

Lake Country

THIS MONTH

Chenequa • Delafield • Hartland • Merton • Nashotah • Okauchee • Pewaukee

Lake Country suits marathon swimmer

Liegl takes on 20 Lakes in 2020 Challenge

By Mark Hutchinson
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Finding a Lake Country resident with a greater sense of belonging than Melodee (Nugent) Liegl could be a daunting challenge. She repeatedly goes the extra mile to demonstrate that, and you'll never catch her by following in her footsteps.

Liegl, a marathon swimmer who moved to Delafield in May, recently completed what she dubbed the "20 Lakes in 2020 Challenge," swimming the perimeter of 20 area lakes for a total of 443.8 miles over a four-month span.

Liegl's pursuit of her passion began at an early age, and it obviously still drives her.

"I am grateful for the day my parents let me put my foot in a pool for the first time as a little toddler and for their continued support, even to this day," Liegl said. "I turned 50 this year, and I have swimming to thank for helping to make me the person I am today. I can't imagine myself without this sport I love."

Physical challenges have put that love to the test.

Liegl was born with hip dysplasia, which was first noticed at a routine check-up soon thereafter. She had surgeries as a young child to correct the angle of the hip and to try to correct the difference in leg length as a result of the first surgery.

She has since undergone a hip replacement and a hip revision as an adult.

"Both were complicated surgeries, but with the help of swimming and being very active, I recovered from both surgeries quicker than most," she said. "I always say that water is the best medicine!"

"Swimming is a low-impact sport and thus a perfect activity for me and others with similar joint issues. There are many swimmers over the age of 40 because swimming is very easy on the joints. Unlike other endurance sports, specifically including running and cycling wherein athletes are subjected to rigorous pounding of their joints, swimmers can continue to get better as they age. Swimming is all I know. I may tire easily from walking, but put me in the water and I can swim miles."

Liegl was born in West Allis and raised in Greendale. She swam the butterfly and backstroke in high school, then swam on her own while attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

When she reached her mid-20s, she was looking for a physical activity, joined the YMCA and resumed

swimming. She joined United States Masters Swimming in 1995 and has been a member since.

Liegl's endurance has been put to some extreme trials.

"The Red River in North Dakota was challenging because of the distance (my farthest prior to that was 27 miles)," she said. "Relays are fun. In 2015, six of us did a record relay swim around Catalina Island and Santa Barbara Island for a total distance of 100 miles in 51:55.07. That was challenging because I'd never swam in the Pacific Ocean and my first leg of the relay was at 11 p.m. I had to put on a brave face for that."

Liegl treasures the bonds she has formed through marathon swimming.

"Master swimmers and swimmers in general are like family," Liegl said. "I have met people from all over the U.S. with different levels of swimming. For some reason, swimmers in the water just click. We all have that passion. The love of the water is not easy to hide."

"I have developed long-lasting friendships in the pool since I first started swimming in the '90s. I have also met open-water swimmers who are well known in the swimming world, and I am fortunate to call them my friends."

'Happy place'

The benefits of swimming have been numerous for Liegl.

"Swimming teaches us lifelong lessons, not just in the pool, but outside of the pool as well," she said. "The



Submitted photo

Melodee Liegl swimming in Upper Nashotah Lake, one of 20 stops on her 20 Lakes in 2020 Challenge.

water will always be my 'happy place' where I can escape the real world, clear my mind and push my limits to train for those crazy marathon swims.

"Swimming taught me discipline, commitment and goal setting — commitment that can sometimes be obsessive at times. I love to have a big swim planned and have months to prepare for it. Without the many hours spent to meet these goals in the pool or lake, I wouldn't know what hard work feels

like and to go after something you really want to accomplish. These characteristics will carry me through the rest of my life."

Liegl has enjoyed her first few months in the area.

"I couldn't be happier to live in Lake Country," she said. "Bryan Spencer of the Oconomowoc Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry has been a tremendous help with providing details about some of the

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Familiar, but different

School athletics, activities continue with COVID-19 precautions in place

By Jake Ekdahl
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WAUKESHA — Although the high school experience centers around academics, many students participate in sports or clubs before or after class, and for some, that's the best part of the day.

