



YMCA EXPANDING: The Geneva Lakes YMCA, which is in the City of Lake Geneva, has been considering a potential expansion for some time. It was recently revealed representatives are looking at a site in Delavan. —Section 2

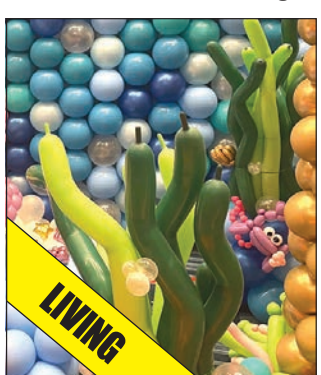
SENIOR TRAVEL: The Senior Travel Club of Walworth County will meet Friday, April 4, at 10 a.m. at Como Community Church, W3901 Palmer Rd., Lake Geneva. Sign up for trips, coffee, donuts and spend some time socializing starting at 9:15 a.m. Upcoming trips include: • March 29, “Beautiful Noise” at the Marcus Center, Milwaukee. • April 30, “Million Dollar Quartet” at the Milwaukee Rep. For more information, call 480-463-6782.

FOR THE BIRDS: The Lakeland Audubon Society will meet Tuesday, March 25, at 7 p.m. at the Lions Field House, 270 Elkhorn Rd. (Highway 67), Williams Bay. The guest speaker will be Diane Moller, who will bring the snowy owl, Wesley, and two other species – and offer a presentation on owls and their history, breeding, habitat and behaviors. Moller is a native of southern Wisconsin and founded Hoo’s Woods Raptor Center in 1988.

SPRING SPORTS: As winter sports wrap up over the next two weeks, spring sports will take the field. For updates, go to rockvalleyconference.org or trailwaysconference.org.

DEATHS: The following local death notices appear inside: • LOREN D. BAGLEY, 92 • JEANNETTE R. BOSS, 92 • CAROLE A. BRAHM, 82 • JOHN DANIEL LOOMER, 60 • EVELYN M. PEARSON, 99

—Page 4



UNDER THE SEA: A special event that will support a local charity is now on display in Williams Bay. Under the Sea is created from thousands of balloons and features a variety of scenes. —Section 2

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Walworth, Wisconsin 53184 FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025 Vol. 148 No. 45 www.mywalworthcounty.com

Preserve project gets go-ahead in Williams Bay

By Susan Steele
CORRESPONDENT

After a year of public meetings, controversy, and social media discussions, on Feb. 19 and March 3, the Planning Commission recommended and the Village Board approved 6-1 the annexation, rezoning, and Planned Development Overlay for the redevelopment of the parcels currently owned by Aurora University for its George Williams College Campus.

The plan, referred to as The Preserve project, includes several parcels:

- Parcels WWUP 00011, WGT 00010, WGT 00009, and WA 4998000002, what is commonly known as the lakefront campus and front nine of the former golf course, all located within the Village of Williams Bay corporate limits, were already zoned Public and Institutional, will now include a Planned Development Overlay.
- Parcel EW 200020, commonly

known as the “South 40” and back 9 of the former golf course, was located in the Town of Walworth corporate limits, is now annexed into the Village of Williams Bay with an AG Holding District zoning designation, before being upzoned to Public and Institutional with Planned Development Overlay.

- Parcel EW 20019, commonly known as the “North 40,” consisting of the 38.38 acres running North along the West Side of North Lake Shore Drive up to Highway 67, was located in the Town of Walworth corporate limits and is now annexed into the Village of Williams Bay with an AG Holding District zoning designation and will not be upzoned at this time because, as the Village Planner stated during the Feb. 19 public hearing, “no development is planned right now.”

Topography Hospitality, LLC, Founder and CEO Liam Krehbiel presented key elements of Topography’s July 2024 Application for

a Planned Development Overlay Zoning Map Amendment at the plan commission public hearing on Feb. 19.

Per Wisconsin State Statutes and Village Ordinance, applications for Zoning Map Amendments are a regulated process, which includes staff reviews and public hearing on the application in front of PC within 45 days of filing application.

The PC then has up to 60 days after the public hearing to prepare its report and make recommendations, with the Village Board approving, amending or denying PC recommendations thereafter.

Topography’s Application indicated redevelopment of part of the former golf course and North 40 parcel into a 90-acre public nature preserve. The remaining acres to be developed at the curve of North Lake Shore Drive into a racquet center and restrooms in the former pro shop located along the East Side of North Shore Drive. Vision Hill

will be developed with an outdoor amphitheater and retreat center.

Krehbiel stated he repositioned the amphitheater since the application filing in July of last year to accommodate an existing outdoor chapel.

Krehbiel stated his original plan for the lakefront campus was to keep the former dormitory for staff housing, “but upon further discussion with village it will be removed” with green space in its place.

The remainder of the lakefront, he added, would be redeveloped into 68 keyed accommodations and amenities consistent with the original plan presented in December of last year. There will be a new lodge, one-bedroom cabins, as well as boathouse guestrooms, a spa and a pool house.

The administration building will be repurposed into the Weidensall Restaurant, the building behind the Water Safety Patrol into the Mabel

See PRESERVE, Back Page

Former sheriff’s correctional officer sends cash for nudes

An adjourned initial appearance was scheduled Tuesday for an Whitewater man accused of sending cash to minors in exchange for nude photos.

Samuel J. Pieper, 40, is charged with four Class C felonies – two counts of sexual exploitation of a child and two counts of trafficking of a child.

Each felony is punishable by up to 40 years in prison and \$100,000 in fines.

The Walworth County Sheriff’s Department issued a press release along with comments from Sheriff Dave Gerber late Monday addressing the charges and Pieper’s now-former status as a corrections officer.

Gerber said the department received a tip involving one of its employees, and that the sheriff’s office “immediately took action” and is co-operating with the investigation.

Pieper resigned from the sheriff’s office during the process and is no longer employed by them.

“This incident does not reflect the hard work our employees perform every day to protect and serve our community,” Gerber said in his comments. “This is an isolated incident involving off-duty conduct, and our agency wants to assure the public we are disgusted with this type of behavior and do not tolerate it.”

According to the criminal complaint, the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation began investigating tips provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of money being sent in June and July of 2024 in exchange for images or videos of suspected minors.

The tips involved two different child victims and the suspect, Pieper.

Two special agents spoke with Pieper in Whitewater on March 6. He admitted using the email address, social media accounts and CashApp associated with the NCMEC tip and provided his usernames. He also stated he is addicted to pornography and is interested in men between the ages



Samuel Pieper

See OFFICER, Page 2



Celebrating a century



Elkhorn resident and World War II veteran Glenn Boyd celebrated an early 100th birthday Saturday at the Walworth County Health and Human Services Department. After a parade from Veterans Park to the HHS building, Boyd arrived in a World War II jeep (top). He was greeted by family and friends (middle), and got to cut his birthday cake with a military cutlass (right). A full story on Boyd’s service will be coming in a later issue.

JENNIFER EISENBART PHOTOS
Southern Lakes Newspapers



Gas leak shuts down Delavan street

An underground gas leak led to Highway 11 in the City of Delavan being shut down for four hours Sunday.

According to City Fire Chief Tim O’Neill, a call came in around 11:35 a.m. March 9 for a smell of gas in the area of the intersection of Wright and Racine streets.

“Our equipment immediately picked up raw, natural gas,” O’Neill said.

A call was made to We Energies, who determined the gas was leaking

from underground.

“The dangerous aspect to this situation is that the gas started to migrate along the water and sewer main system,” O’Neill said. “It means that basements that are connected to water and sewer have the ability to have natural gas leaking into them, with possible explosive results.”

We Energies determined the highest concentration of gas was coming from a water shutoff valve.

“It migrates to wherever it can escape,” O’Neill said, adding that cre-

ated a concern that it would spread further.

The fire department continued to take readings, and found moderate levels of gas in basements in the area, and in some cases, extending to the upper area of those same buildings.

The buildings were ventilated while We Energies continued to search for the leak. The leak was found about four hours later, and crews immediately started excavating the street to discover and remedy

the leak.

As of Monday, one lane remained closed in the 1200 block of Racine Street.

There were no injuries or illnesses resulting from the incident, and the problem has been resolved, O’Neill said.

The City of Delavan Water Utility was on scene in addition to the fire department and We Energies.

O’Neill also credited the City of Delavan Police Department for effectively cordoning off the area.



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Court news

Illinois man says he touched girl ‘a little bit’

An adjourned initial appearance was scheduled Tuesday for an Illinois man accused of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl while hooking up with her older sister.



Trenton M. Onopa

Trenton M. Onopa, 27, of Fox River Grove, is charged with second-degree sexual assault of a child younger than 16, a Class C felony punishable by up to 40 years in prison and \$100,000 in fines.

According to the criminal complaint, on Aug. 19, 2024, Genoa City police met with a 15-year-old girl who claimed she was sexually assaulted by Onopa. The girl stated that on June 27, 2024, when she was 14, she went over to her sister's Genoa City apartment where Onopa was invited.

She said he came over to have sex with her sister and while he and her sister were making out, he reached over and began to rub her thighs then inserted his finger into her vagina. She said that when her sister saw what he was doing, she stopped “making out” with Onopa and yelled at him.

On Feb. 26, investigators travelled to Onopa's home to interview him. He admitted going to the woman's apartment after meeting her on the website, Plenty of Fish. He said this was the second time

he visited her apartment, and the first time, the two had sex.

He admitted to touching the girl “a little bit” and touching her vagina “for a few minutes” but denied putting his finger inside of the girl.

He also stated he was drunk and exercising “(expensive) judgement.”

Two face charges in 2022 East Troy burglary

Charges have been filed against two women who are suspected of burglarizing an East Troy business back in 2022.

Danielle R. Fuerst, 38, an inmate at Taycheedah Correctional Institute in Fond du Lac, is charged with burglary to a building, possession of burglarious tools and theft of moveable property (between \$2,500 and \$5,000) as a party to crime, and entry into a locked coin box and criminal damage to property – all as a repeater.

Sadie L. Rogalski, 35, is charged with burglary to a building, possession of burglarious tools and theft of moveable property (between \$2,500 and \$5,000), all as a party to crime.

According to the criminal complaint, Walworth County Sheriff's deputies were called to the Hive Tap Room in the Town of East Troy Nov. 22, 2022, at 6:35 a.m. for a report of a burglary.

The caller stated he came into work at 5:40 a.m. and noticed a window opened that is usually closed and locked. He

then noticed the cash register was missing from the bar area, and the safe was missing from the office. The cash register was found lying outside the bar, on the west side, damaged and with the key inside of it.

The deputy noted drag marks behind the building which appeared to have been made by someone pulling or pushing the safe along the ground.

A Google Nest camera inside the bar captured movement at 3:19 a.m. and showed someone wearing a dark hoodie and hat – but no shoes – walk behind the bar and begin making sounds of hitting or prying the cash register. The video also captured the person entering the office area then dragging the safe to the exit door.

The business owner reported \$2,717.66 stolen the night of the burglary.

A video also captured a vehicle with distinctive lights pull into the Hive Tap Room at 3:48 a.m.

A detective assigned to the burglary learned similar burglaries occurred days after, on Nov. 27, 29 and 30 in Muskego, Pewaukee and Oconomowoc and the suspect in those cases was also wearing similar clothing and no shoes.

The detective further learned the suspect was caught on camera burglarizing a tavern in Hartford. Facial recognition software identified the suspect as Fuerst. Law enforcement in Washington County searched

Fuerst's residence and located burglarious tools.

Investigators also learned Rogalski was driving the suspected vehicle parked at the Hive Tap Room. Several sets of keys were found inside of Rogalski's vehicle in addition to prescription medications in Fuerst's name.

On Dec. 19, 2022, the sheriff's detective assigned to the case met with Fuerst in Washington County and learned Fuerst identifies as a man and prefers to be called “Dani.”

