June 2020 Member News Clips

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- State moratorium on utility disconnections during COVID-19 to end July 25

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- Boscobel Utilities supports school lunches
- Boscobel Utilities supports food pantry

Brodhead
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- Brodhead Utilities remove tree and repair electrical line to residence

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- Columbus Water & Light thanked for blood drive participation

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- Eagle River Light & Water work to upgrade substation
- Eagle River Light & Water award funds to local groups

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- Florence Utilities energy news

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Hustisford
- Hustisford Utilities award high school students scholarships

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- Independence Light & Power & WPPI Energy donate $7,800 for COVID-19 relief
- Independence Light & Power and WPPI Energy donate $7,800 for COVID-19 relief

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- Jefferson Utilities/WPPI Energy Award 2020 Public Power Scholarship

Juneau
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Kaukauna
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L'Anse
- Village President notes WPPI Energy article in annual report
Negaunee
• Companies agree to extend utility shut off protection

New Holstein
• Heavy drop-off scheduled for Saturday
• Utilities files for electric adjustment

Plymouth
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Prairie du Sac
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Sturgeon Bay
• Obituary: Roland Walter Honold
• Sturgeon Bay Utilities partnering to bolster small business
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Sun Prairie
• Sun Prairie Utilities manager speaks about partnership for outdoor classroom
• Sun Prairie Utilities supported emergency loan fund deadline extended
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• State utility disconnect moratorium ends July 25 - Sun Prairie Utilities
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Two Rivers
• Two Rivers residents see a drop in electric rate

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Waupun
• Waupun Utilities earns honor

Westby
• Westby Utilities/WPPI Energy award scholarships
BRF Utilities’ budget taking a hit with COVID-19-induced closures

By JoDee Brooke

Black River Falls Utility (BRFU) General Manager Casey Engebretson provided a review May 18 to BRFU Commission members of COVID-19’s effect on BRFU’s operations.

“I can’t control the weather, and I can’t control COVID,” said Engebretson. “Other utilities are experiencing similar issues.”

BRFU’s electric sales for April were $70,000 less than budgeted and approximately $250,000 less than budgeted for the first four months of 2020. “When we prepare our electric budget, WPPI provides us with historical revenue and usage patterns, and we set the budgeted revenues assuming the weather will be similar to historic patterns,” explained Engebretson. “Temperatures were above normal from January to March, which usually results in less heating, which in turn lowers the electric usage and our revenue.”

The decrease in BRFU’s load is a two-fold issue, though. “Along with the milder temperatures, business and school closures have caused electric usage to decline,” explained Engebretson. “With closures, there is less electric usage from heating, lighting, computers, appliances (restaurants), etc. With more people at home, the residential usage may increase; however, it does not reach the level we would anticipate if the schools and businesses were open.”

In addition, there are some BRFU customers who are not paid up to date on their utility bill. The total past due as of April was $226,000. “With a utility’s size, that’s a good chunk of change,” said Engebretson. “Once the moratorium is over we are usually able to collect. Landlords look at us like, what are we going to do? We can’t disconnect them; they can’t evict them. We’re looking at five to seven months of past due accounts. We’ve been doing what we can to help people do what they can to get assistance. We have fixed costs, whether they pay or not. They can try to get assistance and apply to their bill. We talk to them to set up a deferred payment plan.”

Engebretson said while the policy is to treat all customers the same, BRFU is reaching out to the Public Service Commission to see if there are different requirements. “These are unprecedented times,” he noted.

WPPI offers zero-percent interest loans to member utilities for up to $500,000 to be paid back over 10 years. It is part of WPPI’s Return on Equity Fund dollars to help provide COVID relief to the BRF community.

“As a member of WPPI, we receive funds from WPPI to donate to various organizations in our service area,” shared Engebretson. “The Community Contributions Fund allows us to donate $1,500 per year to community organizations. Organizations must contact the utility and complete a request form. The BRFU Commission reviews each request and determines if it meets the purpose of the fund, then either denies or approves the request. Some past examples include donations to school clubs, Jackson Little League, fire department and Kareder Blue Garden Club.”

All member utilities of WPPI receive a certain amount of these funds each year, based on the size of the utility. “BRF’s allocation is $6,100,” said Engebretson. “We could maybe donate to the food pantry, health and human services for energy assistance or gift cards for Interfaith. The funds have to

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Utilities From Front Page

go for COVID relief.”
Commission members agreed the food pantry was a good idea.

With the uncertainty with revenue, Engebretson said BRFU would be putting off projects at N. 9th Street from Golf Road to the dead-end and the alley between Main and Fillmore streets, for a total savings of approximately $30,000.

Commission members also approved a donation of $1,000 from the Economic Development Grant funds to the BRF Downtown Association. The DTA has been working on painting the fire hydrants and benches along Main Street.

Work is moving forward on the new BRFU operations center, while currently awaiting PSC’s construction authorization. “The way it’s designed is showing good value in efficiency,” said Engebretson. “We’re looking at around $15,000 in incentives and $12,000 in energy savings each year. SEH (project engineer) is including energy efficiency but not overbuilding for it.”

Abuse/neglect From Front Page

At the end of 2019, there were 41 children in out-of-home placements, which is comparable to the 43 children in out-of-home place-
State moratorium on utility disconnections during COVID-19 to end July 25

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Public Service Commission (PSC) issued an order prohibiting utilities from disconnecting electric, water and gas service to customers due to non-payment. The order also included provisions regarding deposits, deferred payment arrangements (DPA), late fees and customer identification for new services.

At its open meeting June 11, the PSC established a timeline to rollback many of the temporary utility service provisions in response to the public health emergency that have been in place since March.

In accordance with the PSC’s action, Black River Falls Municipal Utilities (BRFMU) will implement the following provisions and timeline:

- BRFMU will begin issuing disconnect notices beginning July 15, 2020.
- BRFMU may begin assessing late fees as of July 15, 2020.
- BRFMU will continue to offer a DPA to any customer who is unable to pay their bill in full, through Aug. 15, 2020. After Aug. 15, BRFMU may decline to offer a DPA to customers who do not meet the DPA qualification provisions within BRFMU’s tariff, the PSC code and/or state statutes and may initiate the disconnection process.
- Any household that has had a member test positive for COVID-19 will be eligible for a 21-day medical extension. To apply for this extension, the customer must provide BRFMU with documentation of a positive COVID-19 test through a licensed Wisconsin physician’s statement or notice from a public health, social services or law enforcement official. The statement or notice should specify the period of time during which disconnection will aggravate the circumstances [PSC 113.0301(13)(a)].

For answers to any questions, contact BRFMU at 715-284-9463.

Highground announces Freedom Celebration fireworks

The Highground announced its annual fireworks show will happen Saturday, June 27. Families and groups of all sizes are invited to come out to watch. Made possible in part by Hardee’s, the eye-popping display will start at 9:30 p.m.

A note about social distancing: As Wisconsin continues to slowly open back up, The Highground encourages all visitors to be respectful and practice social distancing as they find their perfect spot from which to enjoy the show.

appens at BRF library

On Friday morning, from 10 a.m. until noon (or until the kits are gone), Storytime Grab and Go kits will also be available to pick up. At 1 p.m., Mrs. Rhonda will post a virtual read aloud on the library, we are happy to have determined a safe way to provide a summer reading program experience for them to enjoy,” said Fisher. For additional information on the library’s 2020
Boscobel Utilities supports school lunch program

WPPI Energy, Boscobel’s wholesale energy supplier, recently contributed $500,000 to its members as Community Recharge Funds. WPPI is made up of 51 members in Wisconsin, Iowa and Michigan and the funds will be allocated based on the number of meters and Utility revenue. At its May meeting, Boscobel Utilities approved several donations, including $1,000 to the Boscobel Area School District’s lunch program. Sarah Ashmore-Oler is pictured accepting the check from Director of Public Works Mike Reynolds.
Boscobel Utilities supports food pantry

Boscobel Utilities recently donated $2,000 to the Northern Grant County Food Pantry thanks to a grant from its wholesale electric power supplier WPPI Energy through its Community Recharge Funds program. Manager Kim Boughton is seen accepting the donation from Public Works Director Mike Reynolds.
BRODHEAD POLICE

BRODHEAD — For the week of June 7-13, police performed 36 security checks, 28 citizen assists, nine assists of other agencies, four follow-ups to incidents, 23 vehicle registrations and seven traffic stops; responded to 21 calls for service and reported 10 EMS calls, 12 911 or BEEMS (Brodhead Elderly Emergency Monitoring System) calls and two fire calls. No mental health or detox transports were reported.

On June 7:
- A 20-year-old Brodhead male was arrested at 5:37 p.m. in the 2400 block of 1st Center Avenue on charges of driving with a revoked license, possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia and failure to install an ignition interlock device.

On June 9:
- A dog at large was reported at 9:40 a.m. in the 700 block of 10th Street. The owner was warned.
- A traffic hazard of a tree that had fallen across the road was reported at 9:21 p.m. in the 800 block of East 4th Avenue.

On June 10:
- Slashed vehicle tires were reported at 7:50 a.m. in the 200 block of Cedar Avenue.
- A dog running at large was reported at 3:53 p.m. in the 300 block of 8th Street. The owner was warned.
- Fraud was reported at 6:56 p.m. in the 1400 block of East 2nd Avenue. A person reported being blackmailed into paying another person money. The complainant was advised this was a scam call and to not give any money or information to the scammer.

On June 11:
- A Janesville man, 26, was arrested on charges of operating while intoxicated and possessing drug paraphernalia at 8:08 p.m. in the 2100 block of 1st Center Avenue.

On June 12:
- An ATV violation involving an ATV speeding and almost hitting someone was reported at 6:34 p.m. in the 1400 block of East 4th Avenue. The ATV was not located.
Brodhead Police blotter

June 7
• 5:37 p.m., a 20-year-old Brodhead resident was arrested in the 2400 block of First Center Avenue for operating after revocation (OWI related), possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia and failure to install IID.

June 9
• 9:40 a.m., police responded to the 700 block of 10th Street for the report of an animal problem — a dog at large.
  The owner was contacted and a warning was issued.
• 9:21 p.m., police responded to the 800 block of East Fourth Avenue for the report of a traffic hazard — a tree fell across the roadway.
  Brodhead Water & Light and Brodhead Street Department assisted with removing the tree and repairing an electrical line to a residence.
• 11:06 p.m., a 34-year-old Delavan man was arrested in the 500 block of East Third Avenue for domestic disorderly conduct and intimidation of a victim.

June 10
• 7:50 a.m., police responded to the 200 block of Cedar Avenue for the report of damage to property — tires on a vehicle were slashed.
  This matter remains under investigation.
• 3:53 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Eighth Street for the report of an animal problem — a dog running at large.
  The owner was contacted and a warning was issued.
• 6:56 p.m., police responded to the 1400 block of East Second Avenue for the report of fraud — a subject being blackmailed into paying another subject money.
  The complainant was advised this was a scam call and to not give them any money or information.

June 11
• 8:08 p.m., a 26-year-old Janesville man was arrested in the 2100 block of First Center Avenue for operating while intoxicated and possession of drug paraphernalia.

June 12
• 6:34 p.m., police responded to the 1400 block of East Fourth Avenue for the report of an ATV violation — a subject driving at a high rate of speed and almost struck the complainant.
  The ATV was not located.

Summary
Calls for service (minus calls below): 21
  Follow-up to incidents: 4
  Vehicle registrations: 23
  Citizen assists/community policing: 28
  Security checks: 36
  Assist other agencies: 9
  Traffic stops: 7
  911/BEEMS: 12
  Fire calls: 2
  EMS calls: 10
  Mental health transports: 0
  Detoxification transports: 0

Green County Crime Stoppers
Anyone with information on the incidents the police still have under investigation are encouraged to contact the Green County Crime Stoppers at 800-422-7463 or the Brodhead Police Department at 608-897-2112.
The National Weather Service reported wind gusts of 60 to 70 mph downed trees and power lines across southern and central Wisconsin, also damaging roofs and toppling small structures.

Widespread power outages were reported in some areas, but Alliant Energies and Wisconsin Public Service said power should be restored to everyone by the end of today.

In Beaver Dam, the storm knocked down trees throughout the city temporarily blocking some streets. City crews cleared roads Tuesday night and continued to work on clean up Wednesday.

Several large pine trees at City Athletic Field were broken off halfway up their length. Sections of the trees landed on a Liberty Street fence and on the east side of DeClark Street. Up and down that street, and along Pleasant Street which runs parallel, trees were uprooted and large limbs were blown to the ground. A massive pine tree at the corner of Gilmore Avenue and DeClark Street leaned against the home that stands there. A nearby tree was broken at its base, as were many others nearby.

On North Center Street, a cottonwood tree was sheared off at the top. Its large limbs littered the surrounding yards. At one point Tuesday night, North Center Street was blocked by down limbs and trees.

Vehicles were crushed on Pleasant Street and at the property at the corner of Liberty and McArthur streets. There a Jeep and a pickup truck were smashed beneath fallen trunks and limbs. The truck owner revealed that he was planning to sell his truck that day, but now has nothing worth selling.

Damage in Columbus was mostly cleaned up overnight, but Department of Public Works crews were finishing clearing trees and brush Wednesday. Columbus Water & Light crews also responded to multiple power outages Tuesday evening, with approximately 112 customers out of power. All had power restored by 1 a.m. Wednesday.

Columbia County Sheriff Roger Brandner said deputies responded to 57 incidents of trees on homes, power lines or roadways and had reports of “extensive damage” to residences and buildings.

With crews still working to clear roadways, Brandner warned motorists to use caution, especially on curves and blind hills.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Coordinators of Columbus Blood Drive thanks donors

The Coordinators of the Columbus Blood Drive want to thank all the donors for a successful event on June 23 at Zion Lutheran Church. We had 75 donors providing 89 units; five of which were first time donors. Special recognition goes to Randall Koehn who reached the 15 gallon donation level.

We wish to apologize to our walk-in donors who we could not accommodate because our donation time slots were filled with appointments. We encourage everyone to make appointments if possible but we do take walk-ins whenever we can.

