



WORKING IN CONCERT

Workers from Tree Fella out of Wausau skillfully trimmed branches to fall away from wires and buildings. They cut down 25 trees in just one day April 15. The trunks and branches were hauled away the next day. **FOR THE FULL STORY, SEE PAGE 23.**

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

Top Brass is keeping life clean

Local company is in full production mode packaging single use antiseptic wipes.

PAGE 2

Complicated issues are simply understood

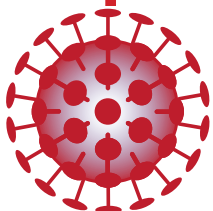
People process information differently based on individual views of reality.

PAGE 4

Changing the way we do business

Bars and restaurants have had to adapt to stay alive.

PAGE 21



Due to the many disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News is now published once a week, on Fridays. In it you'll find updates about the coronavirus and its impact on life in northeastern Wisconsin, and more local news. You'll also find regular updates at www.newmedia-wi.com.

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Cleaning up one wipe at a time

Top Brass packages wipes used around the world

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

WITTENBERG — At a time when many businesses are closed or operating with skeleton crews, Top Brass employs 80 people and is looking to hire more.

The company specializes in packaging single-use antibacterial wipes, medical device and surface sanitizer wipes, and wipes for pet, auto and personal care use. They need more workers to help on the assembly line production of these wipes.

President Mark Burgess noted that due to the COVID-19 virus, many of the production lines are booked through the rest of 2020 and into 2021. Because of the demand for anti-bacterial wipes and sanitizers, they've had to push some regular customers further out on the schedule.

"The biggest issue we currently

face is the worldwide demand for raw materials, like alcohol, non-wovens and packaging materials," he said. "Lead times in many instances are in months, not weeks."

There are a lot of quality control issues to deal with when packaging the projects. Burgess acknowledged that since they produce FDA and EPA products, their quality department works very hard to make sure standard operating procedures are followed and quality documentation is compliant.

Several safety measures are practiced at the factory to keep employees healthy. Personal protective gear is utilized, such as gloves, hair nets, steel toe boots, safety glasses and ear protection, if needed. The whole plant goes through a sanitizing process. There is also year-round climate control with fresh air exchange and positive pressure in the production suites according to Burgess.

"As a small company, we all multi-task," said Burgess. "I spend the majority of my time managing one of our largest customers. The rest of the time, I work with our plant and maintenance managers."

Brad McKay is vice president, heads up outside contract sales and works closely with the quality manager, and Liz Burgess handles monthly accounting, payables, receivables and department budgets.

"Most of the products we make are on contract and sold by our customers to many types of institutions and to large and small retailers throughout the country and the world," said Mark Burgess.

Top Brass started in 1992 in Mount Vernon, Iowa, and moved operations to 1001 E. Mohawk St. in Wittenberg in 1994. They added a second building at that location in 1998.

mnelson@newmedia-wi.com



A full employee parking lot is sometimes a rare sight in these days of COVID-19. Top Brass in Wittenberg has 80 full-time employees and is hiring more.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA



Top Brass has been in business in Wittenberg since 1994 and specializes in packaging single-use antibacterial wipes.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

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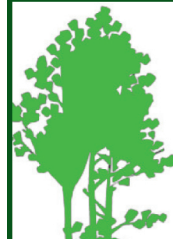
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*to all the volunteers that have given time to help at
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Dale,	Karen,	Shirley,	Sally,	Jerry,	Bonnie

How do the 'experts' function in today's society?

There have been times when I have had conversations with bright, intelligent individuals, experts in their own fields, and yet at the end of the conversation I secretly wonder who ties their shoes each morning. They may be book smart but have no comprehension about simple basic belief systems.

I think of the "expert" giving a speech on how to avoid spreading the coronavirus by washing your hands and not touching your face — and then proceeding to lick her finger as she progresses to turn to page two of her speech. I bet if the camera had panned down to her shoes, it would have found them on



MIRIAM NELSON

the wrong feet. Comprehending a situation is important for the sake of safety, but not everyone comes to the same conclusion. It's especially difficult to know if information is being understood when you're dealing with a special needs population.