Fuerst confessed to planning the burglary of the Hive Tap Room with Rogalski, who drove them to the busi-

ness. They agreed to split the money, Fuerst said. Fuerst climbed through the unlocked window and tried to pry open the cash register with a screwdriver but could not get it open. Fuerst intended on taking the cash register but left it behind.

Fuerst took \$200 to \$300 in cash from on top of the safe and then dragged the safe out of the office and outside. Rogalski then drove into the parking lot and they loaded it into the vehicle and took the safe to Fuerst's sister's house, where they used a drill to access the inside and took out \$2,500 – which they split

evenly.

Fuerst is currently serving a six-year prison sentence for burglary in Washington County. Fuerst was convicted on Sept. 2, 2020, in Marquette County of burglary.

Fuerst is scheduled to appear in Walworth County Circuit Court March 17 for an initial appearance. If convicted on all the recent charges, Fuerst faces up to 21 years in prison and \$55,000 in fines.

Rogalski's initial appearance is scheduled in Walworth County Circuit Court on March 24. She faces up to 19 years in prison and \$45,000 in fines.

Trial set for woman who stabbed husband



Roxanne Skinner

A jury trial has been set for a Lake Geneva woman accused of stabbing her husband with a steak knife.

Roxanne R. Skinner, 59, will go to trial April 28 in Walworth County Circuit Court for second-degree recklessly endangering safety with domestic abuse assessments and aggravated battery – both with use of a dangerous weapon modifiers.

Her final pretrial date is April 16.

According to the criminal complaint, Town of Geneva police were called to an Iris Road home Jan. 30 for a 911

call about a stabbing.

When police arrived, the victim was still being assaulted by his wife, Skinner. When he opened the door, the victim was visibly wet, bloody and actively bleeding from the chest. He was transported to a nearby hospital for medical attention.

At the hospital, the victim stated he and Skinner spent the

day together and each had several drinks throughout the day.

When they arrived home, he said Skinner got mad and started to yell. He said he laid down in bed and she entered the room, pulled out a steak knife and stabbed it into his chest. She attempted to stab him multiple times after that, but the victim got away and called police.

Skinner is being represented by attorney John Dade, according to online court records.

She faces up to 26 years in prison and \$45,000 in fines if convicted.

Court blotter

The following people were charged with these Class H and I felony offenses in Walworth County Circuit Court between Feb. 25 and March 4:

Class H

Class H, punishable by up to six years in prison and \$10,000 in fines:

Bail jumping

• Wilmer A. Guzman Arguijo, 26, of Whitewater; felony bail jumping.

According to the criminal complaint, on Jan. 17, at 2 p.m., Arguijo was observed getting into the driver's seat of a vehicle. He then pulled out of a parking spot and drove away westbound on County Road NN.

He does not have a valid driver's license and had four prior driving without a license charge in the past three years. He was out on bond since Dec. 30 for felony failure to report to jail and was ordered not to commit any new crimes.

• Louise P. Searles, 57, of Lake Geneva; felony bail jumping.

According to the criminal complaint, on April 22, 2024, Lake Geneva police were called to 1790 Conant Street

for a disorderly conduct complaint. The caller told police Searles returned home drunk and needed to leave.

She showed signs of impairment, including bloodshot eyes, and was emitting the smell of alcohol. Searles was out on bond and ordered not to consume or possess alcohol.

• Jacob A. Mills, 36, of Brodhead, felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping and possession of a controlled substance.

According to the criminal complaint, a woman was pulled over on Feb. 20 at 11:03 p.m. on Interstate 43 in the Village of Mukwonago for having expired registration. Mills was the passenger.

A search was conducted, and deputies located a fake dictionary lockbox that contained cash and Vyvanse pills; a cigarette box with a jar of cocaine; and a gem baggie with Ropinirole Hydrochloride pills.

Mills admitted the safe belonged to him. Mills was out on bond in Rock County since Sept. 7, 2022, for possession with intent to deliver cocaine and was ordered not to possess or consume any controlled substances. He was also out on bond since Jan. 7 for operating

while revoked and ordered not to commit any new crimes.

Fleeing

• Ammon A. Stringham, 21, of Elkhorn; attempting to flee of elude an officer.

According to the criminal complaint, on Feb. 19, Village of East Troy police pulled Stringham over at Highway ES and State Highway 20 for failing to stop at a stop sign. As the officer was exiting his squad, Stringham took off, increasing his speed to 47 miles per hour for 2.8 miles until he struck spike strips and came to a stop at Miramar Road.

• Corey N. Barksdale, 35, of Delavan; attempting to flee or elude an officer.

According to the criminal complaint, on Feb. 21, Elkhorn police attempted to pull over Barksdale at the 200 block of South County Highway H for driving left of the center line. Barksdale accelerated to 110 miles per hour, passing vehicles in the no passing zone and went into oncoming traffic.

The officer terminated the chase at N3877 County Trunk H and later learned from a probation and parole agent that Barksdale was identified as the driver, with video footage showing him entering the vehicle.

Identity theft

• Jervonta A. Jones, 27, of Kenosha; identity theft for financial gain, fraud on a hotel and fraudulent use of a credit card – all as a repeater.

According to the criminal complaint, Lake Geneva police were called to the Cove of Lake Geneva Sept. 11, 2023, for a report of credit card fraud. The general manager of the hotel reported that a man, later identified as Jones, checked into the hotel on Sept. 9 with a Texas ID for Robert Matej and paid for the room using Apple Pay, a contactless payment method.

The hotel received a call from a man in Colorado, who reported his credit card was fraudulently used at the hotel, Mad Rooster Café in Kenosha, Emagine Theater in Lake Geneva and two pizza places in Kenosha County. The charges at the hotel were \$1,273.

Jones was identified on video by a Bucky Badger tattoo

on his right shoulder. He was convicted of harboring a felon on May 7, 2021, in Kenosha County, making him a repeat offender.

Sex crimes against minors

• Charles M. Griffith, 23, of Elkhorn; causing a child older than 13 to view sexual activity and soliciting intimate representation from a minor.

According to the criminal complaint, on Aug. 28, 2024, an East Troy police detective interviewed a 14-year-old girl who had been communicating with Griffith online and sent her videos and photos and asked her to reciprocate.

On Oct. 14, police interviewed Griffith, who admitted to sending nude photos of himself and requesting photos from her, despite knowing she was younger than 18. Police searched his cell phone and located messages sent between the two from March 3 to June 30, 2024.

During their exchange, Griffith referred to the girl as his “little cum slut” and graphically described having intercourse with her. He sent several images of his penis and requested images of her vagina, using explicit language.

During the exchange, they discussed their age differences and Griffith stated if he gets caught, he would be “completely (explicit) for life,” and said they could meet up but “just gotta be sneaky about it.”

Strangulation and suffocation

• Anthony B. Buccieri Sr., 44, of Burlington; strangulation and suffocation, false imprisonment, misdemeanor bail jumping – all with disorderly abuse assessments and as a repeater.

According to the criminal complaint, City of Delavan police were called to the Baymont Hotel Feb. 16 at 3:03 p.m. for a report of a man yelling at a woman inside a room and it sounded like someone was getting thrown against the wall.

A witness told police she could hear a woman inside the room telling a man, who was swearing at her, not to touch her anymore. Inside the room, a woman had bruises on her

arms and neck, scratches on her chest, and a cut lip. The woman initially denied a physical altercation occurred but then admitted Buccieri hit her before police arrived.

The couple lived together from March until September, she stated. The two reportedly got into an argument over Buccieri's whereabouts and he slapped her across the face and got on top of her and began choking her. She kicked him off her and he grabbed her by the hair and dragged her into the bathroom, where he reportedly continued to choke her and repeatedly slapped her across the face.

She stated he also physically abused her the day before as well.

Class I

Class I, punishable by up to 3-1/2 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines:

Arson

• Torri M. Rosio, 21, of Cascade; arson of property other than a building.

According to the criminal complaint, Whitewater police investigated a fire that was started at a 1036 W. Main St. apartment Nov. 27, 2022, at 11:50 p.m. Rosio and two other tenants resided at the apartment.

One of the tenants reported waking to a smoke alarm going off and a hoodie that was on fire, hanging on the kitchen door, leading to the hallway. She and the other resident filled bowls of water to put the fire out. Rosio had not been at the apartment when her roommates went to bed, nor when the fire was put out. They had no explanation of how the fire started.

The landlord told investigators that Rosio was several months behind on rent and gave her many excuses as to why she could not pay. Rosio told investigators she left her parents' home in Cascade that evening then went to her apartment around 9 p.m., then left after an hour to her boyfriend's dorm, where she slept over and didn't wake up until the next day at 4 p.m.

Her roommate noted she was up at that time and Rosio had not returned. Investigators spoke with her boyfriend

May 10, 2023, who reported that Rosio texted him at 12:01 a.m. that she was “on (her) way back” and arrived at his dorm at 12:04 a.m. Police obtained a search warrant for geolocation information on Rosio's phone which placed her at the apartment at the time of the fire.

On Sept. 29, 2023, police interviewed Rosio and showed her evidence that she lied about her whereabouts. She then admitted that she left the apartment around the time of the fire but denied starting the fire.

Drugs

• Antonyon Hamilton, 48, of Milwaukee; possession of THC – second and subsequent offense and resisting an officer.

According to the criminal complaint, on Feb. 23 at 3:47 p.m., Hamilton was pulled over by a sheriff's deputy on Interstate 43 near Bowers Road in the Town of Lafayette for having excessively tinted windows. The vehicle was emitting the smell of marijuana.

A search of the vehicle produced 11 pre-rolled joints and 8.8 grams of marijuana. After transporting Hamilton to jail, he refused to get out of the police squad. He was convicted in Milwaukee County on Feb. 22, 2012, for possession with intent to deliver cocaine and possession with intent to deliver THC, making him a repeat offender.

Throwing bodily fluids

• Raynor William Stehno, 24, of Lake Geneva; throwing or discharging bodily fluids at a public safety worker and disorderly conduct.

According to the criminal complaint, on Sept. 15, 2023, Town of Geneva police were dispatched to a Kelly Road home for a report of a man screaming and stomping around the house. When police arrived, Stehno's mother told police he started screaming at her after she asked him if he wanted food. He told police to “(explicit) off” and was taken to Lakeland Medical Center in Elkhorn for a mental health evaluation.

At the hospital, he continued to yell and use a racial slur. When hospital staff began taking his vitals, Stehno became extremely upset and spit on the officer.

that he told the user he was 17 years old. The boy said SPIeper sent two or three payments to him in exchange for him naked in front of a mirror showing his genitals, and him touching his genitals on video. The boy also stated that “SPIeper” told him he was pleasuring himself.

Pieper told investigators that he was keeping his online activities a secret and that he is ashamed of what he had been doing.

• Officer

(Continued from front page)

of 18 and 25.

His alleged victims were identified as a 14-year-old boy from Washington and a 17-year-old boy from Arkansas.

Pieper stated that approximately once a week, he would pay people in exchange for a video or image of them “doing things” such as pleasuring themselves, walking around nude or touching themselves. He said the youngest person he believed he was in contact

with was 15 years old.

He recalled being a sponsor of the 17-year-old's CashApp account and helped him to set it up because he was younger than 18, the required age for setting up an account.

Reports from Washington reflect that on March 5, the first victim sent a nude photo of his buttocks to Pieper in exchange for \$20; however he said he was never able to access the money. Investi-

gators looked at the victim's CashApp account and noted five different transactions from Pieper in July 2024, totaling \$325. The victim also stated Pieper sent an image of his penis to the boy.

On March 5, Arkansas investigators spoke with the second victim, who stated he sold pornographic images of himself “all over the internet.” He further stated he sold pornographic images to an “SPIeper” account and

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President and CEO Ritu Raju, of Gateway Technical College, delivers remarks during a March 6 open house at the Elkhorn campus.

