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SPORTS

Milton swimmers racing for state trip

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BUSINESS

Something old, something new at downtown shop

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Home



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Make your own sweet little place for the holidays



SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE OR TABLET TO READ THE MOBILE VERSION OF TODAY'S PAPER

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COVER STORY

Christmas comes but once a year ...

Ring in the season with special holiday events

BY DENNIS HINES
 STAFF WRITER

JANESVILLE — The joy of the holiday season can sometimes be overshadowed by wintry weather, long lines at the stores and a never-ending to-do list.

But why not take a little break from the work and experience the special events that only take place once a year?

Here are five holiday happenings that you won't want to miss:

1 Lincoln-Tallman House holiday tours, through Dec. 30, Janesville

The Rock County Historical Society will host holiday tours at the Lincoln-Tallman House, 440 N. Jackson St. in Janesville, through Dec. 30. The historic home will feature holiday decorations from the Victorian era.

"People can walk through the house with an interpreter and see how the family lived and what made them unique," said Meghan Walker, marketing and outreach coordinator for the historical society. "The decorations are special to the (Victorian) time period. Most of the decorations you see on the Christmas tree are from the Victorian era."

The historical society will offer self-guided tours of the home during Christmas with the Tallmans from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, during the downtown Jolly Jingle event.

"People can tour the house at their own pace," Walker said. "Each room has someone dressed up in 1800s clothing. We also will have live music. We will have Father Christmas telling stories. There also will be goodies from RCHS volunteers. It's a special event. It's a great way



FILE PHOTO

The historic Lincoln-Tallman House, 440 N. Jackson St. in Janesville, is decked out in holiday finery of the Victorian era this time of year. Holiday tours take place through Dec. 30. Christmas with the Tallmans, special self-guided tours of the home, are set from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, during the Janesville Jolly Jingle weekend. For more information, go online to rchs.us.

to tour the house, hear stories and enjoy some treats."

Historical society staff and volunteers began decorating the house for the holiday tours about two weeks ago.

"We had a lot of help," she said. "We had a lot of gracious volunteers who helped us get it done

in one day."

The historical society tries to feature different decorations for the holiday tours each year, she said.

"We want to make sure it's not the same deco-

See Holidays, page 8

"NO SURGERY FOR ME!"



I was suffering from excruciating back pain for 8 months. I would have to sit down to cook, turning in bed would kill me. I would sit down often to get relief but I had sharp stabbing pains getting out of bed or a chair. I could hardly function. I saw a M.D. whom suggested I get a shot for the relief. Instead I came to Clinton Chiropractic Clinic. I went on the DRX Decompression table along with the adjustments Dr. Dittmann gave treated me with, I was so much better in 2 weeks! I couldn't believe it! Just one month later and I'm doing great! Thank you!!
-Becky H

I suffered for over 2 years with severe debilitating back pain. My MRI showed multiple disc bulges, the specialist said he wanted to replace 3 of my discs. I couldn't function without Vicodin constantly in my system. Even with the drugs I hurt all the time. If I were to go without them I would hurt so badly I would feel like I would throw up. I tried Epidurals, Physical Therapy, everything, and nothing helped. Two weeks after starting treatments here I was taking only one pain pill. I couldn't believe the changes. I felt so much better. Today I feel 95% better. I hurt here and there, but it's getting less each week. I'm not taking any pain drugs.
-Dennis F

Three years ago I injured my back at work. I went to several doctors and all they wanted to do was surgery. After that my back stopped me from doing simple tasks, such as bending, kneeling and standing for any length of time. I could not even put on my socks and shoes. Then I started going to Dr. Dittmann and his DRX Decompression tables. Thanks to that, I am virtually pain free, and can now do what I enjoy, working in my garden which I couldn't do for three years.
-Stephen B

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IN BRIEF

JANESVILLE

■ **Janesville's budget includes boost to express line:** The Janesville City Council last week approved the city's 2015 budget, which includes a \$15,900 boost in funding to the Janesville Transit Service's Innovation Express line. The city of Milton has agreed to contribute \$30,000 to the bus line next year, and Generac has agreed to contribute \$15,400. The city of Whitewater and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater recently decided to pull funding from the service.

The bus route currently travels between Janesville, Milton and Whitewater four times a day. Under the option approved by the Janesville City Council, there will be one less trip to Milton, and there will be three trips to Generac.

■ **Janesville names new transit director:** Rebecca Smith has been named the new transit director for the city of Janesville. She will begin her new job Jan. 3.

Smith will replace Dave Mumma, who is retiring from the position after about 33 years of service.

Smith began working for the city of Janesville in 2003 as the community information specialist. She served as management assistant in the city manager's office from 2007 to 2013. Smith was named assistant transit director earlier this year.

MILTON

■ **Jorgensen schedules listening session:** State Rep. Andy Jorgensen, D-Milton, has scheduled a listening session for 12:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at The Gathering Place, 715 Campus St. in Milton.

"We're just weeks away from Inauguration Day, and the start of a new legislative cycle," Jorgensen said in a news release. "Right now, I'm mapping out an agenda based on the input from the folks I serve. I promise to listen and to do all I can to help."

MESSENGER ONLINE



Your guide to holiday parades nearby: Lake Geneva, Elkhorn and more. Read the story at CommunityShoppers.com.

WEB POLL RESULTS

Question: Where did you eat Thanksgiving dinner?

- Home 61 percent
- Another's home 31 percent
- Restaurant 0 percent
- Community meal 8 percent

To vote or comment on polls, go to:

www.CommunityShoppers.com

Lighting up the holidays



FILE PHOTO

Holiday lights glow in the winter evening last year at the Rotary Botanical Gardens Holiday Light Show. This year's show opens Friday, Dec. 12, and will run from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 12-14, 19-23 and 26-28. The show will offer more attractions than ever, as the wintery garden paths come to life with 75 decorated trees, new animated displays, 350 glittering icicles hanging from trees, more than 2,000 luminaries and 355,000 twinkling lights. Other enhancements include the all-new, child-size Santa house and elf workshop, selfie stops and photo opps and a photo contest. More information is at RotaryBotanicalGardens.org.

MILTON

High school students dive into day care

Program provides a hands-on experience

BY DENNIS HINES
STAFF WRITER

MILTON — Milton High School students who are considering a career in day care or child care will get some first-hand experience during the next few weeks.

Students in the Careers with Children class will offer a preschool program from Dec. 2 to Dec. 17 where students will interact with the preschoolers as if they were working in an actual day care center.

"They apply what they learned in class and they use it to teach the kids," said Brenda Barra, family and consumer education instructor.

The program will be divided into four groups, and students will be required to develop activities for the preschoolers. The program includes 22 high school students and 17 preschool students.

"They are encouraged to develop a theme for their lesson plans," Barra said. "They come with a theme for a math lesson and a theme for a reading lesson. They're encouraged

to come up with their own ideas."

Barra said the program helps the students learn what it's like to work in the child-care industry.

"Anything that gives them hands-on experience is good," Barra said. "Before the end of the week, they usually change their lesson plans. Some of the students will suggest using flash cards, and I will tell them that the kids will probably be too young to read the flash cards. Some students will see that they're not ready to work in the child care industry yet. (The program) is all activity based."

Barra said she begins recruiting preschool children for the program in October.

The Careers with Children class is offered to 10th-through 12th-grade students. Barra said the students learn about child development, child behavior and how to care for children.

"I give them a Real Care Baby, which they have to carry for 48 hours," Barra said. "They have to feed it, hold it and rock it. When I take it back, I hook it up to a computer to see what happened. It gives me information about how they did."

After the students are done working with the preschool

students, they go back to their regular classroom program.

"We then clean up, and we make it like a high school classroom again," Barra said.

Students who participate in the course also are eligible to receive college credit.

"Students can earn credit toward Blackhawk Technical College if they attend 85 percent of the time and if they earn a 'C' or better," Barra said.

The child-care program has

been offered at Milton High School for at least 30 years.

