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## Second man sentenced to life for murder of Dodgeville woman

The Wisconsin Department of Justice announced on Wednesday, March 6 that Philip G. Schmidt-Way, 29, of Loveland, Colo., was sentenced to life with the ability to petition for extended supervision after 20 years for the murder of his grandmother in Dodgeville, Wis. on July 19, 2021.

Last month co-defendant Aric Way, father to Schmidt-Way, was sentenced to life in prison without parole for his role in the homicide. In Mr. Schmidt-Way's proceeding, the sentencing court described Aric Way as the mastermind.

"With this sentencing, we now know that both of the defendants involved in this extensively planned and despicable homicide will be behind bars for a long time," said Attorney General Josh Kaul. "Thank you to everyone who helped ensure that the exhaustive and thorough work of investigators in this case led to the conviction and sentencing of the defendants."

On July 19, 2021, the victim was found deceased in her Dodgeville, Wis., home.

An autopsy determined carbon monoxide poisoning to be a contributing factor to the cause of death. The victim had recently agreed to sell the family farm which Mr. Schmidt-Way would have inherited upon the victim's death. The evidence at trial showed that there were no obvious sources to explain elevated levels of carbon monoxide in the home. Mr. Way purchased products known to react together to create carbon monoxide.

Mr. Schmidt-Way's phone record data placed his phone in the same area as Mr. Way's Google data during the purchase of a product on July 17, 2021. Data from Mr. Schmidt-Way's phone also showed that he arrived in Wisconsin on July 16, 2021, after leaving Colorado on July 15, 2021. Mr. Schmidt-Way's vehicle was also seen on camera at the victim's home on the night of her death.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Iowa County Sheriff's Office and

See MURDER, Page 8



ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## BTC jail academy graduates six officers

Correctional officers (pictured from left) White, Martorano, Morrison, Garcia, Schwark, and Hawley graduated from Blackhawk Technical College's Jail Academy on Friday, March 1. Please join the Rock County Sheriff's office in congratulating them.

# Wisconsin groups issue statements on Biden's State of the Union

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin and the Opportunity Wisconsin Program both released statements on President Biden's State of the Union Address.

### Democratic Party of Wisconsin

Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair Ben Wikler released the following statement in response to President Biden's State of the Union address:

"Tonight, President Biden proved once again that he is the leader Wisconsinites need and deserve. The contrast couldn't be clearer between President Biden's vision for our country - and the results he's delivered toward realizing that dream - and Donald Trump's menacing vision of retribution and chaos. While President Biden is focused on bettering the lives of Wisconsin families and defending their freedoms, Trump's top priority is ripping away Americans' rights and security. As Trump doubles down on his pledge to be a 'dicta-

tor on day one' and make the wealthy richer off the backs of working families, President Biden remains committed to defending our democracy, building our economy from the bottom up and middle out, and making sure the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share.

"The stakes of this election are potentially cataclysmic. Wisconsinites know this all too well. Together, we've faced down attacks on our democracy, health care, and basic freedoms, and we know the only way to keep building on all the progress we've made is by reelecting President Biden and Vice President Harris to a second term this November."

### Opportunity Wisconsin Program

Opportunity Wisconsin Program Director Meghan Roh released the following statement on President Biden's State of the Union address:

"Thanks to President Biden and Democrats in Congress,

Wisconsin's working families and seniors are already seeing relief from rising costs, health care is more affordable, and critical investments are being made to strengthen our infrastructure and create good paying jobs. Tonight, we heard directly from President Biden about his vision for our country and the opportunity we have to support working families here in Wisconsin. It's time for Republicans in Congress, including Congressmen Bryan Steil and Derrick Van Orden, to work with the president to lower costs, hold big corporations accountable, and protect the programs that are helping Wisconsinites

succeed - including Medicare and Social Security.

"The Biden administration and Democrats in Congress are already delivering results for working families and helping strengthen the middle class.

"The Inflation Reduction Act is lowering health care costs for Wisconsinites by capping insulin costs at \$35 per month. This cap is already estimated to be saving 31,000 Wisconsin seniors \$600 per year. Additional prescription drug costs will also be lowered thanks to Medicare's ability to negotiate for drug prices, and a new rebate program is already lower-

ing costs for 48 prescription drugs whose prices were raised by big pharmaceutical companies faster than the rate of inflation. In his State of the Union address, President Biden called for many of these provisions to be expanded to even more Americans.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is also strengthening Wisconsin communities and ensuring workers and families have safe and reliable infrastructure. Wisconsin has already been allocated \$6.3 billion in funding for hundreds of projects, including expanded public transit systems, programs to help lower energy

costs for 48 prescription drugs whose prices were raised by big pharmaceutical companies faster than the rate of inflation. In his State of the Union address, President Biden called for many of these provisions to be expanded to even more Americans.

"Despite the success of these programs, Republicans in Congress continue to propose repealing many of the provisions that are already saving Wisconsinites money and helping our economy grow. Opportunity Wisconsin and its statewide coalition will continue calling on Wisconsin's Congressional delegation to support working families and reject any attempt to undo the progress that has been made during the Biden administration."



POTUS FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

President Joe Biden delivered his State of the Union address on Thursday, March 7.

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# Lecture on where trash goes coming to Beloit

The convenience of rolling trash and recycle bins to the curb in the morning and finding them empty in the evening is undeniable. But what happens to household waste once it disappears from those bins?

Join Welty Environmental Center and the City of Beloit Public Works Department for the lecture "Trash Talk: Where Does Your Garbage Go?" on Sunday, March 24 from 2 to 3:30 p.m., and learn how municipalities process their residents' recycling, garbage, and food waste. Everything thrown in the trash has an impact and understanding this process helps consumers decide what ends up in their garbage cans. This lecture will explain how the City of Beloit deals with its waste streams, what the challenges are, and what residents can do to minimize their household waste.

