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Thursday

July 30, 2020 – One Dollar



Christine Spangler

The Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce's Project LEAD XXXII class has installed dog-walking amenities throughout the city's parks and greenspaces. The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place along Rockwell Avenue near J.F. Luther Elementary School's softball and soccer fields, where a dog waste station, bench and dog- and people-friendly water fountain have been installed. Above, co-project leaders Robert Cassidy and Heather Hartwig hold the ribbon while Trista Taylor, member and administrative assistant at the Fort Atkinson Parks and Recreation Department, snips it. In the back are Heather Traxler, Tracey Carlson, Becky Brom and Kayla Brown.

## LEAD DOGS



## Fort Atkinson chamber's leadership class dedicates dog-watering, waste stations

By Randall Dullum  
cspangler@dailyunion.com

Fort Atkinson has become an even more dog-friendly city with the addition of watering and waste stations for man's (and woman's) best friends.

Project LEAD XXXII, the annual leadership class sponsored by the Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce, dedicated its \$27,325 project Wednesday morning.

It replaced two existing dog- and people-friendly water fountains and added one new fountain at the J.F. Luther Elementary School softball fields. The fountains, which include drinking water, water bottle-filling and dog bowl faucets, are Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant.

In addition, the class added eight new waste stations along dog-walking areas: Two each at Ralph and Rock River parks, and one each at Trailway, Jones and Arrowhead parks and at the J.F. Luther Elementary School softball fields.

Existing waste stations are located at the Festival Foods/Ace Hardware intersection; three at Rock River Park, one of which was replaced; and one unit at Farmco Lane along the Glacial River Trail.

Finally, leadership class members placed in the city's parks 11 educational signs regarding dog ownership and behavior. Topics include: Dog body language, the importance of microchips in finding lost pets, the importance of spaying and neutering

See LEAD, Page A2

## NATION

## Coronavirus misinformation very contagious

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — As the world races to find a vaccine and a treatment for COVID-19, there is seemingly no antidote in sight for the burgeoning outbreak of coronavirus conspiracy theories, hoaxes, anti-mask myths and sham cures.

The phenomenon, unfolding largely on social media, escalated this week when President Donald Trump retweeted a false video about an anti-malaria drug being a cure for the virus and it was revealed that Russian intelligence is spreading disinformation about the crisis through English-language websites.

Experts worry the torrent of bad information is

dangerously undermining efforts to slow the virus, whose death toll in the U.S. hit 150,000 Wednesday, by far the highest in the world, according to the tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. Over a half-million people have died in the rest of the world.

Hard-hit Florida reported 216 deaths, breaking the single-day record it set a day earlier. And South Carolina's death toll passed 1,500 this week, more than doubling over the past month. In Georgia, hospitalizations have more than doubled since July 1, with 3,188 people hospitalized Wednesday.

"It is a real challenge in

See CONTAGIOUS, Page A5

## Pelosi orders masks as GOPer tests positive

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will require that masks be worn on the House floor after a Republican member of Congress tested positive for the coronavirus. The member, Texas Rep. Louie Gohmert, often shunned wearing masks and was known to wear without one.

Pelosi announced on the House floor Wednesday evening that all members will be required to wear a mask and one will be provided if they forget. She said failure to wear a mask is a "serious breach of decorum" and members could be removed from the chamber if they aren't wearing one. They will be able to temporarily re-

move them while speaking, however.

"It's a sign of respect for the health, safety and well-being of others present in the chamber and in surrounding areas," Pelosi said.

Gohmert tested positive just before he was scheduled to travel to his home state with President Donald Trump. He was forced to abruptly cancel his plans, and immediately faced criticism from colleagues for not always wearing a mask on Capitol Hill, where face coverings are not mandatory and testing is sparse. "A selfish act," one lawmaker said.

The 66-year-old Gohmert, one of the House's most

See MASKS, Page A3

## Milton High grad among scientists for Mars rover

By Adams Publishing Group

MILTON — The Mars 2020 Perseverance rover slated for launch Thursday, weather permitting, has an area tie.

