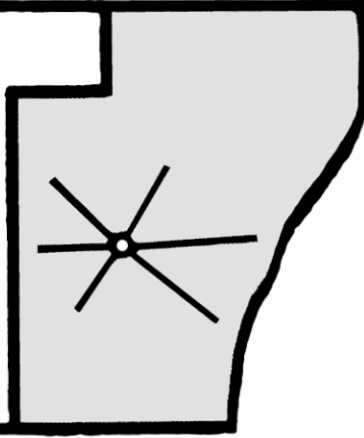


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Winter blast pops off power

Wintery weather on Sunday, including snow and strong winds moving through the area, caused a power outage to 105 Wisconsin Public Service Corp. customers in Valders. The outage started at 2:10 p.m., utility spokesman Matt Cullen said. He said crews restored service to all impacted customers by 6:20 p.m.

'I'm sad': Virus keeps deadly pace

County health official calls for higher vaccination rate

By Todd S. Bergmann

COVID-19 caused one in five deaths in Manitowoc County in November, Health Officer Stephanie Lambert said.

"It does not have to be this way," she said. "I'm sad."

In November, 19 deaths in the county were attributed to or suspected to be caused by the coronavirus, Lambert said. Two of the deaths were people who died at home after a positive test for coronavirus.

"The sad thing is that these are preventable deaths," she said. "The large majority of deaths remain among the unvaccinated."

If people in households with the virus would get vaccinated, Lambert said that would reduce transmission and protect everyone.

"The thing to do to end this pandemic is to just get vaccinated," she said.

More than 40% of people in Manitowoc County remain unvaccinated, with only 56.4% having received at least one dose, she said.

People who are not fully vaccinated, including a booster shot, should go to their doctor or pharmacy, Lambert said.

"The vaccine is widely available, effective and free," she said.

People should have a booster shot, which gives 93% more protection than a two-shot series on the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine, Lambert said.

"That is really a good way to boost your immune system," she said. "It provides incredible protection against infection."

"It will not only keep you healthier, it will help you from transmitting the disease to ones around you. That is really the best way to be part of the solution."

People with concerns or questions about the vaccine should call the health department at 920-683-4155, Lambert said.

"We will always be able to offer guidance and scientific clarity," she said. "There is a lot of information and misinformation out there."

COVID-19 is not like mumps or chicken-pox, Lambert said. Once people have the

See Virus p. 7



Christmas Shine

Nia Sprang is aglow with the lights from the Christmas trees in the Lions

cabin at the annual Christmas at Sinawa event last Saturday at the camp south of Valders. See p. 8 for more photos of the event. —Journal Photo

Whitelaw plans to revamp permit

By Todd S. Bergmann

Questions remain about a conditional use permit for Third Gen Salvage in Whitelaw, sending the matter to the village board's zoning committee before likely board action early next year.

For a half year, village officials and residents have discussed apparent violations of the junkyard's conditional use permit, which the village board issued in May 2019.

That permit requires a fenced-in 85-by-80-foot area for storing junk vehicles. Now, the property has a larger fence, but only on two sides.

At Monday's village board meeting, Gene Schneider, village president, said the board made a mistake by loosely writing a permit

that contains little that is binding.

"One of the first mistakes we made is we did not have a lawyer write up a contract," he said. "That is probably what we should have done. But, that's not what happened."

"That's in the past. We need to make it better for the future. It will take some time to go over this and make decisions on this."

Schneider and other board members said they would like a fence on each side of the yard.

Board member Beverly Linzmeier said that although business owner Will Clark put together a list of things he wants in a new permit, the village board is in control and may fashion its own permit, with assistance from an attorney.

"We need to tell him what goes in that conditional use permit, not him telling us," Linzmeier said.

If Clark could not follow his permit, Linzmeier said he should have come to the board and requested a change rather than just going ahead and violating it.

"He did not follow the rules from day one," she said.

For example, Linzmeier complained about "a couple hundred tires" on the property.

The board should have stopped Clark when he first violated his conditional use permit, she said.

"The next permit that we give him, if we give him one, has to be very strict and very

See Permit p. 16

Deer sidestep many hunters in disappointing season

By Todd S. Bergmann

Much of the state's deer population survived the recent nine-day gun deer season unscathed.

The Department of Natural Resources reported the deer population was growing, but the harvest went down, especially in Manitowoc County.

After bagging a triple header—two bucks and a doe—during the gun deer hunting season last year, James Downey of Collins found no deer to shoot this year while hunting in the Quarry area west of Valders.

"It's a very strange deer season," he said. "We saw a ton of deer early."

"During the season they all seem to fold it up in the cattails and the marshes and disappear from sight," he said. "I saw a few deer. But,

no luck."

Downey said he talked to other hunters who had the same experience.

"They all saw a promising deer herd before the season, but not much during the season," he said. "It seems like those deer know when it is time to hunt and they disappear."

Steve Easterly, DNR wildlife biologist for Manitowoc and Calumet counties, said Downey's statement may have validity.

"Once the hunters are out there in full force, they (deer) learn pretty quick when it is safe to come out of the woods," he said.

Downey isn't planning to give up.

"I will try again during antlerless season," he said.

The statewide antlerless deer season continues through Sunday. The holiday hunt, in

select counties, including Manitowoc, runs from Dec. 24 to Jan. 1 for antlerless deer only.

Jeff Pritzl, statewide deer program specialist for the DNR, said hunters might wait for later seasons with snow on the ground.

"It makes hunting more interesting," he said. "For many years, the harvest has been slowly shifting away from the nine-day gun season as more people are participating in other hunts."

Some people did have success, like Garrett Nagel, a senior at Valders High School, who harvested three does in three hours on his family's farm in the Town of Liberty.

Nagel saw only does, but not within shooting range, while hunting the first seven days of the season.

On Nov. 27, however, the teen shot one around 9 a.m. and two more around 11 a.m.

"It was surprising," he said. "I did not expect them to come."

The DNR gives hunters in Manitowoc County one tag for any type of deer and two tags for antlerless deer and an option to buy more antlerless tags.

Nagel said he did not buy additional tags. "That's enough," he said of his three deer.

Pritzl said most hunters are content with just one or two deer.

"Once they get two deer, most of them are done," he said.

There were 2,330 deer taken in Manitowoc County during the nine-day gun, deer season. The deer harvest in the county is down 12.4%

See Deer p. 11