The regular routine of sports practice and club meetings is set to continue in local schools albeit with some changes in place due to coronavirus precautions. Cross country, for instance, will see runners go through a daily COVID-19 questionnaire including a temperature check. While crowded together before the run begins, they'll wear masks, but they can pull them down once the event is truly underway and they need extra air to keep going.

Those sorts of adjustments are present in various activities at local schools. Kettle Moraine School District Athletic Director and Associate Principal Ryan Tomczyk said it's important to "try to mitigate as much as we can any contact students would have but still provide an opportunity for them to enjoy their high school experience... At the end of the day, we want to create a safe environment for our kids and have them enjoy a fun event they could remember."

That mindset is shared by other athletic directors in the Classic Eight Conference, including the school districts of Waukesha, Kettle Moraine, Arrowhead, Oconomowoc, Muskego, Catholic Memorial and Mukwonago. The conference is working together to implement similar guidelines.

"We're all in this together," Tomczyk said. "We're trying to do a good job of working together."



Submitted photo

Kettle Moraine cross country runners have their temperatures taken under an outdoor tent.

He added it could be a "logistical nightmare" if a team showed up at a school with totally different rules and regulations over COVID-19.

Cross country is one of the low-contact sports that was able to start in August, along with swimming, tennis and golf. The week of Sept. 7, football, volleyball and soccer started up as well.

Waukesha North Assistant Principal and Athletics and Activities Director Brian Schlei said changing the setting for things like team banquets and meetings with families to something safe and spread out like a park is currently being discussed.

Regarding club activities, Schlei said the school is gauging student interest for each particular organization and making plans from there. The clubs holding activities for sure include the Student Council, Peers 4 Peers, Black Student Union, Academic Decathlon, Foreign Language Club, Key Club and others.

Some have gotten creative about performances. "Our drama program is going to

be putting on their play this fall through live-streaming," Schlei said. People are able to tune in while it's going on but it will also be recorded for later viewing.

Arrowhead Activities Director Ryan Mangan other than social distancing and masks, scale is the key factor.

"I think it's really based on the size and the particular activity," he said, mentioning the Student Senate is over 100 kids strong. "They're not meeting with 100 kids in a classroom like they may have in the past."

Instead they'll find a new, safer venue. "Those are the types of changes that are happening more than anything else," Mangan said.

Tomczyk said the transition from face-to-face to virtual has offered some pleasant surprises along the way, like being able to meet with coaches and parents through Zoom without their needing to travel to the school.

Going forward, coordination and vigilance will be important. "For us as athletic directors, it's just been really interesting trying to think through all the details," he said. "(It's) about making sure we're supporting each other through this process."



Jake Ekdahl/Freeman Staff

Lelu Zivney gets a stick from Larie Norwood to build her wall fort at Camp Whitcomb/Mason in Hartland.

Study camp

Camp Whitcomb/Mason joins Boys & Girls Clubs doing same across state

By Jake Ekdahl
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HARTLAND — Families on virtual instruction for the semester may be grappling with the logistical challenges of having their children at home during the school day, but one local organization is offering a structured study camp to ensure kids get needed learning and socialization.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee's Camp Whitcomb/Mason is offering a study camp from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Hartland for virtual learners.

"Every family is different and we wanted to offer one other option," said Executive Director Sarah Resch. The camp has taken students from a variety of schools and districts. In some cases, families don't live nearby but parents work in the area so they can drop the kids off and pick them up during the daily commute.

In addition to a safe and clean environment, children will receive a lunch and socially distanced study space. AmeriCorps volunteers assist them with Zoom calls and scheduling.

In a more typical year, Camp Whitcomb/Mason would be hosting many field trips from visiting schools to enjoy its 300 acres of natural environment, but field trips are much rarer in 2020.

'Whatever it takes for our kids to succeed'

Resch said offering study camp is a new

way of fulfilling the organization's mission. "The whole purpose of Boys and Girls Clubs is doing whatever it takes for our kids to succeed," she said.

When class isn't in session, students can still enjoy the natural amenities and activities the camp has to offer.