"We forget that everything we throw away has to be dealt with eventually. There are many steps between tossing out soda cans and uneaten food and the aluminum being recycled or that food decomposing in the landfill," says Welty Executive Director Brenda Plakans. "As consumers, it's important to understand what happens to the materials we discard. Then we can make smart choices about what we buy and what we throw away, which ultimately saves us money. It also helps the City process the waste more effectively, and reduces



PHOTO SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

**Everything thrown in the trash has an impact and understanding this process helps consumers decide what ends up in their garbage cans.**

how much material ends up in the landfill."

The hour-long conversation will be followed by light refreshments and Welty's annual meeting, for those who

wish to stay. The annual meeting will include information about the organization's 2023 programming and finances, as well as board elections.

Everyone is welcome and

the afternoon's event is free to attend. Welty is located at Big Hill Center, 1201 Big Hill Court, in Beloit. Please register online at [www.weltycenter.org](http://www.weltycenter.org) to reserve a seat.

## Edge Dairy to award \$10,000 in secondary education scholarships

Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative will award \$10,000 in secondary education scholarships to its members, the cooperative announced recently. Two \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to current students pursuing a degree in a four or two year program. Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors.

Applicants must be high school seniors, high school graduates or college undergraduates. They must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an accredited four-year college or university or a two-year program at a technical, junior or community college. The area of study does not need to be agricul-

**"Our scholarship program is an excellent way for us to give back to our members, invest in the future of the next generation and affirm our support for continuing education."**

**— Chief Executive Officer  
Tim Trotter**

ture related but applicants must be a dependent of an Edge member.

"Our scholarship program is an excellent way for us to give back to our members, invest in the future of the next generation and affirm our support for continuing education," Chief Executive Officer Tim Trotter said. "Edge is committed to supporting our membership,

empowering our youth and fostering growth within our communities. These scholarships offer a way that we can work to achieve that goal."

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on academic achievement, leadership, participation in school and community activities, academic honors, goals and aspirations, recommendations and work experience.

The full application and guidelines can be found on the Edge website. The application portal will remain open now until April 1. Applications must be submitted through the online application portal by April 1.

For more information about the Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative Scholarships, contact Lauren Laubscher at [l1aubscher@voiceofmilk.com](mailto:l1aubscher@voiceofmilk.com) or 715-584-7117.

Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative provides dairy farmers throughout the Midwest with a powerful voice – the voice of milk – in Congress, with customers and within their communities. Edge is one of the top cooperatives in the country based on milk volume. More information: [www.voiceofmilk.com](http://www.voiceofmilk.com).

## Police briefs

### RCSO offers boater education safety course

Sheriff Fell is pleased to announce that the Rock County Sheriff's Office will offer their first 2024 Boater Safety Education Course on March 26, from 6 to 7 p.m., and April 6, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Rock County Fairgrounds – Craig Center, 1301 Craig Ave, Janesville, WI 53545. Students will need to attend both sessions to graduate.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, is required to complete a Boater Safety Education Course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waters. It is recommended that participants are at least 12 years of age or turn 12 shortly after the class.

### Boater Safety Education Course – Class #1:

• Session 1: March 26,

from 6 to 7 p.m. at Rock Co. Fairgrounds – Craig Center

• Session 2: April 6, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Rock Co. Fairgrounds – Craig Center  
Registration is now open. Complete the online enrollment form to reserve a seat at <https://www.co.rock.wi.us/departments/sheriff-s-office/recreational-patrol/boat-education>

Class size is limited to thirty students. Upon submission of the registration form, the submitter will see an on-screen confirmation message with course information.

The course fee of \$10 per student will be collected at the first session. If the student is under 18 years old, a parent/guardian will need to attend the first session with the student. Students will receive course materials at the first session. Please direct any questions to Deputy Trevor Lund at [trevor.lund@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:trevor.lund@co.rock.wi.us).

### Semi-tractor, equipment burns in structure fire

On March 9, at approximately 6:32 a.m., Rock County Sheriff's Office Deputies and area fire personnel responded to 7232 E Hwy 14, in the Town of La Prairie, for a working structure fire. Deputies observed a fully engulfed semi-tractor inside a large metal building.

Janesville Fire Department, Lakeside Fire Department, Town of Beloit Fire Department and Clinton Fire Department responded and extinguished the flames. Several large pieces of equipment were destroyed as well as structural damage to the one building.

There was no loss of life or injuries to persons or animals at the residence. Estimated damage amount was \$600,000 to all property in-

involved.

Preliminary investigation indicated possible ignition from an electrical issue. East USH 14 was shut down between N. Tarrant Road and N. Milton Shopiere Road for approximately three and a half hours while fire worked and investigated the scene.

### Missing child found dead in Janesville

On Saturday, March 9 at approximately 6:13 p.m., the Rock County Sheriff's Office responded to the 5500 block of W. Miles Road in reference to a missing 8-year-old child. During the investigation the child was found inside a residence, deceased.

A person of interest is in custody and there is no threat to the safety of the public. The investigation is still ongoing and any further information will be provided in a follow-up press release.

## ADRC presents living with mild cognitive impairment series

In partnership with the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and the Alzheimer's Association, the ADRC of Rock County is pleased to be one of several in-person satellite locations presenting the Healthy Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment Education Series throughout 2024.

The four programs being offered provide guidance and science-backed strategies for those living and coping with a diagnosis of MCI and their care partners.

Join Nathaniel Chin, MD and Jennifer McAlister, BA from the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and expert guest speakers to learn more about MCI and how to prepare for and cope with the diagnosis.

