

# Brodhead Independent Register

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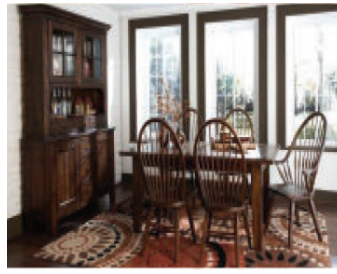
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# Obituaries

## ALDEN 'BUTCH' PIPER

Alden "Butch" Piper, age 71, passed away Nov. 19, 2020, while at the New Glarus Home in New Glarus.

Butch was born May 20, 1949, in Monroe, Wisconsin, the son of Alden and Marilyn (McCaslin) Piper. He graduated from Beloit Turner High School in 1968. He married his first wife, Gail Hagen, and later his second wife, Karen Spiwak, on Nov. 1, 1979. Butch served in the U.S. Army for 20 years and retired with the rank of staff sergeant. Four of those years were during a tour of Germany. Butch also worked for more than 20 years before his final retirement at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton.

Butch enjoyed hunting, camping, fishing, kayaking, rappelling, shooting sports and reloading, fly tying and making lures, photography, cake decorating, sewing and working on computers.

Alden is survived by his wife, Karen; a daughter, Jessica (Kevin) Piper-Anderson; a granddaughter, Caitlin Piper (Ben Hoops); one great-granddaughter, Hazel Pinnow; two brothers, Boyd (Wanda) Piper and Cecil (Jenny) Piper; an uncle, Vince (Susan) Visger; one aunt, Irene Piper; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Alden was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Travis, in 1991.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to DAV (Disabled Veterans Group), Milwaukee



VA Regional Office, 5400 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53214.

A visitation was held Monday, Nov. 23, at the DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead, followed by a graveside service at the Avon Township Cemetery.

For more information, go online to [dnewcomerfuneralhome.com](http://dnewcomerfuneralhome.com) or call 608-897-2484.

## DOROTHY JANE SMITH

Dorothy Jane Smith, age 83, passed away on Nov. 14, 2020, at the Beloit Memorial Hospital. Dorothy was born Feb. 16, 1937, in Brodhead, the daughter of Clifford and Iva (Fromholtz) Niedermeier. She married David W. Smith on Feb. 9, 1957, and he preceded her in death on Oct. 11, 1997.

Dorothy graduated from Brodhead High School in 1955. She worked at Yates American, AI's Snack Shop and 20 years at the Beloit Corp. before retiring in 1984. Dorothy was a member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Beloit and she enjoyed playing Farkle and playing cards with her family and friends.

Dorothy is survived by two sons, David (Debra) Smith and Douglas Smith; two granddaughters, Andrea (Tommy) Reichwein and Kirstin (Shane) Shaw; one grandson, Michael Smith (Andria Mahlum); four great grandchildren, Brockton Reichwein, Korbin Reichwein, Presley Reichwein and Ashton Smith; two brothers, Duane Niedermeier and Robert (Jane) Niedermeier; two sisters, Patricia (Howard) Robinson and Betty Niedermeier; two sisters-in-law, Judith Niedermeier and Faye Smith; many nieces and nephews; and a special daughter-in-law, Deanna Smith.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, David, in 1997; two brothers, Clifford Niedermeier Jr. and Roger Nied-



ermeier; two sisters-in-law, Janet Niedermeier and Janice Schlinder; and two brothers-in-law, Robert Smith and John Schlinder.

Private family services will be held at a later date. Graveside services were held at Eastlawn Cemetery in Beloit on Nov. 20, 2020.

The DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead is assisting the family. For more information, go online to [www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com](http://www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com) or call 608-897-2484.

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# Midwest governors urge residents to limit contact over holidays

By Peter Hancock  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A bipartisan group of governors from seven Midwestern states, including Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, issued a joint plea last week for residents of their states to take precautions against the spread of COVID-19 over the upcoming holiday weekend, even if that means avoiding travel and family get-togethers.

"This Thanksgiving is going to look different than others have before, and it's because it has to," Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said during a virtual joint news conference. "I know that instead of hosting a big, in-person Thanksgiving like I usually do, I'm going to be setting up a Zoom call with my family members."

Whitmer was joined by Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, Evers, and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, all Democrats, in the news conference. Earlier, however, those governors were joined by Republican Govs. Eric Holcomb of Indiana and Mike DeWine of Ohio in releasing a joint video on social media calling on residents throughout the region to take extra precautions this year.

All of those states, as well as others in the region, have seen some of the most rapid growth rates in the nation for COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations. And the news conference came on the same day Pritzker announced that Illinois would be placed under Tier 3 mitigations as of Nov. 20. Those mitigations include the closing of certain nonessential businesses and strict capacity limits in retail stores, fitness centers and some other establishments.

The daily number of new cases has been running in the thousands in many states, and the governors said concern is growing over having

enough people to staff hospitals.

"Because every day that you have 3,000, 4,000, 5,000 cases, those include our health care workers too," Kentucky Gov. Beshear said. "And they're not getting it at the hospital. They're getting it in their communities. So, to make sure that we have enough people and enough staffing, we need people to do their part and to remember, if you don't want to mask and you go out in public, you may be infecting that health care worker that you or your family could later need."

Evers said Wisconsin is experiencing the same problem.

"Here, we are at capacity or very close to it," he said. "But it is about the people that do the hard work. We have a severe shortage of people; we're stealing from other states. And, you know, we're stealing from the states around us, for God's sakes. And so the point is absolutely true. They're getting it from the community. We have to stop the community spread."

Minnesota Gov. Walz said the health care workforce in his state is likewise affected by community spread of the virus outside of hospital settings.

"One of the things is child care and schooling, for these frontline workers, what they do with that," he said. "When we start to see that community spread, it has a cascading effect. And what do they do with their own children? What happens when their school goes to distance learning? And that's one of the challenges of looking at this much more holistically."