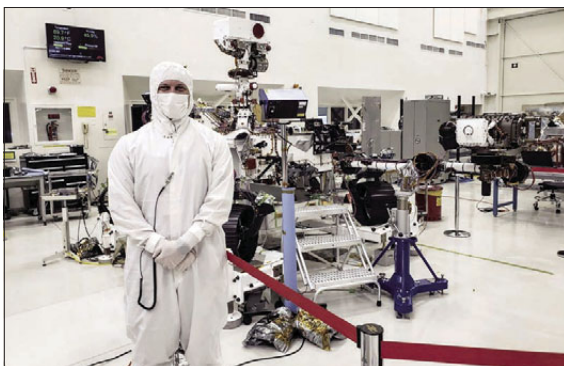
A 2009 Milton High School graduate, Christopher Hummel, is among the hundreds of NASA scientists working on the rover.

Hummel studied mechanical engineering at the University of Wisconsin Madison and completed his master's degree in 2016. Since then, he has worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology in Los Angeles.

Loaded with scientific instruments, advanced computational capabilities for landing, and other new systems, the Perseverance rover is the largest, heaviest, most sophisticated vehicle NASA has ever sent to the Red Planet. The rover was designed to search for astrobiological evidence of ancient microbial life on Mars.

Following a seven-month journey, Perseverance is scheduled to land at

See ROVER, Page A3



Milton native Christopher Hummel is among hundreds of NASA scientists who worked on the Mars 2020 Perseverance rover.

Contributed



Christine Spangler

The Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce's Project LEAD XXXII class cut the ribbon on its project Wednesday morning; dog waste stations and dog- and human-friendly water fountains throughout the city's parks and greenspaces. Shown above are participants at the J.F. Luther Elementary School fields, where a bench also was added to the fountain and waste station. From left, they are: chamber Executive Director Carrie Chisholm, Trista Taylor, Robert Cassidy, Heather Traxler, Tracey Carlson, Kayla Brown, Becky Brom, Kyle Newcomb, Theresa Huser, leadership skills facilitator Mike Bender, Jacob Robles, David Dick, Heather Hartwig, Maria McClellan, chamber President Nova Jiongco, Katie Kalvaitis, Ryan Hill and Brent Hagen. Directly below, Hartwig and guest Mabel Schumacher, also a kennel club member, try out the bench. At bottom is the Luther station along Rockwell Avenue. Note that due to the coronavirus, the city's water fountains are not in operation. Related photos and a story appear on page A1 and A3.

## LEAD

Continued from Page A1

pets, the dangers of chip bags and suffocation, how to properly approach a dog, who to call if one loses a pet, dangerous food for dogs, the "dos and don'ts" of dog training, the Yellow Dog Project, "Does my dog love other dogs?" and the dangers of hot asphalt.

In reflecting on their project following the ribbon-cutting, co-project leader Heather Hartwig said much hard work and dedication from many people went into completing the dog water and waste stations throughout the community.

"We had a really great group of folks (Project LEAD class) that really put their heads together and had to think outside the box in order to determine the project, as well as determine how we were going to obtain the funding to do such a large project," Hartwig said. "We all really wanted to go in with some pretty pretty large to be impactful to Fort Atkinson."

However, the COVID-19 pandemic became yet another obstacle for the class to overcome, she said.

"Everybody put their heads together, really thought hard, and came together as a group," Hartwig said. "Once we had some additional funding, which was fantastic, we actually thought about what else could we do."

And that's when the pedestrian bench entered the picture, she added, noting there are a myriad of activities that occur on the J.F. Luther fields, from softball to soccer to the Blackhawk Running Club. And those young athletes need a source of drinking water to stay hydrated.

"To bring not only the dog-friendly amenities (and) the walking amenities for the individuals, but also all of these sporting youth events to have the water available to them now in two locations is really beneficial," Hartwig stated.

Fellow co-project leader Robert Cassidy said work-

ing with the city's Parks and Recreation Department, specifically recently retired director Scott Lastusky, his team and recently retired assistant city engineer Rudy Buschcott, was incredibly productive.

"It was just amazing, the partnership we were able to share with them," Cassidy commented. "And just when we were in the fundraising piece — knowing what the world was going through (with the pandemic) — the generosity of the businesses and individuals in the community was just short of amazing."

Meanwhile, Trista Taylor, administrative assistant for the Fort Atkinson Parks and Recreation Department, said Project LEAD's dog waste and water stations are a great addition to the community.

"The group voted to make Fort Atkinson a more dog-friendly place," Taylor said. "So, we added three total water units which are people- and dog-friendly. And, specifically we made J.F. Luther our primary location because Rockwell (Elementary School) had been finished, and now we have a lot more traffic with adding the bike addition and walk trail."

