

Join us in Celebrating Reggie MacMillan's 94th Birthday



**Saturday, November 27th
2:00 PM
at the Green Door**

Come Help
**DAVE
FABINI**
Celebrate his
Retirement
from the USPS
Carte Postale
Saturday
November 27th
5:00 PM
at Two Harbors
Moose Lodge

In Memory

Our father, Walter Frey, passed in 1988. Our Mother, Marie Frey, passed only a year ago. We miss their advice, good humor and stories. If you knew Marie or Walter, share a memory with a friend. We miss them both.
~ Geraldine & Rickey

OBITUARIES

RICHARD (DUBS) NIKULA

Richard C. Nikula Jr. "Dubs" 65, of Finland, died unexpectedly at home on November 14, 2021.

Dubs was born July 9, 1956 to Richard Sr. and Judy (Wahl) Nikula and lived his whole life in Finland. He was lucky to live in the "good old days" when kids played outside.

Dubs loved all things outdoors; his real passion was fishing for brook trout. He was one of the founding fathers of the Finland Mud Sharks softball team. He never let anything, or anyone make him angry. Hate was not in his vocabulary, something we could all learn from him. He loved his family and adored his nieces and nephews.

He worked as a laborer for Local Laborers Union # 1041 for 40 years and was a proud union man.

Dubs was preceded in death by his parents, Dick and Judy, and a baby brother.

He is survived by brother, Mike (Amy) Nikula; sister, Cindy (Mike) Deitz; brother, Jeff (Tamara) Nikula; sister, Wendy (Jon) Goette; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

There will be a memorial for Dubs in the Spring of 2022, information will be shared when a date is set. To share your memories or condolences online please visit www.cavallinfuneralhome.com.



Covid Update: Minnesota Highest Covid Rates in Country, Hospitals at Capacity

By Kitty Mayo

As the death toll in Lake County reaches 24 with another resident dying from Covid-19 this month, Minnesota is at the epicenter of the Delta-fueled surge, tallying the highest rate of positive cases (per capita). In the six days from November 9th through November 15th 63 new cases were documented, a doubling of the rates from the previous two weeks.

Greg Ruberg, CEO/president of Lake View Hospital and Clinics, says that they are unable to transfer patients to any other hospitals for higher-level or specialty care, a situation that is impacting local health care.

Lake View is responding by allocating resources differently than typical operations, by scaling back on other services in the clinic, and non-emergent surgical procedures, in order to free up physicians and nurses to assist in the emergency room and hospital.

There are currently patients receiving intensive care at Lake View Hospital, even though Lake View does not technically have an ICU department. Some of those patients are suffering from severe symptoms of Covid-19, and are being treated with portable ventilators.

How you can help:

- Get vaccinated, or get your booster if eligible. Experts say the number one thing that can ease the pressure on hospitals is to reduce the number of people getting seriously ill from Covid. Most seriously ill patients are unvaccinated. Vaccinations are available to everyone age 5 and older, for no charge, in Lake County. Go to: <https://www.co.lake.mn.us/health-and-human-services/covid-19-vaccination-clinics/>, or find other options at: (218)226-4443.
- Mask (n95 is best) in all indoor settings, even if you are vaccinated.
- Avoid indoor group settings where vaccine status of those present is unknown, especially large gatherings.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Get tested if you have Covid symptoms or close contact with a known positive case.
- Participate in Telehealth visits for non-emergency care, a virtual video call option that reduces the level of resources needed by clinic staff.

Ruberg says that Lake View is fortunate to have the staff levels that they do, especially compared to other facilities in Minnesota. However, some departments do have staffing challenges, and every department is busier than normal.

umes (number of patients seeking care) are up so high, that all of our staff are being used to support the volume," said Ruberg.

Additional challenges at Lake View include the inability to obtain more critical care-specific equipment, such as vital signs machines, portable ventilators, and IV pumps. Ruberg says that due to high demand and supply chain interruption those types of equipment are just not available.

Lake View had been providing outpatient monoclonal antibody treatments for those with mild to moderate Covid-19 infections that were at high-risk. However, they have temporarily ceased that option, due to the extreme pressures on facility-wide resources. Monoclonal antibody infusions have been shown to prevent a significant amount of serious outcomes and deaths.

Ruberg said that the doubling of the case rate in the previous week is very concerning, and that "when we start making changes to how we deliver services that means we've hit a new threshold." Adding that no decision has been made to ration care, statewide discussions are being held regarding crisis standards of care and how they might make ethical decisions about treatment when resources are limited.

Ruberg expressed appreciation for the dedication that Lake View staff have demonstrated.

"I have sincere gratitude for the remarkable work of our staff to meet the community's needs, and I ask the public to be patient with our staff who are working as fast as they can and giving 100%," said Ruberg.

Health care facilities around Minnesota are reaching, or at maximum capacity, making it impossible for patients who need critical care to be transferred to a different facility.

In a KARE 11 report from November 12th:

- HealthPartners in the Twin Cities says that they have the highest number of Covid patients in their care of the entire year.
- Hospitals in St. Cloud are reporting the patients coming into the ER may have to wait for many hours to receive care.
- Grand Itasca Hospital in Grand Rapids is reporting that they are at capacity. On KAXE radio Tuesday morning it was reported that Grand Itasca is telling people who have Covid symptoms that need treatment to call 911 and an ambulance crew will be dispatched to treat them at home.

LOIS STONE

Lois Stone, 93, of Two Harbors, died Monday, November 15, 2021 at Barross Cottage.

She was born to Andrew and Alice (Edison) Anderson in Duluth, and grew up in Castle Danger. On October 11, 1947 Lois married Richard J. Stone in Two Harbors and they made their home in Castle Danger. Lois was an active member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, especially in the Ladies Aid and the Monday Quilting. She operated her parents' resort, Agate Beach Cabins for many years. Her craft and quilting projects were admired by all and she gifted many beautiful quilts to friends and family. She was a great baker and cook and enjoyed entertaining. Lois and Richard logged many miles on snowmobiles and spent time touring in their travel trailer.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Richard in 2005.

She is survived by her children, Timothy (Julie) Stone of Taylor's Falls, Christine (James) Rostvold of Grand Rapids, and Peggy Stone of Castle Danger; grandchildren, Alicia Gervais, Leslie (Darcy) Pocta, Laura Stone, Kimberly (Andrew) Rostvold, David Rostvold, and Lynn Rostvold; and great-grandchildren, Zoe and Atlas.

Lois' family would like to thank the staff of Barross Cottage and St. Luke's Hospice for their care.

Memorials preferred to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - Castle Danger.

Private graveside services will be held at Lakeview Cemetery in Two Harbors. To share your memories or condolences online please visit www.cavallinfuneralhome.com.



"The challenge we have is that the vol-