"I have some students who say they attended the preschool program when they were little," Barra said.

More students have been interested in attending the child-care program during the past few years, according to Barra.

"I'm always booked up for classes," Barra said. "There's always been an interest since I've been here."

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<p>#7</p> <p>50 LBS. NET WEIGHT 1/2 HOG BOX</p> <p>9 Lbs. Pork Chops 4 Lbs. Slab Ribs 5 Lbs. Ham Shanks 6 Lbs. Sausage 5 Lbs. Pork Steaks 4 Lbs. Bacon 2 Lbs. Ham Steaks 5 Lbs. Ham Butts 5 Lbs. Country Ribs 5 Lbs. Pork Roast</p> <p>\$154.95</p>	<p>#8</p> <p>30 LBS. NET WEIGHT ECONOMY PORK BOX</p> <p>5 Lbs. Pork Sausage 5 Lbs. Pork Roast 5 Lbs. Pork Steaks 5 Lbs. Country Ribs 5 Lbs. Bacon 5 Lbs. Center Cut Pork Chops</p> <p>\$87.95</p>	<p>#9</p> <p>STEAK BOX</p> <p>5 Lbs. Ground Beef 6-10 Oz. N.Y. Strips 6-10 Oz. Ribeye Steaks 6-1 Lb. T-bone Steaks 4-8 Oz. Filet Mignon 4-8 Bacon-Wrapped Sirloins 2-2 Lbs. Sirloin Steaks</p> <p>\$210.95</p>	<p>#10</p> <p>BEEF & PORK BOX</p> <p>2-1 Lb. T-bones 5 Lbs. Pork Chops 2-2 Lb. Sirloins 4 Lbs. Pork Steak 8-1 Lb. Ground Beef 5 Lbs. Pork Roast 3 Lbs. Round Steak 4 Lbs. Slab Ribs 4 Lbs. Bacon 6 Lbs. Chuck Roast 5 Lbs. Country Ribs</p> <p>\$169.95</p>		

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Adjust investment strategy based on your stage in life

As an investor, how can you avoid making mistakes? It's not always easy, because investing can be full of potential pitfalls. But if you know what the most common mistakes are at different stages of an investor's life, you may have a better chance of avoiding them.

WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG ...

Mistake: Investing too conservatively or not at all — If you're just entering the working world, you may not have a lot of money with which to invest. But don't wait until your income grows — putting away even a small amount each month can prove quite helpful. Additionally, don't make the mistake of investing primarily in short-term vehicles that may preserve your principal but offer little in the way of growth potential. Instead, position your portfolio for growth. Of course, stock prices will always fluctuate, but you potentially have decades to overcome these short-term declines. Because this money is for retirement, your focus should be on the long term — and it's impossible to reach long-term goals with short-term, highly conservative investments.

WHEN YOU'RE IN MID-CAREER ...

Mistake: Putting insufficient funds into your retirement accounts — At this stage of your life, your earning power may well have increased substantially. As a result, you should have more money available to invest for the future — specifically, you may now be able to "max out" on your IRA and still boost your contributions to your employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as your 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b). These retirement accounts offer tax advantages that you may not receive in ordinary savings and investment accounts. Try to put more money into these retirement accounts every time your salary goes up.

As you near retirement, seek to balance your portfolio.

WHEN NEARING RETIREMENT ...

Mistake: Not having balance in your investment portfolio — When they're within just a few years of retirement, some people may go to extremes, either investing too aggressively to try to make up for lost time or too conservatively in an attempt to avoid potential declines. Both these strategies could be risky. So as you near retirement, seek to balance your portfolio. This could mean shifting some of your investment dollars into fixed-income vehicles to provide for your current income needs while still owning stocks that provide the growth potential to help keep up with inflation in your retirement years.

WHEN YOU'VE JUST RETIRED ...

Mistake: Failing to determine an appropriate withdrawal rate — Upon reaching retirement, you will need to carefully manage the money you've accumulated in your IRA, 401(k) and all other investment accounts. Obviously, your chief concern is outliving your money, so you'll need to determine how much you can withdraw each year. To arrive at this figure, take into account your current age, your projected longevity, the amount of money you've saved and the estimated rate of return you're getting from your investments. This type of calculation is complex, so you may want to consult with a financial professional.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by Edward Jones financial adviser Steve Thompson, 212 W. Fulton St., Edgerton. (608) 884-8000

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Something old, something new

ETC features antiques, crafts, cards and more on Main Street

Business name: ETC Gifts, Crafts and Antiques

Owner: Sandi Paniagua

Address: 37 S. Main St., Janesville

Phone: 608-290-4411

Email: Skpaniagua@gmail.com

Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Type of business: Crafts and antiques store

When did business open? November

Why did you start this business? My sister had some stores along this line that I helped her with, and I was working a little bit across the street at a consignment shop. I thought about renting a room over there, but then I found out this space was available. My sister had decided to retire and she had a lot of things from her store that she said I could have. I decided to start out on my own here. I had a nice space and I opened up some booths.

I love the downtown, so I thought this would be a great place to have a store to try to help revive the downtown a little bit.

The city is doing a great job trying to develop things down here. The Jolly Jingle will have a parade and a snow maker at Courthouse Park, tubing for kids and a window decorating contest. I just want to support them to get more people down here.

How did you get into this line of work? I have done crafts for many years. I had a restaurant over on the west side, The West Side Café, where I had some things for sale. I wanted to expand on that, but I really couldn't do that on the west side. When this opportunity came along, I decided to jump on it.

What types of products or services does your business offer? Our tagline is 'Something old, something new,' so we have antiques, and we have the crafts that I mostly make myself. We have new things.

We try to have a little bit of everything. I have some greeting cards. I go to market squares in Minneapolis and Madison, and you can buy different crafts at reasonable prices. They also have prints. They have a huge variety of things that you can get for a store like this. I go a couple of times a year to get things.



DENNIS HINES/STAFF

Sandi Paniagua stands next to some of the items that she offers at her business, ETC Gifts, Crafts and Antiques. ETC, 37 S. Main St. in Janesville, offers a variety of craft and antique items. The store also features several vendor booths.

What is the biggest challenge you face in your business? Getting people downtown. They're used to resale shops down here and this is different. We have a few things here that are resale but it's mostly antiques. Also, I don't have a door right on the street, so getting them into this door has been a little bit of a challenge, too.

What aspect of the business do you enjoy the most? Meeting all the people. That's what I loved about the restaurant business, too. People come in and talk. I enjoy meeting people and hearing all of their stories. All the people in the shops are so friendly, and they send people back and forth to each other's shops, so that's great.

From what cities do the majority of your customers come? I get customers from all over, really. The ones who I've talked with are from

the east side. A lot of them were used to coming down to the farmers market. A lot of people, when they finished with the farmers market, would walk down to these places, so the customers are from all over. Probably, the majority are people who live in the downtown area, but we do get customers from all over.

What are your plans for the business? I would love to expand it and have more vendors. I have six people in line for booths and one would like to have classes in stained glass and another one who would like to have knitting classes. We have someone who does quilting who would be willing to do some quilting classes, so if we could come up with some space, that's what we would do. So, I have the landlord watching for more space. This used to be one building, and a wall could come out real easy.

"I love the downtown, so I thought this would be a great place to have a store and try to help revive the downtown a little bit."

BUSINESS BRIEFLY

■ Shorewest adds sales associate:

Jennifer Hughes recently joined the Janesville/Rock County office of Shorewest Realtors as a sales associate. The office is located at 4323 Milton Ave., Suite 200, Janesville.

■ State ag exports rising:

Wisconsin agricultural exports are up 17 percent this year over last year, according to a news release. Through the first three quarters of 2014, Wisconsin farms and agribusinesses have exported nearly \$2.8 billion worth of products to 138 countries.

Wisconsin ranks 12th nationally for agricultural exports. The top five exports are dairy and derivatives, miscellaneous food, beverages, raw fur skins and preserved food. The top five markets are Canada, Mexico, China, Korea and Japan.

