



BRISK BUSINESS FOR ICE CREAM SALES

Owner Diane Smith serves Jennifer Cook, Wittenberg, a frozen monkey tail treat at Diane's Soft Serve, 415 U.S. Highway 45 in Birnamwood. Smith opened April 11 and joked that business has been so good, she wishes she had opened in March. The stand is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

Technology helps keep therapy sessions on track

Homme Youth and Family Programs uses videoconferencing to help residents work on therapy with their families. The facility had to suspend campus visits due to the Safer at Home order.

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No closure for Nathael Wanta

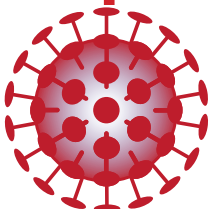
COVID-19 cut short Tigerton track and field athlete's chance to finish high school sports career.

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Meet the WBSD school nurse

More than just student health care, Rebecca Wendel trains, coordinates and reports on health services in all three schools.

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Due to the many disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wittenberg Enterprise and Birnamwood News is now published 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. Thank you for your purchase, your subscription and your support.

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Some taverns reportedly violating stay-at-home order

Sheriff's department mum on enforcement

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

SHAWANO — A number of Shawano County bars and taverns were reportedly open for business over the last several days, in spite of the statewide Safer at Home order aimed at curbing the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

While some were open only for food take-out, in compliance with the order, others reportedly had patrons inside eating and drinking, according to complaints received by the Shawano County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Adam Bieber posted an open letter to Gov. Tony Evers on his Facebook page last month implying he would not enforce the order.

Bieber urged Evers to lighten the restrictions and wrote that he "will not enforce rules or laws that infringe on the Constitutional rights of our Citizens."

Bieber has not responded to repeated calls or emails from the Leader seeking to clarify his Facebook post.

According to Linda Van Gheem, president of the Shawano County Tavern League and owner of Da Swamp tavern in Seymour, Bieber has made it clear that taverns don't need to worry about any enforcement from the sheriff's department.

"He said he wouldn't enforce anything," Van Gheem said.

Bieber on Wednesday attended a meeting of the tavern league hosted at the Shawano Lake Golf Course.

On Thursday, the sheriff's department received a complaint that bars along Lake Drive were open.

No action appears to have been taken by the sheriff's department in response.

Sheriff's Capt. Ty Raddant said the complaint was "taken for information at this time."

On Friday, according to the daily incident report, the sheriff's department received three more complaints about bars being open, including one caller who reported that "all of the bars in Cecil are open."

It was not clear from the incident report what, if any, action was taken in response.



Rachel Rasmussen, owner of Rachel's Roadside Bar & Grill in Wittenberg, keeps revenue coming in with pickup food service. During the initial shutdown, she expanded her kitchen and is now working on a new addition for restaurant seating.

MIRIAM NELSON | NEW MEDIA

Raddant was not at liberty to discuss the department's stance on enforcing the governor's order.

"The sheriff says he is the only one that wants to respond to that," Raddant said.

Additional calls were put in to Bieber's office and cell phone numbers for a comment. He did not respond.

The governor's office also failed to respond to several calls.

County Board Chairman Tom Kautza said there was no discussion about the governor's order or enforcement at a public safety committee meeting Wednesday morning.

Kautza was asked about Bieber's open letter to Evers, which was posted April 17, and the county's response to it.

"I don't have it in front of me and I'd like to read it again before I make any comment on it," Kautza said. "I'd like to read it and see exactly what he said."

Anne Retzlaff, owner of Annie's Campground and the Irish Pub and Grub west of Gresham, is adamant about keeping her bar open.

She said she feels the governor's order to close violates her constitutional rights, and encourages other bar owners to open their establishments to the public.

"It is an active, peaceful way to pro-

test," she said. "I am proud to be standing up and fighting for our rights."

The Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department continues to encourage people to follow social distancing rules and state guidelines for stemming the spread of the pandemic.

"As Wisconsin plans ahead for returning business to normal, we know that we will be living in a 'new' normal," health officer Vicki Dantoin said in a press release Friday. "We cannot forget that the risk for COVID-19 will continue and we will need to keep our social responsibilities and follow quarantine and isolation guidelines if necessary to help protect the public's health."

Van Gheem said she was not aware of what individual tavern league members were doing in response to the governor's order.

However, she said, tavern league members are hurting.

"There's a few that have the curbside pickup that are really stressing out about it because it's really hard to accommodate everybody," Van Gheem said. "They have to make sure they're all scheduled right. Food has to go out at a certain time so you don't have too many people at your bar."

Van Gheem's own bar is closed, she said, and she has been using that time for renovation.



Anne Retzlaff serves a drink at the Irish Pub and Grub at Annie's Campground near Gresham on May 9. Retzlaff sees the order to close the bar as an infringement on her rights. Public health officials have maintained that bars and restaurants pose a threat of transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

"My bar is just a bar," she said. "We don't have food or anything. There are no carry-outs or anything like that. It's hard to serve anybody out of a bar like mine."

Van Gheem said she expects that some taverns will be re-opening on Monday, May 11, even though the governor's order was extended to May 26.

"Evers doesn't have the power to do that," she said. "He only has it up until 60 days."

That is one of the arguments being made before the state supreme court in a lawsuit brought by Republican lawmakers seeking to get the order overturned.

Van Gheem also said that some tavern league members are concerned that opening in violation of the governor's order could get them in trouble with the public health department, even if the sheriff's department is not enforcing it.

"I don't think they're going to re-open if they're afraid of getting their licenses pulled from the state," she said. "Then they won't open, and the ones that aren't afraid to, I guess they're going to open. I don't really know."

Responses to the governor's order and compliance with it has varied around the county.

"We're still following the state orders, until we're told otherwise that they're either invalid or they change them," Shawano Police Chief Dan Mauel said. "We encourage all of our businesses to adhere to that also."

Mauel said there was been "great cooperation" so far from businesses in the city.

Wittenberg Village President Bill Switalla said he was grateful for the cooperation being shown by businesses in the village.

"Our bars gave no argument to closing at all," he said.

The village board recently voted to waive licensing fees in light of the closures to provide some financial assistance.

"It's tough out there," he said.

Jason Resch, owner of Resch Lanes, 407 Howard St., Wittenberg, said the community has been very supportive.

But he expressed disappointment that so much of the government money intended to assist small businesses went to large companies.

"It was all gone before we could be considered," he said.

Resch Lanes is closed for inside seating and will stay that way until the governor's order on May 26.

However, Resch said, if he saw other bars allowed to be open without any enforcement, he would also open his bar.

Rachel Rasmussen, owner of Rachel's Roadside Bar and Grill, W17298 Spruce Road, Wittenberg, said the

state restrictions are excessive and unfair to small businesses.

However, she is complying with them.

"I see the dangers they are trying to prevent," she said.

Rasmussen also said there has been a lot of community support for the tavern's carry-out food service and, like some other establishments, has used the down time to make improvements.

Hugh McAloon, owner of Tavern Front, 207 W. Vinal St., Wittenberg, said his business will not reopen until there's an official OK.

"Of course we are concerned with not only the fines attached to an unauthorized early open, but also the public perception," he said. "While we may not agree with everything happening, we do need to follow the rules and keep the safety of both customers and employees in mind."