Please attend one or all of the series' sessions. The ADRC of Rock County will be hosting an in-person viewing option for the series at their office location at 1717 Center Avenue in Janesville on the following dates from 9:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

• Friday, March 15 – Precision Medicine: Alzheimer's Disease Biomarkers and New Therapies; Sterling Johnson, PhD

• Friday, June 14 – Your Are More Than Your Diagnosis: Adapting to Life with MCI; Adrienne Johnson, PhD

• Friday, Sept. 13 – Heart Health is Brain Health: Reducing Vascular Risk Factors for a Healthier Mind; Cynthia Carlsson, MD, MS

• Friday, Dec. 13 – Sharpen Your Mind, Amplify Your Life: Empowering Strategies for Managing Hearing Loss and MCI; Pamela Souza, PhD

A light lunch will be served. An open discussion about the session will follow the viewing. This is a free educational opportunity. Reservations are required. To make reservations please contact Karen Tennyson, dementia care specialist of Rock County at 608-741-3615.

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# State national guard celebrates 187 years

By Vaughn R. Larson  
WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD  
On Jan. 17, 1838, the 1st Wisconsin Territorial Assembly approved legislation requiring free, able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45 to serve in the territorial militia. But 10 months earlier, territorial governor Henry Dodge commissioned Morgan L. Martin as a captain and commander of the Green Bay Rangers.

locals and activated as needed – were a practical solution to the problem of maintaining large standing armies, and the concept carried over to the New World. A Wisconsin law passed in 1858 allowed for militia companies to be formed whenever 40 or more people wanted to “organize themselves into a uniform company, either of Artillery, Light Infantry, Riflemen or Cavalry.” Once a unit met state requirements, the governor would commission its officers.

That date – March 5, 1837 – is considered the birth of the Wisconsin National Guard. The tradition of Wisconsin residents serving their community in military status pre-dates statehood.

However, training, equipping, funding and compatibility with “regular” military forces would remain unsettled concerns until the 20th century.

Dodge was a military veteran who served as a colonel in the Michigan territorial militia during the Black Hawk War of 1832, and saw more military engagements with Native Americans as an officer in the U.S. Army Battalion of Mounted Rangers and the Regiment of Dragoons. This experience shaped his desire as the first Wisconsin territorial governor to protect the region from Native American attacks, but the massacre at Bad Axe during the Black Hawk War likely persuaded Native Americans in the Wisconsin area against fighting American military forces.

In the meantime, Wisconsin’s Citizen Soldiers would be measured by their willingness to serve. In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln called upon the states still loyal to the Union to provide up to 75,000 militia troops to put down the rebellion. During the course of the Civil War, Wisconsin itself would exceed that quota, providing more than 91,000 fighting men in 50 infantry regiments, eight artillery batteries and one cavalry regiment. The heritage of some of these Civil War units is carried on today in the Wisconsin National Guard.

Dating back to England in the Middle Ages, militias – a military force composed of

Wisconsin reorganized its militias into an organization first referred to as the Wis-



PHOTOS SUBMITTED Rock Valley Publishing

**March 5, 1837 is considered the birth of the Wisconsin National Guard. Then, on Jan. 17, 1838, the 1st Wisconsin Territorial Assembly approved legislation requiring free, able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45 to serve in the territorial militia.**

consin National Guard in 1879, and three years later the organization began to adopt uniforms patterned after the regular Army, and also began to organize into regiments and battalions. The Wisconsin National Guard sent troops to Puerto Rico in support of the Spanish American War in 1898.

just the second Air National Guard unit to receive the F-35 Lightning II fifth-generation fighter jet.

The Wisconsin National Guard is also part of the State Partnership Program, with partner nation relationships with Nicaragua and, more recently, Papua New Guinea.

In the 20th century, the federal government provided more training, equipment and oversight of the National Guard, but the desire to serve was still a home-grown commodity. In the first half of the century the Wisconsin National Guard would serve on federal status along the Mexican border, in France and Germany for World War I and in the South Pacific for World War II.

While the tempo of federal service definitely increased, the Wisconsin National Guard still serves the state as its first military responder during emergencies. In addition to storm response and civil unrest, the Wisconsin National Guard’s longest and largest state mission was its support of the state response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After World War II, opportunities to serve expanded with the addition of the Wisconsin Air National Guard. Wisconsin’s newest military component served in the Korean War, and Volk Field is named after 1st Lt. Jerome Volk who perished during that conflict.

One hundred and eighty seven years after Capt. Martin was commissioned, the Wisconsin National Guard remains ready to serve Wisconsin and the nation.

In the following years the Wisconsin National Guard would be called to serve in the Berlin Crisis, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, the Global War on Terror and subsequent missions as well as peacekeeping missions and other overseas deployments. Since 2001 the 115th Fighter Wing has conducted an air sovereignty mission, and in 2023 the fighter wing became

“As we stand just over a decade away from our bicentennial milestone, the Wisconsin National Guard continues to exemplify the essence of American greatness,” said Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp, Wisconsin’s adjutant general. “With each call to duty, our Citizen Soldiers and Citizen Airmen epitomize dedication, courage, and unwavering loyalty. Whether summoned by the governor or the president, I am confident in the readiness and resolve of every member of the Wisconsin National Guard to fulfill any mission entrusted to us.”



An illustration of one of the first members of Wisconsin’s militia.

## Wisconsin Guard partners with Edgewood College

By Vaughn R. Larson  
WISCONSIN NATIONAL GUARD

The Wisconsin National Guard has entered into a public-private partnership with Edgewood College in Madison that offers an expedited path to a Master’s Degree in education for a significant discount in price.

Edgewood College’s Accelerated Teacher Education Partnership connects participants with a school district on a timeline to deliver teaching credentials in 12 months. Students complete coursework while at the same time teaching in a classroom under the mentorship of an established teacher.

Tuition for this initiative has been reduced 45 percent – a 30-credit master’s degree would cost \$9,750.

