

Many questions and not enough answers

Trump's proposed funding freeze may or may not end up impacting local programs

By Jennifer Eisenbart
STAFF WRITER

To say there was confusion in the offices of local non-profits Jan. 28 is an understatement.

Now, as a government memo to supposedly freeze federal funding was first defended and then rescinded, those same non-profits are still trying to wrap their heads around what may be going on.

"It's very confusing," Suzy Schoenhof, the executive director of New Beginnings APFV – a domestic violence awareness and support program – said Jan. 29. "There are mixed messages being sent from Trump and those who know the law and procedures within the realm of Executive Orders."

That confusion has continued. There have been concerns raised that, in spite of a federal judge blocking the memo and executive order, the government is still freezing funds to programs like Head Start.

Walworth County's Head Start program, which shares with Rock County, is not currently affected because it's not connected with the federal freeze.

Executive Director of Rock/Walworth Comprehensive Family Services Emily Coddington said while she's heard of different Head Start programs being unable to draw funds from the Payment Management System, the Rock/Walworth program is not having that issue right now.

"From our perspective, even though we have not lost access to our funds, our staff are feeling uncertain about the future," Coddington said. "Which has implications for not only our agency but for the kids, families and communities we serve."

What was said and done

The original memo from the Office of Management and Budget was set to go into effect at 5 p.m. Jan. 28.

It allegedly would have temporarily frozen all federal assistant programs and supporting activities.

Initial reports said the freeze would affect all federal grants and loans, and administration officials said the decision was necessary to ensure all funding complied with Trump's executive orders that addressed diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

A judge stepped in to temporarily block the order from starting Jan. 28,

and the memo was rescinded the following day.

Agencies set to be affected by the memo received notice on Jan. 27 about the potential freeze.

Confusion remains about what is and is not affected, and on Feb. 7, Democratic attorneys general from 22 states and the District of Columbia asked the federal judge to enforce the restraining order, claiming money was still being withheld, according to Reuters.

Reuters reported the following:

"According to the states' motion, the Trump administration has claimed that McConnell's restraining order does not apply to certain infrastructure and environmental funding that was frozen by a different OMB memo, which the states had not directly challenged.

"It has also said that some funding has been delayed for 'operational and administrative reasons,' according to the motion.

"The still-frozen funds include \$4.5 billion for a home electrification rebate program, at least some of \$7 billion for rooftop solar panels, \$5 billion supporting state, local and Native American tribal governments' greenhouse gas reduction measures and \$117.5 million for air quality monitoring, the motion said."

As had already been addressed, some programs are having issues accessing the systems that pay out government dollars toward various programs.

New Beginnings

Schoenhof agreed to a brief question and answer discussion to address questions raised by the attempted order to freeze funds.

See FUNDING FREEZE, Page 8



Having lunch with a hero

Turtle Creek Elementary School in Delavan hosted City of Delavan police and fire department members Jan. 24 for "Lunch With a Hero" day at the school. The department members got to enjoy the student's pizza day lunch, and the students got to meet with the people who keep them safe in the city. Above: Officer Mike Sulzer (second from left) sits at a table with youngsters for lunch, while Officer Danielle Apker (fourth from left) joins in. At left: School Resource Officer Mike Anderberg shares a big smile with a student at the event.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Southern Lakes Newspapers

More referendums coming to area ballots

By Susan Steele
CORRESPONDENT

Village of Walworth residents will consider another referendum in April to exceed the Village's state-imposed property tax levy limit to fund the 2025 projected \$348,878.54 general operations deficit.

The last Village property tax increase referendum was in November of last year for an additional \$300,000 to provide full-time EMS service with two EMTs and housing.

The Village Trustees addressed the deficit circumstances and its solutions at their regular Jan. 13 meeting. A special board meeting Jan. 15 followed to approve a referendum question.

Village President Louise Czaja began the discussion.

"The shortfall," explained Czaja, "was a result of losing a \$225,000 contract," referring to the contract between the Village and the Town

of Walworth for Fire and EMS services.

Village Fire/EMS Chief David Austin stated he prepared the department's 2025 budget as if the Town of Walworth contract remained in place.

The trustees approved his budget, but "when the Township pulled out," stated Austin, "this money was lost, but costs remained the same, like training, utilities, insurance, and certain fixed costs, regardless of how many calls you go on."

Austin concluded by telling the trustees he had revised some of the fire/EMS policies and had reduced some payroll expenses, "but it was not enough to offset the \$230,000 lost in the Town (of Walworth) contract."

Czaja then stated how the State Trust Fund would lend the village money to fund the deficit in 2025, but the village could not continue to borrow for operations.

"If the referendum does not

pass," Czaja told the trustees, "then the Village could not maintain the same functioning and would need to cut services."

The trustees questioned Czaja and Village staff about Village audits for 2021-2023. The last completed one was for fiscal year 2020.

Czaja responded the 2021 audit was almost complete.

"Does anyone have an alternative idea?" asked Czaja. "Can we run the Village without the state levy limit being raised?"

"We will have to if it doesn't pass," replied one trustee. Another added, "People are already upset and telling me nonstop about increases already with school and EMS."

A third trustee asked, "Cut where?"

Czaja explained how the Village borrowed from the reserve funds in 2022 and now needs to raise the levy limit to fund general operations. Staff stated the cost of the latest property tax increase would be \$.95

per \$1,000 of assessed value to begin in FY 2025. The present Village mil rate of 5.617 mils increasing to 6.896 mils, representing a 1.278% increase.

The Board approved the resolution elements:

- The Village of Walworth's population growth has increased by 40% which since 2000 the state only allows the Village to increase property taxes by .686%, equaling \$12,214 for the year 2025 tax levy payable in 2026.

The Village of Walworth is borrowing to fund general operations in 2025 fully fund its general operations, and it needs to increase its levy by 16.077% for another \$350,000 each year.

A "yes" vote on the April 1 Village ballot allows the Village Board to exceed the state-imposed levy limit to fully fund and maintain municipal services to Village residents and businesses and avoid cutting general operation services.

OPINION



Slices of life

Avocados can be tricky, on several levels

I have bad luck with avocados. I just can't seem to keep track of them. I shop for them. I put them in my cart. I pay for them. And then, something goes decidedly – or perhaps magically – wrong. I leave the store with an avocado in my bag and when I come home, it is gone. I lose avocados like they are socks on laundry day. And that isn't exactly the easiest thing to do. Avocados aren't small – as fruits go. I mean, a person could quite easily lose a grape or a blueberry or even a cherry tomato. But an avocado? One wouldn't think so. I wouldn't have, had it not happened to me personally – on numerous occasions. It started years ago. Back then, I blamed it on my husband. He and I used to go to the grocery store to acquire provisions for supper. On at least two occasions, our list included an avocado (for



By JILL PERTLER Columnist

guacamole). In the aftermath of the avocado escape, both he and I remembered (clearly) choosing the avocado – because choosing an avocado of the correct firmness is tantamount to its inclusion in dinner (and guacamole) on any given night. We remembered removing the avocado from the cart to the conveyor belt of the checkout lane. We even remembered seeing the avocado in our bag as we walked to the car. And then, everything gets blurry. Because we arrived at home and unpacked the groceries and didn't notice the errant avocado(s) immediately because who itemizes their grocery acquisitions on such a specific level so soon after

returning from the store? Certainly not us. We didn't notice the avocado's absence until right before dinner - when it was time to prepare the guacamole. It was at this point it became obvious that the avocado had gone AWOL. This happened more than once – maybe more than twice, but enough to make me know we were avocado cursed. And then, unexpectedly, the curse was lifted and my life was filled with avocados anew. Until this week. When I purchased an avocado for dinner. And when dinner time came near and it was time to make the guacamole there was no avocado in my kitchen. It was like history was repeating itself. I looked in all the usual places and came up avocado empty. We ate supper sans guacamole, and everyone forgot about the lack thereof - except me. I just couldn't let it go. But I had to. What recourse does a person have when she

can't find her avocado? Not much. Life went on. The next day, I followed my normal routine, which included an exercise class in the morning. When I returned to my house around noon, I noticed a weird lumpy shape my driveway. I thought it might be a dead bird. After driving the car into the garage, I walked out to the driveway to examine the clumpy lump. You're already two steps ahead of me, aren't you? And with that, you'd be correct. The lump was a squished avocado. Apparently, it rolled out of my hatchback (or shopping bag) when I unloaded groceries the day before. And then, that morning, I've driven over it with the car. Mystery solved! Give me a Scooby snack. Or better yet, an avocado.

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.