Plenty of moms deserve the happy day

It's been seven years since I've spent Mother's Day with my mom, and I think because of all the changes in the way we now interact due to the coronavirus, I've been feeling a little melancholy for this time of year.

It used to be a big celebratory time at the Nelson household. Not only did we celebrate Mother's Day, but May 11 was Dad's birthday and my nephew, Jonah's birthday, so we'd celebrate all events on the same weekend.

What I miss most is just hanging out, laughing and all the hugs and kisses.

This year, I decided to text my sister in Lake Geneva, my niece-in-law in Illinois and my sister-in-law in Indonesia to wish them all happy Mother's Days. Communication is so easy these days that I'm amazed



MIRIAM NELSON

I have only three aunts left, so since we're not getting any younger, I made sure I called each of them to have an actual conversation on a phone. Oh my, how primitive, but effective.

One aunt was totally surprised, and it was so great to catch up with her. She and her husband had moved from their home in Farmington, Minnesota, to be near their daughter,

I don't reach out more often. Why do I wait for holidays? Why did I think I could only send wishes to my own mother when there are so many others to spread the good wishes to?

who is my age, in Blue Earth. I'm not sure that I'd be that willing to pack up and move in my mid-80s, but she was ecstatic to have made the choice and is enjoying her new adventure. My uncle was a pastor, and they were missionaries to Brazil early in their marriage, so moving was something their family did on a regular basis.

My other aunt in Luana, Iowa, is hard of hearing, and my telephone call to her took a little more effort. I think I enjoyed it more than she did, but I could tell she really appreciated my effort. With both of these aunts, I like to push the boundaries of their stoic Nordic ancestry, and so I told them I loved them and waited for the brief silence as it registered what I said before they responded with the typical "OK," which is code for "I love you, too!" To really know people and where they're coming from is to

truly love them.

Mom's youngest sister has never had trouble expressing herself, and we reminisced about all the trips she was able to make while Mom and Dad lived at the Homme Home. Although I don't call her as often as I should, I do call her more than the other two because the conversation is just easier.

It's been a long time since I've packed a bag and gone to visit any of my relatives. Now that it's not recommended due to the coronavirus, I find myself itching to go for a visit or two or three. Who knows when or if that opportunity will come again? In the meantime, I'll try to be a better niece and call them more often.

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

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

Minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Meeting was called to order, at 6:09 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: Miriam Nelson, Joel Yaeger, Ryan Christianson and Tony Letter.

Buchholz/R.Switalla m/s/c to approve the regular meeting minutes for April 7, 2020.

B.Switalla/Wepner m/s/c to deviate from agenda as needed.

Timm/Buchholz to approve RC Pavers bid of \$71,725 for the replacement/repair of the community center parking lot and driveway. Roll call vote – 6 ayes with Timm voting no.

Yaeger/Buchholz to approve Your Choice Roofings bid of up to \$28,000 to repair the Village shop and Ambulance roof, to include an 18 year warranty. Roll call vote – all ayes.

R.Switalla/Buchholz to remove the "extra" sidewalk from the Webb St. plans and end the sidewalk where it currently does, per Martenson & Eisele's recommendation. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Yaeger/Buchholz to leave as is the current engineering plans for the sidewalk, curb and gutter (in front of Homme Home) for the Webb Street project. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Yaeger/Buchholz to fix the windows in the doors on the north side of the hall, and the small ones in the doors on the west side of the hall if needed. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Discussed postponing the sidewalk projects until next summer if necessary.

R.Switalla/Buchholz to approve the interim bills for \$997.50 and the audited bills for \$35,937.56. Roll call vote – all ayes.

R.Switalla/Buchholz m/s/c to adjourn at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Traci Matsche
Village of Wittenberg Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP

Notice is hereby given that the following individuals have made application for a license to deal in intoxicating liquors in the Village of Wittenberg, granting of which is pending:

Class A Beer & Liquor:

Wittenberg Shell LLC
d/b/a Wittenberg Shell LLC
Howard Wagner, Agent
413 N. Genesee

Howard L. Wagner
d/b/a Wagner Shell Food Mart
Howard Wagner, Agent
504 Grand Avenue

Dolgencorp LLC
d/b/a Dollar General Store #13790
John Greene, Agent
309 Genesee St.

Gary Hanke
d/b/a Hanke's Sentry Foods
Gary Hanke, Agent
110 S. Mission Street

Class B Beer & Liquor:

Wittenberg Bowling Center, LLC
d/b/a Resch Lanes
Jason Resch, Agent
407 S. Howard

Big Mac Media, LLC
d/b/a Tavern Front
Hugh McAloon, Agent
207 W. Vinal Street

Traci Matsche
Village of Wittenberg Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP

Stamps, free Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express boxes or other package supplies can be ordered at usps.com and can be purchased on the computer. USPS will deliver them. At usps.com, using Click-N-Ship, a mailing label with the appropriate postage can be printed from a home computer.

Those with no computer can call the local post office for a Stamps by Mail order form. Leave completed form in mailbox, and the postal carrier can bring it, usually the next day.

SHAWANO COUNTY: Aniwa 715-449-2313, Birnamwood 715-449-3133, Bonduel 715-758-2260, Bowler 715-793-4256, Caroline 715-754-2450, Cecil 715-745-6284, Eland 715-253-2929, Krakow 715-899-3691, Leopold 715-787-4160, Shawano 715-524-3764, Tigerton 715-535-2152, Tilleda 715-787-4297, Wittenberg 715-253-2639

MENOMINEE COUNTY: Keshe-na 715-799-3202, Neopit 715-756-2400

OCONTO COUNTY: Abrams 920-826-5251, Gillett 920-855-2812, Lakewood 715-276-7667, Lena 920-829-5940, Little Suamico 920-826-7432, Mountain 715-276-7301, Oconto 920-834-3844, Oconto Falls 920-846-0439, Suring 920-842-2556, Townsend 715-276-6857

Outdoors

State parks, trails and forests

All state trails are open at this time, with 34 state parks that had been closed in the southern portion of the state now reopened. An annual park sticker and/or trail pass will be required for state parks and trails.

State parks and forests will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, a change from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Properties will be closed to the public every Wednesday for maintenance and upkeep.

Hunting and fishing will be allowed on all open properties in accordance with legal season structure and hours. Access to some areas may

be limited to walk-in or water access only.

For more information, visit <https://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=5109>.

Boat launches

DNR boat launches are open at open state properties.

All anglers and recreational boaters should practice social distancing and keep travel to a minimum.

If individuals can lawfully access Wisconsin's rivers and lakes, they are free to navigate upon them while engaging in outdoor recreation.

Other trails

All linear/rail trails are open to the public, which includes ATV trails.

An annual state trail pass is required for anyone age 16 or older biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding or in-line skating on certain trails. A state trail pass is not required for walking or hiking. The annual trail passes are valid through Dec. 31 of the year they are issued.

Restrooms and buildings

Restrooms at all state properties will be closed. This includes the closure of restrooms on properties currently open to the public.

All other facilities will remain closed, including towers, shelters, playgrounds, nature centers, headquarters, contact stations and concession buildings.

