

EDGERTON REPORTER

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COVID-19 concerns continue

Edgerton police, emergency workers call for calm

By Mary Hookham
Special to the Reporter

The Edgerton Police and Fire departments are optimistic about handling a potential coronavirus outbreak in the event one occurs in Edgerton. Both departments urge citizens to be calm and reasonable as everyone navigates through a new reality.

"I believe my experiences have prepared me for this," said Police Chief Robert Kowalski. "We're not panicking; rather, we're taking this on

a case-by-case basis and will continue to work closely with the emergency management team of Rock County."

Kowalski said his department is receiving information and assistance from that team. He uses what he's receiving from the county to help keep his officers safe as they respond to calls every day.

"For the most part, this is business as usual, but my officers are being cautious," he said. "They're using masks and latex gloves, but if there is

an ambulance call, the police are not responding with the ambulance unless the call is criminal in nature."

The Edgerton Fire Department has officially closed the station to the public beginning March 19. Citizens can obtain burn permits and submit general inquiries online.

"When we respond to calls, we are maintaining six feet of distance between us and the patients," said Jason Russ, deputy chief of operations at

See **CALL FOR CALM**, 8

Hospital prepared to treat virus

By Sam Martino
Special to the Reporter

Like other hospitals small and big facing the onslaught of patients from the coronavirus, Edgerton Hospital is prepared to treat cases from the pandemic, according to officials.

"We are working directly with public health officials to closely monitor the space that may be needed for potential patients," said a statement to The Reporter.

Edgerton Hospital spokesperson Sunny Bowditch said the hospital has "sufficient supply of personal protective equipment and continues to monitor and use our supply wisely."

"We also have testing kits available in our laboratory, and are fully prepared to test and care for patients that may come our way," she said.

Meanwhile, to protect patients in the hospital, limita-

tions have been placed on patient visitors.

Edgerton Hospital is a critical access hospital with 18 patient rooms.

Rock County has reported three cases of coronavirus. The cases involve a 57-year-old and 29-year-old. Officials have not released any details on the third case.

Dane County also has reported cases of the virus which has challenged health providers. The coronavirus has wrecked havoc on health systems throughout the world with thousands of deaths in China and Italy and a few hundred in the U.S.

The Edgerton Hospital said it was responding to COVID-19 by joining SSM Health, UW Health, UnityPoint Health Meriter and many other rural hospitals in postponing non-life threatening, non-urgent surgeries and procedures.

Cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation visits and all non-life threatening, non-urgent procedures have been rescheduled.

"The incident command team at Edgerton Hospital is meeting daily to ensure that Edgerton Hospital is fully prepared to manage this pandemic," said CEO Jim Schultz.

The emergency and urgent care operation is open to the community, but the entrance will be locked throughout the day. All patients and visitors will be screened for a fever as well as for symptoms associated with COVID-19 before entry into the hospital.

The hospital's first response to the coronavirus was to postpone all community programs and events.

Officials said the pandemic "is a rapidly evolving situation" that will continue to be monitored on a daily basis.



The drive-in portion of A&W Restaurant on Edgerton's North Main Street, remained open as of Tuesday.

Photo by Toni Turnquist

Restaurants trying to stay open with pick-up and delivery service

By Sam Martino
Special to the Reporter

With restaurants and bars shut down from serving customers on premises because of the coronavirus, a handful of Edgerton businesses are offering curbside pickup and drive-thru services.

The practice began shortly after Governor Tony Evers ordered all bars, taverns and restaurants to forego business hours indoors to help reduce social contact between large numbers of customers.

The impact on taverns and restaurants being required to limit their food and beverage services has added to the nationwide economic downturn and fear of a recession.

Several Edgerton restaurants

have reported sharp declines in their business and some have laid off workers.

On a more positive note, some restaurants report local residents have stepped up to continue to do business with them at curbside locations and call-in of pickup orders. They also are using mobile ordering through the Culvers app.

Scott Mallon of Culvers said the Edgerton restaurant has been able to continue operating its drive-thru and curbside business during normal hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Mallon said the Edgerton Culvers so far is "able to maintain operations" with all of its 28 full-time and 58 part-time employees.

See **RESTAURANTS**, 8

Rock County has third coronavirus case

By Sam Martino
Special to the Reporter

A third case of coronavirus in Rock County has aroused the concern of health authorities because its source may be lodged in the county.

This third person had no known contact with a confirmed positive resident and no known travel to a location with established community spread, officials said.