"Wisconsin's agricultural sector continues to respond to worldwide demand for safe, high-quality food and products," Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Ben Brancel said in a news release. "When these companies move into new markets, they strengthen their businesses, strengthen Wisconsin's economy and help feed the world."

The DATCP International Trade Team can provide exporting technical assistance and resources to farms and agribusinesses.

Learn more about the International Trade Team by calling 800-462-5237, sending an email to international@wisconsin.gov or going online to datcp.wi.gov/Business/Exports.

■ Manufacturer contributes to park project: Trostel, a custom rubber molding and com-

pounding company based in Lake Geneva, recently donated \$15,000 toward a new music pavilion in the city's Flat Iron Park. In addition, Trostel provided \$2,500 to supply bricks for the project.

The new pavilion is expected to be completed in spring.

"At Trostel, we are strongly committed to continuous improvement," Steve Dyer, Trostel CEO, said in a news release. "This extends to all facets of our business, and none more important than supporting the very communities that support our business."

The Trostel Lake Geneva headquarters houses its research and development labs and technical support staff. The company also has research and development and manufacturing facilities in Whitewater and in McAllen, Texas, and Reynosa, Mexico. Go online to trostel.com for more information.

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Barbershop group forms

JANESVILLE — A newly registered quartet has come together as a part of the Badger Chordhawks Barbershop Chorus. The new quartet is registered with the Land of Lakes District of the Barbershop Harmony Society as the Melody Makers and is available for performances at area events.

Members of the Melody Makers include Clint Mohr from Janesville, Steve Kumlander from Delavan, Jim Milbrandt from Janesville and Mike Spoon from Janesville.

Hank Hansing, president of the Rock Valley Chapter, invites singers to participate in acapella singing at the chapter's rehearsals each Monday from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Church, 4224 Wilden Court in Janesville.

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BILL LUEDERS
MONEY AND POLITICS



State accused of breaking rules in power plant assessment

Al Kohnle, the property assessor in the tiny town of Carlton in Kewaunee County, admits he was “not qualified to do that big of a job.”

The job concerned the Kewaunee Power Station, a nuclear plant on Lake Michigan just south of Green Bay. When the plant was operational, it paid a utility tax to the state, which then made payments to the county and town. When it closed last May, the town had to come up with an assessed value.

So Kohnle tapped Gillott Appraisal Services of North Carolina. Based on its findings, he assessed the plant at \$502 million.

Dominion, the plant's Virginia-based owner, challenged this assessment. Kohnle says Dominion put the value at under \$10 million. He says this was never backed by any

This caused a sharp spike in some property taxes that was not fixed until the following year, as the law prescribes.

appraisal, adding “There is no appraiser in the United States that would put in an amount of \$10 million for that plant.”

Dominion spokesman Mark Kanz disputes the town's assessment, noting that it paid just \$219 million for the plant in 2005. He said in an interview that he needed to check with company officials

before responding to other questions, but then did not respond.

Kohnle says Dominion failed to follow the established process for challenging an assessment. No agreement was reached before Aug. 15, the state's statutory deadline for recording equalized property values, and the \$502 million figure was certified.

In the past, the state has refused to accept changes past Aug. 15, which could affect taxes in multiple jurisdictions. It even held firm in 2006 when a state employee accidentally recorded a \$5.9 million increase in a Dane County town's property values as \$53 million. This caused a sharp spike in some property taxes that was not fixed until the following year, as the law prescribes.

Carlton Town Chairman David Hardtke says Dominion continued to push for a reduction, warning that it could “bankrupt the town” — one of the questions to which Kanz did not respond. On Aug. 25, the town Board of Review agreed to accept a valuation of about \$10 million, \$492 million less than what it had submitted.

A DOR official told Fox 11 in Green Bay that this recertification was likely a first in the agency's history. DOR said it acted “to avoid adverse impacts on taxpayers.” If the \$502 million figure were allowed to stand and later successfully challenged, town residents might get socked with huge tax bills to repay the overcharge.

But a DOR employee who has worked in the division that oversees property tax assessments shares the concerns of town officials who say the DOR's move was not legal.

“There is no statutory authority for the department to have done what it did,” says the employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity because “my job would be over” otherwise. The worker worries about the precedent being set: “Going forward, it's going to be very hard for the department to say, ‘We don't do that.’”

City of Madison Assessor Mark Hanson, a board member of the Wisconsin Association of Assessing Officers, thinks the DOR may have been trying to do the right thing to avoid problems down the line. However, he notes of its action, “I can't do that. I have to hold people to certain deadlines that are in the statutes.”

DOR spokeswoman Nicole Anspach, in an email, said the agency considered the matter “an extraordinary circumstance.” She noted that town and county officials asked DOR to amend the plant's equalized value, but sidestepped requests to specify its legal authority for doing so past Aug. 15. State records show that Dominion's political action committee gave \$5,000 to Republican Gov. Scott Walker in January, its largest contribution in recent years.

Walker spokeswoman Laurel Patrick declined to say whether Walker or his office was involved in the matter, deferring to the DOR, which did not respond to questions on this point.

Bill Lueders is the Money and Politics Project director at the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism. The center collaborates with Wisconsin Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Television, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

YOUR VIEWS

Death with dignity would benefit Wisconsin

To the editor,

In recent months there has been increased coverage of the Death With Dignity Act. In part, thanks to the courage of Brittany Maynard (the Oregon woman suffering from a terminal cancer who chose the time and manner of her death).

This act gives the adult terminally ill person the choice to request a prescription for life-ending medications to take if and when they please.

This choice only is available in the states of Oregon, Washington and Vermont.

On Nov. 13, the New Jersey assembly passed the Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill act, assembly bill 2270.

The Compassion and Choices Charity is a nationwide organization that works to get these acts passed in different states.

The charity also provides end-of-life counseling and assistance with advanced planning. They support, educate and advocate for the terminally ill.

The Death With Dignity and Compassion and Choices Charity would benefit Wisconsin residents.

We would have more support and the right to die without extended pain and suffering. Legislators need to know Wisconsin citizens support this cause.

*Bev Hart
Beloit*

Yes, we are a Christian nation

To the editor,

In Keith Reimers' letter, (A government free from religious entanglement, Nov. 9) he takes the position that the United States was not founded as a Christian nation. It absolutely was. The state constitutions and state laws spell it out. Probably the best book about it is “The Theme is Freedom: Religion, Politics and the American Tradition,” by M. Stanton Evans, 1994, Regnery Publishing. There are other books by Dave Barton of “WallBuilders.”

In the First Amendment, “an establishment of religion,” refers to the official state-supported churches that most of the colonies and then early states had, which the national Congress was to make no laws having anything to do with.

There are two books explaining the original consti-

tutional system of government set up by the founders and what happened to it. “The Real Lincoln,” by Thomas J. DiLorenzo and “The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History,” by Thomas E. Woods Jr. (See his website at LibertyClassroom.com.)

Many states had laws requiring that those elected to state office say a pre-set, pro-Christian statement before taking office. There also were rules including religious requirements as to who could vote.

*Roger B. Dahlberg
Rockton*

Exposing Obamacare

To the editor,

It's appalling that the mainstream media is covering up the multiple damning videos of Obamacare architect Jonathan Gruber openly discussing all the lies repeated to ensure passage of Obamacare. Gruber said, “Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage,” and the stupidity of the American voter was critical to getting Obamacare passed.

Gruber's role was central to the efforts of President Obama and Democrats to shove Obamacare down our throats. Gruber bragged how the Congressional Budget Office was manipulated. Democrats distributed Gruber's manipulative work and cited it as independent validation of their proposals, orchestrating the dishonest appearance of broad consensus. Now Obama and Democrats are dishonestly dismissing his role even after his “analysis” was widely distributed throughout media and on the White House blog as an “objective analysis.”

