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Couple to open pharmacy in Longville

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LONGVILLE — Michael and Laurie Schwartzwald expect to open a full-service pharmacy in Longville by the end of May in a building they purchased next to the post office.

They currently own GuidePoint Pharmacy in Brainerd and several other Minnesota locations.

The Longville site will be a tele-pharmacy service, connected digitally with a new pharmacy the Schwartzwalds expect to open soon in Nisswa.

Pharmacists in Nisswa will verify and approve prescriptions and be connected to the Longville site by audio/visual equipment. The pharmacist will be able to give patient consultations via an on-screen conference between the Nisswa and Longville sites.

Cass County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) assisted the Schwartzwalds by helping them obtain a \$7,076 First National Bank of Walker loan toward purchasing and remodeling their Longville building and with obtaining a \$17,724 loan toward purchasing tele-pharmacy equipment.

The EDC also used a Blandin Foundation \$17,548 grant to the EDC. The EDC used the grant that to cover the other half of the tele-pharmacy equipment cost and will lease the equipment to the Schwartzwalds for three years under a lease/purchase agreement.

The Longville location will have a pharmacist on site Mondays each week. Other days of the week, the pharmacist will approve prescriptions from Nisswa and a full range of prescriptions will then be processed through the dispensing equipment at Longville, according to Gail Levenson, Cass EDC director.

Until now, a limited number of prescriptions have been available at the Longville Clinic but for the most part residents have had to go to pharmacies in Walker or Pine River to have prescriptions filled.

People will be able to order prescription refills by phone or in person at the Longville site.

“The assistance that we received from the Cass County EDC was phenomenal,” Michael Schwartzwald said. “They put a lot of time and effort into our project, and I greatly appreciate the quality work and support that I received. I highly recommend corporations — no matter how big or small — to the EDC.”

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