



## Virus-wracked economy takes deeper dive; worst yet to come

USA TODAY, 4A

# THE POST-CRESCENT

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### Truck drivers delivering during pandemic seeing much less traffic, but more risks



Trucks move along State 55 near Interstate 41 in Kaukauna. Truck drivers are busy delivering goods across the country. WM. GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

## COVID-19 outbreak at door plant in Neenah

### VT Industries reports several confirmed cases

Madeline Heim Appleton Post-Crescent  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

A Neenah manufacturing plant is the latest in the state to announce an outbreak of the coronavirus among their employees.

“Several” confirmed cases of the virus have been reported at VT Industries’ Eggers Division plant, 164 N. Lake St., the company said in a statement Wednesday. The door and mill-work manufacturing plant was deemed an essential business under Gov. Tony Evers’ stay-at-home order and was allowed to continue its operations, according to the release.

The company said it has increased cleaning and sanitizing at the facility, is enforcing social distancing and has installed barriers or is requiring additional personal protective equipment in areas where maintaining a six-foot distance between workers is not possible.

Mandatory temperature checks and face coverings are required of all employees, the company said.

The company said it has followed guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control to interview employees who have confirmed cases.

A request for comment from the Winnebago County Public Health Department was not returned by the time of this story.

The plant is one of 187 facilities throughout the state of Wisconsin that are managing an outbreak of the coronavirus within their work forces.

The state Department of Health Services announced Wednesday that 93 of those outbreaks are in long-term care facilities, 48 are in workplaces, 25 in group housing settings, 11 in health care facilities and 10 in other types of facilities.

In the northeastern portion of the state, 30 facilities are currently being investigated, though the data does not specify which facilities those are.

Contact Madeline Heim at 920-996-7266 or [mheim@gannett.com](mailto:mheim@gannett.com). Follow her on Twitter at [@madeline\\_heim](https://twitter.com/madeline_heim).

# OPEN ROADS

Chris Mueller Appleton Post-Crescent | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

The coronavirus pandemic has forced millions of people across the country to stay at home. Carmen Anderson doesn’t have that option. ■ Anderson, a 60-year-old from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, works as a truck driver for a Green Bay-based beef processing company that ships more than 6.5 million pounds of beef every day. ■ Her work takes her to places all over the country, but no matter where she goes lately, the impact of the virus has been impossible to miss. ■ Traffic is much lighter, even in major cities. The dining rooms of restaurants, one of the few places truck drivers can escape their vehicles for a break, have closed. And inside her truck, Anderson carries masks, wipes and hand sanitizer to protect herself from the virus.

The isolation of the job can be a challenge, especially now, but Anderson has more companionship than most – she travels with her two small dogs, Rodney and Otis. But even they’ve been feeling cooped up.

“They’re wondering too why we sit in the truck as much as we do,” Anderson said.

When shoppers rushed to stores to buy essential supplies in the early days of the pandemic, truck drivers were busy trying to keep up with demand, said Kim Conradt, safety programs coordinator for the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association.

Many regulations, including those that say how long drivers can work and how much weight they can carry in their trucks, have been relaxed as a result of the pandemic, Conradt said.

The amount of work has tapered off for some, but truck drivers hauling certain items – medicine, food or toilet paper, for instance – will

See DRIVERS, Page 6A

## Longtime Appleton photographer Bob Rueckl dies

Maureen Wallenfang  
Appleton Post-Crescent  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Bob Rueckl, a photographer who took pictures of thousands of Appleton’s high school seniors, brides, grooms and corporate leaders over nearly half a century, died on Sunday. He was 77.

“He had a heart attack on the golf course. He was out enjoying life, doing what he loved to do,” said his son Tobin.

Bob Rueckl was remembered this week by Appleton photographers for his humor, expertise and willingness to help others as they rose in the profession.

“Everyone loved Bob. He was one of the funniest men I ever met,” said photographer and protege Debbie Daanen.

“He had a very easy way about him. He was a very good teacher. He was always dressed impeccably. I learned from him to get extremely dressed up when we went to shoot weddings.”

“He was a photographer’s photographer. He’s the guy I would go to to be photographed,” said Rueckl’s longtime friend Todd Kunstman, owner of Ken-Mar Photography. “He took the photo of me that I use on my business card.”

Kunstman said most people will remember Rueckl for his ability to work with anyone.

“He has a mischievous twinkle in his eyes. He had a self-deprecating sense of

See RUECKL, Page 3A



Bob Rueckl lets Betsy West look at her photographs during his last in-house portrait session in 2015.

DAN POWERS/  
USA TODAY  
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## Drivers

Continued from Page 1A

almost certainly stay busy, Conradt said. "They're keeping your

household going, while being away from their home," she said.

The stay-at-home orders in place across most of the country have had another impact that truck drivers have been

quick to notice: traffic, even in notoriously busy places, has noticeably declined.