The cheerleading media and Democrats all repeated bogus claims concerning Obamacare based on Gruber's “analysis” in an effort to get Obamacare passed. Now the same media is ignoring the story that an overwhelming number of “independent” statements made in support of Obamacare were traceable to the support of one paid consultant, Jonathan Gruber.

Obama and Democrats lied that you could keep your plan and your doctor, that premiums would be reduced by \$2,500, that Obamacare would reduce the deficit, etc. Now Obama and Democrats want us to believe their lies dismissing Gruber. Trouble is, there is a trove of video evidence that bloggers are exposing, revealing Democrats' lies. Too bad the mainstream media ignores that evidence also.

*Fran Hanus
Milton*

NEWS ANALYSIS

Wisconsin property tax myths dispelled

With property tax bills arriving soon, some taxpayers will again be surprised by unexpected changes in the amount of tax owed. “Often, these surprises are rooted in community-held myths about the property tax,” notes Todd Berry, president of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, or WISTAX. A new WISTAX report, “Navigating the Property Tax,” dispels some of them and explains in lay terms how unexpected changes in individual tax bills can occur. WISTAX is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to research and citizen education.

Myth: Rising property assessments mean higher property taxes. The amount of a property tax bill depends on the size of the levy and an owner's share of community property values. If assessments on all properties rise at the same rate, each owner will continue to be responsible for the same share of the levy. If the tax levy is unchanged, property tax

New WISTAX report helps property owners understand changes in tax bills

bills also will be unchanged. However, if assessment changes vary, those with higher increases will experience rising property taxes, while those with smaller gains will see smaller increases or even declines.

Myth: Falling tax rates mean lower property taxes. The property tax rate is the tax levy divided by total property values. When total values rise faster than the levy, the rate falls. Thus, rates can fall at the same time that levies rise. Too often, taxpayers unwisely focus on the tax rate rather than changes in the levy.

Myth: My tax bill is affected

only by property tax levies and local assessments. Probably the most confusing aspect of Wisconsin's property tax system is how equalized values can impact property taxes. Equalized values are state estimates of the fair-market value of areas of the state, such as municipalities or school districts. They are used to distribute tax levies that span multiple municipalities, such as levies for schools, technical colleges and counties. When equalized values in one area rise faster than those in another, the appreciating area is responsible for a greater share of the levy. Property taxes are shifted, resulting in higher taxes in the former area and lower taxes in the latter.

A free copy of The Wisconsin Taxpayer magazine, “Navigating the Property Tax,” is available by visiting www.wistax.org; emailing wistax@wistax.org; calling 608-241-9789 or writing WISTAX at 401 N. Lawn Ave., Madison, WI 53704-5033.

■ We publish all letters that follow our length and style guidelines, and we welcome issue-oriented letters and guest column submissions for publication on the Perspectives Page. **Guidelines:** Letters no longer than 250 words; all letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar, length; no personal attacks or letters related to personal disputes; daytime phone number needed for verification. Guest columns should be approximately 550 to 650 words; not all guest columns will be published. Limit of one letter/column per month. **Send to: Letter to the editor, P.O. Box 367, Delavan, WI 53115. Email to dplutchak@communityshoppers.com**

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'Discover Wisconsin' to air Janesville episode

JANESVILLE – An episode of “Discover Wisconsin” featuring the Janesville area will air at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, on WKOW 27 and WIFR 23.

“Creative collaboration is key when it comes to planning and producing an episode of ‘Discover Wisconsin.’ And the team members at the Janesville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau were fantastic collaborators,” Mariah Haberman, co-host of “Discover Wisconsin,” said in a news release. “It was important to all of us that we show viewers fun things to do in Janesville throughout the year.”

The episode is hosted by the “Discover Team,” consisting of Haberman, Collin Geraghty, Libby Amato and Eric Paulsen.

The show begins with Haberman featured as a “guest star” in one of the Rock Aqua Jays Water Ski Show Team’s evening shows and later checks out an art gallery in Janesville’s downtown.

Geraghty, meanwhile, attempts to keep up with the fast-paced Janesville Jets hockey team at the Janesville Ice Arena and strolls through the Holiday Light Show, which features more than 330,000 lights at Rotary Botanical Gardens.

Amato stops by Skelly’s Farm Market and tries her hand at a chalk masterpiece at Janesville’s annual chalk art competition, Art Infusion.

Paulsen delivers his best jokes at Friday night stand-up comedy at The Armory and learns about pairing wine and chocolate at Northleaf Winery.

Several other local places of interest, parks and businesses also are featured.

The episode also can be viewed online at www.discoverwisconsin.com.

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CLASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY:
■ Janesville:
 7:45 a.m., student council meeting, Franklin Middle School
■ Janesville:
 5:30 p.m., boys basketball player/parent meeting, Craig High School
■ Janesville:
 6 p.m., PTA meeting, Van Buren Elementary School
■ Janesville:
 6 p.m. PTA meeting, Monroe Elementary School

TUESDAY:
■ Janesville:
 6:30 p.m., Spanish Club parent/student meeting, Craig High School
■ Milton:
 3:30 p.m., Market Day pickup, Milton East Elementary School
■ Milton:
 6:30 p.m., Partners in Education meeting, Consolidated Elementary School

WEDNESDAY:
■ Janesville:
 6:35 a.m., jazz ensemble rehearsal, Franklin Middle School
■ Janesville:
 3 p.m., Boy Scouts meeting, Jackson Elementary School
■ Janesville:
 3:30 p.m., seventh-grade symphonic band rehearsal, Franklin Middle School
■ Janesville:
 7 p.m., band concert, Craig High School

THURSDAY and FRIDAY:
■ Janesville:
 school store, Adams Elementary School

THURSDAY:
■ Janesville:
 6:45 a.m., show choir rehearsal, Franklin Middle School
■ Janesville:
 4:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., physical education open house, Monroe Elementary School
■ Janesville:
 6:30 p.m., PTO meeting, Kennedy Elementary School
■ Janesville:
 6:30 p.m., Trees for Tomorrow parent meeting, Franklin Middle School
■ Janesville:
 6:30 p.m., girls swim awards program, Craig High School
■ Janesville:
 7 p.m., band concert, Marshall Middle School
■ Milton:
 6:30 a.m., academic recognition breakfast, Milton High School

FRIDAY:
■ Janesville:
 PTA fundraiser pickup, Madison Elementary School
■ Janesville:
 4:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Market Day pickup, Jefferson Elementary School
■ Milton:
 6:30 p.m., movie night, Milton West Elementary School

SATURDAY:
■ Janesville:
 1 p.m., Pace for Parkinson's dodgeball tournament, Craig High School
■ Milton:
 8 a.m. to noon, Winter Wonderland, Milton West Elementary School
■ Milton:
 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Santa Store, Milton East Elementary School

HOLIDAYS

Continued from page 1

rations every year," Walker said. "So if you're a repeat guest, you're going to see something new."

The holiday walking tours have been a popular attraction. "It gets busy. The last few days last year we were swamped," Walker said. "We encourage people to come as soon as possible."

The historical society also will host the Tallman Technologies tour during the holiday season. "We have an actor portraying Tallman, and he's putting his house up for sale and he's trying to sell you the house. Then you're greeted by an interpreter who shows you around the house," Walker said. "You don't get to see the whole house, but you get to learn about the technology that was featured in the house, then you go to the museum center and try out some of the pieces of technology."

The historical society also will host the Holiday Tour of Italy from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday at Aglio's Restaurant, 19 N. High St. in Janesville. The event will feature a five-course meal with dishes from different areas of Italy. The cost to attend is \$75, and tickets can be purchased at the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center at 426 Jackson St., at Aglio's Restaurant and by going online to RCHS.us.

"I know the price is a little intimidating, but you will get more food than what you will know what to do with," Walker said.

2 Jolly Jingle weekend, Dec. 5 through Dec. 7, Janesville

The Jolly Jingle Holiday Light Parade highlights a weekend of activities in Janesville from Friday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 6.

