

Brodhead Independent Register

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State home sales decline as COVID-19 adds to strain on inventory

By Jeff Boller
GREEN BAY PRESS GAZETTE

Buyers already struggling to find affordable homes in Wisconsin found their options dwindle in May as the coronavirus pandemic caused a steep decline in sales and new listings.

The result: Compared with May 2019, sales were down 25.8 percent, the median purchase price rose 6 percent to \$214,000 and the inventory of starter homes in the \$125,000 to \$199,000 price range dropped to less than three months — meaning that's how long it would take to be sold out at the current pace.

David Clark, a Marquette University professor of economics and founder of ECON Analytics, said the drop in sales was expected as the pandemic made would-be sellers think twice about listing their property while would-be buyers didn't venture out to look at homes.

Still, he said it could not have come at a worse time of the year for the real estate industry — during the months when home sales are typically the strongest.

"These effects were expected, but it's unfortunate when it happened. May, June, July and August are four months with high volume. In a typical year, we'll sell just under 43 percent of our total volume of homes statewide in those four months," Clark said. "It's kind of the perfect storm for housing this year."

The perfect storm hit small and large markets alike. Here's a look at the impact in northeastern and central Wisconsin:

- Brown County: Sales down 28.6 percent to 255, median price up 7.3 percent to \$220,000
- Fond du Lac County: Sales down 53.3 percent to 78, median price up 13.6 percent to \$171,500
- Manitowoc County: Sales down 24.1 percent to 85, median price up 2.3 percent to \$145,000
- Marathon County: Sales down 14.4 percent to 154, median price up 9.6 percent to \$182,500
- Outagamie County: Sales down 22.8 percent to 186, median price up 2.7 percent to \$189,500
- Portage County: Sales down 13.2

percent to 59, median price down 5.3 percent to \$212,000

• Sheboygan County: Sales down 35.9 percent, median purchase price down 0.7 percent to \$168,700

• Wood County: Sales down 19.1 percent, median price up 17.4 percent to \$158,500

• Winnebago County: Sales down 8.9 percent to 205, median price up 16.6 percent to \$174,900

Realtors say the numbers do not tell the whole story, though. They noted the housing market has been hot for several years and that sales would likely start to show declines even without coronavirus-related disruptions.

Rhiannon Diederichs, a Fond du Lac-based realtor, said she's remained busy working with buyers and sellers this spring. Appropriately priced homes still get snapped up quickly, sellers still receive multiple offers and mortgage interest rates remain around 2.5 percent, near historic lows, enabling buyers to afford more house for the same price.

"Say COVID-19 never happened,

we'd probably still be experiencing low inventory, multiple offers and hot price ranges," Diederichs said. "But COVID happened. It probably didn't help, but the market was already going in that direction."

Diederichs said buyers are finding already competitive markets even tougher now that inventories are not being replenished by new sellers. In addition to the drop in sales, Clark said, Wisconsin Realtors Association data showed new listings fell 27.4 percent statewide.

"You had a lot of people who simply pulled their homes off the market or didn't renew a contract with a Realtor in the early parts of this pandemic. It decreased both supply and demand. The net effect is sales went down," Clark said.

Joe Moore, of Shorewest Realtors in Green Bay, said they remain busy — his team's sales volume is actually up in 2020 compared with 2019, but lack of inventory and competition among buyers has noticeably affected the market.

Moore said one buyer recently

made an offer \$11,000 over the asking price and still got rejected. Some buyers have offered to waive inspections and appraisals as added perks in their offers, and one Green Bay area property received eight offers earlier this month.

"It's a great situation if you're selling, but it gets disheartening for buyers, unfortunately," Moore said. "The pool of buyers has expanded and gotten larger, but sellers are just not putting houses on the market. Part of it is COVID — they don't want people walking through their house — but there's also nothing out there for sellers to buy."

Clark said low mortgage interest rates could help home sales rebound in summer and fall.

"That ought to keep sales from dropping more than they should," Clark said. "The economy is opening back up a bit. June's still going to be rough. There's not a lot of reopening of the economy yet. From a real estate perspective, we'll start to

See DECLINE, Page 6



TODD MISHLER PHOTOS Brodhead Independent-Register

These were just a few of the for sale signs in Brodhead on Sunday, where like pretty much everywhere, it remained a sellers' real estate market.

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Obituaries

LARRY BUXTON

Larry G. Buxton, 84, of Albany, WI, passed away on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at his home. He was born on May 28, 1936, in Lake View, Iowa, the son of Richard and Leta (Mason) Buxton. He married LaDonna Noble on Aug. 17, 1957, in Stewartville, MN. Larry had served in the U.S. Marine Corps in California.

He worked as a mechanic and service manager for almost 30 years. He retired in 1998 and moved to Albany, WI. He was involved with farmers markets and sharpened



chain saws. He also loved cutting wood and gardening. He is survived by his wife LaDonna; sons Steve (Kenda) Buxton, of Twin Lakes, WI, and Randy (Debbie) Buxton, of Albany; daughter Melodee (Nick) Murphy, of Twin Lakes; five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and one on the way; and brother Warren, of Co-

lumbia, MO. He was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws, sister Virginia Derby and brothers Arden and Roger.

