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Odanah family homeless after Monday morning blaze, **A3**

No you don't!
Washburn pitcher throws no-hitter against South Shore, **B1**



Ashland Daily Press

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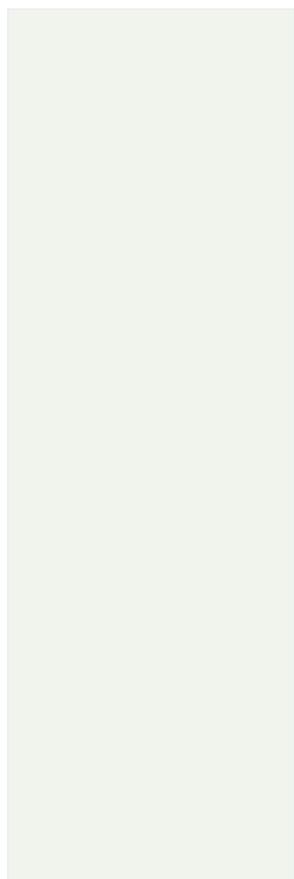


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Health officials push to get young people vaccinated

Slowing signup rates cut waiting time for vaccinations

BY **RICK OLIVO**
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As COVID-19 vaccine becomes more available, the number of people taking advantage of free injections is slowing in the Bay Area, and health officials are focusing efforts now on getting young people vaccinated.

While 89.1% of Ashland County residents over age 65 have had at least one dose of vaccine, just 13.2% of 16- and 17-year-olds have had their first injections — though they have been eligible for free shots for about a month.

The story is much the same in Bayfield County, where 27.2% of teens aged 16-17 have gotten a shot. Those aged 18-24 aren't doing much better; 34.8% in Ashland County and 38.4% in Bayfield County have been injected.

Meanwhile seniors in Bayfield County were almost as conscientious as their neighbors in Ashland County about getting their vaccinations, with 88.2% completing at least their first injection. In every age group over the age of 35 in both Ashland and Bayfield counties, over 50% have received at least their first vaccination.

Both Ashland County Health Officer Liz Szot and her counterpart Sara Wartman in Bayfield County say they understand the disparities in age groups.

"They think they are invincible," said Wartman about young people reluctant to be vaccinated

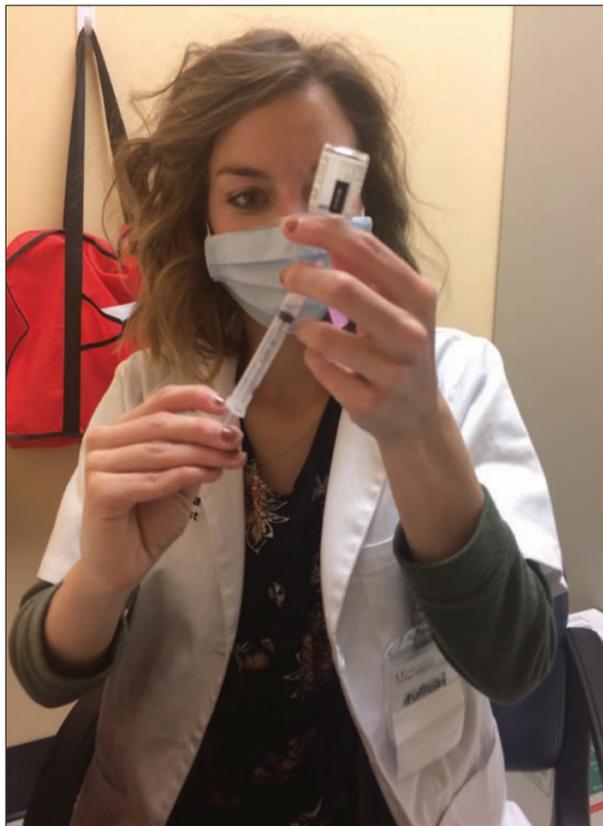
Statistics say otherwise.