Westwords by Dennis West

Winter sports of sorts, part 1

I'm not sure how old you'd have to be to remember cast-iron cars with heavy, chrome-plated bumpers that weren't integrated into the body of the vehicle so that there was a space of four to six inches between. I had reason to think about those bumpers on a night when snow was falling and the sound of traffic was hushed. As I climbed slowly up a snow-covered hill in my front-wheel-drive van, I thought of the nights back in the 1950s when my friends and I used to hitch rides on automobile bumpers. That was before municipalities dumped salt on streets. The most you could expect to help you start or stop was gravity, or some cinders scattered by street department employees from trucks or storage boxes at intersections. The street I lived on

was level, but the streets at either end of our block that ran perpendicular to mine both had hills. As cars made their way up these inclines, they slowed at the intersections to see if anyone was coming the other way. That's when my friends and I would sneak out from behind a bush or utility pole, slink up behind the car, grab the rear bumper and crouch down so that we were pulled along through the snow on our black, buckle boots that everyone wore back then. Once in a while a driver would catch a glimpse of us as we converged on his car, roll down his window and yell, "Hey, you kids, get out of there." Because it was back in the day when kids had a measure of respect, a.k.a. fear, for their elders, we would usually

See WESTWORDS, Page 4

Odd Wisconsin

Poem, curse yielded state town names

Most of our place names commemorate famous people or describe the local landscape. A few, though, were born in stranger ways. In 1851, Thomas Rowe opened a tavern for lumberjacks north of La Crosse. He was remembered as "a well-educated, intellectual and genial gentleman" – probably the only North Woods bartender ever described that way – who was fond of quoting poetry. Among his favorite poets was Thomas Campbell, whose poem, "Pleasures of Hope," includes the lines, "And waft across the waves' tumultuous roar / The wolf's long howl from Oonalaska's shore." Campbell was praising the optimism of ship captains who explored remote and lonely places (Oonalaska is in the Aleutian Islands). When the time came to name Rowe's settlement, the innkeeper, perhaps feeling equally lonely out on the edge of the Wisconsin frontier, recalled the couplet and christened the village, Onalaska, and its township, Campbell. Why he dropped the initial "o" is unknown. A hundred miles south, three settlers named their town more prosaically. In 1870, John Stephens bought farmland around a crossroads in Grant County. Solomon Craiglow and Madison Johnson soon joined him. When the railroad came through in 1875, the three of them needed a name for its station. Stephens wanted to call it Stephensville, after himself, but the other two objected. Craiglow supposedly retorted, "You b' damned – we won't!" His curse suggested a compromise. "That's it," Stephens said, "We'll call it Yuba!" This was later changed to the more polite form, Cuba, and then to Cuba City. Source: The Wisconsin Historical Society. For more information, visit the website at wisconsinhistory.org.

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Vintage Shop Hop brings ‘shopping local’ to a new level

Thousands of shoppers will converge on northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin once again for the spring edition of the popular Vintage Shop Hop on Friday and Saturday, March 7-8.

The event is a self-guided road trip for vintage and antique lovers in the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin region to satisfy their “vintage” addiction and support small business at the same time.

Typically, between 350 to 400 locally-owned vintage shops, antique malls, women’s boutiques, occasional and pop-up shops, home decor stores, upscale consignment shops and vintage barn sales in the two-state region participate in this one-of-a-kind event.

According to the 2024 American Express Shop Small Impact Study, 85% of consumers say they were likely to shop “small” that season.

The study goes on to report consumers also say they “shop small” to make an impact locally, with 64% shopping small because they know a portion of their purchase directly impacts the community.

The Vintage Shop Hop would like to see shoppers change their shopping habits year-round. The event is a twice-a-year road trip comprised of nothing but “small businesses.”

What started with 180 shops 12 years ago, the Vintage Shop Hop has increased in popularity every year.

“In the spring, shop owners sometimes need an economic shot in the arm to boost their sales in what is traditionally slow retail season, not to mention the competition of the online shopping craze,” says Ann Campos, founder of the event. “This event gives the shopper a reason to leave the house to shop small and support their local businesses.”

The idea came to Campos over a decade ago after talking with a handful of shop owners in her town who had experienced slow sales during the then harsh winter.

“After spending several years producing large vintage markets, I decided to marry my love of vintage decor with my background in tourism promotion, event planning and marketing to come up with a way to reach out and do something for local small business,” Campos said. “The result is the Vintage Shop Hop.”

The event is only open to locally-owned, for-profit shops. There are no big box stores, franchises or chain stores allowed. Social media has played a huge role in the rapid growth of the shopping extravaganza.

“The event was destined to grow quickly,” Campos explained, “between the shop owners looking for a unique, low-cost way to promote not only their shop but their town too, and shoppers who are excited to have a list of hundreds

of fun shops dropped in their lap. The result? You can’t hold them back!”

The two-state event has grown organically over the past 12 years and now stretches from the Mississippi River on the west to Lake Michigan on the east, and goes north to the Wausau and Green Bay in Wisconsin and south to I-80 in Illinois.

“We encourage the shops to create an in-store promotion – a day unlike the other 363 days of the year,” says Campos. As a result, shoppers will find fun promotions like “pop a balloon” or “spin the wheel” to determine their discount, door prizes, meet-the-maker, paint demos, live music, food trucks and free swag bags just for stopping in.

Others create punch cards promotions to get people moving around their region, or hire live music and invite food trucks to park in their lots.

“The participating shop owners are very passionate about the history of their antiques as well as their buildings. To compete with big box stores, small business owners have to be creative in their marketing efforts and work extra hard to get noticed,” Campos said. “I’m just happy I can help them out by using my experience to bring customers to their doorstep with this fun shopping event. To my knowledge, it’s the biggest event of its kind in the Midwest.”

Many shops are set in historic and unique buildings in downtowns, villages, and the countryside, brimming with history, which sets them apart from their competitors in big shopping malls.

Shoppers will find stores located inside century-old barns, historic schoolhouses, banks, and churches all making the shopping experience memorable.

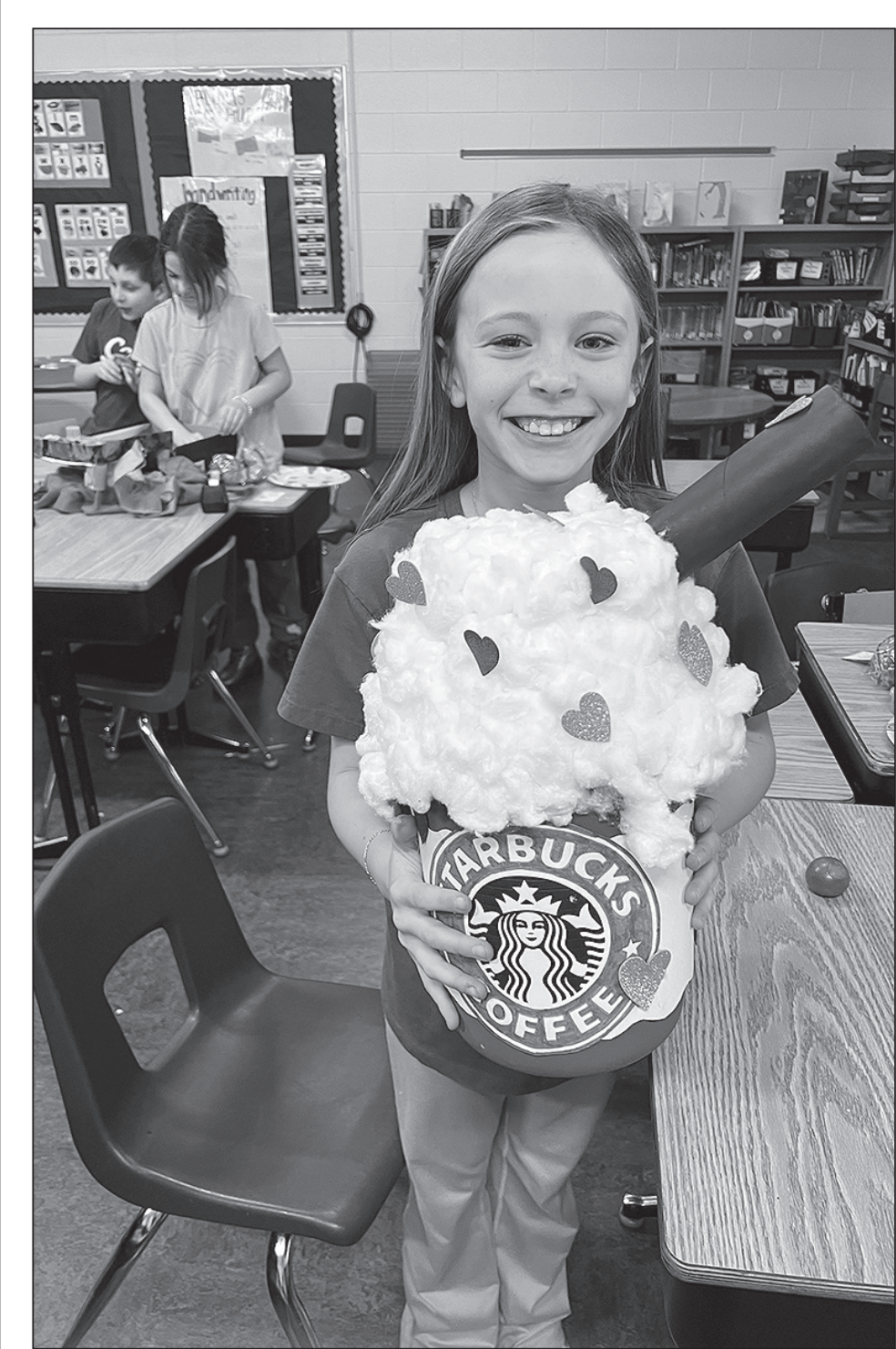
Shop owners who are interested in participating in this affordable event just need to send a private message on the event’s Facebook page.