Memorial services were held June 27 at the D.L. Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead with the Rev. Bill Wienke officiating. Burial was in Hillcrest Cemetery, in Albany. Online condolences may be made at dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com.

The family would like to thank the Albany EMS, Monroe Dialysis/Kidney Care Center, Dr. Stuart, nurses and technicians for all the care they provided.

ERIKA EASON

Erika Eason, 78, of Janesville and formerly of Brodhead, passed away on Monday, June 22, 2020, at Our House Memory Care facility in Janesville. She was born on Feb. 11, 1942, in Germany, the daughter of Anton and Adamine (Wendling) Zachmann.

Erika worked in retail sales, relocating to Brodhead from Corpus Christi, TX, in 2006. She enjoyed bird watching, gardening, puzzle making, going on long road trips, taking long walks with her dog Meagan and spending time with friends and neighbors.

She is survived by two daughters, Birgit M. (Brian) Backus, of Brodhead, and Diana Tesla, of Cedar



Rapids, IA; son Robert Zachmann, of Houston, TX; brothers Reinhold and Gunter Zachmann and sister Marianne Sauerwein, all of Germany; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a son and daughter in infancy, another son, George Zachmann, and siblings Erna, Marie, Ella, Herta and Anton.

Erika's wishes were that there be no funeral service.

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The
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Reopening efforts require patience, being cautious

By Erica Roth
CONTRIBUTOR
As the state opens up, Green County is opening up as well. Many businesses are opening cautiously, trying to balance keeping everyone healthy and safe with having their business open again.

There are still many of our Green County employees telecommuting, county offices are still limiting the number of people allowed at one time, business hours and services are truncated in many cases and social distancing and mask wearing are highly encouraged.

Quarantine fatigue is real, but we need to remain vigilant and continue to be careful. As I watch the numbers around the country spike in areas that are reopening, I become

more aware of the precautions and lack of precautions being practiced around us. And I wonder what tomorrow will bring.

I checked in with the Green County Zoning Department about the Sugar River Wind Farm proposal; I had not heard anything about it for quite some time.

The Public Service Commission was reviewing a petition against the project and recently denied the petition's request. The PSC's written statement will be released soon.

At the recent Personnel and Labor Relations Committee meeting, the agenda was lengthy. There were many items of discussion and action concerning the Health, Highway, IT and Human Resources departments, as well as the coroner and the clerk's

office.

You can find agendas and minutes of the oversight committee meetings on the Green County website. The locations for the meetings and if they are available to be attended remotely is listed on the agenda; some meetings are being held differently to allow for social distancing and accessibility. The Green County website is www.co.green.wi.gov.

Please contact your county board supervisor if you have questions or concerns. You can find their contact information on the county website.

Erica Roth represents Green County Board District 24 (Town of Albany and a corner of the Town of Brooklyn) and can be reached at 608-371-9074 or eroth@greencountywi.org.

Albany Police report

June 8

Cited for junked vehicles or appliance on property was Jennifer M. Shapiro, 44, of Stoughton

Cited for junked vehicles or appliance on property was Anthony G. Manion, 56, of Albany

June 11

Cited for operating while revoked and retail theft was Andrew J. Fischer, 39, of Madison

June 13

Arrested for battery was Michael K. Boase, 23, of Rockford, IL.

June 14

Cited for urinating in public was Mason R. Buss, 21, of Combined Locks, WI

Cited for underage drinking was Matthew D. Auble, 20, of Muskego

Cited for underage drinking was Martin D. Mersenski, 20, of Madison

Arrested for operating while under the influence of an intoxicant, operating with a prohibited alcohol concentration, open intoxicant in a motor vehicle, failure to obey a traffic sign and possession of THC was Sierra P. Lervik, 27, of Beloit

June 15

Cited for restrictions on keeping animals was Jennifer K. Pickett, 36, of Albany

June 16

Cited for operating after revocation was Diallo W. Woodard, 45, of Albany

June 19

Cited for disorderly conduct was a juvenile.

Cited for disorderly conduct was Kevin J. Bambrough, 20, of Oregon

June 20

Cited for operating while suspended was Shaun L. Koss, 39, of Albany

June 21

Cited for operating without a valid license was Graciela N. Flores, 19, of Loves Park, IL

Cited for urinating in public places was Mark D. Slauson, 24, of Madison

Cited for urinating in public places was Alon D. Hodges, 20, of Beloit

Cited for urinating in public places was Zachary M. Judd, 20, of Mount Horeb

Learn about DATCP grant opportunities in Extension webinar

Wisconsin farmers can learn about several grant opportunities available through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection during a grant-writing webinar on Wednesday, July 15, starting at 1 p.m.

DATCP staff will present information about these programs:

- Specialty crop block grants are used to leverage efforts to market and promote specialty crops such as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts and horticulture; assist with research and development; and address local, regional and national challenges;

- Dairy processor grants are intended to foster innovation, improve profitability and sustain the long-term viability of Wisconsin's dairy processing facilities;

- Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin grants help farms and business more efficiently process, market and distribute food in local markets, including stores,

schools and institutions;

- Producer-led watershed protection grants go toward helping farmer groups leading conservation efforts tailored to their own watersheds, with an emphasis on innovation and practices not already covered by other state and federal programs.