“This is a big deal,” said Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp, Wisconsin’s adjutant general. “The National Guard as a whole, and the Wisconsin National Guard in particular, has an extensive history of supporting and strengthening our community. This partnership with Edgewood College not only aligns with that tradition, but presents an incredible opportunity for Guard members and their spouses, while at the same time addressing a critical need in schools all across Wisconsin.”

Andrew P. Manion, president of Edgewood College, said that Wisconsin has seen a marked increase in the number of emergency teaching licenses issued by school districts to address teacher shortages over the past decade. In the 2021-22 school year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction issued more than 3,000 emergency teaching licenses.

“This partnership helps Edgewood College team with Wisconsin Air and Army National Guard in a way that both organizations are leveraging technology to respond to the needs of our community,” Manion said.

Dr. Michael Meissen brings more than 40 years of experience as a public school teacher, administrator and superintendent to his role as senior director of Innovations and Partnerships at Edgewood College.

“We are appreciative of the opportunity to partner with the Wisconsin Air and Army National Guard to provide a pathway toward teaching,” Meissen said. “We are optimistic our teaming together with the Wisconsin National Guard will be impactful in addressing a pressing need for highly qualified teachers in our state.”

Edgewood College was chartered in 1927 to equip young women to become teachers.

## In-person, virtual job fair coming to Janesville

The Rock County Job Center will be holding a dual hiring event on Thursday, March 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. with two ways to participate in the events simultaneously. Job seekers can attend one or both of the following events:

• A virtual hiring event for Southwest WI counties (Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Rock)

• An in-person hiring event at the Rock County Job Center at 1717 Center Ave. in Janesville. They will be hosting 25 employers from Rock and surrounding counties.

Individuals may update and print their resumes in the Resource Room prior to the event. DWD staff will be available in the Resource Room for assistance with

the event through the Premier Virtual platform, go here: <https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/xZo3GW/>

Individuals having questions for the in-person and virtual hiring events. For more information and a full list of registered employers please visit: <http://wisconsinjobcenter.org/events/>

Individuals having questions can email DWTWDA11BusinessServices@dwd.wisconsin.gov.

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# State DNR learn to hunt bear program seeking applicants, instructors

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and conservation partners encourage novice and experienced bear hunters to join the Learn to Hunt Bear program as participants and instructors.

The Learn to Hunt Bear program provides a unique learning opportunity and outdoor experience for novice hunters who otherwise need a pathway to hunting bears. The program includes multiple classroom and field sessions, culminating with a bear-hunting excursion. Participants will learn about bear biology, population management, habits and habitat, hunting techniques, regulations and safety.

Anyone who has not previously participated in the Learn to Hunt Bear program or received a bear harvest authorization is encouraged to

apply. Participants must be at least 10 years old and lack a pathway to experience bear hunting, such as bear hunting with family or friends.

The number of Learn to Hunt Bear programs offered varies annually and will influence the number of participants selected. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by June 1.

Interested participants should complete an application and send it to the DNR, postmarked by Wednesday, May 1. Find the application, program guidelines and more information on the DNR's Learn to Hunt Bear webpage.

In addition to seeking participants, the DNR is also looking for groups of experienced bear hunters interested in becoming Learn to Hunt Bear program instructors.

Potential instructors need

at least five years of bear hunting experience and must consent to a background check. The DNR will work with instructor groups to develop a Learn to Hunt Bear program in their area. Interested groups should notify Emily Iehl, DNR Hunting and Shooting Sports Program Specialist, at Emily.Iehl@wisconsin.gov of their intent to host a program by Wednesday, May 1.

Find more information for instructors on the DNR's Learn to Hunt Bear webpage under "Learn to Hunt Bear Instructors."

PHOTO COURTESY ISTOCK/KEITHBINNS  
Rock Valley Publishing

**The Learn to Hunt Bear programs help teach new and novice hunters the skills they need to target black bear in Wisconsin.**



## DNR accepting art for 2025 stamp contest

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is now accepting artwork entries for the Wild Turkey, Pheasant and Waterfowl Stamp design contests. The winning designs will appear

on the 2025 collection of stamps. Each year, local artists from around Wisconsin compete for an opportunity to have their artwork commemorated in a historic way on the wild turkey, pheasant

and waterfowl stamps.

Sales of these three stamps bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for species management throughout the state, including habitat management, restoration, education, and research projects. Hunters are required to purchase stamps to harvest these game birds.

Artwork must meet technical requirements to be eligible, and applicants should carefully review the contest rules to ensure their entries' eligibility.

Stamp design entries must be received or postmarked by Aug. 1, 2024. Judging will take place on Aug. 24, 2024, at the Waterfowl Hunters Expo in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The winners of the 2024 contests were:

- Wild Turkey – Jim Tostrud of Kenosha
- Pheasant – Robert Wilkens of New Holstein
- Waterfowl – Ryan Rickaby of Suamico

All stamp contest applicants should review contest rules carefully to ensure the eligibility of their entries. Artwork must meet technical requirements to be properly processed and prepared for judging and display.

Rules, entry information and reproduction rights agreements are available on the DNR's Wildlife Stamp Funding and Stamp Design Contest webpage.



PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT WILKENS/WISCONSIN DNR Rock Valley Publishing

**The DNR is now accepting artwork entries for the 2025 Wild Turkey, Pheasant and Waterfowl Stamp design contests. Robert Wilkens created the winning pheasant stamp in 2024.**

## SBA extends deadline for drought declarations

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced recently that it has extended the incident periods and the filing deadlines under the current drought declarations (#18014, #18019, #18037, #18058, #18085, #18135, #18166, #18168, and #18231) in Wisconsin to July 31. Small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private nonprofit organizations impacted by drought conditions in the declared counties are eligible to apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

"As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to aiding communities in times of crisis and making sure small businesses receive vital assistance, the U.S. Small Business Administration is supporting the State of Wisconsin by extending application deadlines for businesses requiring financial assistance," said Francisco Sánchez, Jr., associate administrator for the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the Small Business Administration. "This extension offers businesses greater opportunities to secure low-interest working capital

loans to support their recovery by helping them meet financial obligations."