Gateway holds open house in Elkhorn

School highlights added health care, HVAC labs and programs

Gateway Technical College has expanded its Elkhorn Campus facilities and college programs over the past year, making even more health care and trades training accessible to Walworth County students.

On March 6, the college opened the expanded health care and HVAC labs and classrooms on the campus to the community to show how the advanced training and technology there help students to successfully enter their careers.

“Walworth County is experiencing steady growth in population and industrial development, and Gateway is pleased to present our expanded and leading-edge facilities at our Elkhorn Campus in support of this growth,” said Gateway Technical College President and CEO Ritu Raju.

“This significant development underscores our commitment to providing accessible, high-quality education that meets the needs of our students and the demands of our region.”

In particular, health care programs

that now can be taken in Elkhorn include Nursing, Practical Nursing, Medical Assistant and Nursing Assistant. They are supported by a new, cutting-edge simulated patient lab.

“Based on feedback from our local employers and the direction of our college leadership, we have expanded our health care programs to Elkhorn,” said School of Health Dean Micheal Randolph. “In addition to adding state-of-the-art simulation rooms, we also created a new nursing skills classroom, a new nursing assistant classroom and an updated medical assistant classroom.

“This remodel allowed us to enhance our Medical Assistant and Nursing Assistant offerings and also add the space needed for Practical Nursing and Nursing. We now offer these programs as well as support services in Elkhorn.”

The college also created a heating, ventilation and air conditioning lab for programs that recently began in Elkhorn.

“We know that’s a high-demand career field here in Walworth County,” said Dwayne Windham, associate dean of Gateway’s Manufacturing, Engineering and Information Technology Division.

“We feel by expanding our program, combined with the new lab space, this will benefit students and employers.”

Raju said she’s also thankful for the industry and community partners who support the college and help its students succeed.

“We are grateful for the partnerships and community support that make these initiatives possible,” said Raju. “Together, we are building a brighter future for our students and the communities we serve.”

“We are incredibly excited over the growth of this wing,” said Jon Stankevitz, owner and CEO of Golden Years Assisted Living. “The building is great, but, to me, what makes Gateway special is the instructors and students.”

Golden Years serves as a clinical partner for Gateway’s School of Health programs, sits on the college’s health care programs advisory committee and is a Youth Apprenticeship partner.

“Gateway Technical College is definitely a center of excellence,” said Jon Dunlap, area director, Comprehensive Energy Solutions, for Commercial HVAC Americas for Trane.

Trane has been a longstanding partner at the college, supporting its HVAC-R program, career and technical training, as well as providing industry certifications and industry insight to help Gateway graduates successfully enter this in-demand industry.

Crop insurance rebates continue to see interest

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection closed the third application cycle for its Crop Insurance Premium Rebates for Planting Cover Crops program recently.

Through 2021 Wisconsin Act 233, Gov. Evers created the cover crop insurance program to help protect soil and water resources and support producers implementing cover crop practices. Since 2022, 160,000 acres of coverage, or \$800,000, has been awarded annually on a first-come, first-served basis.

“Our land and water resources are critical to the success of Wisconsin’s \$116 billion agricultural industry, and our cover crop insurance program helps protect our natural resources while helping farmers protect their bottom line,” said Gov. Evers. “I was glad to create this program back in 2022 with bipartisan support, and I look forward to continuing support for this vital program and the industry as a whole in my next budget.”

Program participants receive a \$5 per acre rebate credit to their crop insurance premium for acres planted with cover crops, then subsequently planted to an insurable cash crop. All acres are verified for

eligibility prior to the issuance of rebates.

To date, producers in 60 of the 72 Wisconsin counties have participated in the program, and each year, an increased number of cover crop acreage is submitted during the application period. This year, program applications exceeded 224,000 acres, demonstrating how interest in the program far exceeds the funding available.

“The cover crop insurance rebate program is a newer program, but it is quickly growing in popularity with farmers,” said Secretary Romanski. “Governor Evers recognizes the value this tool provides to farmers, and his 2025-2027 budget includes \$1.6 million to continue the program. This program has received bi-partisan support in the past. As the next budget progresses, we are hopeful that bi-partisan support for these strategic investments in Wisconsin producers will continue.”

DATCP has worked collaboratively with applicants, insurance providers, and the RMA to improve the application process since the program’s inception. A copy of the web-based rebate application, information about eligibility, and FAQs are available on covercroprebate.wi.gov.

For more information, visit datcp.wi.gov.

Red Arrow Brigade welcomes new commander

The Wisconsin Army National Guard’s most storied unit welcomed a new commander to its formation during a recent ceremony at its headquarters in Camp Douglas.

The famed 32nd “Red Arrow” Infantry Brigade Combat Team held a formal change of command ceremony between outgoing commander Col. Matthew Elder and incoming commander Col. William Benson.

Elder, who took command in August 2023, relinquished command after leading the 32nd through an intense training period highlighted by the brigade’s successful and historic rotation through the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Johnson, Louisiana – one of the toughest military training crucibles in the world. The brigade served as the rotational task force in summer 2024 with more than 5,000 troops from 24 states, representing one of the largest National Guard rotations in JRTC’s history. The unit also trained to be the state’s National Guard Reaction Force, and supported several other major training events.

“I’ve been in and out of the 32nd Brigade for over 20 years, and it has all been amazing, but the last 18 months of command has been the greatest honor and privilege of my career, to serve alongside the dedicated leaders you see here and amazing Soldiers of the Red Arrow, and that 18 months absolutely flew by for me.”

While Elder acknowledged his sadness moving on from the Red Arrow after two decades of service to it, he was comforted by the fact that Benson – a long-time friend and colleague – would be taking over for him.

Wisconsin’s Deputy Adjutant General for Army, Brig. Gen. Matthew Strub, charged Benson with continuing to build upon the strong foundation established by Elder.

He also praised the Soldiers of the Red Arrow for their professionalism and ded-

ication amidst the backdrop of pacing peer and near-peer threats and an uncertain and complex world.

“It’s our job to be ready,” Strub told them. “Ready to fight and win our nation’s wars and support the citizens of our great state. Every time we in the Wisconsin Guard, and specifically you, the 32nd Brigade have been given a mission at home or abroad, you’ve crushed it.”

Strub commended Elder for his leadership.

“Col. Elder – I can’t thank you enough for the leadership you’ve provided the 32nd during this tremendous, difficult time,” he said. “Leadership does matter, and it sets the tone and culture of a unit, and Soldiers deserve good leaders. Matt – you absolutely delivered. You have met or exceeded every expectation.”

“The 32nd Infantry Brigade is a better, more lethal unit now because of you. The impact of your leadership will be felt by the 32nd and the entire Wisconsin Army National Guard for many years to come. Congratulations on a very successful command.”

Elder will become the next chief of staff for the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Benson assumed command with almost 3 decades of military service to his credit.

“What a privilege and honor it is just to be a part of an organization with the lineage, history, and reputation of the Red Arrow, but to command it is truly an honor,” he said shortly after officially taking command.

The Red Arrow’s lineage dates back to the American Civil War and includes storied chapters in World War I and World War II, where it spent 654 days in combat – more than any other American division, as well as service in Iraq and Afghanistan in the 21st century.

“I’m humbled to be the commander of this incredible organization, and I look forward to working with all of you. Forward!”

Prepare for unpredictable weather

OPEI hub offers storm prep tips on safe use of equipment, checklists

Chainsaws, generators, snow throwers, utility type vehicles, water pumps, and other types of outdoor power equipment help home and business owners maintain properties and clean up after storms or weather-related emergencies.

Home and business owners are urged to visit the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute’s online hub for storm preparation, safe equipment usage tips, and checklists to help them prepare for today’s unpredictable weather.

“Bad weather can hit anytime, anywhere, so plan for it,” says Kris Kiser, president and CEO of OPEI.

“With any weather event, like hurricanes, snow, and ice, we usually know they’re coming. Get fresh fuel, charge batteries, and test outdoor power equipment in advance so you’re powered up and ready to use it. If the power goes out, you can’t get those things easily.”

In particular, says OPEI, when using a portable generator, homeowners should make sure they have weather-approved extension cords that keep the generator a safe distance from the house and that users follow all manufacturer’s guidelines.

Kiser says storm preparation boils down to thinking strategically about what equipment is needed.

“Our industry is constantly evolving and innovating, and there’s a lot of equip-

ment on the market today that can make big jobs easier, to help you ‘weather it better’ when storms hit,” Kiser said. “But you need to have the right equipment on hand before damaging weather hits.”

When the power goes out, a generator can keep the lights on and phones charged. A utility type vehicle can move people and supplies quickly, and a water pump can get out floodwaters from basements and other spaces. String trimmers, leaf blowers, and mowers can remove combustible material away from a structure. Chainsaws and pole pruners can take down dead limbs and trim trees and bushes.

“Safety gear and following manufacturer’s directions is key to using outdoor

power equipment,” Kiser added. “It’s important to ensure everyone who uses equipment knows and follows all safety procedures.”

Find safety tips, checklists and more at WeatherItBetter.com.

About OPEI

OPEI is an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. The institute is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized organization in the development of safety and performance standards.

For more information, visit opei.org.

Senior menu

Walworth County Department of Health and Human Services hosts a nutrition program for older adults. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. at Westshire at the Lakes, 5680 Parliament Lane on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and at Lake Comus Apartments, 207 McDowell on Monday and Friday.

available at dining center locations only and must be ordered two days in advance.

The meal is open to anyone older than 60 and their spouse. Each senior is asked to contribute a \$6.00 donation. Seniors must make a reservation two days prior by calling 262-741-3333.

March 12 - 21

Thursday – Tomato roast-

ed pork loin, dinner roll, mashed potatoes, whole apple

Friday – Beef Burgundy, egg noodles, sautéed mushrooms, green beans, diced pears

Monday – Corned Beef, dinner roll, boiled potatoes, carrots, mixed fruit, pistachio pudding

Tuesday – Creamed turkey, brown rice, seasoned

peas, corn, peaches

Wednesday – BBQ chicken, baked beans, green salad, cornbread, plums

Thursday – Swiss beef steak, dinner roll, mashed potatoes, seasoned spinach, strawberry applesauce

Friday – Lemon butter cod, bread and butter, beets, squash, tropical fruit
Alternate: Chicken Kiev

Ag Secretary touts importance of federal funding in national conference

Secretary Randy Romanski, of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, attended the 2025 Winter Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. last month.

The annual National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, known as NASDA, event brings together commissioners, secretaries, and directors of agriculture from across the nation.

During the conference, Romanski contributed in committee policy discussions, engaged in discussions with federal agency leadership, and

participated in the NASDA business meeting. NASDA members covered numerous topics including food safety, land conservation, and international trade.

“Throughout the conference, NASDA members spoke about the importance of states receiving adequate federal funding to meet our co-regulatory responsibilities,” said Romanski. “It is critical that states receive cooperative agreement funding for grain inspection, meat inspection, and more.”

Romanski co-sponsored a policy amendment during the

conference, supporting federal biofuel tax policy that gives preference to the usage of domestic feedstocks for U.S. biofuel production.

He also co-sponsored an action item encouraging Congress to retain the Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives as a program in the forthcoming Farm Bill with base funding of \$36 million annually.

Both items were approved by the NASDA members during the business meeting.

“The DBI Initiatives are making a significant impact, supporting dairy businesses

across the country by providing technical assistance and grant funding,” explained Romanski. “Wisconsin is America’s Dairyland, and I hope the DBI Initiatives are included in a unified, fully-funded Farm Bill.”

The conference also included conversations about the national response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N1) in poultry and dairy cattle.

NASDA members approved a policy amendment and action items related to ensuring states have adequate resources for the HPAI H5N1 re-

sponse.

“I continue to advocate for additional resources for animal disease response on a state and federal level,” added Romanski. “This conference provided a unique opportunity for state leaders to meet with federal officials to discuss the importance of communication and a coordinated response.”