Therefore, she said, J.F. Luther is the one location where every enhancement the Project LEAD class raised monies for — including a dog-waste station, educational signs and a water fountain — can be found.

"We did, also, fundraise for a bench, considering that this (Luther) location is used by the community with soccer, and Fort Parks and Rec softball leagues," Taylor pointed out.

And the fields' close proximity to Luther Elementary School, she said, made it an ideal location for the water station.

The administrative assistant characterized this

year's Project LEAD class members as having been "a resilient group."

"We hit our fundraising right when COVID hit and everybody shut down," Taylor said. "We've conquered a lot of hurdles and still came out having a great project that makes Fort Atkinson a great community."

Carrie Chisholm, Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, agreed.

"Project LEAD participants had more hurdles than any in recent history, working toward one goal at high speed (a possible dog park), and having to pivot in another direction (water stations and waste stations) without losing ground," she said. "They launched their fundraising efforts just as the world economy was shutting down."

"Really big decisions had to be made virtually," Chisholm added. "Resiliency and tenacity are not usually the outcomes of this leadership training program, but this class had plenty of opportunity to practice these traits. I am so proud to be associated with the Project LEAD Class of 2020 and all they have accomplished."

The Fort Atkinson Community Foundation provided an \$11,000 matching grant to kick off fundraising, with community sponsors adding \$16,325. In addition to the foundation, "Top Dog" donors were Jones Dairy Farm and Ball Corp. Named "Leader of the Pack" donors were Badger Bank; Cloute Inc.; Premier Bank; Johnson Financial Group; Bender, Kind and Stafford DDS; Fort Community Credit Union and Spacesaver Corp.

Other donors were Alison Griedl; Badger Basement Systems; Blackhawk Running Club; Brian Hall; Carol Endl; Dean Brown; Fort Atkinson Lions Club;



Fort HealthCare; Goyer Ace Hardware; Gregory Klug; Island Bar and Grille; John Kutz; Jens Housley; Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson; Kiwanis Club of Fort Atkinson; Kristin Wallace; Optimist Club of Fort Atkinson; Rock River Bait Box; Fort Atkinson Rotary Club; and Ryan Huber.

In-kind donors were the City of Fort Atkinson, Fort Atkinson Parks and Recreation Department and Mark the Plumber.

Project LEAD also has received support and assistance during the plan-

ning of its project from the following School District of Fort Atkinson employees: Josh Carter, grounds and maintenance; Jason Demerath, director of business services; and David Geiger, Luther principal.

The School District of Fort Atkinson gave permission to place the water/waste units on its property. The City of Fort Atkinson will maintain and fund the dog waste and water stations. However, all city water fountains have been shut off during the coronavirus pandemic.

Members of Project LEAD XXXII are: Becky Brom, Goyer Ace Hardware; Kayla Brown, Epic Resins; Tracey Carlson, See LEAD, Page A3

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Contributed

Members of the Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce's Project LEAD XXXII class on Wednesday dedicated the dog-waste and waste stations in parks and public greenspaces throughout the city. Here, some are shown June 30 installing dog waste stations and educational signage in Ralph Park. Members worked that day alongside Parks and Recreation Department crews to dig holes for the posts at high-traffic areas where dogs and their people can be found. Above, Project LEAD members Ryan Hill, Tim Smith, and David Dick are joined by Parks and Recreation Department staff after installing a dog waste station in Ralph Park. At left, Project LEAD member Robert Cassidy helps install a sign at Ralph Park. Below, city Parks and Recreation Department crews install utilities at the J.F. Luther fields site along Rockwell Avenue.



## LEAD

Continued from Page A2

Badger Bank; Robert Cassidy, Johnson Financial Group; David Dick, personal trainer; Brent Hagen, Jones Dairy Farm; Heather Hartwig, Spacesaver Corp.; Ryan Hill, Cloute Inc.; Theresa Huser, Fort Community Credit Union; Katie Kalvaitis, Fort HealthCare; Maria McClellan, Madison Area Technical

College-Fort Atkinson; Kyle Newcomb, Fort HealthCare Therapy & Sport Center; Jacob Robles, Fort HealthCare; Timothy Smith, PremierBank; Trista Taylor, Fort Atkinson Parks and Recreation Department; Heather Traxler, Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson; and facilitators Carrie Chisholm, Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Michael Bender, Bender, Kind & Stafford Dental.