These loans are available in Adams, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Brown, Burnett, Calumet, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond Du Lac, Forest, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Iron, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette, Menominee, Monroe, Oconto, Oneida, Outagamie, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Price, Racine, Richland, Rock, Rusk, Saint Croix, Sauk, Sawyer, Shawano, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Vilas, Walworth, Washburn, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago and Wood counties in Wisconsin; and the contiguous counties of Boone, Jo Daviess, McHenry, Stephenson and Winnebago in Illinois, Allamakee, Clayton and Dubuque in Iowa, Gogebic and Iron in Michigan, and Carlton, Chisago, Houston, Pine, Saint Louis, Washington and Winona in Minnesota.

The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)

program is available to eligible farm-related and non-farm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of these declarations. Apart from aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by the drought conditions.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million. Interest rates are 4% for small businesses and 2.375% for private nonprofit organizations, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not begin, and monthly payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the initial disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

Eligibility is based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Applicants may apply on-

line and receive additional disaster assistance information at [sba.gov/disaster](http://sba.gov/disaster). Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email [DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov](mailto:DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Submit completed loan applications to SBA no later than July 31.

## Wisconsin sets new records in state jobs

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) recently released the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) job totals for January 2024, which showed Wisconsin's total nonfarm jobs, private jobs, and employment all hit new all-time highs.

The state added 5,100 nonfarm jobs and 4,700 private jobs, bringing both totals to historic highs, 3,026,900 and 2,621,000 respectively. The state also made gains in employment, increasing by 2,900 over the month and 29,300 over the year to a record 3,047,500. Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.2% in January, while the state's total labor force participation rate remained at 65.9%.

Nationwide for the month of January, the U.S. unemployment rate remained at 3.7%, 0.5 percentage points above Wisconsin's rate. The national labor force participation rate of 62.5% was 3.4 percentage points below the state rate.

• **Place of Residence Data:** Wisconsin's

unemployment rate was 3.2% in January. The number of unemployed people decreased 5,200 over the month and increased 18,200 over the year to 100,400. The labor force decreased by 2,300 workers over the month for a total labor force of 3,147,900. The number of people employed increased by 2,900 over the month for a total of 3,047,500 employed.

• **Place of Work Data:** Total jobs increased by 25,200 over the year and increased 5,100 over the month to 3,026,900 total jobs in January. Private sector jobs increased by 17,000 over the year and increased by 4,700 over the month to 2,621,000. Construction jobs grew by 1,900 over the month to a record high 140,000 jobs.

"Wisconsin's economy and workforce continues to break records as we enter 2024," said DWD Secretary Amy Pechacek. "In the Year of the Worker, DWD remains committed to advancing innovative workforce programs and initiatives to continue this momentous success."

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451959

## ROCK RIVER VALLEY TRAIN SHOW



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Machesney Park, IL

March 16 & 17, 2024  
Sat 10-5 Sun 10-3

Clip and Bring this Ad for Special Door Prize Ticket. Must be present to Win.

451642



# LEGAL NOTICES

## STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ESTATE OF  
BETTY L. PIERCE

### Amended Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 24PR06

#### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 03/28/1927 and date of death 05/29/2023, was domiciled in Green County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 703 Green Street, Brodhead, WI 53520.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 23, 2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Green County Justice Center County Courthouse, 2841 6th Street, Monroe, Wisconsin, Probate Office.

Electronically signed by  
JENNIFER PRIEN  
Probate Registrar  
2-13-24

Michael A. Faust  
Consigny Law Firm, S.C.  
303 East Court Street,  
Janesville, WI 53545  
(608) 755-5050  
Bar Number 1024665

The Independent Register  
2/28, 3/6, 3/13/2024  
WNAXLP 451491

## STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT GREEN COUNTY

Plaintiff(s)

Summit Credit Union  
c/o Turke & Strauss, LLP  
613 Williamson Street #201  
Madison, WI 53703

If you need help in this matter  
because of a disability, please  
call: 608 328-9433  
vs

Defendant(s)

Melanie A. Love  
1510 6th Avenue  
Monroe, WI 53566

Civil Claim Publication  
Summons and Notice  
2024CV000002  
Judge Thomas J. Vale

### PUBLICATION SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF FILING

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED  
ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):  
You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s).

Within Forty (40) days of receiving this Summons, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: Green Courthouse, 2841 6th St. Monroe, WI 53566 and to Turke & Strauss, LLP attorney for

Plaintiff, whose address is 613 Williamson Street #201, Madison, WI 53703. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy within the 40 days, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 22nd day of February 2024

Turke & Strauss, LLP  
Attorney Mary C. Turke  
613 Williamson Street #201  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 237-1775

The Independent Register  
2/28, 3/6, 3/13/2024  
WNAXLP 451603

### CLASSIFIED AD:

Green County will have for sale on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 1:00 PM the following:

**Town of Jefferson:**  
**TAX PARCEL NUMBER 23-016 0710.0000** - Minimum proposal is \$1,600  
**TAX PARCEL NUMBER 23-016 0808.0000** - Minimum proposal is \$3,550

Green County reserves the right to accept proposals deemed most advantageous to the County, and may reject any and all proposals.

Sealed proposals for this property will be accepted until 12:00 p.m., Thursday, March 28, 2023 at the Green County Clerk's Office, Green County Courthouse, 1016 16th Avenue, Monroe, Wisconsin 53566, telephone 608-328-9430. Additional information for this property is available at the Clerk's office. A bid form can be found at the county's website, [www.greencountywi.org](http://www.greencountywi.org) under "Government" and "Tax Deed Property Sales".

