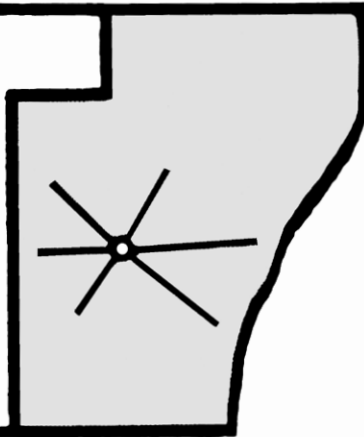


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State awarded tobacco funds

The state is in line to receive about \$14 million, thanks to an arbitration panel's ruling in a multi-state tobacco settlement dating back to 1998. Wisconsin and 45 other states reached an agreement with the nation's four largest tobacco companies to settle dozens of state lawsuits seeking reimbursement for health care costs associated with smoking-related illnesses. Attorney General Josh Kaul said that a panel made up of former federal judges has ruled that cigarette manufacturers who didn't join the settlement must pay \$14 million to the state that they withheld.

Coronavirus refuses to just let go

Health official comes face to face with COVID

By Todd S. Bergmann

Stephanie Lambert returned to work on Tuesday after being off two weeks with COVID-19.

"This is a success story," she said. "That germ ended with me."

Lambert is director of the Manitowoc County Health Department and has spent much of the past year and a half educating and fighting against the virus that causes the disease.

After getting vaccinated, wearing a mask and taking other precautions, Lambert said she is unsure how she got the breakthrough coronavirus case, but said it was likely a delta variant of the coronavirus.

"With the delta variant, we are seeing an uptick in COVID-19 among vaccinated people," she said. "That is why we are encouraging everyone to wear a mask at this time."

"This delta variant is very infectious. I did everything I could by being fully vaccinated and wearing my mask at indoor public settings."

The day before noticing symptoms, Lambert said she wore a mask while visiting her vaccinated 93-year-old grandfather.

"I was feeling great," she said. "I know that there is a high level of community transmission and did not want to risk it."

Her case is an example of someone who wore a mask to protect others from getting the virus, although both were vaccinated, Lambert said.

"When I got my COVID test results I was very happy that I wore a mask," she said. "My grandpa is doing great."

Few vaccinated people are being admitted to hospitals with coronavirus infections, Lambert said.

"Despite there being breakthrough cases of COVID 19, vaccinated people continue to have much better outcomes than unvaccinated people," she said.

The number of coronavirus patients admitted to Northeast Wisconsin hospitals grew from 16 on June 21 to 76 on Sept. 1 and to 94 on Tuesday.

"We are seeing an incredible spike in COVID-19 hospitalizations," Lambert said. "In the month, we have seen hospitalizations go up 308%."

"We are almost halfway to the peak of November of last year."

After slowing down in spring, COVID-19 cases have increased in recent weeks.

From June 21 to Sept. 1, Manitowoc County had 1,935 new cases, bringing the total to 9,590. Also during this time, the county saw 25 coronavirus-related deaths, bringing the total to 99 since the start of the pandemic.

Lambert said recent increases come from the growth of the delta variant.

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Thinking Caps On

Fourth grader Jana Jaeger ponders a question during a class at Valders

Elementary School on Friday. She and hundreds of others in Valders returned to school last week for another year of studying. See p. 8 for more school photos.
—Journal Photo

9/11: Teddy bears and silver linings

Area native recalls both good and bad of helping in NYC for days following attacks

By Todd S. Bergmann

Teddy bears—lots of them—and seeing a city pull itself together stick out in George Carroll's mind as positive memories of the two weeks following the terrorist attack on New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

"It is a really surreal experience," he said in a phone call from his home in Thailand. "Most of my memories of Sept. 11 and the weeks after it are good memories."

"If it wasn't for the people of New York coming together, New York would have fallen into chaos. No one was in control."

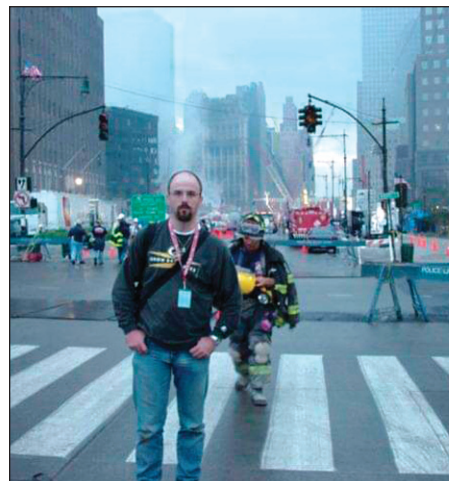
Carroll, who grew up in Valders, left his job at a computer gaming company in Boston to volunteer in New York after that fateful day 20 years ago.

In a similar situation a year earlier, Carroll remembers when the Storm of 2000 hit back home in St. Nazianz and the surrounding area, and how many people volunteered to help, including doing repair work on his parents' business.

"People came into my parents' house and cleaned up their house," he added. "It is something that they do, help people when they need it. That is how we are raised in Wisconsin."

On Sept. 12, 2011, Carroll left Boston and drove to New York.

"At that time it was chaos," he said. "No-body knew what was going on."



9/11 Memories

George Carroll, who grew up in Valders, stands in New York City in the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, with the World Trade Center site behind him.

Carroll said he asked where he could help. Someone directed him to the Javits Center on West 34th Street near the Hudson River.

"When I got there, I was a little naive," he said. "(I thought) I could go there and maybe dig somebody out."

Other people, some wearing hard hats or safety vests, were thinking the same. Carroll

said.

"When I get to the ground zero site, it is not something where you can start digging around with a shovel," he said. "It is a big construction site that is on fire."

Firefighters, disaster workers and steelworkers helped where the World Trade Center's twin towers once stood, Carroll recalled.

"If I had actually gone to that site, I would have been more of a hindrance than anything else," he said.

He recalled that people from around the country sent many stuffed animals to New York in the wake of the attacks.

"That is not something that we think of as immediately useful," he said. "But, it was." Those working in the aftermath of the destruction would walk up to the stuffed animals placed on a iron beam under a freeway, Carroll said.

"People would just hug them and cry," he said. "Grown adults, cops, FBI agents and firemen would be hugging these teddy bears and crying."

"People would break down and cry. You'd just leave them in their space and they would go back to work."

Carroll remembered seeing veteran FBI agents crying.

"They would come back and break down in tears," he said. "Kids would send their
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