For shoppers, the road trip planning for the Vintage Shop Hop is made easy with an interactive GoogleMap and master list of shops. The event’s GoogleMap includes all shop details that can be accessed on mobile devices while shoppers are traveling the area. The list and map are both found on the event’s blog page at all times and have become a “road trip bible” for shoppers. Find both at vintageshophop.blogspot.com or follow the event’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VintageShopHopEvent.

Area Wisconsin shops participating

- Home Decor & Gifts, 316 W. State St., Beloit, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Vintage Bliss, 3100 S. Riverside Drive, Beloit, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

See SHOP HOP, Page 10



Happy Valentine’s Day

Students in Ms. Williams’ 3rd grade class at Darien Elementary School got creative for a Valentine’s Day project last week. They brought in their own decorated boxes to collect all the Valentine’s Day fun in class. Among the special creations was this student’s giant Starbucks mug. See more photos of students with the boxes they made on the Delavan-Darien School District page on Facebook.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Southern Lakes Newspapers

Walworth County Clerk warns of jury duty scam

Walworth County Clerk of Circuit Court Michele Jacobs is alerting residents about a telephone scam that recently defrauded a local woman of \$2,000.

The woman reported that she was contacted by an individual claiming to be a Walworth County Sheriff’s Deputy.

The woman’s age was not revealed, and Walworth County Communications Manager Jenny Quill cautioned that people of all ages can fall victim to these scams.

The caller falsely stated that she had failed to report

for jury service and needed to pay a \$2,000 fine immediately to avoid arrest. The scammers then instructed her to wire them money. After she complied, they called again, claiming they spoke with the clerk, confirmed that her fine had increased, and demanded additional funds.

“These calls are fraudulent and should be ignored,” said Jacobs. “The Clerk of Circuit Court’s office will never call and demand immediate payment for a jury duty-related fine. Official jury summonses and failure-to-appear notices are sent via first-class mail.

Court officials and officers do not make phone calls to threaten arrest or demand payments.”

Residents who receive such calls and are unsure of their legitimacy should hang up immediately and contact the Clerk of Circuit Court’s office at 262-741-7012.

Individuals summoned for jury duty first receive a questionnaire by U.S. mail, followed by a summons with instructions on how and when to report.

Those who fail to complete and return their questionnaire, or who fail to appear

for jury duty, will receive a written notification of their failure to comply, which may include notification of a hearing scheduled before a judge. But they will never receive a phone call demanding money.

The Clerk of Circuit Court’s office may issue a fine for failure to appear, but notification will always be sent via an official letter.

For more information about the Clerk of Circuit Court’s office and the Walworth County Circuit Court system, visit www.co.walworth.wi.us/151/Clerk-of-Circuit-Court.

He said normally they would request to have that rewritten to be in Wisconsin in Walworth County.

While he understands the city might not necessarily have a whole lot of choice in these stipulations, he said he thinks the city could approve the contract subject to someone checking on those two items.

City Administrator Adam Swann said he had reached out to CIVMIC, the municipal insurer for the city, and sent them a copy of the provision about the insurance requirement, though he noted he was pretty confident the city would be able to meet the requirement in the contract.

Both Payson and McClory amended their motions to include the recommended contingencies, and the motion passed 4-0.

Elkhorn fireworks set for June 27

Nearly \$20,000 show planned for July 4 celebrations

By Kellen Olshefski
CORRESPONDENT

The City of Elkhorn Common Council voted 4-0 in favor of a fireworks display agreement with J&M Displays for Elkhorn’s annual July 4 fireworks at its Feb. 3 meeting.

The motion to approve, made by Alderman Gary Lee Payson Jr. and seconded by Alderman Scott McClory, was contingent on the city obtaining insurance coverage and the city changing the contract to specify the venue and choice of law would be Wisconsin rather than law at the recommendation of City Attorney Tim Pruitt.

In keeping with the city’s tradition, Parks and Recreation Director Karl Sorvick recommended the Fourth of July Fireworks stay scheduled for the Friday before

the holiday, June 27, despite July 4 falling on a Friday this year. For reference, the fireworks show was on Friday, June 28.

In his memo to the council, Sorvick also noted that when he spoke with J&M Displays he was informed it would not be able to accommodate an additional show on July 4 this summer, the primary reasons for the limitation including it being the most requested show date, staffing shortage, the availability of necessary computers for the shows and the need for certified personnel to manage the display.

However, Sorvick noted that J&M Displays did offer a 10% bonus for this year’s show if Elkhorn chose to retain its traditional Friday before schedule.

At a total price of \$14,500, the city would be receiving

an extra \$963.80 (8%) in free fireworks for early payment, an extra \$1,721.70 (15%) free for J&M Displays’ loyalty program for the city’s long-standing relationship with the company and an additional \$1,131.50 for scheduling the show on June 27, bringing the total value of the show up to \$19,870.20.

Following a motion to approve the contract, Pruitt said with the insurance section of the contract, the requirement of the city to have its own insurance policy might not be a bad thing, but the city does need to make sure it has the ability to get its own insurance and what the cost of that would be.

Pruitt also noted the section of the contract on choice of law requiring the city to go to Iowa in their county if there is any litigation.

Single mom struggles with mother, expenses

Dear W.C.,
My mother and I moved in together last year because we thought it would help both our circumstances.

My mother needed some caregiving after having her knee replaced and I needed help with watching my 8-year-old son after school. I am a single mother and do not receive any help from my ex-husband.

Unfortunately, my mother's health has not improved, and I have become her caregiver until she improves. I have missed so much work due to her many medical appointments and with all the driving my car has needed repairs.

My son needed another pair of glasses after his were broken beyond repair, so that was paid out of pocket. I had to pay for one of the car repairs so I could continue to get to work and the doctor's offices, but there is more work that needs to be done that I cannot afford.

These expenses, on top of less time at work have caused us to fall behind in our rent. I don't know how we will get through the next few months without falling behind in everything. I am trying to keep it together so as to not worry my mom and son, but it is getting more and more



By **SAL DIMICELI**
Columnist

difficult every day.

I do not see a light at the end of the tunnel until my mom improves, so I am humbly begging for help out of this situation I find myself in.

Dear readers,

I am often amazed by what most single mothers accomplish every day. Being both mother and father to a young son, and a caring daughter to a mother in need, on top of financially supporting everyone and completing household tasks usually completed by two adults, is more than most people undertake in a day.

Add in the stress of unpaid bills, worrying about becoming homeless, and you get an idea of what this single mother was experiencing.

When I contacted this single mother, I found a woman who was strong and capable. When she began to tell me everything she had been going through, the tough exterior was soon shed,

and the tears began to flow. She apologized for crying but I assured her she was safe shedding those tears with me. Who else did she have to share with how overwhelmed and stressed she felt?

After learning additional facts about her situation that were not included in her letter, and more about her mother's health – including an extensive infection she contracted due to the surgery – we talked about her job and their budget. It was a blessing that her employer was understanding about what she was going through. In a normal month, this mother would get by with very little to spare, but they got by. With the extraordinary expenses over the past six weeks, and the reduction in income due to missed days at work, it would become more difficult to catch up with each passing week.

I learned in addition to paying for her son's glasses, she had also had to take him to the emergency room when he had come down with the flu. Her car needed new tires and an additional repair she could not afford.

I immediately arranged for her car to go in for service and new tires. We also would pay for three months' rent,

her outstanding utility bill, and provided gift cards for gas and food.

The mother again began to cry, as she felt the stress of poverty being lifted from her shoulders. The mother humbly tried to deny she needed additional help but when I explained she would need this to help her get through the next few months, she accepted graciously.

Thanks to our support this single mother, her son and her mother are all safe from the possibility of becoming homeless, utility disconnection and even hunger. Our assistance has provided the safety net that caught them just in time, thanks to "you" and the Family Foundation 2025 \$40,000 Matching Grant.

We hope you will take advantage of the Family Foundation 2025 \$40,000 Matching Grant as your donations will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling your donation and the assistance we will be able to provide. Thank you!

Health & Happiness,
Love and God bless everyone, Sal

Please help: There are many coming to us in desperation. Our good fellow creations need our

compassion. Together we make a big difference. Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 1, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. The Time Is Now to Help is a federally recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization. You will receive a tax deductible, itemized thank you receipt showing how 100% of your donation was used for providing poverty relief. Please visit our website for more information, to read more columns and/or to make a donation.

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Prayer chain: Please pray for healing for the following people: Bill, Brian, Mike, Sylvia, Megan, Kayla, Maria C., Judy, Scott, Annie, Marilyn, Brandon, Helen, Dennis, Mary, Joseph, Jordan, Jean, Tom L., Dr. Peter, Matthew, Pam E., Jenene B., John S., Patricia H., Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, Bryan E., Betty, Ellie, Concetta, Cheryl, Kirubel M., Wanda L., Joan, Bruce and Andy.