Thanks to Zion Lutheran Church for hosting us, the Lions Club and their youth group for set up and take down of tables, the volunteers for help with registration and canteen services, Darlene Marks for delivering posters to local businesses, to Ed Schellin, Columbus Water and Light, and the Columbus Journal for publicity.

Our next scheduled blood drive is Nov. 3, at Faith Lutheran Church. Make appointments beginning Oct. 1 by calling Red Cross at 800-733-2767, or Joani Duffy at 920-623-4776.

Joani Duffy and Linda Flynn, Columbus
2020 Scholarship Section
CUBA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Although the current pandemic required Cuba City High School’s scholarship program to be held virtually this year, 2020 proved to be a banner scholarship year for the CHS seniors. Forty-one of the fifty-seven graduates received a total of 166 scholarships worth an aggregate value of $727,550. In addition, two students will be entering the armed forces and will receive educational benefits approaching $14,000.

Although many scholarships were provided by the colleges and universities the students will attend, most of the scholarships came from individuals and organizations in Cuba City and the surrounding area. This year alone, sixty-four local organizations and individuals accounted for 115 scholarships.

Of this year’s graduates, thirty-two students will attend four-year colleges or universities in the fall; sixteen will attend one- or two-year programs; two are entering the military; and seven are joining the workforce.
2020 Scholarship Section

CUBA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Kiera Holzemer
UW-Platteville - CCHS Community $500
Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association $500
Tami Cardey Memorial $100
Cuba City Education Association $250
John and Sylvia Doyle Activity $100
Tami Cardey Softball Camp $100
Cuba City Education Association $250
Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame $1,000
Bob ‘Rabbi’ Brownson Memorial $500
Lisa Ogleby Memorial $100
Jerry and Joan Petitgoue Scholar-Athletes $200

Johanna Johnson
Tami Cardey Softball Camp $100
Cuba City Education Association $250

Parker Kopp
Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame $1,000
Bob ‘Rabbi’ Brownson Memorial $500
James Carl Family Memorial $500
John and Sylvia Doyle Activity $100
Jerry and Joan Petitgoue Scholar-Athletes $200

Marissa Lehman
Class of ’93 Max McQuade Memorial $500
Cuba City Chamber of Commerce - 4-Year College $100

Christopher Meadoff
Southeast Tec - Matt and Holly Clendenen Family $500
Damid Wackerhaus Memorial $100

Seth Poll
University of Dubuque - Honors $40,000

Premier Cooperative $750
UW-Platteville - Academic Merit $1,000
Cuba City Ironmen Club $350
Cuba City Pioneers Music Club $500
Berry Ironson Memorial $300
George and Helen McQuade Memorial $500

Edna Richardson
CCHS FCCLA $100

Sophia Sander
Dickeyville-Kieler Lions Club $500
Middle No. 2 Masonic in Memory of Hazel Green Lodge $250

Seth Poll
University of Dubuque - Honors $40,000

Alex Miller
Premier Cooperative $750
UW-Platteville - Academic Merit $1,000
Cuba City Ironmen Club $350
Cuba City Pioneers Music Club $500
Berry Ironson Memorial $300
George and Helen McQuade Memorial $500

Jackson Noll
Class of ’93 Max McQuade Memorial $500
Jerry and Joan Petitgoue Scholar-Athletes $200

Kathy Schaal
Dickeyville-Kieler Lions Club $500
Middle No. 2 Masonic in Memory of Hazel Green Lodge $250

Brady Olson
Jerry and Joan Petitgoue Scholar-Athletes $200

Kaleb Pfohl
Semin River Energy Cooperative $1,000
Wings Over Wisconsin $500
Frank A. Memorial $500
Dan and Showna Noss Memorial $650

Tri County Press
Thursday, June 18, 2020

2020 Scholarship Section

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UW-Platteville - CCHS Community $500
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Tami Cardey Softball Camp $100
Cuba City Education Association $250

Parker Kopp
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Bob ‘Rabbi’ Brownson Memorial $500
James Carl Family Memorial $500
John and Sylvia Doyle Activity $100
Jerry and Joan Petitgoue Scholar-Athletes $200

Marissa Lehman
Class of ’93 Max McQuade Memorial $500
Cuba City Chamber of Commerce - 4-Year College $100

Christopher Meadoff
Southeast Tec - Matt and Holly Clendenen Family $500
Damid Wackerhaus Memorial $100

Seth Poll
University of Dubuque - Honors $40,000

Alex Miller
Premier Cooperative $750
UW-Platteville - Academic Merit $1,000
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Cuba City Pioneers Music Club $500
Berry Ironson Memorial $300
George and Helen McQuade Memorial $500

Jackson Noll
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Kathy Schaal
Dickeyville-Kieler Lions Club $500
Middle No. 2 Masonic in Memory of Hazel Green Lodge $250

Brady Olson
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Semin River Energy Cooperative $1,000
Wings Over Wisconsin $500
Frank A. Memorial $500
Dan and Showna Noss Memorial $650
2020 Scholarship Section
CUBA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Mariah Schuster
Carroll University - Yersin Business
Full-Tuition $138,800
Ornitz and Vi Barth Memorial $1,200
Cuba City Lioness Club $350
Jane Guler Memorial $275
Mound City Bank $1,000

Calvin Stephens
University of Dubuque - Presidential $48,000
Cuba City Light and Water & WPPI $500
City Lioness Club $500
Bernadine Rasque Memorial $500

Kayla Stich
CFSW Joseph L. Runde Memorial $1,000
Loras College - DuSTEM Scholars $18,000
Ornitz and Vi Barth Memorial $2,250
Tami Cardey Softball Camp $100
John and Ann Van De Wiele Science $1,000
Thomas B. Jones and Grace Stevenson Jones $2,500
Loras College - St. Joseph $96,000

Logan Taylor
University of Dubuque - Dean’s Merit $32,000
Cuba City Lioness Club $350
Max McQuade Memorial $500

2020 Scholarship Section
SOUTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL

Adam Brand
Booster Club Scholarship $300
Dickeyville-Kieler Lion’s Club Scholarship $500

Abby Budden
Booster Club Scholarship $300
UWP Town Bank Agricultural Lenders Scholarship $500

Hannah Vosberg
Southwest Tech – Creative Elements $500
Cuba City Lioness Club $350

Mitchell Vosberg
University of Dubuque - Forerunner Award $24,000
State of Wisconsin Technical Excellence $6,750

Devon Dimick
Spirit of Southwestern Scholarship $200
The Mound Scholarship $1,000

Claire Droessler
Hard Green Lion’s Club Scholarship $500
Tim Wonders Memorial Scholarship $500

Isabelle Ehrlich
Spirit of Southwestern Scholarship $200
Falldy Bank Scholarship $500
ABJ Petersburg Scholarship $500

Property of Wisconsin News Tracker and members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.
Kirk Klein, left, and Rob Zyhoski, of Eagle River Light and Utility, terminated a junction box in order to upgrade a substation. The work took place outside Walgreens in Eagle River on June 11.

—Staff Photo By MICHELLE DREW
Funds awarded

Eagle River Light and Water in partnership with WPPI Energy donated funds to area organizations recently. Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) and Vilas Food Pantry each received checks in the amount of $1,750. Funds were awarded from WPPI's COVID-19 Community Recharge Fund. Taking part in the check presentations are, from left, Josie Allen, FORK; Jeff Forbea, WPPI Energy; Mike Sanborn, Eagle River Light and Water; and Betsy Spencer, Vilas Food Pantry and Eagle River Light and Water. —Staff Photo By MICHELLE DREW

6/30/2020 10:20 AM
JUNE 2020
CALL IF YOU EXPERIENCE A POWER OUTAGE
If your home is experiencing a power outage, please contact the Florence Utilities Office at 715-528-3330 or 715-696-3330. Please don’t assume that someone else has made the call unless you know for certain. A power outage may be isolated to your home or the outage may be experienced at multiple locations. It is important for utility personnel to know the extent of the outage as they work toward restoring power.

SPECIAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
Anyone in your household has special medical equipment that requires constant electrical power such as oxygen, etc.; please contact our office at 715-528-3330. This information is vital to us in the event of an outage or an emergency.

CALL 8-1-1 PRIOR TO DIGGING
As a homeowner in Wisconsin you probably have a long-to-do list of outdoor projects that need to be tackled during the summer months. These projects could include anything from building a new patio, to installing a fence, to simply planting a garden, shrubs or trees. But, at least three working days before you begin any project that involves digging, contacting Diggers Hotline should be the number one priority on your to-do list.

After submitting your location with Diggers Hotline the underground lines in the area of your worksite will be marked by the facility owners with colored paint and/or flags. Each color indicates a different type of facility; for example, yellow indicates natural gas lines and red indicates electric (to view the full list of colors see www.diggershotline.com/color-code). These marks allow you to know approximately where the lines are buried and will help you to avoid hitting them while digging. When possible, it is best to stay at least 18 inches away from the marks. However, if it is necessary to dig closer, you then will need to proceed carefully using only hand tools within 18 inches of either side of the marks. Using powered equipment, such as rototillers or augers, within the 18-inch zone is prohibited because of the potential dangers and costs associated with damaging buried facilities.

This summer before you take on those yard projects make sure to notify Diggers Hotline. By doing so you can avoid damaging buried lines which means your project can be completed safely and at lower costs.

Diggers Hotline can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by simply dialing 811 or 800-242-8511.

STAY CLEAR OF DOWNGORED LINES
A down-gored power line can be very dangerous. It could cause severe injury or death. If you encounter a down-gored line, call Florence Utilities at 715-528-3330 or 715-696-3330 or dial 911 and notify the Sheriff’s Office. NEVER touch, walk over or drive over a down-gored line; assume all power lines are energized and deadly.

LIVE OR WORK NEAR A PIPELINE
If you live or work near a pipeline, there’s some basic information you should know.

How can you tell where a pipeline is located?
Since pipelines are buried underground, line markers are used to indicate their approximate location along the route. The markers can be found where a pipeline intersects a street, highway or railroad.

The markers display the material transported in the line, the name of the pipeline operator, and a telephone number where the operator can be reached in the event of an emergency.

Are pipeline markers always placed on top of the pipeline?
Markers indicate the general location of a pipeline. They cannot be relied upon to indicate the exact position of the pipeline. Also, the pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers. And, while markers are helpful in locating pipelines, they are limited in the information they provide. They provide no information, for example, on depth or number of pipelines in the vicinity.

Pipeline contents:
Some pipelines carry gaseous and liquid materials under high pressure.
• Many liquids form gaseous vapor clouds when released into the air.
• Many pipelines contain colorless and odorless products.

• Some gases are lighter than air and will rise.
• Other heavier-than-air gases and liquids will stay near the ground and collect in low spots.

All petroleum gases and liquids are flammable.
• Any pipeline leak can be potentially dangerous.

Pipeline access and security:
Pipeline rights-of-way must be kept free from structures and other obstructions to provide access to the pipeline for maintenance and in the event of an emergency. If a pipeline crosses your property, please do not plant trees or high shrubs on the rights-of-way. Do not dig, build, store or place anything near the rights-of-way without first having the pipeline marked and the rights-of-way staked.

If you witness suspicious activity on a pipeline, please report it to local law enforcement. Florence Utilities at 715-528-3330 or 715-696-3330.

IDENTIFY A NATURAL GAS LEAK
Natural gas is colorless and odorless. That is the reason utility companies add an odorant with an unpleasant smell to natural gas to allow detection of the gas in the event of a gas leak. The unintentional release of gas is dangerous to the public and could cause fires, explosions, injury, and even death. A gas leak, or damaged pipeline is indicated by the following signs: a ‘rotten egg’ odor, a blowing or hissing sound from the ground, dirt blowing into the air or water bubbling; or vegetation turning brown over natural gas facilities. If you observe the above conditions, move to a safe location and call Florence Utilities immediately at 715-528-3330 or 715-696-3330 or dial 9-1-1.

UPDATE OUR RECORDS
We would like to remind our customers how important it is to keep our customer records up-to-date in order to serve you better. If the need should arise to contact you due to a utility related emergency on your property, it is crucial for us to have current contact information immediately available. If you have not provided our office with current contact information within the last 12 months, please call our office at 715-528-3330 or 715-696-3330, or email florence.utilities@florwi.org to update your records. The information you provide is secure.
GLADSTONE — Gladstone’s traditional Independence Day parade will not take place this year. However, some other events may be held in Van Cleve Park to celebrate the holiday.

The city’s plans for Independence Day were discussed during a virtual meeting of the Gladstone City Commission Monday evening.

“I figured the number-one question in the last five days has been what’s going on with the Fourth of July,” Mayor Pro Tem Brad Mantela said.

Parks and Recreation Director Nicole Sanderson was present at the meeting to discuss this topic. She said she would be OK with canceling Gladstone’s parade due to both coronavirus-related fears and ongoing road work in Gladstone.

“I’m not real comfortable with the parade, and the roads are torn up, also,” she said.

A motion to cancel the parade was approved.

On the other hand, Sanderson said Gladstone could do something in celebration of Independence Day even without its usual parade.

“I still would like to have some kind of an event in the park,” she said.

She said the event could include beer and food vendors, live music and fireworks.

Mantela agreed that some sort of event should take place in Gladstone to commemorate Independence Day.

“I think we should have something to celebrate what makes this town and this country what we are,” he said.

Commissioner Darin Hunter had some concerns. He said that, by holding an Independence Day event in the park, the city could be viewed as encouraging people to disobey restrictions on large gatherings in Michigan.

“I just don’t think that it’s the right message to send out there, that we’re allowing the executive order to be violated, as much as I want the Fourth of July to go on,” he said.

The possibility of having Sanderson submit an event plan for a potential Independence Day celebration in Gladstone to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s office was raised during the meeting.

“I’d like us to do … some due diligence to see if we can do something,” Mantela said.

Ultimately, a motion to this effect was approved.

The commission also approved a motion to move forward with Gladstone’s summer concert series as scheduled with social distancing measures in place. The series will begin Thursday, June 18.