The parade will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, in downtown Janesville. The parade will line up on Wall Street and will proceed to High Street, Milwaukee Street, Main Street and St. Lawrence Avenue before ending at the Janesville Senior Center.

Lighted floats and vehicles and horse-drawn carriages will be among the parade entries, said Shelley Slapak, the city's recreation director.

"The entries are encouraged to have music on their floats or vehicles," Slapak said. "We will have police cars and fire trucks leading the parade and school groups walking."

Participants are encouraged to develop their own holiday theme and include plenty of lights, Slapak said. Prizes will be awarded for judge's choice, best use of theme, best motorized entry and best non-motorized entry. Judges are needed for the parade. For more information, call 608-755-3030.

"The Recreation Division is doing an elf theme. We're going to have elves walking around the float and doing activities and passing out candy," she said. "We're also going to have elves on the float working in a workshop."

After taking in the light



The Jolly Jingle Holiday Light Parade steps off at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, in downtown Janesville. The parade is one highlight of a weekend filled with holiday activities. Go online to JanesvilleJollyJingle.com for details. SUBMITTED PHOTO

parade, Jolly Jingle attendees can watch the skies light up with fireworks over Library Park at about 6:30 p.m.

"There will be activities going on the entire weekend," Slapak said. "There will be things for people of all ages. All of the activities will be in close proximity to each other, so people can go to one activity and then go to another."

Friday activities include:

- 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., strolling carolers along Main and Milwaukee streets
- 5:30 p.m., tree lighting at Lower Courthouse Park
- 7:30 p.m., "It's a Wonderful Life" at Janesville Performing Arts Center
- 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., teen skate at Janesville Ice Arena

Saturday activities include:

- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., snow tubing at Lower Courthouse Park
- 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., free holiday activities at Hedberg Public Library
- 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Spice on Ice Skate Show at Janesville Ice Arena
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Skate with Santa at Janesville Ice Arena
- 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., holiday crafts, games and cookie decorating at Janesville Senior Center
- 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., live reindeer at Lower Courthouse Park
- 7 p.m., Janesville Jets game at Janesville Ice Arena
- 7:30 p.m., "It's a Wonderful Life" at Janesville Performing Arts Center
- 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., teen skate at Janesville Ice Arena

Sunday activities include:

- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., snow tubing at Lower Courthouse Park
 - noon to 5 p.m., Christkindl Holiday Market (winter farmers market) at Janesville Senior Center
 - 2 p.m., "It's a Wonderful Life" at Janesville Performing Arts Center
- For a full schedule, go online to JanesvilleJollyJingle.com.

3 "It's a Wonderful Life," Dec. 4-7 and Dec. 12-14, Janesville

The classic tale of George Bailey comes alive on the Janesville Performing Arts Center stage this holiday season. The Stage One Inc. production

Getting ready to light up the holidays at Rotary Gardens Page 2

of "It's a Wonderful Life" is set for 7:30 p.m. shows on Dec. 4, Dec. 5, Dec. 6, Dec. 12 and Dec. 13; matinees are at 2 p.m. Dec. 7 and Dec. 14.

Go online to janesvillepac.org or call 608-758-0297 for tickets or more information.

4 Christmas Walk, Dec. 7, Milton

The Milton Area Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Christmas Walk from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. The walk will feature five area homes decorated for the holidays.

"This year, we have one historic home that's turning 100 years old," said Terry Williamson, secretary for the Milton Area Chamber of Commerce. "It was owned by a doctor in town. I think it will be a good draw."

The homeowners are encouraged to develop a theme for their holiday decorations.

"One of the homes is going to feature a collection of snowmen," Williamson said. "A couple of years ago, we had a woman who had homemade Christmas ornaments. Her Christmas tree probably had thousands of handmade ornaments."

The Christmas Walk attracts 200 to 300 people.

"It's not only to view the historical architecture, a lot of people make a day of it," Williamson said. "They see the decorations, and they get ideas for decorating their own home."

The event also will include Hot Dogs with Santa at the Gathering Place, "A Dickens Christmas" at the Milton House and a nutcracker display at the Main Hall.

"People can shop in our stores and make a weekend out of it," Williamson said.

Tickets for the Christmas Walk can be purchased at Goodrich Hall Antiques, The Red Rooster and at the participating homes the day of the event. For more information, call 608-868-6222 or 608-868-3651.

5 Breakfast with Santa and Snow Flake Craft Fair, Dec. 6, Edgerton

Edgerton Hospital will host its Breakfast with Santa from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6. The event will include secret shopping for children, gift wrapping, a craft area and photos with Santa.

The hospital is at 11101 N. Sherman Road in Edgerton. For more information, go online to edgertonhospital.com/events.php.

The Edgerton Snow Flake Craft Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Edgerton High School, 200 Elm High Drive. For more information, call 608-561-6184.

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Gingerbread is great for cookies, 'construction' projects

Are you in the midst of preparing for the holiday season? Did you make any gingerbread cookies yet?

It just wouldn't be Christmas without that delicious aroma of ginger and spice wafting through the house, now would it?

Cookie baking and decorating is one thing that kids of all ages love to do.

Even kids as young as 2 or 3 can sprinkle on nonpareils. It takes about a 5-year-old to handle a butter knife with frosting. Seven-year-olds can handle cutting out the cookie shapes. A little older and they can usually roll out the dough pretty well. A few more years and you have someone who could make up a batch of the dough itself — guess that would be you!

This dough is very tasty, yet it dries quick. Every year, I have people ask me for the recipe. It's just the thing for making your own gingerbread house or cookie cutouts that can be hung from the tree. If you don't have pets or kids hovering around, that is. They tend to sneak them right off the tree and eat them. They make for a good midnight snack, don't you know. If you see an empty glass of milk, you know you've got a cookie thief lurking nearby.

To make a gingerbread house, cut out your design in paper first. A very simple design would be two side walls — that's a simple rectangle, two end walls — that would have a peak at the top for the roof line and two roof pieces — larger rectangles.

Remember that the larger the pieces, the more difficult it is to work because of breakage. If you start with a rectangle that is about 3-by-5-inches for the side

LYNN GREENE
LYNN'S PLACE



walls and build around that, you will have a nice size house.

You could get really creative and make a barn, complete with cookie cutter critters, a manger scene inside a straw-filled stable or just about anything else you could think up.

The dough should be rolled thin, about 1/8 inch thick is good. Make sure it is an even thickness throughout. If you want to hang cookies from the tree, use a straw to make a hanging hole in each cookie BEFORE you bake it. They can be strung on a bright ribbon for a colorful garland or hung individually.

The icing recipe I've included here is the glue to put the house together and is completely edible. It is the type that will dry quite hard and makes excellent mortar for building houses.

This recipe will be plenty for two houses and about three dozen cookies. It also works really well for making place cards — bake a cookie rectangle, then pipe the dinner guest's name on with a tube of icing.

Gingerbread dough

9 cups flour
1 Tbsp. ground ginger
1 Tbsp. allspice
1 tsp. salt

2 cups molasses
2 cups packed brown sugar
2 cups margarine
2 tsps. baking soda
2 large eggs

Mix flour, spices and salt in large bowl and set aside. In a heavy saucepan combine molasses, brown sugar, margarine and baking soda. Heat this mixture over medium heat and bring to a boil. Turn down heat and simmer for five minutes.

Remove from heat and cool until just warm. Add eggs. Add this molasses mixture gradually to flour mixture, stirring until the whole is well combined. Leave in bowl and refrigerate at least two hours. Follow directions for cutting out house and bake at 350 F for 12 to 15 minutes. Do not grease your cookie sheets.

Remove from cookie sheets and transfer to a rack. Allow your gingerbread house pieces to dry overnight before trying to assemble.

This recipe makes a very crisp cookie which is what you need for making houses.