Attractions where social distancing cannot be achieved will be closed as needed at various properties.

Hunting and fishing

Wisconsin's waters are open. You can fish if you have a license. Normal season regulations apply.

All current regulations apply for hunting, trapping and fishing seasons.

Camping and other events

Camping, group camps and shelters on state lands will remain closed until May 26. Refunds will be issued to all customers.

Volunteer activities remain suspended at DNR properties.

Swamp sunshine



Marsh marigolds brighten up the lowlands in the Shawano area, even during cold, damp weather.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

All events and special event permits are canceled until May 26.

Housing SAM25

Although the SAM's House emergency shelter is closed, services continue to be available. Shawano Area Matthew 25 offers alternative emergency shelter and resources to help clients connect with state and federal programs. It also offers programs to enhance life skills to prevent future homelessness. For information, call 715-851-7252 or go to www.sam25.org.

Groceries — senior citizen hours

Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St., Shawano. Senior citizen hours, 7-8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays.

Aldi, 1253 E. Green Bay St., Shawano. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m., for senior citizens, expectant mothers and those with underlying health concerns. Home delivery available; \$35 minimum order, delivery charge and service fee starts at \$6.33; tips accepted. Order online at <https://shop.aldi.us/store/aldi/storefront>

Save A Lot, W2818 Warrington

Road, Keshena. Senior citizen hours, 7:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. Curbside pickup available, 715-994-1115.

Witt's Piggly Wiggly, 409 E. Highland Ave., Oconto Falls. Open 8-9 a.m. daily for senior citizens and those with underlying health concerns. Online ordering with curbside pickup 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, additional details on their Facebook page.

Libraries

Shawano County Library system
Phone: 715-526-3829, Shawano; 715-449-3120, Birnamwood; 715-758-2267, Bonduel; 715-489-3333, Mattoon; 715-535-2194, Tigerton; 715-253-2936, Wittenberg

Email: sha@shawanolibrary.org, Shawano; bir@shawanolibrary.org, Birnamwood; bon@shawanolibrary.org, Bonduel; mat@shawanolibrary.org, Mattoon; tig@shawanolibrary.org, Tigerton; wit@shawanolibrary.org, Wittenberg

Website: <https://www.shawanolibrary.org>

Oconto County libraries
Gillett Public Library: 920-855-6224, www.gillettpubliclibrary.com

Lakes Country Public Library, Lakewood: 715-276-9020, www.lakescountrylibrary.org

Lena Public Library: 920-829-5335, www.lenalibrary.org

Oconto (Farnsworth Public Library): 920-834-7730, www.ocontolibrary.org

Oconto Falls Community Library: 920-846-2673, www.ocontofallslibrary.org

Suring Area Public Library: 920-842-4451, www.suringpubliclibrary.org

Masks

Wisconsin Face Mask Warriors: To participate in this multi-county project, text a message to Liz Benecke, 715-851-0882. Please use text messaging only; do not call.

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Conducting treatment during the pandemic

HYFP adjusts to keep residents safe

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

WITTENBERG — Homme Youth and Family Programs is a self-contained residential treatment facility, so they have been able to keep operations going during this pandemic with a few adjustments. All home and campus visits, part of the therapy process, were suspended March 12 due to COVID-19. Homme now uses video conferencing to aid in connecting youth with their families while following the Safer at Home edict from the governor.

According to HYFP Director Pamela Cotten, campus visits give the youth and their families the opportunity to have in-person family therapy sessions, and the residents get to practice the skills they learned in therapy to interact with their families differently. Generally, family therapy occurs once or twice per month, Cotten said, depending on the family's level of engagement and availability.

"Campus visits give therapists and staff a look at family dynamics at play, which are not always clear from court reports or telephone contact," said Cotten, who added that she appreciates the option to use video conferencing. "It's an opportunity to

see more clearly if a youth is ready to transition to some in-home visits, in preparation for a return home."

Youth from all over Wisconsin are generally placed in this residential treatment facility through the Department of Corrections for sexual abuse offenses. The campus has about 30 residents ranging in age from 10 to 21 years old, and an average stay is nine months to a year.

Lutheran Social Services, the parent company of HYFP, implemented guidelines right away related to possible exposure of the virus. Cotten said that they had a few HYFP staff members who needed to self-quarantine, but they haven't had anyone diagnosed with COVID-19.

As a larger organization, Lutheran Social Services has a nurse on staff who regularly visits Homme and is available for consultation, as there is not a dedicated nurse at Homme. If a youth became ill with COVID-19, they would be able to quarantine the individual in a unit not currently being used. Cotten noted that the plan has already been approved in advance by their licenser.

"We are very experienced in handling other forms of illness in youth, such as influenza and strep, which impacts a handful of youth each year," said Cotten.

The Acceptance Unit, one of three on campus, is for 18- to 21-year-olds who are transitioning back into society, which sometimes allows

residents to gain work experience in off-campus jobs. Cotten noted that one youth did need to stop working, due to the risk of infection from the coronavirus. All outings and trips had been suspended, as well.

Because the school is on campus, there has been no change in the routine, and all classes are still held in person.

Homme has always been a Christian-based organization, and Monte Smith is in charge of spiritual guidance at HYFP. Even though participation in chapel services or Bible studies is not mandatory, he said there seems to be more of an awareness of God in this population due to the pandemic.

"I would say a good portion of our kids have no family experience, as far as the things of God. An example is a resident who told me that the things we teach at Homme about the love and grace Jesus offers us is something he never even thought of," said Smith.

Due to the fact they cannot have all three units together during this time for a regular chapel service, Smith has been having a Bible study on the units on Saturday afternoons. Smith noted it's a more casual setting, and he can have a more interactive Bible study with the kids and the staff.

In 1881, when HYFP was established as an orphanage, a bell was often a way of communicating — whether it was to call farmers in from the fields or let neighbors know there

The teachers and therapists utilize trauma-based techniques for instructing the residents at Homme Youth and Family Programs. Pamela Cotten, director, advises parents and teachers to use a similar approach for all students as they learn at home during quarantine.

"Trauma impacts people very differently. For some, it's quite overt — changes in behavior or attitudes. And for some it's more quiet, such as changes in sleeping patterns," said Cotten. "My advice would be to take the time to actively listen to people's experiences, show genuine interest in them and their situation, reflect back their feelings. A little personalized attention now goes a long way."

was an emergency. HYFP holds a bell ceremony for the youth who are discharged successfully, and they get to ring the Homme bell once for each month of their residence.

They have had two youth discharged during the restricted access, but unfortunately they couldn't allow anyone from off campus to attend the services. For one of the residents, the ceremony was recorded for his family to see.

Cotten noted she can only assume the residents' families are practicing Safer at Home measures, but she acknowledges they can't be certain since they can't do home visits after their release.

At a time when many companies are laying off employees, HYFP is hiring for the positions of youth counselor, care advocate specialist and school teacher.

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'Discover Wisconsin' launches annual photo contest

MADISON — "Discover Wisconsin," the TV show, has launched its popular photo contest via social media.

In partnership with Wisconsin Counties Association, 12 fan-submitted photos will be published in the show's annual calendar, featuring images of Wisconsin destinations. The photo contest is accessible on the show's blog, The Bobber. Entries will be accepted until May 31.