All five governors said they plan to spend Thanksgiving at home with their own immediate families.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government.*



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

Donations of nonperishable food for the Belleville Food Pantry are accepted Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons at the Belleville Village Hall.

## Thanks to donations, food pantries fill need this holiday season

By Katelyn Black  
CORRESPONDENT

Local food pantries play a vital role in communities any day of the year, but that role is especially important around the holidays.

Now, with Thanksgiving only a day away, these pantries have been gearing up to make sure no one gets left without food.

Located at 24 W. Main St., organizers at the Belleville Food Pantry have done their part, especially after their annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drop in conjunction with the Belleville School District.

This year, the school gathered a total of 80 turkeys. Most of them will be used in the pantry's Thanksgiving bags, which come complete with stuffing mix, potatoes, squash, cranberries, mushroom soup, green beans, gravy mix, jello, mandarin oranges, a turkey, frozen pumpkin pie, Cool Whip and a pound of butter.

According to one of the food pantry's volunteers, the pantry has pack-

aged approximately 45 to 50 of these bags.

Any monetary donations can be made out to the Belleville Food Pantry and sent to the Belleville Village Hall. Food donations can be dropped off at the village hall, 24 W. Main St., from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesdays or from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays.

The Green County Food Pantry, located in downtown Monroe, is finding success in gathering community donations, as well.

According to pantry Treasurer Keith Ginner, the non-profit is in good shape food-wise. Recently, thanks to the youth group at a local church, the Green County pantry received 2,900 pounds of food — just in time for the holidays.

For those looking to donate to the Green County pantry, food items may be dropped off at the pantry on Monday mornings. The food is then distributed on Monday afternoons.

Special drop-off times also can be arranged for groups.

Meanwhile, the Brodhead food pantry isn't exactly gearing up for Thanksgiving, but organizers always are looking for donations.

The White Gift Food Pantry has been collecting food and supplies in the Brodhead community for more than 100 years.

The non-profit, which got its nickname from the white tissue paper volunteers used to wrap food items in, ramps up its collection efforts around Christmastime.

Monetary contributions are preferred over food donations at the moment, and all donations may be sent to pantry volunteer Vicki Krattiger at N2346 Tenny Road, Brodhead, WI 53520.

For more information about local food pantries, including contact information, addresses and dropoff times, go online to [adrcgreencounty.org](http://adrcgreencounty.org).

## Brief

### Pick up a gift for someone in need

Orfordville Public Library and the Parkview School District are offering a way for people to help others this holiday season.

People may stop at the library to pick up a gift tag listing items for

community members in need. After buying the gifts, they may be returned, unwrapped, to the library by Dec. 3.

For more information, call 608-879-9229.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

### Brodhead man graduates boot camp

Pvt. Zachary Loeffelholz, 18, of Brodhead, graduated Oct. 16 from U.S. Marine Corps boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Loeffelholz successfully completed 13 weeks of intensive basic training as one of 56 recruits in Training Platoon 3246. After three weeks of infantry training at Camp Pendleton, Loeffelholz will be going to Pensacola for a year to continue his training in avionics.

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## Monroe's Main Street features holiday story stroll

In late July the staff at the Monroe Public Library created a story stroll by separating parts of a children's book. Viewers read the story by following signs placed along the perimeter of the library's lawn. This free and outdoor activity became a big hit with families. As a result, the staff at Monroe Public Library decided to create another one for the holidays.

Originally suggested by Andrea Schmitz, the library's youth services coordinator, Laura Schmiedicke, who is in charge of adult services, brought the idea to Main Street Monroe's Events & Promotions Committee. Shop owners in attendance were very receptive to being a stop for the stroll. Chairperson Tracy Hamilton helped coordinate which stores would participate.

The story, "Mr. Cookie Baker" by Monica Wellington, will be told on 11-by-17 story boards in the windows of 16 different Main Street merchants. Merchants will range from eateries, including Bullquarian Brewhouse and the Garden Deli, to service spots like Hedeman Realty, and the retail stores, such as Toy Haus and Heartland Graphics.

There will be a hidden picture

game within the pages of the story stroll. If people complete it while the library is open, they can come by for an individually wrapped cookie baked by Monroe's own "Mr. Cookie Baker," Kurt Kline. Kline has Bäckerei Kline, a shop within a shop at Orange Kitten yarns.

Main Street's Monroe Executive Director Jordan Nordby highlighted how creative the library staff has been throughout the pandemic and was thankful to give people another reason to safely explore the district during the holidays.

"We are all about family fun activities and we're proud to have another reason to showcase our businesses," Nordby said.

Main Street has live Facebook shopping sessions scheduled through mid-December, is recognized by American Express as an official Neighborhood Champion during Shop Small Saturday, and oversees downtown decorations. The Monroe Public Library has an upcoming trivia night scheduled and is currently open four days a week.

The Story Stroll will be unveiled in time for Shop Small Saturday on Nov. 28. For more information, go online to [monroepubliclibrary.org](http://monroepubliclibrary.org).

## Vote for your favorite holiday decorations

The Brodhead Chamber of Commerce is offering family-friendly fun with a holiday decoration contest this Christmas.

"If you will be decorating your home or business for the holidays and want an opportunity to win great prizes, you can enter your address at [BrodheadChamber.com](http://BrodheadChamber.com)," according to a news release from the chamber. The chamber's website features a

map of decorating viewing locations.

People may vote for their favorite decorated business or residence from Nov. 27 through Dec. 25. The top three homes will share \$100 in Brodhead Bucks and the winning business will win the traveling trophy to display for a year.

"This event will take place over an extended period of time, which allows families to come to Brodhead

to enjoy the holiday decorations and check out some of our great shops, restaurants and area attractions," the release said. "The holiday season is a magical time of year for people of all ages and we wanted to organize and promote a traditional event that families can do together, while remaining healthy and safe," chamber President Michael Lowery said in the release.