Icing

2 lbs. confectioners' sugar
6 large egg whites at room temperature
1-1/2 tsps. cream of tartar

Combine all ingredients in mixer bowl and beat on low speed until whites are incorporated then beat at high speed for five minutes. Wipe down the sides of the bowl occasionally with a spatula. When icing is done, peaks will stay stiff when you lift the spatula from the



FILE

Make your own gingerbread house or get a little help from the elves at Community Action when they host a Gingerbread Extravaganza on Saturday, Dec. 6, in Beloit.

icing. Keep icing covered with a damp cloth until ready to use.

You may substitute 6 tablespoons meringue powder and 3/4 cup water for the egg whites.

time availability, 608-313-1319.

Looking for inspiration?

The Grand Geneva Resort, 7036 Grand Geneva Way, at Wisconsin Highway 50 and U.S. Highway 12 in Lake Geneva, hosts an annual gingerbread competition as part of its Christmas in the Country celebration. The gingerbread houses are on display at the resort through Dec. 31. 262-248-8811, GrandGeneva.com

Lynn Greene is senior editor for CSI Media, which publishes this paper. Contact her at 262-728-3424 or send an email to lgreene@communityshoppers.com.

What's on your plate today has plenty of history behind it

TERRI
SCHLICHENMEYER
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Everything looks so delicious. It all smells great, too, and you can't decide what you like best. The meat is done just right, potatoes are mashed to perfection, biscuits are to die for. And then there's dessert! But wait, leftovers. That's your favorite.

You've got a lot on your plate this time of year — what with Thanksgiving just behind us and Christmas coming up fast. And in "The American Plate" by Libby H. O'Connell, you'll learn the stories our food can tell.

Imagine inviting a long-ago ancestor to dinner.

What he'd find at the table might astound him; surely, there would be some dishes he wouldn't even recognize. That's because "remarkable changes in ingredients, recipes and menus over the centuries" have changed how — and what — we eat.

That ancestor, for instance, might've enjoyed dining on grilled beaver tail. Yum.

Then again, he'd know maize (corn, to us) very well. Native Americans grew it more than

9,000 years ago, and your ancestor might have had it in their gardens, along with beans and squash, a farming method called The Three Sisters.

If he lived near the East Coast, he might've relished cod, though your Friday night fish fry would seem pathetic to him. The cod he ate came in 6-foot long slabs, dried, salted and kept stacked in his pantry. He might've added cow's butter, dyed with gold flower petals, maybe some eel on the side, and bon appétit.

Of course, our ancestors had turkey, but they also ate offal (which sounds really awful). Those from the Netherlands brought doughnuts to the table. The British gave us syllabub. The Chinese gave us a dish, the words of which mean "odds and ends," or chop suey.

Food played a role in who won the War Between the States, when Rebel forces nearly starved while Union soldiers enjoyed a bounty. At the turn of the last century, food created the first celebrity chefs.

And what does the future hold? Well, pull up a chair. That entree isn't done yet.

Ask five of your friends about their favorite comfort foods, and you'll get five different stories that start out, "My mom made the best..."

"The American Plate"



(Out of five stars)

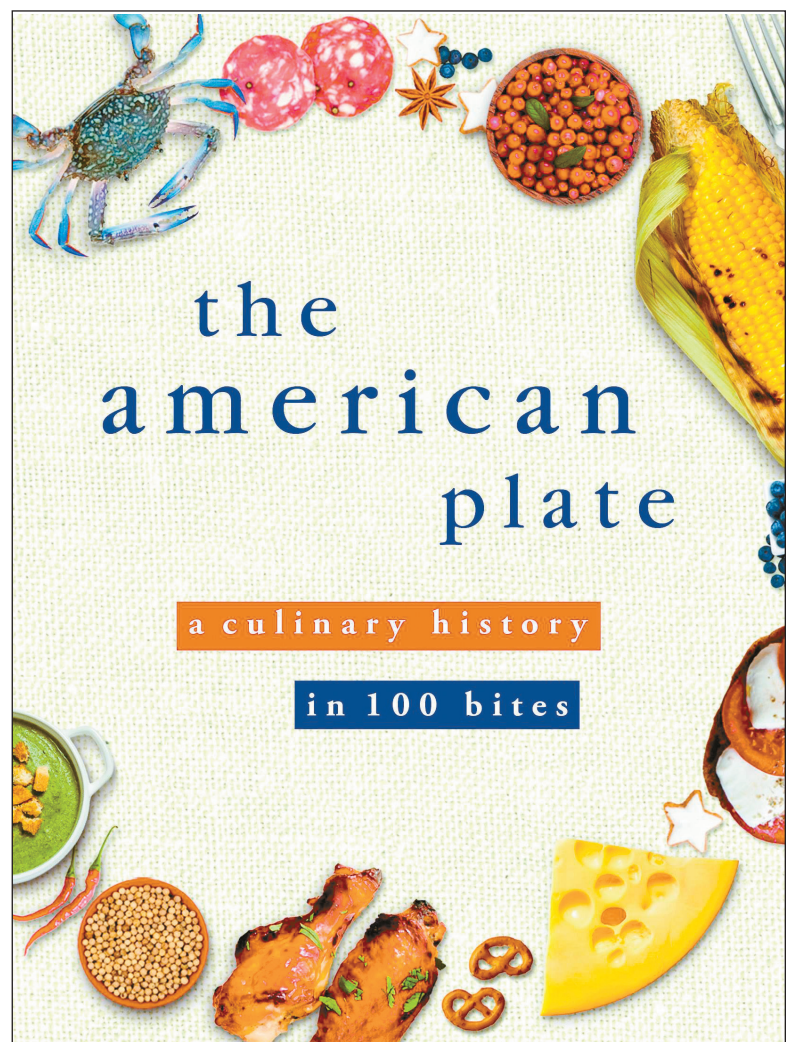
By Libby H. O'Connell
Sourcebooks
\$26.99, 320 pages

Chances are that those dishes are found somewhere in "The American Plate."

So many things that you'll eat in the next few weeks are in this book, in fact, and there's a story behind every one of them. O'Connell fills our minds with the things with which we fill our bellies, letting us literally play with our food. We get plenty of recipes, too, so you can try roast beaver tail, syllabub, hangtown fry, scrapple or Red Cross War Cake.

Historians and cooks will obviously love this book, but I think it's also appropriate for anyone who likes to eat. If that's you, then dig in. You'll devour "The American Plate" until there's nothing left over.

Terri Schlichenmeyer is The Bookworm of La Crosse, Wisconsin. She has been reading since she was 3 years old and lives with two dogs and 12,000 books.



SOURCEBOOKS

Libby H. O'Connell serves up the history behind many of our favorite foods in this fun and educational book.

SPORTSLINE

■ Area football players honored:

The Stataline area was well represented as the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association recently announced its All-State and All-Region players for the 2014 season.

Big Foot senior defensive lineman Will Utesch was the lone competitor to make the All-State team.

Meanwhile, several gridders made the All-State honorable mention list: Williams Bay senior John Higgins at inside linebacker, Big Foot junior Zak Greco and Clinton senior Luke Risse at defensive back, Milton senior Avery Ousterhout, Brodhead-Juda senior Reave Lincoln and Badger junior Stephan Wieder at offensive line, Edgerton senior Ricky Williams at running back, Burlington senior Brad Burling at quarterback and Delavan-Darien senior Ethan Cesarz at tight end.

These players all made All-Region teams, with Higgins also earning this honor at quarterback.

Other All-Region choices were junior Tiedt Hegeman of Burlington at defensive lineman, Big Foot senior Quinn Dixon at defensive end, Evansville/Albany junior Jordan Meyer and Palmyra-Eagle senior Travis Poulson at ILB, Janesville Craig senior Harry Henschler at outside linebacker, Evansville/Albany junior Austin Rupiper and Brodhead-Juda senior Logan Maurer at offensive line, Clinton senior Derek Severson at quarterback and Elkhorn senior Keenan Leahy at running back.

■ Warhawks well represented:

As expected, champion University of Wisconsin-Whitewater earned numerous honors on the recent Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference football team.

Senior quarterback Matt Behrendt was named the league's offensive player of the year.