The Independent Register  
2/28, 3/6, 3/13/2024  
WNAXLP 451686

### VILLAGE OF ORFORDVILLE Notice of Public Hearing

The Planning Commission of the Village of Orfordville will meet on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a change to the zoning code. The Planning Commission will meet to discuss amending the I-1 Light Industrial Zoning setbacks. Specifically to change the rear setback from 40 feet to 25 feet and to change the side setbacks from 20 feet to 8 feet. The Planning Commission will then make a recommendation to the Village Board on Monday, March 25, 2024 at the Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Main Board Room at the Village Hall, 303 E. Beloit Street, Orfordville, Wisconsin.

Sherri Waege  
Village Clerk

The Independent Register  
3/6, 3/13/2024  
WNAXLP 451864

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### EVANSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD NOTICE OF PUPIL NONDISCRIMINATION SELF EVALUATION AND INVITATION FOR STAFF, STUDENT, PARENT/ GUARDIAN & COMMUNITY INPUT

In accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code s. PI 9.06 the Evansville Community School District Board of Education hereby provides notice of its undertaking of a pupil nondiscrimination self evaluation and invitation for staff, student, parent/guardian and community input.

The Evansville Community School District is committed to providing an inclusive and equitable educational environment for all students. As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination in education, we are conducting a five-year self-evaluation of our

policies, practices, and procedures related to pupil nondiscrimination.

This self-evaluation aims to identify any areas where improvements may be needed to better address the needs of all students, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or other protected characteristics. We value the input and feedback of our students, parents, staff, and community members in this process.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or concerns regarding pupil nondiscrimination at the Evansville Community School District we encourage you to contact Director of Pupil Services, Janessa Katzenberger at 608-882-3391 by May 1, 2024. Your input will be carefully considered as we work to foster a safe, inclusive, and welcoming educational environment for all.

Thank you for your support in our efforts to promote equality and nondiscrimination in education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Lutzke, District  
Administrator - Evansville  
Community School District

March 6, 2024

The Independent Register  
3/13/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
3/14/2024  
WNAXLP 452166

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### EVANSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICIES ON PUPIL NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code s. PI 9.04 (1) and (2), the Evansville Community School District Board of Education hereby provides notice of its policies on pupil nondiscrimination and the designated employee responsible for addressing concerns related to discrimination.

**PUPIL NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY:** The Evansville Community School District Board of Education is committed to providing an inclusive and equitable educational environment for all students. Discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital or parental status, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law is strictly prohibited. The school district shall actively promote nondiscrimination in all aspects of school operations, including but not limited to admissions, access to programs and activities, hiring, and disciplinary procedures.

**DESIGNATED EMPLOYEE UNDER s. PI 9.04 (1):** Any pupil, parent, or community member who believes that they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment should contact the designated employee responsible for addressing discrimination concerns:

Name: Janessa Katzenberger  
Title: Director of Pupil Services  
Address: 340 Fair St.  
Evansville, WI 53536  
Phone: 608-882-3391  
Email: [katzenbergerj@evansville.k12.wi.us](mailto:katzenbergerj@evansville.k12.wi.us)

**COMPLAINT PROCEDURE UNDER s. PI 9.04 (2):** If you believe that you have been subjected to discrimination or harassment, you may file a complaint by following the procedure outlined in Wisconsin Administrative Code s. PI 9.04 (2). A copy of the full complaint procedure is available on our school district's website or can be obtained from the designated employee.

For more information and to access the full text of our pupil nondiscrimination policy and complaint procedure, please visit our school district website at [ECSDnet.org](http://ECSDnet.org).

Evansville Community  
School District  
Address: 340 Fair St.  
Evansville, WI 53536  
Phone: 608-882-3391  
Website: [ECSDnet.org](http://ECSDnet.org)

Date: March 6, 2024

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the designated employee or the school district administrator

if you have any questions or require further information regarding our policies on pupil nondiscrimination and the complaint procedure. Your commitment to a diverse and inclusive educational community is greatly appreciated.

The Independent Register  
3/13/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
3/14/2024  
WNAXLP 452167

### TOWN OF DECATUR

Regular Town Board  
Thursday, March 21, 2024,  
6:00pm  
Decatur Town Hall  
1408 14th Street,  
Brodhead WI 53520

#### MEETING AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Agenda/Corrections to the Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes  
a. February 19, 2024
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Payment of the Bills
7. Citizen Concerns
8. Roadwork  
-Tornado damage  
- Manure road tube on Prairie Road
9. Traffic Study on St John & Golf Course road
10. Encroachment-Todd Staffon
11. Updating accounting program  
-Attorney Carver regarding Audit
12. Appoint Board of Review members
13. Estimate to bring city water to the building
14. Additional information and correspondences
15. Future agenda items
16. Set Dates for Future Meetings
17. Adjournment

Emma Brugger Clerk/Treasurer

Posted March 7, 2024 at Town Hall, Newspaper, Website, Trackside Mobil, Brodhead Library

Follow us on our website <https://townofdecaturwi.gov/>

The Independent Register  
3/13/2024  
WNAXLP 452284

### CITY OF EVANSVILLE Notice of Voting Machine Testing

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Sec. 5.84, Wis. Stats., a test will be conducted on the electronic voting machines to be used in the City of Evansville for the April 2, 2024 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary Election. The test will be conducted to determine that the voting machines will correctly count the votes cast by processing pre-audited groups of ballots. The test will be held at City Hall, 31 S. Madison Street, Evansville, Wisconsin on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Leah Hurtley, City Clerk

The Independent Register  
3/13/2024  
Evansville Examiner  
3/14/2024  
WNAXLP 452171

### AGENDA

**BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Finance Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
2501 West 5th Avenue,  
Brodhead, WI**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**AGENDA**  
I. REVIEW BILLS  
II. REVIEW BUDGET UPDATE  
III. ADJOURN

The Independent Register  
3/13/2024  
WNAXLP 452285

### AGENDA

**BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 20, 2024  
DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM  
2501 West 5th Avenue,  
Brodhead, WI**

7:00 P.M.

