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THE REPORTER

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Police officer dies of COVID complications

Mark Treinen and Sharon Roznik
Fond du Lac Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

FOND DU LAC - A 26-year-old Fond du Lac police officer died from complications of COVID-19 the day after his second child was born, the police chief said.

Gov. Tony Evers responded Thursday by ordering state and U.S. flags to be flown at half-staff.

Joseph Kurer had been a sworn officer of the Fond du Lac Police Department since August 2018, after serving as a community service officer for the West Bend Police Department. He was also an active member of the military.

"Our love and condolences go out to Joseph's wife and children and all those with whom he served," Fond du Lac Police Chief Aaron Goldstein said in a written statement issued late Wednesday. "We, as a police department family, will do everything possible to continue to provide support and

See KURER, Page 2A

It's a mix of eagerness, anxiety for reopening theaters



With apple crops light, here's what to expect at The Little Farmer

Daphne Lemke
Fond du Lac Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MALONE - This fall's visitors to The Little Farmer, N9438 U.S. 151, can expect a few changes in the availability of apple products due to a crop and labor shortage.

A late spring freeze affected apple orchards across the state, and fewer apples this season means The Little Farmer will need to prioritize their products, according to The Little Farmer LLC Facebook page.

Bakery items and caramel apples will get top priority, but there will be fewer opportunities to get apple cider. "U-pick" apples will be unavailable this year, but fresh apples are available pre-picked in the shop. Freshly pressed apple cider is expected weekly, but the

See SHORTAGE, Page 5A

What will this season look like?

Allison Garfield
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

For many theater-goers, the inside of a dark auditorium, surrounded by hundreds of people, is an escape from the world. It's a time dedicated to disregarding all that lies beyond the theater walls and, instead, surrendering to drama, comedy, music, tragedy and romance.

With theater performances re-emerging in Wisconsin and across the country during yet another COVID-19 surge - a plot twist even some in the industry didn't foresee - that escape is once again turned on its head.

With in-person performances planned, the delta variant raging and people itching to get back out in public, the burden of keeping audiences, staff and artists safe is falling on those in charge of venues.

"No one trained me how to keep people safe during a pandemic," said Joe Ferlo, who's been the president and CEO of the Grand theater in Oshkosh for 10 years, and was director for 15 years before that. "We're just a group of people who have to make the best decision we can make."

USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

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ABOVE: The Grand Oshkosh will re-open its doors for live performances on Oct. 1 in the midst of another COVID-19 surge across the state.

COURTESY OF THE GRAND OSHKOSH

TOP: Mike Agnew, right, pays for his ticket on Sept. 16 at The Grand Theater in Wausau. The theater reopened for live performances on Aug. 6 after upgrading its ventilation system and implementing a mask mandate for all patrons and staff, regardless of vaccination status. TORK MASON/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

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'Inhumane': U.S. special envoy to Haiti resigns over mass expulsions of Haitian migrants. 3A

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Kurer

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comfort to Joseph's family. Joseph will be missed by everyone here."

The statement did not say how Kurer was believed to have contracted COVID-19 but called it a "line of duty death." The chief did not disclose whether Kurer was vaccinated and provided no further information about his death.

Kurer was a member of the department's Tactical Field Force Team, Honor Guard Unit and Domestic Violence Intervention Team, and earlier this year was certified as a field training officer. He also was an Aviation Operations noncommissioned officer achieving the rank of sergeant in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, according to Goldstein.

Kurer was awarded a Fond du Lac Police Department Life Saving Award, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Air Force Sergeants Association NCO of the Year as a cadet noncommissioned officer in the Civil Air Patrol. He also received a Sister Michaela O'Brien Award while attending St. Mary's Springs Academy in Fond du Lac.

A law enforcement procession escorted his body from a hospital early Thursday to the funeral home, and officers will stand vigil by his side until the services are complete, Goldstein said.

Kurer is survived by his wife and two children, one born the night before he died. He is also survived by his parents and sister.