Other Warhawks named to the first team offense were junior lineman Conner Peters and senior wide receivers Jake Kumerow and Justin Howard.

First-team defenders featured junior lineman Zach Franz, junior linebacker Justin Dischler and senior secondary players Brady Grayvold and Marcus McLin, a Delavan-Darien graduate.

McLin also was the top kick returner.

Those making the second team offense were senior tight end Derric Junakin, sophomore offensive linemen Tony Koepnick and Spencer Shier, junior running back Jordan Ratliffe and freshman place-kicker Will Meyer.

On defense, the honorees were senior lineman Mykaell Bratchett, sophomore linebacker Paul Foster of Janesville Craig and sophomore punter Lake Bachar. Soph Dylan Morang was the special teamer.



POOLING THEIR RESOURCES

TERRY MAYER/STAFF

Milton's Mitch Roberts, left, and Tommy Wecker are chasing their third straight trips to the WIAA Division 2 state swimming meet.

Wecker, Roberts lead Red Hawks in different ways

BY TODD MISHLER
SPORTS EDITOR

They are nearly polar opposites in many ways, including physical stature and personality.

However, Tommy Wecker and Mitch Roberts share two important traits: They're extremely competitive and they possess talent galore in the pool.

The Milton High School swimmers have qualified for the WIAA Division 2 boys meet the past two years and should represent the Red Hawks again.

Coach Jenny Quade said the differences between the two standouts are easy to see, but the bottom line is they get big-time results.

"Tommy is an easygoing guy, but despite that demeanor, he is determined," said Quade, who finished her fifth year coaching the Milton girls and has started her second with the boys. "He comes out of the pool all winded like everybody else, but he remains that even-keel kid."

She said his technique and style are almost as unassuming, but the 6-foot-4 Wecker's performances show otherwise.

"It's funny having watched these guys grow up in front of your eyes," Quade said. "Tommy has the long, high build of his family. He has the muscle, but you see his power of his stroke in his longer arms. Some people fight the water, but he just glides, and his long body helps."

Quade said Roberts' contrasting style is evident but effective.

"Mitch definitely has a strong personality and attitude ... he's always pumped up," Quade said. "He didn't grow as much. And it's not that he doesn't work as hard, but he's a natural. There's just a pop when he goes into the water ... he's powerful and aggressive. He has strong opinions and desires, and that comes out in his swimming, too. But both are equally successful."

Wecker is a senior whose mother, Leanne, is in her second year as an assistant for both teams and comes from a family of swimmers. He and the 400-yard freestyle relay team finished ninth and he was 14th in the 100 backstroke as a sophomore. Last year, Wecker and Roberts helped the Red Hawks take 10th in the 400 medley

relay, while the former also competed in the 400 free relay, the 100 backstroke and 100 free.

"The backstroke always has been more my event," said Wecker, who participated with the Milton Marlins program. "I guess because I'm tall and my build, my long arms. But I've improved the most since I was a freshman in how I look at everything. I take it more seriously, and being a senior now, I want to take more responsibility and more of a leadership role."

Roberts began competitive swimming at 10 in Fort Atkinson through USA Swimming. He participates in relays and the 50 free, but the 100 breaststroke is his specialty, and he has contended for gold medals at state, finishing fourth and third, respectively.

"I've never been a great all-around swimmer ... I don't do distance, the fly or the back. Freestyle and the breaststroke come to me," Roberts said. "I put a lot of work into my times and getting off the wall. Not so much in the 50 (free), that's just going as hard as you can. But with the



Quade

100 (breaststroke), all of your turns have to be exact and fast."

Quade said the duo would lead what she expects to be another competitive squad.

"Two years ago we had some phenomenal kids and a big group of seniors, and this past year we lost only three kids, but not an abundance of our top swimmers," she said. "We don't have any superstars, but we were consistent last year and did well. We've got some good freshman coming in."

"As far as Tommy and Mitch are concerned, they are good bets to get back to state," Quade added. "Let's say I would be highly surprised if they didn't."

And for their part, both teammates have personal and team aspirations.

"We have most of the team back," Wecker said. "I'm pretty close to a couple of team records, in the 100 free and 100 back, that Jack Lunaas holds that I'd like to break."

"We should have a good group of top swimmers," Roberts said. "Personally, the 100 breaststroke just always has been the stroke that's been easy for me, so that's where my emphasis has been and where I focus my practice time and set goals for, and one of them is to win state."

Mother Nature can be helpful in bagging that buck

As usual, we always can count on the dates of the traditional nine-day deer season in southern Wisconsin, but never the roller coaster weather ride we experience during it. This year we had snow and a mini-monsoon in the Stataline area.

The morning fog often can be your friend in the deer stand, but the pounding rain often can trump that. Bucks like the cover of foggy mornings and prefer to roam for a date to ensure the propagation of their kind. But sometimes the pelting rain trumps that. It not only deadens the natural noises of the woods, but it masks other sounds of movement that often cause them to curtain their movement or even to bed down. Besides their keen eyesight, their hearing is their greatest protective device.



JIM CHEADLE
SCALES AND TAILS

This would have been a great opener to hunt from a ground blind with a nice roof and protection from the wind and rain. You also have limited range of movement without being detected. I have used one for quite a few years and done rather well after observing many deer, both bucks and does, coming down familiar trails and looking up as they move.

If you've got a young hunter along and want to keep them out for an extended period, I'd definitely recommend a ground blind. They allow freedom to eat a snack

or drink a hot beverage on a cold morning. Trying to make a youngster stay still at sunrise in frigid conditions isn't exactly a lot of fun. That's the main rule if you're starting out a youngster; we all should try to make it fun before implementing the rules and ethics.

Some great reports of nice bucks came in over opening weekend, but I give the Department of Natural Resources credit for the upfront statements about some areas in the north. Deer numbers still are down and will need time to recover. Too bad some folks still want to take more of that precious resource without considering the future. As of this writing, I guess because of the crazy weekend weather, there were not good and accurate preliminary reports on the harvest.

However, some great news for hunters

is that Wisconsin still is No. 1 on reported Boon and Crocket big game deer records.

I hope all of you who again participated in Wisconsin's greatest tradition enjoyed a safe and successful hunt. And remember, successful not only means bringing home the bacon. It's carrying on your family's traditions.

The wild goose says: Being out here and enjoying the holiday with those you love just may be the greatest trophy you can harvest. Thanksgiving itself is a trophy for what it represents.

Write Jim Cheadle at 4108 W. Spring Creek, Beloit, WI 53511. Or email him at jcheadle@gmail.com.

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Beat
- 7. High point
- 14. Young child, Italian
- 15. Two-wheeled carriage in Cuba
- 16. Dress
- 17. Lunar crater on the far side
- 18. On, as a lamp
- 19. Person who flees a native land
- 21. Couples
- 22. Coaster
- 24. Bit
- 25. 1969 Peace Prize grp.
- 26. Argus-eyed
- 28. ___ vera
- 30. Ado
- 31. Crackpot
- 33. Those enrolled for compulsory military service
- 35. Area's outer edge
- 37. Aircraft with landing floats
- 40. "___ me!"
- 44. Prize since 1949
- 45. Wanders aimlessly in search of amusement

