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SHOPPING NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

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Monroe Clinic begins reopening procedures

Officials at Monroe Clinic are slowly entering the recovery phase for COVID-19, including increased patient visits, so they are assuring patients, visitors and community members that they are taking every step possible to ensure care is delivered safely.

It is reopening in a phased approach, with precautions in place and a prioritized focus on patients whose appointments and procedures may have been delayed or impacted by COVID-19 regulations.

"Monroe Clinic and the communities we serve have done an incredible job of adhering to the Safer-at-Home order and adapting the other measures put in place to stop the spread of COVID-19," clinic President Jane Curran-Meuli said in a news release last week. "At this time, we feel confident that we can begin to cautiously and slowly resume some services that had been stopped as a precaution against COVID-19. We will continue to monitor the situation on an ongoing basis and evaluate our care plans as we see how the virus spreads throughout our area."

Monroe Clinic has safety precautions and infection control measures in place at all of its facilities in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois to limit the risk of exposure and keep everyone safe. These include:

- Screening of all patients before their scheduled procedures
- Strict visitor policy to limit unnecessary traffic in facilities
- Entrance screening for all patients and visitors
- Universal use of appropriate personal protective equipment for all providers and staff
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection processes at all locations
- Plexiglass barriers at check-in and registration to ensure appropriate distancing
- Realigned waiting room seating to ensure appropriate physical distancing

And cloth masks or face coverings must be worn by all patients, visitors and staff members at Monroe Clinic facilities.

Scheduled patient visits and procedures have been evaluated on a case-by-case basis since early March as a proactive measure to minimize risks and ensure patient safety.

"We will continue to review individual patient health histories and risk levels as we begin to increase the number of patients we're seeing at our facilities," said Dr. Darren Pipp, chief medical officer. "Not seeking care, particularly for chronic illnesses and urgent or emergency conditions, could negatively impact your overall health and wellbeing. Our process will be cautious and methodical to ensure the safest approach to care for our patients."

Those who think they have come in contact with someone with COVID-19 or have symptoms should go online for a free virtual visit at SMHealth.com/COVID19.

For other routine appointments, Monroe Clinic continues to offer telehealth visits where appropriate. Telehealth visits are an excellent option for a variety of conditions and follow-up visits such as chronic illness and care management, post-surgical follow-up, mental health issues and annual wellness visits.

To learn more about telehealth visits, visit the clinic's website or contact your provider's office to schedule an appointment.

For continued updates, about COVID-19, visit www.monroeclinic.org/coronavirus.

Building leaders throughout county

Leadership development program recognizes group from 2019-2020

Green County Leaders has announced the graduation of 24 community leaders from the 2019-2020 leadership development program.

Participants were recognized during a virtual ceremony and recognized for their community projects and educational achievements.

- Aaron Heim, Monroe School District
- Andrew Aurit, Colony Brands
- Anna Taylor, Monroe Clinic
- Chris Schmidt, The Potter's House UPCI

- Donna Pence, Colony Brands
- Gale Hellpap, the Village of Belleville and R.R. Donnelly;
- Gina Butson, Mosher & Associates Insurance

- Jake Grinnell, Monroe School District
- Jenna Peterson, Monroe Clinic
- Kelly Knox, Monroe School District

- Kimberly Wellnitz, Woodford State Bank
- Laura Hibbard, Armstrong Family Dental;

- Lisa Paske, Monroe Clinic
- Lona Slack, First Weber Hedeman Group

- Matt Honer, the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission
- Megan Schilt, Avenues Counsel-

ing

- Nicole Wyss, representing 4C Industries
- Rudy Folk, Colony Brands
- Ryan Dahman, Bank of New Glarus and Sugar River branches;
- Sarah Goeke, Columbia College of Missouri;
- Sarah Gempeler, Precision Biolabs
- Stacy Cavanaugh, Union Presbyterian Church
- Teagan Kluckhohn, Colony Brands

Green County Leaders is an educational program in which individuals practice leadership skills, deepen their understanding of community issues and prepare for leadership roles, thereby creating a network of active individuals who leverage their experience and expertise to benefit their community and local organizations.

Green County Leaders participants attend a full-day program once a month, held in various locations, from August through May.

Participants also take part in a team project and other activities to hone leadership skills and community impact.

While this year the project groups faced a number of challenges due to COVID-19, the groups were effective in pivoting and adapting and laying

groundwork for future efforts. This year's class projects included:

- Monroe Community Gardens, partnering with Blackhawk Technical College in Monroe to provide a community garden space for community members.

- 4-H Multicultural Pilot Program, partnering with Green County 4-H to engage minority students and provide a positive learning experience.

- Convivio, partnering with the Multicultural Outreach Program to provide community learning events around food, art, culture and language.

- Aspiring Leaders of Green County, which partners with Green County United Way to create and maintain a group of individuals who want to improve the county. To do so, the group plans to provide members with civic, social and professional avenues.

- Splash Pad, partnering with the City of Monroe and focusing on conducting a feasibility study and exploring funding for a free splash pad in Green County.

Applications for the 2020-2021 Green County Leaders program will be available on June 1.

For more information, contact Victoria Solomon at the Green County Extension office at 608-328-9440 or victoria.solomon@wisc.edu.

Green County encourages healthy best practices as emergency order lifted

Early last week, the Green County Public Health Department lifted its emergency orders relative to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Green County District Attorney's office and the county's corporation counsel advised that the emergency order may not be enforceable under current county ordinances.

"While the order has been lifted, the virus is still here," Green County Health Department Director RoAnn Warden said in a news release. "Numbers locally and in Wisconsin continue to grow. We strongly encourage everyone to follow recommended best

practices for individuals, businesses and community groups."

These include:

- Wash hands frequently
- Avoid touching your face
- Maintain physical distancing of at least six feet
- Wear a face covering in public
- Avoid large group gatherings
- Disinfect surfaces
- Stay home when sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Protect vulnerable populations

More information about these practices and the Green County business reopening toolkit can be found at publichealth.org/coronavirus/.

publichealth.org/coronavirus/.

As businesses respond to the changes, county officials encourage them to look to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation at wecd.org/programs-and-resources/covid-19-response/, individual trade associations and their insurance carriers for best practice recommendations to keep their customers and employees safe.