Other items approved during the NASDA Winter Policy Conference include the importance of restoring organic funding and investing in Local Food Purchase Assistance or a successor program. Members also approved a pol-

icy amendment opposing any effort to decouple nutrition spending from the Farm Bill.

The Food Export Association of the Midwest USA also met during the 2025 Winter Policy Conference.

During that meeting, Romanski was elected as Vice President of the non-profit organization that works to facilitate trade between Midwestern food suppliers and importers around the world.

NASDA is a nonpartisan association including all 50 states and four territories. To learn more about NASDA, visit www.nasda.org.

Obituaries

LOREN D. BAGLEY

Loren Donald Bagley (Don), 92, of Clinton, passed away on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones.

He was born on Jan. 18, 1933, in Albany, the son of Burr and Emma (Freitag) Bagley. He married the love of his life, Cynthia Bartlett Bagley (Cindy), on June 6, 1954, in Albany, who predeceased him in death on Oct. 2, 2022. They were married for 68 years. Loren missed her every single day since her passing, and they are now at peace with one another again.

Loren graduated high school in Albany at just 17 years old in 1950. He later continued his education at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE). Loren spent over 20 years of hard work and dedication farming. He eventually retired as a machinist from Scot Forge in Clinton after 20 years of commitment.

Over his 92 years of life, Loren became known to friends and family as an avid reader, passionate historian, and hobbyist collector. He had an insatiable curiosity that he sought to fulfill through endlessly reading, doing word searches, keeping an eye on the neighborhood, trips to the



cottage, and searching for arrowheads. He had an outstanding eagle eye that he used for finding and collecting his treasures, like the rare and beautiful arrowheads he found on the beaches of Lake Koshkonong. He also used this skill to find and share plenty of other odds and ends along the way.

Loren used his love for where he grew up and enjoyment of history to document and share the histories of Green and Rock counties – particularly, tracing family genealogy and the history of the cemeteries in the area. This was a passion that both he and his wife shared. Loren also had many additional hobbies, including enjoying his favorite foods and requesting them endlessly from his family members, watching a game with his daughters, and visiting with family from Green County.

Loren was soft-spoken and a man of few words, but when he spoke it mattered. He was always listening intently and cared deeply about what you said (so long as he found

it interesting). Loren had his own ways of showing love to family and friends. He gave out his special \$2 bills at every holiday and event, and often just because. He never missed a birthday and had every new person in his life put their birthday down in his birthday book. Loren will be dearly missed and always remembered.

Loren was predeceased by his parents, siblings and loving wife. Survivors include his daughters, Susan Bagley and Laurie Shelbourn; son, Lance (Jackie) Bagley; granddaughters, Alisha Shelbourn (Antonio Cruz), Lauren Bagley (Nate Stump), McKenzie (Matthew) Brewer, and Kendyl Bagley; great-granddaughters, Larissa Scott and Aaliah Rose; many much-loved nieces and nephews; and the Cary family.

A memorial visitation for Loren will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, March 14, in the Daley Murphy Wisch and Associates Funeral Home, 2355 Cranston Rd., Beloit.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Loren's name will be given to the Clinton Public Library or the English Settlement Cemetery.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.daleymurphywisch.com.

JOHN DANIEL LOOMER

John Daniel "JD" Loomer, 60, of Charles City, Iowa, passed away on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee surrounded by his family.

John was born April 6, 1964, to John G. and Frances (Sherman) Loomer in Milwaukee.

John graduated from Eisenhower High School in New Berlin in 1982. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a degree in industrial technology and master's degree in secondary education. John first taught at Muskego High School.

As a Delavan resident for over 20 years, he taught at Badger High School in Lake Geneva and substitute taught at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School in Delavan. He also dedicated many years to working at Lakeland School of Walworth County in Elkhorn, working with students with disabilities.

John proudly served 29 years in the United States Army. He attended Basic Training at Fort Knox in Kentucky and Advanced Training at Fort Lewis in Washington. He attended Transportation Officer Basic Training at Fort Eustis in Virginia. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 1987. After his commissioning, he served honorably



in the Wisconsin National Guard, Army Reserves, and Army Active Duty. In 1991, John was de-

ployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Storm as a part of the 1158th Transportation Company from Monroe. He served as a Platoon Leader of the Heavy Truck Transportation Company during this time. John also served tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. He retired in 2015 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

John had many passions in life. He was a great storyteller and enjoyed sharing, and embellishing a little, with his many friends through their visits and his love of collecting postcards. Most people will remember John for his sense of humor. He kept that sense of humor until the very end, which was a comfort to those around him. He

enjoyed hunting, trapping, fishing, gardening, planting sunflowers, planting trees, and feeding the birds. He had an undying desire for conserving and improving the wildlife habitat on his family farm in Charles City, Iowa, which has been in the family since 1872. John's greatest passion of all, however, was his three children.

John is preceded in death by his parents, John G. and Frances (Sherman) Loomer. He is survived by his three children, Anna (Evon) Selestow, Daniel, and John; his brother Mark (Tanya); nephew Xavier; nieces Kira, Cami, and Lexi, and special friend, Robyn.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 416 W. Geneva St., Delavan. Visitation will be held at the church from 9 a.m. until the time of the service.

Monroe Funeral Home in Delavan is assisting the family. Please visit us at www.delavanfuneralhome.com.

Death notice

EVELYN M. PEARSON

Evelyn M. Knuth Kuhnke Pearson, 99, of Delavan passed away on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at Golden Years in Walworth.

Monroe Funeral Home in Delavan is assisting the family.

WISCONSIN WATCH

Former National Guard commander disputes firing

Gov. Tony Evers declines further review in case of fired officer cleared in four investigations

By Katelyn Ferral
FOR WISCONSIN WATCH

This story was produced and originally published by Wisconsin Watch, a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom. It was made possible by donors like you.

For Col. Leslie Zyzda Martin – who was fired from the Wisconsin National Guard despite four investigations failing to substantiate allegations against her – the language in Wisconsin's military justice law is clear: Any members of the National Guard who think they have been wronged by a commander can make a complaint that must be reviewed and resolved as soon as possible by a superior officer.

Yet more than a year after making such a complaint, Zyzda Martin says she is still waiting for some kind of justice. The commander whom she has accused of unceremoniously firing her, Brig. Gen. David May, is still interim head of the Wisconsin National Guard and may be retiring soon. And his boss, Gov. Tony Evers, informed Zyzda Martin in August he's declining further review, but didn't provide records of any proceedings related to the particular review she requested.

Military legal experts who

reviewed the provision in Article 138 of Wisconsin's military justice code agreed it compels the Guard and the governor, as commander-in-chief, to review such complaints, especially because the complaint involves an adjutant general. Whoever reviews the complaint must also provide documentation of the proceedings of that review.

A lawyer who advises the Legislature agreed the law allows Zyzda Martin to appeal to the governor, but doesn't appear to provide recourse if the governor declines to act.

Guard spokesperson Bridget Esser emphasized the state Department of Workforce Development Equal Rights Division determined in 2023 that the Guard did not discriminate against Zyzda Martin. That finding responded to a sex discrimination complaint Zyzda Martin filed in June 2022. She withdrew her appeal in January 2024, but continued to pursue the Article 138 complaint.

The Guard said while four investigations didn't substantiate three complaints against Zyzda Martin, information gleaned from those investigations caused May to lose confidence in her ability to command. The Guard did not

provide a detailed explanation for her firing when *Wisconsin Watch* asked, saying it was protecting Zyzda Martin's privacy even after she signed a waiver for the Guard to release her personnel records to the news outlet.

Evers spokesperson Britt Cudaback said the Guard "has provided legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons" for demoting and firing Zyzda Martin.

"In order for a wrong to be remedied a wrong must be identified," Cudaback said. "Based on a review of Zyzda Martin's complaint, supporting documents, and investigatory files of the three inspector general complaints made against her, there is no indication of any wrongful action against her."

After her firing in November 2021, Zyzda Martin worked for the South Carolina Guard, but the disciplinary letters May put in her military record from her time in Wisconsin prevented her from being promoted. Because of that, she retired in October, ending her 34-year military career.

"I still don't know what I did wrong," Zyzda Martin said. "I have no idea."

[See COMMANDER, Back Page](#)

PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

at the Sharon Village Hall
125 Plain Street
Tuesday Nov 26th, 2024
At 7:00 pm

PROCEEDINGS

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Mark A. Ruosch called meeting to order at 7:00 pm

ROLL CALL PRESENT – Cliff Anderson, Peter Bushey, Jodel Carlson, Jerry Gibbons, Mark A. Ruosch, Pamela Schutt, Pam Woodrich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JG/PW motion to approve minutes from July 23rd, 2024 meeting. Motion carries

OPEN FOLLOWING PETITION: Chairman Mark A. Ruosch opened public hearing at 7:02 pm

THE PETITION FOR A MINOR LOT DIVISION
TAX KEY NUMBER: UOP00068

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: All of lots 5 and 6 and the Easterly 24 feet of lot 4 of Block 10 of the original Plat of the Village of Sharon, Wisconsin
STREET ADDRESS: 107 Plain St & 110 North St
ZONING: B1 Central Business District

The Village of Sharon seeks to have parcel UOP00068 divided into two (2) parcels separating 107 Plain St. and 110 North Street address. Zoning to remain B1 Central Business District. The owner will have the

zoning maps amended as needed.

All persons, their agents or attorneys will be given an opportunity to be heard in relation thereto.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: JG/PB motion to adjourn public hearing at 7:06 pm. Motion carries

LOT CONSOLIDATION
USGS00001 & USGS00002
– Request to consolidate lots USGS00001 & USGS00002 in Sharon Green subdivision was withdrawn by applicant on Nov. 21, 2024, after publications were done. No action was taken

LOT DIVISION UOP00068 – JG/PW motion to recommend approval to the Board the lot division of Sharon Telephone lot UOP00068. Motion carries

ADJOURN – PB/CA motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm. Motion carries

Jaymie J. Kunkel,
CMC Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
(Published in Walworth/
Fontana/Williams Bay Times
and Sharon Reporter
March 14, 2025
WNAXLP - 468990)

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WALWORTH COUNTY

LVNV FUNDING LLC

Plaintiff(s)

-vs-

JOHN MATZER

Defendant(s)

SMALL CLAIMS AMENDED SUMMONS

Case No. 25SC000023

TO: JOHN MATZER
140 W. SCHOOL ST.,
APT. 217
SHARON, WI 53585-9635

You are being sued by: LVNV FUNDING LLC in the Small Claims Court of WALWORTH County, located at 1800 COUNTY RD. NN, RM# 2055, ELKHORN, WI 53121.

A hearing will be held at 8:30 a.m. on April 3, 2025. If you do not appear, a judgment may be given to the party suing you. A copy of this amended summons along with the summons and complaint is being mailed to you.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin this February 24, 2025.

KOHN LAW FIRM S.C.

ELECTRONICALLY
SIGNED BY:
/S/JOHN DANNER IV
JOHN DANNER IV
Plaintiff's Attorney
State Bar No. 1125953
735 N. Water St., Suite 1300
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 276-0435

(Published in Walworth/
Fontana/Williams Bay Times
and Sharon Reporter
March 14, 2025
WNAXLP - 468660)

NOTICE VILLAGE OF SHARON WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there will be a Public Hearing before the Planning Commission on Tuesday March 26th, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall, 125 Plain Street, to consid-

er the following:
THE PETITION FOR LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT/LOT CONSOLIDATION

PETITIONER: Rosales, Josh & Lory
STREET ADDRESS: lots 31 & 32 East View Drive
ZONING: RS-1, Single Family
TAX KEY NUMBER: USGS00031 & USGS00032
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 31 & 32, SHARON GREEN SUBDIVISION, VILLAGE OF SHARON

The petitioner seeks to consolidate lots 31 & 32 into one parcel to construct an accessory building. Petitioner will have the zoning maps amended as needed.