## MASKS

Continued from Page A1

conservative and outspoken members, told a Texas news station that he tested positive at the White House and planned to self-quarantine. He is at least the 10th member of Congress known to have tested positive for the coronavirus.

The congressman's positive test raised further questions about the lack of mask and testing requirements in the Capitol as members frequently fly back and forth from their hometowns and gather for votes, hearings and news conferences.

"I think particularly for members of Congress who are going back and forth, they represent sort of the perfect petri dish for how you spread a disease," said GOP Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri, chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. "You send 535 people out to 535 different locations, on about 1,000 different airplanes, and bring them back and see what happens. It seems to me there's a better path forward."

An eight-term lawmaker, Gohmert participated in the House Judiciary Committee hearing Tuesday where Attorney General William Barr testified. Before the hearing, Gohmert was seen approaching the meeting room a few feet behind Barr, and neither man was wearing a mask.

Gohmert also voted on the House floor Tuesday and attended a House Natural Resources Committee hearing, where a staff member could be seen sitting close behind him on the dais as he talked without a mask. The chairman of that committee, Democratic Rep. Raúl Grijalva of Arizona, announced that he would self-quarantine.

"In the meantime, my work schedule and the lives of my employees are disrupted," Grijalva said. "This stems from a selfish act by Mr. Gohmert, who is just one member of Congress."

When Gohmert flew to Washington from Texas on Sunday, he sat next to Rep. Kay Granger, R-Texas, who also went into quarantine after learning of her colleague's test results.

Mask-wearing is strongly encouraged but not enforced for lawmakers in the

Capitol, while other workers and law enforcement officers are required to have on masks.

Pelosi has tried to encourage mask use, and committees have rules requiring the wearing of face coverings in hearing rooms. They still won't be required in hallways or personal offices, which are often cramped. Many don't social-distance.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has also pushed the use of masks, and most senators have worn them. But a few have refused, including Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a doctor who says

it's unnecessary because he previously tested positive for the virus. There is no proven science saying that a person cannot get the virus again.

In a television interview, Gohmert said he was given a rapid test by the White House that came back positive, and then took a more thorough test to rule out a false positive. That test came back positive as well.

Gohmert also went as far as to say that wearing a mask may have been how he contracted the virus. Medical experts say masks are one of the best ways to prevent transmission of the virus.



NASA/JPL-Caltech

This illustration depicts NASA's Perseverance rover operating on the surface of Mars. Perseverance will land at the Red Planet's Jezero Crater a little after 4:40 p.m. on Feb. 18, 2021.

## ROVER

Continued from Page A1

Jezero Crater on Feb. 18, 2021. There, it will gather rock and soil samples for future return to Earth. It also will characterize the planet's climate and geology and pave the way for human exploration of the Red Planet.

The robotic scientist, which weighs just under 2,300 pounds, also will carry the Ingenuity Mars Helicopter, a technology demonstration that marks the first attempt at powered, controlled flight on another planet.

Hummel, the son of Leo and Deb Hummel of Milton, was part of the team that developed PIXL (Planetary Instrument for X-Ray Lithochemistry). The instrument is mounted at the end of the rover's robotic arm so it can be placed next to a rock or soil target.

PIXL has a tool (an X-ray spectrometer) that identifies chemical elements on a very small scale. PIXL also has a camera that takes close-up pictures of rock and soil textures. It can see features as small as a grain of salt. This information helps scientists look for signs of past microbial life on Mars.

The launch period is approximately three weeks, from July 30 to Aug. 15, with the duration of the daily launch window at Cape Canaveral varying from day to day. The launch windows last approximately two hours, with a unique launch opportunity every five minutes.

The launch progress can be followed at [mars.nasa.gov/mars2020](https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020).

If the Rover cannot launch by Aug. 15, its next scheduled launch would be in 2022, when Earth and Mars again will be aligned at a closer distance.

The public can register to stay up to date on mission information, mission highlights and interaction opportunities at <https://www.nasa.gov/beourguest>.

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### Project LEAD XXXII

The Project LEAD Class of 2020 has invested in dog-friendly amenities that add safety, health, wellness and environmental benefits for Fort Atkinson residents and their dogs with:

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- 8 dog waste stations
- 11 educational signs focused on dog ownership and behavior

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