Following the submission and voting period, the "Discover Wisconsin" crew will select the top 24 photos, and fans will have the opportunity to vote for their top 12 picks via Facebook and Instagram channels. Of the top 12, the crew will select the photo to be featured on the cover of the calendar. The

2021 Discover Wisconsin Calendars will be available for purchase in fall 2020 at shop.discoverwisconsin.com for \$9.99 plus taxes and shipping.

The winning photo on the 2020 calendar's cover was chosen from more than 1,000 entries.

Applicants must submit an original digital photo, at least 300 dpi and no smaller than 5-by-7 inches in JPEG file format, which features a Wisconsin destination. They must include their name, address, email address, photo location and photo caption. For more guidelines or an entry form, visit bobber.discoverwisconsin.com/2021-calendar-contest. "Discover Wisconsin" will announce the photo winners via various social media channels.

NTC announces online summer courses beginning in June

WAUSAU — Northcentral Technical College is offering flexible online courses, starting this summer. Students are encouraged to check out the low tuition rates and convenient scheduling options for the courses beginning in June.

NTC has a variety of course options that are available 100% online for students looking to begin a program at NTC or those completing a degree at another college. Many online summer courses transfer from NTC to the UW System. This gives students who are home for the summer an opportunity to complete the general education

classes they need and transfer them back to their primary institution.

Students can view class lectures and complete assignments at their own pace. They can also choose from a variety of general education courses offered through Zoom and Blackboard Collaborate. These hybrid courses provide additional structure with set lecture times and deadlines.

Students can choose the classes by submitting an online form, and a member of NTC's registration team will reach out to process the request. A listing of online summer courses is available online at www.ntc.edu/summer.

Town of Wescott warrior rallies volunteers

More than a quarter-million medical-grade masks distributed in Northeast Wisconsin

By **CAROL RYCZEK**
Editor-in-chief

GREEN BAY — Saving lives, one mask at a time.

That's how Liz Benecke describes the operation of the Wisconsin Face Mask Warriors — Zone 4.

Benecke, a nurse, lives in the town of Wescott and works in Green Bay. Recently, when she is not working a nursing shift, Benecke has been spending her time at a little strip mall on Green Bay's Velp Avenue, coordinating the distribution of thousands of medical-grade masks to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Under her direction, the Zone 4 operation has sent out more than 258,148 free homemade masks to individuals and businesses in an 11-county area — at least, that was the number as of Tuesday. The operation is a community effort that combines the purposeful drive of a military campaign, the coordination of a perfect NFL play, the logistics of Amazon at Christmas and the dedication of hundreds of people wanting to help others.

There are mask-makers in 11 counties, 33 drivers, 1,000 volunteers sewing, countless donations, dozens of take-out tacos and delivery pizzas, 16-hour days and 4:30 a.m. start times.

The project started when some of Benecke's friends, who are also nurses, asked for help in getting personal protective equipment, or PPE, for work. Benecke got in touch with the Face Mask Warriors, a nationwide group that makes and distributes free cotton masks to support "the most vulnerable and least supported essential workers" from COVID-19, according to the group's Facebook page.

Benecke did a shout out of her own on Facebook, and the local project rapidly exploded.

As the COVID-19 virus began to spread, she thought that distributing masks would be one way to continue to help her fellow health care workers. On March 19, she started making phone calls to every hospital, clinic and nursing home she could find in the phone book in northeast Wisconsin. She made 500 calls and by March 22, she had orders for over 100,000 masks.

In the beginning, she said, some facilities didn't need them or they



Jim Deacon counts and sorts completed masks into bins prior to distribution. The masks have been requested by individuals and businesses throughout northeast Wisconsin. CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

FYI

Anyone interested in ordering masks or making a donation is asked to text (not call) coordinator Liz Benecke at 715-851-0882. Current needs are posted on her Liz Benecke Facebook page.

had none at all. As the name implies, the group went into "battle mode" after news surfaced of a increase in positive tests at a local meat packing plant.

Though technically in another zone, the Menominee Tribal Clinic was one of the early recipients of the masks, receiving over 600 masks, plus ear savers and face shields.

Dr. Amy Slagle, incident commander for the clinic's COVID-19 response team, said they've dis-

tributed the masks to all their staff members to use at work or at home. The masks were also given to diabetic patients and the elders at the Community Based Residential Facility. "We are now handing out masks to patients as they come or leave the facility for home use," Slagle said.

"We cannot say enough to everyone who have donated to the clinic for the safety of the patients, community and staff," Slagle added. "We are grateful that we have one more safety net in place to keep our frontline workers and patients safe when they enter our doors."

Benecke added that the Menominee clinic helped her network with other tribes in the area, including

the Stockbridge-Munsee near Bowler and the Oneida Health Center near Green Bay.

The masks are medical grade, with three pleats of fabric in the front and a nosepiece to keep the mask rigid and in place on the face. For many facilities, Benecke said, this design is the only option they need, and they are happy to get them. "The national stockpile is empty," she said.

Every item for the project has been donated or purchased with donated money, she said, including the cotton fabric, thread and sheet metal for making the nose pieces. The Green Bay Packers gave a \$10,000 grant, and other groups have also made sizable donations, she said.

The sheet metal was especially welcome, as her group "bought out all the floral wire and jewelry wire" in the area, Benecke said. Their biggest ongoing need is fabric and elastic.

Benecke credited the donors, her family and the core group at the Velp Avenue headquarters for making the operation work. The space is a combination work space and staging area.

The homemade masks are sorted, bagged and sent from the unused office space in Green Bay, which is closed to visitors to keep it as germ-free as possible. A team of five takes orders and gets them ready to send. Volunteers get supplies and place their completed masks in bins outside the building.

Masks are given away to anyone who asks, including individuals. One request came from a woman 45 miles away, whose husband was newly diagnosed with cancer and about to receive chemotherapy, which can reduce resistance to disease.

"We put them in a bag and sent them out," Benecke said.

The biggest request came on April 21, for 25,118 masks.

"We were busy that day," she said. "It's a nerve-racked feat of desperation."

At one facility, she said, after making the delivery, 74 nurses lined up to thank her. They had been required to find masks on their own but were unable to do so, she said.

"All I could do is hand them a mask and pray," Benecke said.

Masks from China sent to tribal clinic

Connection made through Presbyterian Church in Zoar

By **CAROL RYCZEK**
Editor-in-chief

KESHENA — A tiny congregation in Neopit, a 95-year-old volunteer in Winneconne and the Menominee Tribal Clinic have formed a connection to a group of anonymous Christian donors in China.

The connection is through face masks, handmade covers to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The connection has led to over 200 homemade masks coming from a group of seamstresses in Winneconne and over 100 masks — including hard-to-find N95 masks — from a church in China.

The route to the masks starts in Zoar.

The Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Zoar is one of the oldest in the denomination, dating back over 70 years, according to church member Eric Johnson. The organization also has a church in Morgan Siding and one in Oshkosh, where Johnson is a member. The Zoar church needed someone to fill in as pastor “to come in and preach,” and they reached out to Johnson.