All persons, their agents or attorneys will be given an opportunity to be heard in relation thereto.

Jaymie J. Kunkel, CMC
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

(Published in Sharon Reporter
March 14 & 21, 2025
WNAXLP - 468989)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WALWORTH COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES AND CONDITIONAL USES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the County Zoning Agency in the County Board Meeting Room (Rm. 114) of the Government Center located at 100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin, on **March 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.**, covering proposed ordinance amendments (rezones) to the Walworth County Code of Ordinances and condi-

tional uses. (The items may not necessarily be heard in the order listed on this notice.)

Ordinance Amendment –

Walworth County - Amendment to Section(s) 74-56 and 74-67 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances - Zoning and Section(s) 74-183 and 74-194 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances - Shoreland Zoning to allow the CZA to reduce the 200 foot setback for mineral extraction excavations down to 100 feet in instances where existing residences and/or residential zoning are distant from the site. This amendment would allow the CZA to eliminate the setback in instances where multiple properties are sharing the excavation (interior lot lines). This amendment would allow the CZA to require engineering from the applicant to aid in the CZA's decision making when considering a reduction or elimination. The format of the text of this amendment does not allow publishing in this legal notice. A copy of the amendment is available for review at the Land Use and Resource Management Department or at the County Clerk's Office at 100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, WI Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Ordinance changes may also be viewed on the Walworth County web page at (www.walworth.wi.us).

Rezones with Conditional Uses – None

Rezones –

Thomas Weber – Owner, Section 17, Lafayette Township. The property owner is requesting to rezone a portion of the parcel, approximately 5.03 acres of M-3

Mineral Extraction District to C-2 Upland Resource Conservation District in order to build a single-family residence. The property of concern is location on the north side of Potter Road, approximately 1 mile northwest of the intersection of Potter Road and Plank Road, identified as Tax Parcel K LF1700005A.

Conditional Uses –

Premier Lakeside Storage LLC – Owner, Sections 22 & 23, Delavan Township. The property owner is requesting conditional use review and approval for an expansion greater than 25% of the Planned Unit Development for office space, retail, and off-season mini-warehouse storage facilities on lands zoned B-2 General Business District. The properties of concern are located on the south side of Town Hall Road, approximately 400 feet east of the intersection of Town Hall Road and STH 50, identified as Tax Parcels FA495900001, FA495900002, FA495900003, and FA495900004.

Dated this 28th day of February, 2025.

Walworth County Zoning Agency requests any arrangements for handicapped access, sign language interpreter, or other assistance; please call the LURM Office at 262-741-4972 at least 48 hours prior to the Meeting.

(Published in Elkhorn Independent, Delavan Enterprise and Whitewater Register March 6 & 13 and East Troy News, Walworth/Fontana/Williams Bay Times, and Sharon Reporter March 7 & 14, 2025
WNAXLP - 468667)

OPINION

Capitol report

Trump tariffs raise concerns across spectrum

BY WISPOLITICS.COM

Voices across the political spectrum are voicing concerns about President Donald Trump’s news tariffs, expressing fears of higher prices, difficult markets and chaotic supply chains.

Dem Gov. Tony Evers at a WisPolitics luncheon in Madison said tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China will have a negative impact on Wisconsin and possibly reduce the state’s projected \$4.3 billion surplus.

Evers knocked the GOP-run Congress for not taking action, saying “it’s going to be hell to pay.”

“This is not a good situation. We have good working relationships with Canada, certainly we do with Mexico also, but just knowing that they’re already retaliating against us, this is not good for our democracy,” Evers said.

Evers said “of course” the tariffs will have an impact on the state’s projected surplus. He touted measures in his budget, including \$2 billion for tax cuts, which aim to help cut costs.

“Those are steps in the right direction, right? Making sure that over-the-counter things and pharmacies are sales tax-free. But will that make up for what’s going on worldwide? No, it’s not. So...it makes our jobs a lot harder,” he said.

WisGOP Rapid Response Director Anika Rickard in a statement to WisPolitics said “President Trump has a simple request for Mexico and Canada: help secure the borders and stop the flow of fentanyl.”

“Tony Evers should be working with the Administration to protect our communities instead of trying to score political points,” Rickard said.

But U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, usually a big Trump defender, says he’s concerned.

“I’m concerned about retaliation against Wisconsin manufacturers, against builders, against farmers. I’m concerned about the potential inflationary impact of that, although that is, there’s nothing, there’s nothing simple about that calculation. So I’m

just overall concerned,” the Oshkosh Republican told the WisPolitics “Capitol Chats” podcast. “I do realize that President Trump, I think, very effectively used tariffs to, for example, secure the border with Mexico. When Mexico wasn’t complying with or helping out with remain in Mexico policy, he threatened tariffs and got the cooperation with securing the border. And I do know the White House, in explaining this round of tariffs is pointing almost exclusively to the flow of fentanyl, particularly out of Mexico. I’m not sure exactly what they want both Mexico and Canada to do before they would consider lifting those tariffs. I’m hoping that Mexico and Canada do what President Trump (wants). First of all, it’d be good to try and reduce the flow of fentanyl, which is killing 10s of 1000s of Americans a year. So I understand the goals but put me down as concerned. I think I share what we’re seeing in the financial markets as well. They’re obviously concerned about disruption supply chains, so I’m making my concerns very well known, the administration.”

Meanwhile, Wisconsin manufacturing groups are raising concerns about tariff impacts on supply chains and the cost of energy, while soybean farmers in the state are looking for a “quick resolution” to avoid long-term damage to their trade relationships.

Trump on March 4 imposed 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada – though tariffs on Canadian energy are limited to 10% – and increased existing tariffs on Chinese goods to 20%. These actions against the United States’ largest trading partners immediately prompted threats of retaliatory tariffs.

Buckley Brinkman, executive director and CEO of the Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing & Productivity, emphasized the uncertainty these tariffs create for manufacturers in the state.

“Manufacturers thrive with certainty and being able to deal with shifts in market, not

necessarily the shifts that are caused by external factors,” he said in an interview today, adding “we just figured out our supply chains from the last disruption, and now we’re going to have to figure out how we can make the adjustments that are necessary to deal with these tariffs.”

He noted this period of adjustment will be “difficult” but also said “manufacturers are a resilient bunch, and we’ll find a way to adapt and thrive.”

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce President and CEO Kurt Bauer said the tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico will hit companies “differently depending on what the company does and what sector of the economy” in which they operate.

He said it will take time to determine the “full effect” of the tariffs on Wisconsin and the U.S. economy, but said WMC is most concerned about the impact on supply chain and energy costs.

“For example, the supply chain will be stressed for some companies, similar to what

we saw during COVID-19. And Wisconsin gets much of our oil and gas from Canada, specifically Alberta,” Bauer said. “A 10 percent tariff on imports will increase the cost, which will affect the entire economy in some way, including manufacturing, agriculture, shipping, etc.”

Brinkman said any short-term impact of efforts to find new suppliers or “reshoring” production domestically will be “relatively modest,” while manufacturers will likely be passing on price increases to consumers.

“The average price of a car could go up \$3,000 a vehicle,” he said. “The price of gas in the Upper Midwest, where we get that from Canada, could go up 75 cents a gallon. And so, there’s going to be some real pressures here that we’re going to have to adapt to and adjust.”

Canada, Mexico and China have each responded with plans for retaliatory tariffs, with China moving to enact tariffs of up to 15% on products imported from the U.S., including agricultural goods such as wheat, corn and

soybeans.

Tanner Johnson, a board member for the Wisconsin Soybean Association and soybean farmer in Prairie Farm, represents Wisconsin on the board of the American Soybean Association. In an interview, he noted soybeans are the No. 1 U.S. ag export to China and will face a 10% tariff.

“And of course, we’re the tip of the spear when it comes to retaliatory tariffs, so we’re obviously not a fan of it,” he said. “I’m not an alarmist. I don’t think the sky is falling. But it certainly has the potential to in ‘soyland.’ So, I think we’re monitoring the situation very closely.”

He noted soybean farmers helped develop export markets in China over decades by building relationships with buyers, and “we don’t want to see our hard work thrown away over a trade spat.” He said it’s crucial to maintain the positive relationships that enable U.S. soybean exports to flourish, as Chinese markets buy one in every three rows of soybeans grown domestically.

Johnson says he’s “cautiously optimistic it will be short-term pain for long-term gain,” but notes the tariffs will cause some discomfort in Wisconsin and nationally for soybean farmers.

“I can’t predict that the strategy this administration is using is going to be detrimental, but it’s certainly lacking clarity at the moment,” he said. “Without clarity, we obviously have reason to panic, and to be concerned about any downstream effects...we’re obviously looking for quick resolution and urging this administration to negotiate a long-term deal that’s positive to this country and soybean farmers.”

The Capitol Report is written by the editorial staff at WisPolitics.com, a nonpartisan, Madison-based news service that specializes in coverage of government and politics, and is distributed for publication by members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

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Slices of life

Signs of important things we can't see

One of the most bittersweet moments in life is when you have good news and no one to call.

I have lots of people to call about lots of things. But certain pieces of good news, require certain people.

And, for me, those people are no longer here.

I can talk to them. I can tell them my news, but I can’t call them on the phone because they no longer require physical entities like phones, or bodies.

Today was one of those days.

I had some good news. But it was a certain sort of good news. Not the kind you



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

share with just anyone.

It was the kind you share with your mom, or your husband.

Neither was available for conversation, unfortunately.

So, I contemplated my favorable situation and wished they were here to share my excitement.

And then I smelled cigarette smoke. (My mom

was a smoker.) I whispered, “Hi, mom.”

All day long birds kept flying in weird patterns above my head and in front of me – uncannily close. I smiled and acknowledged my husband, “I see what you’re doing.”

And I took both for what they were: signs.

Some of you reading this may not believe in signs. I lived much of my life not knowing for sure, but certainly not being on the receiving end of them.

And then, here I am.

Watching birds do weird things. Smelling cigarette smoke when no one’s been smoking around me.

If you don’t believe, if you haven’t cause to believe, consider yourself fortunate.

I only know what I know. Believe what I believe (unapologetically).

I also, consider myself fortunate. Maybe even more so than many others. Here’s why:

I have been put into a place in this life where I have to believe – to have faith – in things I can’t necessarily see.

And faith is a wondrous thing.

It provides peace amongst discord. It provides love amongst hate. It provides light amongst darkness. It provides joy amongst

sadness. It provides healing amongst hurt. It provides trust amongst uncertainty. It provides hope amongst despair.

It provides a platform bigger than oneself. It provides a knowledge that none of us is in this alone.

Because we aren’t. And that is a beautiful thought.

We all feel alone sometimes. I know I do and I have great faith that I am not alone. Still, despite that faith, sometimes aloneness creeps in and I feel separated from the world. Most often this occurs when I am struggling or when I have something especially good to share (and

no one to share it with).

Like today.

And then the birds put on a show for me. And I smell cigarette smoke.

And I know – I believe – without a doubt that there are things we don’t see with our eyes that nonetheless are as real as everything we do see.

For me, that is faith.

And I am very, very glad and grateful for it - and for the love that’s helped me know it.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

Letters to the editor

Schimmel will assure justice for Wisconsin

We must elect Judge Brian Schimmel to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. During his career he has been unrelenting in pursuit of justice. He was elected Waukesha County District Attorney and prosecuted a wide range of serious crimes, including elder abuse, human trafficking, homicide, sexual assault, internet crimes against children, and public corruption.

In 2014, he was elected Attorney General of Wisconsin. He instituted

reforms aimed at combating drug abuse, elder exploitation, threats to children’s safety, and established a program addressing decades of neglect surrounding rape kits. Since 2019, he has served impartially as a judge in Waukesha County.