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# State officials direct \$80 million to support skilled nursing facilities

Gov. Tony Evers and the state Department of Health Services last week pledged an additional \$80 million to support Wisconsin's skilled nursing facilities through the end of the year. In addition, to address critical staffing shortages, DHS is partnering with the departments of Safety and Professional Services and Workforce Development to enhance existing efforts to strengthen the workforce in Wisconsin's health care and long-term care settings.

"This has been an incredibly challenging time," Evers said in a news release. "And we can't express our appreciation enough for the staff at all our skilled nursing facilities. We are truly grateful for their efforts in showing up to work every day and caring for our loved ones, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we will continue to support them in any way we can."

Over half of the allotted funds will

be used to fund all eligible costs associated with the CARES Act Provider Payment program, which aims to help skilled nursing facilities that experienced COVID-19-related losses or expenses.

DHS is also investing an additional \$30 million into a skilled nursing facility post-acute care admission incentive program. This program will support

See FACILITIES, Page 12



MARY HOOKHAM *Brodhead Independent-Register*

## Digging into a new era in Orfordville

Members of the village board in Orfordville pose for a photo with Next Generation builders at the Nov. 18 groundbreaking for the new Mill Valley Estates subdivision. From left to right: Terry Gerber, village trustee; Tina Meyers, village trustee; Nathan Apfelbeck, principal at Next Generation; Jason Knox, village trustee; Zach Knutson, managing partner at Next Generation; Gary Phillips, village board president; Tim Knutson, principal at Next Generation; and Nikki Tuffree, village trustee. Next Generation is based in Beloit.

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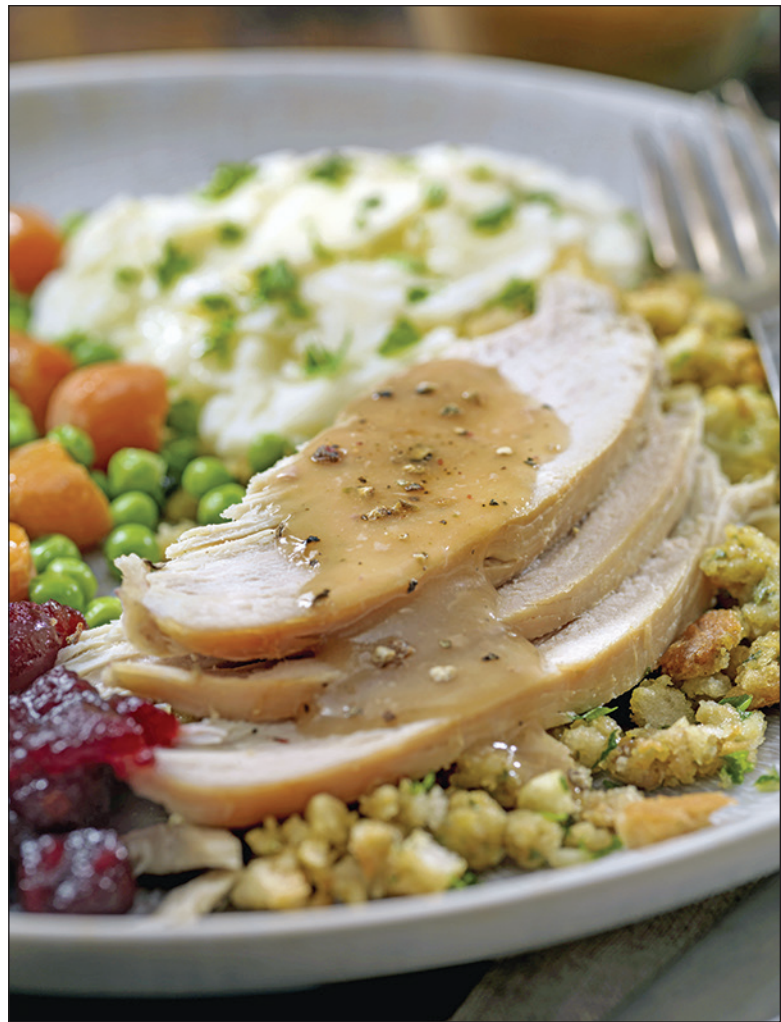
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## Monroe Clinic

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COURTESY PHOTO *Brodhead Independent-Register*

The price of a home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner is down slightly this year, according to an annual survey of food prices by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

## Thanksgiving meal cost down slightly, Farm Bureau reports

The annual American Farm Bureau Federation's Thanksgiving dinner cost survey shows a decrease of \$2.01 from last year.

The average cost of this year's feast for 10 is \$46.90, down from an average of \$48.91 in 2019.

"The average cost of this year's Thanksgiving dinner is the lowest since 2010," AFBF Chief Economist John Newton said in a news release. "Pricing whole turkeys as 'loss leaders' to entice shoppers and move product is a strategy we're seeing retailers use that's increasingly common the closer we get to the holiday."

The turkey costs less than last year, at \$19.39 for a 16-pound bird. That's roughly \$1.21 per pound, down 7% from last year. The survey results show that retail turkey prices are the lowest since 2010.

The shopping list for Farm Bureau's informal survey includes turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a veggie tray, pumpkin pie with

whipped cream and coffee and milk, all in quantities sufficient to serve a family of 10 with plenty for leftovers.

In addition to turkey, foods that showed slight price declines include whipping cream and sweet potatoes. Foods showing modest increases this year included dinner rolls, cubed bread stuffing and pumpkin pie mix. After adjusting for inflation, the cost of this year's Thanksgiving dinner is \$18.01, down slightly from last year.

This year's national average cost was calculated using more than 230 surveys completed with pricing data from all 50 states.

Farm Bureau volunteer shoppers were encouraged to check prices online using grocery store apps and websites due to the pandemic. They looked for the best possible prices without taking advantage of special promotional coupons or purchase deals.

The AFBF Thanksgiving dinner survey was first conducted in 1986.