It was at Zoar that Johnson met Chris Caldwell, who is the interim president of the College of Menominee Nation.

Johnson’s wife, Barb, was coordinating a sewing project at the Henrietta Apartments in Winneconne, the home of Millie Mathison, age 95 and mother of Shawano resident Matty Mathison. Seven people were sewing for the Menominee Tribal Clinic. When Eric Johnson learned of the possible donation of masks from a Christian church in China, he contacted Caldwell — a fellow church

member and leader in the Menominee community — to help coordinate the donation in Keshena.

Eric Johnson worked with “Frank,” a church member in China, who does not use his real name because of the threat of persecution by the Chinese government, Johnson said. The group was sending up to 5,000 masks to the United States. They did not make the masks but instead raised the money to purchase and send them.

The cost of shipping was donated by a “generous person in China,” Johnson said. “Even the poorest people are generously donating the shipping dollars, and somebody provided the masks.”

Each mask was individually packaged in sterile packaging, he said. Even so, because of the spread of the disease in China, he quarantined the masks for three days after receiving them.

“I’m a cautious man,” he said.

Johnson contacted Caldwell to accept the donation, which will help pro-

tect patients and staff at the Menominee Tribal Clinic.

He said he did find it ironic that the donation comes from China, which has been named as a possible initial source of the COVID-19 virus.

“It is ironic that we are getting masks. Couldn’t they use them there? Yes, they could,” Johnson said. “The Chinese people who did this want complete anonymity — to be recognized only by what they did,” he said.

From Zoar to Winneconne to Keshena, the project has shown him how connected people are, Johnson said.

“Somebody I don’t know in China reached out and said, ‘I have masks,’” he said. He recounted the Biblical story of the Good Samaritan, who stops to help someone in need, even when others did not.

“I like that story, and I like the instruction that we should help others,” he said.

crzycek@newmedia-wi.com

Waukechon Wildcats deliver dairy favorite

4-H club shares grilled cheese sandwiches

By **CAROL RYCZEK**
Editor-in-chief

SHAWANO — If there ever was a time for comfort food, this is it.

The Waukechon Wildcats 4-H club decided that they could provide comfort to the community by way of grilled cheese sandwiches. With the help of local business and individual donors, the club packaged 50 trays of Kwik Trip bread, 400 pounds of Mum’s Best cheese and 14 cases of Grassland butter to supply 500 households with grilled cheese sandwiches.

The items were packed in promotional plastic bags and given away to the public, first on Friday at the Shawano Community Middle School and again Monday, in coordination with the Shawano School District lunch program distribution at the Franklin Park. The bags were given both to student families and to anyone who wished to claim one.

Any bags that went unclaimed were donated to Safe Haven, said Nancy Ainsworth, one of the club’s leaders.

Ainsworth said the project was a



Waukechon Wildcats 4-H leader Joanne Edwards, second from left, hands all the ingredients for a grilled cheese sandwich to a couple in a car at Franklin Park in Shawano on Monday. The 4-H club coordinated donations, packaged bags with butter, cheese and bread and distributed 500 bags to promote dairy farmers and help the community. Helping at the park were, from left, volunteer Christine Hoffman; Sue O'Connor, who was helping distribute food for the Shawano School District; and volunteer Chad Hoffman.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

way to support dairy farm families, feed community members and help 4-H members learn some cooking skills.

The bags included recipes for

traditional as well as new versions of the grilled cheese sandwich, including apple, onion and cheddar and jalapeño popper grilled cheese. Videos of the club members making the sandwiches

are posted on the club’s Facebook page.

Recipients of the bags were surprised and grateful, said Joanne Edwards, another Wildcats leader.

Minutes for Board of Trustee Meeting Tuesday, April 7, 2020

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

Buchholz/Beversdorf m/s/c to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 17, 2020.

Beversdorf/Buchholz to approve a \$25 thank you gift card to Linda Phillip for donating masks for the election staff. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Timm/R.Switalla to approve resolution 2020-02 to transfer \$200,000 from the LGIP to general checking for debt payments. Roll call vote – all ayes.

R.Switalla/Buchholz to approve the interim bills for \$18,146.98 and the audited bills for \$343,621.07. Roll call vote – all ayes.

R.Switalla/Buchholz m/s/c to adjourn at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Traci Matsche
Village of Wittenberg Clerk/Treasurer

WNAXLP

NOTICE OF OPEN BOOK Village of Eland

The Assessment rolls for the Village of Eland will be open for inspection at the Eland Village Hall on Friday May 22, 2020 during the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Marnie Osterbrink, Clerk

NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW Village of Eland

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Review for the Village of Eland, Shawano County, shall hold its first meeting on the 29th day of May 2020 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Eland Village Hall.

Please be advised of the following requirements to appear before the Board of Review and procedural requirements if appearing before the Board:

No person shall be allowed to appear before the Board of Review, to testify to the Board by telephone or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the Assessor to view such property.

After the first meeting of the Board of Review and before the Board's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the Board of Review may contact, or provide information to a member of the Board about the person's objection except at a session of the Board.

No person may appear before the Board of Review, testify to the Board by telephone or contest the amount of assessment unless, at least 48-hours before the first meeting of the Board or at least 48-hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed because the person has been granted a waiver of the 48-hour notice of intent to file a written objection by appearing before the Board during the first two hours of the meeting and showing good cause for failure to meet the 48-hour notice requirement and files a written objection, that the person provides to the Clerk of the Board of Review notice as to whether the person will ask for removal of any Board members and, if so, which member will be removed and the person's reasonable estimate of the length of time the hearing will take.

When appearing before the Board, the person shall specify, in writing, the person's estimate of the value of the land and of the improvements that are the subject of the person's objection and specify the information that the person used to arrive at that estimate.

No person may appear before the Board of Review, testify to the Board by telephone or subject or object to a valuation; if that valuation was made by the Assessor or the Objector using the income method; unless the person supplies the Assessor all of the information about income and expenses as specified in the manual under Section 73.03(2a), that the Assessor requests. The Village of Eland has an Ordinance for the confidentiality of information about income and expenses that is provided to the Assessor under this paragraph which provides exemptions for persons using information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or of the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless court determined that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under Section 19.35(1) of Wisconsin Statutes.

The Board shall hear upon oath, by telephone, all ill or disabled persons who present the Board a letter from a physician, surgeon, or osteopath that confirms their illness or disability. No other persons may testify by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
Village of Eland
Marnie Osterbrink, Clerk

WNAXLP

Village of Wittenberg reduces beer and liquor license fees

Board will refund fees paid by bars closed due to COVID-19

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

WITTENBERG — Three bars affected by the Safer at Home order will have their beer and liquor license fees refunded. At the Village of Wittenberg board meeting May 5, it was decided to reduce the fees to state minimums for all businesses required to pay the beer and liquor license fees and to refund the fees for the three bars that have been closed under the order.

A Class A beer and liquor license in the village is \$300, with \$100 for beer and \$200 for liquor. These licenses are given to establishments where customers buy the product and then leave the premises. These businesses have remained open and include Dollar Tree, Wagner Shell, Wittenberg Shell and Hanke's Sentry Foods.