Resch said that includes archery, hiking, canoeing and more. Students recently built a frog habitat and other outdoor activities are available.

Student Lelu Zivney was busy doing one such activity Wednesday — building a wall fort from the many sticks in the woods near the camp office. She did so with the assistance of Larie Norwood, one of the camp's program generalists.

Sometimes learning will be able to go outdoors too. Resch said WiFi reaches the picnic tables.

"The socialization piece has been huge for our parents," she said. "That isolation (last year) was really difficult."

Resch said Boys & Girls Clubs throughout Wisconsin are also offering study camp services.

Camp Whitcomb/Mason has a small group of children so far, but has a capacity to take up to 55. Those who are interested can visit bgcmilwaukee.org/camp.

"I'd say come and check it out," Resch said. "We're always happy to talk to prospective parents, let them see the program."

Challenge

From Page 1

lakes in the area. This inspired me for my 20 Lakes in 2020 Challenge.

"I have had fun exploring all the different lakes. It is nice to take advantage of all the beautiful lakes in the area. We are very lucky."

Liegl was unable to swim for six weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Her 20-lake challenge began in Silver Lake on May 3 in 53-degree water, and she continued to swim for an hour three to four times a week in the cold water.

As the lakes started warm-

ing up, she explored new ones. On June 28, she swam four lakes — Upper and Lower Nemahbin and Upper and Lower Nashotah — in four hours, 50 minutes. She soon afterward set her goal of 20 lakes, which would include her favorite — Beaver Lake — as well as the big lakes in Oconomowoc. She swam the 11-mile perimeter of Okauchee Lake on Aug. 23 in five hours, 13 minutes.

Liegl's drive has been inspirational.

"I have three children (MacKenzie, 23; Kyler, 21; and Regan, 18) who know my love of swimming," she said. "I exposed all of them to

swimming when they were little babies.

"I just asked my daughter Regan what she thinks about my swimming, and she said, 'My mom is crazy, but I admire her passion and I hope to find a passion like that someday.'"

Liegl enjoys motivating others to be physically active, push themselves and find a passion.

"Two people this summer told me I inspired them to swim," she said. "One was a young woman I met at Beaver Lake, and she said I inspired her to start swimming in the lake in the mornings. I gave her an extra cap and goggles to use and she was thrilled."



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By Cara Spoto
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TOWN OF DELAFIELD — Town supervisors have officially awarded a contract for repairs to the Delafield Skatepark.

During a special Town Board meeting Sept. 1, supervisors voted 4-1 to award the contract to American Ramp Company in an amount not to exceed \$64,870. Town Chairman Ron Troy cast the lone "no" vote.

The board also accepted

\$20,000 raised from the community by the Delafield Skatepark Fund for the project.

Under the agreement, the Missouri-based contractor will resurface the entire skatepark with new Skatelite materials.

The board voted in July to hire ARC for the work but ended up having to back-track after Town Attorney Eric Larson notified officials they needed to publicly seek bids for the project.

"The state statute says that public construction projects over \$25,000 must be bid out.

There are exceptions for specific projects, and we were under the impression that this project fit into those, but we were wrong," Town Administrator Dan Green said last month.

Debate over the fate of the skatepark began this June. In the end, more than 250 individual donors contributed to the effort to save the park.

Updates on the effort to fix the park are being posted at Facebook.com/savedelafieldskatepark and Instagram.com/savedelafieldskatepark.



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SUSSEX

Golf fundraiser for police officer Sept. 18

Kemos is fighting cancer; says he’s ‘overwhelmed by love and support’

By Dan Durbin
Special to The Freeman

SUSSEX — On Friday, Sept. 18, starting at 10 a.m. at Ironwood Golf Course in Sussex, the Telly Kemos Golf Outing event will take place for Telly Kemos, a Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) officer who was diagnosed with small-cell carcinoma, in his prostate and lymph node.

His brother, Tommy, of Oconomowoc, said it all started when Telly’s neighbor, Eric Daun, a member of the Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD), wanted to lend some support. Then Tommy, and others, started the ball rolling.