For more information, visit timeisnowtohelp.org.

• Westwords (Continued from page 2)

drop off, skidding to a halt in the snow, punching each other on the shoulder and laughing like crazy.

You have to realize that these cars weren't going fast. If it was a heavy snowfall, even without wind, drivers had all they could do to see through their windshields that inadequate defrosters and wipers had a hard time clearing.

I can still hear the sound of tire chains going chink, chink, chink through the snow. Before the advent of snow tires, especially the ones with metal studs that enjoyed popularity for a decade or so, drivers used to spread tire chains on the ground in back (or was it front?) of each rear wheel and then drive onto them. When they had the car positioned just right, they would get out, kneel down in the snow and buckle the chains around the tire. Talk about work!

But this was back in the days when the average man had to get out of bed in the

morning and make his way through a cold house to the basement where he shoveled coal into the furnace, whose fire he had banked the night before, in order to warm up the house by the time the rest of the family was ready to rise. Once a week or so, he had to clean the clinkers out of the furnace and haul them out to the curb to be picked up, or saved to spread on the driveway or the intersection near his house.

I was born late enough to realize that this kind of activity was common at one point, and to be grateful that I came along just in time to enjoy gas (or oil) furnaces, air conditioning and other modern conveniences.

(Part 2 will appear in next week's issue).

These columns appeared in *The Beacon* in Dennis West's *Westwords* column and were republished in his 2008 book, "Westwords – Observations from the Desk of a Small-Town Newspaper Publisher."

Back Home

Did you know that the word tire is a short form of attire based on the idea that a wheel with a tire is dressed up?

I didn't either and the etymology of the word was the furthest thought from my mind as I crawled under the back of my pickup truck to check out the state of the spare tire that was mounted underneath.

To say that the left rear tire was flat would be an understatement. My wife Sherry and I were traveling down the interstate when a "low air" alert light flashed on the dashboard. I watched in alarm as it went from 29 pounds, 27 pounds, 25 pounds and so on – dropping in pressure almost as fast as I'm typing the words.

I left the interstate at the nearest exit and pulled into a gas station parking lot. By the time I spotted the location of the air hose, the indicator said the tire air pressure was at zero. I got out to take a look and was greeted by a tire that was off the rim.

Did you know that the first patent for the standard pneumatic tire was from



By **CHRIS HARDIE**
Contributor

Scottish inventor Robert William Thomson in 1847? Neither did I, but I wished that Bobby had been there to help me figure out how to get the spare tire from under the truck. It appeared to be held in place by a metal plate, which was quite rusted after having been there for eight years.

I located the tire iron under the back seat and began to pound on the plate to try and loosen it. After several minutes, I remembered one of my annual New Year's resolutions about working smarter and not harder and told Sherry that I was calling our emergency car repair service. We've been members since 1982 and have only used it twice before.

I called, received a text and a link to the service call and received a message that someone would be there

within 20 minutes. It wasn't bitterly cold, there was no snow and the demand for service at 7:45 a.m. should be pretty light.

A few minutes later I received a robocall that said due to high service demand, it was unclear how long it would take for someone to arrive. I waited 10 minutes and there was no change. So I crawled back underneath the truck and resumed my brute force project on the bracket.

Again, trying to be smarter, I decided that instead of using a bigger hammer – which I didn't have available – that I would consult the truck manual. I discovered that the tire was actually designed to be lowered on a cable by removing a lock located underneath a plastic cover near the rear license plate.

Sure enough, I found the lock, removed it with the truck key and fitted together two shafts that came with the tire iron. The end of the shaft fit over a nut above the tire and I began cranking the tire down. The tire slowly lowered to the ground. The wheel was rusty, but the tire

was still holding air and I was close to an air pump.

My phone rang again and it was a repeat of the previous message that a service tech was still being summoned with no estimated time of arrival. At this point I figured at least I'd have a head start by the time the tire service arrived. I loosened the lug nuts on the flat tire, put the emergency brake on, crawled even further under the truck to place the jack under the axle and connected three pieces of shaft to crank the jack up.

Soon I had the flat tire off the ground. I removed it and replaced it with the spare. I tightened the lug nuts, lowered the truck back to the ground, re-tightened the lug nuts and the job was finished. Just then I received a text message from the auto service that said: "Your service is complete. How did we do?"

I replied: "No one showed up. I changed the tire myself."

I later clicked on a link that came with the text,

See BACK HOME, Page 11

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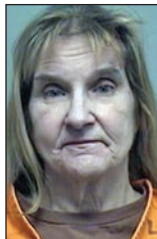
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CRIME/COURTS

Court news

Wife stabs husband with steak knife

An adjourned initial appearance was scheduled Feb. 12 in Walworth County Circuit Court for a Lake Geneva woman accused of stabbing her husband with a steak knife.



Roxanne R. Skinner

Roxanne R. Skinner, 59, is charged with second-degree recklessly endangering safety with domestic abuse assessments and aggravated battery – both with use of a dangerous weapon modifiers.

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

and potential 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 faces up to 26

years in prison \$45,000 in fines if convicted.

Former employee scraps thousands of dollars in brass pieces

An adjourned initial appearance was scheduled in Walworth County Circuit Court Feb. 18 for a Salem man who has been accused of stealing brass parts worth thousands of dollars from his former employer.



Gary K. Geren

Gary K. Geren, 39, is charged with two counts of burglary to a building, two counts of theft of moveable property (between \$10,000

and \$100,000), and four counts of felony bail jumping.

According to the criminal complaint, Village of Genoa City police were investigating burglaries that took place Dec. 11, 2024 and on Jan. 8 from a company that manufactures brass transfer cables for locomotives, and uses thousands of pieces of brass each day in the manufacturing process.

The police chief spoke with the company owner and a witness who stated they suspected Geren.

According to the witnesses, Geren was an employee at the company and was caught taking a bucket of brass valued at \$4,875 to his car. He admitted he was trying to steal them and was terminated and prohibited from coming onto company property.

Geren filed for unemployment benefits, and after the owner disputed his claim, Geren began sending threats and calling the company vulgar names.

Surveillance video showed a person matching Geren's profile strike at the door handle and enter the building on Dec. 11 at 1:39 a.m. and leave with eight buckets of brass – each weighing 55 pounds with about 1,500 pieces inside, and worth \$42,000.

Investigators contacted local scrap yards and visited Redmer & Sons Recycling in Burlington, where Geren brought in 151 pounds of brass pieces that he was paid \$302 for.

Officials from the manufacturing company positively identified the brass as being from their company.

On Jan. 8, the building

was burglarized again. This time, the suspect broke a window and entered the building before taking seven buckets of brass pieces that each weighed 55 pounds and totaled \$11,615.50 in value.

On Jan. 8 at 12:46 p.m., Geren scrapped 344 pounds of brass pieces at Legacy Scrap in Wadesworth, Illinois. He was paid \$688 for the stolen brass.

Geren was out on bond in Kenosha County since Sept. 17, 2024, for misdemeanor disorderly conduct and was ordered not to commit any new crimes.

If convicted of the four felonies, he faces up to 45 years in prison, \$250,000 in fines.

Informant assists in case against Lake Geneva drug dealer

An adjourned initial appearance was scheduled Feb. 14 for a Lake Geneva man accused of running a drug house in the city.

Romario N. Silva Cruz, 30, is charged with possession with intent to deliver between one

and five grams of cocaine, a Class F felony; three Class G felony counts of manufacturing and delivering less than one gram of cocaine; maintaining a drug trafficking place; possession with intent to deliver between 200 and 1,000 grams of THC; resisting an officer; and possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to the criminal complaint, the Walworth County Drug Enforcement Unit, working with a confidential informant, executed several controlled drug purchases from Silva Cruz.

On Nov. 17, 2024, the informant purchased .85 grams of cocaine from Silva Cruz in the City of Lake Geneva. On Dec. 8, the informant purchased .74 grams of cocaine. On Jan. 5, the informant bought .58 grams of cocaine – all in Lake Geneva.

On Jan. 27, a search warrant was executed at Silva Cruz's Elkhorn Road home in Lake Geneva.

Inside the home, deputies located two baggies in the bathroom containing .35 grams and .3 grams of cocaine, respectively. In Silva Cruz's bedroom, they found: a clear plastic bag with 4.35 grams of THC; a digital scale; 28.25 grams of THC wrapped in three plastic bags; 275.39 grams of marijuana wrapped in three bags; money wire receipts for \$1,500 and \$2,000; \$3,044 cash, which included a \$20 from one of the controlled buys, a \$500 wire receipt, a \$450 wire receipt.

In another bedroom they found a marijuana blunt; a metal grinder with .5 grams of marijuana; a plastic container with 5.55 grams of THC; a tied baggie with .04 grams of suspected cocaine; a plastic bag with \$225 split in three clumps; three baggies containing .29, .28 and .31 grams of cocaine; and a digital scale.

If convicted of all felony counts, Silva Cruz faces up to 42 years in prison and \$120,000 in fines.