Those who feel they have symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their health care provider for testing options or visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/testing for a list of community testing sites.



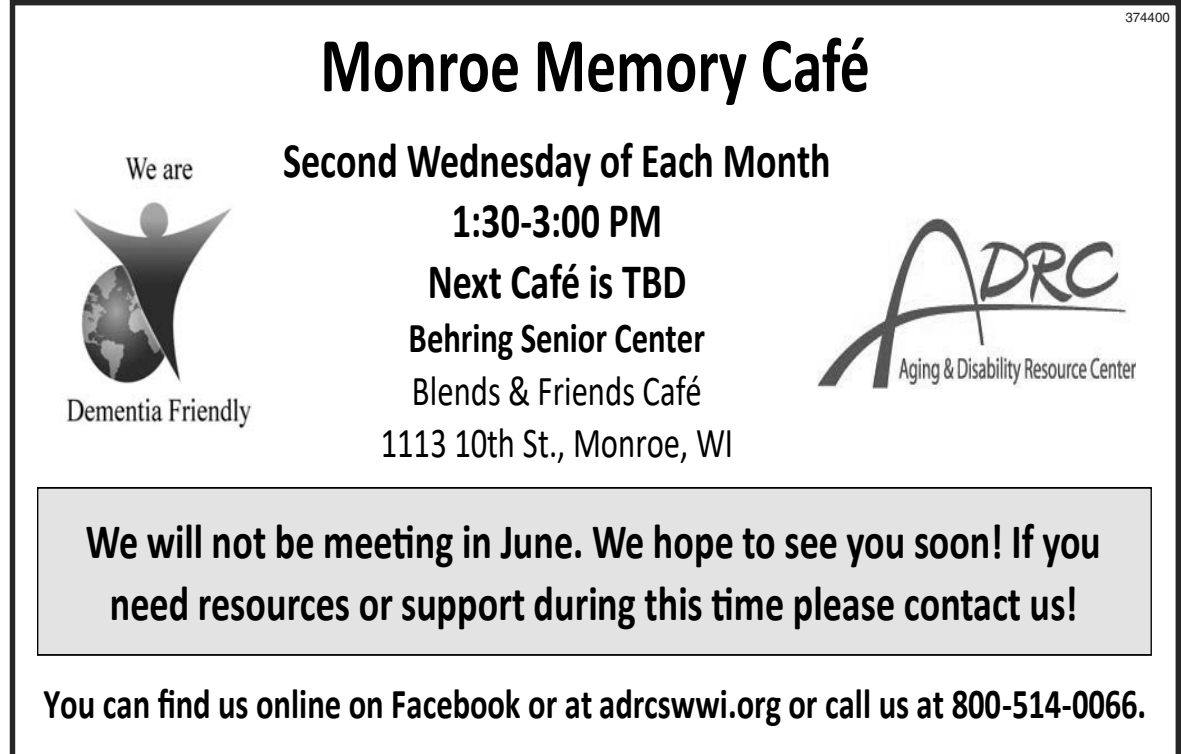
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State invests in farmers, food security initiatives

Gov. Tony Evers on May 20 announced the Wisconsin Farm Support Program, a \$50 million investment to provide direct payments to Wisconsin farmers in support of the agricultural sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a \$15 million food security initiative to combat hunger in the state.

Wisconsin is a national agriculture leader, but COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges for farmers, food processors and those in the food supply chain. Federal aid so far has attempted to support agriculture nationwide, but Wisconsin farmers have been left out, according to a news release.

Eligible farmers will be asked to apply for the aid through the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, which is working in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Farm support payments could begin arriving as early as June.

"Farmers have asked for help, and this direct aid is meant to aid the farmers who are the foundation of our food system," Evers said in the news release. "Farmers also serve as the backbone of many of Wisconsin's local rural economies, and these

direct payments will help revitalize local economies and jump-start Wisconsin's food supply chain, which has been significantly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"DATCP and I have engaged in productive meetings with agriculture stakeholders to ensure a fair, accessible distribution system for these aid payments, and I look forward to getting this relief into the hands of farmers around the state," Evers added.

State Sen. Janis Ringhand, D-Evansville, applauded Evers' announcement.

"I support Gov. Evers' effort to help struggling farmers during this crisis," Ringhand said in a statement. "We need to get these payments to those farmers and help rural communities throughout the state."

"Wisconsin farmers provide the world with nutritious and delicious food," Ringhand added. "The food security initiative will help local farmers get their products to families in need right here in Wisconsin."

A portion of the \$15 million going to the food security initiative will help food banks, pantries and other nonprofit organizations

adapt to challenges posed by the COVID-19 public health crisis.

This may include adjustments to public health and social distancing guidelines, such as curbside pickup or delivery services, purchasing prepared meals from local restaurants for distribution, as well as other expenses that are being incurred by these organizations as they continue to provide services to families in need.

The initiative will emphasize the importance of prioritizing the use of Wisconsin products wherever possible in feeding citizens who find themselves in need of support. Applicants are strongly encouraged to partner with local food experts to aid in connecting with farmers in their area.

Additionally, the initiative will help food banks, pantries and other nonprofit organizations purchase, process and/or store Wisconsin agricultural products for distribution to local consumers in need.

Furthermore, the aim of these grants is to bolster Wisconsin's food supply chain by strengthening bridges, from producers and processors to food banks and consumers.

This section of the effort will help ensure that the funding provided in the federal CARES Act goes to help state organizations distribute nutritious products to Wisconsin consumers who need them most.

According to the news release, this initiative is a win-win for Wisconsin as it fights food insecurity while investing in the agriculture industry, supporting Wisconsin's food supply chain from farm to family.

"During this difficult time, people don't have enough to eat in a state that helps feed the entire country," Evers said. "Connecting the dots between struggling food producers with organizations that are working to address food insecurity requires a coordinated effort, one that draws upon the ingenuity of our residents and their devotion to their neighbors and communities."

"Our farmers and agribusinesses have never wavered in their commitment to providing nutritious, high-quality food for folks here in Wisconsin and around the world," Evers added. "Now, we're going all in together to support Wisconsin's agriculture industry and people in need throughout the state."