Information will be provided on the intended purpose of each grant, deadlines, available funding amounts, eligible applicants and grant expectations.

The July 15 webinar is the third in a series of three webinars organized by the UW-Madison, Division of Extension. Other presenters include representatives from the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute and Two Onion Farm.

There is no fee to join the webinars, but registration is required at this link: go.wisc.edu/07g345.

For more information, contact Diane Mayerfeld at 608-262-8188 or diane.mayerfeld@wisc.edu.

USDA invests \$10 million in rural electric infrastructure in Wisconsin and Illinois

Rural Development Illinois State Director Douglas Wilson announced last week that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is investing \$10 million in a joint project to build or improve rural electric infrastructure in Wisconsin's Scenic River Co-op.

The co-op serves mostly Grant, Crawford and Lafayette counties but also has lines that extend into Green, Iowa, Vernon and Richland counties in Wisconsin and Jo Daviess and Stephenson counties in Illinois.

"Rural Development has a history of bringing areas together, whether with electricity, telecommunication or broadband," Wilson said in a news release. "This ven-

ture will expand services in two states. Another example of Rural Development bridging the gap to improve rural America."

The USDA is providing loans and loan guarantees to rural electric cooperatives and utilities, with recipients using the funds to build and improve electric transmission and distribution lines, which in turn benefits rural residents and businesses.

The loans include funds for investments in smart grid technology, which uses digital communications to detect and react to local electricity usage changes.

Illinois and Wisconsin's Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperation's investment loan of \$10 million will

be used to connect 805 customers and improve 422 miles of line. This loan includes \$492,820 in smart grid technologies.

Scenic River Energy, headquartered in Lancaster, Wis., serves approximately 14,000 consumers and more than 3,512 miles of line.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas.

This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.

Monroe Clinic earns 2020 Patient Experience Award

The Monroe Clinic has been recognized by Healthgrades with the 2020 Outstanding Patient Experience Award.

This award honors the top 15 percent of hospitals in the nation for patient experience.

Healthgrades measures data collected from surveys completed by the hospital's patients. The survey questions focus on patients' perspectives of their care in the hospital, ranging from cleanliness and noise levels to factors such as provider communica-

tion. Measures also include whether a patient would recommend the hospital to friends or family.

"This patient experience award is a testament to our continuing dedication to quality and patient safety," Monroe Clinic President Jane Curran-Meuli said in a news release. "We congratulate our teams who work tirelessly to provide our patients with outstanding and safe care."

For more, visit monroeclinic.org/quality.

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Albany Comet News

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

THURSDAY, JULY 2

-All Albertson Memorial Library programs suspended; curbside pickup for high-risk patrons, 1 to 3 p.m.
-Plans Commission, 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

-All Albertson Memorial Library programs suspended; curbside pickup 2 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

-All Albertson Memorial Library programs suspended
-Recycle center open, 8 a.m. to noon

SUNDAY, JULY 5

No events scheduled

MONDAY, JULY 6

-FFA meeting, 7 p.m.
-All Albertson Memorial Library programs suspended; curbside pickup 2 to 6 p.m.
-Street and Utility, 6:30 p.m.

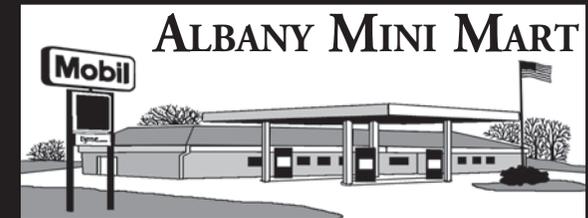
TUESDAY, JULY 7

-All Albertson Memorial Library programs suspended; curbside pickup for high-risk patrons, 1 to 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

-All Albertson Memorial Library programs suspended; curbside pickup 2 to 6 p.m.
-Village of Albany recycle center open, 1 to 6 p.m.

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

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WIAA approves winter sports changes, adjusts rules in wake of pandemic

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association's Board of Control reviewed and acted on coaches committee recommendations impacting winter sports — including the addition of a state tournament series for girls wrestling in 2022 — and other rule and budget considerations in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic at its June 24 virtual meeting.

In recognition of the challenges many students may have experienced with access and adapting to virtual learning after closures because of COVID-19, the board voted unanimously to allow a school option to defer academic eligibility grade requirements for all students until the first grading period of the 2020-21 school year.

The executive office will be providing additional guidance for members in the coming days.

Another decision in response to the pandemic extends the window one week to use the coaches' five unrestricted coaching days for this summer only. This allows 11-player football coaches unrestricted contact through Aug. 1 and all other coaches through Aug. 8. The extended period reflects a heightened emphasis on acclimatization for the health and safety for student-athletes. The executive office will be providing additional guidance.

In an effort to address the impact on the operational budget after the cancellation of revenue-producing tournaments during the pandemic, the board approved a number of executive staff recommendations to increase revenue and contain expenditures in 2020-21.

All regional, sectional and state tournament ticket prices will be increased \$1. In addition, state tournament school mileage reimbursements for team and individual travel will decrease 50 cents per mile for 2020-21 only, and the regional and sectional host revenue sharing per-

centage will be decreased by 5 percent for one year only.