“No one is prepared for this kind of news but Telly is confronting this challenge like he has everything in life — focusing on the outcome, committing to getting the job done and fighting for his life,” Tommy said. “Telly and his family will be searching for ways to wage war against this disease and are counting on the kindness of friends, family and those in the community to help them. Hope and prayers are perhaps what is needed most.”

Telly grew up on the shores of Pewaukee Lake with his brother’s Tom and Nick, but currently resides in Sussex.

“As a detective with the MPD, he has given his life to service and protecting the people of the city in which he works,” Tommy said. “Telly has earned everything he has and was never one to look for handouts. He’s worked hard to get where he is, paying for his degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, by digging ditch-



Submitted photo

Telly Kemos, an avid angler and Milwaukee Police officer from Sussex, will have a fundraising gold outing at Ironwood Golf Course in Sussex Sept. 18 to help with costs from his recent cancer diagnosis.

es with a cable contractor and working for a food service company doing overnight deliveries.”

Tommy said the MFD and MPD have rallied around his brother.

“Words cannot begin to describe the gratitude that my family has towards these incredible people,” he said. “I now know exactly what the brotherhood is. They stand together.”

Telly has been in awe of the support he’s getting from so many.

“My family and I have been overwhelmed by the love and support we’ve gotten from friends, co-workers, and the community,” Telly said. “It’s been amazing. I know that there isn’t a person that has not lost a loved one or been affected by cancer in their lives.”

The funny thing is, Telly is not as worried as much about himself, but how he can repay all the people rallying around him.

“I have a few things that I think about every day,” he said. “But one overwhelming thought is how am I going to give back to all those who have done so much for me? The good Lord willing, my plan is to be around a long time to repay them all somehow.”

When the word spread of the battle, family friend Brady Chuckel stepped up when he realized he could use his resources with Paul Davis Restoration to take the event to the next level and ensure that 100 percent of the proceeds from the event go to the Kemos family.

To make a donation, or to reserve a tee-time in this first-come, first-serve golf event, go to www.eventwebpro.com/event/tkstrong. For people who would rather just send a donation, checks can be sent to Paul Davison Charitable Fund at W226-N918 Northmound Drive, Suite 100, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186.

Mangold Creative rebrands, changes name to Ampersand

PEWAUKEE — Ten-year-old marketing firm Mangold Creative announced it has rebranded to focus on the agency’s growth, renaming itself Ampersand.

The Pewaukee-based Ampersand is a strategic marketing, advertising, and growth agency. The new name also reflects the company’s effort to embrace the growth and evolution of the agency, according to the announcement. Accompanying the new name is a new logo and website, AmpersandMKE.com.

“Over the past decade, our team, our capabilities, and our mission have evolved immensely, leading us into an exciting new era,” said Heather Noel, owner & CEO. “While the roots of Mangold Creative can still be seen throughout our agency, the stylized evolution to Ampersand was born out of the partnership and collaboration we’ve built between our talented team and loyal



Submitted photo

Mangold Creative, located in downtown Pewaukee, has changed its name to Ampersand.

clients. This growth and evolution reflect our position as a leader in the industry.”

The name Ampersand comes from “the common use of the ampersand symbol, which often indicates a perfect pairing, a unified team, and a relentless collaboration,” according to the announcement.

“As we reflect back and look forward to the next era as Ampersand, the thing we’re most proud of is the opportunity we’ve had to build immersive business relationships. Pairing our incredible team with our invaluable vendors, Ampersand and our clients are primed for what’s next,” Noel said.

Merton municipal offices move into community center

MERTON — Merton has completed the move of its Village Hall offices into the Community Center, W282-N6996 Main St., for the time being.

Up until the move, the Village Hall offices shared the same space as the Fire Department, which according to a message from Village President Ron Reinowski caused some challenges during COVID-19 and working to keep first responders, village staff and the public safe with so many operations in one building.

“Imagine the challenge of

having a citizen at our counter filling out a building permit while EMTs are returning from a COVID-related 911 call,” Reinowski wrote, adding “In order to bring our offices back online, the need for separation became paramount.”