A friend of mine owns two adult group homes. I emphasize "home" as she makes sure the residents feel well loved and cared for. Every

season is enjoyed, and every holiday is decorated for and celebrated. The homes do feel like homes and not sterile living quarters.

Before the pandemic, there were trips to the mall perhaps to do a little shopping, but mostly to enjoy the worldwide pastime of people watching. Movies and theater shows were attended on at least a monthly basis. Keeping their brains active and stimulated is almost as important for their well being as is food and shelter.

It's a little harder to figure out what to tell those with special needs about the pandemic, or how much of the information they can actually comprehend. Hand washing and keeping the home clean has always been a priority, but now the staff members wear masks. The trips aren't as plentiful and are reduced to an occasional ride in the van to pick up an ice cream or coffee treat through a drive-up window. It's all a bit of an adjustment, but the assurance is that they understand that they are keeping everybody safe.

In one of the homes, two of the girls are genuinely happy and seem to understand the concept of keeping everyone safe. I use the term "girls" loosely as they are both older than I

am. During this time of confinement, they keep busy with their coloring. They also seem to understand when they need to stay in their rooms so that another resident, who can't understand the need for separation, can roam through the rest of the house.

As Easter was approaching, my friend decided to see how the girls were processing life as they now know it. All the years before, they always received baskets from the Easter bunny as part of the Easter celebration. This year, my friend was wondering if she should skip that tradition. A few days before Easter, she asked the girls if they understood about the Easter bunny, and they assured her that they did. The night before she decided to ask the girls again, and they said yes they did.

One of the girls added, "It's OK. We understand the Easter bunny should stay home with his wife and family."

Fortunately the Easter bunny was able to safely deliver his baskets and return home this year.

Miriam Nelson is the news editor of the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News. Readers can contact her at mnelson@newmedia-wi.com

NOTICE OF NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL VILLAGE OF WITTENBERG

MUNICIPAL CODE 10.03(7) PUBLIC NUISANCES AFFECTING HEALTH/NOXIOUS WEEDS. All noxious weeds, as defined in §66.0407, Wis. Stats. must be destroyed. In addition, other rank growth of vegetation, and all weeds, grasses and plants over 9 inches in height, excluding trees and shrubs, must be destroyed if they:

- Detract from the surrounding area and properties.
- Become a possible fire hazard, as determined by the Fire Chief or Fire Inspector
- Become a health hazard due to their pollen or a potential cover for disease carrying rodents and other small animals.
- Are of infectious or poisonous nature in or adjacent to a populated area, regardless of height.
- Become a potential hazard to vehicular traffic in vision clearance triangles.

By Order of the
Village of Wittenberg Board of Trustees

WNAXLP

Minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Meeting was called to order, at 6:00 pm, by Village President, William Switalla – Roll Call – Marlene Wepner – present, Renee Switalla – present, Barb Buchholz – present, William Switalla – present, Sharon Beversdorf – present, David Timm – present, and Paul Yaeger – present. Also present: Mark Forseth, Dick Beversdorf and Brian Hamm.

Beversdorf/Buchholz m/s/c to approve the regular meeting minutes for February 18, 2020.

Timm/Yaeger to approve a picnic license for WOW for their Wine, Beer & Cheese gala on April 24. Roll call vote – all ayes.

R.Switalla/Buchholz to approve the interim bills for \$18,063.33 and the audited bills for \$5,706.61. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Yaeger/Buchholz to approve up to \$1,500 to restock the ponds with fish. Roll call vote – all ayes

W.Switalla/Timm m/s/c to approve Vinal Street closure, from Webb to Prouty, for Tavern Front's Crabfest on Aug. 14 & 15.

W.Switalla/Buchholz to go into closed session, at 6:42, for 19.85(1)(e) with the Village Board, Village Clerk, Dick Beversdorf and Mark Forseth. Roll call vote – all ayes.

R.Switalla/Buchholz m/s/c to reconvene into open session at 7:26.