Also, Sports Advisory Committee meetings and all sport Coaches Advisory Committee meetings will be conducted virtually in 2020-21, and mileage reimbursement for board, staff, committees and officials will be reduced 5 cents per mile.

Wrestling

A much-discussed coaches' recommendation to add a girls division to the state tournament series in wrestling was amended to conduct a girls-only individual tournament in 2021-22.

Girls and boys will be permitted to wrestle each other during the regular season, but the tournament series will be gender exclusive.

In other wrestling-related action, Trackwrestling.com will be used to randomly place sectional champions on the state individual tournament brackets in all divisions with the second- and third-place sectional finishers placed on the opposite half of the bracket beginning in 2021.

In addition, the start time for the finals of the team sectional tournament for Divisions 2 and 3 will be 20 minutes after the completion of the semifinals or earlier if both coaches agree.

One Medical Advisory Committee recommendation received approval. For grades 6-8, wrestling weight differentials will be 10 pounds up to 100 pounds, 10 percent for 100 to 200 pounds and 30 percent for more than 200 pounds.

Basketball

For boys and girls basketball, the board approved implementing a computerized seeding system for the state tournament series. The system will be developed by the WIAA with the goal to have it available in 2020-21 and no later than 2021-22.

This action will require members designated as the home team to enter the scores of all their regular-season games into the WIAA score cen-

ter database purposes starting in the 2020-21 season.

Gymnastics

Three gymnastics recommendations received approval. One eliminates the language "multischool meets involving four or more teams may stop the warm-up time for bar and vault changes" from the regulations.

Another alters the admissions policy for sectionals and the state team tournament to provide free admissions for a maximum 15 individuals on a team to include competitors, alternates, coaches, managers and other team personnel.

The third adds the language to add a safety zone mat, in compliance with NFHS vault rules, to the list of equipment required to host the sectional meet.

Hockey

In hockey, the board approved retaining a two-division state tournament series indefinitely by eliminat-

ing the experiment language from the existing regulations.

Also approved was a recommendation for the state boys hockey tournament to involve the head coaches of qualifying teams for both divisions to determine seeds for each division beginning in 2021.

The one other hockey recommendation supported by the board implements an 8-minute, sudden victory overtime period followed by a 5-minute, three-on-three period during the regular season.

If no winner is determined after the two overtime periods, the game is recorded as a tie. In a tie following regulation during the tournament series, an 8-minute sudden victory overtime period will be played.

If no victor is determined, the ice will be resurfaced followed by a 17-minute sudden victory overtime period. If a winner is still not determined, a 5-minute, four-on-four sudden victory period will be played

and then a 5-minute, three-on-three sudden victory period if necessary.

If a winner remains undecided, a 17-minute, three-on-three sudden victory period will be played after a resurfacing of the ice.

Other news

• Three changes related to the Conference Realignment Task Force received confirmation from the board, including adding one additional member to the committee, revising the realignment process flow chart and identifying new approval timelines for "fast track" applications.

• The Board also ratified spring cooperative programs for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons, and it formally approved the Guidance for Summer Activities provided to the membership, as well as a revision to clarify the spectator crowd control policies that permit facemasks intended for personal health and protection.

Seeking continuity, best practices put into place

Juda School Board, staff moving toward reopening

Juda School District Superintendent/Principal Traci Davis reported that the state Department of Health Services and Department of Public Instruction have offered guidance for the coming school year as it relates to COVID-19.

Nothing will be required by state level organizations, Davis noted at the June regular School Board meeting.

Davis and members of the staff have been working closely with the Green County Department of Health Services and other Green County schools in seeking continuity for whatever practices will be put in place for reopening.

The Juda School Board also will be working closely with Davis and the

staff over the summer to ensure the safety of students, staff and the community.

• Davis also reported that all staff have been hired for the coming school year.

• Open enrollment for the coming year was approved. There will be nine students going out (two will be virtual schooling) and 11 coming in. The current district totals for open enrollment are 79 in and 41 out. The district also has received several requests for alternate exceptions.

• The board approved the contract for 2020-21 with Monroe Clinic Sports Medicine.

In other business, the board:

• Accepted donations from Tyler's

Team Foundation for a grilled cheese basket distributed to families in the food program and accepted donations from the Monroe Optimist and Candace Bergstrom for the food program.

• Recognized Chad Mansfield for winning the Presidential Trivia Contest that was hosted by middle school science and social studies instructor Jackie Klar during the at-home learning period associated with the COVID-19 shutdown.

Davis also informed the board that the district will be submitting "request for proposals" for the coming year as it pertains to property and liability insurance.

The board's next meeting is scheduled for July 8.