Reinowski said the new location provides for better social distancing with individual cubicle spaces and counters with Plexiglas guards that allow village staff to handle requests in person. In addition, touch-free dispensers for hand sanitation have been placed

at the entrance of the building for added safety. Staff is still operating with cell phones until the phone system is up and running, which should be shortly, Reinowski said.

However, now that Village Hall offices occupy most of the floor space of the Community Center, its use is not available for community groups.

“Our goal is to find a permanent solution to our office needs and once again offer a gathering space that can be used to bring people together,” Reinowski said.

Oconomowoc Furniture Direct moves into former Brennan’s

OCONOMOWOC — Oconomowoc Furniture Direct has moved into the former Brennan’s Market, 1670 Old School House Road, after the building sat empty for almost three years.

Owner Jerry Moore said he has had his business in Oconomowoc for three years, two of which were at the old dollar store on Wisconsin Avenue, and needed the space because of his business’s growth.

Oconomowoc Furniture Direct sells mattresses and home furniture, often times at a discounted rate than other

stores, Moore said.

“We sell living room, dining room and even bedroom furniture,” he said. “We hit all aspects of home furniture.”

As for the old greenhouse, Moore said he plans on using that for seasonal sales.

“We’re going to be using that space this winter for Christmas trees,” Moore said.

Moore also said he is hoping to sell pumpkins in that space as well, but is still trying to find a local vendor of pumpkins.

For more information on Oconomowoc Furniture Direct, visit their Facebook page.

Pewaukee trustees vote to issue RFP for St. Mary’s redevelopment

By Cara Spoto
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PEWAUKEE — A month after agreeing to purchase St. Mary’s Church and its grounds for \$1.5 million, the Pewaukee Village Board voted unanimously Sept. 1 to issue a request for proposals from entities interested in developing the school property and open land at the site.

Under a letter of intent backed by trustees on Aug. 3, the village has agreed to purchase the entire church property, including the church, the former St. Mary’s School and associated vacant lands. The cemetery will not be included in the purchase and will remain under the ownership of the Queen of Apostles congregation.

The plan currently calls for the village to save the church itself, while turning the surrounding land, including the school, which will be razed, into a single-family or zero-lot-line development. Any proposals involving condos would be limited to two units per building.

The village is currently working with financial advisors at Baird to develop a proposal for a tax incremental financing district for the property.

Ticking clock

Discussing the request for proposals (RFP) on Sept. 1, trustees noted the need to get the request out before developers as soon as possible.

Under the agreement inked with Queen of Apostles, the village must purchase the land by Feb. 1. If it fails to do so, the church has the right to raze the more than 150-year-old local landmark.

The village has already received inquiries about the properties from interested parties, but the RFP will allow those parties to make an official proposal that can receive formal backing from the Village Board and Plan Commission.

“In order to be successful we need to turn this around quickly,” Trustee Heather Gergen said.

“I worry about the five months we have now,” added Trustee Bob Rohde.

Tony Hopkins noted that extra consideration could be given to proposals that take



File photo

The Pewaukee Village Board is entertaining proposals to redevelop the area around St. Mary’s Church that would preserve the historic structure.

into account the community’s desire to see the land in front of the church maintained as part of the church property.

Proposals are due by Oct. 15.

Protecting the cemetery

In a more technical matter involving the settlement agreement, village and Queen of Apostles representatives are still hammering out details related to the cemetery at the site.

Trustees and village staff are currently reviewing a plan that would create a new, stand-alone parcel for the cemetery, which currently spreads across portions of four separate lots.

The issue was once again the subject of a closed-session discussion during the board’s Tuesday meeting. Trustees emerged from the closed session with no decision on the matter:

CITY OF PEWAUKEE

Council approves hotel tax hike

Move aims to offset decrease in revenue due to pandemic

By Cara Spoto
cspoto@conley.net
262-513-2653

CITY OF PEWAUKEE

Facing a massive loss in room tax revenues, aldermen voted to increase the fees charged to customers staying at hotels in the city.

Every year cities, villages and towns in Wisconsin collect fees called “room taxes” that are paid by people staying at hotels and Airbnb in their communities. Under a state law, local governments can keep some of the money collected to support their general fund operations, but they must also give a portion of those revenues to a tourism bureau or city-run tourism department.