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## News from Parkview in Orfordville: Viking Times

<p><b>THURSDAY, NOV. 26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orfordville library closed</li> <li>• No school, Parkview School District</li> </ul> <p><b>FRIDAY, NOV. 27</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orfordville library closed</li> <li>• No school, Parkview School District</li> </ul> <p><b>SATURDAY, NOV. 28</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orfordville library open 9 a.m. to noon</li> </ul> <p><b>SUNDAY, NOV. 29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orfordville library closed</li> </ul>	<p><b>MONDAY, NOV. 30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.</li> <li>• Parkview School District special board meeting, 6 p.m., Parkview Elementary School</li> </ul> <p><b>TUESDAY, DEC. 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.</li> </ul> <p><b>WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orfordville library open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.</li> </ul>
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# Check radio, TV for school closing info

With snowy days ahead, officials at the Albany School District are reminding families where to turn for school-closing information. The decision to close school is based on weather conditions within the district and local road reports. Closing information will be broadcast between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. on the following radio and TV stations: WEKZ-AM 1260; WEKZ-FM 93.7; WCLO-AM 1230; WJVL-FM 99.9; WISC, channel 3; WMTV, channel 15; and WKOW, channel 27. At times, a two-hour delay may be implemented, in which case all students will report at 9:50 a.m. except morning 4-year-old kindergarten and early childhood classes. School officials ask that parents not call the school about potential closings and instead listen to the radio or TV.

# Monroe Clinic nurse receives Lifetime DAISY Award

Nancy Werren, a registered nurse in Monroe Clinic's Emergency Department, was recently awarded the Lifetime DAISY Award. The award "is centered on a nurse's career, innovation for achieving exceptional outcomes, leadership within their team, embodying the organization's mission and having 25-plus years of service," according to a news release. "Werren helped start the process of building the Human Trafficking Taskforce in Green County. This has helped Monroe Clinic build a protocol within the Emergency Department to identify and protect these victims when they

seek care," the release said. "She also has worked to improve the advocacy program that in turn has improved care and outcomes for patients experiencing sexual or domestic abuse. "She has brought true awareness to the issues and helps staff and community partners on how to serve these victims and start them on the path of healing. As a certified sexual assault nurse examiner, she makes those moments during that process a calming and safe environment for those victims." The Emergency Department leadership team wrote Werren's award nomination, saying, "She is an exemplary

example of our mission. Nancy treats every patient with love and respect and teaches the new nurses how to share the same compassion and empathy. She is building the next generation of holistic caregivers for our ministry." The DAISY Award is a national initiative to honor nurses for the extraordinary care they provide to patients and families every day. Monroe Clinic officials ask the community to help spotlight the extraordinary contributions of nurses like Werren by nominating them for the DAISY Award. Nomination forms are available online at [monroeclinic.org/daisy](http://monroeclinic.org/daisy).

# Buy Wisconsin evergreens to avoid invasive plant pests

With the holidays approaching, officials at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection are reminding consumers to check their holiday evergreen decorations for possible invasive plant pests before buying them. While many species are not established in Wisconsin's landscape, in prior years DATCP has detected invasive insects on products from other states. Last year, for example, an invasive pest called elongate hemlock scale was found on Fraser and balsam fir wreaths, trees, baskets and boughs from eastern states. EHS is a threat to Wisconsin's Christmas trees, native hemlock and balsam fir forests and decorative evergreens. "One simple way to avoid EHS is to make sure your fir tree or wreath was grown in Wisconsin, since this pest has never been found on the landscape in our state," said Brian Kuhn, director of DATCP's Bureau of Plant Industry. "EHS can survive on cut trees and wreaths for weeks, even in harsh winter weather. "You can help protect Wisconsin's natural resources and Christmas tree industry by checking trees and

wreaths for this pest, or by purchasing items grown in states without EHS, like Wisconsin or other states further to the west." You can identify EHS by looking for yellow or brown needles and small brown, oblong spots on the underside of the needles. If you suspect EHS on fir wreaths or Christmas trees, report it to DATCP's pest hotline at 866-440-7523 and if possible, email a clear, close-up picture to [datcppesthotline@wi.gov](mailto:datcppesthotline@wi.gov). To learn more about EHS, go online to [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/EHS.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/EHS.aspx). Wisconsin is home to more than 850 Christmas tree farms that sell trees, garlands and more. A list of cut-your-own tree farms and retail lots is available from the Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association by going online to <https://www.christmastrees-wi.org/>.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Brodhead Independent-Register  
**Nancy Werren, a registered nurse in the Monroe Clinic Emergency Department, recently received the Lifetime DAISY Award.**

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# Albany Comet News

- THURSDAY, NOV. 26**  
\*No school, Albany School District  
-Albertson Memorial Library closed  
-Village of Albany offices closed  
**FRIDAY, NOV. 27**  
\*No school, Albany School District  
-Albertson Memorial Library closed  
-Village of Albany offices closed  
**SATURDAY, NOV. 28**  
-Albertson Memorial Library closed  
**SUNDAY, NOV. 29**  
No events scheduled  
**MONDAY, NOV. 30**  
-Albertson Memorial Library curbside pickup, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
**TUESDAY, DEC. 1**  
-Albertson Memorial Library curbside pickup for high-risk patrons, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2**  
-Albertson Memorial Library full circulation and limited computer service, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
  
\* Denotes Albany School program. For more information, please call 608-862-3225.  
- Denotes an community event.

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# Scammers target unsuspecting pet buyers

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is urging consumers to use caution when purchasing a new pet online, after receiving multiple reports of scammers stealing money from unsuspecting purchasers.

## How does this scam work?

Scammers post pictures online of what appear to be legitimate puppies or kittens for sale. They may even seem to be in the buyer's local area. Once contacted, the seller claims to have just sold their last animal and instead offers information about a second seller further away who may be able to help. This tactic prevents buyers from meeting the animal in person before purchasing.

When buyers reach out to the second seller and agree to purchase an animal, that seller will require payment using an untraceable and non-refundable method, like a money transfer app. After the initial payment, the scammer may claim to need more money for transport fees, licenses or permits. By the time the buyer becomes suspicious and demands a refund, the seller disappears without ever delivering the animal they advertised.