Court blotter

The following people were charged with these Class H and I felony offenses in Walworth County Circuit Court between Jan. 30 and Feb. 4:

Class H

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

Battery

• Rebecca M. Atilano, 27, of Villa Park, Illinois; battery to a law enforcement officer, resisting an officer, disorderly conduct, possession of THC.

According to the criminal complaint, Town of Geneva police were called to Tree Tops Condos on Geneva National Avenue Jan. 19 for a report of a fight in progress. Atilano opened the blinds and yelled at police when she was naked. Police asked her to put on clothes and open the door.

When police were let inside, Atilano was still naked and yelling at police. Police said they were called to the condo for a report of a fight. Atilano's girlfriend said they were having loud sex before police arrived.

Atilano began yelling at police and pushed them. She was placed under arrest. When her girlfriend was providing identification, an officer noticed a Tostitos jar filled with marijuana. While assisting Atilano into the squad car, she kicked

an officer in the chest. During transport she was hitting her head against the car.

Theft

• Gloria F. Lopez Fonseca, 37, of Harvard, Illinois; theft of movable property, between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

According to the criminal complaint, Town of Linn police were called to a Bonnie Brae Lane home for a theft. The homeowner reported there was \$8,700 in cash missing.

The homeowner reported that other than family, the only people in her home were the pool cleaners and Lopez Fonseca – who cleans the home – and her son.

Police interviewed Lopez Fonseca Jan. 29 and she admitted taking the money. She said she has five children and raises them without any help and is struggling to make ends meet.

She said on a few occasions she found cash envelopes in drawers and would take some of the money. She was emotional and expressed her wish to repay the stolen money.

Class I

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

Theft

• Christopher Pichardo Esquivel, 19, of Harvard, Illinois; theft in a business setting (be-

tween \$2,500 and \$5,000).

According to the criminal complaint, Lake Geneva police were called to Best Buy, 700 Edwards Blvd., Jan. 16 for a report of an employee stealing \$2,740.48 in business gift cards.

According to the store's loss prevention officer, Esquivel converted and stole the gift cards between September 2024 and January using a variety of methods. In several instances, he took gift cards that were supposed to be awarded to customers who won a promotion, and instead used them himself.

He would also "return" an item to the store then give himself the credit of the "returned" item on a gift card. In one instance, he "returned" a graphics card for a computer, and then gave himself a \$599.99 gift card as credit for the returned item.

The returned item, however, was an old and defective graphics card that was put into the new box, and not the actual item displayed on the package.

Esquivel admitted using gift cards from fraudulent returns to purchase computer parts for himself. He said he would buy broken computer parts off eBay and return them in the new computer parts box, that he bought for himself, then provide himself the return credit on a gift card.

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LIVING

Boxed & Burlap

A UNIQUE WEDDING VENUE



COURTESY WANDERLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY Southern Lakes Newspapers

Inside Boxed and Burlap's barn, the space is elegantly prepared for a reception. With lighting from chandeliers and plenty of room, it's an ideal space for a wedding or other group gathering. Below: An outside wedding ceremony incorporates a nature background, adding to the beauty of the site.



Barn, outdoor sites offer many options to couples

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Those seeking a unique bridal and event venue may want to consider Boxed and Burlap, on Highway 67 near Highway 50, Delavan, which has been transformed into an elegant space. The property, originally a one-building, two-bedroom farmhouse, was purchased by Lindsay and John Neighbors in 2016 and transformed into a coffee house. It's easy to spot, with "COFFEE" in large letters along the building, encouraging drivers to stop for a cup of quality, self-roasted coffee. The store also carries tea and pastries.

John began renovating the property when the couple purchased it, turning the house into the coffee shop and adding a greenhouse. The garage was transformed into Batten House, which today is used as a bride's room for weddings.

In addition, he built a large barn, capable of holding up to 250 guests at any event. Originally built to hold boats, the couple ran a small garden shop on the property. At Christmas time, John and Lindsay sold Christmas trees and wreaths in the parking lot for a few years.

It didn't take long for the space to grow into a wedding and event venue. The first wedding was held there in 2018.

"They were all family weddings," said Megan Garcia, sales manager for Boxed and Burlap. In 2020, the space officially became a wedding and event venue, and about 55 couples now tie the knot there each year.

While barn weddings have become popular over recent years, there is a difference between the barn at Boxed and Burlap and many others. Unlike many barns, formerly used to house animals and hay, this venue's barn is new with large, windowed doors and skylights to allow natural light to shine in.

Bright clear decorative lights are hung near the ceiling, adding to the ambiance. A built-in bar is at one end of the



COURTESY WANDERLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY Southern Lakes Newspapers

The large white barn at Boxed and Burlap features a large open space inside allowing for nearly any setup desired, for weddings as well as other gatherings.

building, with a separate building for caterers to assemble the food they will be serving.

“There are two outdoor ceremony sites, each beautiful in its own way,” shared Garcia. “One has a background of trees and the other is more of a garden space. And if the weather doesn’t cooperate, the ceremony can be moved indoors.

“By holding it in front of one of the large glass doors, the same beautiful forest background is still seen,” she explained.

Rental for a wedding includes the barn as well as Batten House, traditionally used by the bridal party for preparing makeup and hair. It’s a place to relax as wedding festivities begin.

“While the bride and her attendants have a place to enjoy and prepare, we have not forgotten the groom and the groomsmen,” said Garcia, adding that an Airstream was purchased and is being transformed into a groom’s space.

Rental begins at 8 a.m. the day of the event to allow ample time to decorate for it. The rental of the space includes round tables and white plastic chairs, but the design of the space and setting it up is the responsibility of the renters. Renters can upgrade to brown, crossback folding chairs for an additional fee.

Each table seats eight guests, and a handful of square tables can be used as a head table, gift table and/or welcome table. Linens are not included in the rental.

Most weddings include dancing, and a dance floor may be brought in by the renters. The type, size, and placement are decided by the couple to fit in with their room design.

One of the special bonuses of having a wedding at Boxed and Burlap is the use of the coffee shop. Throughout the day, free coffee is available for the wedding party. Once the coffee shop closes, the

building itself may still be used, along with the outdoor patio.

The patio is often used as a place for cocktail hour or as the ceremony site. Later in the evening, the greenhouse attached to the coffee shop may be transformed into a treats table for guests to pick up a bite when they stop by for coffee.

Help with planning, making connections

When a couple is planning a wedding, they can make an appointment with Garcia, who will take them on a tour of the venue and go through the contract.

Only one wedding is held per day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Prices vary on the day, and if a couple chooses to serve alcohol, a bar package needs to be purchased. No outside liquor is allowed.

Food must be ordered from an outside caterer, which must be a state-licensed kitchen and have insurance. Boxed and Burlap can recommend one of its preferred caterers, with options available in all price and service ranges.

“If you are using food trucks, consider a grazing table as lines usually are long for service,” Garcia recommends. And as we know, when people are hungry they often get impatient.”

She advises couples reserve the space at least a year and a half before the wedding, especially if a Saturday is the day of choice. There is a little more leeway for Fridays and Sundays.

The venue does not provide a day-of-event coordinator, but a wedding planner can be recommended, and there is Boxed and Burlap staff on site throughout the day of an event.

Those seeking a beautiful, unique place to hold a wedding can contact Boxed and Burlap, 2935 State Rd. 67, Delavan at 262-374-5497 or by visiting the website at www.boxedandburlap.com.

Downtown location has coffee, art classes and more

In 2023, a second Boxed and Burlap location opened, this one in downtown Delavan.

The large coffee shop and luncheon venue features plenty of space to visit with friends while enjoying the quality coffee roasted there and used at both locations.

This space is a large venue that has a long history in Delavan, located on the famous Brick Street (East Walworth Avenue), named such from the bricks that were used to pave the street that date back to when the circus wintered in Delavan.

The building was first used as Schulz’s Five and Dime and later was part of a clothing store. Today, the multi-use space incorporates a coffee shop, coffee roasting area, rental space for groups, an art gallery and a speakeasy.

Lindsay Neighbors was an art teacher and dreamed of bringing an art space to downtown Delavan. On the first floor, a studio is used by Shannon Osbourne and Rachel Catlett to teach painting classes for people of different ages and abilities.

“We hope to add ceramics and pottery classes in the near future to fully extend the arts experience,” Garcia said.

The lower level of the downtown store also serves as an event space, decorated by a Chicago graffiti artist Lindsay brought in.

Additionally downstairs features the speakeasy, called Bar 119. Just as in the days of prohibition, it’s a private space that requires a password to access through the secret entrance. There are people who have paid memberships to Bar 119 and may enter at any time the bar is open. Special events require a ticket be purchased.

Non-members may still visit Bar 119 by



COURTESY BOXED AND BURLAP *Southern Lakes Newspapers*
Boxed and Burlap in downtown Delavan is a beautiful and relaxing space.

asking a member of the staff for the password and being directed to the secret entry. There is a cover charge for non-members.

Boxed and Burlap is at 230 E. Walworth St., Delavan. The hours are Sunday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Friday and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to midnight. To learn more, visit boxedandburlap.com.



There are countless ways the inside of the barn at Boxed and Burlap can be setup and decorated for weddings.