With hotel stays down by 50 percent or more this year in some communities, municipalities and tourism bureaus have seen a once-reliable income source virtually decimated.

In the City of Pewaukee, staff had expected to see \$560,000 in room tax revenue in 2020. As of the end of July they had collected less than \$172,061.

Hoping to reduce the losses to come, the Common Council voted Sept. 8 to

increase the room tax rate charged by the city from 6 percent to the state maximum of 8 percent. The new rate will go into place on Jan. 1.

“It should increase our room-tax revenues by a third,” Mayor Steve Bierce said.

Just how much that extra third will amount to remains to be seen, however. “It’s been such a disaster this year. There were months where there was a 90 percent vacancy at hotels in the city,” Bierce added. “We just did what we had to do.”

Frank Dorsey, general manager at the Milwaukee Marriott West, said last month that he expects occupancy rates in the city to remain low throughout the end of the year.

“We are running at a little over 20 percent occupancy and forecasting that through the remainder of 2020,” Dorsey said.

Weathering the pandemic

In a bid to help groups that rely on room tax dollars, the City of Pewaukee Tourism Commission recently recommended that those groups receive money from

“It’s been such a disaster this year. There were months where there was a 90 percent vacancy at hotels in the city. We just did what we had to do.”

— City of Pewaukee Mayor Steve Bierce

the city’s room-tax reserves.

The Waukesha-Pewaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau requested an advance on room taxes of \$96,750 to meet its budget obligations for the remainder of 2020. The commission recommended that the request be honored. The tourism bureau had been budgeted to receive \$375,500 in room taxes this year. It will receive just \$200,000 this year.

The commission also recommended that the council budget room-tax funds in 2021 for all three groups. The tourism bureau, which asked for \$265,500, was promised \$200,000. Positively Pewaukee, which requested \$59,000, was promised \$25,000. And Kiwanis, which asked for \$10,000, was promised \$5,000. The commission also recommended that \$20,000 be allocated for internal tourism efforts.

New Apartments

A young woman with blonde hair and an older woman with white hair are smiling together.

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A portrait of Dannene Hirsch, a woman with blonde hair wearing a blue top.

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O'Driscoll's safe at home

Former Arrowhead baseball coach doing the Brewers stats from kitchen table

By Dave Radcliffe
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TOWN OF MERTON — Tim O'Driscoll knows a thing or two about baseball.

But as the old adage goes, you learn something new every day. In O'Driscoll's case, he's learning to do something he could have never imagined he'd have to and doing so on the fly.

From his kitchen.

The former longtime Arrowhead baseball coach is in his 34th year as the official scorer for the Milwaukee Brewers. Having scored well over 2,000 games in his career with Major League Baseball, however, he had never done so from home until Aug. 3 when the Brew Crew hosted the Chicago White Sox for their home opener.

"In all that time you'd have to call it one of the most unique experiences," O'Driscoll said.

While MLB teams are playing home games in their host city — Toronto being the exception — the amount of game day media and personnel is reduced noticeably as a precaution due to the coronavirus pandemic. That in-stadium subtraction includes O'Driscoll, who normally has a front-row seat in the press box behind the loge level.

Instead, O'Driscoll is stationed at his kitchen table with two computers set up, one showing a mini-feed from Miller Park and the other showing the game just as the normal viewer at home would see it.

"I have the sound off but do have the picture there so sometimes I can get more than one view right away because television can be 8-10 seconds later," O'Driscoll said. "And then on one of my computers I have Slack plus the NORAD system,



Submitted photo

Milwaukee Brewers' official scorer Tim O'Driscoll poses for a photo before a game in 2015. The longtime former Arrowhead baseball coach now has to score the Brewers' home games from his kitchen table due to the coronavirus pandemic.

and I just jump back and forth between the two of them. I'm very, very busy because I'm actually scoring the game. I still have the actual score sheet and get the lineups and rosters and all of that. I have everything that we would normally get if I was there."

Slack, a proprietary business communication platform that works like an online chat or email, allows O'Driscoll to relay a scoring decision to the ballpark immediately. That was put to the test right off the bat in the home opener when a play originally ruled an error by O'Driscoll in the top of the first inning was soon thereafter changed to a hit.