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Rock County plans conservation, Clean Sweep events

The Rock County Land Conservation Department's application period for the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements program opens June 1 and closes Aug. 31.

The purpose of the PACE program is to protect and preserve productive agricultural lands in the unincorporated areas of the county through the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement.

Willing, eligible agricultural landowners retain ownership and private use, but the potential future use of their land is limited to the terms of the perpetual easement and may not be developed or subdivided.

The compensation for the easement value comes through a combination of allocated federal and county funds and a tax-deductible donation by the landowner. There is also an option for a landowner to permanently protect their property by agreeing to the perpetual easement terms and donating 100 percent of the easement value.

The eligibility criteria, application standards and selection process were designed by a diverse committee representing many in-

terests in the county to promote and encourage a strong agricultural economy, intergovernmental cooperation and a regional land use plan.

Call Thomas Sweeney at 608-754-6617, Ext. 4755, or email to Thomas.sweeney@co.rock.wi.us for more information. Details also may be found at www.co.rock.wi.us/land-conservation-pace-program.

Clean Sweep events

Rock County residents can now sign up to use any of the three Clean Sweep drop-offs for hazardous chemicals in 2020.

Drop-offs will be in Beloit on June 27, Edgerton on Aug. 21 and Janesville on Aug. 22.

Advance registration is required by calling the Rock County Land Conservation Department at 608-754-6617, ext. 3 or ext. 4758.

Acceptable wastes include pesticides, mercury, solvents, oil-gas mixes, unusable gasoline and contaminated vehicle fluids. No latex paint, motor oil, electronics or batteries, which can be recycled locally all year.

What to save for Clean Sweep and what to do with common

household chemicals are at the Rock County Clean Sweep website (www.co.rock.wi.us/land-conservation-clean-sweep) or can be mailed by request.

Rates for household (non-ag) chemicals: \$5 for one small pail (4 - 5 qt) of items; up to two boxes/5-gallon buckets of items are \$10 each; three boxes or 5-gallon buckets is \$40 for all; vendor rates apply for more than four boxes/buckets.

County residents can get free disposal for up to 200 pounds or 30 gallons of agricultural chemicals by sending an inventory in advance.

Meanwhile, business Clean Sweep events for hazardous chemicals are planned June 27 and Aug. 21-22.

Any business, organization or agency that produces 220 pounds or less of hazardous waste per month or 2,205 pounds or less per year may be eligible to use the business drop-off program in Rock or use Dane County Business Clean Sweep all year. Participants pay disposal cost but do not pay vendor mobilization fees. Free, no-obligation quotes are available.

Any eligible organization, gov-

ernment agency or business in Rock County that has unwanted agricultural chemicals (grounds keeping, landscaping, crops, livestock, etc.) can save up to 50 percent off disposal cost for ag chemicals while funds last.

Business program information is available at the Clean Sweep website (www.co.rock.wi.us/land-conservation-clean-sweep at bottom of site) or call 608-754-6617, ext. 4758, or email anne.miller@co.rock.wi.us subject "Clean Sweep."

The countywide recycling list is posted on the Rock County Clean Sweep website (www.co.rock.wi.us/land-conservation-clean-sweep) and can be mailed by request by calling 608-

754-6617, ext. 3.

Any resident or business with a small amount of motor oil, batteries, electronics, fluorescent lamps and ballasts or antifreeze/engine coolant should be able to use the services on the recycler list all year; call the service for volume limits and any fees. Residents should also check with their solid waste hauler, city, village or town to find out what recycling services are available and when.

Recycling and disposal at home or away has gotten easier with online ZIP code or county searches for sharps drop-offs (national), electronics collections (Wisconsin) and Earth911 (national) for a long list of materials and recycling services.

Albany School Board announces vacancy

The Board of Education for the Albany School District has a board vacancy as a result of an elected member moving outside the district.

The board will appoint a replacement at its June board meeting to serve in that office until April 2021. The appointee may opt to run for a seat during that spring election.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and reside within the boundaries of the Albany School District. Applicants can pick up declaration of candidacy forms in the district office during from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8 a.m. to noon on Fridays.

Download forms from the Albany School District website or request them by emailing district secretary

Brenda Uhe at Brenda.Whe@albany.k12.wi.us.

The declaration of candidacy must be signed in the presence of a notary public.

Applicants also are requested to submit a letter of interest and answer:

- What do they hope to accomplish while serving on the board?
- Are they willing to participate in board development activities offered by WASB?

Other questions can be directed to Uhe or any member of the board at albany.k12.wi.us/district/school_board/board_members.

Applicant letters and declaration of candidacy forms are due to Uhe by 4 p.m. on Friday, June 5.

Evers supports \$75 million small business grant program

By Briana Reilly
THE CAP TIMES

A new \$75 million grant program for small Wisconsin businesses aims to help employers cover costs tied to the novel coronavirus pandemic and implement practices to safeguard employees and customers.

The program, announced last week by Gov. Tony Evers, would make \$2,500 cash grants available for up to 30,000 qualifying small businesses for a variety of expenditures ranging from health and safety improvements to wages, rent,

mortgages and more.

"These grants will help businesses in the short term, and we need Wisconsinites to join our long-term economic recovery by supporting those small businesses as patrons and customers," Evers said in his announcement.

The new assistance is funded largely by federal dollars awarded to the state through the \$2 trillion relief package called the CARES Act, which President Donald Trump signed into law in late March. The state is expected to get \$2 billion total under the law.

Businesses will be able to apply for the grants as part of the We're All In initiative beginning in early June, Evers' office said.

Recipients would need to commit to certain health and safety protocols in addition to only having a maximum of 20 full-time employees impacted by COVID-19.

Businesses that have already received pandemic assistance from the state jobs agency wouldn't be eligible.

The initiative also will include \$2 million in grants for ethnically diverse micro-businesses that suffered losses due to the crisis. Those Ethnic Minority Emergency Grants are targeted at sole proprietorships or businesses with five or fewer employees.

Up to 1,000 eligible businesses could receive \$2,000 each under the program, per Evers' office.

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Thank You

I would like to sincerely thank the committee members who chose me as a recipient for the Ray C., Maude M., and Genevieve Lyons Scholarship. I greatly appreciate being chosen for this scholarship, and it will help me in pursuing a college education.