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the Agenda.

**JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET:**  
<https://meet.google.com/oiv-jiji-thn>

**JOIN BY TELEPHONE:**  
**+1 727-325-2066  
(PIN: 996403637)**

- CALL TO ORDER
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- INFORMATION REPORTS
- PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

#### AGENDA

- CONSENT AGENDA
  - APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - APPROVAL OF BILLS
  - ACCEPT DONATION(S)
  - RESIGNATION(S)
  - EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)
  - VOLUNTEER RECOMMENDATION(S)
- PROGRAM PRESENTATION - HIGH SCHOOL
- REFERENDUM UPDATE
- APPOINT BOARD OF CANDIDATES
- COLLEGE/TECH CREDIT APPROVALS
- APPROVAL OF MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING COACH JOB DESCRIPTION
- APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM JOB DESCRIPTION
- APPROVAL OF CONTRACTED & VOLUNTEER COACHES
- APPROVAL OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ELA CURRICULUM
- FUTURE AGENDA
- ROLL CALL VOTE TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WI. STS. 19.85 (1)(c)(f)
  - Staff Reports
  - Teacher Negotiations
  - Select Scholarship Recipients
- ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS
- ADJOURNMENT

Persons needing special accommodations should call (608) 897-2141 at least twenty-four [24] hours prior to the meeting.

The Independent Register  
3/13/2024  
WNAXLP 452286

### AGENDA

**BRODHEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2024  
BRODHEAD HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM  
2501 West 5th Avenue,  
Brodhead, WI**  
**6:00 P.M.**

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the Agenda.

**JOIN WITH GOOGLE MEET:**  
<https://meet.google.com/oiv-jiji-thn>

**JOIN BY TELEPHONE:**  
**+1 727-325-2066  
(PIN: 996403637)**

- CALL TO ORDER
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ROLL CALL
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- INFORMATION REPORTS
- PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

#### AGENDA

- INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ABOUT THE APRIL 2 REFERENDUM
- QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
- BUILDING TOURS

Persons needing special accommodations should call (608) 897-2141 at least twenty-four [24] hours prior to the meeting.

The Independent Register  
3/13/2024  
WNAXLP 452287

## Study: Wisconsinites face stress tipping point

In an in-depth survey, a "stress tipping point" has emerged as a key concern among Americans grappling with personal financial pressures. The term captures a critical threshold where the accumulation of financial obligations leads to overwhelming stress levels, threatening people's mental well-being.

The survey engaged with 3,000 respondents across the nation who are managing ongoing financial commitments. It uncovered that almost 3-in-4 Wisconsinites (73%) are on edge about nearing a "stress tipping point," a state where the burden of their financial responsibilities surpasses their ability to cope effectively, potentially causing severe psychological distress. This equates to a staggering 2,615,639 adults in the Badger State. This compares to a national average of 65%.

Reinforcing these concerns, recent figures from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York indicate a sharp rise in total financial obligations, which climbed to \$17.06 trillion in 2023, which is a 4.15% increase from the previous year, signaling a trend that could accelerate the approach towards this stress tipping point.

The phenomenon appears to be geographically uneven, with Vermonters reporting the highest instances of financial strain that could lead to such a tipping point. A staggering 83% feel their circumstances are becoming unmanageable - this represents approximately 328,000 Vermonters. Conversely, Idahoans have reported less susceptibility to this tipping point, though the 25% who do still represent a considerable portion of the community - around 289,000 people.

The survey also probed into the wider social effects of approaching a stress tipping point, revealing that personal relationships are becoming collateral damage to financial unease. Fifty-nine percent of respondents see their relationships being affected, while two-thirds observe a similar impact on their friends and family.

On a scale of 1 to 10, the average confidence level in managing financial stress hovers at a concerning 6/10, hinting at the uncertainty many feel about their ability to stave off the stress tipping point. Daily worries about financial matters are a reality for 17% of those surveyed, further indicating the pervasive nature of this issue.

In the face of these challenges, a proactive stance is still prevalent, with an encouraging 82% of participants actively seeking out solutions to circumvent reaching their stress tipping point.

"As our latest survey reveals, this 'stress tipping point' represents more than just a fiscal benchmark; it's a critical indicator of societal well-being. Our findings call for a collective effort to address and mitigate the factors contributing to this widespread concern," says Ashley Fricker, Senior Editor with CardRates.com.

This article is from a study found at [www.cardrates.com/news/money-stress-study/](http://www.cardrates.com/news/money-stress-study/).



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# Governor Evers signs child care tax credit bill

On Thursday, March 7, Gov. Tony Evers delivered the Democratic Radio Address on signing Assembly Bill 1023, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 101, which expands the current child and dependent care tax credit from 50 percent to 100 percent of the federal credit, helping reduce the tax burden for families struggling to afford the high cost of child care and care for adult dependents.

Act 101, similar to a proposal Gov. Evers recommended in his 2023-25 biennial budget proposal, provides tax relief to over 110,000 Wisconsin taxpayers at an average benefit of over \$656 per filer, totaling nearly \$73 million in annual tax relief. More information about Act 101 is available online.

## Governor Evers' statement on the bill

"Hi there, Wisconsin. Governor Tony Evers here.

"And I have great news for working families across our state.

"I was excited this week to sign bipartisan legislation to expand our state's child and dependent care tax credit and reduce the burden on families struggling with the high costs of child care.