"Wisconsin consumers have lost thousands of dollars to these scams in recent months," reports Lara Sutherlin, administrator of the Division of Trade and Consumer Protection. "We urge people to use caution when making purchases from online marketplaces and to contact the Consumer Protection Hotline at 800-422-7128 if they have been a victim of a scam."

## Don't fall for it

Consumers can avoid falling vic-

tim to these pet scams by following these tips:

- Verify the business. An easy way to do this is to search for the person or business online. Adding the term "scam" or "fraud" to your search terms could also help you spot a potential scam.

Do not send money or give out personal information until you have been able to verify the legitimacy of the person or business.

- Ask for the name and location of their veterinarian. If the seller provides this information, search for the veterinarian online and contact their office using a publicly listed number rather than the one provided by the seller. A list of veterinarians licensed in Wisconsin is also available on the [datcp.wi.gov](http://datcp.wi.gov) website.

- Do not pay upfront. This makes it easy for scammers to take your money and disappear. Additionally, consider how you pay. Credit cards have significant fraud protection built-in, but cash apps, gift cards and money wires are often untraceable and non-refundable.

- Slow down and double-check. Scammers benefit when you make decisions in a hurry. They may tell you their supply is limited, or that they have someone else interested. Slow down and double-check their story, consult an expert, or talk to a friend or family member. Do not give in to high-pressure sales tactics.

If you have been the victim of a scam, file a consumer complaint with DATCP. Make a report online at [datcp.wi.gov](http://datcp.wi.gov) or by contacting the Consumer Information Hotline at 800-422-7128 or [DATCPHotline@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPHotline@Wisconsin.gov) and requesting a complaint form.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Brodhead Independent-Register

## Giving 100 percent

The seventh grade team of Brodhead Middle School teachers recognizes students who exceed expectations both in and out of the classroom. Students Brynn Riesterer, Jordan Menehan and Bryson Oliver are the newest members of the Seventh Grade 100% Club. These students are helpful and kind while being positive and influential role models at Brodhead Middle School, their teachers said.

## Energy co-op invites scholarship applicants

Rock Energy Cooperative again will be offering scholarships worth \$1,000 to area graduates.

Graduating high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of Rock Energy are eligible to apply. In other words, students may apply if their household receives electricity or natural gas from the co-op. Students also must plan to continue their education at an accredited school.

The co-op's independent scholarship committee will judge applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need and class ranking.

The scholarship application is available by going online to <https://www.rock.coop/content/2021->

[rock-energy-cooperative-scholarship-application](https://www.rock.coop/content/2021-rock-energy-cooperative-scholarship-application).

Applications must be submitted by Jan. 10

Since 1989, Rock Energy has awarded more than \$122,000 in financial aid to deserving students.

For more information, contact Jonas Berberich, communications manager, at 866-752-4550 or [jonasb@rock.coop](mailto:jonasb@rock.coop).

Rock Energy Cooperative is a not-for-profit utility distributing electricity and natural gas to more than 28,000 meters across an eight-county service area in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The cooperative is headquartered in Janesville.

Go online to [rock.coop](http://rock.coop) for more information.

# New grants aim to help small businesses affected by pandemic

Gov. Tony Evers announced last week an additional \$70 million in the second round of "We're All In" grants, bringing the second round total to \$120 million to be invested in Wisconsin small businesses. The announcement brings the total investments in the "We're All In" grant program to \$185 million.

"There's no business that hasn't been affected by this pandemic, and we know folks across our state need our support now more than ever," Evers said in a news release. "As we head into the winter months, we know we have to do everything we can to make sure our businesses have the resources they need as we continue

fighting this virus."

During the two-week application period, which closed in early November, more than 48,000 grant applications were submitted for the second round of funding.

This summer, the first round of "We're All In" grants provided more than \$65 million in grants to more than 26,000 businesses statewide. Despite the infusion of federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds distributed by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., many Wisconsin small businesses continue to struggle.

"In my conversations with restaurants, taverns, small retail stores and

other businesses that rely on people gathering indoors, we know that the continued surge of COVID-19 infections is deepening the strain and uncertainty these businesses have been facing since March," WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes said in the release. "With thousands more businesses applying for the second phase of our 'We're All In' grants than the first phase, we want to provide aid that can help these businesses carry on."

Priority will be given to businesses hardest hit by the pandemic.

Awards will be announced and funding distributed by mid-December.

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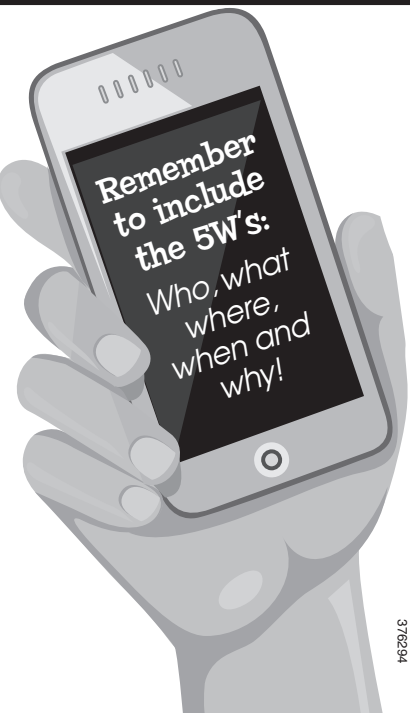
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SUBMITTED PHOTOS *Brodhead Independent-Register*

Online bidding for the Monroe Art Center Holiday Silent Auction goes on until Dec. 10. Above is a sampling of items up for bid, including a signed Green Bay Packers football and honey and jam in a hand-crafted bowl. The handmade items shown above right were donated by Pat and Annette Holmstrom.

## Holiday auction benefits Monroe Art Center

**Bidding goes online; viewing available by appointment**

The Monroe Art Center annual Holiday Silent Auction is moving online.