Hopefully the current situation will improve soon and students will be able to return to campus. Whatever happens, I look forward to enjoying the college experience and I am thankful for your generosity.

-Allison Steuri

I would like to express my gratitude for the generous scholarship from Ray C., Maude M., and Genevieve Lyons. I hope in turn, one day, I'll be able to give back and help other students achieve their goals.

~Molly Kiser

Thank You!

Albany Comet News

Because of the fluid situation with the COVID-19 response, many scheduled events have been, or will be, canceled over the next several weeks. We recommend you verify any events or meetings still listed here are still happening before you travel to attend.

ALL DAYS

- *No School-Social Distancing
- All Albertson Memorial Library programs suspended

THURSDAY, MAY 28

No events scheduled

FRIDAY, MAY 29

No events scheduled

SATURDAY, MAY 30

No events scheduled

SUNDAY, MAY 31

No events scheduled

MONDAY, JUNE 1

*FFA meeting, Ag Room, 7 p.m.

-Street & Utility Committee, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

No events scheduled

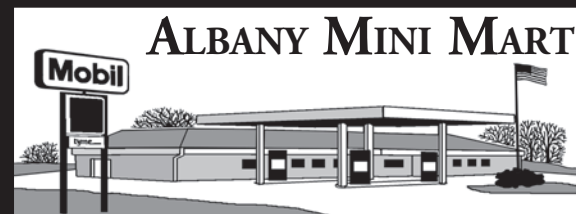
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* Denotes Albany School program. For more information, please call 608-862-3225.

- Denotes a community event.

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Pandemic exposes caregiver shortage

Coronavirus upends lives, services of Wisconsin's disabled residents

By Bram Sable Smith
WPR/WISCONSIN WATCH

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Stacy Ellingen of Oshkosh lost two of the three caregivers she depends on to dress, shower, eat and use the bathroom. The helpers — all University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh students — returned to their parents' homes when the university canceled in-person classes.

Ellingen, 34, had little choice but to do the same — moving back to her parents' home in Fond du Lac.

Matt Ford, 55, already lived with his 76-year-old father, his primary caregiver, in a specially designed house in Verona. One of Ford's other caregivers initially moved into that basement to guard against transmitting the virus to Ford.

Jason Endres asked his care workers to stay out of the home he shares with his wife Julie in Eau Claire. With masks hard to come by, Endres feared the caregivers inadvertently could spread the deadly virus, ravaging his lungs already weakened by a condition called spina bifida.

COVID-19, as of May 20, had infected at least 13,413 Wisconsinites and killed 481 while exposing vulnerabilities in health care systems, including those designed to serve the state's elderly and disabled residents.

Before the pandemic, Gov. Tony Evers in 2019 created a state task force to address a chronic shortage of caregivers for the elderly and people with disabilities. A report released in February described a "crisis," with 20,655 vacant positions in Wisconsin's long-term and residential care facilities and an average workforce vacancy rate of nearly 26 percent.

The pandemic is adding hurdles for Wisconsin residents with disabilities to find caregivers, who perform demanding work that typically pays

about \$12 an hour.

Clients and caregivers are weighing tough questions about how to keep each other safe during close interactions — if that's even possible at a time when protective equipment runs scarce.

Some caregivers have stuck around, others haven't. Clients who lose their caregivers also lose a semblance of independence. And statewide momentum to loosen restrictions meant to manage the still-spreading virus has added to their anxiety.

Every respondent to an April survey of nearly 500 Wisconsinites with disabilities and older adults said the pandemic had disrupted their caregiving service. While some of those disruptions overlap, a dozen interviews with people with disabilities, their family members and caregivers across Wisconsin revealed how the crisis had transformed each life in unique ways.

The COVID-19 pandemic sent Abby Tessmann, who has cerebral palsy, back to her parents' place in Watertown, from the Madison apartment where she lived independently.

In Brookfield, Julie Burish worries the out-of-work caregivers who normally assist her daughter, who has Down syndrome, will leave for more lucrative industries and never return.

Sara MacDonald of Little Chute must now isolate herself from her 18-year-old daughter, who has a rare chromosomal disorder called Ring 22, after MacDonald returned to work at a hospital.

Help is hard to find

Ellingen has navigated life from a power wheelchair since she was a child. That's due to complications from cerebral palsy, which also has affected her fine motor skills.

Using an enlarged keyboard and



COURTESY STACY ELLINGEN *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Stacy Ellingen, 34, of Oshkosh, has navigated life from a power wheelchair since the age of 2 due to complications from cerebral palsy. When the pandemic struck, she lost two of the three rotating caregivers she depends on to dress, shower, eat and use the bathroom. That forced her to move in with her parents in Fond du Lac, where she has less independence.

eye gaze system, Ellingen operates her design firm, Design Wheels, from her apartment in Oshkosh, where she lived independently before the pandemic.

That computer setup is a key component of the independent life Ellingen has fought for — a tool and lifestyle she now lacks while living with her parents.

"I'm not able to do much work while I'm at my parents'," Ellingen said in a 20-minute interview over Zoom.

After years of using bulky communication devices to speak out loud, she now uses an app on her phone. She requested interview questions days in advance to offer enough time to enter responses in the app.

Ellingen said she could not survive without caregivers to assist with her basic daily needs.

"Many times I've skipped meals, gone without using the restroom and slept in my wheelchair because I didn't have a caregiver," Ellingen said.

This is not the first time a lack of help has forced her to return to her parents' home, but Ellingen worries

the pandemic will wreak long-lasting damage to an already thin caregiving workforce.

Measuring the current damage is not easy.

Data on caregiving services takes months to flow to a major funder of services for people with disabilities, the state Department of Health Services, a spokeswoman said. And even that data may not clearly show how the pandemic is affecting supply and demand.

A May survey of 504 providers conducted by the nonprofit Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations showed rising costs and plunging revenues across the industry. Nearly 20 percent of surveyed businesses were unsure whether they would survive the pandemic.

In an ideal world, Ellingen said she would have six or seven caregivers to fill work shifts, but that hasn't happened for years. Ellingen was down to three care workers at the pandemic's outset, including the two UW-Oshkosh students who have since left town.