A Class B beer and liquor license in the village is \$300, with \$100 for beer and \$200 for liquor, and these licenses are given to establish-

ments where customers buy and are served the products inside the bars, including Xena's Village Inn, Tavern Front and Resch Lanes. These businesses have been closed due to COVID-19. Resch Lanes has been open for food pickup service only.

Operator licenses are \$20 each and between the seven businesses, about 55 are granted each year. The number of operator licenses issued for the three bars is generally 18, for a total of \$360. The board voted to waive those fees, which are generally issued in late June.

The board reduced the fees to the state minimum of \$50 each for Class A and B licenses for all seven establishments, but they are only refunding the money to those that have been closed since the Safer at Home order was issued.

The three bars will be paying \$100 total for their beer and liquor licenses, and the board will refund that amount once the processes are complete in late June.

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

Come Join Our Team

Family Vision Center in Wittenberg, is looking for an energetic and fast learning individual with a passion for helping others. Come join us and be the difference.

Come join us and be the difference. The right individual is highly motivated, detail oriented, organized and offers the highest level of customer service. The successful candidate will possess excellent customer service and communication skills. Good interpersonal skills with the ability to work cohesively within a team environment and have a professional/positive demeanor. Knowledge of Optometric patient work-up and pretesting desired, but not required. An Optometric Assistant will act as a functional liaison between the patient and doctor, responsible for communicating all patient questions and concerns to the Optometrist. The candidate will also assist patients in selecting new eyewear and using contact lenses. Duties also include maintaining/displaying frame inventory. If you enjoy serving patients of all ages we want to talk to you.



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PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO POLICE DEPARTMENT

May 11

Police logged 12 incidents, including the following: An email scam was reported in the 300 block of Madison Way; Kwik Trip, 1241 E. Green Bay St., reported a shoplifting incident; a child abuse complaint was under investigation.

May 10

Police logged 10 incidents, including the following: Police responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Hill Street; a 32-year-old Shawano man was arrested for fleeing an officer, resisting arrest and bail jumping after failing to stop for a traffic stop at Green Bay and Main streets.

May 9

Police logged 18 incidents, including the following: Disorderly conduct was reported at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B, and at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St.; A fight in progress involving juveniles was reported at Memorial Park, 901 S. Lincoln St.; a vehicle was reported vandalized in the 200 block of South Sawyer Street.

May 8

Police logged 18 incidents, including the following: Trespassing was reported at Rusch Road and Green Bay Street; disturbances were reported in the 1100 block of Waukechon Street, the 700 block of South Union Street and at the Wisconsin House, 216 E. Green Bay St.

May 7

Police logged 21 incidents, including the following: Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block

of Randall Street; Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St., reported two shoplifting incidents.

May 6

Police logged 21 incidents, including the following: A vehicle was reported stolen in the 1100 block of Waukechon Street; a property damage accident was reported in the 700 block of South Main Street; disorderly conduct was reported at ThedaCare Medical Center, 100 County Road B; police investigated an assault complaint in the 200 block of South Sawyer Street.

May 5

Police logged 17 incidents, including the following: Police investigated an internet fraud complaint in the 200 block of Pearl Avenue; a property damage accident was reported at Lincoln and Green Bay streets; disorderly conduct was reported at Family Dollar, 413 S. Main St.

SHAWANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

May 11

Deputies logged 28 incidents, including the following: A burglary was reported on Cedar Street in Tigerton; a disturbance was reported on Main Street in Bowler; a 28-year-old man was arrested for operating while intoxicated on U.S. Highway 45 in the town of Birnamwood.

May 10

Deputies logged 27 incidents, including the following: Disturbances were reported on Hiawatha Court in the town of Wescott, on Oak Street in Bowler and on state Highway 29 in the town of Herman.

May 9

Deputies logged 47 incidents, including the following: Authorities responded to a domestic disturbance on Freeborn Street in Cecil, a disorderly conduct complaint on state Highway 22 in Belle Plaine, a disturbance on Lake Drive in Cecil and an injury accident on Lake Lake Drive in the town of Wescott.

May 8

Deputies logged 35 incidents, including the following: An injury accident was reported on County Road BE in the town of Wescott; authorities investigated a drug complaint on Golfview Road in Cecil.

May 7

Deputies logged 28 incidents, including the following: A 50-year-old man was cited for operating after revocation on Range Line Road in the town of Belle Plaine; toilet paper was reported stolen from a construction site on Oak Street in Tigerton; trespassing was reported on Park Street in Bowler.

May 6

Deputies logged 32 incidents, including the following: Authorities responded to an identity theft complaint on Bon Street in Cecil and a juvenile problem on Grand Avenue in Wittenberg.

May 5

Deputies logged 24 incidents, including the following: Authorities responded to an injury accident on County Road Q in the town of Morris, a property theft complaint on Derby Lane in the town of Washington and an assault complaint on U.S. Highway 45 in the town of Wittenberg.

COURT NEWS

Recent proceedings in Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court:

- Kristin D. Murray, 28, of Mosinee, was charged May 12 with felony counts of child abuse-failing to prevent bodily harm, neglecting a child resulting in bodily harm and second or subsequent possession of marijuana. She could face a maximum six years in prison and \$10,000 fine on each of the child abuse and neglect charges if convicted. A warrant was issued for her arrest.

- Robert K. Ripp, 36, of Marshall, was charged May 11 with a felony count of operating while intoxicated-fifth or sixth offense. He could face a maximum 10 years in prison and \$25,000 fine if convicted. Ripp was ordered held on a \$5,000 cash bond set by Judge William Kussel Jr. and was scheduled for a preliminary hearing on May 14.

- Katie L. Cantini, 42, of Shawano, was charged May 11 with a felony count of possession of methamphetamine. She could face a maximum 3½ years in prison and

\$10,000 fine if convicted. Cantini was ordered held on a \$500 cash bond set by Judge William Kussel Jr. A preliminary hearing date was not yet set.

- Jonathan J. Ortiz Irizarry, 32, of Cecil, was charged May 11 with a felony count of strangulation and suffocation and misdemeanor counts of battery, disorderly conduct and criminal damage to property. He could face a maximum six years in prison and \$10,000 fine on the felony count if found guilty. He was ordered held on a \$500 cash bond set by Judge William Kussel Jr. and is scheduled for an adjourned initial appearance May 26.

- Blade R. Boettcher, 28, of Oregon, Wisconsin, was charged May 8 with felony counts of robbery, substantial battery, operating without consent and in possession of a weapon, and two felony counts of reckless endangerment. He could face a maximum 40 years in prison and \$100,000 fine if convicted. Boettcher was ordered held on a \$50,000 cash bond set by Judge William Kussel Jr. and is scheduled

for an adjourned initial appearance on May 26.

- Skylar M. Beck, 20, of Hobart, was charged May 8 with a felony count of operating without consent and in possession of a weapon. She could face a maximum 40 years in prison and \$100,000 fine if convicted. Beck was ordered held on a \$20,000 cash bond set by Judge William Kussel Jr. and is scheduled for an adjourned initial appearance on May 26.