In other business, the commission:

-authorized a number of utility rate changes for the city’s 2020-21 fiscal year. These changes will go into effect on August 1.
Under the changes, monthly charges on residential 5/8” water meters will increase from the current amount of $10.50 by $2.25 in 2020-21. Another $2 increase has been proposed for 2021-22, for a total rate of $14.75/month.

Wastewater rates will go up from $6.40 per 1,000 gallons in the current fiscal year to $6.50 in 2020-21.

Rates for trash pickup will rise from $11.35 in the current fiscal year to $11.77 in 2020-21.

For electric service, the readiness to serve charge is increasing from $8 to $10 in the coming fiscal year. The energy charge per kilowatt-hour will decrease from $0.12010 to $0.11654.

– agreed to lower the true cash value of a property at 524 Superior Ave. from $13,551 to $5,000. The owner of a home on the property, which is currently in a non-livable state, was planning to go to the Michigan Tax Tribunal in an attempt to lower his taxes.

– agreed to consider the possibility of selling the back half of a city lot located at 2820 8th Ave. W. to Roy and Lisa Nelson if an adjacent property owner does not express interest in building there. The Nelsons had previously purchased the front half of the lot.

– approved the purchase of a 2020 Ford F-250 truck through the MiDEAL program at a cost of $25,600. The truck will replace an inoperable 1998 Ford F-150 that was used by the wastewater plant, and funds to replace the truck were included in the city’s budget.

– authorized the purchase of a Gravely Pro-Turn 160 mower for Fernwood Cemetery at a cost of $7,000.

– accepted a $32,357.50 bid from Bugle Contracting of Cornell for clearing vegetation from around power lines.

– approved updates to the city’s investment policy.

– adopted a resolution to include changes to the city’s flexible benefit plan listed in the CARES Act.
HUSTISFORD — Hustisford High School presented its senior students awards and scholarships during a virtual program last month. Those honored included Ryan Knoke, son of Laura Ortmann and Kyle Knoke, the valedictorian for the Class of 2020. He will be attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in fall to study business and play football. Knoke was named WIAA Scholar Athlete and NIAAA 4-year/3 season Athlete. Knoke also received the Hustisford Booster Club scholarship for $250, Hustisford State Bank for $500, United Liquid Waste for $500, Elvin and Louise Will Family Foundation for $500, WPPI/Hustisford Utilities $500, Hustisford Fire Company $500, Hustisford Fire Department Auxiliary $300, American Legion $500, Hustisford Lions Club $1,000, Hustisford Lioness Club $252, Sinissippi Trail Hawks $250 and Socialette HCE/Mary Schroeder Memorial $300.

Megan Bloomhuff, daughter of Kevin and Melissa Bloomhuff, is the salutatorian for the Class of 2020. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse to study nuclear medicine in the fall. Bloomhuff received the Trailways Academic All-Conference award. She also received the Watertown Regional Medical Center Scholarship for $1,000. Zachary Kehl, son of Derrick and Donna Kehl, will be attending UW-La Crosse in fall to study business and play football. Kehl was named WIAA Scholar Athlete and NIAAA 4-year/3 season Athlete. Kehl also received the Hustisford Booster Club scholarship for $250, Hustisford State Bank for $500, United Liquid Waste for $500, Elvin and Louise Will Family Foundation for $500, WPPI/Hustisford Utilities $500, Hustisford Fire Company $500, Hustisford Fire Department Auxiliary $300, American Legion $500, Hustisford Lions Club $1,000, Hustisford Lioness Club $252, Sinissippi Trail Hawks $250 and Socialette HCE/Mary Schroeder Memorial $300.

Samantha Peplinski, daughter of Rob and Jennifer Peplinski, will be attending Madison Area Technical College in fall for radiography. Peplinski was named WIAA Scholar Athlete and NIAAA 4-year/3 season Athlete. Peplinski also received the Pivot Point scholarship for $2,000, Hustisford Booster Club $250, Hustisford Lions Club $1,000, Hustisford State Bank $500. Milana Malterer, daughter of Chris and Melissa Malterer, will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire to study music education. Malterer received the Associated Engineering Corporation scholarship for $750, 1929-1972 Alumni $525, 1929-1972 Alumni $300, Hustisford Booster Club $250, Beatrice & Otto Hopfinger Memorial $500, National Honor Society $300, Hustisford Lions Club $1,000, Hustisford State Bank $500.

Julia Leinen, daughter of Chad and Jessica Leinen, will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Parkside for criminology. Leinen also received scholarships from Hustisford Staff $500, WPPI/Hustisford Utilities $500, Hustisford Booster Club $250, Beatrice & Otto Hopfinger Memorial $500, National Honor Society $300, Hustisford Lions Club $1,000, Hustisford State Bank $500.

Ella Schmidt, daughter of Kevin and Kelly Miller, will be attending Fox Valley Technical College. She received the Technical Excellence Scholarship for $6,750 over three years. Dylan Schmitt received the NIAAA 4-year/3 season Athlete and Trailways Academic All-Conference award. Receiving the Trailways Academic All-Conference awards were Blake Olson, Claire Weber and Sheryl Swan.
Independence Light & Power & WPPI Energy donate $7,800 for COVID-19 Relief

Independence’s not-for-profit utility is dedicating “Community Recharge” funds to support area pandemic relief efforts.

“The current public health emergency has increased the level of help people need from some of our community’s most vital support organizations,” said General Manager Kevin Sidles. “Independence Light & Power wants to do our part to help.”

To aid local relief efforts, the utility is making donations totaling $7,800. The local food pantry and Champs Cupboard have been selected to receive $3,900 each. The financial support will be used to provide food and personal care items for patrons. Independence Light & Power’s Community Recharge funds were provided by the community’s member-owned, not-for-profit wholesale power supplier, WPPI Energy.

WPPI established the Community Recharge program to help its membership address the local health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

The utility also continues to support customers that are experiencing financial hardship during these difficult times. The utility will continue to wave late fees and other related charges for nonpayment through July 15. Customers are encouraged to contact the utility for their specific needs.

“Now more than ever, Independence Light & Power’s commitment to the people and businesses we serve goes beyond safe and reliable energy,” said Sidles. “You can count on us to stand by our community.”

Independence Light & Power is a locally owned, not-for-profit electric utility serving 3,200 customers in the Independence area. Learn more at www.indytel.com.
Independence Light & Power and WPPI Energy donate $7,800 for COVID-19 relief

By Melissa Hearn Independence Light & Power | Jun 13, 2020

INDEPENDENCE – Independence’s not-for-profit utility is dedicating “Community Recharge” funds to support area pandemic relief efforts.

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“Now more than ever, Independence Light & Power’s commitment to the people and businesses we serve goes beyond safe and reliable energy,” said Sidles. “You can count on us to stand by our community.”

“Thank you so much to IL&P for your generous donation,” said Jan Rowland, Independence Area Food Pantry director. “We will use this to buy toilet paper and other non-food necessities.”

“The outpouring of support for our students has been tremendous,” said Kim Hansen on behalf of the Champs Feed the Mustangs committee. “We know there is a need, and we are happy to serve the community this way. The generous donation from Indytel has made it possible to provide hundreds of students with much-needed meals.”

Independence Light & Power is a locally owned, not-for-profit electric utility serving 3,200 customers in the Independence area. Learn more at www.indytel.com.
JEFFERSON

Seniors earn $1,248,230 in awards

By Pam Chickering Wilson
pwilson@dailyunion.com

JEFFERSON — The ceremony was virtual, but the checks were real, yielding $1,248,230 in scholarships for Jefferson High School’s Class of 2020, plus another $25,000 to recent graduates.

Separated by the coronavirus, graduating seniors connected to the scholarship presentation Friday morning online rather than in person, surrounded by family members rather than classmates.

Receiving $108,320 in scholarships was Caleb Stelse, the son of Rachelle and Mike Stelse. He plans to attend Edgewood College in Madison to study environmental science.

Stelse received a $60,000 Edgewood University Presidential Honor Scholarship, a $24,000 Edgewood University Henry Predo- lion Scholarship, a $20,320 Edgewood University inTuition Grant and a $4,000 Brett Magritz Memorial Scholarship.

Receiving a total of $104,500 in scholarships was Reese Gee, the daughter of Elizabeth Bouchard Gee and Steve Gee. She plans to attend Marquette University in Milwaukee to study political science/pre-law.

Gee received a $2,000 Jefferson Rotary Club Scholarship, a $4,000 Francis F. Carnes Educational Charitable Trust Scholarship, a $2,000 Fort Community Credit Union Scholarship, an $8,000 Marquette University Ignatian Distinction Scholarship, an $80,000 Marquette University Pere Marquette Award and a $9,000 Wisconsin Academic Excellence Award.

Receiving a total of $101,710 in scholarships was James Monogue, the son of Amy and Thomas Monogue. He plans to attend St. Norbert University in DePere to study communications.

Monogue received a $650 Tamara Hess Memorial Scholarship, a $12,000 St. Norbert College Berne Abbey/Dewane Award, a $72,000 St. Norbert College Presidential Scholarship and a $17,060 St. Norbert College SNC Grant.

Receiving a total of $92,300 was Clara
AWARDS

Cassidy Steisel
Liberty Cunningham
Elizabeth Munoz-Cuadra
Jordan Wiesen
Yaritza Esteban-Lopez
Jesse Brawders

Steisel received a $2,000 Paul and Lee Dillon Family Scholarship, a $2,000 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Honors College Page-Kow Family Scholarship, a $3,500 Donald D. Damstetter Scholarship, and a $12,000 Florida A&M University Scholarship. She plans to attend Florida A&M University to study agricultural engineering.

Cunningham received a $2,000 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Honors College Page-Kow Family Scholarship, a $3,500 Donald D. Damstetter Scholarship, and a $12,000 Florida A&M University Scholarship. She plans to attend Florida A&M University to study agricultural engineering.

Munoz-Cuadra received a $2,000 Paul and Lee Dillon Family Scholarship, a $2,000 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Honors College Page-Kow Family Scholarship, a $3,500 Donald D. Damstetter Scholarship, and a $12,000 Florida A&M University Scholarship. She plans to attend Florida A&M University to study agricultural engineering.

Wiesen received a $2,000 Paul and Lee Dillon Family Scholarship, a $2,000 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Honors College Page-Kow Family Scholarship, a $3,500 Donald D. Damstetter Scholarship, and a $12,000 Florida A&M University Scholarship. She plans to attend Florida A&M University to study agricultural engineering.

Esteban-Lopez received a $2,000 Paul and Lee Dillon Family Scholarship, a $2,000 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Honors College Page-Kow Family Scholarship, a $3,500 Donald D. Damstetter Scholarship, and a $12,000 Florida A&M University Scholarship. She plans to attend Florida A&M University to study agricultural engineering.

Brawders received a $2,000 Paul and Lee Dillon Family Scholarship, a $2,000 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Honors College Page-Kow Family Scholarship, a $3,500 Donald D. Damstetter Scholarship, and a $12,000 Florida A&M University Scholarship. She plans to attend Florida A&M University to study agricultural engineering.

Fort Atkinson, Daily Jefferson County Union (1870-1918 & 2005-current)
AWARDS

Continued from Page A5

Wilharm received a $4,000 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Academic Excellence Scholarship.

Receiving a total of $3,500 in scholarships was Sydney Schaub. The daughter of Jamie and Andrew Schaub, she plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh to become a medical technician.

Schaub received the $3,000 Francis F. Carnes Educational Charitable Trust Scholarship.

Receiving $3,000 was Ashley Geincke, the daughter of Ann Geincke. She plans to attend Waukesha County Technical College in Pewaukee to study medical coding.

Geincke received the two-year Paul and Lee Didion Family Scholarship in the amount of $3,000.

Receiving $2,500 in scholarships was Gabrielle Utter, the daughter of Jenny and Erich Utter. She plans to attend Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, to study English.

Utter received a $2,000 Jefferson Rotary Club Scholarship and a $500 Jefferson Chamber of Commerce Scholarship.

Receiving $2,000 was Mikenzie Smith, the daughter of Casandra and Jacob Smith. She plans to attend Waukesha County Technical College to study criminal justice.

Smith received a $2,000 Jordan Vogel Memorial Scholarship.

Receiving $2,000 was Eryn Warner, the daughter of Rhonda and David Warner. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison with an undecided major.

Warner received a $2,000 University of Wisconsin Alumni Association-Jefferson Chapter Scholarship.

Receiving $1,500 was Zach Donley, the son of Carolyn Schneider-Donley and Steven Donley. He plans to attend the Milwaukee School of Engineering or the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to study mechanical engineering.

Donley received a $500 Jefferson County Deputies Association Scholarship, a $500 Jefferson Sno-Hawks Snowmobile Club Scholarship and a $500 Ryan Keuler Memorial Award.

Receiving $1,500 in scholarships was Hailey Milbrath, the daughter of Debra and Tracey Milbrath. She plans to attend Carroll University to study nursing.

Milbrath received a $1,500 ALCHA Foundation Scholarship.

Receiving $1,150 was Jacob Brawders, the son of Jennifer and Jason Brawders. He plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to study elementary education.

Brawders received a $500 Norm and Carolyn Stoner College-Bound Scholarship and a $650 Tamara Hess Memorial Scholarship.

Receiving $1,000 was Annabelle Wedekind, the daughter of Gina Wedekind and David Olson. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to study business.

Wedekind received a $500 Class of 2017 Memorial Scholarship and a $500 Tyler Kreklow Memorial Scholarship.

Receiving $1,000 in scholarships was Avery Eilenfeldt, the son of Rori and Paul Eilenfeldt.

Eilenfeldt plans to attend the University of Wisconsin- Stout to study business marketing and administration and interior design.

Eilenfeldt received the University of Wisconsin-Stout Promising Student Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

Receiving $1,000 was Alex Ellison, the son of Jackie Wolf-Ellison and Ryan Ellison. He plans to attend Edgewood College to study cytotechnology.

Ellison received the Watertown Regional Medical Center Health Careers Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

Receiving $1,000 was Megan Happ, the daughter of Steffany and Don Happ. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study anthropology and education.