University students typically make up at least half of Ellingen's workers;

they rarely stay with her for more than a year.

Ellingen's life with her parents carries major and minor annoyances. She must go to bed when they do — much earlier than she would prefer — or be left with no one to lift her into bed. She is also beholden to her parents' music, television and food preferences.

Still, Ellingen feels lucky; if not for her parents, she would likely live in a nursing home, part of a long-term care sector linked to at least 6 percent of Wisconsin's COVID-19 diagnoses and more than 40 percent of deaths.

"That's the last place anyone wants to be — especially during the pandemic," Ellingen said.

Making sacrifices

Matt Ford also heavily recruits his caregivers from a local campus, the UW-Madison. He typically finds the most interest near the end of the spring semester, but not this year, because the pandemic sent students home early.

A diving accident in 1987 left Ford paralyzed in all four limbs. He needs help getting in and out of bed, preparing meals, using the bathroom and driving. His father provides most of that assistance, but two or three additional workers take shifts at his home.

A lifelong Dane County resident, Ford lists his caregiving positions on UW-Madison's student job board, often using creative ways to draw attention.

"I just started putting in there: 'Grass-fed, free-range quad needs help,'" Ford said with a chuckle. ("Quad" is short for quadriplegic.)

Grace Brunette noticed the listing as a UW-Madison senior in spring 2016.

"This guy seems funny," Brunette remembered thinking. She has worked for Ford on and off since then.

When the pandemic struck, Brunette, who is now finishing a physician assistant program at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, no longer felt comfortable splitting her time between her apartment and Ford's house.

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371175

Village: Do not remove utility flags from yards

Village of Orfordville officials were notified that some residents have been removing flags placed in their yards from utility companies. They are asking residents not to remove them because they are there to let Sonic Spectrum know where underground utilities are located as they prepare for and install fiber optic in the village. Removing the flags causes delays in the project and may create a liability for property owners if there is a problem due to removing the flag. For more information, call 608-879-2004.

Funding to help providers most vulnerable in pandemic

Gov. Tony Evers on May 21 announced a grant program funded by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Totaling \$100 million, the funding will support providers most at-risk for financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. The providers targeted for financial assistance include emergency medical services, home and community-based services and long-term care providers such as skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities. "We recognize the significant burden the COVID-19 response has placed on these providers," Evers said. "We also recognize the integral role they play in ensuring the health and safety of some of our most vulnerable Wisconsinites and we want to support their efforts during this pandemic." The program will be administered in two parts: an initial release of funds to support immediate needs, and a second, targeted release for additional needs of individual providers. Both rounds of funding will be allocated to support expenses directly related to COVID-19 as well as expenses associated with the interruption of typical operations, such as overtime pay, changes to sanitation procedures and disruption to the standard delivery of care. Emergency medical service providers have been on the frontlines in their communities responding to COVID-19. Long-term care facilities and home and community-based service providers are ensuring the elderly and people with disabilities can stay healthy and safe in their own homes and communities. These providers are experiencing significant challenges as pandemic-related expenses such as purchasing necessary PPE and retaining workers have increased operating costs. This funding will make it possible for this network to continue providing their essential services, protecting many of those most at risk from the virus. "These providers need this additional funding to maintain patient care of the highest quality," Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm said. "The services they provide save lives on a daily basis, and that is especially true during this pandemic."

Obituaries

CHARLENE STROMMEN

Charlene Strommen, 81, passed away on May 19, 2020, while at the Woods Crossing Nursing Home in Brodhead. Charlene was born on July 17, 1938, on the family farm in Spring Grove Township to Fred and Sylvia (Malcook) Lentz. She married Trygve Strommen on Aug. 19, 1956. Trygve preceded her in death on May 2, 2016. Charlene farmed with her husband in Spring Grove Township. She enjoyed the outdoors and loved to plant flowers and tend to her garden. When Charlene and Trygve were younger, they also enjoyed going out dancing with their friends. Charlene is survived by her two sons, Dennis Strommen and Kurtis (Vicki) Strommen, both of Brodhead; five grandchildren, Andy, Shianne, Heather (Patrick), Brianna and Kyle;



seven great grandchildren, Iris, Paisley, Gretchen, Juliana, William, Jonah and Neo. Charlene was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Trygve; her daughter, Karen Strommen, on May 24, 2016; a sister, Charlotte Stuessy; a grandson, Ryan; a great grandson, DeJay; and a daughter-in-law, Shawn.

A memorial has been established in Charlene's memory, and cards can be directed to the DL Newcomer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 26 in Brodhead. Private family services will be held at the DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead with burial to conclude at Greenwood Cemetery.

PAULINE ZWEIFEL

Pauline Lorraine Zweifel, 95, of Brodhead, passed away on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at her son's home. She was born the daughter of Rossie and Luella (Block) Binger on May 13, 1925, in Spring Grove Township. Pauline was united in marriage to Alfred Zweifel on Jan. 21, 1943, in Monroe. Pauline worked at Burgess Battery in Freeport for 10 years and then Amrock in Rockford for 24 and a half years, retiring in 1988. She was a longtime member of Stateline Church. She enjoyed history and was called the encyclopedia of Spring Grove Township. She also enjoyed quilting and dancing. Pauline is survived by her children Carol (Richard) Erb-Coplien of Brodhead, Fred (Joan) Zweifel of Janesville, Keith (Karon Vance) Zweifel of Clinton and Michael (Karen) Zweifel of Janesville; 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; sister Charline Armstrong of Dade City, FL; and sister-in-law



Evelyn Binger of Monroe. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Alfred; son Dale Zweifel; brothers William, Russel and Ellsworth Binger; daughter-in-law Roberta Hintzman-Zweifel; son-in-law Emil Erb; and two great-great grandchildren. Funeral services were held Tuesday (May 26) at Everson Funeral Home with the Rev. Cal Schaver officiating. Burial took place in Stateline Cemetery in Rock Grove Township. A visitation was held Tuesday. Everson Funeral Home is assisting the family. The family wishes to thank the staff of Evansville Manor (especially Georgia) for their wonderful care of Mom the last two years. A special thank you to Agrace Hospice for allowing us to bring her home for the final days.