COURTESY EV PHOTOGRAPHY
Southern Lakes Newspapers

From far left: The large patio is a great place to enjoy a drink or appetizers, or for a bride and groom to enjoy some private time together. Exchanging vows whether inside or outside of the building, allows the beauty of the trees outdoors to serve as a background.

COURTESY LUSIA STUDIO
PHOTOGRAPHY
Southern Lakes Newspapers

Tree seedlings available for purchase from DNR

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced it has 2-year-old oak seedlings available for purchase. The seedlings are from Wisconsin's Wilson State Nursery and are ready for planting.

The seedlings are available because of a high-quality acorn crop and harvest in 2022. While many 1-year-old seedlings were purchased last year, others were grown for another year, resulting in a bumper crop of 2-year-old seedlings. Oak trees are ideal for reforesting a property, enhancing habitat or starting an oak grove.

Four species of native oak trees are available for sale at the nursery: swamp white oak, bur oak, white oak and red oak.

Wilson State Nursery produces seedlings for reforestation, operating under Wisconsin State Statutes that require DNR seedlings to be produced and used for reforestation purposes – future forest products, wildlife habitat, erosion control and wind mitigation. The minimum order is 300 seedlings.

For more information or to purchase seedlings, visit the DNR website at dnr.wisconsin.gov or contact Carey Skerven at Carey.Skerven@wisconsin.gov or 715-424-3700.

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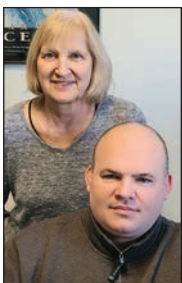
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•Funding freeze (Continued from front page)

Question: What federal grant money does New Beginnings receive, and for how much?

Answer: New Beginnings receives federal grant money through the Department of Justice. We receive funding from a program called VOCA – which stands for Victims of Crime Act. This program was created in 1984 and is made up of fees, fines and penalties from federal crimes.

These dollars fund agencies like New Beginnings throughout our nation so that we can provide cost-free services to victims of violent crime. Grant revenue generally makes up approximately 80% of our overall income.

Question: What is your understanding of what this pause could mean for New Beginnings?

Answer: If the proposed Executive Order is passed and a 'pause' in previously appropriated funds ensues, New Beginnings and agencies like ours would be dreadfully impacted.

We rely on these funds for the operations of our agency. We have already experienced a significant cut in federal funding effective Oct. 1, 2024. Additional cuts or "pauses" in funding would paralyze organizations like ours.

Question: What do you have to provide the government in order to get continued funding?

Answer: Agencies like ours are being encouraged to call, write and meet with our local political representatives. The lion's share of victim service directors

across Wisconsin are doing so. We also plan to return to Madison on the Legal Day of Action, March 19.

One of the DOJ grant requirements for agencies like ours is to submit data reports. The number of individuals we serve, their victimization, age, gender and location are readily available for government review.

Question: How will the pause affect those you serve?

Answer: Thus far, service provisions at New Beginnings haven't affected those we serve. If a prolonged "pause" in federal funding occurs, victims of violent crime will not have locally accessible services and there will be a gap.

New Beginnings is already experiencing an influx of victims of violent crime due to peer organizations shifting services or closing their doors. This is a result of the lost federal funding discussed earlier.

Open Arms

Open Arms Free Clinic provides no-cost health, mental health and dental care for qualifying Walworth County residents.

As the clinic's webpage says, "we believe everyone has the right to basic health care."

However, Executive Director Sara Nichols said there is a great deal of fear and confusion that she's had to address within the clinic setting – not necessarily because of funding (she clarified in a recent newsletter the group is not government funded) but facing other potential barriers the new administration has proposed.

Specifically in the newsletter, Nichols outlined that Open Arms does not ask for a patient's legal status at intake, nor does the organization add verbiage to that effect in a medical record.

Proof of residency in the county is required and can be shown by a piece of mail, and a photo ID is required and can be fulfilled by any work, school or government-issued (U.S. or foreign) ID.

In addition, she's had to address access to care and specifically pregnant women.

"When a patient has been confirmed with a pregnancy, we help them attain health insurance and access to medical care with doctors within the traditional health systems," Nichols wrote. "We are not an obstetric service provider and do not mess with labor and delivery. We do not perform abortions, nor do we provide referrals for such services."

She ended the Feb. 2 newsletter by asking people to ask questions and not hide.

"Don't be silent," Nichols wrote. "Don't ignore what you don't understand. Dig a little. Learn a little. SHOW UP!"

Grant money

Meanwhile, at least one local group that was awarded grant money in the last six months feels confident its award will come through.

Matheson Memorial Library was recently awarded \$2.1 million through the Flexible Facilities Grant to address renovations and updates at the library.

While the money comes from the federal govern-

ment through the American Rescue Plan Act, the State of Wisconsin apparently has that money ready to go.

"There is no indication that the Flexible Facilities Grant is not going forward," said Chad Robinson, the Matheson Memorial Library director. "We haven't heard anything from the Wisconsin Department of Administration, any other grant recipients, or otherwise."

"As far as we're concerned, the grant process continues to move forward," he added.

Matheson staff and a resident advisory panel are working together to figure out where to best distribute the money and on which renovation projects. Among the work being considered are flexible spaces for telehealth and study rooms, as well as providing reliable broadband access.

Robinson did outline whether any other funding is at risk.

"As per Chapter 43 of the State Statutes, the Matheson Memorial Library (MML) is funded by the City of Elkhorn, as well as County taxes levied on communities that don't have their own library, based on their citizens' usage of MML," Robinson wrote.

"In addition, we raise money through the Friends of MML, we maintain a fund overseen by the Library Board and managed by a board of directors for the long term financial support of the library, known as the MML Foundation. In addition, we do apply for grants: some small, some large, throughout the fiscal year," he added.

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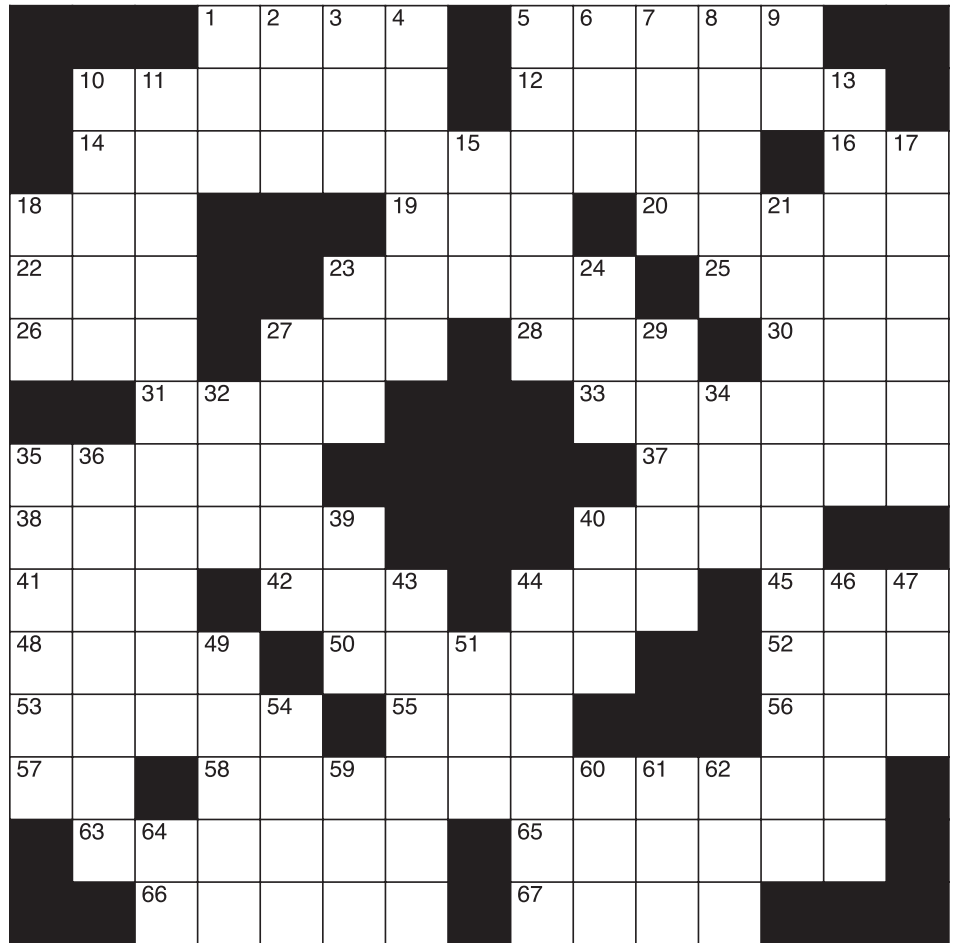
CLUES ACROSS