Gov. Tony Evers and his wife, Kathy, on Thursday issued a statement extending their sympathies. The governor also signed an executive order to lower the U.S. and Wisconsin flags to honor Kurer when funeral arrangements have been made.

"Our hearts go out to his wife, kids, parents, and sister, and all of his loved ones, especially as they had just welcomed a new baby to the family the night before Officer Kurer's passing," the Evers' statement said. "We are also thinking of the Fond du Lac Police Department and the Fond du Lac community, and we ask the people of Wisconsin to join us in extending offers of support and prayers as they mourn Officer Kurer's passing."

On Thursday, police officers in Fond du Lac deco-

rated Kurer's police squad with a wreath, and parked it in front of the department at 126 N. Main St.

Funeral arrangements with law enforcement honors are pending.

An official GoFundMe page has been set up for donations to benefit his children. As of Thursday evening the page had raised more than \$6,100.

Contact Mark Treinen at mtreinen@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter at @MarkTreinen, Instagram at @mark_treinen or Facebook at @Mark Treinen.

Obituaries

TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES				
Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
Brauer, Audrey J.	82	Oakfield	22-Sep	Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory
*Miller, Eugene H.	85	Oshkosh	21-Sep	Konrad-Behlman Funeral Homes
Mullard, Donald E.	76	Chilton	21-Sep	Wieting Family Funeral Home - Chilton
*Voigt, Elroy "Roy" A.	74	West Bend	17-Sep	Myrhum - Patten Funeral Home
Zanzig, James	90	Winneconne	21-Sep	Mueller Funeral Home-Winneconne

*** Additional information in display obituaries**
Obituaries appear in print and online at www.FDLReporter.com/Obituaries

Eugene H. Miller

OSHKOSH - Eugene H. Miller, age 85, went to his heavenly home on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. He was born on September 22, 1935, to the late Harry and Marcella (Patt) Miller in Eldorado, Wisconsin.

Eugene graduated from Rosendale High School in 1953. On June 2, 1956, he married Verna Schumacher, and together they enjoyed 65 years of marriage.

He served an apprenticeship at Giddings and Lewis Machine and Tool Company. Eugene then joined Mercury Marine as a machinist, where he faithfully worked for over 30 years. He was also part owner of Miller Printing Company.

Being the oldest of 7 children, Eugene was always there to help his family. He did this in many different ways that were too numerous to count. As a father he instilled family values in his sons, and shared life lessons with his grandchildren. Eugene enjoyed reading, collecting things, and watching the Green Bay Packers. He was a member at Grace Ev. Lutheran Church and was part of the money counting team there.

Eugene is survived by his wife, Verna; sons, Jeffrey (Rebecca) and Stuart Miller; grandchildren, Hannah (Curtis) Lehman, Benjamin (Sara) Miller, Nathan (Lauren) Miller, Amanda (Reginald) Peters, and Broc Miller; great-grandchildren, Ethan and Effie Lehman, Eldo Miller, Isaiah, Titus, and Miriam Miller, Dawson Miller, Ra'Jeeyah, Niara, Sir Reginald, Ezekiel, and Sparrow Peters; brothers, Harvin (Mary Lou), Gary (Gail), and Walton (Carol) Miller; sister, Luann Shepro; brothers and sisters-in-law, JoAnn Willey, Sharon and Lee Werner, Gloria Schumacher, William Levenhagen, and Dee Dee Miller.

Eugene was preceded in death by his parents; in-laws, Edwin and Edna Schumacher; step father, Carl Brester; brothers, William Miller, Warren and Barb Miller; brothers and sisters-in-law, Don Schumacher, Gayle and Yvonne Schumacher, Orma Levenhagen, Mark Willey, Lyle Schumacher, and Wayne Shepro.

The Christian funeral for Eugene will be held at Grace Ev. Lutheran Church (913 Nebraska St.) on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 3:30 PM. Visitation will be held from 1:30 PM until the time of service.