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Legal Notices

ORDINANCE NUMBER 002-2020 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 15-3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BRODHEAD REGARDING THE CITY BOARD OF HEALTH AND CITY HEALTH OFFICER

A full copy of this ordinance is available at the City of Brodhead City Hall, located at 1111 W 2nd Avenue, Brodhead, WI 53520, or by calling 608-897-4018. Effect of Ordinance: Section 15-3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Brodhead is hereby repealed the City's requirement for a City Health Board and Health Officer. Troy Nyman, Mayor Attest: Nikolai Wahl, City Clerk Date Adopted: 05/11/2020 Date Published: 05/28/2020 Effective Date: 05/11/2020 The Independent Register 5/27/2020 WNAXLP 374153

TOWN OF DECATUR 1408 14TH Street P. O. Box 333 Brodhead, WI 53520 ACTIONS OF THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

1. Approved minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting and 4/21/2020 Adjourned Annual Meeting
2. Designated Independent-Register as Official Newspaper for publication of notices when required
3. Designated Trackside Mobil, the Brodhead Library, and Town Hall as places of posting of notices when required
4. Authorized the Town Board to sell or dispose of unneeded Town equipment or materials
5. Appointed the Town Board to act as Weed Commissioner
6. Postponed the Budget Hearing portion of the Town Meeting to Fall
7. Set date for the 2021 Annual Meeting for April 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall

Jamie E. Olson, Clerk/Treasurer The Independent Register 5/27/2020 WNAXLP 374162

Town of Avon Regular Monthly Meeting Teleconference Meeting Avon Town Hall Tuesday June 2nd, 2020 - 7:30 p.m. Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Board
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Minutes from May Meeting
5. Treasurers Report from May
6. Citizen's Concerns
7. Purchase of DYMO LabelWriter
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Action
8. Road Work Update
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Possible Action
9. Payment of Bills
10. Chairman's Comments
11. Adjournment

Please note that with the Safer at Home Order still in place we will be limiting the number of people in the Town Hall. Avon residents if you'd like to join the meeting please call 716-293-6804, pin # 66785 (if prompted). Maybe additional posting that will be posted 24 hours in advance. The three posting places in the Town of Avon are Debbie Jean's, Sugar River Bank, and the Avon Town Hall. **Piggly Wiggly in Brodhead will be a temporary posting location until the Lobby of the Sugar River Bank is re-opened.** Stephanie Schwartzlow Avon Town Clerk The Independent Register 5/27/2020 WNAXLP 374214

TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To be held Monday, June 8, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular monthly town board meeting at the Orfordville Fire Station meeting room, 173 North Wright Street, Orfordville, WI for the following purpose: To consider an application by Don Day III and Sarah Day of 16542 W Hafeman Rd., Brodhead, WI 53520, for a on farm business conditional in a proposed new building. This conditional use is provided for in the Town of Spring Valley Zoning Ordinance section 4.4. The 80 acre property is zoned A-1, located at 16542 W Hafeman Rd., Brodhead, WI 53520, tax parcel 6-18-292, on N 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of the 80A of Sec. 33. The permit is for a 25 X 25 building 60ft west of the house 16542 W. Hafeman Rd. for a hair salon. The Town of Spring Valley Planning & Zoning Committee will consider the application at its May 26, 2020 meeting and will advise the Board of their recommendation. A quorum of the Committee members may be present for information-gathering purposes. Recycling drop-off 2nd Saturday of the month Rock Co. Public Works Bldg. Hwy 213 Orfordville 9am-noon www.townofspringvalley.com The Independent Register 5/27, 6/3/20 WNAXLP 374493

TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY REGULAR MEETING Monday, June 8, 2020 at 6 PM Orfordville Fire District Meeting Room 173 N. Wright St., Orfordville, WI

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Verification of proper public notice
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Reports
7. Audience communication
8. Old business
 - A. Rock County Public Works
 - B. Road work
 - C. BOR June 10th, 9-11am
9. New business
 - A. CLB 2020 Liquor License
 - B. July meeting date-Betty & Dela's training
 - C. Don Day CUP
 - D. Weed Commissioner Contract
 - E. Mowing contract
 10. Future agenda items
 11. Payment of bills
 12. Adjournment

Dela Ends, Clerk Recycling drop-off 2nd Saturday of the month Rock Co. Public Works Bldg. Hwy 213 Orfordville 9am-noon. www.townofspringvalley.com The Independent Register 5/27/20 WNAXLP 374485

TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY LIQUOR AND BEER LICENSE APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that K & B Beverage LLC (President John Kelley) has applied for the following types of licenses: Class "A" Beer License and "Class A" Liquor License for the premises known as County Line Beverage, 4141 County Road T, Brodhead, WI 53520. These renewals will be considered for approval at the June 8, 2020 town board meeting. Licenses will be valid from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Dela Ends, Clerk The Independent Register 5/27/2020 WNAXLP 374519

News from Parkview in Orfordville: Viking Times

Because of the fluid situation with the COVID-19 response, many scheduled events have been, or will be, canceled over the next several weeks. We recommend you verify any events or meetings still listed here are still happening before you travel to attend.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

- No events scheduled

SATURDAY, MAY 30

- Drive-Up Food Giveaway, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Village Hall, 303 E. Beloit St.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

- No events scheduled

MONDAY, JUNE 1

- No events scheduled

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

- No events scheduled

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

- No events scheduled

ALL DAYS

- No school - social distancing
- Orfordville Library closed, curbside pickups available