"We do try our best and we do have things that we can use," O'Driscoll said. "We also have a boss guy as they are called who puts stats down and a field timer who is kind of like some of the eyes for us to help with substitutes and that sort of thing."

O'Driscoll won state titles 30 years apart coaching the Warhawks, winning it all in 1979 and 2009, one year before he stepped down after 35 seasons at the helm. A 1970 graduate of UW-Milwaukee,

where he was a team captain his senior year for the baseball team, O'Driscoll joined the university's hall of fame in 2014.

In 2015, he scored his 2,000th game with the Brewers — quite a milestone for someone who took the position in 1987 in the midst of Paul Molitor's 39-game hitting streak back when the team played at old Milwaukee County Stadium.

But in all his years, he's never experienced anything like this.

"The fans have given up a lot because they can't see the games in person and certainly the players have given up a lot," O'Driscoll said. "It's just do you want to have games? If I had a choice of it, scoring from home is a lot different. But still think I can do a very good job and it's the plight of I don't have a choice in the matter."

O'Driscoll, 72, would fall under the category of higher risk when it comes to contracting COVID-19. But even so, he'd rather be at Miller Park, just as he has dating back to when the stadium opened in 2001.

"I think everybody would like to be there," O'Driscoll said. "But at the same time they're doing it to try to limit

the number of people who are at the stadium. If you'll notice all the TV broadcasters are not going on the road. (Bill) Schroeder and Brian (Anderson), it's kind of crazy but they're doing it right from their place at Miller Park, so MLB is trying to adapt the best they possibility can. As an official scorer, we have to adapt also."

Normally in the press box at Miller Park, O'Driscoll will typically have a headset hooked up to a smaller monitor. Should he need different angles when deciding between a hit and an error, he can ask anyone who is running a television camera to get a different view.

Through NORAD, O'Driscoll is still getting as many looks as he possibly can when he needs a little longer to make an official call. So while it's still a work in progress, O'Driscoll doesn't feel too hampered by his new yet old surroundings — as long as technology cooperates.

And the legendary high school coach still knows how to look on the bright side.

"The only advantage I guess is you don't have to fight traffic," O'Driscoll said.

WIAA

WIAA moving state tournaments out of Madison

Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — Due to the uncertainty of finishing the fall postseason tournaments and the COVID-19 restrictions in Dane County, the WIAA and UW-Madison announced Wednesday the WIAA tournaments will not be conducted at UW facilities this fall.

The WIAA has acknowledged all tournament schedules and venues are subject to change if conditions warrant in accordance with local, state and national health guidelines.

The events impacted include the State Girls Golf Championship at University Ridge on Oct. 12-13, the State Girls Individual and Team Tennis Tournaments at Nielsen Tennis Stadium on Oct. 15-17 and Oct. 23-24, respectively, and the State Girls Swimming & Diving Championships on Nov. 13-14, formerly held at the UW Natatorium with plans to move to the Nicholas Recreation Center when completed. The Executive Staff is in the process of identifying prospective alternate locations and venues for the three State events.

In July, the Board of Control's approval of a reduced, 11-week fall football ruled out conducting the 2020 State Football Finals held at Camp Randall Stadium since 1982.

"Since July, we've been talking with the Board of Control, our members and UW Athletic Department personnel, and we understand our need to take a new and different approach to this year's events," WIAA Executive Director Dave Anderson said. "Through our great relationship with the UW, we share the hope and look forward to more normal times."

John Horn, Chief of Staff to Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at UW, expressed similar sentiments.

"We regret, given the situation here in Dane County related to COVID-19, it will not be feasible to host the WIAA State Tournaments this fall," Horn said. "We look forward to when the conditions of the pandemic improves and Dane County and campus policies change to allow larger, non-essential events."

"The WIAA events benefit not just our campus and greater Madison, but the entire state. Most importantly, they are once-in-a-lifetime experiences for student-athletes and their families."

The WIAA will announce the locations and sites of culminating events and tournaments when determined and approved by the Board of Control, provided the Tournament Series is conducted as scheduled.





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