His opponent liberal Dane County Judge Susan Crawford is weak on crime. She once declared that “judges must fully consider alternatives to incarceration” and that criminals should be allowed to “avoid the lifelong consequences of a conviction” as well as “I support bail

reforms to make sure low-income people aren’t held in jail”

She could have sentenced child molester Kevin Welton to more than 100 years on his three convictions of First-degree sexual assault of a child. Instead, she ignored requests from families of the six- and seven-year-old girls who were assaulted in a Middleton swimming pool, and even of liberal Dane County prosecutors. She sentenced Kevin Welton to only four years.

In this supposedly nonpartisan election, the Democratic party has been Crawford’s largest contributor, and her beliefs on dealing with criminals will not change. To assure justice for Wisconsinites from all over our state we must vote for Judge Brad Schimmel on April 1.

*Pamela Wolfe
Lake Geneva*

D'Alessandro should be village president

As a proud resident of Williams Bay for 50 years, I have seen our village grow and change. Through it all, strong, experienced

leadership has been the key to maintaining the character and stability of our community.

That is why I wholeheartedly support Jim D'Alessandro for Village President – because experience matters.

Jim has proven himself as a dedicated public servant, small business owner, and community leader. As a Williams Bay Lions Club member and village trustee, he has spent years working for the betterment of our town. His 12 years on the Finance Committee demonstrate his commitment to fiscal responsibility, ensuring that our tax dollars are spent wisely and effectively.

Beyond budgets, Jim has played a critical role in infrastructure improvements, emergency medical services, parks, and public works. When faced with an inherited multi-million-dollar parks plan, he led the effort to achieve the same results at a fraction of the cost. His leadership on the State Highway 67 reconstruction – and his continued work on the proposed 2030 project – show his dedication to long-term planning that benefits all

residents.

Jim D'Alessandro is the kind of leader Williams Bay needs – one who listens, leads with experience, and makes responsible decisions for our future. I encourage my fellow residents to join me in supporting Jim in the April 1 election.

*Diane Campbell
Williams Bay*

Vote for Franzen, Bartholomew and D'Alessandro

Our community is at a crossroads, and we need experienced, thoughtful leaders who will guide Williams Bay with transparency, fiscal responsibility, and a commitment to public input. That’s why I am proud to support Susan Franzen, Mary Bartholomew, and Jim D'Alessandro.

These candidates believe in proactively addressing our village’s future challenges with full public participation. They are committed to exceeding minimum requirements for awareness and communication, ensuring that residents are always informed and involved

in the decision-making process. Their dedication to consistency and intentional growth will help preserve the character of Williams Bay while planning responsibly for the future.

Most importantly, Franzen, Bartholomew, and D'Alessandro recognize the importance of protecting our village from financial liabilities that could be imposed without community input. They strongly support a permanent, 90-acre conservation easement with the Geneva Lakes Conservancy on the former Aurora University/George Williams College property – an essential step in preserving our natural environment for future generations.

Williams Bay needs leaders who listen, engage, and act with integrity. Susan Franzen, Mary Bartholomew, and Jim D'Alessandro have the experience, vision, and dedication to move our community forward the right way – the Bay Way. I urge my fellow residents to support them in the upcoming election.

*Kim Travis
Williams Bay*

Final week for election letters

As a service to our readers, we accept letters to the editor about candidates and issues in local elections.

All political letters must be submitted for publication at least three editions prior to the date of the election. No related letters will publish in the two weeks immediately prior to the election date.

That means this is the final week letters pertaining to the April 1 election will be published.

Post-election letters from candidates thanking their supporters will be referred to the advertising department and will not be accepted for the editorial page.



KENNY YOO FOR WISCONSIN WATCH *Southern Lakes Newspapers*

Col. Leslie Zyzda Martin has asked Gov. Tony Evers to investigate her 2021 firing after four investigations did not substantiate allegations against her. Evers declined, but hasn't produced records indicating a legally required review was conducted.

• **Commander** (Continued from page 4)

Legal avenue for recourse

Last year, a Wisconsin Watch investigation highlighted Zyzda Martin's case. It was notable because the Wisconsin National Guard has been plagued for years by allegations of sexual harassment and a culture that hasn't supported women in uniform. Previous reporting on those allegations led to Evers firing former Adjutant General Donald Dunbar, but commanders who served under him, including May, have remained.

Zyzda Martin suspects her termination relates to how she handled a sexting case at Volk Field and other changes she made there, including updates to the airfield's safety program after a technician died while changing light bulbs on a runway. An independent investigation into the death later found that Volk Field, at the time under May's command, was not properly staffed and had "significant voids in safety program management, training, and compliance."

Because of the broad discretion military commanders have, retribution can be swift for those who report wrongdoing. Service members have few avenues for recourse, but Wisconsin provides one legal remedy: the Article 138 complaint.

The law entitles "any member of the state military forces" who believes they've been wronged by a commanding officer and is refused redress to "complain to any superior commissioned officer, who shall forward the complaint to the officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction over the officer against whom it is made."

According to the statute, which mirrors the one in the federal Uniform Code of Military Justice, the superior officer "shall examine the complaint and take proper measures for redressing the wrong complained of; and shall, as soon as possible, send to the adjutant general a true statement of that complaint, with the proceedings."

Zyzda Martin filed an Article 138 complaint over her firing with Evers' office in November 2023. She argues Evers is the proper person to review the complaint because, as commander-in-chief of the Guard, he oversees May. Zyzda Martin also already sought redress with May and Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp, making Evers next in the chain of command.

In January 2024, Evers' chief legal counsel Mel Barnes said Evers was deferring a decision on whether to look into Zyzda Martin's case to "allow for the completion of an inquiry by the Governor's Office," according to a letter Barnes sent to Zyzda Martin.

Eight months later, Evers' office sent a letter saying it reviewed the record of her removal and was "declining to take further action on the complaint."

But the office has produced no record of any correspondence or proceedings related to either an Article 138 review or the inquiry the governor's office said it was undertaking.

The Guard confirmed there were no records of any proceedings related to any reviews or inquiries in a November email to Zyzda Martin. The Guard and Evers did not respond to Wisconsin Watch's requests for records of any proceedings.

"If there was that inquiry, I should have documents showing that," Zyzda Martin said. "The governor has the responsibility, law or not, to do the right thing and look into it."

A right to a meaningful investigation

Though military legal experts said Wisconsin's military justice code requires the Guard and the governor to review Article 138 complaints, there are no specifics in the statute of

what the proceedings must look like.

"I don't think that the resulting reporting has to be a seven-volume magnum opus," said Eugene Fidell, who teaches military justice at Yale Law School and co-founded the National Institute of Military Justice. "But I think there has to be an effort to apply the mind and find the facts and explain what, if anything, the governor is going to do."

Often Article 138 complaints go nowhere, but they are a necessary step if a service member plans to take a case to court, Fidell said.

"The complaining party has a right to an up-or-down vote on a complaint and there has to be a meaningful investigation and there has to be a report generated," Fidell said.

But Wisconsin's law does not provide guidance on how such a review should be conducted, a key departure from how such complaints are handled on the federal level, said retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Chip Hodge, a military attorney, who now represents service members globally in legal cases.

"Usually the services provide procedural guidance and on implementing the law," he said. "I haven't seen that in Wisconsin ... which leads to that ambiguity. It seems like they could be taking advantage of the ambiguity."

Lt. Col. Ryan Sweazey, a retired F-16 pilot and former inspector general in the U.S. Air Force who has worked with Zyzda Martin on her complaint, suspects that is the case.

"The governor's office said, 'We're not taking further action, you lose,' essentially, which is a violation of the Wisconsin state statute," said Sweazey, who founded the Walk The Talk Foundation, an advocacy group helping service members navigate the military judicial system. "The law is nice but if there is no accountability for violating the law or circumventing it, what is the point?"

But David Moore, an attorney with Wisconsin's Legislative Council, a nonpartisan agency of the Wisconsin Legislature, said the law is not clear on what it compels the governor to do.

"It's not clear to me that Article 138 envisions a process for filing a complaint with the governor, but even if it does, that tees up that tricky question of 'you can take it to the governor, but does he really have to do anything?'" Moore said. "And if he doesn't do anything, is there any recourse to that?"

Although Evers is commander-in-chief of the Guard, Moore said that does not make him an officer in the context of the Article 138 statute. Also no court has clarified exactly what the law means.

Allegations not substantiated

The investigations against Zyzda Martin were the result of complaints made through the Air Force's Office of Inspector General. In one case, even after the initial complainant voluntarily withdrew the complaint, May pushed for an investigation to continue, but the allegation still wasn't substantiated.

In the end, May issued two letters of admonishment to Zyzda Martin on Nov. 8, 2021, the day she was fired. May and Knapp used information from the investigations as the basis for discipline.

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DAVE DRESADOW *Southern Lakes Newspapers*

The City of Delavan hosted its annual train show Saturday and Sunday, with displays at City Hall and the American Legion building, as well as other activities throughout the weekend.

• **Preserve** (Continued from front page)

Cratty Activity Center and guest services in the existing food service area.

Krehbiel then stated the advantage of a Planned Development Overlay is, "What you see is what you get and the plan cannot change once approved," before showing a slide with all the community benefits of the Preserve project. That includes the 90-acre nature preserve (open to the public), plus jobs created and maintenance of Music by the Lake and the new restaurant.

The slide concluded with stating \$1 million in room tax and \$500,000 annually in property tax would enable the village to replace aging water and sewer mains.

Jim Killian, Planning Commission alternate, observed, "On the east side of the property four of the cottages, look extremely close to the property line. How can you provide the landscaping buffering? They just look out of place. They just don't look right next to the sharp drop off."

To the Village Attorney, Killian asked, "How does the Village's annexation of North 40 not cause an island for the Town of Walworth along Highway 67?" The village attorney said that he feels comfortable the space is not completely surrounded.

The conservation easement holder is the Geneva Lake Conservancy, and does not need a zoning change, Krehbiel said in response to another Killian question.

Killian concluded the easement discussion with asking the PC and the public, "Do you/we want a conservation easement on the North 40 if we need housing, affordable housing, do we want to do that?"

Ted Panko, Water Safety Patrol, spoke about the history, the plan and Topography.

"I've been serving the community for 105 years as a non-for-profit and the last 25 of a century we've been located at George Williams

College. We are very grateful for all the college has done over the years," Panko said. "When they decided to sell off the campus, it is my understanding they had other buyers they could have pursued, but they wanted a buyer who continued to respect the uniqueness of this property."

"Topography has taken the time to get to know us since we are going to be their next-door neighbors," he added. "We are confident they will be great neighbor."

Bill Shubert, resident, revisited the comprehensive plan amendment and zoning map amendment request.

"Williams Bay is asked for comp plan and zoning for this but what will we get back?" he said. "Williams Bay people cannot afford this and the nature area will not be open except for certain days. If the project falls apart, we are liable for the debt."

"Topography should deed some of the land to Williams Bay so we can use it for civic needs."

Don Robison, another resident, stated, "when you go about 6-10 inches beneath the soil - there were artifacts taken from that area. Is there going to be any attempt to preserve artifacts during construction?"

Staff also gave their reports to the planning commission during the public hearing, reviewing storm water management and drainage, sewer and water, as well as addressing the number of trees on the property. There are currently 2,373 trees on the site, and 260 will be removed. Topography has said it will plant 718 new trees. The village will have an on-site visit to monitor the project and replacement will need to be permitted.

The Planning Commission unanimously approved recommending to the Board the Annexation Petitions and Temporary Zoning Upon Annexation of the "South 40" EW 200020 and "North

40" EW 200019, West of N. Lakeshore Drive and with a 6-1 vote in favor recommending the Village Board Rezone the "South 40" EW 20020 to P & I Public Institutional District (upon annexation) and Rezone of Parcels WWUP 00011, WGT 00010, WGT 00009, WA 499800002, and EW 200020 (after annexation) to Add a PDO Planned Development Overlay District/General Development Plan (GDP) contingent upon the Village Engineer report conditions being met, three principle categories (principal 1, principal 2, principal 3) with height restrictions, and landscaping between the Women's Leadership Center and Aurora/Topography property.