"The much-anticipated holiday auction will feature all the same handcrafted items and goodies the Monroe community has come to anticipate, providing a wide variety of unique and one-of-a-kind treasures for every person on your list, big and small," according to a news release.

The auction opened Nov. 20 and will run through Thursday, Dec. 10.

Items may be viewed and bidding will take place online at [32auctions.com/monroeartcenter](https://32auctions.com/monroeartcenter).

Auction items can still be viewed

at the Monroe Arts Center by making an appointment to stop by during regular business hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Appointments can also be made from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Call 608-325-5700 to make an appointment.

This fundraising auction features more than 100 items donated by individuals and businesses from Monroe and the surrounding area.

To assist shoppers, a catalog shopping guide listing the items by category has been provided and also will be available onsite.

The auction categories this year include original art and handcrafted items; holiday creations; baked goods and specialty foods; restaurant and specialty dinners; home and garden; health and beauty; clothing and jewelry; books; toys, sports and recreation; and this and that.

A few of the items in this year's auction include hand drawn notecards, a nature-themed Christmas

tree, a chip-carved candle holder, a signed Green Bay Packers football and an aerial adventure in 1946 Cessna 140.

This year's auction also includes a special raffle and a mystery box.

Bidding will end Dec. 10 with a Facebook Live event at 6 p.m.

For more information about viewing or bidding on auction items, call 608-325-5700.

### In brief

#### Orfordville Village Hall closed to public

The Orfordville Village Hall closed to the public as of Nov. 23 in response to the increase in positive cases of COVID-19 in the area.

Village Clerk Sherri Waege reminded residents that a drop box is available to the left of the main entrance door. Water and fine payments may be dropped in the box.

The village board and its committees are still meeting in person and village hall will be open for meetings to comply with the Open Meeting Law, Waege said in a news release.

Village officials will still be in the office and available at 608-879-2004 for any questions.

# Philanthropy groups respond to pandemic

Wisconsin philanthropic organizations and charitable foundations rose to address the impact of COVID-19 on communities across Wisconsin in 2020, according to officials at the Wisconsin philanthropy Network. Wisconsin's culture of philanthropy invested throughout the state to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on basic needs, health and the sustainability of nonprofit organizations responding to needs. Philanthropy also responded to racial equity, as well as issues in rural Wisconsin amplified by the pandemic.

In a new survey from Wisconsin Philanthropy Network conducted during summer 2020, nearly half of grantmakers increased their giving this year, with 64% directed to disaster philanthropy in the state, including food security, workforce development, education and housing/homelessness. Philanthropy is also reporting greater flexibility and changing practices to support Wisconsin's nonprofit sector. Nonetheless, many funders report concerns about the increased demand for services and financial challenges facing nonprofits across the state.

The 2020 Wisconsin Gives Report provides readers with an in-depth look at the state's philanthropic sector. The biennial report explores the important role philanthropy plays in

responding to community challenges. It provides an analysis of survey results from grantmakers across Wisconsin along with data and trends from national studies, statewide philanthropic best practices and benchmarks.

"In this extraordinary year, Wisconsin Gives Report explores the important role philanthropy plays in responding to unprecedented challenges communities across Wisconsin faced in 2020," Tony Shields, WPN President and CEO, said in a news release. "The goal of the report is to provide our statewide network of philanthropic partners, as well as other stakeholders, usable data and in-depth information on national and regional trends, while deepening the understanding of the specific challenges facing our state and how philanthropy responds."

Key findings from WPN's 2020 Wisconsin Gives Report include:

- Total charitable giving in the United States rose 4.2% between 2018 and 2019, to an estimated \$449.64 billion
- Nationally, giving by corporations increased 13.4% to a total of \$21.09 billion.
- Nearly half of WPN survey respondents expect an increase in their grantmaking in 2020
- 64% of WPN survey respondents who are increasing grants are directing funding to disaster philanthropy due to the COVID-19 crisis
- 39% of WPN survey respondents will increase grants to overall operating support
- 60% of survey respondents are directing funding to address racial justice issues

To download an electronic version of the 2020 Wisconsin Gives report, go online to <https://wiphilanthropy.org/learn/wisconsin-gives/>

# Amish Community Business Directory



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## Legal Notices

### NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION School District of Albany April 6, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the School District of Albany, on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term of office for school board member is three years beginning on Monday, April 26, 2021.

Office	Incumbent
Board Vice President	Adam Koop
Board Member	Sherri Seitz
Board Member	Lori Modaff

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a Campaign Registration statement and a Declaration of Candidacy, must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, in the office of the school district clerk. (If nomination papers are required, the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2020 and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, in the office of the school district clerk.)

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

A description of the school district boundaries can be obtained from the school district office.

**Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.**

Done in the Village of Albany on  
November 16, 2020.  
/s/Valerie K. Johnson  
Valerie Johnson, School Board Clerk

The Independent Register  
11/25/2020  
WNAXLP

385522

### NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION Village of Orfordville April 6, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in the Village of Orfordville, on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. All terms are for two years unless otherwise indicated.

OFFICE	INCUMBENT
Village President	Gary Phillips
Village Trustee	Charles Boyce
Village Trustee	Beth Schmidt
Village Trustee	Nikole Tuffree

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2020, and the final day for filing nomination papers is Tuesday, January 5, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. in the office of the Village Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Sherri Waege  
Village Clerk

The Independent Register  
11/25/2020  
WNAXLP

385634

### NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION Town of Avon April 6, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the Town of Avon, on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. All terms are for two years beginning on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

Office	Incumbent
Town Board Chairperson	Michael Moore
Town Board Supervisor 1	Gregg Wartgow
Town Board Supervisor 2	Eugene Engen
Town Clerk	Stephanie Schwartzlow
Town Treasurer	Debbie Niedermeier-Wartgow
Constable	Joseph Becherer

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a Town Caucus for the purpose of nominating candidates to appear on the spring election ballot for the above listed offices will be scheduled between December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The caucus will be held on a date not sooner than January 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup>. Notice of the scheduled date of the caucus will be given at least five days before the caucus.

**Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.**

Done in the Town of Avon,  
on November 25, 2020  
Stephanie L. Schwartzlow, Clerk

The Independent Register  
11/25/2020  
WNAXLP

385830

### NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION TOWN OF SPRING VALLEY April 6, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the Town of Spring Valley, on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. All terms are for two years beginning on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, except for Town Assessor whose term begins on June 1, 2021.

Office	Incumbent
Town Board Chairperson	Steve Hazeltine
Town Board Supervisor 1	Dave Brethauer
Town Board Supervisor 2	Micah Ends
Town Clerk	Dela Ends
Town Treasurer	Betty Anderson

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a town caucus for the purpose of nominating candidates to appear on the spring election ballot for the above listed offices will be scheduled during the month of January 2021. The caucus will be held on a date not sooner than January 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Notice of the scheduled date of the caucus will be given at least five days before the caucus.

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Done in the Town of Spring Valley,  
On November 20, 2020  
Dela Ends, Clerk

The Independent Register  
11/25/2020  
WNAXLP

385890

### NOTICE TOWN OF MAGNOLIA REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE MAGNOLIA TOWN HALL 14726 W. COUNTY ROAD A, EVANSVILLE, WI 53536 DECEMBER 8, 2020 7:00 P.M.

#### AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approve Agenda
4. Clerk's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Public Comment – limit 3 minutes per person
7. Zoning Change Petitions
8. Highways and Bridges
9. Rock County Public Works Contract
10. Amend 2020 Budget, if necessary
11. Approve 2021 Evansville EMS Contract
12. Set Caucus Date
13. Agenda for Next Month
14. Pay Bills
15. Adjourn

Graceann Toberman,  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

The Independent Register  
11/25/2020  
WNAXLP

385700

### Town of Avon Regular Monthly Meeting Avon Town Hall Tuesday

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – 7:30 p.m.

#### Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Minutes from November Meetings
5. Treasurers Report from November
6. Citizen's Concerns
7. ATV/UTV on Township Road/Peg Albrecht
8. Caucus Date of April 2021 Election
9. Update Postings Information
  - a. Discussion
10. Road Work Update
11. Payment of Bills
12. Chairman's Comments
13. Adjournment

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. **Due to the lobby of the Sugar River Bank being closed, we will be using the Piggly Wiggly in Brodhead as a temporary posting location.**

Stephanie Schwartzlow  
Avon Town Clerk

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# Weary Wisconsin health care workers scramble to treat patients

By Bram Sable-Smith  
WPR/WISCONSIN WATCH

The exterior of University Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin on a Tuesday afternoon looked remarkably ordinary. A line of cars queued outside of the parking garage, where drivers must still push a button and grab a ticket before entering. Patients streamed in and out of the building. The first hint that these are extraordinary times: everyone wore masks as screeners checked visitors' symptoms and temperatures.

Parts of the COVID-19 unit three floors upstairs also looked unremarkable. The floor was designed for general care — a little bit of everything — when a pandemic isn't raging. But Nov. 17 marked one year since the coronavirus was first detected in China, beginning its destructive journey around the world.

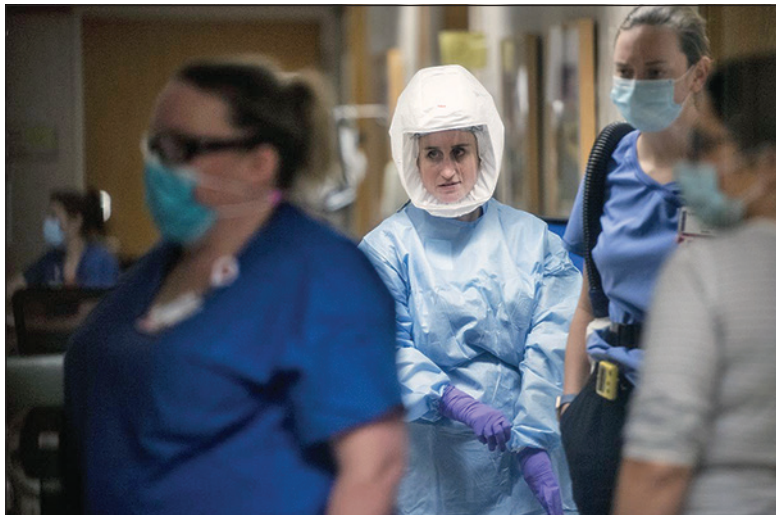
Wisconsin on Nov. 17 reported a single-day record 92 deaths linked to the virus. Some 2,277 COVID-19 patients filled 89% of the state's available hospital beds Nov. 17. Of those patients, 177 were in Dane County, home to University Hospital.

The hospital currently has five COVID units, plus another unit in a facility across town. The hospital repurposed this unit in March when it started admitting significant numbers of coronavirus-infected patients. Negative air pressure in each room prevents the virus from drifting into the hallway. Patients are now consistently filling all 28 of the unit's beds, said Mary Lowe, a nursing assistant who has worked in the unit since 2019.

She recalls seeing patients as young as 20 years and as old as 91.

The unit was often busy before the pandemic, she said, but these days, she often feels overwhelmed. These patients are severely ill. Lowe's work brings her in direct contact with seven or eight COVID patients a day, helping them with everything from eating to using the restroom and bathing. She tries to minimize the number of visits to each room — to protect herself and preserve scarce protective gear. That means doing more with each visit.

"There's just so much to do," said Lowe.



ANGELA MAJOR/WPR/WISCONSIN WATCH *Brodhead Independent-Register*

**Nurses and doctors at University Hospital in Madison walk through a hallway Nov. 17 in one of the hospital's COVID-19 units. As coronavirus infections continue to surge statewide, patients are consistently filling all 28 of the unit's beds — and Wisconsin's top leaders continue to clash over how to address the pandemic.**

Counterintuitively, Lowe said she feels safer inside the hospital than she does outside. She knows exactly what she's dealing with here — who has COVID and who doesn't. The protective gear helps, too. In that sense, the ward feels like the calm eye of a hurricane.