R.Switalla/Buchholz m/s/c to adjourn at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Traci Matsche
Village of Wittenberg Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP

Minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Meeting was called to order, at 6:00 pm, by Village President, William Switalla – Roll Call – Marlene Wepner – present, Renee Switalla – present, Barb Buchholz – absent, William Switalla – present, Sharon Beversdorf – present, David Timm – present, and Paul Yaeger – absent.

Beversdorf/Timm m/s/c to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 3, 2020.

R.Switalla/Wepner to approve a \$25 thank you gift card to David Yaeger, Jacob Wolff and Carla Straussburg for their work in getting our skating rink, warming house and decorative figurines up and running this year. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Timm/R.Switalla to approve resolution 2020-01 for the determination of necessity for a permanent easement. Roll call vote – all ayes.

R.Switalla/Beversdorf to approve the interim bills for \$154.35 and the audited bills for \$16,552.02. Roll call vote – all ayes.

R.Switalla/Beversdorf to approve the purchase of 5 new tables for the community center, for no more than \$450.00. Roll call vote – all ayes.

W.Switalla/Wepner to approve Paul Paulson as a new public works employee, beginning 3/18 at \$14.00/hr. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Timm/R.Switalla to approve \$35 for membership to the Wittenberg Development Corp. Roll call vote – all ayes.

R.Switalla/Beversdorf m/s/c to adjourn at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Traci Matsche
Village of Wittenberg Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP

A new way of doing business

By MIRIAM NELSON

News Editor

WITTENBERG — Local bars and restaurants have responded to the Safer at Home order by either closing their doors or modifying their hours and way of operating.

Bars that don't sell food, like Xena's Village Inn, had no choice but to close their doors for now. Tavern Front is using this time to do some inside renovations, including putting in new flooring.

Rachel Rasmussen, owner of Rachel's Roadside Bar and Grill, decided to offer a takeout pizza menu while they undergo some kitchen renovations.

"When the shutdown and stay-at-home began in late March, I wanted to do my best to move forward, while following all the rules, keeping my customers and employees safe. I also felt it wasn't a time to compete but to work together with the surrounding businesses by offering things other than similar menu to-go items," Rasmussen said. "It was a tough decision, but pizza seemed to be the best option."

While she is offering a pizza menu only, Rasmussen shared a list of other restaurants that are open, what they offer and their phone numbers. She even gathered links to some menus so her customers could easily find places to try during this time when the number of open restaurants is limited.

Most of her employees have kids in school, so laying them off seemed to be an easier solution than having them try to balance homeschooling or day care options, along with work and safety issues.

Rasmussen noted that her business has decreased by 94% by limiting her menu to just pizzas, but she has been able to move forward on kitchen renovation plans that had already been in her budget.

"I am hoping within the next few weeks I will open my kitchen and offer Friday fish fries, weekend chicken dinners and our wing and shrimp special on Tuesdays," said Rasmussen.

Marianne Hegewald is the owner of Mama's Place in Elderon, and her daughter, Julie Wanta, works as the manager. Wanta noted that things were difficult when they first had to shut down, but now they are managing with food service. They offer to-go service, curbside pickup and deliveries within a 10-mile radius. They still offer their full menu with daily specials. Their Facebook page shows the entire menu.

Wanta can't say for sure, but she thinks the stress of owning the small

AT A GLANCE

Some of the local bars and restaurants providing takeout food service:

- Chet & Emil's, 388 Main St., Birnamwood, 715-449-2226
- Delightfully Dished with Emma Kait's Coffeehaus, 389 Main St., Birnamwood, 715-449-0040
- Freddy's Mexican & More, 408 State Road, Hatley, 715-446-3609
- Jen & Tonic's, 1651 S. State Highway 49, Wittenberg, 715-454-7077
- Lisa's at Lakeside, 214857 County Road Y, Hatley, 715-446-3730
- Rachel's Roadside Bar and Grill, W17298 Spruce Road, Wittenberg, 715-253-3190
- Resch Lanes, 407 S. Howard St., Wittenberg, 715-253-2605
- Straight Home, 9208 Main St., Elderon, 715-454-6278

business might be the reason Hegewald had been hospitalized due to a stroke since March 22. Hegewald was released Friday.