On March 3, the Board reviewed, discussed and listened to public comments on the Planning Commission recommendations including a draft Conservation Easement between Topography Hospitality LLC and Geneva Lake Conservancy and map.

Don Parker, Geneva Lake Conservancy was available to address any questions.

Killian, present as a resident, expressed full support of conservation easement, but did request the Village not approve the rezoning and annexation without the requirement of this easement. "The second thing," added Killian, "was regarding the South 40 (back nine of the former golf course) where the racquet center will be placed," it not being slated to be rezoned, and was earmarked, stated Killian in the comprehensive plan for residential. "You may have to amend the comp plan on this parcel."

Jim D'Alessandro, Village Trustee and President candidate, stated, "I'm in favor of conservation easement but would like to take one step further. I would like to see the Conservancy agreement entered before Board approves."

Topography also stated they were willing to work

closely with the Village Engineer to meet his requests, modify the language regarding building heights, remove the reference to Accessory Buildings in quantity and height, with The Inn labeled Principal 1, with a height not to exceed 55 feet, the Retreat, Racquet and Spa labeled as Principal 2, with a height not to exceed 40 feet, and the Cabins labeled as Principal 3, with a height not to exceed 30 feet.

Topography also agreed to place screening along on the eastern boundary adjoining the Women's Leadership Center.

The Village Board unanimously approved the first reading of Ordinance 2025-01 Providing For Direct Annexation By Unanimous Approval Of Electors And Property Owners Of Territory Located In The Town Of Walworth, Walworth County, Wisconsin, To The Village Of Williams Bay, Walworth County, Wisconsin. "South 40" EW 2000020 And "North 40" EW 200019. President Duncan informing there will be a second reading at the next March meeting before possible adoption and with a 6-1 vote in favor of Ordinance 2025-02 approved amending the Official Zoning Map of the Village of Williams Bay Rezoning of the "South 40" EW 200020 to P & I Public Institutional District and Rezoning Parcels WWUP000011, WGT 00010, WGT 00009, WA 499800002 and EW 200020 to Add a PDO Planned Development Overlay District/General Development Plan (GDP).

The Board then considered and approved Resolution R-16-25 Creating Village of Williams Bay Ward 5. "South 40" EW 200020 and "North 40" EW 200019. (for new annexed properties, formerly in Town of Walworth).

The next step will be approving the draft developer agreement placed on the Village's website March 17.



'Under the Sea'

– AN ADVENTURE FOR A CAUSE



By Sandra Landen Machaj
CORRESPONDENT

Under the Sea, this year's display of over 100,000 balloons, is up and running through March 16 at Gage Marine's boat showroom at Pier 290 in Williams Bay. The unique display of balloons in a variety of colors and sizes will be arranged to give visitors the feeling that they are part of the world beneath the water.

Visitors will see a variety of underwater scenes taking in all the creatures found in the sea as they are created out of balloons of many colors. The beautiful colors of nature will be carried through in this unique display. This is the second year that the 531 Fund working with Sara Meyer, Lake Geneva's own professional balloonist, have brought together a beautiful and exotic program that will be enjoyed by both children and adults. In addition, this beautiful display will raise funds for a local charity administered through the 531 Fund.

The 531 Fund is a local 501 (c) (3) charitable foundation that was formed when the original Santa



Cause Foundation was re-branded as the 531 Fund. The purpose of the charitable foundation was to raise funds to aid those in need in the local area.

Three years ago, Sara Meyer was the local host for the International Big Balloon Build that raised money for charity. It was after hosting this event that Sara along with Kimberly Voller, Executive Director of the 531 Fund, decided that they could hold a local community balloon build which would benefit local charities in need. They felt this balloon build could be held on a yearly basis if they could find local sponsors. This would allow them to raise money to help those in need and the money raised could be distributed and would remain within the community.

As they began to plan for this year's event, there were several major decisions to be made

including a theme for the balloon display and a decision of which charities to support.

"Kimberly came up with the idea of Under the Sea," shared Sara Meyer. "I began the work of designing scenes that would reflect life under the sea. Kimberly and I worked together to create the best design possible for the event."

The results that Sara designed and were embraced by Kimberly included several sea creatures, a mermaid, a variety of fish species, an oyster complete with a pearl, and even a pirate ship along with many other special creatures.

"Once the design is created, we have to decide on colors, and begin the building of the frames," explained Meyer. "Building the frames to fit in the space allotted takes time and hard work."

Putting it all together

The fun part according to Meyer, is putting the scene together and seeing it fill in and take shape. The more difficult part is blowing up 100,000 balloons to the correct size and choosing the perfect color. Whether it is the difficult or the fun part all are necessary to create the perfect display.

"While many people think that the balloons are filled with helium, they are not," added Meyer. "If we used helium, it would be a lot more expensive and more difficult to keep the design in place as the helium filled balloons would struggle to rise. They are just filled with regular air but still take several days, and many hands, to inflate them and put them in place."

Meyer has chosen 13 additional professional balloon artists from around the country to help with putting this unique design together

See UNDER THE SEA, Page 3

From the top: Under the Sea, created by Sara Meyer of Wisconsin Balloon Décor, is being featured for the 531 Fund charity event through March 16 at Gage Marine's Pier 290 boat garage in Williams Bay. The balloon build features a variety of items, including many types of underwater characters; Using different colors and sizes of balloons, the whimsical scenes are quite the sight; It takes thousands of balloons, countless hours and the help of many hands to build such a large display.

PHOTOS COURTESY WISCONSIN BALLOON DECOR Southern Lakes Newspapers



business

money sense

Key decisions for retired couples

Choices include when to take Social Security and where to live

Once you and your spouse retire, you'll have some decisions to make – decisions that could affect your quality of life in your retirement years. What are these choices?

Here are a few of the most important:

- How much should you withdraw from your retirement accounts? By the time you retire, you may have contributed for decades to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. But once you retire, you'll probably need to draw on these accounts to help pay your living expenses. Consequently, both of you will need to be sure that you don't withdraw so much each year that you risk running out of money later in your retirement.

- One common guideline is to aim for an annual withdrawal rate of 4%, but everyone's situation is different based on age, pre-retirement income, lifestyle, health, travel plans and other factors. (Once you turn 73, or 75 if later, you will have to take certain amounts, based on your age and account balance, from your optional IRA and traditional 401(k) each year.)

- When should you take Social Security? The answer to this question depends on many factors, such as your age and other sources of income. You can take Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly payments will typically be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will be age 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. And if you can afford to wait even longer, your payments will "max out" when you reach age 70.

Your decision on when to take Social Security can affect your spouse – and vice versa. If the lower-earning spouse claims Social Security before their full retirement age – again, age 67 – their own retirement benefit and any potential spousal benefit will be reduced. (Spousal benefits are given to the lower-earning spouse if their full retirement benefit is less than half the other spouse's full retirement benefit.)

- Should you downsize? If you live in a big home and your children are grown, you may find it economical to downsize. Of course, this is also an emotional decision, but you may find that you can save money by moving into a smaller home.

- Where should you live? Some states are far more expensive to live in than others. You'll want to weigh your decision carefully, considering the cost of housing, food, income and real estate taxes, transportation and health care in whatever state you choose.

- Have you finished your estate plans? If not, now is the time. You'll want to work with your legal professional to create whatever documents are needed – a will, living trust, power of attorney – to help ensure your assets go where you want them to go, and that your financial and health care choices will be protected if you become physically or mentally incapacitated.

Of course, many of these same issues will apply if you are single, divorced or widowed. But if you are married, and your spouse will want to discuss all your choices and then decide which steps to take.

Once you've got your plans in place, you may well find that you can fully enjoy your retirement years.

This article was written by Edward Jones.

Brand name merchandise for a fraction of the cost

Waldyn Liquidators offers affordability, wide variety of products

By Jason Arndt
STAFF WRITER

Waldyn Liquidators offers brand name merchandise at a fraction of the cost in its Waterford storefront.

Owned by brothers and business partners James Waldyn and Gunnar Verace, Waldyn Liquidators opened about a year ago at 209 N. Milwaukee St., Waterford, in a former hardware store space.

Since opening, the business has drawn rave reviews on Google, earning an overall score of 4.7 on a 5.0 scale as of early in March.

"Awesome deals. The prices are amazing," said Jason Hart, who submitted a Google review, adding he highly recommends people visit the store.

According to its website, products at Waldyn Liquidators are priced at 40 to 50% below retail prices, including merchandise from key brands such as Samsung, Bowflex, Memory Foam, Vizio, Disney, Hello Kitty and Stihl.

Waldyn said the business receives inventory through overstock from major retailers.

"When the new merchandise comes in, we go through it and make sure everything is in good working condition," he explained.

Inside the store, Waldyn Liquidators features a line of washers, refrigerators, treadmills, televisions, furniture, clothing, yard tools, home decor, and other merchandise.

While the business has a very diverse inventory, product offerings change daily with new items coming in on a regular basis, Waldyn said.

He encourages customers to check the company's Facebook page or website at waldynliquidators.com for updates on new arrivals.

Touting affordability

Waldyn has been in the liquidation business for about seven years.



JASON ARNDT PHOTOS Southern Lakes Newspapers

Brothers Gunnar Verace (left) and James Waldyn serve as business partners of Waldyn Liquidators, which is in Waterford.

He opted for the industry in response to rising prices at big box retailers and said he felt he could offer more affordable options to consumers.

"We carry all of our products for people who may not have a lot of money," he said. "They can save their money and come here because we have a lot of name brands."

For example, a brand new Echelon Stride-RCX LED treadmill priced at \$800 in retail outlets is priced at a cost of \$500 for customers at Waldyn Liquidators.

A Hello Kitty backpack and insulated lunchbag is available at a cost of \$15 at Waldyn compared to the suggested retail price of \$25.

"What I enjoy the most is when customers look at one of our

products and their eyes light up because they can't believe they are getting that product at that price," Waldyn said.

Additionally, for transparency, each product's price tag contains a model number allowing customers to see the actual cost at other retailers.

Waldyn Liquidators sells clothing items at a flat rate of \$5 for each piece.

Committed to community

Originated from Illunio, Waldyn and his brother sought a Wisconsin location for Waldyn Liquidators but were undecided on where exactly until a realtor pointed to Waterford.

"We are originally from Illinois and we knew we wanted to relocate

to Wisconsin because Wisconsin is such a beautiful state," Waldyn said. "Waterford, to be honest with you, just kind of popped up."

After learning of the space from his realtor, Waldyn toured the Milwaukee Street property and found it ideal for a storefront.

Other businesses in the community helped draw him in, Waldyn said.

"I hope to be here for a very long time," Waldyn said. "I just want to keep growing and growing."

Waldyn Liquidators is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

For more information, visit waldynliquidators.com or like the Facebook page.



Left: Brand new appliances are among the numerous items available at Waldyn Liquidators. Right: Waldyn Liquidators offers a



variety of products, including brand-name treadmills, at a fraction of the retail price.

Geneva Lakes YMCA looks to expand

Commitment unwavering in Lake Geneva but Delavan an option for second facility

By Jennifer Eisenbart
STAFF WRITER

For years, the Geneva Lakes YMCA has been contemplating an expansion – even purchasing a parcel of land in Lake Geneva.

However, in a new initiative recently announced, the YMCA will instead pursue an expansion in Delavan.

Current plans include looking at a location near the Delavan Crossings shopping center, which offers easy accessibility to Highway 50 and Interstate 43.

The facility will focus on health and wellness activities, offer comprehensive swimming and safety classes and also provide multi-purpose spaces for youth, teen and senior programming.

