

Focused art work



Special to the EagleHerald
Peshtigo freshman Alaina Archambault creates a cross contour line still life drawing in Andrea Cornett's class. Art classes in Peshtigo teach a variety of skills. See story on A3.

People helping people

Lesperance Foundation to host cancer event

By **MAYA SHIMIZU HARRIS**
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MARINETTE—The Pete & Elaine Lesperance Foundation is holding its annual cancer fundraiser Oct. 24 at the Elks Lodge on Bridge Street in Marinette. This year's fundraiser will also be a celebration of life for Dan Lesperance, who died from cancer Aug. 29 and was one of the founders of the annual Sick of Winter Party along with his brother Dave.

There is no registration or entry fee for the fundraiser event, which will revolve around a noon Packer's game. The Elks Lodge doors will open starting at 11 a.m. and a buffet will be available from noon through half-time. The buffet costs \$12.99 for adults and \$6.99 for children 10

“People can use the money for bills or to go to Disneyland, it doesn't matter. We don't ask and we don't care.”

Chris Lesperance
 Foundation family member

and under. There will also be a raffle with items such as two six-month EagleHerald subscriptions and gift baskets donated by community members. All proceeds from the buffet and raffle tickets will go to local cancer families in need.

The Lesperance family began informally fundraising for cancer patients and their families during Pete Lesperance's battle with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

in the early 2000s. Pete's son Chris Lesperance, who is the Marinette County highway safety coordinator and lieutenant, said his family began a tradition of giving a Christmas card full of money to one of the nurses and asking them to give it to someone in need while his father was in treatment and after one of his sister's close friends died from cancer.

See **CANCER, A3**

Community Foundation expands base

Foundation's impact grows with larger fund base

By **ANN MEYER**

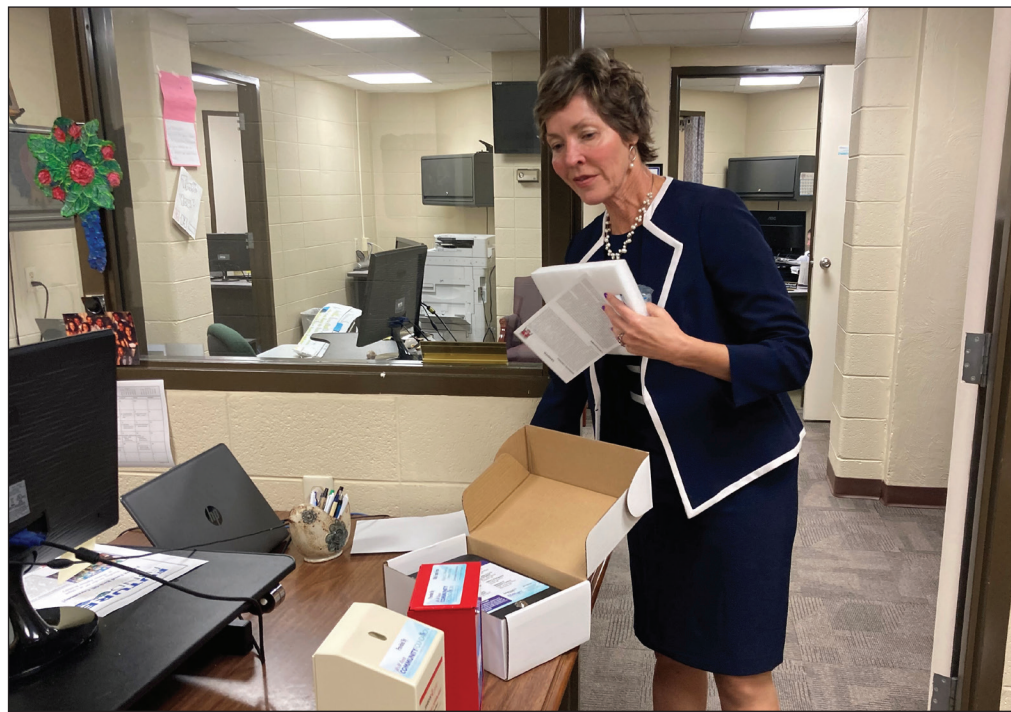
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MENOMINEE—As the M&M Area Community Foundation's executive director, Paula Gruszynski understands the challenges small organizations face.

