



Chapple

Skibba

The course also offers a deep dive on sources of retirement income such as Social Security benefits, annuities, life insurance, and federal and military employee benefits.

Jeff Fritz, assistant professor at the **Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin (MCW-CW)**, was selected by the Society for Science & the Public for the Advocate Grant Program for 2017-2018. This program was started to help underserved students overcome barriers, compete, and succeed in science research competitions. In addition to Fritz's future role as an advocate within the program, he currently volunteers at the Enrich, Excel, Achieve Learning Academy, a public charter school serving the Wausau School District. Fritz will be awarded a \$3,000 stipend to use for recruiting a cohort of local students. He will then guide and mentor the students as they make their journey through a vast array of science competitions.

Aspirus Wausau Hospital presented **Mary Nowinsky**, registered nurse from the cardiac intensive care unit with the DAISY Award

for Extraordinary Nurses in recognition for her commitment and patient centered approach to care. Aspirus Wausau Hospital DAISY Award recipients are nurses recognized for meeting and exceeding the needs and expectations of patients and families by displaying the hospital's core values. Established in 1999, the family of J. Patrick Barnes created the DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award to honor his memory with a tribute to the skillful and compassionate care he received from his nurses during his hospitalization.

Two clinicians from the Women's Health, OB/GYN department at **Ministry Medical Group**, part of Ascension in Stevens Point began seeing patients for Medical Weight Management. **Lisa Jamison** recently earned certification as an American Board of Obesity Medicine Diplomate. The American Board of Obesity Medicine (ABOM) serves the public and the field of obesity medicine by maintaining standards for assessment and credentialing physicians. Certification as an ABOM Diplomate signifies specialized knowledge in the practice of obesity medicine and distinguishes a physician as having achieved competency in obesity care. **Chin-Feng Dani Lai** earned a certificate of education from the Obesity Medicine Association (OMA). She is an active member of the Obesity Medicine association. Members of the OMA are clinical leaders in obesity medicine who work to advance the prevention, treatment, and reversal of the disease of obesity.

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hcentral Technical College (NTC), is a tudents that combines academic and d, on-the-job learning that makes a

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- Food and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
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Growth Strategies



General Manager Steve Berlyn says his company's expansion in Wisconsin Rapids will allow Mariani Packing to package cranberries at the source.

The Business News photo by Jim Servi

Mariani Packing almost doubling plant size

Project will allow Wisconsin Rapids company to package cranberries on site

By Jim Servi
jservi@thebusinessnews.com

Cranberries are the Wisconsin state fruit for good reason. Not only does Wisconsin produce more cranberries than any other state, but it produces more than half the world's supply of the berry. Mariani Packing Company's Wisconsin Rapids location is perfectly positioned in cranberry country to capitalize on that impressive yield with their upcoming expansion.

current facility since 2002 and became GM when Urban Processing was purchased by the fourth generation of Mariani's out of California in 2011.

"In the food business, we look to save every penny," Berlyn said, "which is why it makes sense to package at the source."

From a strategic perspective, that was Mariani's intent with their 2011 acquisition. They wanted a packaging company in the heart of cranberry cultivation. Now, they are taking their plans one step further.

The completion of the building is phase one of the project and expected to be complete by Sept. 1. This will facilitate a shift from their current operation of shipping containers of sweetened dried cranberries to California. Upon completion, they will be able to package dried cranberries ranging from 5 ounces to 56 ounces to support different customer needs.

Warehouse space also is a key part of this expansion. "With this expansion — packaging and warehousing — we'll be able to source everything right in Wisconsin Rapids."

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SVP online by Friday, August 25:

www.ntc.edu/yaevents

QUESTIONS?

Contact Dina Kilinski, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, at 715.803.1190 or kilinskid@ntc.edu.



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Steve Berlyn, general manager of Mariani's Wisconsin Rapids location, has worked at the

current facility since 2002 and became GM when Urban Processing was purchased by the fourth generation of Mariani's out of California in 2011.

"In the food business, we look to save every penny," Berlyn said, "which is why it makes sense to package at the source."

From a strategic perspective, that was Mariani's intent with their 2011 acquisition. They wanted a packaging company in the heart of cranberry cultivation. Now, they are taking their plans one step further.

