point average, which represents all A grades, receive highest honors.

AMES, Iowa – A virtual commencement ceremony was held this spring at Iowa State University to honor the nearly 5,100 graduates who earned degrees. The traditional on-campus celebrations were moved online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. University leaders recorded three commencement ceremonies to honor graduates.

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Father's Day

My father, Harvey Dueholm, died a few weeks before Father's Day in 1980. Dad has been gone a long time, but I think of him often, as a man, as a politician, as a farmer, and as a husband and most of all as a father. Dad had high ambitions for his political life, his local and then statewide influence and prominence. That political life was part of who Dad was as a father, for my brothers and I participated in that life, took pride in Dad's positions and achievements, and adopted his political views as our own until I bolted from the pack and ran for public office a few years before Dad died. It’s a measure of the man that he didn’t resent my political apostasy. He and I could debate issues without rancor and without loss of love or respect.

Dad was a loving husband. Discord between him and Mom and I often erupted because of that. That is part of who Dad and Mom were as parents, for there is nothing more comforting to a child than to have parents who love him and love each other.

In some respects, Dad wasn’t a typical father. He didn’t hunt or fish with us and seldom attended our athletic events. He was an engaged father, though, egging us on, making us part of his farming operations, cheering our achievements, spending time with us and, later, our families. He was generous to a fault in our youth and in later years. My mother and I often laughed about how fast Dad could grab a restaurant check. Years never dulled that skill. He spared the rod entirely. He seldom criticized, cajoled, scolded, even when we did things like leaving a gate to a cattle pasture open or losing a night’s milking with an open bulk tank drain, and he placed almost no restrictions on our activities. Our families, my brothers and I worked as adults from an early age, and, like no other, we were self-employed.

Dad told us that since we acted as adults we should be treated as such. But he never taught us to look down on any more than the realities of farm life. He was a loving, caring father, and I’m sure he believed that as parenting tools those traits would beat a rod. I think it’s fair to say his spared rod didn’t spoil any of his children.

There’s one feature of Dad’s relationship with his sons that probably isn’t typical. We loved to needle him, and he loved to be needled. When I drew a picture of him, rifle in hand, missing a deer by a country mile, he cherished the picture, and we hung it on to until time or moves destroyed or lost it. At his last Easter with us, my brothers and I were right, and Dad wrong, about whether a cow had had a stillborn calf, and nobody laughed harder than Dad when I said the rest of us would have more than our share of chicken at Easter dinner because “Dad will be eating crow.” Dad was jovial in his later years, and he joined in the merriment when a photographer for a family picture said, “Move your chin, Harvey,” and brother Dave asked, “which one?” This ribbing sounds disrespectful, but it wasn’t, because we knew we loved it, and Dad never took it personally. A few years ago I wrote a short biography of Dad at the family’s request. I ended it with words that still ring true to me. I said, “I was fortunate to have grown up in a faithful husband, a loving and generous father and grandfather, a skilled farmer/businessman, a re- semblance of character and modesty, a civic-minded public servant, and a good and decent man. We couldn’t ask for more. I’m sure he rests in peace.”

Braindrizzle - Even a drizzle can cause a ripple that becomes the next wave

At the end of the blacktop

I grew up on the South Side of Chicago. As a child, I can vividly remember driving in the family station wagon on the open highway. We would drive for hours in our pickup truck past the rows of homes in suburban Chicago to the open areas that stretched for miles and miles. For several miles, we would cross large fields of corn and the occasional white farmhouse. I recall looking out the window at those pristine homes and wondering if my parents attended. It is not unusual for a child and parents to have been taught by the same teachers.

Those I have met have given me more over the years and authenticity that I rarely experienced in the city. I have learned a great deal about people living in cities, small towns, pristine farmhouses and out on the ranch. Folks in those country settings have many of the same worries, hopes, dreams and desires of those of us that grew up in an urban environment, but in a different language and rhythm that is all its own. One of the most immediate differences you will see in that people in a rural area will often wave to you as your cars pass. You would see either the one-finger wave, the two-finger wave for the more advanced maneuvers or the much more casual head nod. It feels strange for people who don’t even know you.

There are many differences in these lifestyles in the United States; differences that lead to the richness and diversity that is America. The places I have lived have helped me to learn what life was like “on the other side of tracks.” I have learned a great deal about people living in cities, small towns, pristine farmhouses and out on the ranch. Folks in those country settings have many of the same worries, hopes, dreams and desires of those of us that grew up in an urban environment, but in a different language and rhythm that is all its own.

The city is a fishbowl. The city can be crowded, congested with traffic, noise and crime. It is all too easy to become a small fish in an exceptionally large pond. It can be a place where you struggle to have your voice heard above the din. It is often a place of light, noise and air pollution. Cities can also be a place of great learning and growth, allowing you to be exposed to a larger range of arts and entertainment, exposure to a much more diverse population than you would find in the country. Cities are places of great activity and excitement. They are centers for major corporations, offering a wider variety of employment opportunities and chances for advancement without having to move.