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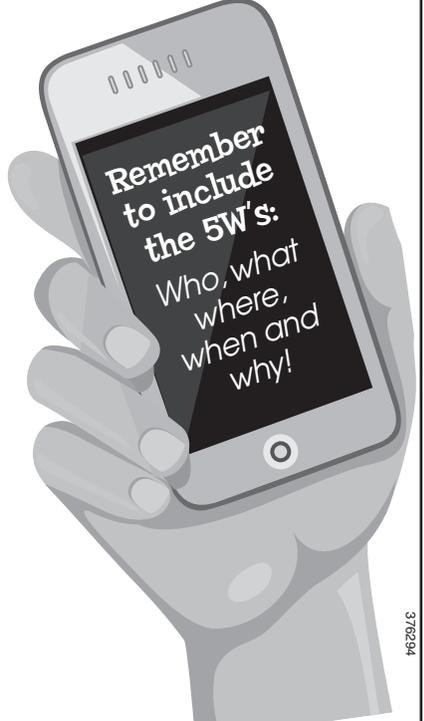
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After record number of COVID-19 cases, Dane County restricts bars, restaurants, gatherings

By Elizabeth Beyer
WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

Dane County on Thursday recorded its largest increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases over a five-day period since the county's first case in February, prompting officials to amend current restrictions on gatherings and making it unlikely the county will loosen restrictions anytime soon.

The county announced Thursday evening that bar and restaurant patrons must be seated with chairs 6 feet apart and only with members of their own household. They may still operate at 50 percent capacity.

Also, gatherings on private property are limited to 10 people. Health officials said the county is still in Phase 2 of its tiered system for combating COVID-19, except for the new changes.

"This is a targeted amendment to address what we are learning during contact tracing interviews," officials said in a statement.

Public Health Madison and Dane County reported 279 new cases between May 20 and May 24. There were 97 more cases reported Thursday over the previous day, which had 70 new cases.

The seven-day average of new COVID-19 cases per day in Dane County is 47, an increase from 17 new cases per day in mid-June.

The total of both positive and negative daily COVID-19 tests in Dane County was up about 25 percent in the last 10 days compared with the first half of June, according to state data. The percentage of positive cases per test has been 3.4 percent over the past 10 days, compared with 2.9 percent in the first half of the month.

"We can't speculate about the increase in cases, and it's probably not due to just one thing, but in our contact tracing interviews it is evident that people are socializing more," said Janel Heinrich, director of Public Health Madison and Dane County. "The orders put in place are one part of a strategy, and we also need everyone to do their part to help prevent the spread of disease."

The agency is investigating multiple cases associated with businesses near UW-Madison's campus. For example, photos on social media showed a long line of unmasked students waiting to be let into a bar.

Half of the new cases come from patients in their 20s; 35 cases are connected with clusters — a number which may increase as contact tracers continue to interview patients; and 60% of the cases are from Madison.

"Given this steep upward trend in cases from the past several days, it is very unlikely we will meet the criteria outlined in the Forward Dane plan for moving to Phase 3 anytime soon," Heinrich said.

Those metrics, outlined in the Forward Dane plan, will be updated on July 2.

"Our community is facing a real turning point with the now accelerating spread of COVID-19," Dane County Executive Joe Parisi said. "It's here, it's spreading, it's affecting more young people, and the risk of getting it is no less today than it was in March when the state started Safer-at-Home. If we don't wear masks, if we gather in groups, if we go out in public excessively, we are at risk of amplifying this dangerous virus."

There currently isn't state or federal guidance regarding when municipalities or counties should return to former phases of reopening, if cases surge.

Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, said the Legislature doesn't have plans to reconvene during the summer months to address the rise in COVID-19

cases as of Thursday.

"Is there anything so monumental that would bring us back in? Nothing has risen to that level," he said in an interview with the Wisconsin State Journal.

Fitzgerald said the Legislature is "in a holding pattern" and does not anticipate reconvening on COVID-19 legislation until updated financial estimates are completed to show just how much the pandemic has impacted state revenue and the economy.

The increase in cases comes after the county entered the second part of Forward Dane, the multi-phase plan to reopen businesses across Dane County.

Phase 2 went into effect June 15 and allowed for gatherings of no more than 50 people inside and no more than 100 people outside.

Businesses — including bars, restaurants and retail stores — across the county reopened at 50 percent capacity with social distancing and sanitation measures in place to mitigate the spread of the disease. Religious organizations are allowed to hold gatherings for worship and other activities at 50 percent capacity.

"Our public health department is the one who issues orders, but our collective actions give us the power to change how this virus impacts our community," Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway said.

The increase in cases also comes after Memorial Day activities across the county at the end of May and after weeks of sustained pro-



This was a recent scene in Madison.

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

tests in Madison after the death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, in police custody in Minneapolis.

Public Health Madison and Dane County was unable to confirm whether Memorial Day gatherings contributed to the increase in cases but said protests do not seem to be a factor.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Dane County was 1,350, according to the Public Health Madison and Dane County COVID-19 dashboard Thursday morning.

The number of COVID-19 related deaths was 32, and 195 people had been hospitalized. There

were 70,954 tests administered, and 868 people had recovered from COVID-19 as of Thursday morning.

Statewide there were 464 new cases reported Thursday and nine new deaths, bringing those totals to 26,227 and 766.

State Journal reporter Mitchell Schmidt contributed to this report.

Schwartzlow reunion

The Schwartzlow reunion will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 11, at Putnam Park (sixth stand on West Third Avenue) in Brodhead.

Attendees will eat at about noon and are asked to bring a dish to pass and table service.