Happ received a Jefferson County Area Retired Educators Association Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

Receiving $1,000 was Leslie Leal-Maldonado, the daughter of Senaida Maldonado and Gonzalo Leal. Leal-Maldonado plans to attend Madison Area Technical College/Madison College to study nursing.

Leal-Maldonado won the Money Smart Week Essay Contest for a prize of $1,000.

Receiving $750 was Samantha Ness, the daughter of Cheryl and Michael Ness. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to study theater arts/ stage management.

Ness received the $750 Eagle Theater Council Scholarship.

Receiving $650 was Raelyn Smith, the daughter of Pamela and Richard Smith. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to study education.

Smith received a $650 Tamara Hess Memorial Scholarship.

Receiving $500 was Reese Fetherston, the daughter of Heather and Greg Fetherston. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to study business.

Fetherston received the Jule Smith Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $500.

Receiving $500 was Rachel Slaybaugh, the daughter of Deanna Slaybaugh. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study biological pre-medical illustration.

Slaybaugh received a $500 Jefferson County Deputies Association Scholarship.

Receiving $250 was Mady McWilliam, the daughter of Georgia and Vance McWilliam. She plans to attend Columbia Chicago or Madison Area Technical College/Madison College to study musical theater or music education.

McWilliam received a $250 Schuster’s Farm Scholarship.

In addition to the Class of 2020, several recent graduates also received scholarships this year.

Jenna Dinkel received a $5,000 Pearl Haag Schultz Scholarship.

Danielle Chwala received a $5,000 Stuart and Stanley Hake Agriculture Scholarship.

Karyn Duddeck received a $5,000 Stuart and Stanley Hake Scholarship.

Jessica Jurcek received a $5,000 Stuart and Stanley Hake Scholarship.

Audrey Pelikan received a $5,000 Stuart and Stanley Hake Scholarship.
Fetherston, Clark receive scholarships

JEFFERSON — In an article in Monday’s Daily Jefferson County Union about Jefferson Class of 2020 earning $1,248,230 in scholarships, the Daily Union inadvertently listed two students’ genders incorrectly.

Receiving a total of $49,500 was Rileigh Clark, the daughter of Danielle and Todd Clark. Clark plans to attend Bellin College in Green Bay to study radiation therapy.

Clark received a $12,000 Bellin College Admissions Scholarship, a $34,000 Bellin College Merit Scholarship, a $500 Bellin College Summer Camp Scholarship and a $1,000 Fort Memorial Hospital Foundation Dr. Tom and Mary Nordland Scholarship.

In addition, she received a $1,000 Jefferson Utilities/WPPI Energy 2020 Public Power Scholarship and a $1,000 Dr. Brian Turley Health Care Profession Scholarship.

Receiving the Jule Smith Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $500 was Reese Fetherston, the son of Heather and Greg Fetherston.

He plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to study business.

The Daily Union apologizes for the errors.
Jefferson High School seniors received $1.2 million in scholarships

By Pam Chickering Wilson

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Jefferson — The Class of 2020 received $1.2 million in scholarships for the current school year. The 2020 Class of 200 students applied for 1,715 scholarships, bringing the total number of awards to 1,227.

Separated by the committee, graduating seniors completed the scholarship application process. Friday evening, the committee presented the awards in person, surrounded by family and friends, rather than in-person ceremonies.

Receiving a total of $52,850 were Renni Goe, the daughter of Jeff and Cindy Goe; and Tanya Geincke, the daughter of Ann Giencke. They plan to attend Madison College in Waukesha to study biological sciences.

Receiving $44,850 were Jamie and Andrew Schaub. The daughter of Pam and Ron Schaub. The daughter of Ann Giencke. She plans to attend Madison Area Technical College-Madison as a liberal arts transfer student.

Receiving a total of $9,000 were Annie D’Amico, the daughter of John and Sandy D’Amico. Annie plans to attend Marquette University and the School of Business.

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JUNEAU — Dodgeland High School’s annual Senior Honors Night was held virtually last month.

Twenty-two seniors were recognized with a variety of scholarships, honors and awards. The Dodgeland community is fortunate to have the support of many local organizations and businesses.

The award winners included, in alphabetical order:

Connor Allan Arndt who received the Dodgeland Dollars for Scholars Caine Companies Scholarship, and Juneau/Dodgeland Alumni Association Scholarship.

Tye Christopher Bader received the Outstanding Male Athlete Award, and a Dodgeland Athletic Booster Club Scholarship.

Megan Ann Bartlett received high honors and a Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design Scholarship.

Grace Maryjane Caine received high honors, a Dodgeland Dollars for Scholars Caine Companies Scholarship, UW Whitewater Music Department Scholarship, Randal Roberts Memorial Scholarship, Juneau American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 Scholarship, and a Juneau/Dodge-land Alumni Association Scholarship.

Seth Alfred Christopher received high honors and a Dodgeland Athletic Booster Club Scholarship.

Kody Jacob Coupers received a Dodgeland FFA Alumni Scholarship and the Kim and Gary Ullig Agricultural Scholarship.

Amanda Rose Eggebrecht received high honors, Ryan and Russell LeRoy Memorial Scholarship, Concordia University Lutheran Promise Scholarship, and the Watertown Regional Medical Center Health Careers Scholarship.

Angelina Elizabeth Emmrich received high honors.

Jennelle Loren Foeckler received a Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Student Initiative Scholarship, Courtney Rose Goldbach received the Clyman Fire/EMS Scholarship, Cole Michael Guenther received high honors, Technical Excellence Scholarship, Dodgeland Dollars for Scholars Business Appreciation Scholarship, Dodgeland FFA Alumni Scholarship, Kim and Gary Ullig Agricultural Scholarship, Juneau American Legion Post 15 Scholarship, and the Dodge County Pheasants Forever Scholarship.

Alison Marie Huber received high honors.

Kaitlin Rebecca Pickart, who was Dodgeland High School 2020 Salutatorian received high honors, WIAA Scholar Athlete Award, Outstanding Female Athlete Award, Dodgeland Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, Dodgeland Dollars for Scholars Scholarship, American Red Cross Blood Drive Scholarship, Lawrence Technological University Presidential and Women's Cross Country Scholarship, Wisconsin United Methodist Church Vocational Scholarship, and the Kim and Gary Ulfig Agricultural Scholarship.

Brock Milton Roy received high honors, Dodgeland High School 2020 Salutatorian received high honors, American Red Cross Blood Drive Scholarship, Lawrence Technological University Presidential and Women's Cross Country Scholarship, Wisconsin United Methodist Church Vocational Scholarship, and the Kim and Gary Ulfig Agricultural Scholarship.

Kari Ann Westphal received a Dodgeland Dollars for Scholars Caine Companies Scholarship, UW Whitewater Music Department Scholarship, Randal Roberts Memorial Scholarship, Juneau American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 Scholarship, and a Juneau/Dodge-land Alumni Association Scholarship.

Kody Jacob Coupers received high honors, Dodgeland Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, Andrew and Heidi Mehan Scholarship, Richard Thieme Memorial Scholarship, and St. Cloud State University Presidential Scholarship.

Brock Milton Roy received high honors, WIAA Scholar Athlete Award, Outstanding Female Athlete Award, Dodgeland Athletic Booster Club Scholarship, Dodgeland Dollars for Scholars Scholarship, American Red Cross Blood Drive Scholarship, Lawrence Technological University Presidential and Women's Cross Country Scholarship, Wisconsin United Methodist Church Vocational Scholarship, and the Kim and Gary Ulfig Agricultural Scholarship.

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Seth Alfred Christopher received high honors and a Dodgeland Athletic Booster Club Scholarship.
Kaukauna welcomes you!

Led by Mayor Anthony J. Penterman, the City of Kaukauna is located in Outagamie County with a population of 16,000+. While the City is one of Wisconsin’s oldest communities, Kaukauna continues on an upward trend to positively impact long-term economic development and quality of life for residents and stakeholders. Unique to Kaukauna is approximately three and one-half miles of the Fox River within the municipal boundaries. From the Riverside Park area to the eastern edge of the 1000 Islands Conservancy Zone, the river drops 51 feet in elevation; a significant drop considering that over the next 24 miles, it only drops 22 feet before discharging into the Bay of Green Bay. The river provides residents the opportunity to take advantage of the aesthetic setting.

Residents also benefit from our municipally-owned utility, Kaukauna Utilities, which owns seven hydro-electric plants. They’ve invested in upgrading and modernizing these facilities because, not only are they a low-cost power supply resource, they are also emissions-free. The electricity they generate meets more than 30% of customers’ total needs – one of the reasons their rates are among the lowest in the state.

Kaukauna is home to the historic Grignon Mansion, the 1000 Islands Nature Preserve, along with a total of 727 acres of park and recreational lands. The City of Kaukauna Recreation Department also provides an extensive program of recreational activities. Work is underway on the Fox River Boardwalk project, a 1,100-foot bicycle and pedestrian connection between Heesakker Park in the Village of Little Chute and an expanded rail trail in the City of Kaukauna. A goal of this project is to connect existing trail systems to make them more accessible for residents.

The Kaukauna Public Library is one of the most innovative in the state. In October 2019, they opened their Interactive Learning Garden, which contains six “classrooms” for children and adults to learn - biology, archaeology, music, literature, history, and art – as well as an amphitheater. Starting January 1, 2020, the Kaukauna Library went fine free – and was the first library in the Fox Cities to adopt this policy. As part of the Capital Improvement Plan, 2020 will see some updates to the Kaukauna Street Department, specifically garage and operations improvements. This is the final part of a phased approach to upgrading municipal facilities. These upgrades have been executed without raising residents’ property taxes and are part of an effort to send a message that Kaukauna is a progressive community.

To enhance their reputation as a progressive community, Kaukauna is in the middle of a rebranding initiative with hopes that developing a new brand will stir pride and champion economic development in the City. Watch for updates and a launch of the new brand this fall.

Kaukauna has enjoyed a level of financial stability thanks to its industrial tenants – namely frozen pizza, machining, and paper. The City has also recently increased healthcare services with a new Aurora BayCare Medical Center near Interstate 41 and Highway 55. This new clinic, which will offer services including outpatient surgery, urgent care plus, primary care and specialty care, is slated to open Summer 2020.

Besides the thriving industry and medical facilities in Kaukauna, more recently, the City has seen substantial residential growth and various redevelopment projects in the downtown. Creating an environment which facilitates a high quality of life is a continual goal for the City of Kaukauna.

Kaukauna is proud to be a part of the “Loop the Locks” trail expansion occurring here and in neighboring communities of Appleton, Combined Locks, Kimberly, and Little Chute. The Outagamie County Greenway Committee granted an award to the City of Kaukauna to help connect the downtown trail network to the larger Fox Cities loop. The safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists and runners makes Kaukauna a popular venue for a number of organized runs, races and walks.

The City provides live music every Wednesday evening during the summer with an event called Live! From Hydro Park. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy this beautiful river setting and music (due to COVID-19, this event has been postponed - watch the City website for information on a start date). The City Farmer’s Market season begins on Saturday, July 11th and runs through mid-October.

As the City of Kaukauna grows, so does its reputation of providing quality City services and its personality as a friendly City. Come enjoy all there is to see and do in Kaukauna!
Village Of L’Anse Holds Meeting

June 23, 2020

The Village of L’Anse is getting closer to resolving one of its most persistent road problems.

At last night’s council meeting, village manager Bob LaFave said he and village crew members had recently reviewed drainage issues along L’Anse Avenue that will need to be addressed when the street is repaved.

The village should be able to advertise for bids within a couple of weeks.

The project will be paid for with money from the village street fund.

It will include only a resurfacing of the road that connects Broad Street with US-41, and is a main route into the town.

A more expensive, full rebuild of L’Anse Avenue will have to wait until grant money becomes available.

The council also adopted a new conflict of interest policy.

The new policy brings the village into compliance with requirements set by USDA Rural Development, and will be helpful when applying for grants.

Village President Ron Ervast noted that WPPI Energy included a positive article in its recent annual report about the joint power line maintenance agreement between the villages of L’Anse and Baraga.

The project was launched in February of 2019, and LaFave says it has exceeded expectations.

WPPI Energy is the electrical cooperative through which the L’Anse and Baraga municipal utilities purchase their power.

This is the first time WPPI has coordinated line maintenance staffing for client utilities. A link to the annual report, and the article, are here.
Companies agree to extend utility shutoff protection

MARQUETTE — SEMCO Energy Gas Co., the Upper Peninsula Power Company and the Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation have agreed to extend shutoff protections for some customers through June 12 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The three companies are among eight privately owned utilities regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission that agreed to extend protections for “vulnerable consumers” through that date, which corresponds with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s extension of the Stay Safer at Home order, according to a Thursday MPSC news release.

In April, the MPSC directed regulated electric and natural gas utilities to file affirmations that certain minimum customer protections were in place.

The commission’s regulatory jurisdiction does not include municipally owned utilities such as the city of Marquette’s Board of Light and Power or the city of Negaunee, which is a member of the WPPI Energy cooperative.

“Most of these utilities have observed the call for minimum protections and assistance,” the release states.

The protections include suspending disconnections for the state’s most vulnerable populations low-income and senior customers — and waiving late fees for eligible low-income customers receiving energy assistance. Households facing sudden losses of income or employment because of the pandemic would also be eligible under the protections.

Customers exposed to, infected by or quarantined because of COVID-19 would be eligible for a 30-day medical hold to avoid a disconnection of service under the measures, the release states.

Utility customers affected by COVID-19 are asked to be proactive by contacting their utility or propane provider right away to find out what protections they may be eligible for, the release states.
Consumers can also call 211 or visit www.mi211.org for information about getting help paying their utility bills or how to contact agencies that may assist with paying an energy bill.

Customers can also apply for State Emergency Relief directly through www.newmibridges.michigan.gov for bill payment assistance or call 855-275-6424. Assistance with the application process can also be obtained by calling 211. Callers will be referred to a Michigan Energy Assistance Program grantee that can help.