Anderson has been able to drive through big cities, including Milwaukee, Chicago and Atlan-

ta, without a problem.

"You just drive," she said. "You don't even have to slow down."

A study released last week by the Wisconsin Policy Forum found traffic on Wisconsin high-

ways went down by 40 percent from 2.5 million vehicles on March 3 to 1.5 million vehicles on April 7.

The decline coincided with Gov. Tony Evers' decision to close schools

across the state on March 13, the study says. By the time Evers' stay-at-home order was introduced on March 24, traffic had already gone down.

Henry Frautschy, a 62-year-old from Oshkosh who works as a truck driver for Schneider, has seen another, slightly more troubling trend.

"I've noticed that with a lot less car traffic out there, some people are really behaving badly with automobiles," he said.

His truck has adaptive cruise control, which means he can see the speeds of other vehicles around him on the highway. He has clocked multiple drivers at more than 100 mph.

Frautschy said those drivers are still in the minority on the roads.

"By far, the majority of people are helpful," he said.

Truck drivers are isolated when they're behind the wheel, but that doesn't mean they aren't taking precautions when making deliveries. Frautschy, who typically drives long distances to support a Green Bay-based paper manufac-

## Obituaries

### Elroy H. Heling

APPLETON - Elroy Heling, age 91 of Appleton, passed away on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. A complete obituary will appear in the Sunday edition. For more information, please visit [www.wichmannfuneralhomes.com](http://www.wichmannfuneralhomes.com).

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There are several obituary options available.

Please consult your funeral director for more information.

### Arthur M. Nadolny

APPLETON - Arthur M. Nadolny, 78 of Appleton, died on Monday, April 27, 2020. He was born on July 29, 1941 in Neenah to Walter and Bernice Nadolny and spent the majority of his life in the Fox Cities.

In his younger years, Art loved to ride his bike all through the city. One of Art's favorite memories was learning to fish with all his cousins at their cabin in Phelps, WI. He enjoyed going out for a good meal with his buddies. Art was obsessed about anything to do with trains and went to train museums. Plus he immensely enjoyed listening to different genres of music. He served a short stint in the Army, but was discharged as his eyesight grew worse and caused him to become legally blind.

Art spent many happy July 4ths with his nephew's family, watching fireworks and toasting marshmallows. Family would come together every Christmas Eve at his sister Mary's home in Neenah. He was always as excited as a five-year-old ripping open presents.

As the years rolled by, his new home became Brewster Village, where he made many friends. He loved to chit chat and sing and could be heard down the hallway as you would walk to his room for a visit. Therapy dogs were always an immense comfort to him.

Surviving Art are his five siblings: Thomas Nadolny; Barbara Hammill; Patrick Nadolny; Mary (Richard) Payne; and Steven Nadolny; as well as a nephew, Scott and his wife, Christine, along with their children, Steven and Sarah. He was preceded in death by his parents and a niece, Aimee Hamill. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Art's family would like to thank the entire staff at Brewster Village, Appleton for the loving care given to our brother and making him feel safe and special.

RIP Micky- till we meet again.

Westgor Funeral Homes

205 W. Doty Ave. Neenah 722-7151

Condolences: [www.westgorfuneralhomes.com](http://www.westgorfuneralhomes.com)



### Barbara C. Phelan

KAUKAUNA - Barbara C. Phelan, age 82, passed away peacefully at St. Paul Home on April 25, 2020. She was born in Kaukauna on December 20, 1937, and the daughter of the late James and Veronica (Heimmermann) Whittaker.

Barbara lived her whole life in Kaukauna. Barbara was very proud of her Native American heritage with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Tribe. On November 28, 1957, Barbara married the love of her life John J. Phelan. She worked at Dr. Simon Cherkasky's office and then Medical Arts/Affinity Clinic. Her favorite pastime was working in her flower gardens which she was so proud. Barbara was also a member at the local YMCA. Barbara enjoyed quilting with her friends at Sunset Park in Kimberly. One of her favorite trips was going to Rome to see the Pope.

Barbara is survived by her husband John, children: Donald (Donna) Phelan, Kenneth (Kim) Phelan and Sarah (Russ) Dix; grandchildren: Laura Phelan and Kevin Phelan; Brittini (Nate) Nelson, Benjamin (Ashley) Phelan; Emilee (Stefan) Jedlicka; Veronica (Kyle) Schlies, and Alexander Dix; great grandchildren: Lee, Grant, Cora, and May Nelson, Edison and Ellis Jedlicka; brother and sisters: Andrew (Joan) Whittaker, Judy (Dick) Mulroy, James (Bobbi) Whittaker, Susan (Steve) Leonard; brother-in-laws: Gary Whitney, Robert (Jeanie) Phelan and William (Kay) Phelan.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents: James and Veronica (Heimmermann) Whittaker; mother and father-in-law: John and Florence (Wall) Phelan; sister: Mary Jo (Whittaker) Whitney; in-laws: Florence (Phelan) Elmer Hoffman, Alice (Phelan) Wayne LeFevre.

