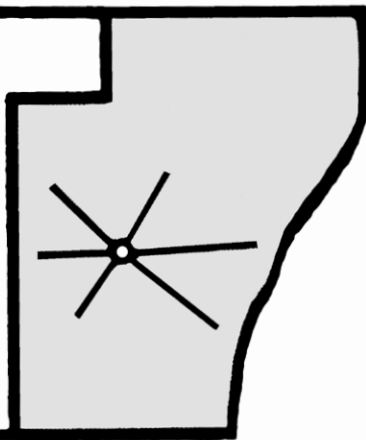


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Health agency urges masks

Due to the “very high” burden of coronavirus infections in Manitowoc County, the health department is recommending that all people wear masks in indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status. Last week, the county reached 10,208 infections and 102 deaths from the virus that causes COVID-19. “This continues to be a very dangerous virus, especially for people who have not been vaccinated,” said Stephanie Lambert, county health officer. Data shows that non-vaccinated people are nine times more likely to be hospitalized and 11 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than those who have been fully vaccinated.

School runs into menu challenges

Supply chain hiccups turn meal plans to chaos

By Todd S. Bergmann

Lunch menus posted for the Valders schools may not be so accurate, as a nationwide supply chain breakdown has planning meals difficult.

“It is really unfortunate,” Superintendent Debra Hunt said. “Families and children like to plan. They like to have menus. Students may like some meals and not others or prefer a cold lunch.”

“We just don’t know what we are going to have from day to day, especially when it comes to fresh fruit and vegetables.”

Sabrina Bilski, food service director, said she is spending more time ordering food, but not always getting the items listed on the menu.

“We get food,” she said. “It is not going to be what is on the menu. It will be what we get when we get it. Every day the children will get fed.”

The menus she posts in advance contain a caveat that they may change for lack of available products, Bilski said. This may include needing to replace spoiled produce.

“It is hard for some (students) to understand what is going on in the world,” she said. “You are not going to have what you thought is there. But, there is always food.”

Hunt said that she and most superintendents in Wisconsin received a letter from Jill Underly, state superintendent of public instruction, explaining that large food suppliers who serve schools are seeing shortages.

“These companies, which had vast selections and an abundance of inventory, have very little to offer right now,” she said. “The companies that they work with have had problems finding truck drivers.”

“They are able to make the foods, but not able to transport the foods.”

See Supply p. 10



Girls' Night Out on the Gridiron

Seniors Carissa Hammel (above, from left) Rose Meyer and Daytona Seehaver celebrate after the Red team won the homecoming powderpuff girls flag football game, 14-0, on Monday night at Valders High School. Cassidy Tuschel (below) carries the ball for the White team.

—Journal Photos

High yield: Area farmers reap abundant fall crops

By Todd S. Bergmann

Randy Hackmann believes this year’s harvest is his best in 44 years of farming west of Manitowoc.

“We had a perfect growing season,” he said. “The corn and the hay were perfect. The wheat was not bad.”

Area crop consultant Shawn Eckstein initially said he would not agree entirely with Hackmann, but acknowledged the good growing season.

“I am not going to go out on the limb and say it is the best crop ever,” Eckstein said. “It has definitely been one of the best ones in recent memory.”

But Eckstein said he won’t argue with Hackmann’s assessment of his crops this fall.

“We’ve had some great crops in the past,”

he said. “This year is definitely right up there.”

Eckstein sees many reasons for the strong harvest results.

“We expected for some time that we would have some really nice corn,” he said. “That is what is showing up.”

With rains near the end of the growing season, Eckstein said plants stayed reasonably healthy.

“The ears filled out well,” he said. “The kernels are deep. Indications from the first samples are that the starch levels are very high.”

High starch levels result in more milk when cows eat the corn, Eckstein said.

“Because of the high moisture at the end of the season, we had some big ears,” he

said. “They are mature kernels. Right now, all indications are that the quality will be very good.”

Corn, hay, soybeans and wheat have all performed well this year, Eckstein said.

“We had plenty of heat, plenty of sunshine,” he said.

Heavy rains about a month ago caused minimal delays for farmers, Eckstein said.

“They stopped chopping for more than a day,” he said. “Maybe they used dump carts instead of semis in the field to reduce compaction and reduce mud on the roads.”

Winter wheat harvested in summer also had superior yields, Eckstein said.

“It was planted early last fall,” he said. “We had good fall conditions for planting. The winter was easy. The spring was ideal.

“The survival was very good in spring. There was a lot of 100 bushel yields on the wheat.”

Wheat yields above 80 bushels an acre are better than average, Eckstein said.

Farmer Bruce Klemm of rural Whitelaw said he had a terrific winter wheat crop, but not as good as some of Eckstein’s clients.

“I have got the highest yielding wheat that I ever got,” he said. “We had close to 75 almost 80 bushels an acre.”

“We had more than adequate rain and plenty of warmth. Everything just came together the way it should.”

Because of early planting, Eckstein said wheat crops also resulted in a heavy amount of straw.

See Crops p. 4