Many are strapped for cash and often don't know how the foundation can assist them. For these groups, the community foundation comes through when larger organizations don't.

“We are all volunteers,” said Alison Christy, a registered nurse who serves as a victim advocate at Menominee County Victim Services Unit, which has received funds from the community foundation.

The organization, which provides volunteer advocates trained in crisis intervention for victims of crimes and other crises and their families, relies on the M&M Community Foundation to provide funds for the backpacks it gives out with emergency supplies. “If there's a car accident and children involved, the bags have little



EagleHerald/Ann Meyer
M&M Area Community Foundation Executive Director Paula Kruszynski pulls out communication materials about the Safeguarding Our Communities harm-reduction program for opioid overdose treatment and prevention, just one of many programs the foundation is involved with in Marinette and Menominee counties.

toys in them, so it takes care of them in the crisis situation,” Christy said.

It's just one of the dozens of programs the community foundation embraces to help those in need. The foundation strives to increase its impact as it grows its asset base, and the strategy under Gruszynski's leadership seems to be effective.

For the Victim Services

Unit, the foundation funds are important. Unless an emergency situation is substantial enough to garner the Red Cross's attention, which would be unusual in Menominee and Marinette counties, the area depends on the Victim Services Unit to respond, Christy said. “We respond to any kind of crisis situation,” Christy said, from homicides and suicides to car accidents.

“We respond as a team. We will go and be the support system for the people until they can get their own system in place.”

The M&M foundation “has been just wonderful in walking beside us and just supporting us,” Christy said.

To expand the foundation's impact in the

Menominee school absences decrease

By **WES BEYER**

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MENOMINEE—Absences at Menominee Area Public Schools have gone down since the Board of Education implemented universal masking about two weeks ago.

“Many of the staff and students' quarantines under the previous mitigation plan are coming to an end, so we should start to see a pretty strong drop in quarantines,” said Interim Superintendent Steve Martin.

He said last week Wednesday and Thursday attendance percentage has risen to between 80 and 90% attendance, with Monday's attendance right at 90% across the three buildings.

Martin also said COVID testing plans are also in place at all three buildings. He said he recently spoke with two candidates for new positions in the district who would help with some of the testing for students and staff. “You can't get those people hired fast enough, quite frankly, in order to relieve some of the pressure, especially with the testing. We've got kind of an ‘all hands on deck’ situation, both in making sure who needs to get tested and making sure they do get tested,” he said.

Going forward, Martin said the same testing protocols for students will also be used for testing staff. “The students were able to test out of quarantine while staff weren't, so we were able to move over to do that because we've got those layers of mitigation, we can do that,” he said.

“I want to say to the administrators and your teams, great job with that,” said Board President Derek Butler. “Having that ability to test back in is really helping our attendance, and the mitigation change is helping. I can say first-hand, they're coming in early, and this has been a trying two weeks. You guys have done an amazing job.”

Good morning,
Glenn Anderson!
 Thank you for subscribing to the EagleHerald

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DEATHS
Buscher Feifarek Auralia
Jagielski, Robert A.
Knopik, Jeffrey E.
Martin, Brad
Miller, Jeffery R. Sr.
Peterson, Lloyd R.
Vasquez, Edwin

INSIDE
Local: DNR plans listening sessions on PFAS issue. **A3**
Sports: Maroons, Marines football teams ready for action. **B1**



TODAY: Partly cloudy and dry with light wind
HIGH: 60 **LOW:** 40

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