"That was hard, not being able to go visit my mom," said Wanta. "I'm fortunate to have a niece working at the hospital, and she could check in on her for me."

Wanta has noticed that they are being supported by their regular customers, and that they are also seeing a lot of new faces of people who want to support them.

Amanda and Drew Schmidt, along with his parents, Steve and Sue Schmidt, purchased the Wolff's Den in downtown Elderon in 2017. At that time, it was a popular business with loyal customers. Adding new menu items and bringing back live bands in the underused ballroom only added to its success.

"This has absolutely changed how we do business," Amanda Schmidt said, of the stay-at-home order. While many of her customers visit the establishment for food and drinks, "a lot of people come in to see you. They come in to chat with you and see their friends. You no longer have that social connection that you are used to having everyday."

Schmidt and her husband have run the business with minimal staff, so they had no full-time employees to layoff.

According to Schmidt, loyal customers as well as new ones have been supporting their business. The Schmidts have been doing their part to support other bars and restaurants by ordering from them when they can.

"A lot of bar and restaurants have suffered quite a bit, and I believe this will really have a lasting impact on the restaurant world," said Schmidt.

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Sheriff's letter to governor issue at board meeting

Tom Kautza elected board chairman at reorganizational meeting

By **TIM RYAN**
Reporter

SHAWANO — The Shawano County Board held its reorganizational meeting Tuesday at the Crawford Center in Shawano where there was sufficient room for supervisors and staff to maintain six-foot social distancing requirements amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic and the statewide Safer-at-Home order were the topics of the public comment period, during which several speakers took aim at Sheriff Adam Bieber's open letter to Gov. Tony Evers in a Facebook post implying he would not enforce the order.

Bieber urged Evers to lighten the restrictions and wrote that he "will



County board members, county personnel and visitors entering the Crawford Center prior to the Shawano County Board reorganizational meeting were asked to have their temperature taken to make sure they were not bringing a fever, and possibly COVID-19, into the room. Shawano-Menominee Health Nurse Vicki Dantoin checks the temperature of Kara Karlupka, deputy county clerk, as she enters the building.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

not enforce rules or laws that infringe on the Constitutional rights of our Citizens."

Bieber has not responded to calls

or emails from the Leader seeking to clarify his Facebook post.

"The number one health concern of the County Board, this county and our entire community is not COVID, it's our sheriff," said Jackie Miller, of Bowler.

Miller said it shouldn't be up to Bieber to decide what is a health threat and what is constitutional.

Dr. Kevin Culhane, clinical director at the Menominee Tribal Clinic, presented a letter from area doctors offering a health perspective on the issue.

Culhane is also affiliated with ThedaCare Medical Center-Shawano and a member of the Shawano-Menominee Counties Board of Health.

Culhane said the statewide Safer-at-Home order has flattened the curve of COVID cases in Wisconsin and social distancing practices are helping to save lives.

He addressed misinformation about the coronavirus that it's no worse than the flu.

"COVID is more dangerous and more deadly," he said, and currently has no vaccine.

Culhane said experts are predicting a surge in cases over the coming weeks and months resulting in a significant loss of life.

He said he and other area doctors were advocating for a more phased-in return to normalcy rather than "a blunt disregard of all re-



COVID-19 Journal

—NEW Media—

strictions."

Dan Robinson, of Shawano, said that until the Safer-at-Home guidelines are adjudicated in court, the sheriff has a responsibility to enforce them.

He encouraged the County Board to ask the sheriff to go along with the guidelines.

Later in the meeting, District 21 Supervisor Joe Miller echoed some of those comments.

"This is a public health issue, a public health emergency," he said.

He also noted that the county last month declared a state of emergency and that it should be the sheriff's responsibility to abide by that.

In other business at Tuesday's meeting, District 26 Supervisor Tom Kautza was unanimously elected County Board Chairman after he was the sole nominee to accept the nomination.

Kautza replaces former board chairman Jerry Erdmann.

District 20 Supervisor Rick Giese was elected vice chairman over District 6 Supervisor Randy Young, and District 19 Supervisor Arlyn Tober, who had been vice chairman previously.