Broasted chicken, ham, bottled water and hand sanitizer will be provided. Prospective participants are asked to spread the word to other family members. The pool will not be available this year.

Anyone who shows up must follow CDC guidelines for safety from COVID-19.

RSVP to Rita Ringhand Vickers at 608-897-2082 so the family knows how much food to order.

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374762

Legal Notices

Notice of the Board of Review For the City of Brodhead

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Review for the **City of Brodhead** of Green and Rock County shall hold its first meeting on the **9th day of July 9, 2020 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** at: **City of Brodhead, 1111 W. 2nd Ave., Brodhead WI 53520**

Please be advised of the following requirements to appear before the Board of Review and procedural requirements if appearing before the Board:

Sec. 70.47(7) (aa), Wis. Stats., provides that the BOR may deny a hearing to a property owner who does not allow the assessor to complete an exterior view. However, the Wisconsin Supreme Court expressed due process concerns regarding a similarly worded statute in *Milewski v. Town of Dover*, 2017 WI 79, 377 Wis. 2d 38, 899 N.W.2d 303. It is DOR's recommendation to allow a BOR hearing even if the property owner denied an interior or exterior view. The lack of access to view, and the credibility of evidence offered can be managed as an evidentiary issue at a BOR hearing, rather than denying access to the BOR.

• After the first BOR meeting and before the BOR's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the BOR may contact, or provide information to, a member of the BOR about that person's objection except at a BOR session.

• No person may appear before the BOR, testify to the BOR by phone or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the BOR or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under sub. (3) (a), that person provides to the BOR clerk a notice as to whether the person will ask for removal under sub. (6m) and if so which member will be removed and the person's reasonable estimate of the length of time that the hearing will take.

• When appearing before the BOR, the person must specify in writing, his or her estimate of the land value and improvements that he or she is objecting and the person must specify the information that he or she used to arrive at that estimate.

• No person may appear before the BOR, testify to the BOR by phone or object to a valuation; if the assessor or objector made the valuation using the income method; unless the person supplies the assessor with all the information specified in the manual under state law (sec. 73.03(2a), Wis. Stats.), that the assessor requests. The municipality or county must provide by ordinance for the confidentiality of information about income and expenses provided to the assessor under this paragraph and provide exceptions for persons using the information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or of the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless a court determines that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under state law (sec. 19.35(1), Wis. Stats.).

Respectfully submitted,
City of Brodhead
Nikolai Wahl, City Clerk

Posted: 06/17/2020
The Independent Register
6/24, 7/1/2020
WNAXLP 375845

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
GREEN COUNTY
CIVIL DIVISION
TOWD POINT MORTGAGE
TRUST 2016-4, U.S. BANK
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE,
Plaintiff,
vs.
ROBERT G. FRIE, JR., ET AL.
Defendants.

Case No.: 19 CV 95
Case Code: 30404
Foreclosure of Mortgage
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure

entered on November 12, 2019 in the amount of \$102,156.56 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:

DATE/TIME: JULY 23, 2020 at 09:00 AM

TERMS: By bidding at the sheriff sale, prospective buyer is consenting to be bound by the following terms: 1.) 10% down in cash, cashier check, or bank-certified funds made payable to the Green County Clerk of Courts; balance due within 10 days of confirmation of sale; failure to pay balance due will result in forfeit of deposit to plaintiff. 2.) Sold "as is" and subject to all legal liens and encumbrances. 3.) Buyer to pay applicable Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Tax in addition to the proceeds of the sale. 4.) Bidders not a party to this action are subject to the requirements of Wisconsin Statute Section 846.155. 5.) Plaintiff opens bidding on the property, either in person or via fax and as recited by the sheriff department in the event that no opening bid is offered, plaintiff retains the right to request the sale be declared as invalid as the sale is fatally defective.

PLACE: at the Green County Justice Center-Ground Floor Conference Room located at 2841 6th Street, Monroe, WI 53566.

DESCRIPTION: LOTS NUMBERED TWO AND FOUR (2 AND 4) IN BLOCK NUMBER ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) OF THE CITY OF BRODHEAD, GREEN COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1102 East 5th Avenue, Brodhead, WI 53520

TAX KEY NO.: 0548.0000
Dated this 15th day of June, 2020.

/s/ Sheriff Tracy Finch
Burnett County Sheriff
Sara M. Schmeling
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Glendale, WI 53217
Phone No.: 414-831-9723
The Independent Register
6/24, 7/1, 7/8/2020
WNAXLP 375987

TOWN OF DECATUR
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, July 6, 2020
8:00 AM at the Town Hall

AGENDA:
1. Call to Order
2. New Truck Purchase and Loan
4. Adjourn

Jamie E. Olson
Clerk/Treasurer
The Independent Register
7/1/2020
WNAXLP 376469

AGENDA
BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT
COVID-19 COMMITTEE
MEETING
Wednesday, July 1, 2020
HIGH SCHOOL L.M.C.
5:30 P.M.

AGENDA
I. PARENT SURVEY RESULTS
II. FACE-TO-FACE/VIRTUAL PLAN
III. OTHER
IV. ADJOURN
The Independent Register
7/1/2020
WNAXLP 376760

Town of Avon
Regular Monthly Meeting
Teleconference Meeting
Avon Town Hall
Tuesday
July 7th, 2020 - 7:30 p.m.