"It is likely it was community acquired," according to a statement from Marie-Noel Sandoval of the Rock County Public Health Agency.

"Everyone, including people without symptoms, could be infectious," said Sandoval.

The age of the latest person who contracted the coronavirus was not revealed.

Sandoval warned that younger people, and particularly those who are 18 to 30 years old, aren't immune to COVID-19.

"Anyone can contract COVID-19. So it's important for everyone, including young, healthy people to practice social distancing," Sandoval added.

Health officials have warned that older people with health issues are at the greatest risk of acquiring the deadly illness that attacks the respiratory system.

The coronavirus has swept through the world, beginning in China and leapfrogging to Italy with thousands of deaths.

In the United States the coronavirus impacted the country, including Wisconsin where hundreds have been confirmed with positive cases of COVID-19.

Governor Tony Evers' "Stay at Home" order went into effect Tuesday to try to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The order is aimed at trying to "Flatten the Curve" of the outbreak.

The term "Flatten the Curve" refers to reducing the number of people who might come in contact with the coronavirus by practicing social distancing, staying at home and

See **THIRD CASE**, 5



Milton and Janesville firefighters work to extinguish the fire in the garage area of the structure.

Photo by Dave Sheen - Edgerton Fire Dept.

Milton blaze quickly extinguished

By Tristan McGough
Special to the Reporter

"We got the fire under control in five minutes," stated the Incident Commander, Chris Lukas, Battalion Chief and EMT-Basic for the Milton Fire Department.

However, even with rapid deployment of overwhelming firefighting forces and swift extinguishment of the fire itself, residential damage was considerable.

"We got the call on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at 11:25 a.m. and immediately responded," Lukas said.

He—along with the fire departments from Milton, Edgerton and Janesville—were promptly dispatched to the home at 1405 E. Highway 59, Milton, near N. Bay Shore Lane, to combat a raging fire that had originated in the adjacent garage.

Edgerton Fire Protection District (EFPD) fire chief Randall Pickering described, "The home was occupied at the time of the fire, but the female, who was originally alerted by the smoke alarms sounding, was able to exit safely."

Pickering added, "Her husband was outside working in the yard at the time."

See **MILTON FIRE**, 3

Edgerton schools revamp food delivery service

By Sam Martino
Special to the Reporter

The Safer at Home order by Governor Tony Evers Tuesday has required Edgerton School District to shift its grab-and-go food program to a home delivery system.

Following the March 17 announcement of the shutdown of all schools statewide, Edgerton began offering bag lunches to all students in a curbside grab-and-go manner.

Families picked up meals at the entrance to the high school between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

During the regular school year about 38 percent of the school system's nearly 1,900 students are part of a federally subsidized meal program to assist low income families.

However, school superintendent Dennis Pauli said the new take-home meal program would operate on Wednesday and Friday this week before changing next week.

"Families will be provided enough meals to last several days," said Pauli.

On Monday 200 meals were distributed.

With the governor's new Safer at Home order, the Edgerton school system will make deliveries the next two weeks.

"The one thing we've learned is that whatever plan we have today will likely be revised in the future due to this evolving situation," said Pauli.

Beginning next week, meals will be delivered on Tuesday and Friday with multiple meals being dropped off at a time, said Pauli.

Pauli said the meals will be delivered to the front door of homes and delivery workers will ring the doorbell or knock on the door and then leave.

The drop-and-go plan is to comply with a social distance rule to keep at least a 6-foot distance from others.

See **FOOD SERVICE**, 5

Gas Watch

Nat. Average.....	\$2.129
WI Average.....	\$1.770
WI lowest - Waukesha.....	\$1.320
Janesville.....	\$1.390
Milton.....	\$1.480
Newville.....	\$1.590
Edgerton - range.....	\$1.680 - \$1.790
Evansville.....	\$1.890
Fort Atkinson.....	\$1.880
Stoughton.....	\$1.790
Cambridge.....	\$1.790
Madison.....	\$1.450
Milwaukee.....	\$1.550

Latest prices reported for one gallon of unleaded gasoline according to local observations and GasBuddy.com as of 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 23, 2020. Prices listed are the lowest in each city, which may be one or more stations

Office closed

Dear Readers,
We are heeding the recommendation from the Department of Health: For the safety of our customers and our employees, The Edgerton Reporter office will be closed to the public.
We are still here to serve you. You may call us and put items in the mailbox. Please take good care of yourself and those around you.
—Diane Everson,
publisher

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