Among the 27 supervisors sworn in for a two-year term were six new County Board members and one returning member in a new district.

The new members included Mike Wizner, representing District 1 in the city of Shawano; Kimberly Leffel, District 4 in the city; Sandy Steinke, District 5 in the city; Devin Krizan, District 8 in the town of Wescott; Terry Tipton, District 10 in town of Green Valley; and Aaron Damrau, District 23, representing the town of Fairbanks; Ward 2 of the town of Germania, and the village of Tigerton.

Deb Noffke, formerly the longtime supervisor in District 1, was sworn in as District 14 supervisor, replacing Peter Schmidt who chose not to run for reelection. District 14 includes the town of Hartland, Ward 1 of the town of Angelica and Ward 2 of the town of Washington.

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A lifetime of trees gone in a day

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

WITTENBERG — Twenty-five trees were cut down April 15 along Webb Street in preparation for a road reconstruction project.

Tree Fella, of Wausau, was subcontracted to remove the trees between the street and the sidewalk. The crew had to work around banks of snow left by the recent snowfall.

“The snow doesn’t really bother us,” said Todd Butler, Tree Fella owner. “We’re used to working through all kinds of weather.”

The company was hired by Jake’s Excavating and Landscaping LLC, from Ironwood, Michigan — the company chosen by the village of Wittenberg to head up the Webb Street project.

The project to include construction of a new road, sidewalk and

gutters will begin in May and finish by the end of September. The portion of south Webb Street being reconstructed is between Reed Street and College Avenue. The plan will allow for local access.

The trees were taken down in a day, with the downed wood and branches removed the following morning. The remaining tree trunks and roots will be removed by Jake’s Excavating and Landscaping when they start the removal of the road sometime in May.

Martenson and Eisele Inc., the company in charge of the project, anticipates the entire project will be completed by September. They will also closely monitor the situation regarding the current safety and social distancing standards set by the governor in regard to the COVID-19 virus.

mnelson@newmedia-wi.com



Piles of limbs line Webb Street on April 15 as the crew from Tree Fella works to remove the trees that grew between the street and the sidewalks.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA



Tree Fella, of Wausau, cuts down 25 trees April 15 in preparation for the Webb Street reconstruction project. The road work on the street, curbs and gutters is scheduled to begin in May.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

SPORTS

ATHLETE PROFILE: MEGAN KONKOL

Witt-Birn senior has sports career end abruptly

WITTENBERG — While many high school athletes played in multiple sports this school year, not many expected their spring seasons to be ripped away from them. Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School senior Megan Konkol won't get the chance to bring closure to her high school sports career on the softball diamond after the WIAA officially cancelled the spring season on Tuesday.

Konkol landed on the Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division second team as a junior after posting a .385 batting average in conference play.

Konkol was an honorable mention pick as a sophomore.

Q: When did your interest in softball begin?

A: I would say since I was a little kid. I'd always go in the backyard with my dad (Chad) and sister (Corrissa), and we'd hit softballs and play catch. I've always loved the game ever since then.

Q: What is your favorite part about the season?

A: Being able to play outside, and I love making all the memories with my teammates every year.

Q: You were heading into your senior season and coming off a big junior year. How would it make you feel if the coronavirus wiped out the season?

A: I just hate thinking that I'll never play a high school sport again. I was definitely devastated when basketball was over, but I knew I still had softball season left to look forward to.

Now that it might not be an option, I'm just heartbroken to say that high school sports could be over for me before I even knew it was happening. Definitely more in a shock than anything.

Q: Does it make it more disap-



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Megan Konkol scores a run during a 2019 Central Wisconsin Conference-East Division matchup against Menominee Indian in Keshena.

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pointing to know that you might not get to play softball as a senior?

A: Oh yeah, 100%. I just hate to think that I could miss out on my last opportunity to play high school sports, especially softball. Just knowing that I could never have my last game or even start practice because we never had the opportunity.

Q: How are you staying prepared should the season start at some point?