We thank family members for their loving support, Pastors Graham and Jensen for sharing God's Word, and the Lake Pointe Villa staff and Preceptor Hospice Team for the care given to Eugene in his final weeks.



There are several obituary options available.

Please consult your funeral director for more information.

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Elroy "Roy" A. Voigt

WEST BEND - Elroy A. Voigt, 74, of West Bend, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2021, at Froedtert Hospital in Wauwatosa.

Roy was born on December 23, 1946, in Wisconsin Rapids, the son of the late Elroy and Magdalene (nee Flick) Voigt. He graduated from Campbellsport High School in 1965. Following high school graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Dover, Delaware. During his four years in the military, he visited 32 countries and served in the Vietnam War. After the Air Force, he moved to West Bend and worked at Gehl Company. In 1970, he met his future wife, Lana Wacek, at the Beacon Restaurant in West Bend. They were married on May 27, 1972.

After working as a salesperson for nearly 10 years, Roy started Voigt Insurance Agency in West Bend in 1980. In 1982, Roy and Lana acquired the Allen Kohl Insurance Agency in downtown West Bend. The two of them ran A.K. Voigt Insurance until they sold the business in 1997. Roy and Lana's success in this business was in part because of Roy's unique ability to remember names, faces, and even important details about everyone he met. Decades after they sold the insurance agency, Roy would still come across a name in the newspaper or in the community and say, "We used to insure him; nice guy."

Roy was an active member and past president of the West Bend Noon Kiwanis Club where he was fondly referred to as "Reverend Roy" for his inspiring prayers. He had perfect attendance for 37 years, and he received the George F. Hixson Fellowship award to recognize his significant contributions to the club and community.

During his retirement, Roy enjoyed the outdoors - fishing, hunting, downhill skiing, golfing, boating, and waterskiing. He also enjoyed road trips. Every winter, he and Lana would drive south; their trip itinerary always included a visit with friends or family members. In the summer, Roy spent every possible moment at home on Big Cedar Lake - enjoying sunsets, being on



the water, and hosting gatherings of friends and family.

Roy's favorite pastime, though, was spending time with his family. In addition to being a devoted husband and father, Roy was also "Papa" to his four grandchildren and two fur grandbabies. Papa taught his grandkids how to play cribbage, catch a "whopper", and captain a boat. Most importantly, he showed by example how to live a happy and full life. Roy and Lana regularly hosted the kids and grandkids for long weekends. After spending time with his family, Roy would regularly say to Lana, "We must be the luckiest people on earth."

He will be remembered for a bright and ever-present smile, his quick wit, and his warm and welcoming presence.

Roy is survived by his wife, Lana; three children, Jayson (Lija) Voigt of West Bend, Ann (Brad) Maeder of Cottage Grove, and Amanda (Doug) Passmore of Wauwatosa; four grandchildren, Mason and Jamen Maeder and Scarlett and Vivian Passmore; fur grandbabies, Mila and Esser; his siblings, Beth Norton (Joe Rogge), Lynn (Eve) Voigt, Jeff (Lori) Voigt, and Vic (Rocky) Ketchpaw; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Chuck (Kathy) Perkey, Lynda Schmitz (John Carlin), Rick (Kathy) Wacek, Randy (Char) Wacek, Jim (Tammy) Wacek, Lori (Mike) Simon; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents, Roy was preceded in death by his parents-in-law, Edward and Beverly Wacek; his sister-in-law, Leanne Perkey; and his favorite hunting dog, Sadie.

VISITATION: Roy's family will greet relatives and friends at Lac Lawrann Conservancy, 300 Schmidt Road, in West Bend on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: A memorial service with military honors will follow the visitation at Lac Lawrann Conservancy on Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to West Bend Noon Kiwanis Club would be greatly appreciated.

The Myrhum - Patten Funeral and Cremation Service has been entrusted with Elroy's arrangements. Additional information and guest book may be found at www.myrhum-patten.com.

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