THURSDAY, MAY 28

- No events scheduled

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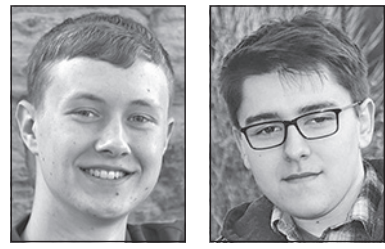
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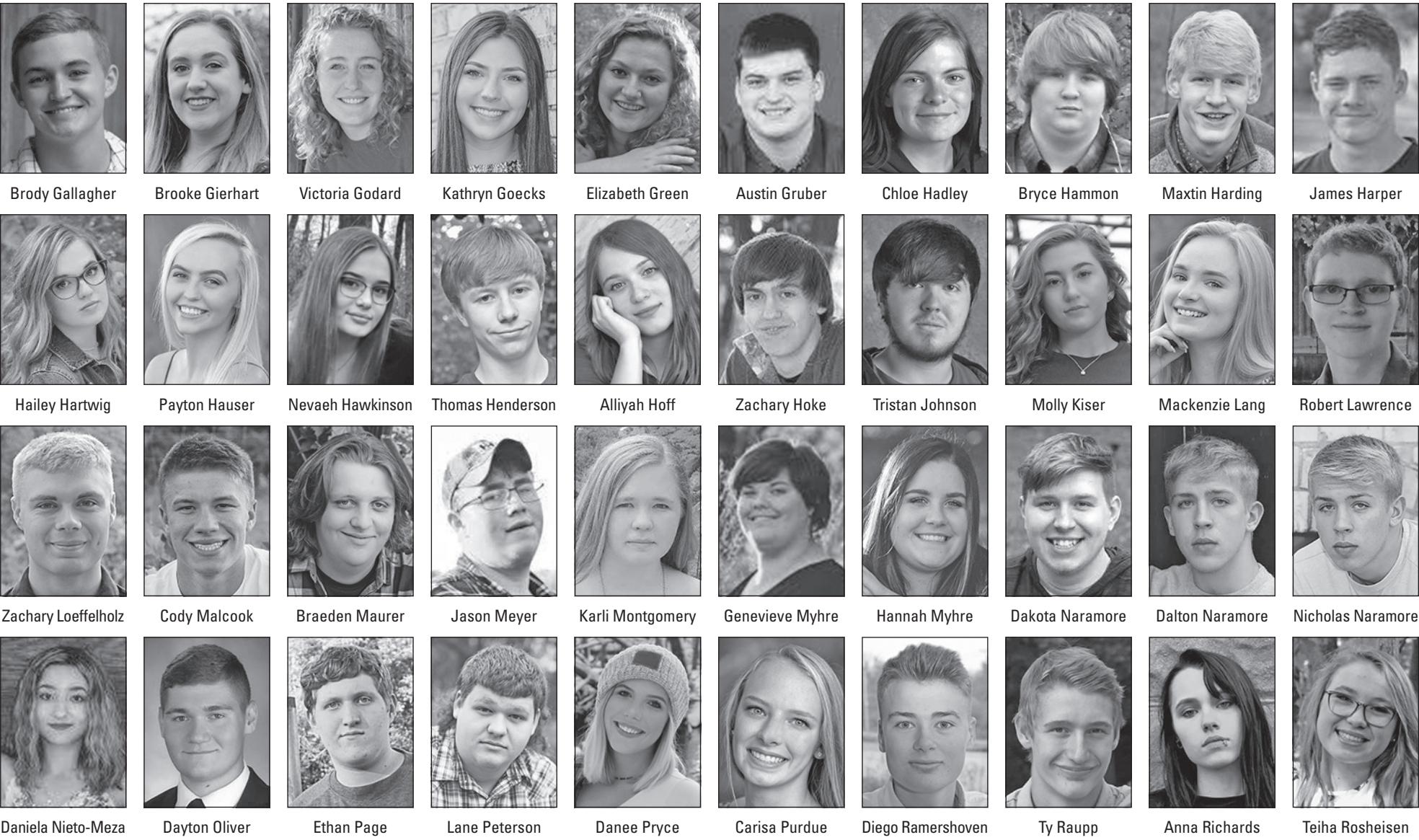


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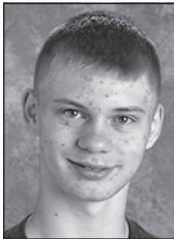


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Congrats on your degree in Anthropology! We're so proud of you! Love, Mom & Dad, Brandon, Grandma & Grandpa

374402 **CLASS OF 2020**





**Congratulations
Nicole Miller!**
Graduating from
Brodhead Middle School.

We are proud of you! Look out BHS! Love, Grandma and Grandpa Gilbertson

374201 **CLASS OF 2020**





**Congratulations
Nicole Miller!**
Graduating from
Brodhead Middle School.

Way to go Ne-hole! You are going to be fresh meat next year! Love, Terra, Todd & Jacob

374202 **CLASS OF 2020**





**Congratulations
Emma Beutel!**
Graduating from
Brodhead Middle School.

Loads of love & best wishes! Our best always! Grandma & Grandpa

374403 **CLASS OF 2020**








**Congratulations
Jillian Webber!**
Graduating from
Brodhead High School.

With much love and great pride - congratulations! Grandma & Grandpa

374404 **CLASS OF 2020**





**Congratulations
Carisa Purdue, Valedictorian!**
Graduating from
Brodhead High School.

We are so proud of your hard work and dedication! Love always, Mom, Dad, Cora & Grant

374405 **CLASS OF 2020**





**Congratulations
Allison Steuri!**
Graduating from
Brodhead High School.

We are proud of you and all of your accomplishments! Love, Mom & Dad

374406 **CLASS OF 2020**





**Congratulations
Payton Hauser!**
Graduating from
Brodhead High School.

We are very proud of you! We love you! Mom, Dad, Sieria, Cody, Autumn, & Annabelle

374465 **CLASS OF 2020**





**Congratulations
Brandon Janes!**
Graduating from
Albany High School.

We are so proud of you! You will do great at MSOE. Love, Mom & Dad, Brittany & Darrin, Grandma & Grandpa

374409 **CLASS OF 2020**





**Congratulations
Jacob Staffon!**
Graduating from
Brodhead High School.

Congratulations, kiddo! A job well done! With lots of love & pride, Mom, Dad, Mersadez & Jazmyn

373263 **CLASS OF 2020**




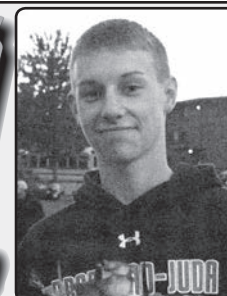


**Congratulations
Jacob Staffon!**
Graduating from
Brodhead High School.

Congrats Jacob, proud to have you as part of our team. Best wishes for a successful future! -Team Meyer