Agenda:
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Board
3. Pledge of
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Minutes from June Meeting
6. Treasurers Report from June
7. Citizen's Concerns
8. Reschedule the Audit
a. Discussion
b. Action
9. Road Work
a. Discussion
b. Action
10. Dumpsters
a. Discussion
b. Action
11. Wescott Hearing July 10th
12. Clean Sweep fundraising campaign
a. Discussion

b. Action
13. Removal of Tree in Northup Cemetery
a. Discussion
b. Action
14. August Election
15. Payment of Bills
16. Chairman's Comments
17. Adjournment
May be 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.

Stephanie Schwartzlow
Avon Town Clerk
The Independent Register
7/1/2020
WNAXLP 376753

AGENDA
BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT
Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 8, 2020
HIGH SCHOOL L.M.C.
6:30 P.M.

AGENDA
I. REVIEW BILLS
II. REVIEW BUDGET UPDATE
III. ADJOURN
The Independent Register
7/1/2020
WNAXLP 376761

BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING
Wednesday, July 8, 2020
DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD
ROOM
7:00 P.M.

TO CONNECT VIA A WEB BROWSER:

https://meetingsamer3.webex.com/meet/admin26
TO CONNECT VIA TELEPHONE:

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You will be asked for an attendee ID number.
You do not need one. You can just press #

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL
IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
VI. APPROVAL OF BILLS
VII. INFORMATION REPORTS
VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
[SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY]

AGENDA
IX. AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE STAFF
X. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS
XI. ACCEPT MILK & BREAD BIDS FOR 2020-21
XII. ESTABLISH STUDENT BREAKFAST/LUNCH/MILK PRICES FOR 2020-21
XIII. ESTABLISH STUDENT FEES FOR 2020-21
XIV. APPROVAL OF HS & MS CO-CURRICULAR HANDBOOKS FOR 2020-21
XV. APPROVAL OF 2019-20 BUDGET REVISIONS
XVI. COVID-19 UPDATE/DISCUSSION
XVII. ACCEPT DONATION(S)
XVIII. RESIGNATION(S)
XIX. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)
XX. VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)
XXI. FUTURE AGENDA
XXII. ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WI. STS. 19.85, (1), (c)

a. Staffing
XXIII. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS
XXIV. ADJOURNMENT
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DATCP resuming produce inspections

Produce safety staff at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection resumed modified operations Monday.

Routine compliance inspections were halted in March by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's partial stop work order issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FDA lifted the stop work order on June 5, allowing states to resume inspections following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others.

The DATCP's produce safety team has developed a return-to-inspection work plan based on best practices from the national Association of Food and Drug Officials, with the goal of providing a safe and consistent approach for staff and produce growers.

Inspections are resuming in three phases. During phase one, all staff will use appropriate personal protective equipment, including face coverings. Staff will maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet when possible, sanitize all equipment between inspections and each staff member will inspect only one farm per day.

Details of phases two and three will be released at a later date.

In 2019, the DATCP began inspecting produce farms for compliance with federal regulations. The inspections are part of the federal Food Safety and Modernization Act's produce safety rule, which aims to better protect public health by focusing on prevention of food-borne illnesses.

The DATCP inspected large produce farms last year — those with average annual produce sales exceeding \$500,000. This year, small produce farms averaging annual produce sales between \$250,000 and \$500,000 are also subject to inspection.

The DATCP is partnering with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension to provide produce safety training and on-farm readiness reviews to educate produce growers. Both programs are currently available virtually.

Additional resources

- The FDA fact sheet about what to expect of a regulatory inspection is available through this link: www.fda.gov/media/124328/download.
- Produce safety training and on-farm readiness review information is available at datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SafeWisconsin-Produce.aspx.

• Decline (Continued from front page)

see a bit of an improvement in July. A bounce-back is possible in July-August."

Still, the inventory of homes available to buy will likely remain strained throughout the year. Clark traced some of the real-estate market's fundamental problems to the housing industry's crash during the Great Recession over a decade ago.

"We lost a generation of supply because of the Great Recession. It's kept inventories tight right up to the current point in time," Clark said. "What happened is a lot of the baby boomers who would have right-sized to a smaller house or different location decided to hold on rather than possibly take a loss on a sale. So they took the houses off the market and aged in place.

"You didn't have the supply of housing on the market at the normal time when millennials entered the stage of life when they'd look at buying homes. Millennials found themselves in their own perfect storm, being hammered by high unemployment, college debt and other impediments to making the

jump to home ownership."

The strain on inventory has been particularly acute among in the lower end of the market. Communities such as Green Bay have been exploring using excess money in tax incremental financing districts to provide incentives for homebuilders who have struggled to profitably build affordable homes due to high found material and labor costs.

Recently the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority unveiled a \$16.7 million plan to help finance affordable housing projects in rural communities where the need for lower-cost homes is even more stark.

Diederichs said starter homes in Fond du Lac sell for \$125,000 to \$175,000 and get snapped up fast.

"That price range is so tough," she said. "We just know now, as realtors, if there's a cute house priced in that range, we're going to see multiple offers. There's just so much demand in that price range, which is great if you're selling, but not if you're buying."