Home heating credits may also be available, the release states. Utility customers can visit the Michigan Department of Treasury website at www.michigan.gov/taxes/0,4676,7-238-43513_66852-330928--00.html to determine eligibility.

“Even though this funding is distributed by the Department of Treasury, you do not need to pay taxes or wait for a tax return to receive this credit,” the release states, “so apply now if you are eligible.”

For more information, read about the MPSC’s Home Heating Credit at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/home_heating_credit_361574_7.pdf.

Lisa Bowers can be reached at lbowers@miningjournal.net.
Heavy refuse drop-off scheduled for Saturday

The City of New Holstein’s heavy refuse drop-off is scheduled for this Saturday, June 27 from 7 a.m. to noon at the Public Works garage off Taft Avenue on the far northeast end of the city.

In addition, an electronics recycling event is being planned for Tuesday, July 7 in the city.

For this Saturday’s heavy refuse drop-off, city residents can drop off items listed on the acceptable list; if non-acceptable items are brought to the site, people will be required to take them back with them.

A driver’s license or other form of identification will be required to prove city residency.

Acceptable items include the following:

- couches, chairs, tables, desks, sinks, toilets, or any other household furniture;
- carpeting, pads from carpeting, and rugs; must be cut into four-foot sections and tied securely;
- bedsprings, mattresses, bed frames, swing sets, clotheline poles (with concrete removed from the poles), bicycles, and parts;
- non-hazardous household refuse that is properly bagged or bundled; all loose material must be bagged or bundled; no loose material will be accepted.

Non-acceptable items include the following:

- computers and electronics (telephones, laptops, CPUs, fax machines, printers, photocopiers, VCRs, DVD players, Blu-ray players, televisions, radios);
- tires;
- appliances containing freon;
- fuel-powered engines;
- large amounts of construction and remodeling debris (plaster, shingles, siding); these items require a person to schedule to have a dumpster at their own expense;
- yard waste (shrubs, branches, grass clippings, leaves, etc.); these items can be taken to the city’s compost site located on Taft Avenue;
- liquids (such as leftover spray cans, chemicals, paints, varnishes, etc.);
- fluorescent bulbs;
- batteries.

For people with hazardous waste, please go to https://calumetrecycles.com/636/Events-Schedule to find out dates and times.

New Holstein Utilities is planning an electronics recycling event for Tuesday, July 7 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NHU garage, 1819 Park Ave.

They will be accepting electronics, light bulbs (including incandescent, fluorescent, HID, and LED lamps), ballasts, batteries, TVs, dehumidifiers, window air conditioners, and dorm-size refrigerators.

Every product collected is recycled by vendors and kept out of landfills, in turn keeping toxic heavy metals and other hazardous waste from getting into water resources.

People dropping off items will pay what vendors charge NHU—there is no mark-up by NHU or any added fees. A full list of recycling costs can be found at www.nhutilities.org. Light bulbs range from 19 cents to $2.54 per bulb, depending on the type. Fixtures are $6.50 per unit. Batteries range from 16 cents per pound to $4.24 per pound depending on the type. TVs are $15 or $30 depending on the size. There is no charge for miscellaneous electronics, microwaves, and small appliances. Monitors are $10 each, and dorm-size refrigerators, dehumidifiers, and window air conditioners are $5 each.

For everyone’s safety during the pandemic, people are asked to remain in their vehicles and someone will be there to assist them.
Utilities files for electric adjustment

New Holstein Public Utility has filed an application with the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin to increase electric rates.

The adjustment has been requested in order to cover inflationary increases in operational and maintenance expenses and costs associated with maintaining the reliability of the electric distribution system. The last electric rate increase was approved in December 2015.

The utility is requesting an overall increase of 5.44 percent, or $251,993. The final impact of the rate increase on individual customers will not be known until the PSC issues an order; however, under the proposed rate structure and based on an average usage of 730 kWh, the typical residential customers’ monthly bill would increase from $89.37 per month to $96.28 per month, an increase of $6.91 or 7.7 percent.

The PSC is planning a public hearing in New Holstein and Madison. A notice of the hearing will be published after a date has been set.

For more information contact the PSC at (608) 266-5481 and refer to the New Holstein Public Utility electric rate application under Docket 4110-ER-110.
PLYMOUTH — It will be back in the pool — but not everybody — in less than two weeks.

The City Council Tuesday approved reopening the Plymouth Outdoor Aquatic Center in City Park the week of June 22, but with a limit of 250 people at a time and other restrictions, including open swim only with no lessons or water aerobics.

The pool reopening was part of a package of public facility re-openings recommended by Public Works Director/Interim City Administrator Cathy Austin.

“It will take us about two weeks to prepare the pool,” Austin said. She couldn’t predict which day it would be ready, but said it should be somewhere in the middle of the week of June 22.

The center has a listed capacity of 700 and current coronavirus guidelines from the county suggest capacity of 50 percent or less, but Austin said 250 would be a good number to use. “We never had more than 300 people a day last summer,” she explained.

Other city buildings, including City Hall and the Plymouth Utilities Operations Center, will be open on a limited basis starting Monday, June 15.

“Where there’s direct contact with the public, we will have either
Permanent or temporary plexiglass barriers in place, Austin said, along with safe social distancing markers on the floor.

Public restrooms will be sanitized twice a day, with signs alerting users of that fact.

“It will take us time to get back to full normal operations,” Austin admitted.

Evergreen Golf Course will also open June 15, but there will be no golf club rentals and the driving range will be limited to two people at a time to maintain safe social distancing.

Austin said there will be no season passes sold this year at the aquatic center. Instead, there will be daily admissions only.

The pool hours will 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. That will allow one hour for a full cleaning and sanitizing of the facility.

There will be one admission rate, $4 per person resident and non-resident alike. To return for the afternoon session, Austin said, will cost an additional $1 along with a hand stamp from the morning session. Anyone coming after 5 p.m. will pay a reduced admission of $2.

The large water slide, the lily pad feature and the sand play area will not be opened. Deck chairs will not be put out, but swimmers can bring their own chair or blankets.

Austin said there will be a limited concession stand offering as well.

“This certainly is an opportunity to get community members back involved in recreational activities,” Mayor Donald Pohlman said of the park, pool and golf course reopenings. “Everybody is looking forward to getting wet again.”

The council approved the appointment of Steve Stavola to the Parks Committee for a five-year term. He replaces Teresa Hartle-Feldner, who is resigning after 15 years on the committee.

Council President Charles Hansen praised Hartle-Feldner for her years of service on the Parks Committee.

“She’s one of those persons who does the behind-the-scenes things, gets things done,” he commented.

Hansen cited her work running the Nutt Ski Hill and Mill Pond ice warming shack, as well as her efforts helping to obtain grants for Lone Oak Park and other city parks.

“I was very glad to have worked with her on the Parks Committee,” Hansen, the council representative on the committee, concluded. “We’re going to miss her and I thank her for her service.”

A $5,200 contract to remove three trees in Roosevelt-Nutt Park was approved by the council.

Austin explained that during a windstorm May 19 one tree fell onto a neighboring property, knocking out their electrical service. Two more nearby trees are leaning perilously close to the property as well, she added.

“It’s probably in our best interests to have the trees removed,” before they fall and do any damage, Austin said. “It’s too large for our city crew to do.”

Council member John Nelson praised the street department crew for their quick cleanup work of fallen limbs and branches following last week’s storm.

Nelson said the crew did a “fabulous job” cleaning up the very next day. He noted one didn’t have to drive far to find communities where branches and limbs were still lying around more than a day after the storm.
Construction should begin soon on Prairie du Sac's 'Riverfront Park' project

Erica Dynes | June 3, 2020

Currently referred to as Riverfront Park, an official name has yet to be worked out, said Prairie du Sac Village Administrator Alan Wildman. When federal and state orders around COVID-19 hit, all non-essential meetings were temporarily placed on hold.

The park's theme will emphasize the importance of the various forms of transportation prevalent along the Wisconsin River over the past century. With the Great Sauk State Trail covering the railroad theme, Wildman said the park will pay homage to the area's former steamboat days.

"We are trying to include it in the amenities, like the playground equipment we will be installing," Wildman said. "It will have a boat theme because of the river. We are working with the vendor to work in a steam ship with a smoke stack. I think it will be cool when it comes out."

Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce Director Tywana German said the Great Sauk State Trail, in combination with the new park, will allow it to be a stopping point for visitors to experience downtown Prairie du Sac and enjoy time in the community before continuing on their ride.

The park part of the project will feature two deck areas, one where the current eagle viewing area sits, and another lower deck that stretches out as close to the water as regulations allow. The expanded eagle viewing area will feature a deck three times the size of the current viewing pad, and will have new viewing scopes - one which will be ADA accessible. It will also include a three-sided shelter to keep volunteers and bird watchers protected by the cold January temperatures during prime eagle-viewing time, as well as a couple of benches.

The park area will have pub-style tables, additional benches and a large green space that can be used as a small performance area for River Arts or for the library to hold events, with a variety of native plantings. Wildman said another shelter will be installed along the trail to get trail-users out of the sun or rain, and the current bike repair station will be relocated closer to the shelter.

The old, crumbling retaining wall will also receive a facelift.

"The park in Prairie du Sac will continue to enhance the efforts that have been made to use the Wisconsin River as a backdrop for outdoor amenities," German said. "With a performance stage,
it will offer many groups the opportunity to bring the arts outdoors, while taking in incredible views."

The park entrance will be through the newly-renovated municipal lot. The crux of the parking lot project will focus on pedestrian safety and better traffic flow. This will be attained by changing the lot's one-way entrance and exit. Because pedestrians are highly populated in that area between the library, River Arts on the Water Gallery, the Bonham Theater and other downtown retail shops and restaurants, the plan is to have one larger combined entrance and exit, relocated to line up with the intersection.

The lot itself will likely lose one parking space, but an additional two-to-three spaces will be gained along Water Street. The park and parking lot are financed through a combination of funding methods, including: $200,000 - Federal Recreational Trails program $159,805 Wisconsin Stewardship Grant, Urban Rivers Program $268,700 - TIF District funds $10,000 - Ferry Bluff Eagle Council $10,000 - Sauk County Community Development grant $29,500 - Artwork value from Wisconsin. River Bank $5,000 WPPI Energy and $550 - Sauk Prairie Community Club.

Wildman said the remainder of the project is funded by borrowing general obligation funds. "It was just over $1 million for the project," Wildman said. "It's been amazing how the state and federal government has really been looking into the Sauk Prairie area. We've received funding for the trail, Sauk City's Riverfront Park, and the village received funding from the federal government through the DNR toward the 67 acres of Culver Community Park."
A severe thunderstorm the night of June 2 caused minor damage throughout Reedsburg. The National Weather Service reported peak wind gusts were in the 60 to 70 mph range. On the morning of June 3, residents were busy cleaning up leftover debris with downed trees, brush and branches. City Public Works Director Steve Zibell said the department responded to five trees down in Reedsburg that had been toppled by the storm out onto streets and there weren’t any reports of property damage.

Reedsburg Utility reported on its Facebook page June 3 no power outages were reported but a pole broke due to high winds and had to be replaced. A photo gallery of the storm damage and clean-up in Reedsburg is on our website www.reedsburgtimespress.com.

Follow Erica Dynes on Twitter @EDynes_CapNews or contact her at 608-393-5346.

Cleaning up after the storm

Boy Scout Troop 7444 Treasurer Eben Christensen rakes tree leaves outside St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Reedsburg the morning of June 3, following a severe thunderstorm the evening before. A tree fell down by the church as a result of the storm but the building was not damaged and members of the church and Boy Scout troop helped with cleanup efforts.

A downed tree near a resident’s home on Alexander Avenue in Reedsburg sits overlapping a sidewalk in Reedsburg the morning of June 3. The evening before a severe thunderstorm hit the region causing minor damage in the city.

A damaged tree on Franklin Street in Reedsburg sits split June 3 as a result of a severe thunderstorm the evening before. No major damage from the storm was reported in Reedsburg.
Mayor Dave Estes during Monday night’s Reedsburg Common Council meeting. (Photo by Heather Stanek)

By Heather Stanek

It was a quick but purposeful meeting for Reedsburg Common Council Monday night. For the first time since March, Council met in full chambers with everyone together. For months, council has had to separate members and City staff with different rooms and through webcams due to COVID-19. Councilman Dave Knudsen said City staff did an admirable job adapting to

**Council swears in new officer, writes off Shopko debt**

See Council, continued on page 3
Council, continued from page 1

Reedsburg Common Council and City staff met for a normal meeting for the first time in months Monday night. Previous meetings were held using distancing and streaming due to coronavirus. (Photos by Heather Stanek)

Tommy Lee Bychinski says a few words at the end of Monday night’s Common Council meeting. Since he is retiring on Friday, this was the last meeting he’d record for the Reedsburg Utility.

In addition, Council voted to suspend finance and public safety committees since their duties can be transitioned to other bodies. The ordinance committee will remain intact, at least for now, and will meet on an as-needed basis.

Although budget season is right around the corner, it isn’t necessary. City Administrator Tim Becker said Council will need to hold workshops anyway to flesh out budget details.

The meeting closed with a farewell to longtime radioman and broadcaster Tommy Lee Bychinski, who is retiring on Friday. This was his last Common Council meeting, which he said he has filmed for local cable for decades.

“It’s been a great ride,” he said.

Essex said he appreciates Bychinski’s work with the Reedsburg Utility, and told him to go enjoy his retirement.

David Ruhland will assume Bychinski’s duties, which will include recording and broadcasting Council meetings.

Coronavirus. He also missed the in-person meetings.

“It’s nice to be back in City Hall and see everybody and talk face to face,” he said.

The meeting opened with new police officer Jeremy Drexler taking the oath of office. Mayor Dave Estes oversaw the presentation.

When it came time for business, Council voted to write off about $2,498 in uncollectable personal property taxes from Shopko. City Clerk-Treasurer and Finance Director Jacob Crosetto explained that the tax dates back to December 2018. However, due to Shopko filing for bankruptcy, it’s highly unlikely the City will be able to collect. Crosetto said the national chain has other, higher-priority entities to pay. State and federal governments are just a couple examples.