- Jeremy J. Rudie, 31, of Wittenberg, was charged May 7 with felony counts of attempted first-degree intentional homicide, strangulation and suffocation, aggravated battery and intimidating a victim by use of force. He could face a maximum 60 years in prison if found guilty. Rudie was ordered held on a \$125,000 cash bond set by Judge William Kussel Jr. and was scheduled for a preliminary hearing on May 14.

- Henry M. Hobscheid, 64, of Shawano, was charged May 7 with 18 felony counts of possession of child pornography. He could face

a maximum 25 years in prison and \$100,000 fine on each count if found guilty. Hobscheid was ordered held on a \$25,000 cash bond set by Judge William Kussel Jr. and was scheduled for a preliminary hearing on May 14.

- Ramona V. Escalante, 30, of Gresham, was charged May 7 with two felony counts of neglecting a child. She could face a maximum 3½ years in prison and \$10,000 fine on each of the counts if found guilty. Escalante was scheduled for an initial court appearance on May 13.

- Breanna M. Tindle, 27, of Shawano, was charged May 6 with six felony counts of burglary, felony count of attempted burglary, burglary armed with a dangerous weapon, possession of burglarious tools, three felony counts of operating a vehicle without the owner's consent, three felony counts of theft and 12 felony counts of bail jumping. She could face a maximum 12½ years in prison and \$25,000 fine if convicted of each of the burglary counts if convicted. Tindle is scheduled for an initial court appearance on July 6.

SPORTS

ATHLETE PROFILE: NATHAEN WANTA

Tigerton senior unable to put stamp on track career

TIGERTON — Every high school senior athlete hopes to go out on top, whether as an individual or with his or her team. Tigerton's Nathaen Wanta is no different and is justifiably disappointed that he won't get that opportunity this spring.

Wanta, a senior on the track and field team, specialized in hurdles and also competed in long jump for the Tigers.

Q: When did your interest in track and field begin?

A: I always knew that I wanted to do track, ever since middle school because it seemed like such a cool sport. I know we always did field day in elementary school, and I always loved the running events and all sorts of stuff they did. So when I started freshman year, I knew that was the one sport I wanted to do.

Q: What is your favorite part about the season?

A: My favorite part about track is honestly just being a part of the team and knowing that they'll be there cheering you on during every race.

Q: What did track and field teach you over the years?

A: It taught me that in order to get really good at something, you have to put in the dedication and not everything just comes easy to people. If you want to succeed at something, you have to put time, hours and effort into it.

Q: What kind of goals and memories were you looking to make or achieve this season?

A: I had hoped to obviously achieve a personal record on both of my hurdle events and go out

AT A GLANCE

ATHLETE: Nathaen Wanta

SPORT: Track and field

EVENTS: 110 and 300 hurdles, long jump

SCHOOL: Tigerton High School

YEAR: Senior

with my best season yet. I just kind of hoped for this season to be my best season overall in high school.

Q: Talk me through your emotions when the WIAA officially canceled the season.

A: At first, I was obviously very disappointed. But I know I went through a stage of denial where I felt like I should have expected it to happen.

And then about a week ago (two weeks after the announcement), it started to hit really hard when I realized my senior year was over and school was officially canceled. That was really hard, knowing that I wasn't going to get any of those memories from my track and field season or get any of my last senior year memories.

But I've been working to just stay in shape and do all the training that I'd be able to do normally during track season, just to at least stay in that mindset. I've been staying connected with the team as well.

Q: How disappointing is it to not get to compete in track and field as a senior?

A: I mean, it kind of sucks knowing that I wasn't going to get the closure that I wanted with such an important aspect of my life. Every year, I looked forward to this time and just being on the track and knowing that was the only thing that mattered to me at that time.

And knowing that I wasn't going



Tigerton's Nathaen Wanta competes during a 2019 indoor invitational at Antigo High School.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

to have that outlet for stress — where all that mattered was just that race in that moment — it's going to be kind of hard. That and just not having the support of my team, and all the memories that we made over the past couple of years.

Q: Have you picked up any

new hobbies during the quarantine?

A: I took an interest in biking. I always liked to go on bike rides, but I've been doing a lot more biking during this quarantine on the trails that are around us. I've also been doing a lot of running, just to stay in shape and keep my mind off of things.

Other than that, I've just been doing a lot of reading. It's something I've always liked to do. Even though normally during this time of year I usually don't have much time to sit down and read something, the silver lining (this year) is that I've been able to take time and sit down and read.

Q: What's your favorite memory of competing on the Tigerton track and field team?

A: I'd say probably my favorite memory was on our way back last year from the sectional meet, and we were all just sitting on the bus, talking and joking with each other.

I just remember that night is going to stick with me forever with how close we felt as a team. Pretty much everything was talked about and I felt like that was probably the night I knew that track was the best decision I probably made to be a part of in high school.

Q: Favorite TV show, movie and musical artist?

A: TV show — "Friends." Movie — "Love, Simon." Musical artist — I like a whole bunch of music.

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

A: My favorite thing to do is hang out with my friends and just make new memories with them.

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Meet Rebecca Wendel

School nurse position deals with health of staff and students

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

Editor's note: The Enterprise & News recently chatted with Rebecca Wendel, BSN, RN, who serves as the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District nurse.

Q: What is your educational/work background?

A: I earned my Bachelor of Science in nursing in 1995 from Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois. While in college, I worked summers as a certified nursing assistant at a nursing home in Antigo. I have hospital work experience at West Palm Beach VA Medical Center and Martin Memorial Medical Center, both in Florida, and I worked at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. I also worked in home health as a nurse case manager for Aspirus VNA; and I did private duty nursing with Aspirus Visiting Nurse Association and Interim Healthcare.

Q: What inspired you to go into nursing?

A: Two individuals in my extended family were nurses. I really looked up to them and enjoyed listening to them talk about their work. Another influence was growing up on a farm. Farm life was about taking care of things, whether land, animals or people. I considered going to school for animal science, forestry and nursing. Eventually, nursing seemed like the right choice.

Q: What are some duties/situations/responsibilities involved with being a school nurse?

A: Often the school nurse is thought of as the person at school



**WBSD SCHOOL
NURSE REBECCA
WENDEL**

that attends to student illness and injuries and administers medications. Most days, I am not the person a student sees for these kinds of things. Since I am the school nurse for the district, I work in three buildings and rotate my time between them.

So while I do those hands-on things with students whenever I can, my legal duties are more so in the planning, training, coordination and supervision of the health services provided at school. That means other school staff are trained to administer medications at school and are provided protocols for illness and injury care.

I write health plans and train staff about students with health conditions or situations that may present as emergencies at school, train specific staff to perform very specific tasks for students with complex medical conditions, coordinate and perform health screenings, work with public health to coordinate in-school prevention services for students, monitor for and intervene in communicable disease situations, maintain accurate immunization records for all students, communicate with health care providers and parents about their patient/child regarding their health in relation to school and work with various student service

teams to meet the needs of students that have barriers to education due to their health.

Additionally, I am responsible for being self directed in understanding and responding to changes to school nurse practice and initiating policy and procedural changes. This also means I spend time evaluating what is working, what isn't working and utilizing resources and educational opportunities to improve my own practice, with the purpose of making improvements to the health services provided to students throughout the district.

Q: How long have you been at WBSD?

A: This is my eighth year as the school nurse with WBSD.