1. Tropical Asian plant
5. Yankees' slugger Judge
10. Helps to preserve food
12. Plant disease
14. One who predicts
16. Equally
18. Burundian franc
19. Pouch
20. Arizona city
22. Surround
23. Hard, heavy timber
25. Witnessed
26. They ___
27. French river
28. A way to drink
30. Small constellation
31. Peruse a written work
33. Type of hound
35. Plant of the goosefoot family
37. Evade or escape
38. A way to confine
40. Volcanic crater
41. Weekday
42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
44. Local area network
45. Sensory receptor
48. Posted
50. Tibetan pastry
52. Licensed for Wall Street
53. Very willing
55. Golf score
56. Consume
57. Touchdown
58. Tends to remind
63. In a way, smoothed
65. Poke holes in the ground
66. Herbaceous plants
67. Taiwanese river

CLUES DOWN

1. Body art
2. Boxing's GOAT
3. Film for posterity (abbr.)
4. Prayer
5. Calculating machine
6. Keyboard key
7. Outburst
8. Man-eating giants
9. New Hampshire
10. Type of sword
11. Counting
13. Pants style
15. Political action committee
17. U.S. government legislative branch
18. Civil Rights Act component
21. Contractors take one
23. Spanish soldier
24. A person's brother or sister
27. Expressed pleasure
29. Song of praise
32. Shock treatment
34. Patti Hearst's captors
35. Counteract
36. Goes over again
39. Popular Dodge truck
40. Male adult
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Rope used to lasso
46. Become less intense
47. Subway rodent
49. Lead alloy
51. Japanese honorific title
54. Advise someone
59. Famous NYC museum
60. Ocean
61. Cathode-ray tube
62. Cologne
64. It starts with these two

CROSSWORD



PUZZLE
ANSWERS ON
PAGE 10

DENTIST OFFICE WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards.



ALGINATE
AMALGAM
BRUSH
CAVITY
CHECKUP
CLEANING
CROWN
CURING LIGHT

DAM
ELEVATOR
EXPLORER
EXTRACTION
FILLINGS
FLUORIDE
GLOVES
IMAGES

MASK
MIRROR
PANORAMIC
RESIN
SEALANT
SPRAY
SUCTION
X-RAYS

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

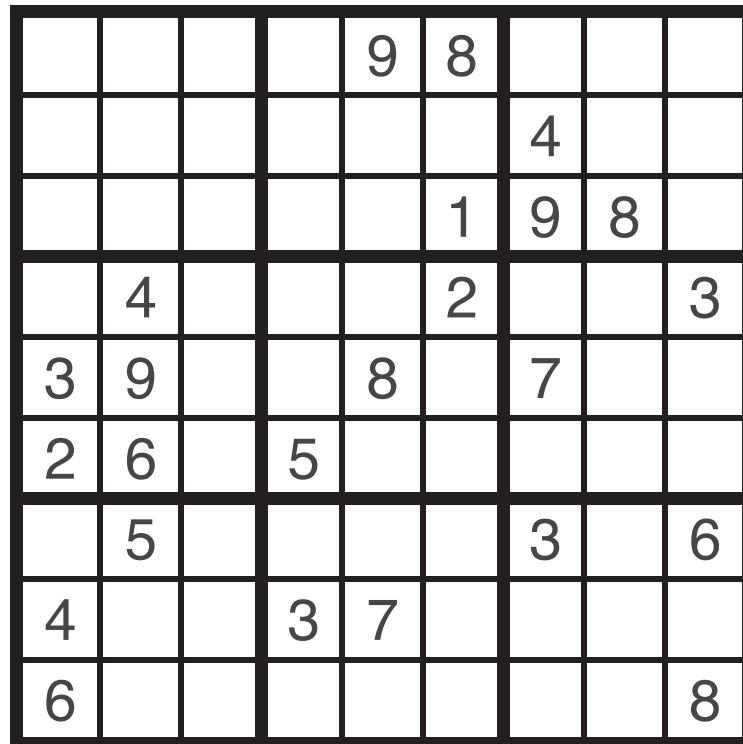
◉ ** ☰ 🐼 ✂ ~ 🌑 🌀 ✧ * 🍀 ✕ 🍁 + 🌊 🌸 ⬆ ☾ * 🔗 🌟 ≡ 🌀 ☯ Ω ☮
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Solve the code to discover words related to children's dental health.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 11 = S)

- A.** 10 12 12 10 7 17 15 1 11 7
Clue: Cleans teeth
- B.** 19 9 12 11 11 24 6 25
Clue: Interdental cleaning
- C.** 19 9 1 12 15 24 5 21
Clue: Strengthens teeth
- D.** 5 21 6 10 24 11 10
Clue: Tooth doctor

Answers: A. toothbrush B. flossing C. fluoride D. dentist

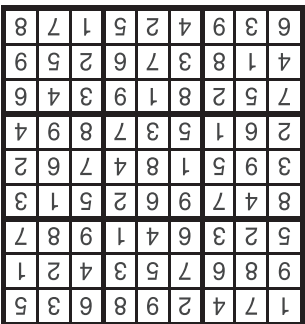
SUDOKU



LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE • PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

GUESS WHO ANSWER: ROBBIE WILLIAMS

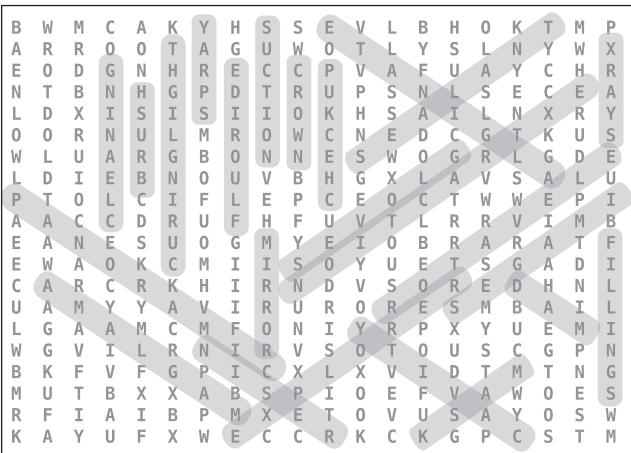
PUZZLE ANSWERS FROM PAGE 9



SUDOKU



CROSSWORD



WORD SEARCH

Rotary Club to host special guest: ‘John McGivern — The Stories Continue’

The Rotary Club of Mukwonago will present “John McGivern — The Stories Continue” on Saturday, Feb. 22, with two shows at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Greenwald Foundation Performing Arts Center, which is at Mukwonago High School.

McGivern is a Wisconsin legend, known for his work on the PBS show “Around

the Corner, with John McGivern.” He currently can be seen on “John McGivern’s Main Streets” television show.

During his presentation in Mukwonago, McGivern will share humorous and personal stories of his growing up in Milwaukee and being part of a large, working-class Irish Catholic family.

Tickets are \$35 for reserved seating and \$60 for VIP seating. There is a limited number of VIP seats, which will include preferred seating and a post-show “meet and greet” reception with McGivern.

Light refreshments will be served during intermission.

Tickets are on sale now exclusively online at <http://gfpac.booktix.com>.

Questions can be addressed to mukwonagorotary@gmail.com.

“Your support and sponsorship of this Rotary Club of Mukwonago fundraising event is greatly appreciated. All show proceeds will directly benefit non-profit and charitable organizations, activities, and services,” Rotary representatives said.

•Shop Hop

(Continued from page 3)

- Vintage Etcetera, 2526 S. Riverside Drive, Beloit, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Gunny & Co, 914 Exchange St., Brodhead, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Harvest Moon, 929 W. Exchange St., Brodhead, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Sawdust & Iron, 207 Allen St., Clinton, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Antique Farmer, LLC, N6041 WI-89, Delavan, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

- Feels Like Home, 18 W. Fulton St., Edgerton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- M’s on Main, 522 N. Main St., Edgerton, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, additionally 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 9
- Hen House Thrift Boutique, 7 E. Main St., Evansville, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days
- The Vintage Roost, 228 W. Main St., Evansville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Copper Creek Resale and Discount Center, 422 W. Highway 11, Footville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- 608 Vintage, 34 S. Main St., Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. both days
- Best of Janesville Vintage Mall, 3138 S. Highway 51, Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Chicken Coop Collectibles, 6507 W. Hwy 14, Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Frayed Edges Boutique, 3719 S. County Rd. G, Janesville, Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- J&B Outlet & Resale, 2342 Center Ave., Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- J&M Vintage Finds, 3832 W. Hwy 14, Janesville, Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Property Pickers Estate Sales and Shoppable Warehouse, 770 S. Main St., Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- The Creative Corner Decor and Gifts, 2624 E. Milwaukee St., Janesville, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days
- Vintage Market, 8301 E. Hwy 14, Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- 2nd Time Around Resale