In the country, you can be exposed to the direct opposite, being a person who is known to everyone. Few lives can stand the level of public scrutiny and pressure that you can be placed under in a small community. If you make a mistake in your life, others will know about it the next day. It can sometimes prove impossible to grow beyond any negative history. You may find that it can be like living in a fishbowl.

The technology infrastructure is not as good out in the country as in the city. Cellphone service can be spotty. You may not be able to get access to cable TV. High-speed internet may not be possible, depending upon where you live or how close you are to a major town. This can be a direct cause of reduced employment opportunities away from the city. This is slowly getting better, but far too slowly.

I have genuinely learned to love the rural lifestyle over these past few decades. There I found a warmth and authority that I now know is lost in the city. Those I have met have given me more over the years than I can ever hope to repay. My hope is that they understand this and feel it is an expression of this lifestyle. I have loved each stage of my life but have found myself more at home at the end of the blacktop.
LUCK – The Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church: Grantsburg, Atlas and St. Croix Falls held a drive-in service at the Atlas Park on Sunday, May 31, and Sunday, June 7. For safety reasons, they have not decided on a service inside of the church building yet. Instead, they decided to have Sunday service at Atlas Park. People stayed in their vehicles during the service, listening to sermons and songs through their car audio. If they would leave their vehicles, they were encouraged to wear a mask and keep social distance. They had Sunday services at Atlas Park for two weeks and plan to have it there in the coming weeks until they are sure it is safe to gather in the church.

United Methodist churches hold drive-in services

Pastor Jenny Lee, from Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church: Grantsburg, Atlas and St. Croix Falls, led the sermon. – Photos provided

Bone Lake Lutheran Church honors graduates

Even at a distance Bone Lake Lutheran Church was able to honor its graduating seniors with a quilt of support and warmth. Graduating from Luck High School was Dominic Caroon, who is shown with his red and black quilt with a red, white, blue and black binding. – Photos provided

The drive-in service was a success at the Atlas Park on Sunday, May 31.

People stayed in their vehicles to listen to the Sunday service.

THE SWONGOS TO PERFORM IN FREDERIC

The Swongos will be at the Frederic Art Center at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, June 21, as part of Make Music Day, a free celebration of music around the world. Launched in 1982 in France as the Fete de la Musique, it is now held on the same day in more than 1,000 cities in 120 countries. See separate story. – Photo provided

Paige Livingston, who graduated from Mondovi High School but has ties to the church, is shown with her coral and gray quilt bound with dark gray.
Due to the pandemic, many events normally listed in our calendar page have been canceled or postponed.

**Coming Events**

SEND YOUR COMING EVENTS TOPICS TO: INTER-COUNTY LEADER, BOX 490, FREDERIC, WI 54837 OR EMAIL submit@leaderregister.com

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**FRIDAY/19**

Falcon • Free bread distribution at Trinity Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.

Miltown • Fish fry at the VPW, last call available, 4:30 p.m. or till gone.

Webster • Yellow Lake food distribution at Carlings Thrift Store, 9 a.m. or till gone, 715-986-7026.

**SATURDAY/20**

Grantsburg • Music in the Park, Memory Lake Park, Freeway Jam, 6:30 p.m.

Miltown • Group hike on Gandy Dancer Trail, meet at E. Main Street and Stokely Road, walk to Carls Wren, 3.7 miles, 9 a.m., 715-371-0488.

**SUNDAY/21**

Folke Avoine • Free medical clinic at Ruby’s Well Care, 4:7 p.m., 715-472-7770 for appointment, mywellcareinc.org.

**TUESDAY/23**

Miltown • Free medical clinic at Ruby’s Well Care, 4 p.m., 715-472-7770 for appointment, mywellcare.org.

**FRIDAY/26**

Falcon • Free bread distribution at Trinity Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.

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**SATURDAY/27**

Miltown • Fisherman’s Party Bass Tournament on Bone Lake, Register at Westbrook Outdoors by Mon., June 22, 715-825-3326.

Sarona • 90-Minute Nature program at Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary. Topic: Bouncing Bags and other Habitats, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. or 2 p.m., Reg. by June 11, 715-635-6043, hunthill.org.

Webster • Yellow Lake bike ride, starts and ends at Webster Cog and Sprocket, 14 miles, trail passes required, 9 a.m., lakecountrypedalers.com.

**MONDAY/29**

Amery • Blood drive at Bremer Bank, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., 800-733-2767, redcrossblood.org.

Cushing • Blood drive at the community center, noon 4 p.m., 800-733-2767, redcrossblood.org.

**TUESDAY/30**

Amery • Blood drive at Willow Ridge Healthcare, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 800-733-2767, redcrossblood.org.

**JUNE**

**THURSDAY/18**

Burnett County • Burnett County Democrats monthly meeting on Zoom, 5:30 p.m., burnettcountydemocrats@gmail.com.

Webster • Yellow Lake food distribution at Carlings Thrift Store, 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m. or till gone, 715-986-7026.

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