The current 75,000-square-foot facility will be expanding to just shy of 150,000 square feet.

The completion of the building is phase one of the project and expected to be complete by Sept. 1. This will facilitate a shift from their current operation of shipping containers of sweetened dried cranberries to California. Upon completion, they will be able to package dried cranberries ranging from 5 ounces to 56 ounces to support different customer needs.

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See Mariani, PAGE 20

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Mariani/35 employees will be added

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right in Wisconsin Rapids," Berlyn said. "In 2-3 years we're hoping to package, store and ship multiple fruits, in addition to cranberries, as well."

For phase two, the equipment will be installed by January 2018. Robotics and automation will be an essential part of the new packaging line and will augment the additional 35 employees that are being hired. These additional employees will bring the total to 150 employees, nearly tripling the 52 employees that were part of the transition in 2011.

The new positions include a variety of career options including food quality, technical and

mechanical experts to lead the new packaging line, general labor on the line, along with administrative and customer support positions.

"We're (Mariani) the largest multiple dried-fruit producer in the world," Berlyn described referencing their model of contracting with a large network of local cranberry growers. "Our company is built on our core values and one of those is to build for the future." This principle epitomizes their current expansion. They are not just building to support their current capacity, they are building for the future just as their core value advocates. "We'll start by utilizing half the capacity in the beginning and built for the future

with the extra space," Berlyn said. "This helps the opportunity for growth happen."

As part of the expansion, Berlyn is turning his attention toward the culture of the organization. "With this growth, we want to look at what we can do for the employee," Berlyn said, having recently attended a conference on workforce development to gather ideas to enhance their culture. Right now, the office and packing facilities are separate. The new building will merge the two elements into a single facility. Berlyn is hoping that is just one of the many changes that will bring the organization closer together and facilitate continued growth.

Church Mutual earns innovation award for sensor technology

Church Mutual Insurance Company in Merrill has been recognized for its entrepreneurialism and innovation with its Internet of Things (IoT) technology.

The commercial property and liability insurer received the Award in Innovation by the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, or NAMIC, for its Sensor Technology Program. This is the second award for innovation that Church Mutual has received this year for the sensor technology. In April, Church Mutual earned the Celent Model Insurer award.

NAMIC is a national organization of mutual insurance companies based in Indianapolis.

The Award in Innovation was created in 2014 to recognize mutual insurers that exemplify the vision and entrepreneurialism it takes to stay relevant in changing times.

Church Mutual's Sensor Technology Program offers customers year-round protection using temperature and water sensors in vulnerable areas of a building or in areas where priceless and often irreplaceable items are stored.

The sensors are monitored remotely 24/7, so no one has to be on the premises. Alerts are sent by text message, email or phone to one or several contacts if a temperature or water sensor relays a low temperature or presence of water reading.

'Mini-Lambeau' is now open for business

By Harry Maier

hmaier@thebusinessnewsOnline.com

The new "mini-Lambeau" is officially open for business.

More formally, the 13,242-square-foot building is in the east parking lot of Lambeau Field and is known as the Johnsonville Tailgate Village.

On game weekends, it will be open at no charge for the public starting four hours before game time. During the year, it is available only on a reservation basis. Already it has accepted several bookings.

The building can accommodate 500 people and has six overhead doors with floor to ceiling glass on the south side that opens to an outdoor patio with 4,300 square feet of space for upwards of 1,500 people.

At the grand opening event, Mark Murphy, Green Bay Packers CEO, said "there is nothing like this across the league. It will serve as a model for other franchises."

Murphy said the Packers have had a great relationship with Johnsonville, dating for more than 22 years. "This building will serve as a lasting legacy," he said.

Ralph and Shelly Stayer, owners of Johnsonville based in Sheboygan Falls, participated in the ribbon-cutting event. More than 100 Johnsonville employees attended. Miron Corp. was the general contractor.

Shelly Stayer said, "Fans want to tailgate at Lambeau, this building is the mecca for tailgating."

The building includes a full kitchen, indoor restrooms, heating and air-conditioning with radiant heated floors and large screen televisions.

Johnsonville is the nation's No. 1 sausage brand and has 1,600 employees.

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