"Our YMCA offers so many impactful programs," said Mike Kramp, CEO of the Geneva Lakes YMCA. "This amazing opportunity represents our commitment to making a positive impact and providing the resources necessary for individuals of all ages to find programs that provide a health spirit, mind and body."

In an interview last week, Kramp said the Lake Geneva land the YMCA owned has been sold, and the new plan will focus on Delavan.

"It started with a conversation with folks in the fall of 2023 as we were going through our capital process," Kramp explained.

Membership and programs at the YMCA in Lake Geneva have more than doubled in recent years, so expansion seemed a natural choice. But the idea of expanding to Delavan didn't really start to take shape until the last year.

City of Delavan Mayor Ryan Schroeder said he had heard the



SUBMITTED PHOTO Southern Lakes Newspapers

The Geneva Lakes YMCA, which is in the City of Lake Geneva, has been considering a second facility for some time. It was recently revealed representatives are looking at a site in Delavan.

focus was initially on expansion in Lake Geneva, and was "surprised but happy" that Delavan was an option.

"What I appreciated from those early discussions last year was that the YMCA, if they came, wasn't looking to duplicate or take over programs and services our community stakeholders already address. They would gauge the citizens we serve on what they could do to fill any voids," Schroeder said.

"Now that their board is willing to fully commit to exploring the reality of coming to Delavan with a satellite facility, I look forward to a community ad hoc committee being formed with citizens from all backgrounds represented," Schroeder added. "This will ensure everything



SUBMITTED PHOTO Southern Lakes Newspapers

One of the planned goals for a Delavan YMCA is a pool where swim lessons can take place as well as serving as a practice and competition site for a swim team.

On the garden path

Grow basil, in a container or garden

Fresh on your pizza, added to your favorite Italian and Southeastern Asian dishes, or made into pesto, it's not surprising basil is often called the king of herbs.

Look for opportunities to include basil in gardens, containers, and ornamental plantings. Purple varieties add color and combine nicely with other flowers and vegetables. Everleaf Emerald Towers is a very tall and productive plant that adds vertical interest to container and in-ground gardens.

Always wait for the air and soil to warm before moving basil into the garden. Cold air and soil can stunt or damage the plants and increase the risk of downy mildew. You may even see blackened leaves and other damage when temperatures drop to 50 degrees.

Protect tender plants in spring and extend the harvest in fall with the help



By
MELINDA MYERS
Columnist

of floating row covers. These spun fabrics trap heat around the plants while allowing air, light, and water through. Lightweight row covers can be used throughout the summer to protect the plants from Japanese beetles.

Keep plants healthy and help reduce the risk of downy mildew disease by growing basil in sunny locations with plenty of room to reach their mature size. The extra space allows sunlight to reach all parts of the plants, and the added air movement quickly dries the leaves.

Avoid overhead irrigation whenever possible. Instead, use soaker hoses, drip

irrigation, or a watering wand to apply the water directly to the soil.

Red leaf, Thai, and lemon-flavored basil varieties are less susceptible to downy mildew. Relatively new sweet basil varieties such as Devotion DMR, Obsession DMR, Passion DMR, Thunderstruck DMR, Prospera Compact DMR, and Prospera are downy mildew resistant.

Watch for slugs that feed at night, eating large, ragged holes in the leaves. Trap them with shallow containers of beer sunk into the ground or use a slug beer trap with a built-in cover. The slugs are attracted to the fermenting yeast, crawl inside, and die.

Unlike slugs, the Japanese beetles feed and mate in broad daylight. They devour large portions of the leaves, leaving only the veins behind.

If you see circular clear or black spots on the leaves

the four-lined plant bug is the culprit. The dead tissue may eventually fall out, resulting in small holes.

Manage Japanese beetles and plant bugs by knocking them into a can of soapy water or treating the plants with an organic insecticide labeled for controlling these pests on basil. Always read and follow all label directions for safe and effective control.

Harvest basil as needed. Regular harvesting will increase productivity and ensure the best flavor. Remove flower buds as soon as they appear to maintain foliage flavor. But don't worry if a few blossoms appear, these are also edible and a favorite of beneficial insects.

Plan to grow and harvest extra basil to make pesto or flavored vinegar. Make plenty to enjoy throughout the year and share with family and friends.



MELINDA MYERS PHOTO *Southern Lakes Newspapers*

Gardeners are encouraged to look for opportunities to include basil in gardens, containers, and ornamental plantings. Purple varieties add color and combine nicely with other flowers and vegetables.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Revised Edition, and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant

video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

real estate

home & property sales

Here is a listing of recent single-family home, condominium and vacant land sales in Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties. The information is provided through the Multiple Listing Service.

Walworth County

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Delavan

- 814 Ann St\$115,000
- 311 Breezy St.....\$195,000
- 3218 Chicago Club Dr.....\$155,000
- 1207 Evergreen Dr.....\$383,000

Walworth

- 405 1st St.....\$258,000
- 211 Grace St.....\$350,000
- N758 Highway 14.....\$422,000
- 219 Howard St.....\$286,900
- 406 Phillips Ave Lt22.....\$296,500

Whitewater

- W8183 Elkhorn Road.....\$261,000
- 466 S Pleasant St.....\$260,000

CONDOS

Lake Geneva

- 123 Center St 204.....\$82,500
- 225 Country Club Dr 3B.....\$164,500

- 709 S Lake Shore Dr 4A\$340,000
- 515 Seaver Ln\$1,350,000
- 1151 Townline Rd 202.....\$285,000
- 335 Wrigley Dr 200.....\$245,000

VACANT LAND

East Troy

- Lt34 County Road J\$325,000

Elkhorn

- Lt2 Hazel Ridge Rd\$75,000

Kenosha County

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Bristol

- 21104 122nd St.....\$195,000

Paddock Lake

- 6705 235th Ave\$259,900
- 6203 247th Ave\$190,000
- 25828 77th Pl.....\$625,700

Salem Lakes

- 26710 106th St.....\$175,000
- 26825 106th St.....\$270,000

- 24613 118th St.....\$549,000
- 23433 124th Pl.....\$187,500
- 8128 249th Ave\$400,000
- 11907 264th Ave\$216,000
- 12017 258th Ave\$230,000
- 11176 270th Ave\$720,000
- 10891 292nd Ave\$875,000

VACANT LAND

Randall

- Lt38 106th St.....\$89,900

Racine County

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Burlington

- 2124 Ravenswood Rd\$562,000
- 2101 Stonegate Rd\$435,000

Dover

- 24845 Kennedy Ave\$170,000

Waterford

- 4109 Riverside Rd.....\$405,000
- 29408 Riverview Ln.....\$838,000

- 410 Waterford Dr\$399,773

Wind Point

- 100 Meriburr Ln.....\$400,000

CONDOS

Racine

- 309 11th St.....\$158,000
- 206 12th St.....\$330,000
- 4406 16th St.....\$199,900

Waterford

- 639 Annecy Park Cir 8\$379,900
- 406 Park Place Ct A.....\$320,000

Wind Point

- 24 Lakewood Dr 24\$485,000

VACANT LAND

Raymond

- Lt1 Westfield Way.....\$410,000
- Lt2 Westfield Way.....\$377,500

Rochester

- 1000 Beere Ln.....\$214,900
- 611 Beere Ln.....\$193,000
- 825 Beere Ln.....\$169,900

• Under the Sea (Continued from front page)

for all to enjoy.

"Because there are not a large number of professional balloon artists, we often work together when we have big events," shared Meyer. "Last summer many of us came together to put together the balloons for the big balloon drop for both the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee and the Democratic National Convention in Chicago."

Supporting a charity

Aside from getting the display in place, a decision had to be made as to who will be chosen to receive the money that is raised. Last year the proceeds were divided between two charities in the area but this year only one charity was chosen to be the recipient of the total funds raised to benefit those in need in the community.

"Charities were given the chance to apply for consideration as the recipient of this year's grant," shared Kimberly Voller, Director of the 531 Fund. "Then they were vetted and the decision of who would be the recipient of this year's fund raiser was chosen by a vote from the Board of Directors."

The charity chosen to benefit from the event this year is Camp Timberlee, located in East Troy. According to Voller, the money may be used to enhance the camp's science program.

Options available

Under the Sea will offer a variety of programs focused on different age groups



PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN BALLOON DECOR *Southern Lakes Newspapers*

Sara Meyer, owner of Wisconsin Balloon Décor, is all smiles while surrounded by a balloon rainbow.

as well as well as general admission groups where everyone is invited to attend and enjoy the artistry and imagination that went into the creation of this unique program.

On general admission days all ages are welcome to step into the deep sea and enjoy the magical underworld. These days are perfect for those of all ages to enjoy the artistry of an underwater journey through the beauty of this balloon environment.

There are many photographic opportunities to be taken advantage of where you can create memorable family photos that will be enjoyed over the years.

The general admission

ticket is valid when there is no other special event scheduled. They may be purchased on site for \$25 each or online for a cost saving price of \$20. There is no charge for those 2 years of age and younger.

While a general admission visit will be a wonder into the world under the sea there are also a variety of special programs that can add excitement and fun to your visit.

The final Glow Waves Adventure will be held on Thursday, March 13, and is a time targeted for middle school youth groups. This adventure is held between 6 and 8 p.m. and tickets are \$25 per person.

This event is designed for those ready to take an epic journey as night falls and the adventure begins. Explore the seas mystical realms in the glow of neon lights and face exciting challenges that test your courage, creativity, and teamwork. This immersive display will reveal something extraordinary for young explorers ready to embrace the magic of the deep sea.

Tales of the Sea is a family event that will be on March 15. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. and enjoy the display and at 6:30 settle in to enjoy a movie that comes to life on the big screen sharing the

magic of the sea. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Guests are encouraged to attend in comfortable pajamas with a favorite blanket to enjoy the movie in this magical setting.

The Balloon Popping Party will be held on Sunday March 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. The event is open to those 10 years and over and each child must be accompanied by a ticket holding adult. Tickets for this unique event are priced at \$15.

Come join the group who will deflate the over 100,000 balloons and be a part of this year's balloon event.

Visitors will be surprised at the fun adults can enjoy at this unique balloon experience. Balloons are not just for children. Many of these special events sell out quickly, so purchase tickets to attend now before it is too late to enjoy these unique and special events.

Visit the website at <https://531fund.org> to purchase tickets for both general admission and the special events. It aims to offer a fun and exciting way to spend time together and will benefit the Second Annual Balloon Adventure, "Voyages into the Deep Sea."

The Pier 290 boat showroom is at 5 Liechty Dr. in Williams Bay.

• YMCA (Continued from page 2)

is being explored on what makes sense from a program and services perspective and help organize what a YMCA footprint could look like.

Kramp said that while the idea is still in the "infant stages of beginning to fundraise," there are people he hopes will offer financial support.

"We have connections, we have people we want to approach about wanting to support this project financially," he said. "It'll depend on our success with major gift commitments."

Kramp said there will need to be time spent figuring out what the people of the Delavan area want.

"We are in the beginning stages of forming a Delavan steering committee," Kramp

said.

If interested, Kramp can be reached by telephone at 262-248-6211, ext. 18, or by sending him an email at mike.kramp@glymca.org.

Kramp did stress that the YMCA also remains committed to the Lake Geneva area.

"The YMCA has been the heart of this community for more than 140 years. Our Lake Geneva location at 203 South Wells Street will continue to serve our community," he said. "The YMCA will always have a location in Lake Geneva. In addition, we are actively exploring future site options, including a portion of the former Hillmoor Golf Course property, to enhance our services in Lake Geneva."



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Southern Lakes Newspapers*

The weight room at Geneva Lakes YMCA is one of several areas appealing to different styles of fitness at the facility.

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PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN BALLOON DECOR *Southern Lakes Newspapers*

The large pearl in this oyster as well as the shell are created entirely from balloons.

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