- Ar Home by Artful Retiques, 229 Parkview Drive, Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Goodrich Antiques and Vintage Uniques, 742 E. Madison Ave., Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Hattie and Elsie, 650 College St., Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Red Rooster, 613 W. Madison Ave., Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Monroe Antiques Mall, 1003 16th Ave., Monroe, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Lollygag Antiques, 16 6th Ave., New Glarus, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Cool School Antique Mall, 7427 156th Ave., Bristol, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days
- Flippin’ Fabulous LLC, 448 S. Pine St., Burlington, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days
- Josette Boutique, 573 N. Pine St., Burlington, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- The Rustic Barrel, 7135 McHenry St., Burlington, Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wilted Rose Resale & Gifts, 2931 Union St., East Troy, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Home Decor & Vintage, 41 S. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- The Grainery (at Duesterbeck’s Brewing Co.), N5543 County Road O, Elkhorn, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Fontana Home West End, 158 Fontana Blvd., Fontana, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- A Summer’s Garden Florist and Gifts, 5617 6th Ave., Kenosha, Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Authentique, 625 57th St., Kenosha, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- EQUINOX botanical boutique, 5901 6th Ave. A, Kenosha, Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Latibule, 4906 7th Ave., Kenosha, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Serendipity on 7th, 4706 7th Ave., Kenosha, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Vintage Underground, 5817 6th Ave., Kenosha, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Wooden Chair Antiques, 5710 4th Ave., Kenosha, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Lake Geneva Antique Mall, 829 Williams, Lake Geneva, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- The Rabbit Hole, 264 Center St., Lake Geneva, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days
- Fox And Fork LLC, 203 W. Main St., Rochester, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- A Trew Find, 336 E. Main St., Twin Lakes, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Restoration Reserve, 1201 Main St., Union Grove, Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Second Street Stuff, 107 N. Second St., Waterford, Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Waterford Unique Antique Market, 318 E. Main St., Waterford, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Real Deal Vintage, 30702 113th St., Wilmot, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- The Fuzzy Pig, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., Whitewater, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

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27764MA R2-24

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
WALWORTH COUNTY

JESSICA M. LASH,
Plaintiff(s)

and
BRANDMUSCLE, INC. and
ARTISAN AND TRUCKERS
CASUALTY COMPANY,
Involuntary Plaintiffs,

-vs-
ARTISAN AND TRUCKERS
CASUALTY COMPANY
and WILLIAM A. RUFFIN,
Defendant(s)

FORTY-FIVE DAY SUMMONS
CASE NO. 23-CV-758

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN,
TO: William A. Ruffin
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.

Within forty-five (45) days after February 7, 2025, you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Summons and Complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is:

Clerk of Courts
Walworth County Circuit Court
1800 County Road NN
Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121
and to the Plaintiff’s attorneys, whose address is:

Thomas A. Perlberg
Hupy and Abraham, S.C.
111 East Kilbourn Avenue
Suite 1100
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
You may have an attorney

help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the Complaint within forty-five (45) days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate that you own now or may own in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 29th day of January, 2025.

HUPY AND ABRAHAM, S.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Electronically signed by
Thomas A. Perlberg
Thomas A. Perlberg
State Bar No.: 1039910

P.O. ADDRESS:

111 East Kilbourn Avenue
Suite 1100
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Phone Number: (414) 223-4800
Email: TPerlberg@Hupy.com

(Published in
Genoa City Report
Feb. 7, 14, & 21, 2025
WNAXLP - 467504)

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
WALWORTH COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
Sharon F. Kissane

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 25PR14

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 07/02/1940 and date of death 11/15/2024, was domiciled in Cook County, State of Illinois, with a mailing address of 15 Turning Shore, South Barrington, IL, 60010.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent’s estate is May 13, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Walworth County Judicial Center, Walworth County Courthouse, 1800 County Rd. NN, PO Box 1001, Elkhorn, Wisconsin, Room 2085.

Electronically Signed by
Michele Jacobs
Probate Registrar
February 6, 2025

Attorney Alyssa S. Wilson
253 Center Street, Suite 100
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
262-214-1174
Bar Number 1099926

(Published in
Genoa City Report
Feb. 14, 21, & 28, 2025
WNAXLP - 467875)

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•Back home

(Continued from page 4)

which told me the service had been done by Robert and asked for a review. My review – to paraphrase – was 1 star (I had no option for zero stars) for Robert because he never showed up. I gave myself 4 stars because I took a little longer than I should have to complete the service. I then said that I would like an explanation as to why Robert never showed up and there shouldn't be a bill for the service.

Maybe Robert changed someone else's tire? Maybe he's still driving around the parking lot. I have no idea. I never received a reply to my query.

The first tire put into production was in 1888 by John Boyd Dunlop, a Scot living in Ireland. His patent was declared invalid in 1892 because of Thomson's earlier patent, but Dunlop went on to start Pneumatic Tyre which later became Dunlop Rubber

and Dunlop Tyres.

Turns out my flat tire was due to a puncture and it was questionable if it could be repaired. Again recalling my resolution, I opted for four new tires instead of getting a full winter out of the old ones and holding my breath they would last.

That may have been the smart move, but it destroyed another resolution of saving more money each month.

But you have to get a grip on reality when the rubber hits the road. That's just how I roll.

Chris Hardie spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and publisher. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won dozens of state and national journalism awards. He is a former president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Contact him at chardie1963@gmail.com.



CHRIS HARDIE Southern Lakes Newspapers
Beads from the left rear tire had broken from the rim.

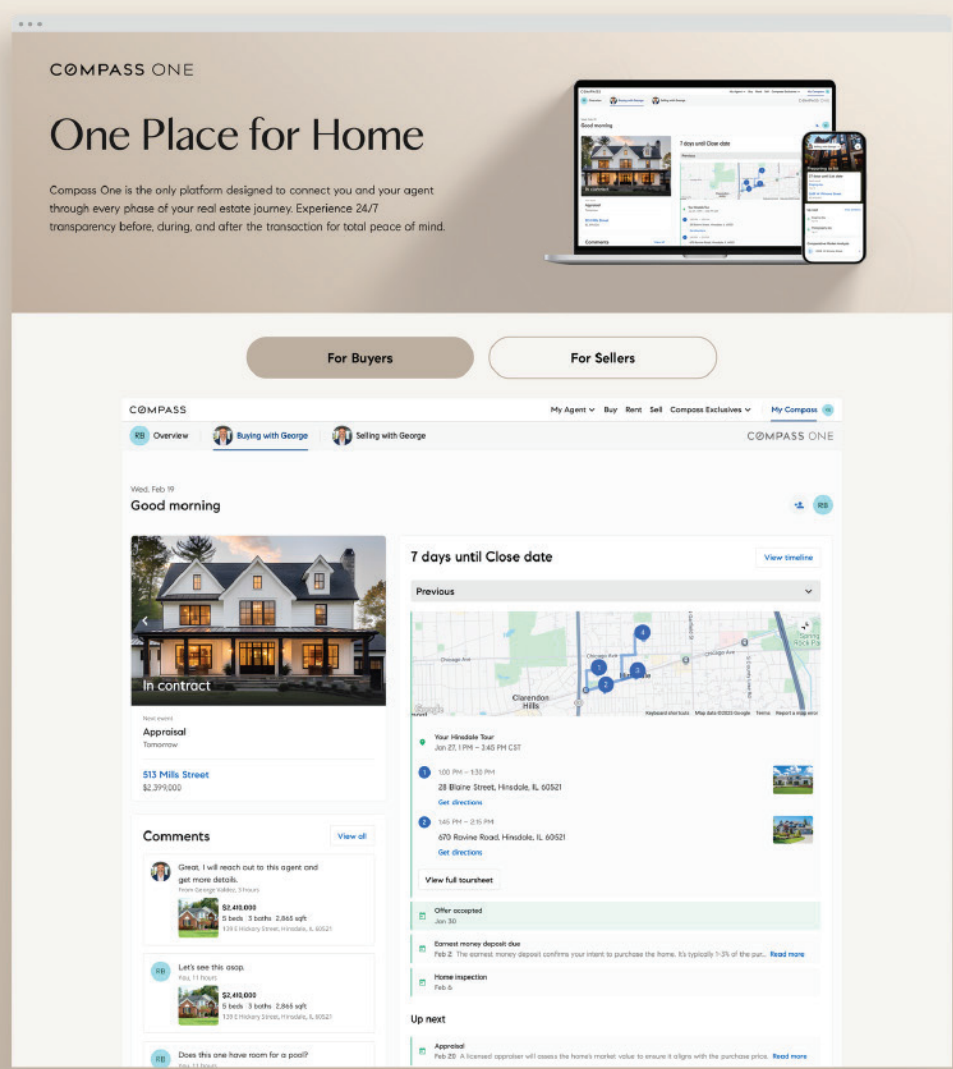
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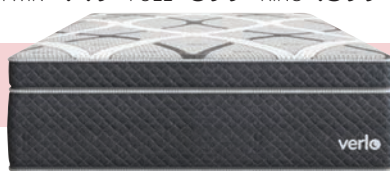
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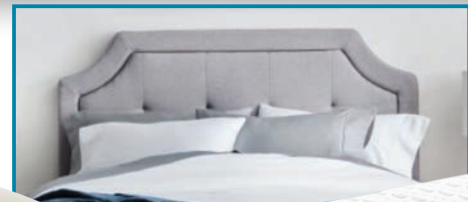
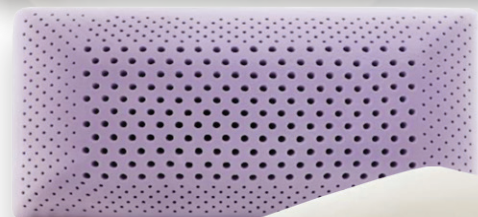


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