Medical staff walking the halls wear surgical masks. They suit up in full protective gear before entering each patient's room: gown, gloves and facial protection.

Lowe recently transitioned from using an N95 mask and face shield to wearing an air-purifying respirator called a PAPR. It resembles a soft astronaut's helmet, and a tube connects to an air filter that a belt holds in place at her waist. Lowe likes that a PAPR allows patients to see her face. They know when she's smiling, and hard-of-hearing patients can read her lips.

The hospital's other COVID units treat the most serious patients — those who are unconscious and on a ventilator. By contrast, Lowe's patients are generally alert, usually getting oxygen, steroids and personal care.

Lowe gets to know them. She also offers emotional support, considering that no visitors are allowed except on a very limited basis and only near

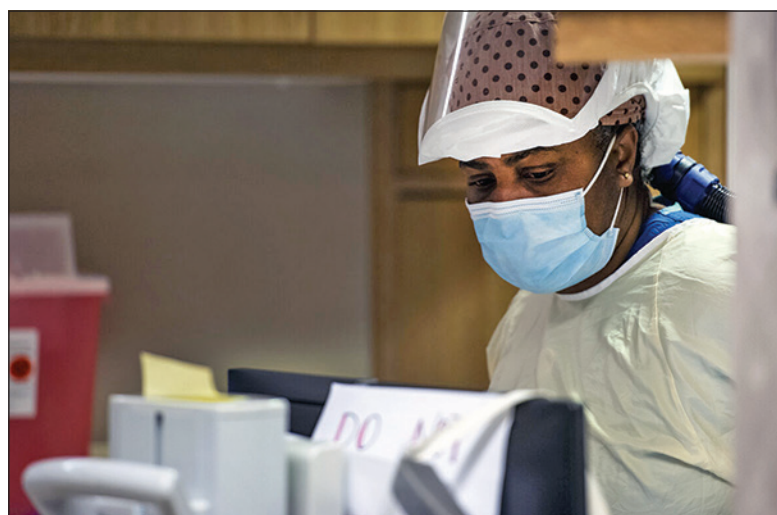
the end of a patient's life. Among the hardest times: when patients leave to receive more intensive care in another unit. Those are the folks who may not recover.

"Patients are suffering," Lowe said. "People are really sick here. We're all working really hard to help them get better and to support them. But it's definitely straining us."

That is why the hospital is allowing reporters to peer inside this COVID unit. It's why Lowe is taking time eight hours into her 12-hour shift to talk. Treating COVID patients is exhausting month after month. Even with the promising news about vaccines, health care workers see no end in sight.

Outside the hospital on Nov. 17, infections continued to surge in Wisconsin, where fiercely partisan politics and viral misinformation have paralyzed the state's response to the pandemic and muddled messaging about ways to slow the infections and deaths: Wear a mask. Keep a distance. Wash your hands.

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, held a press conference Nov. 17 to unveil "new COVID initiatives." After the press conference was announced, Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, unveiled a draft of his own \$541 million package to address



ANGELA MAJOR/WPR/WISCONSIN WATCH *Brodhead Independent-Register*

**A health care worker wears a mask as she works outside the room of a patient with COVID-19 on Nov. 17 at University Hospital in Madison. On the same day, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services reported 92 statewide deaths linked to the coronavirus. As Thanksgiving approaches, state and federal health officials warn that even small gatherings could lead to even more sickness and death.**

the pandemic's damage to public health and the economy. It includes measures to streamline processing of jobless claims — alongside an evictions moratorium and requirements that insurers cover COVID-19 testing, treatment, prescriptions and vaccines. Evers shared the legislation with GOP leaders a night earlier, his office said, but he didn't immediately hear back.

Vos' party controls both chambers of a Legislature that has not passed a bill since April. His colleagues have drafted no legislation, he told reporters Nov. 17, suggesting they might find some common ground with Evers. Vos expressed interest in expanding ranks of contact tracers, aiding small businesses and improving testing. But incoming Senate President Chris Kapenga, R-Delafield, later told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel he saw no reason for legislative action.

Evers has sought to limit gatherings and pursue other restrictions to slow the virus' spread, drawing resistance from Republicans and business groups at every step. Courts have thwarted Evers' Safer at Home order and a subsequent order to limit bar and restaurant capacity. The Wisconsin Supreme Court is weighing

an additional challenge to Evers' mask-wearing mandate.

Meanwhile the Wisconsin Department of Health Services reported more than 7,000 new infections during Lowe's shift on Nov. 17. And as Thanksgiving looms, Evers, DHS Secretary-designee Andrea Palm and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are all warning that even small gatherings could lead to even more sickness and death.

"Our hospitalization rate continues to look like a mountain, and we're still climbing that mountain," said Dr. Ann Sheehy as she stood in a University Hospital COVID unit hallway.

"We really need help from the people of Wisconsin to help us shut this down," Sheehy said. "There's nothing more we can do as health care providers, without the help of the community at this point."

"It's really up to them as to how bad things are going to get inside the walls of the hospital."

*This story comes from a partnership of Wisconsin Watch and WPR. Wisconsin Watch collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.*

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## Facilities

(Continued from page 6)

nursing homes with the cost of staffing additional beds, allowing them to admit more residents directly from a hospital and helping to alleviate strain on the hospital system.

Also integral to Wisconsin's COVID-19 response is continuing to explore ways of boosting the state's health and long-term care workforce. The partnership among departments will seek to recruit new and former Wisconsin health care workers into settings where they are needed most.

"Our long-term care facilities have

been vital to our statewide COVID-19 response," said DHS Secretary-designee Andrea Palm. "These frontline workers are putting their lives on the line to care for our most vulnerable Wisconsinites."

"By investing in the state's long-term care facilities, we are able to support their continued efforts."

Find the latest information about Wisconsin's response to the pandemic on the DHS COVID-19 webpage, and follow @DHSWI on Facebook and Twitter and @dhs.wi on Instagram.

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