Council also agreed to a claim filed by Derek Smith for damage to his vehicle. Crosetto said a City employee forgot to put a vehicle in park and it rolled forward, damaging Smith’s Volkswagen. The claim was for about $1,395.

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Reedsburg School Board looks ahead to next year

By Heather Stanek

Discussion about the next school year was part of Monday night’s board meeting.

Everything from distance learning to planning was covered.

No one knows what will happen when school begins so the district needs to be prepared for anything. It’s possible that another wave of coronavirus could force schools to attend hold instruction from home.

The district is working on a contingency plan that involves technology, said Board Clerk LuAnn Brey. The goal is to ensure each student has a tablet to learn from home. The greatest challenge there is making sure all families have reliable Internet access.

There have also been talks of different education methods in case there is another shutdown.

“The most important thing is quality learning for our students,” she said.

District Administrator Tom Benson added that a back-to-school team is forming to help plan for the future. The first meeting will be July 1 and the group will meet Wednesdays.

So far, enrollment seems solid for the next school year. So far, staff has processed 40 open enrollments into the district and 59 out of the district, said Jeff Bindl, director of special education and pupil services. Last school year, 171 open enrolled into the district while 180 went

See Board, continued on page 3
out. He said parents may have moved their children for a variety of reasons, including work and child care convenience.

So far, 104 students are registered for next year’s 4-year-old kindergarten, down from 161 students last school year. At the kindergarten level, there are 150 registered, down from the average of 180.

Bindl said it’s possible enrollment numbers will change come fall.

In addition, the population of immigrant students has increased 25 percent so the district is looking to offer more English language classes and programs to help kids and their families acclimate to school and the community, said Linda Bruun, director of curriculum, instruction and assessment.

The meeting included a sendoff for Board Member Shaun Luther, who chose not to seek re-election this spring. This was his final meeting.

Board members and staff also congratulated Tommy Lee Bychinski with the Reedsburg Utility on his retirement. Bychinski recorded and broadcast meetings for several years.
A longtime newscaster is signing off after more than five decades in the radio and television industry, which included covering the news around Reedsburg and its surrounding areas.

Reedsburg resident Tommy Lee Bychinski has held many roles and covered several news events in Reedsburg throughout his time as a broadcaster for the Reedsburg Utility television news station. His final newscast with Reedsburg Utility was June 12 after 12 years there as he steps back to retire. Dave Ruhland, another Reedsburg resident, will take over the newscast.

"I think it was a great life and a great ride," Bychinski said, summing up his career. "You meet a lot of interesting people and I’ve met so many people it’s absolutely unreal."

At age 73, going on 74 this December, Bychinski decided it was time to retire to travel and spend more time with his wife of 54 years, Sharon. While they aspire to travel, Bychinski said they still plan to live in Reedsburg.

“We have a motor home and we want to do some traveling,” he said. “I’ve always stayed around here. We’ve done some traveling and now we want to do some more travelling.”

Bychinski started his radio career in 1964 in Medford, Wisconsin. He worked at radio stations in Marshfield and Tomahawk before he landed in Reedsburg in 1967, starting out as a radio announcer and later moving his way up to general manager at WRDB 1400 AM, WNFM 104.9 FM and later started WBDL 102.9 FM. He also served as president of the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, he said.

He retired from the radio business in 2008. It wasn’t long after he decided to step back, Bychinski received a call from the manager of Reedsburg Utility about starting a local news channel at the utility. It was around the time Bychinski also started his own news service Tommy Lee News Service.

Realizing he was looking for something to keep busy, Bychinski decided to jump at the chance to become the local newscaster for the Reedsburg Utility Television Channel, working about 25 to 30 hours a week.
I wanted something to do," he said.
Bychinski said the transition from radio to TV wasn't hard for him.
"It's basically (the same thing), except you put pictures when you're on TV," he said.
Throughout his time in Reedsburg, he's covered the Sauk County Board meetings, Reedsburg common council, Reedsburg school board, Reedsburg Area United Fund radio auction, announced and televised the Butterfest parades, the 2008 and 2018 floods and numerous other events and news.
Outside of work, he served on the fire department for more than 40 years, 30 as the secretary, he said. Bychinski still holds the District 9 supervisor position on the Sauk County Board and was recently re-elected to the position in this year's spring election. While he's stepping back from the working world, he plans to stay on the county board, he said.
He said the favorite part of his job was meeting people and digging into what their life was like through interviews as well as the community involvement.
"It made me get involved with my communities," he said. He added it's the people he will miss about his work.
Reedsburg Utility General Manager Brett Schuppner expressed gratitude for Bychinski's service in an email to the Times-Press June 15.
"Reedsburg Utility/LightSpeed thanks Tommy Lee for his years of service to RUC and its customers," Schuppner said. "His coverage of local public events and meetings will be missed. We wish Sharon and Tommy safe travels, and a long and enjoyable retirement together."
Tom Demmin, news and sports director for WRDB 1400 AM, WNFM 104.9 FM and WBDL 102.9 FM radio stations, said he's known Bychinski since he hired him in 1993.
"He let us be very creative when he was in charge here," Demmin said of Bychinski.
Demmin said he got to know Bychinski as a person during his time at the radio station and running into him at meetings while working for Reedsburg Utility.
"We really didn't think of him as a boss, it was more of a co-worker and a friend," Demmin said.
Follow Erica Dynes on Twitter @EDynes_CapNews or contact her at 608-393-5346.
Longtime Reedsburg radioman retires after more than 40 years

By Heather Stanek

Tommy Lee Bychinski signed off for the final time last Friday.

He’s been a voice on the radio for more than four decades and most recently worked for the Reedsburg Utility Commission. He was a common sight at Reedsburg Common Council and School Board meetings and participated in community events such as the Butterfest Parade.

Bychinski said he’s been thinking about retirement for 10 years and now seemed like the time. His wife, Sharon, is retired, and he said they want to spend more time RVing and seeing family.

“We want to enjoy the rest of our lives,” he said.

He said it’s been amazing to see how much the industry has changed over the years thanks to technology, and it’s been a lot of fun.

Early interest

Bychinski said his fascination with the spoken word began when he was a high schooler in Wausau. He’d watch the broadcasters at basketball games and constantly “bug” them with questions. Eventually they let him participate, which only further fueled his interest.

He finished college and landed his first job in 1964 at a radio station in Medford. In 1966, he moved to Marshfield for on-air work. After a couple years, Goetz Broadcasting planned to promote him to manage its Tomahawk location. That didn’t pan out, however. Instead, it offered him a chance to work in Reedsburg.

“I said, ‘Where the heck is Reedsburg?’” he recalled.

He arrived and did a little of everything. Besides the usual radio tasks, he also mowed the lawn, took care of the trash and baled water out of the basement during high water. Luckily for him, he retired from radio before the 2008 flood hit.

Reedsburg connections

In 1970, Bychinski became manager of the Reedsburg station. By 1972, he was part owner.

At the same time, he was active outside of the station. He was a volunteer firefighter with the Reedsburg Police Department and has great memories of former Chief Don Lichte. When he wasn’t helping battle blazes, he served as a secretary and treasurer. He’s also seen many a spaghetti supper.

He was president of the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association in 1990, and was on its board for six years.

In addition, he has served on the Sauk County Board for 17 years. He will continue in that position regardless of the retirement.

The Bychinskis also raised their family in Reedsburg. Their daughter, Tina Sukup, is a teacher at Webb Middle School and their son, Todd Bychinski, is a deputy with the Sauk County Sheriff’s Office.

He said the couple met at the Medford station “over Fritos and Pepsi,” and later relocated to Reedsburg with their two young children.

Sharon ended up getting a job at Gerber and then Lands’ End.

Changing times

At the same time, media was evolving. Radio was still big but TV and cable were also taking off.

Technology was changing at a dizzying pace. In his time, he saw the use of reels, cassettes and turntables move to computers and digital functions. Recordings from the Army and Navy Bands used to be the size of a large pizza.

“A lot of things happened in those days,” he said.

He said it was a blast being involved in so many things.

“I met a lot of great people,” he said.

In 2008, he retired from the station but ended up taking a job with the Utility to broadcast meetings. He said it wasn’t that difficult to transition because he was accustomed to change.

“I was kind of a techy nut anyway,” he said.

He credits former Utility Manager Dave Mikonowicz with introducing him to that side of broadcasting and giving him the TV job.

He noted that technology continues to evolve, with more people transitioning to web videos and streaming services. However, it’s still important for local utilities to carry meetings and make them available in some form or another, be it on cable channels or online.

“You have to keep the people informed. That’s the number one goal,” he said.

He added that it’s been quite a ride, one he has no qualms about taking.

“I don’t regret ever going into radio,” he said.
Slinger trustees OK deferred payment for liquor license applicants with overdue bills

Deferred payment agreement can only extend for 4-month period

By Joe VanDeLaarschot
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262-306-5054

SLINGER — Village trustees have taken another step designed to help struggling businesses in the village overcome the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The board, at its regular meeting earlier this week, agreed to authorize staff to accept a deferred payment agreement (DPA) for any past due utility bills that would normally have to be paid in full prior to liquor license renewals.

Village Administrator Margaret Wilber said the DPA can only extend for a four-month period, but it would still help some restaurant and tavern owners who have had limited revenues over the past couple of months.

“Village requirements state that no license or renewal shall be granted to anyone or any premises which is delinquent in any type of payment to the village,” Wilber said. “In view of the recent and ongoing pandemic situation staff asked if the Board wished to consider making an exception to this requirement for this renewal term only.”

Liquor license renewals for the 2020-2021 term will be brought before the Village Board at the June 15 meeting. Trustees have already agreed to reductions, for one-time only, for some liquor licenses to make up for the recent weeks some establishments had to remain close due to health restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“There are approximately 17 businesses that can be considered for license renewals later this month,” Wilber said. “Of those, three have past due amounts on the utilities equaling about two months’ billing. A fourth business still owes their personal property taxes at the time of this memo. These amounts would not be forgiven, but a DPA could be set up to ensure the outstanding balances are paid in installments once the business’ revenues start to pick up.”

The Public Service Commission recently issued a ruling during the early stages of the pandemic response that prohibits assessing late fees or disconnecting customers with delinquent accounts. Staff from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities spoke to the PSC earlier this week and confirmed that this ruling is still in effect even after the state Supreme Court ruling. PSC staff further indicated this would stay in effect until a new ruling is issued and they said there were no current plans to change this policy.

“There would be no fiscal impact from this measure,” Wilber told the board. “Payment would still be received, but allowing a deferral would enable a business to continue operations that would bring in additional revenues which in turn could be used for payment. Fortunately, the village’s utilities are in solid enough condition to accommodate this minimal delay in operating revenue.”

Recycling grant

Trustees were also informed that the village has been awarded about $12,500 as part of an annual recycling grant. It had been estimated the village would receive about $11,900, but has been awarded about $12,500 the last few years.
Obituary: Roland Walter Honold

By Door County Pulse | June 8, 2020

November 27, 1939 ~ June 4, 2020

Roland Walter Honold died at Sturgeon Bay Health Services on Thursday, June 4, 2020 after a two-year battle with cancer.

He was born at home in Baileys Harbor on November 27, 1939 to George and Charlotte (Eckert) Honold, graduated from Gibraltar High School, and married Joan Anschutz in October 1964.

“Rollie,” as everyone knew him, was a 21-year member of the Army Reserve and worked for over 40 years for the Sturgeon Bay Utilities. He was an active member of Girls Little League. He also built a successful firewood business in Carlsville. He loved the outdoors, deer hunting, eating out, socializing at taverns, and complaining about the Green Bay Packers. (One of his final requests was, “Make sure the TV works in my crypt!”) A devoted dad, grandpa, and great-grandpa, he enjoyed spending time with his extended family.

Roland will be missed by his son, Randall (Sydney Sidwell) of Chicago, IL; and daughter, Renee of Reno, NV; two granddaughters, Greta (Honold) Qaiyum and Lucy Honold; great-grandchildren, Julius, Cora, and Amina; and brother, George (Ruth) Honold, Jr.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Joan; and sisters, Jeanette Honold, Helen (Russell) Kalms, Lorraine (Ralph) Klansky, and Diane (John) Whitford.

“On behalf of the Honold family we want to thank Huehns Funeral Home, Dad’s at-home personal health care workers, the staff at Sturgeon Bay Health Services, neighbors, friends, and family.”

Due to these unprecedented times and for everyone’s safety, a private service is scheduled with entombment at the Shrine of the Good Shepherd Mausoleum at Nicolet Memorial Gardens in the Town of Scott.

Huehns Funeral Home in Sturgeon Bay is assisting the Honold family. Expressions of sympathy, memories, and photos of Roland may be shared with his family through his tribute page at www.huehnsfuneralhome.com.
Sturgeon Bay Utilities and Destination Sturgeon Bay Partnering to Bolster Small Businesses

By Door County Pulse | June 12th, 2020

Sturgeon Bay Utilities (SBU) and Destination Sturgeon Bay (DSB, sturgeonbay.net) are partnering to bolster small businesses. The not-for-profit utility will add $25 to every $50 gift card purchased through DSB, with a limit of $100 in total additions per person.

Community members who want to support local businesses can purchase qualifying gift cards in $50 increments at 36 S. 3rd Ave. in Sturgeon Bay or call 920.743.6246. The free gift cards must be used by Aug. 31, 2020. WPPI Energy, the community’s member-owned, not-for-profit wholesale power supplier, provided the funds for SBU’s Community Recharge project.
Destination Sturgeon Bay (DSB) has announced the start of the Graham Park Project on June 15, 10 am. This small, socially-distanced groundbreaking is the beginning of a big project for Sturgeon Bay, funded solely through the generosity of donors and community members.

The updated park will have a new water feature.