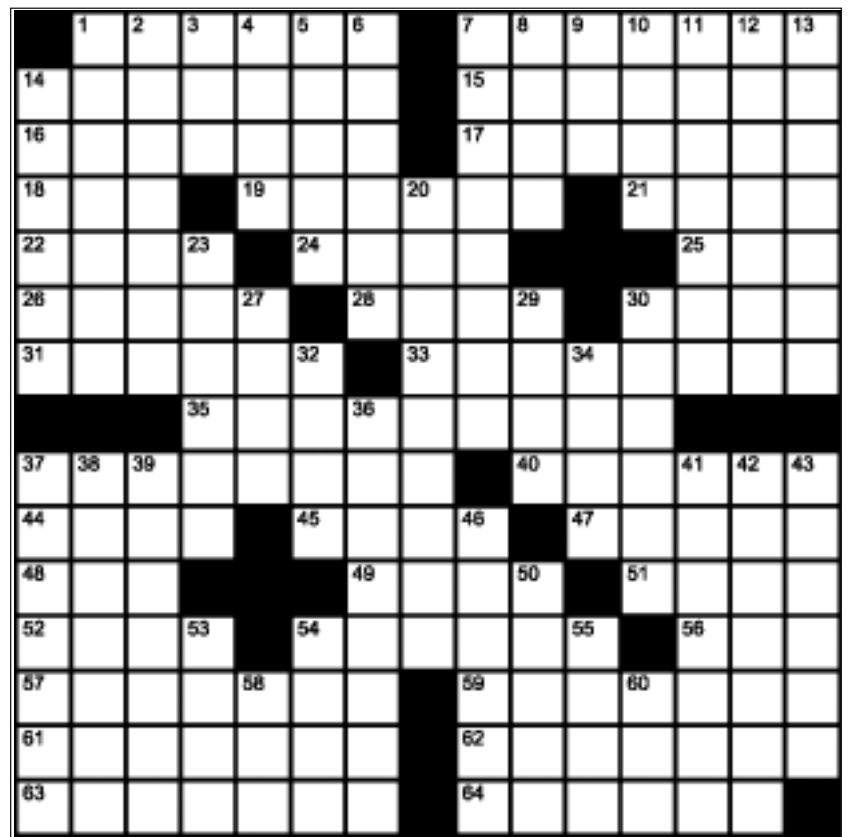
- 47. Commemorative marker
- 48. Marienbad, for one
- 49. Cart
- 51. Fishing, perhaps
- 52. Back talk
- 54. Cheated
- 56. Congratulations, of a sort
- 57. To such an extent
- 59. Bullish
- 61. More suspicious
- 62. Guaranteed
- 63. Senior citizen
- 64. Ensnared

- 10. Bust, so to speak
- 11. Forming a series
- 12. Rat
- 13. Some muscles
- 14. Certain fir
- 20. First place award (2 wds)
- 23. Leaking drops
- 27. Old Chinese money
- 29. Beanery sign
- 30. Layers
- 32. Mountain goat's perch
- 34. Charges
- 36. Rushed (3 wds)
- 37. Stalkless and attached at the base

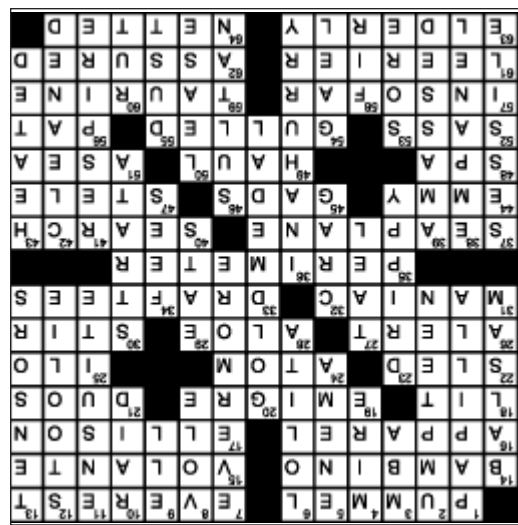
Down

- 1. Tongue taste bud
- 2. Innumerable
- 3. "Dilbert" cartoonist Scott Adams has one: Abbr.
- 4. Bog
- 5. Clyster
- 6. Nabokov's 1955 novel
- 7. Always
- 8. Mouselike animal
- 9. Addition

- 38. Select a jury from a list of names
- 39. Put together
- 41. Breathe in and out
- 42. Picked up
- 43. Like some discussions
- 46. Mideast V.I.P.
- 50. Car dealer's offering
- 53. Achy
- 54. Highlander
- 55. Fine, dry particles
- 58. Alpine sight
- 60. Same old, same old



This week's answers





Wine & Dine Pairing

Sunday, December 14 • Noon

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Salad: Shredded local carrot and cabbage salad with lavender honey mustard dressing

Soup: French onion and herb soup with toasted baguette topped with smoked provolone cheese

Entrée: Christmas roasted Goose atop a cranberry curry stuffing and sweet potato mash

Dessert: Sweet Potato Bar with coconut milk caramel and whipped cream

play



eat



shop





Gingerbread Extravaganza

Benefiting... Community Action programs

Saturday, Dec. 6
Eclipse Center, Beloit
Details & Tickets at
Community-Action.org
or 608-313-1319

The 24th Annual Snowflake Craft Fair

Sat., Dec. 6, 2014

Edgerton High School Fieldhouse
200 Elm High Drive
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

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Saturday, December 13th – 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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CALENDAR

Sunday, Nov. 30:
Advent and Christmas concert, Nov. 30, 2 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 54 S. Jackson St., Janesville. Music from Jan and Brian Knutson, David and Sue Newman and UCC choirs. A quilt show will be held from noon to 2 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 1:
Love Light Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 1, 6 p.m. at Mercy Hospital and Trauma Center, 1000 Mineral Point Ave., Janesville.
German Interest Group meeting, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 2921 Mount Zion Ave., Janesville. Rochelle Pennington will present "An Old-Fashioned Christmas." Bring Christmas memories and treats to share.

Tuesday, Dec. 2:
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease presentation, Dec. 2, 5:30 p.m. at Edgerton Hospital, 11101 N. Sherman Road, Edgerton.

Call 608-884-1607 or go to EdgertonHospital.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 3:
Hospice volunteer orientation, Dec. 3, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Agrace Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, 2901 N. Wright Road, Janesville. For more information, call 608-314-2922.

Medicare seminar, Dec. 3, 1:30 p.m. in Room 1 of Mercy Health Mall, 1010 N. Washington St., Janesville. For more information, call 800-895-2421.

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626 Millar Dr., Beloit, WI 53511
VIEWING: Monday, Dec. 1st (10 AM - 5 PM)
PICTURES & UPDATES: www.auctionzip.com (Enter 53511)
COLLECTIBLES: 2 Pacinko machines, artwork, advertising items, Beloit City Directories (1920-1960's), 2 clocks (1 Seth T.), glassware (Blue Willow, Delft, etc.), lots of ANTIQUE & COSTUME JEWELRY (gold, etc.), sports cards (lots) & memorabilia, old fruit jars, old postcards, STAMP COLLECTION (thousands), great VINTAGE CLOTHING (1950's, etc.) – dozens of dresses, jackets, shoes, corsets, etc. ("Fredrick's" etc.).
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South Beloit: 389
Roscoe: 623
Rockton: 624
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Loves Park/Machesney Park/Rockford: 226, 227, 229, 262, 282, 394, 395, 397, 398, 399, 489, 494, 633, 636, 637, 639, 654, 765, 877, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 987

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Hours will include split-shifts, Mondays to Saturdays.

Requirements - Must have a valid CDL or CDL Permit (passed written test) with ability to obtain valid CDL license upon hire. Requires ability to memorize routes, schedules, fares and detours. Final candidates must pass the federal DOT physical including drug screening.

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www.beloitwi.gov

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- Understand and able to implement Statistical Process Control (SPC) tools.
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For a complete description of job duties and responsibilities, please contact HR at Vision Plastics.

Send/email resumes to:

Vision Plastics

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Lindah@VisionPlastics.net

188952

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Benefits Coordinator
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Requirements – Two to three years experience with health and benefit programs. Prefer a candidate with an Associate's degree in Human Resources, Business Administration or similar field. Or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
Working knowledge in Microsoft Office Suite including an advanced knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets and databases. Knowledge of federal, state and local Health Insurance mandates required. Familiarity with COBRA and employee assistance programs preferably in a municipal government setting. Ability to stay abreast of changes through continued training and research of benefits issues as required.
SALARY RANGE: \$19.00 + depending upon level of experience and skills + excellent personal benefit package
APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 9, 2014. Applications accepted online only at the City of Beloit's website: www.beloitwi.gov
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Human Resources Division
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CARS



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