A: When it's nice outside, I've been going out with my sister and we play catch, hit balls around the yard — just something to do to keep my mind on softball. And since we have a lot of

FYI

The interview was conducted on April 15.

time on our hands now since we're stuck at home, I've been working out every day just to make sure I stay in shape and active in hopes that one day we can play again.

Q: How have you adjusted to the Safer at Home order over the past few weeks?

A: The schoolwork was definitely different at first — all online — but I'm getting used to it as it's going on. I'm understanding what's expected of me.

It's hard not being able to see my friends and family all the time, but I

AT A GLANCE

ATHLETE: Megan Konkol

SPORT: Softball

POSITIONS: First base, third base

SCHOOL: Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

YEAR: Senior

understand that in order for this to get over with, we have to stay home.

Just the fact that I'm thinking I could be in school right now sucks, but I understand that it'll get better eventually.

Q: What's your favorite memory of competing on the Wittenberg-Birnamwood softball team?

A: My favorite memory was definitely last season when we had a doubleheader in Iola. They were undefeated in conference, so we knew they would be tough games. But in the second game, we were able to win, which was awesome.

It was definitely the most excited I've ever been. It was such a great feeling to know we beat them. We built our team together, and we started playing together more. It was just a great feeling to win against a team like that.

Q: Favorite TV show, movie and musical artist?

A: TV show — "Friends." It can always make me laugh. Movie — "Grease." Musical artist — Khalid.

Q: Name one thing about yourself that not many people know.

A: I love to sing. I'm not very good at it at all, but it's definitely something I love to do and it's a lot of fun.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do when you are not in school or competing in a high school sport?

A: I'd have to say hanging out with my family and friends. I'm really close with all of them, so that's what I love to do.

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Witt-Birn honoring Class of 2020

To honor the seniors who are
graduating during this unique time
in history, the Wittenberg-Birnam-
wood School District is honoring
and congratulating the Class of 2020
online.

Several seniors will be spot-
lighted on the district's Facebook
page. To participate, seniors must
complete the Google form that was
sent to them via email. Community

members, friends and family are
encouraged to like and share these
spotlight posts.

Additionally, all parents, siblings,
friends, extended family mem-
bers, teachers and members of the
community are invited to submit a
10-second video to congratulate the
graduating class. Deadline for sub-
mission is May 11, and videos may
be submitted at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/2dsmCAEJx9ZA9q6Q7>. For
information, email beland@wittbirn.k12.wi.us.

COLLEGE NOTES

UW-Green Bay

• Brooke Breitrick, Bowler, was recently initiated into the honor society of
Phi Kappa Phi at University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

This is the Friday-only COVID-19 Journal version of
NEW Media's Shawano Leader, Wittenberg Enterprise &
Birnamwood News and Oconto County Times Herald.
Find us online at www.newmedia-wi.com

WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 27, 2020

6:40 P.M. - Budget and Finance Committee Meeting

7:00 P.M. - Regular Board meeting Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School Library

AGENDA

- I. Meeting called to order, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.84(1).
- II. Roll Call of the Board - Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Oaths of Office
 - Election of School Board Members
 - 2020-2021 Board Committees Reviewed
- IV. Motion to Approve the Minutes of the March 30, 2020, Regular Meeting as circulated.
- V. Communications and Delegations
- VI. Student Representative
- VII. Public Comments
- VIII. Board Concerns or Reports
- IX. Financial Report
- X. Approve the Agenda
- XI. The Board may adjourn to Closed Session at the close of the meeting pursuant to WI.STATS.19.85(1)© for Personnel Matters, and 19.85 (1)(g) for Legal Matters and 19.85(1)(e) for Negotiations. The Board will reconvene to Open Session to ratify any decisions made in Closed Session.
- XII. Administrative Reports
- XIII. Old Business
- XIV. New Business
 - A. Approve Capital Projects
 - B. First Reading of Board Policies Volume 29 2
 - C. Approve Health & Dental Insurance Renewal
 - D. Approve 2020-2021 Lunch Prices
 - E. Middle School Softball Proposal for Information
 - F. Approve Staff Compensation
 - G. Approve District Carpenter Hire
 - H. Approve DPI Waivers
 - I. Approve Coach Hires
 - J. Approve Staff Resignations/Retirement
 - K. Approve Teacher Transfer
 - L. Approve CESA 8 Delegate



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State works to increase testing capacity

More kits for tribal clinics part of the effort

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers announced Monday that Wisconsin is taking big steps to increase COVID-19 testing capacity throughout the state.