Q: What kinds of crises have you handled at WBSD, and what kind of support did you receive?

A: The two that stand out, due to the large numbers of people affected, are a Norovirus outbreak a few years ago and the present situation with COVID-19. With communicable disease concerns or outbreaks, it is very important to work with local public health agencies. I communicate regularly with the Shawano-Menominee County Health Department.

For the Norovirus outbreak, one of the public health nurses was at school for several days investigating the outbreak and providing guidance on site. In the present situation, the health department provides regular updates and guidelines and has been quick to reply to my questions about COVID-19. Dr. Corina Norrbom, WBSD's medical

adviser, is also a go-to resource for these kinds of situations and many others.

On site, I have always found the administrative team, teachers and support staff at WBSD to be supportive of health needs. For instance with the Norovirus outbreak, non-office staff stepped up to help in the office due to high volume student needs and necessary phone calling, as well the custodial staff stepped up to increased cleaning protocols.

With COVID-19, the administrative team has included me in meetings since February to be sure we are addressing the health of students and staff and adhering to public health guidelines while working through the challenges of educating students during a pandemic.

Q: What's your personal background?

A: I live north of Birnamwood, across the road from the home where I grew up. In my adult years, I have also worked in Port St. Lucie and Stuart, Florida, and in Stevens Point. My husband and I have been married for 24 years. We have two children that attend WB High School. In my free time I like to read, go for long walks, cook, travel and spend time outside.

Q: What is your basic philosophy on student care from a nursing point of view?

A: As a school nurse, my purpose is to reduce or remove health-related barriers to education so that students can be as successful in school as possible.

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Chamber cancels Community Days

The Wittenberg Area Chamber of Commerce has canceled Wittenberg Community Days this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The celebration, which was scheduled for June 13-14, is traditionally a combination of community events.

Homme Home Strawberry Fest is a food and music celebration on the Sunday of the event and canceled early to help protect residents and staff. The American Legion, which handles food and beverage sales at the shelter in Washington Park, decided to cancel as well.

Walls of Wittenberg had to cancel the Emerging Talents art show, which showcases student artwork from the Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District. They also canceled the mural wagon ride.

The chamber considered hosting a smaller event with the band they

had booked. But when Fireworks Country wasn't sure about being able to get product for their popular fireworks show, the chamber decided to cancel the event for this year, rather than trying to postpone it to another date in summer.

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WITTENBERG FOOD PANTRY MAY DISTRIBUTION CHANGES

Due to construction on Webb Street and the Community Center Parking lot – the May distribution will be held at the old bus garage by the Wittenberg Grade school on School Street.

We will be providing curbside registration & pick up.
Please drive up from Howard St to School St.

Distribution will be held:

Wednesday May 20th.....5:00-6:30 pm

Thursday May 21st.....9:30-11:00 am

Any questions, please call 715-460-6318 or 715-253-2414

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Vet tells his story from 'Nam to now

I'm not sure how I feel about my latest book selection. "No Where Man: One Soldier's Journey Home from Vietnam" was written by my high school classmate, Stephen Piotrowski. He enlisted soon after graduation in 1968, and I moved to Waupaca went on with my life. I'm happy to say that we reconnected through Facebook. So when he said he'd written a book, I just had to order it.

The "journey" opens with a little about Steve's family and hometown. I was a bit surprised to see that he'd changed the name of the town, his family members and friends.

In the next chapter, Steve is in his final weeks in Vietnam. Most people don't realize that when troops went into the jungles of Vietnam they would be there for weeks, even months. Steve's unit spent most of their time on patrol. They called themselves "boonie rats" as they spent their time in the boonies, living like rats trying to find the enemy.

Due to a fluke, Steve became the unit radio operator. That meant carrying a 60-pound ruck sack, two bandoliers of ammunition and an



JAN JONES

M-16 rifle plus a 25-pound radio on his back. But Steve liked knowing what was going on as he relayed information back and forth.

Caution, quiet and alert senses were manda-

tory. They kept themselves amused by telling tales and complaining about the Army and everything else they encountered. Snipers were a constant threat, friendlies could open fire at any time and poisonous snakes were common. When your survival is at stake, it is good to know that you have a buddy who does his best to keep you alive.

Steve made several good friends whom he knew he could trust with his life. The bond of combat buddies is one of the strongest imaginable. A firefight on the day Steve arrived in Vietnam had convinced him that he probably wouldn't make it out alive. When his fiancée wrote him a Dear John letter, he even took dangerous

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "No Where Man: One Soldier's Journey Home from Vietnam"

AUTHOR: Stephen Piotrowski

PUBLISHER: Amazon.com Service LLC

PUBLISHED: March 22, 2020

PAGES: 450

chances. All he could think about was getting back the "world" where he could resume his life and maybe go to college.

As their time on active duty wound down, Steve and his best friend, Westy, were moved out of combat to begin processing. He tells about being filthy and smelly as they had been wearing the same clothes for weeks. The heat and wet combined with dirt and sweat rotted their clothing and destroyed their boots. The canned rations were never enough to fill them up, so they'd also lost weight.

Once cleaned up, the pair proceeded to gorge themselves at every meal before heading to the enlisted men's club to drink themselves silly.

Monstrous hangovers didn't prevent them from doing it again the next day. Westy had agreed to extend his tour and work on the military newspaper, but Steve was more than ready to get home, yet he hated leaving his buddies behind.

Much of the book recounts Steve's difficulty adjusting to civilian life. He is hurt that no one listens when he talks about 'Nam, but just as angry when someone asks too many questions. It seems that the world he knew has moved on without him.

Reading how he failed to reconnect with his family and felt he didn't fit with his friends was heart-wrenching. At 19, he'd seen and done things other couldn't imagine. He felt old, lost and alone. Now he needs to write another book about all the twists and turns his life has taken to bring him to where he is now.

If you've ever wondered why vets don't talk about their service, this will help you understand.

Memorial Day DEADLINES

The Shawano, Oconto Falls and Wittenberg Offices
WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, May 25.

New Media Publication Dates, Retail Display and Classified Ad Deadlines:

Publication	Issue Date	Ad Deadline
Oconto Co. Times Herald	Fri., May 29	Thurs., May 21
Shawano Leader	Fri., May 29	Thurs., May 21
Wittenberg Enterprise	Fri., May 29	Thurs., May 21

THE Shawano Leader

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WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 18, 2020

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

7:00 P.M. – Regular Board Meeting Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

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. Motion to Approve the Minutes of the April 27, 2020, Regular Meeting as circulated.
- IV. Communications and Delegations
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Board Concerns or Reports
- VII. Financial Report
- VIII. Approve the Agenda
 - I. 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.
 - II. The Board will reconvene to Open Session to ratify any decisions made in Closed Session.
- IX. Administrative Reports
 - High School
 - Pupil Services
 - Birnamwood
 - Wittenberg
- X. Old Business
 - A. 2nd Reading and Approval of Volume 29-1 Board Policy Updates
- XI. New Business
 - A. Approve Capital Projects
 - B. Approve Co-Curricular Code Updates
 - C. Approve 2020-2021 Student Handbooks
 - D. Approve Teacher Hires
- XII. Adjourn

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