In light of the current events, the family will have a private graveside services at this time and celebration of life will be held in the future. For online condolences, please visit [www.verkuilenfh.com](http://www.verkuilenfh.com).

Our family would like to extend special thanks to the staff at St. Paul Home for all the years of taking such wonderful care of Mom.



**"I've noticed that with a lot less car traffic out there, some people are really behaving badly with automobiles."**

**Henry Frautschy,**  
62-year-old truck driver from Oshkosh

turer, keeps masks in his truck in case he has to get out of his truck at his destination, or anywhere else.

"I can take those precautions and feel reasonably certain that I've done what I could and that I probably haven't been exposed," he said.

Frautschy said it's difficult not to be concerned with whether other drivers are taking the proper precautions, though he hasn't heard of many others getting sick.

Carl Marks, a 38-year-old from Racine, drives a truck for FedEx, but isn't a delivery driver. Instead, Marks drives between sites where packages are sorted and eventually sent on their way.

The pace of work seems to have slowed with so many businesses closed as a result of the pandemic, Marks said.

Marks has started taking precautions too, putting on a mask and gloves whenever he gets out of his truck, and washes his hands any time he touches anything. But Marks still gets nervous when others don't appear to be taking the pandemic seriously.

"You see people not wearing a mask or you see them not washing their hands, or it seems like they're just ignoring the situation," he said.

Despite his concern, Marks has found some habits more difficult to give up than others.

"The hardest thing is not to give somebody a handshake," he said. "That's always a sign of respect. That's something that's hard not to do."

Contact Chris Mueller at [920-996-7267](mailto:920-996-7267) or [cmueller@gannett.com](mailto:cmueller@gannett.com). Follow him on Twitter at @AtChrisMueller.

### Glenn Sharratt

WAUTOMA - Glenn Lee Sharratt, age 96 of Wautoma, passed on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at Patriot Place in Berlin. He was born on a farm north of Oshkosh on March 24, 1924, to Lawrence and Ubena (Candlish) Sharratt. He completed eight grades at a one-room country school and then graduated from Oshkosh High School in 1942. Glenn served in the US Air Force during WWII, and thereafter was a member of the USAF Reserve. He retired in 1984 with the rank of Lt. Colonel after completing over 26 years of combined active and reserve duty.

Glenn married Lora Jane Frank of Oshkosh in August, 1950. She preceded him in death on September 30, 2008, in the 59th year of their marriage.

Following WWII, he returned to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 1949 and a law degree in 1951. He was employed at American Family Ins, Madison for over 16 years. Glenn resigned the position of Regional Claims Counsel in 1967 to join the Appleton law firm of Fulton, Menn and Nehs; a firm later to be known as Menn, Nelson, Sharratt, Teetaert and Beisenstein. Glenn was a member of the Outagamie County, Wisconsin and American Bar Associations. In 1982, he was invited to join and did join the American College of Trial Lawyers, an association of select trial lawyers of the United States and Canada.

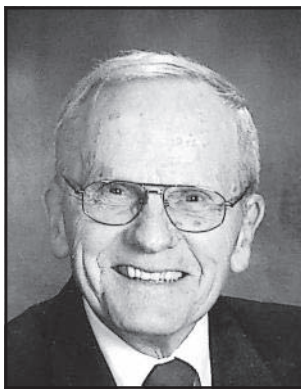
He retired from active practice in 1988, and with Jane, enjoyed their home on Crystal Lake in northern Marquette County. An active member of Wautoma Kiwanis, the Waushara County Club and Crystal Lake Club; he served as director and president of each at various times. He was also active in Wautoma's Grace United Methodist Church.

Glenn was a Badger fan, a Packer fan, a fisherman who didn't particularly enjoy fish, a hunter who loved a good dog, and after years of playing softball and baseball, took satisfaction in umpiring little league. Both he and Jane enjoyed foreign travel and among their favorites, were New Zealand, Portugal and Vienna.

Glenn is survived by his son Steven, Wautoma, daughter Sue Scimeca, Wautoma, two grandsons: Brian (Shayna) of Three Lakes, WI. Mark Scimeca, Wautoma; and two great grandsons Kaden & Mason Scimeca of Three Lakes, WI. Glenn was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and two brothers.

A Celebration of Life Gathering and Military Honors will be held at the Leikness Funeral Home, Wautoma at a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests any donations be made to the Alzheimers Assn.

Glenn's family would like to thank Patriot Place and Heartland Hospice for their kindness and care given to him at different lengths during his last four months.



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