"This will go a long way toward defraying yearly family expenses for child care, giving Wisconsinites some breathing room in their household budgets and making sure our kids have the early support and care they need.

"Simply put: the cost of child care in this state is too darn high.

"Making quality child care more affordable across Wisconsin is not just about doing what's best for our kids – it's also critical for keeping more folks and parents in our state's workforce, too.

"So, we're expanding the current law non-refundable child and dependent care tax credit from 50 percent of the federal credit to 100 percent of it.

"We're also increasing the maximum qualifying expenses that may be claimed for one child from \$3,000 to \$10,000 and for two or more kids from \$6,000 to \$20,000.

"That means more than 110,000 Wisconsin taxpayers will see an average benefit of \$656 per filer, providing nearly \$73 million in annual tax relief to folks across our state through the bill I signed this week.

"And that's great news, Wisconsin. But I also know there's more work to be done.

"We need urgent, long-term investments to further reduce out-of-pocket child care costs for working families and ensure child care providers can keep their doors open so that we can maintain our current levels of workforce participation.

"And I'm ready to work with anyone from either side of the aisle to get this done.

"So, let's get to work, folks. Thank you."

# Gov. Evers signs Senate Bill 408

Gov. Tony Evers recently signed Senate Bill (SB) 408, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 105, which makes modifications to the "50-piece rule" for the Wisconsin State Legislature. SB 408 was passed by the Legislature with bipartisan support and would first apply to the 2024 general election.

Senate Bill 408, now 2023 Wisconsin Act 105:

- Expands the time a representative to the Wisconsin State Assembly who becomes a candidate for partisan office is able to distribute 50 pieces of substantially identical materials to the last day authorized by law for filing nomination

papers for that election;

- Increases the limit on the number of substantially identical materials a member of the Wisconsin State Senate who becomes a candidate for partisan office may distribute to 150 pieces and expands the time for which they can distribute these materials to the last day authorized by law for filing nomination papers for that election; and

- Specifies that this limit would not apply during a state of emergency with respect to any elective office representing any part of the territory that is subject to the emergency declaration for materials related to the emergency.

# Lifesaving drone tech debuted in Wisconsin

As the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation wraps a successful 50th Anniversary Season this March with the Fat Bike Birkie, the ABSF medical team in Hayward, Wisconsin celebrated something never before tried in sports: after two cardiac incidents at

the 2023 American Birkebeiner race, the team turned to innovations in drone technology to ensure that, should another heart incident occur at races in years to come, ABSF medical is well-positioned to deliver an AED to a racer before it's too late.

While thankfully it was not needed at this year's race, drone manufacturer DJI had staff on site overseeing the launch of its M350 drone that is able to deliver an AED to enhance delivery to areas of the course that are otherwise difficult to access, avoiding the circuitous and lengthy routes that would have been traveled by ambulance or snowmobile, to ensure the fastest possible delivery of the medical technology. In cardiac arrest, the ability to access an AED within five minutes is often the difference between life and death.

"An amazing feature of the Birkie trail is its rural and rolling terrain. But that does pose

a challenge when responding to medical emergencies," said Jesse Coenen, MD Medical Director of American Birkebeiner Emergency and physician with Tamagack Health Hayward Medical Center. "The idea of using a drone to deliver lifesaving supplies, specifically an AED (defibrillator), can drastically improve response times. This year DJI drone company assisted us in having a drone-carrying AED based at the top of Mt. Telemark for Birkie weekend. The Birkie Medical team works hard to enhance emergency preparedness, and will continue to try to optimize our plans."

Wayne Baker of drone manufacturer DJI said, "this [the American Birkebeiner] will be the first time such technology has been used in a major sporting event but it could soon become the norm – used in everything from marathons to the Olympics and the Tour de France."

# Schools encouraged to apply for \$504,894 in training grants

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) recently announced that a new round of Wisconsin Fast Forward grants is available to help prepare students for high-demand careers.

Up to \$504,894 in grant funds are available to Wisconsin school districts through the Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward program. The funds support projects to train students to use advanced manufacturing tools and equipment. Award amounts will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and will be available for school districts to ready high school students in technical fields to ensure Wisconsin has a skilled workforce for the future.

"As industries in Wisconsin continue to advance and grow, there's a critical need to assure that we have a prepared workforce with the skills to meet future needs," DWD Secretary Amy Pechacek said. "These technical education equipment grants connect students with opportunities to learn to use manufacturing equipment that prepares them for in-demand careers."

These grants reimburse school districts for the costs of purchasing and installing technical education equipment used in vocational training and technical education in advanced manufacturing fields. Funds also cover the cost for equipment operation software and instructional materials. Grants support technical education and reduce higher education costs through dual enrollment credits, industry-endorsed certificates, and technical endorsements on high school diplomas.

Applications must be sent by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16. Find additional information or download an application on the Wisconsin Fast Forward Program website.

Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development efficiently delivers effective and inclusive services to meet Wisconsin's diverse workforce needs now and for the future. The department advocates for and invests in the protection and economic advancement of all Wisconsin workers, employers and job seekers through six divisions – Employment and Training, Vocational Rehabilitation, Unemployment Insurance, Equal Rights, Worker's Compensation and Administrative Services. To keep up with DWD announcements and information, sign up for news releases and follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

# •Murder (Continued from front page)

DCI with assistance from the Wisconsin State Crime Lab, Dodgeville EMS, Dodgeville Fire, Northern Colorado Drug Task Force, Larimer County Sheriff's Office of Colorado, UW Hospital, Glendale Police Department, Eastern District of Wisconsin U.S. Marshals Service, Wisconsin State Pa-

trol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Victim services are provided by the Iowa County District Attorney's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant Attorneys General Nathaniel Adamson and Edward Minser with assistance from paralegal Jackie Righter.

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