Szot



Wartman



Ashland Walgreens pharmacist Michaela Otterstatter prepares to administer a COVID-19 vaccination. With falling demand, waiting times for shots are shortening and some sites, such as the University of Wisconsin-Superior clinic, now accept walk-ins

About 50% of Bayfield County's new cases are striking patients in the 20- to 39-year-old age group.

That's particularly concerning as the number of shots being administered now is dropping, even as supplies of vaccine are increasing. During the week of March 21, for example, Bayfield County residents got 1,619 shots. That number declined to 595 during the week of April 18, and Ashland County has seen similar declines. Szot said the danger is that young people who aren't vaccinated can be carriers of the disease, spreading it to other unvaccinated residents.

"Part of it is that they are at that age where a lot of people, they are young and healthy, nothing can stop them," she said. "Some are waiting for additional information."

Young people also tend

to inhabit the digital world, where no end of false information about the vaccines has spread readily — everything from claims that the injections contain computer chips that allow the government to track residents to rumors that the shots can cause infertility in women.

Neither is true, but that hasn't stopped those and other false claims from making the rounds on social media and the Internet.

Recent cases have made it clear that the shots are as important for young people as for seniors, Szot said.

"If you've seen the news out of Minnesota, a they have had three children age 10 and under pass away related to complications of COVID-19," she said. "One was a healthy 10-year-old who died from it, having no other underlying health condition."

SEE VACCINES PAGE A5

New program gets local students to the Apostles

BY **PETER J. WASSON**
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Northland College and Friends of the Apostle Islands are trying to create a next generation of island ambassadors with a program for local kids this summer.

Stewards of Tomorrow will take 50 kids between the ages of 14 and 17 on four-day excursions through the islands, where they will learn about their cultural history, environment and importance the area.

"We know the Apostles Islands National Lakeshore is hard to access and the Friends have accessibility as one of their goals," said Katherine Jenkins, Northland College's youth outreach educator.

"And for local students, that's a real issue."



Do they even know the park is here? We want them to come away with an understanding of the deep history of this land, its culture. It really can be a transformational experience."

The program is aiming to engage 50 kids as part of the park's 50th anniversary this year, and no one will be turned away if they can't afford to attend, Jenkins said.

Participants — 40 will camp in the park and 10 slots are designated for kids who want to return home each day — will spend one day kayaking sea caves, one day on Raspberry Island exploring its history and culture, one day sailing on a Lake Superior tall ship and additional time with local artists, culminating in each student creating a project that will be displayed as part of the anniversary celebration.

"So the last day we'll end up probably at Little Sand Bay, somewhere on the mainland in the park, working on a final project," Jenkins said. "At the heart of the program is the idea of stewardship — how do we care for the park, the land, the water? In the evenings, we'll meet with artists and poets who have been inspired by the islands, then they will do their own art project about how they want to be stewards in the future."

Those projects will be displayed as part of the year-long anniversary celebration.

"They will all have the same medium — garden flags," Jenkins said. "AdventureUs in Washburn is preparing 50 flags so each participant will have a blank slate. They can write, draw, paint, they might want to use natural objects and weave them into the flags. It's up to them."

SEE APOSTLES PAGE A5

Coffee roastery brings fresh-ground java to Ashland

BY **RICK OLIVO**
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There is nothing quite like fresh coffee and bakery to start the day — especially if the coffee and bakery are prepared locally.

That's the idea behind Aroma Coffee Roastery and Bake Shop, located at 410 Main St. W. in Ashland.

The store is operated by the mother-son partnership of Meg Gustafson of Ashland and Kiel Gustafson of Ashland. The two want to provide locally roasted coffee and baked bread and pastries for residents and visitors with discerning palates who want to enjoy a little something extra on their morning java break.

Kiel is the operation's master roaster, and is also the baker.



RICK OLIVO/STAFF PHOTO

Aroma Coffee Roastery and Bakery co-owner Meg Gustafson holds a bag of coffee and a loaf of bread, both prepared by her son Kiel Gustafson, at their store at 410 Main St. W.

SEE COFFEE PAGE A5

\$1.50

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