

# Forest County: a hidden jewel in northern Wisconsin

**Dorothy Kegley**

If you're reading this, you may be in the very special and unique Forest County. You won't see a stop light, but you may have to stop to let the deer, bear, coyote or fox cross the road. You may see cars stop to help a turtle cross the road. You may spot flocks of wild turkeys and deer herds grazing on freshly cut hay. You will even see an elk farm on highway 32 north of Crandon. You may get behind a farmer driving his tractor and hay wagon on their way to cut hay for their cattle and horses for the winter. The local restaurants and watering holes welcome visitors with good food and friendly conversations.

Forest County has 824 named lakes and 850 miles of trout streams that are home to pan fish, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, walleye, northern pike and mus-

kies. The only city in Forest County is Crandon with a population of

ski shows, and community and family picnics.

If water activities are

the school systems and rescue squads with proceeds from their two local casinos. The Mole Lake Casino was the first gaming compact signed in Wisconsin by then Governor Tommy Thompson in the early 1990s.

The county also is home to one of the largest zinc and copper deposits in north America. The rich find is mixed with gold, silver, nickel. It is mostly buried under tribal lands, and the tribes have no interest in mining the site without better standards being in place for water and air control.

The county is host to the third highest part of the state. Sugar Bush Hill, just off state highway 32 and US 8 between Laona and Crandon has an elevation of 1,939 feet above sea level. Many locals have fond memories of parties there and climbing the fire tower.

Forest County was created by an Act of the Legislature in 1885. It was originally part of Langlade and Oconto counties. The county was given the name Forest because of the dense forest which covered the county when it was created.

Forest County is more than a vacation stop; it offers a glimpse into a gentler life style. Experience the joy that we share in extended families of grandma and grandpa and cousins and aunt and uncles, which helps keep us grounded.

not your thing, enjoy exploring the Nicolet National Forest land that has walking trails, horseback riding, ATV and ski trails, and lakes, trout streams and camp sites.

The total population of Forest County is 9,256 with less than 21% of the land being taxable. Three school districts, Laona, Crandon, and Wabeno have done well in competing at regional and state level in sports and academics. The community takes pride in their schools and young people and truly are a Friday night football story of close community ties. There are two Native American tribes in the county and they have help defray the cost of



1,872. It might be small in population boasts four lakes in the city limits. These lakes are available for recreation, fishing,

## Medical advances mean people diagnosed with HIV can now live long, healthy lives

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) would like to share information about medical advances that allow those diagnosed with HIV to live long, healthy, happy lives.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), many people living with HIV who seek appropriate treatment are able to maintain an undetectable viral load, which means they can live without fear of passing HIV on to others, but the first step is getting tested. Nearly eight in ten people living with HIV in the United States reported feeling stigmatized for their HIV status, while nearly two out of three say it is difficult to tell others about their infection. Addressing the HIV stigma is central to ending the HIV epidemic because when people experience stigma, they are less likely to access HIV testing, adopt safe behaviors, or be adherent to their HIV medication.

"With advances in medicine and the dedicated work of our community partners, the goal of ending new HIV transmissions in Wisconsin is within reach," said Karen McKeown,

State Health Officer. "We want people to know the facts about HIV so that together we can reduce fear and stigma and help people stay healthy."

DHS would like to share the following facts and resources with the public:

Free or low-cost HIV testing. Getting tested is the first step, and DHS sponsors HIV testing at numerous agencies across the state. Testing is confidential and only takes 20 minutes and a finger stick. Learn more at GetTested-MKE.org.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). With only one pill a day, people who are HIV negative and at high risk can reduce their risk of becoming HIV positive by up to 92%. The medication is available by prescription from your primary care physician or infectious disease physician.

Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U). In 2017, studies showed that people living with HIV who were able to maintain an undetectable viral load through antiretroviral medication (ARVs) did not pass on HIV through sex. This means that people living with HIV who are able to stay in treatment can live without fear of passing HIV on to others through sex. Learn more on the CDC website.

### FOREST COUNTY

#### 2018 Calendar of Events

##### JULY:

- 19-21 Wabeno Area Players "The Dastardly Doctor Devereaux", Wabeno
- 20-22 Wisconsin Mycological Society Annual Summer Foray, Hiles
- 21 Hiles Fire Department Trap Shoot, Hiles
- 22 Hiles Historical Museum Open House (Featuring Karl Guth photography works on the Nicolet Wolf River Scenic Byway), Hiles
- 23 Crandon Lions Club Summerfest, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., City Beach, Crandon
- 26-28 7th Annual Forest County DAV Biker Rally and Ride, Pack 'Em Inn, Crandon
- 27-28 Polish Heritage Days, Armstrong Creek
- 28 Kentucky Day Festival, Courthouse Square, Downtown Crandon
- 28 Kentucky Day Moonshine 5K Run/Walk, Crandon
- 28 Kentucky Classic Car Show, Weber-Hill Funeral Home, Crandon

##### AUGUST:

- 4 Lake Lucerne Family Fun Day & Auction, Lake Lucerne Association Pavilion, Crandon
- 4 Annual Wabeno Art & Music Fest (WAM Fest), 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Wabeno
- 4 Mecikalski Stovewood Building "Stovewood Daze", Jennings
- 18 Trump Lake Walleye Fundraiser, 12-6 p.m., Trump Lake Pavilion, Wabeno
- 25-26 32nd Annual Footstock, Peshtigo Lake, Crandon
- TBD Mno Keno Ma Ge Wen Powwow, Carter
- 31 World Championship Off-Road Races Downtown Celebration/Parade, Crandon
- 31-2 World Championship Off-Road Races, Crandon Int'l Off-Road Raceway, Crandon

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