Working with the Wisconsin Clinical Lab Network, the state has grown the number of labs performing COVID-19 tests from just eight labs one month ago to 36.

The state plans to continue public-private partnerships to add more labs and more testing capacity in the days and weeks ahead. However, in order to sustain the

existing and expanded clinical lab network's efforts, the state will need federal partnership to ensure availability of reagent and other critical supplies in Wisconsin.

This week, plans are in place to greatly accelerate testing in Wisconsin, including:

- The state is working with tribal partners to ensure that their communities receive testing they need. Starting this week, 1,000 tests will be delivered per week to tribal health clinics.

- Exact Sciences is devoting a significant portion of its lab capacity and resources to COVID-19 tests processing. This will enable them to provide the state with approximately 20,000 tests and processing each week, which will be distributed to health care systems through-

out the state.

- Epic is providing assistance in its effort to distribute Exact Sciences' tests by providing the interoperability necessary to connect health care providers with Exact to ensure timely processing of tests and reporting of test results.

- Promega is providing major support by sourcing high demand reagents and materials for a number of labs in the state, including Exact Sciences' lab. In addition to these materials, they've also shared equipment and provided invaluable problem-solving skills.

- This week, Marshfield Clinic Health System will be working on ramping up to process 10,000 tests per week from providers around the state.

- About 2,200 test collection supplies and PPE are headed to Green Bay in response to an outbreak with significant risk potential to the community.

Through additional procurement efforts by the state, Wisconsin will be receiving over 250,000 additional test collection supplies in the coming weeks.

This is the Friday-only COVID-19 Journal version of NEW Media's Shawano Leader, Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News and Oconto County Times Herald. Find us online at www.newmedia-wi.com



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VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may submit a request to vote an absentee ballot to their municipal clerk. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 10 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

You must make a request for an absentee ballot in writing or online at MyVote.wi.gov.

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter or you may apply for an absentee ballot online at myVote.wi.gov. Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application for an absentee ballot in person, by mail, by fax, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is: 5 pm on the fifth day before the election, May 7, 2020.

Note: Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Voting an absentee ballot in person

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

TOWNS:

MUNICIPAL CLERK:	DATES & TIMES OF ABSENTEE VOTING
NAME / TELEPHONE # / ADDRESS	
ELDERON -Mary Ostrowski, Clerk 715-454-6845 217422 Black Cherry Dr., Eland, WI 54427	April 13-May10, 2020 M-F 8am-5pm, Please call for appointment

FRANZEN -Jonah Kosmalski, Clerk 715-677-3442 203340 State Hwy 49, Wittenberg, WI 54499	April 13-May 09, 2020 Please call for appointment
NORRIE -Carla King, Clerk, 715-432-5036 Town Hall: 224971 Co Rd D, Birnamwood, WI 54414	April 13-May 09, 2020 Please call for appointment
PLOVER -Doreen Erbrecht, Clerk 715-449-2542 176680 Co Rd Z, Aniwa, WI 54408	
REID -Kittie Milanowski, Clerk 715-446-3767 or 715-573-0574 175477 Plover River Rd, Hatley, WI 54440	May 04-May 08, 2020 M-F 9am-5pm

VILLAGES:

BIRNAMWOOD -Lauri Klumppan, Clerk 715-449-2001 463 State Rd, Birnamwood, WI 54414	April 20-May 08, 2020 Please call for appointment
ELDERON -Robert H. Wyman, Clerk 715-584-4203 183987 State Hwy 153, Elderon, WI 54429	
HATLEY -Joan Wawrzaszek, Clerk 715-446-3139, 108 Jones Ave. Hatley, WI 54440 PO Box 99, Hatley, WI 54440	April 20-May 08, 2020 Please call for appointment

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on May 12, 2020.

Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

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