“This project is perhaps more important now than it even was when we started talking about the concept over a year ago,” said Pam Seiler, Executive Director of DSB. “Wide open spaces with beautiful gardens, a custom water feature designed by local artist, Rob Soukup, amphitheater seating for relaxation and intimate artistic activities, and free community games including ping-pong, bag toss, and chess and checkers, all will provide a beautiful backdrop to what we like to call Sturgeon Bay’s Welcome from the Water.”

Graham Park is located just below 1st Avenue at Oregon Street and adjacent to the Oregon Street Bridge. The project is funded through support from the Raibrook Foundation, the Dwight & Linda Davis Foundation, the Rick & Nancy Jeanquart Family, Door County Medical Center, Destination Sturgeon Bay Members, Hi-Tec Fabrication and Sturgeon Bay Utilities.
Lars Braschnewitz of Sterling Landscape Design designed the project and has dedicated his company to a 5 year “Adopt a Park” commitment whereby they’ll oversee all maintenance and upkeep of the park to establish all of the plantings and maintain the water feature. Sterling Landscape Design will work with the City of Sturgeon Bay Parks Department throughout the project.

DSB is continuing to look for donors to assist in completion of this project, slated for May, 2021. Major donor naming opportunities are available, and potential donors are asked to contact Pam Seiler directly at pam@sturgeonbay.net or by calling 920.743.6246.

A community support program is also being organized with the sale of commemorative brick pavers, trees, and park benches. Information on the community support program can be accessed by contacting DSB at 920.743-6246 or SturgeonBay.net/news/GrahamPark.
Thanks to a suggestion from Nancy Everson, the Sun Prairie Area School District and Sun Prairie Utilities will be constructing an outdoor classroom with a water well near the southern edge of the staff parking lot at Sun Prairie High School.

Board members approved a resolution of support for the plan, and Sun Prairie Utilities Manager Rick Wicklund spoke highly about the partnership and the possibilities for the facility during the May 26 Sun Prairie School Board meeting.

A report to the school board from SPASD Facilities and Grounds Director Kevin Sukow said SPU approached the district in August 2019 about including an area south of the existing high school in a study for a possible well site to serve future growth for the City of Sun Prairie.

“The main factors that SPU evaluated when exploring a potential site were: close to the area of future growth, close to an existing water main, and close to existing utilities,” Sukow wrote.

After evaluation, SPU determined the existing high school site would be the best place to site the well to meet their needs.

During initial discussions, SPU raised the possibility of collaborating on the well site to enhance educational
opportunities at SPHS.

“The idea of an outdoor classroom has been brought up many times, and the district asked SPU to come up with a concept proposal that would include outdoor classroom space, storage and bathrooms to enhance district programming opportunities,” Sukow wrote in his report.

SPU engaged MSA as its design and engineering partner, and they shared with us a concept proposal for the Well House that would include a bathroom facility, storage room and outdoor pavilion for the district, along with the well infrastructure that they were seeking.

The proposal has been shared with district and high school administration, as well as agriculture and science teachers, Sukow wrote.

“The group was overall supportive of the plan and are excited about the possibility of having an outdoor classroom to support their curriculum,” Sukow added.

After receiving our positive feedback, SPU worked with the city’s legal counsel to propose language to allow the district and SPU to gain approval from their respective boards to authorize both parties to reach acceptable agreements for a long term lease, with the building features already agreed upon.

Sukow wrote that the district is attempting to negotiate a long term lease with SPU for the area needed to construct a well house and attached outdoor classroom facilities.

SPU is seeking a low to no cost lease, in exchange for constructing and dedicating for use the outdoor classroom area.

Future costs could include those to outfit the outdoor classroom with furniture, technology, security camera, and other items, but the SPASD can’t identify those until after a final building proposal is made.

Funding for the items for the classroom could come from many sources, Sukow said — a building budget, innovation initiatives, facilities & grounds and/or Fund 49 funds designated for SPHS.

Despite the resolution of approval being drafted, at least one board member reacted negatively.

“I have no written on my piece of paper,” commented Sun Prairie School Board member Caren Diedrich, “because there are a couple of things I do not understand.”

The first was the exact location, Diedrich said.

Sukow said it will be located with 50 feet of the southern edge of the parking lot, but construction has to be sited to avoid existing water and geothermal lines.

Diedrich also asked what might be taught in the classroom.

Sukow said it could be anything from science to agriculture. He said SPU only needs a small portion for the well house, which leaves the remaining acreage for district use.

Diedrich then reflected on the need to purchase the land.

She said when district administration developed the plan to purchase the land, the district “needed it yesterday,” but a plan to use the land has not emerged.

Superintendent Brad Saron said the land acquisition occurred before the referendum to construct Sun Prairie West High School with the potential to address facilities needs.

The Secondary School Space Planning Committee even toyed with the idea of a ninth grade bump-out at the current SPHS building because that land was owned by the district.

When School Board President Steve Schroeder apologized for the extended meeting time, Wicklund shrugged it off. “I think you guys are all future Utilities Commissioners,” Wicklund said, “because our meetings go a long time also.”

Wicklund said when SPU first began to look at land near SPHS, former SPU commissioner Everson was the first to suggest working with SPASD on a combined facility that would also have an educational purpose. Wicklund said it was Everson who got district administration in touch with SPU to discuss the options.

The 30-by-40 foot space will cost $300,000 to construct, with SPU picking up the bill.

“Weel really like to make this a win-win for the citizens of Sun Prairie,” Wicklund said, adding that he would keep Sukow and district administration updated on the progress of the plan.

Schroeder thanked Wicklund for the partnership.

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning & Equity Stephanie Leonard-Witte welcomed the ability for SPHS and the district to use the new facility.

“I think it will be an incredible opportunity,” she added.

Board members agreed, giving the proposal a “thumbs up” in a roll call vote during the meeting held via Zoom.

Continued from Page A1
Small Business Emergency Loan Fund deadline extended

City of Sun Prairie businesses have until end of 2020 to apply

Qualified Sun Prairie small businesses will have the opportunity to apply for financial assistance through the city’s Small Business Emergency Loan Fund through the end of 2020.

The program originally had a May 2020 deadline that was extended by two weeks.

The Emergency Loan Fund Oversight Committee voted to leave the application period open through the end of this year.

Two completed applications have been received and are currently under review. Inquiries about the availability of funds have increased in the past couple of weeks. Any future applications will be reviewed as they are received.

“Even with the progress towards entering the initial phases of reopening under the Forward Dane guidelines, it is very difficult for some businesses to operate at 25% capacity, and there is still a tremendous amount of uncertainty as to when future phases will be started. The Oversight Committee felt there could still be significant economic distress experienced by small businesses in the coming weeks and months, and that as long as we have funds available the program should remain active,” said Neil Stechschulte, the City of Sun Prairie Economic Development Director and city representative on the Oversight Committee.

Loans of up to $5,000 are available for small businesses with 25 or fewer employees that have applied for assistance from the SBA, State of Wisconsin, or Dane County and did not receive the full amount they needed to stay viable.

Eligible expenses include Rent, Utilities, other Business Related Loan Payments or Leases, Insurance, Personal Protective Equipment, Cleaning Supplies, Lost Inventory, and other operating costs approved by the Loan Oversight Committee.

The total available funding is currently at $170,000.

Funds were contributed by the Bank of Sun Prairie, the Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce, the City of Sun Prairie, the Sun Prairie Tourism Commission, Sun Prairie Utilities, and the Downtown Sun Prairie Business Improvement District (BID).

Representatives of each of the previously listed organizations makes up the Oversight Committee for the loans.

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On June 11, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) voted unanimously to lift the temporary moratorium on utility disconnections for nonpayment during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The move occurred as the state continues to reopen and nearly a month after the state Supreme Court struck down Safer at Home. The PSC strongly encourages customers behind on payments to arrange for a payment plan, or apply for assistance.

"As our state's businesses reopen and people return to work by following the steps in the Badger Bounce Back plan, we must calibrate consumer protections with costs to all utility customers. The longer deferral of payments are allowed, the more it will impact utility bills for everyone. Our actions today will ensure that those who are able to pay will continue do so, and those who are struggling can seek a payment plan or apply for energy assistance," said Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson of the PSC.

"When working out payment plans with customers," Valcq added, "I strongly encourage utilities to provide extra flexibility for those whose lives and employment continue to be severely impacted by this disease."

To avoid disconnection, customers who have fallen behind on payments are encouraged to first contact their utility to set up a payment plan. Contact information for the largest utilities in Wisconsin is listed below:

Alliant Energy -- 1-800-255-4268

Madison Gas & Electric -- 1-800-245-1125

Sun Prairie Utilities -- 608-837-5500

We Energies -- 1-800-842-4565

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation -- 1-800-450-7260

If customers cannot reach an agreement with their utility, they may contact the PSC by calling 1-800-225-7729, or by filing a complaint on the PSC website.

For more information about utility disconnections and collections, see the PSC's fact sheet on residential customer rights.
If a customer is having difficulty paying their energy bill or receives a disconnection notice, they may be eligible for assistance from the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). To determine eligibility or find out where to apply for assistance, go to http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/ or call 1-866-HEATWIS."

If full payment or a payment plan cannot be agreed on, utilities will be allowed to send disconnection notices starting July 15. Customers who have a medical condition or are infected and sick with COVID-19 can still avoid disconnection with a temporary waiver from their utility.

Additionally, the PSC voted to allow utilities to commence charging late payment fees on debts incurred after July 15, refuse service for failure to provide documentation to prove identity and residency after July 25, and allow utilities to require a cash deposit as a condition of new service starting July 31.

On March 23, 2020, Gov. Tony Evers and Andrea Palm, Secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, ordered residents in the state to stay at home except when performing essential activities or accessing essential services.

In response to Evers’ initial Safer at Home order, the PSC met on March 24 and ordered that:

- No public utility may disconnect or refuse service to any customer for nonpayment;
- No public utility may refuse service to a new customer for failure to provide documentation to prove identity and residency;
- Every public utility shall offer to any customer a deferred payment agreement;
- No public utility may assess upon any customer any fee or charge for late payment; and
- No public utility may require a cash deposit or other guarantee as a condition of new service.

On May 13, 2020, the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down Safer at Home, ending measures put in place to manage the spread of COVID-19. The utility disconnection moratorium, however, remained in place.
City extends loan fund deadline to end of 2020

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Alders on June 16 voted to approve an overhauled general development plan for the Pumpkin Patch retail district on the city’s west side — despite objections from a neighboring developer and a former mayor.

On June 9, members of the Sun Prairie Plan Commission voted to reject a revised general development plan (GDP) for Pumpkin Patch. Among other objections, commissioners voiced concerns about the size and location of a Meijer gas station-convenience store sign, traffic flow, building appearance and materials for the Meijer Supercenter, and street width.

Materials presented for alders to consider on June 16 addressed many of those concerns:

**Building materials.** A Meijer real estate representative told alders that stacked, cultured limestone had been added to the exterior of the Meijer Supercenter building. Ashley Mack told alders the design for the new store will be a new design by Meijer with a more modern feel. She told alders the renderings “don’t do the store justice” because it looks much better when completed.

The changes were made after commissioners and neighboring developer Chad Fedler raised concerns about the type of building materials being used.

Fedler, whose West Prairie Village has several hundred thousand square feet of potential retail space and more than 600 apartment entitlements, is also the developer of Prairie Lakes nearby. He used slides to show the upgraded quality of the development — with top-of-the-line finishes that included split-face block and limestone columns.
While admitting he objected to it at first — despite insistence by the city on the higher finishes — Fedler said he now believes better architectural standards and building materials result in higher quality of retail development.

Developer Jeff Hundley went back to Meijer and asked them to tweak the design elements on the building after the commission meeting.

“We were surprisingly humbled last week by the planning commission,” Hundley told alders during the Zoom meeting. But he said he was pleased with the final product.

Mack told alders the building materials are similar to other “warm” building designs and in some cases are better because the finished concrete closely resembles split block.

Fedler accused Meijer of painting mortar marks into the walls to make it appear the walls were brick instead of concrete panels.

**Traffic flow.** West Prairie Village attorney Mike Lawton pointed out problems with traffic flow into the Meijer convenience store and specifically objected to the street width being proposed for Lantern Drive, one of the frontage roads near Main Street that will service the convenience store.

Lawton also said a traffic impact analysis should be completed for the Meijer properties because the new development could impact neighboring properties such as Prairie Lakes and West Prairie Village.

But Kugler pointed out the traffic study, while debated by city staff, was not needed. “We don’t think this changes things substantially,” Kugler told the council. He also said any general development plan includes certain trade-offs, such as public benefit in exchange for design concessions including street width and sign placement.

Hundley agreed with Kugler. “The last thing we want is a street problem and a traffic problem,” Hundley said, adding that any traffic issues on the internal street layout will kill business.

**Sign placement and height.** Kugler said Meijer has agreed to move the 16-by-9 foot monument sign advertising the presence of the convenience store which had been scheduled to be placed in the public right-of-way. The sign will now be smaller — less than 14 feet high — and not require a separate approval. It will also be placed on one of the development lots instead of on the corner.
During one point in the discussion, Fedler said he believed the city had a conflict of interest in developing Pumpkin Patch. Instead of balancing the interests of residents and taxpayers, the city was in a position to allow certain concessions in the development that were not allowed for other developments.

Former mayor Joe Chase objected to the sign placement without knowing the sign had been moved, but also opposed the development for other reasons. “It has also been pointed out that the Meijer store architectural building materials were relaxed for this development which shows a disregard for the high standards that were required in the Prairie Lakes Development,” Chase wrote to the council.

“My comments at prior meetings regarding the Pumpkin Patch Farm Development were that Sun Prairie Partners, LLC have no regard for the image they are proposing for the gateway corridor to Sun Prairie via State Highway 151,” Chase wrote.

“Another plain big box store, but first tear down an historic 1866 era home, instead of integrating some aesthetics into a development which they, with a tone of mockery, called the Pumpkin Patch Farm Development,” Chase said. “For all these reasons, I ask you to vote no on these two resolutions.”

Alders voted unanimously to approve the improved GDP and a companion resolution approving a Preliminary and Final Plat of Pumpkin Patch Farms. The final plat revises a previously approved plat to create seven lots and three outlots located on approximately 51 acres of land located south of West Main Street and west of South Thompson Road.