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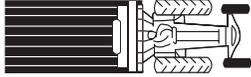
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News from
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Viking Times

THURSDAY, JULY 2
• Orfordville Library open 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (wear mask, 25% maximum capacity)

FRIDAY, JULY 3
• Orfordville Library, Storytime, 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 4
• Orfordville Library, closed

SUNDAY, JULY 5
• No events scheduled

MONDAY, JULY 6
• Orfordville Library open 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (wear mask, 25% maximum capacity)

TUESDAY, JULY 7
• Orfordville Library, Teen Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8
• Orfordville Library open 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (wear mask, 25% maximum capacity)

Grants available to support dairy entrepreneurship

Deadline to return applications is Aug. 14

The Dairy Business Innovation Alliance is a newly announced program that will provide Midwest dairy farmers and dairy-related businesses with financial and technical support.

This initiative, a joint effort coordinated by the Center for Dairy Research and the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, was designed to support and promote the diversification and addition of value-added products to the Midwest dairy industry.

Goals of this program include:

- Increasing on-farm diversification
- Creating value-added dairy products such as specialty cheeses
- Focusing on export opportunities for farm-scale and processor dairy products

“We want to allow dairy farmers and processors to be innovative for their futures,” DBIA program Director Karen Nielsen said in a news release. “We hope to improve the situations on dairy farms, processing plants and cooperatives.”

Grant applications are available on the DBIA website. The grant application period is now open. Funds totaling \$220,000 will be disbursed and awarded with individual projects receiving up to \$20,000.

The deadline to complete and return applications is Aug. 14. Selected producers and business owners will be notified on Sept. 4.

The DBIA also is coordinating on-line webinars and compiling resources for dairy producers and processors.

Nielsen noted that a grant proposal currently is being written to the United States Department of Agriculture for funding for subsequent years. Future plans for the program include expand-



COURTESY PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

The Dairy Business Innovation Alliance is a newly announced program that will provide dairy farmers and dairy-related businesses across the Midwest with financial and technical support.

ing the resources available to dairy producers and processors and learning more about U.S. consumers’ dairy product buying preferences.

For more information, call the Illinois Department of Agriculture at

217-524-9129, visit the website at www.agr.state.il.us or call the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance at 608-265-1491 or visit its website at turbo.cdr.wisc.edu/dairy-business-innovation-alliance/.

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DNR resumes hunter safety classes

Social distancing, in-class limits and room setup among new protocols

In-person hunter and recreational vehicle education classes will resume July 13 under a set of guidelines and safety protocols released Friday by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ Recreational Safety and Outdoor Skills Section under Phase II of the Wisconsin State Government Bounce Back Plan.

The in-person hunter and recreational vehicle education classes resuming July 13 are for courses with 50 people or less. Based on a review of enrollment data for DNR hunter safety courses over the past three years, less than 2 percent of the more than 2,200 courses provided exceeded 50 attendees.

In March, the DNR temporarily suspended all in-person hunter education and recreational safety classes due to public health advisories relating to COVID-19. At the same time, the DNR also canceled, adjusted and postponed an array of other in-person public events, meetings, trainings and agency operations to protect public health.

The suspension reflected the dedication to safety by the DNR and the program and provided the time to establish classroom guidelines to keep students and instructors as safe as possible from COVID-19 exposures.

The COVID-19 public health steps go beyond providing the educational

safety courses for hunting, boating and off-highway vehicles and will remain part of the safety class environment as classes start in July.

The safety protocols are for the protection of students and instructors and the communities where they live. The DNR will continue to prioritize the safety of the public, volunteer instructors and department staff when determining protocols for resuming in-person recreational safety classes.

“We wish we had a one-size-fits-all plan,” DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement administrator of the hunter education program Lt. Warden Jon King said in a news release. “That is not possible because each safety class, whether it is hunter education or about recreational vehicle use, is different by location and the instructor.”

“However, the safety and the well-being of our students and our instructors remains priority Number One regardless of where the class takes place.”

Changes

The DNR’s Recreational Safety and Outdoor Section will work collaboratively with volunteer instructors and partners to reopen safety classes.

Instructors started to enroll classes into GoWild on June 28.

Participants can expect these changes:

- Social distancing of 6 feet between participants
- Maximum of 50 participants in any one class
- Attendees strongly recommended to wear face covering
- Sanitizing of class equipment
- Availability and use of hand sanitizer
- Outdoor class instruction where possible

Wisconsin hunter education started in 1967 with a grassroots effort to reduce hunting incidents and to educate hunters to make them safe, responsible and ethical. Since then, multiple generations of families have attended hunter education.

There have been more than 20,000 volunteers who have helped educate the hunters of Wisconsin, and approximately 1.2 million hunters have been certified. Incident rates for gun deer accidents continue to decrease with 9 years of gun deer seasons with no fatalities.

“Our intent is to go back to normal only when safe,” King said, adding that protocols may change as conditions do. “These safety rules and guidelines are essential until the on-going pandemic threat is gone.”

Learn more about the DNR Safety Education Program through this link: dnr.wi.gov/education/outdoorskills/safetyeducation.html.

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