373336 **CLASS OF 2020**







**Congratulations
Jacob Staffon!**
Graduating from
Brodhead High School.

We are proud of you! Love you, Grandma & Grandpa Staffon

373498 **CLASS OF 2020**





**Congratulations
Jacob Staffon!**
Graduating from
Brodhead High School.

Life is an open road, ride it into the future! Love, Lisa & Nicole

374232 **CLASS OF 2020**





**Congratulations
Jacob Staffon!**
Graduating from
Brodhead High School.

Congratulations on a job well done! We are very proud of you! Love, Grandma and Grandpa Gilbertson

374200 **CLASS OF 2020**

Northern Illinois & Southern Wisconsin

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Real Estate For Sale/Rent



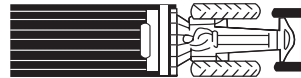
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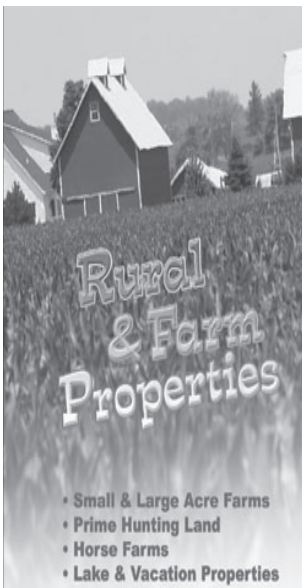
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AUTOMOTIVE

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• Shortage (Continued from page 4)

"He's immunocompromised; his dad is 76," she said.

She moved into Ford's basement to minimize contact with outsiders, including her own family. The basement was designed specifically to accommodate a live-in aide, a need that seemed inevitable as Ford's father ages.

After spending the entire first two weeks quarantining in Ford's house, she now stays three nights a week.

Why stay during the pandemic? "He only has one other caregiver. That would be really selfish of me to just say, 'Sayonara, I'm going to go quarantine with my family,' when he needs the help," Brunette said.

Ford bristles at the thought that Wisconsinites may begin to take the pandemic less seriously after the Wisconsin Supreme Court sided with Republican legislative leaders in striking down Evers' Safer-at-Home order. In an amicus brief

filed before the ruling, advocacy groups detailed increased risks of COVID-19 infection for the elderly and people with disabilities if the order were lifted.

"It does feel a little personal that no one is recognizing the efforts that we made as vulnerable people who need caregivers in and out of our homes, and the sacrifices that the caregivers made," Ford said.

"I don't want people to go out of business either," Ford added, referencing arguments against Evers' policy. "I do care about them. I have some empathy towards that. But I also don't want to die."

Ford is lucky Brunette is still around, but how long she will stay remains unclear during the public health crisis. Brunette was set to start clinical rotations for physician assistant school in June, which would have taken her out of Madison — making her unavailable to work with Ford. She stayed when those rotations moved online; a

planned trip to Belize with her classmates was canceled.

For now, her next rotation is scheduled to begin in Rice Lake in August. Someone will need to fill Brunette's shifts during the fall, typically among the hardest times for Ford to recruit student caregivers. Brunette said she is trying to help Ford find her replacement, but that has proved difficult and stressful.

COURTESY MATT FORD
Brodhead Independent-Register

Right: Matt Ford is seen in Verona with his caregiver, Grace Brunette. Ford needs help getting in and out of bed, preparing meals, using the bathroom and driving. Brunette, who is finishing a physician assistant program at the UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, spent the first two weeks of the pandemic living in Ford's basement to help with his care.



Wisconsin state parks adjust their operations

In accordance with public health guidelines and safety recommendations, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is modifying current operations to maintain the safest environment for visitors and staff.

All Wisconsin state park system properties have returned to regular operating hours of 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. Properties will no longer be closed Wednesdays.

In addition, a limited number of day-use area restrooms at park properties will reopen for public use beginning Wednesday, June 3. Visitors are reminded to plan ahead as well as bring hand sanitizer in the event it is not available at facilities.

All group, family and indoor group campsites will remain closed through June 7. All events and shelter reservations will also be canceled through

June 7. Permit and reservation holders will be contacted and provided a full refund. The status of events, reservations and camping after June 7 is currently under review.

Rock Island State Park is closed to all use, including camping, until July 1. According to the ferry operator, ferry service to and from the island is on hold until further notice due to high lake levels and pending guidelines for both State Park and vessel operations during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The following properties will remain closed for the health and safety of the public, staff, and property integrity:

- Dells of The Wisconsin River State Natural Area
- Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area
- Parfrey's Glen state Natural area
- Pewits Nest state Natural area

The priority continues to be the safety and health of our visitors and staff and we still ask the public to continue recreating responsibly close to home, practicing social distancing, frequently washing their hands and only traveling for necessity.

The DNR will continue to turn the dial on additional outdoor recreation opportunities, amenities and services at our state park system properties. Visitors are also encouraged to wear face coverings in situations where social distancing may be difficult. This may apply to outdoor spaces as well.

An annual park sticker or trail pass is required to visit state parks and trails, which can be purchased online or by calling 888-305-0398 daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All restrooms are closed through June 2.

Temporary capacity restrictions will be put into place as needed to manage admissions and overcrowding at properties. View current property information before visiting.

Attractions at which social distancing cannot be achieved are closed at various properties; visit the park notices webpage for information about ongoing closures at dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/propertyNotices.html.

All other facilities currently closed such as towers, shelters, playgrounds, nature centers, headquarters, entrance stations and concession buildings remain closed to the public.

And remember to Fight the Bite. Ticks are out, and visitors should take precautions to prevent Lyme disease.

The DNR urges visitors to do their part when visiting state parks. Most Wisconsin state parks, forests and other

day-use areas do not have garbage or recycling bins. When you visit, you will need to take your garbage and recyclables home with you. We all play a vital role in taking care of our natural resources. Following the Leave No Trace principles helps protect the land for generations to come.

The DNR continues to receive the most up-to-date information and will adjust operations as conditions change. We will also continue to monitor on-the-ground circumstances each day to determine if additional changes may become necessary. Before visiting other properties, please check with individual parks regarding changes to park operations.

For specific information regarding the COVID-19 we encourage the public to frequently monitor the DHS website for updates.

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