The council also approved a request from Pumpkin Patch to install private utility services from Sun Prairie Utilities as part of the council’s June 16 agenda.
OUR VIEW

Sun Prairie has good economic news -- now and in the future

Tired of reading about record unemployment and an economy struggling to recover from COVID-19? Let us help you with the good news right here in Sun Prairie.

Consider these current and future projects in the works in Sun Prairie:

• The Bougie Building. This is the three story structure proposed for the corner of Vine and Main streets in downtown Sun Prairie, where developer and Sun Prairie Glass Nickel Pizza owner Adam Bougie plans to relocate his restaurant with some additional apartments.

While the proposal still needs to clear the regulatory hurdles of the plan commission and city council, the proposal could be a win-win for a corner previously saddled with a former service station and auto repair garage.

• Foss Swim School. The school announced it would begin accepting enrollment in early July with the intent to open in October. The school remains under construction as part of the Grand on Main development near the corner of Grand Avenue and Main Street on the city’s west side. Full enrollment will mean kids and their parents will be a captive audience for some of the businesses in Grand on Main that already include HuHot, Park Bank and Jimmy John’s as well as other health and beauty businesses.

And it’s sure to generate more interest in that area which is already adding a Summit Credit Union location and a Hy-Vee health and convenience store.

• Pumpkin Patch. The proposed development to be located just west of Thompson Road will include a Meijer superstore, a Meijer gas station and convenience store and other retailers whose stores will be constructed closer to Thompson Road.

You may recall the Sun Prairie Plan Commission rejected a general development plan (GDP) for the proposed development for a wide variety of reasons ranging from the appearance of the Meijer superstore to the method by which vehicles will safely access the gas station and convenience store from West Main Street.

The recommendation to the council, candidly, had disaster written all over it - particularly when the City of Sun Prairie had invested nearly two years of time and effort to make the development a reality.

But officials from Meijer and Sun Prairie Partners -- the developers of Pumpkin Patch -- rolled up their sleeves and addressed almost all of the issues brought up during the Plan Commission meeting. Alders were accepting enough of the plan that the city council approved the GDP to allow the development to move towards a June 30th closing date.

Perhaps more importantly, The City of Sun Prairie is constructing a storm water detention basin that will serve the entire west side.

• TIF 14. The city’s 14th Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District will include the Bougie Building, but also more importantly, most of the properties located near the Bristol-Main intersection damaged in the July 10, 2018 explosion.

The TIF is needed to allow those properties to develop the area that will include a new Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field. We invite readers to watch with us as this proposal moves ahead this year and hopefully towards development of those properties in 2021.

Economic news is not always good, but there’s plenty to celebrate in Sun Prairie.
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Two Rivers Residents See Drop in Electric Rate

June 04, 2020 06:00 am
Lakeshore News

Off the heels of Manitowoc Public Utilities lowering the electric rate, residents in Two Rivers are now seeing a similar trend.

WPPI Energy, the company that supplies power to over 200,000 customers including those in Two Rivers, released their monthly report, which shows that the electric rate has dropped by 6.5%.

Ken Kozak, the Electric Utility Director said, “Our long term power supply contract, our ownership in assets (we are about 2%) and the services and support are all components that ensure TRWL and the other 50 communities are set on a solid path to be the best in class of the Utilities of the future.”
WATERLOO — Several graduating students at Waterloo High School received scholarships to continue their education.

The students who received awards are listed in alphabetical order.

Eim Ahnmer received the Waterloo High School Class Scholarship for $500 and the Waterloo High School Art Club Scholarship for $50. His co-curricular activities included basketball, FBLA, FFA, journalism, student council, track, W-Club, and yearbook. He plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to major in art and design.

Makayla Bats also received a Waterloo High School Art Club Scholarship for $500 and Waterloo High School Art Club Scholarship for $8,000. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, basketball, basketball assistant, Pep Band, Pep Band, track, W-Club, and yearbook. She plans to attend Madison College and Madison Art College with a major in interior design.

Chloe Baur received the Waterloo High School Alumni Association Scholarship for $250. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, Pep Band, Pep Band, track, W-Club, and yearbook. She plans to attend Madison College to major in architecture.

Vanessa Cervantez received the Waterloo High School Alumni Association Scholarship for $500. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, Basketball, basketball assistant, Pep Band, Pep Band, track, W-Club, and yearbook. She plans to attend Madison College to major in nursing.

Jeevan Dilli received a Class of 1970 50th Reunion Scholarship for $500 and FFA Scholarship for $280. His co-curricular activities included: Badger Boys State, baseball, basketball, FBLA, FFA, journalism, yearbook, and York. He will attend Madison College to major in engineering.

Christina Forman received an Edgewood College Founders Scholarship for $1,500, a 1902 Foundation Scholarship for $8,000, Mary W. Stremmer Scholarship for $900, and Dr. Wesley Cleveland Scholarship for $250. Her co-curricular activities included basketball, baseball, basketball assistant, blood drive volunteer, junior class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, FFA, FPA, Friends of Education, student council, volleyball, W-Club, and YOST. She will attend the University of Wisconsin-Stout to major in interior design.

Andrew Grundahl received a V. Lehmann Anonymous Scholarship for $1,000. His co-curricular activities included: Art Club, class officer, drama/music productions, FBLA, FFA, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Pep Band, Pep Band, Pep Band, and yearbook. He plans to attend Madison College and Madison Art College to major in music education.

Chloe Fitzgerald received a Waterloo High School Class Scholarship for $250. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, basketball, basketball assistant, Pep Band, Pep Band, student council, track, and W-Club. She plans to attend Madison College and Madison Art College to major in music education.

A006 2020 arship for $250. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, basketball, blood drive volunteer, class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, FFA, Forensics, student council, track, and W-Club. She plans to attend Madison College and Madison Art College to major in criminal justice.

Andrew Hurd received a Karl Junginger Foundation Scholarship for $1,250. His co-curricular activities included: Art Club, basketball, blood drive volunteer, class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, FFA, Forensics, student council, track, and W-Club. He plans to attend Madison College and Madison Art College to major in music education.

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Samantha Johnson received the Watertown High School Class Scholarship for $1,000. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, basketball, blood drive volunteer, class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, Forensics, GSA, student council, track, and W-Club. She plans to attend Madison College to major in nursing.

Anna Langhner received a Mary W. Stremmer Scholarship for $2,250. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, blood drive volunteer, class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, Forensics, GSA, student council, track, and W-Club. She plans to attend Madison College to major in nursing.

Caden Ponti received the Krause Langer Veterans of Foreign Wars 2020 Scholarship for $1,000. His co-curricular activities included: Art Club, basketball, blood drive volunteer, class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, Forensics, GSA, student council, track, and W-Club. He plans to attend UW-Stevens Point to major in wildlife ecology and conservation management.

Sydney Schoenhoff received an Edgewood College Presidential Scholarship for $20,000. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, basketball, blood drive volunteer, class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, Forensics, GSA, student council, track, and W-Club. She plans to attend UW-La Crosse to major in education.

Kaleb Uttech received a Waterloo High School Class Scholarship for $500. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, basketball, blood drive volunteer, class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, Forensics, GSA, student council, track, and W-Club. She plans to attend UW-La Crosse to major in education.

Patricia Vavrus received a Waterloo High School Class Scholarship for $2,250. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, blood drive volunteer, class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, Forensics, GSA, student council, track, and W-Club. She plans to attend Madison College to major in nursing.

Kelly Weber received a Waterloo High School Class Scholarship for $2,250. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, blood drive volunteer, class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, Forensics, GSA, student council, track, and W-Club. She plans to attend Madison College to major in nursing.

Kaitlyn Wessling received a Waterloo High School Class Scholarship for $2,250. Her co-curricular activities included: Art Club, blood drive volunteer, class officer, Driven Team, FBLA, Forensics, GSA, student council, track, and W-Club. She plans to attend Madison College to major in nursing.

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Properties of Wisconsin News Tracker and members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.
South Spring intersection closed

The intersection of South Spring Street and Cooper Street/Judson Drive will be completely closed to all traffic from Wednesday June 3 until Friday June 5, weather permitting, to allow the contractor to construct underground utilities in the intersection. S. Spring Street through traffic is encouraged to use an alternate route or the signed detour route on Front Street, S. Center Street, Cooper Street, Myrtle Road, and Beltline Drive.

Waupun utilities earns honor

WAUPUN — Waupun Utilities has received national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2019, according to a May 1 press release. The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association, a trade group that represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.

The association helps electric utilities track power outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service and then compares the data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

“We are proud to receive this recognition. It is a testament to the hard work of all our staff to ensure that we keep Waupun powered,” said Steve Brooks, general manager at Waupun Utilities.

Crews worked to complete a large voltage conversion project in 2019 to provide safe and reliable electric service to the community.

For more information, visit waupunutilities.com.
Westby’s Class of 2020 recognized at virtual Senior Awards Night

The 2020 Senior Awards Night at Westby Area High School was held virtually June 3 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The welcome address was presented by Steve Michaels, Westby Area School District superintendent.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

President: Claire Griffin; Vice President: Josi Bishop; Secretary – Claire Griffin; Treasurer – Josi Bishop.

Subcommittee: McKenna Manske
Valedictorian: Joseph Armbruster
National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution – Good Citizen Award: Bree Hatlan

WESTBY AMERICAN LEGION AWARDS

Westby American Legion Athletic Awards: Claire Griffin, Austin Mowery
Westby American Legion Music Awards: Instrumental – Devin Nelson; Vocal – Manuel Chavez
Westby American Legion Oratory Award: Cooper Lipski
Westby American Legion Certificate of School Award: Conor Vatland
Westby American Legion Citizenship Award: Bree Hatlan

MISCELLANEOUS AWARDS

Senior Class Officers: President – Conor Vatland; Vice President – Bree Hatlan; Secretary – Claire Griffin; Treasurer – Josi Bishop
La Crosse Tribune Extra Effort Award: Manuel Chavez
Westby VFW Citizenship Award: Joseph Armbruster

ATHLETIC RECOGNITION

Coulee Conference Scholar Athlete Awards: Claire Griffin, Austin Mowery


ARMED FORCES RECOGNITION

Students Enlisted in the Armed Forces: Jositina Gunderson, Evan Hendrickson

SCHOLARSHIPS

Corey Aarnes Memorial Scholarship: Isaac McCanley
Adams Eye Clinic Scholarship: Abigail Larrington
The American Red Cross Scholarship: Evan Peterson
FC & Johann Lomen Anderson Scholarship: Rebecca Buckles
Lauren Berg Memorial “Never Miss a Chance to Dance” Scholarships: Bree Hatlan, Lisa Jackson, Amanda Marshall
Laura and Joe Bowers Scholarship: Cole Peterson
Chaseburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit #202 Scholarship: Jordan Gettelman
Chaseburg American Legion Post #202 Scholarship: McKenna Manske, Chaseburg American Legion Auxiliary & Post #202 Scholarship: Amanda Marshall
Chaseburg Farmers Co-op Scholarship: Jack Harris, Andy Terri Pedace Scholarship: Kaydan Jothen
Friends of Chaseburg Scholarships: Bree Hatlan, Amanda Marshall
Military Scholarship: Jordan Gettelman, Haley Hagen
Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board Academic Excellence

Westby Area Scholarships: Manuel Chavez, Abigail Larrington, Flora Gardensen Garden Club Scholarship: Adam Toath
Friends of Chaseburg Scholarships: Jordan Gettelman, Bree Hatlan, Amanda Marshall
Clarice Grifflin Estate Scholarship: Josi Bishop
Governmental Employees Credit Union (G.E.C.U.): Haley Hagen
Lee Mockrud Scholarship (University of Wisconsin-Madison): Conor Vatland
John & Terri Pedace Scholarship: Kaydan Jothen
Rockton Sportsman’s Club Scholarship: Rebecca Buckles
Sons of Norway Westby-Solvang Lodge 457 Scholarship: Sodona Radiu; Walter A. Southern Scholarships (University of Wisconsin-Madison): Joseph Armbruster, Rebecca Buckles, McKenna Manske, Anna Orte, Conor Vatland
State of Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board Academic Excellence

INTERNET PHOTO
Awards


NORSE FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

Dorothy A. Bekkum Memorial Scholarships—McKenna Manske, Anna Orte; Naomi Flugstad Bekkum Memorial Scholarships: Eva Lee, Cole Peterson; Al-Yce and Orrin Chestelson Scholarships: Josi Bishop, Haley Hagen; Edward and Anna Kerska Scholarship—Noah Benish; David J. Larson Memorial Scholarship: Katherine Wollman; Bryan Lejeune Memorial Scholarship: Karly Anderson; Howard and Joanne Midtlien Scholarship: Bree Hatlan; Norsemen Booster Club Scholarships: Claire Griffin, Austin Mowery; Dale Nestingen Agriculture Scholarship: Izaak McCauley; Anthony Olson Memorial Scholarships: Claire Griffin, Eva Lee; Rod and Martha Olson Scholarships—Tyler Christianson, Amanda Marshall; Richard W. “Perk” Perkins Scholarships: Jordyn Race, Cole Peterson; Richard W. “Perk” Perkins Scholarships: David Flugstad; William Running Scholarships—Josi Bishop, Claire Griffin; Naomi Schoville Memorial Scholarship—Zachary Harris; Theodore R. Thompson Scholarships: Melody Berg, Claire Griffin, Abigail Larrington, Austin Mowery; Veum Family Memorial Scholarships—In Memory of Alice and Kermit Veum: Melody Berg, Abigail Larrington; Westby High School Class of 1969 Scholarships: Sedona Radke, Molly Stenslien; Western Wisconsin Video Production Scholarship: Abigail Larrington, Austin Mowery; Norse Fund Board Scholarship—In Honor of Robert Bland: Noah Nelson; Norse Fund Board Scholarships: Izaak Chavez, Liza Jackson, Cooper Lipski, Devin Nelson, Savana Radke, Linda Schmitz, Chloe Stellner.