

## Local

### **Former Walker aide ordered to face trial 1/23/12**

A Milwaukee County court commissioner decided that there is enough evidence to send former Walker aide Russell to trial on charges of embezzling more than \$25K from a veterans group and two political candidates.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/FormerWalkeraideorderedtofacetrial>

### **Judge sides with Eau Claire County sheriff, treasurer in suit over retirement contributions 1/23/12**

Chippewa County Judge Cray issued a decision Monday that county officials violated state law by reducing the paychecks of sheriff and treasurer to make payments toward their retirement during their elected terms.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/JudgesideswithEauClaireCountysherifftreasurerinsuitoverretirementcontributions>

### **Wanggaard has raised \$112,759 - largest contribution from Milwaukee Professional Firefighters 1/23/12**

Going into a possible recall election, Sen. Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) has \$112,759 cash on hand, according to his campaign finance report filed with the state Monday. Wanggaard has raised \$19,995 so far this month.

Read more: [http://www.journaltimes.com/article\\_953292f2-4620-11e1-8592-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.journaltimes.com/article_953292f2-4620-11e1-8592-0019bb2963f4.html)

### **Racine aldermen seek health benefits for city employees' domestic partners 1/24/12**

Racine Alderpersons Bob Mozol and Melissa Kaprelian-Becker are working on a city ordinance that provides the same employee health benefits to domestic partners and their dependents as married couples.

Read more: [http://www.journaltimes.com/article\\_e620c630-4688-11e1-b64a-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.journaltimes.com/article_e620c630-4688-11e1-b64a-0019bb2963f4.html)

### **Rules for voter registration deputies cause stir, confusion in Caledonia 1/26/12**

At least two Racine residents have filed complaints with the Government Accountability Board alleging that Caledonia Village Clerk Torkilsen violated state law when she refused to deputize them to register voters.

Read more: [http://www.journaltimes.com/article\\_17b9e71a-481b-11e1-b4f4-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.journaltimes.com/article_17b9e71a-481b-11e1-b4f4-0019bb2963f4.html)

### **Two ex-Walker aides accused of illegally doing campaign work 1/26/12**

Two staffers who worked directly for Scott Walker while he was Milwaukee County executive were charged Thursday with illegally doing extensive political work while being paid by taxpayers to do county jobs.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/news/138099588.html>

### **County touts tentative pact with unions, geared to save \$1.9M 1/26/12**

Most Dane County government offices would shut down for three days in 2013 and county workers would see a 1.25% pay cut for the year in a plan designed to save \$1.9 million, Co. Exec. Parisi announced Thursday.

Read more: [http://host.madison.com/wsj/article\\_51073ea6-4879-11e1-a378-001871e3ce6c.html](http://host.madison.com/wsj/article_51073ea6-4879-11e1-a378-001871e3ce6c.html)

## State

### **Falk visits Ashland with sights set on Walker's job 1/22/12**

Just three days after announcing her intention to oppose Gov. Scott Walker in a recall election, former Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk met with voters at the Black Cat Coffee House in Ashland on Saturday.

Read more: [http://www.ashlandwi.com/news/article\\_50b6d28c-456c-11e1-a4ef-001871e3ce6c.html](http://www.ashlandwi.com/news/article_50b6d28c-456c-11e1-a4ef-001871e3ce6c.html)

### **Status of state budget depends on method of measure 1/23/12**

After months of declaring the budget balanced, Walker's administration told the federal government last month the budget is not balanced if using a different accounting method that considers pending expenses.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/Statusofstatebudgetdependsonmethodofmeasure>

### **Walker health care decision could lead to D.C. showdown 1/23/12**

Turning down federal grant money, the Walker administration chose not to implement a health insurance exchange under Pres. Obama's health care reform law, which could cause confrontation with Washington.

Read more: <http://www.wrn.com/2012/01/walker-health-care-decision-could-lead-to-d-c-showdown-audio/>

### **Republicans targeted for recall seek more time to challenge petitions 1/24/12**

Republican recall targets asked a Dane County judge on Tuesday for more time to challenge petitions ahead of a hearing Wednesday on the state elections agency's request for more time to certify recall petitions.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/Republicanstargetedforrecallseekmoretimetochallengepetitions>

### **Big donors fuel Walker's record-breaking numbers 1/24/12**

Campaign finance reports Gov. Walker filed Monday shows 61 percent of the \$4.1 million he raised during the five-week reporting period came from out of state and that many contributions came from big donors.

Read more: [http://www.journaltimes.com/article\\_c1030910-46bc-11e1-805c-001871e3ce6c.html](http://www.journaltimes.com/article_c1030910-46bc-11e1-805c-001871e3ce6c.html)

### **Walker won't push right-to-work legislation 1/25/12**

Cullen Werwie, Scott Walker's spokesman, said the governor would not be introducing any right-to-work legislation in Wisconsin. Terrance E. McGowan, business manager of Operating Engineers Local 139, agrees.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/news/138059413.html>

### **Judge grants more time for recall review 1/25/12**

A Dane County judge has virtually doubled the amount of time the state Government Accountability Board has to review recall petitions targeting the governor, lieutenant governor and four Republican state senators.

Read more: <http://www.wrn.com/2012/01/judge-grants-more-time-for-recall-review/>

### **State of the State: Walker says state headed in right direction 1/25/12**

Gov. Scott Walker said in his State of the State speech Wednesday that he kept his promises, the changes he pushed through were necessary and are working, and now Wisconsin is headed in the right direction.

Read more: <http://dailyreporter.com/2012/01/25/walker-says-state-headed-in-right-direction-%E2%80%A8/>

## Federal

### **Kreitlow noted as emerging candidate in Congressional race 1/21/12**

Former state legislator Pat Kreitlow announced last week that his campaign has been recognized as an "Emerging Race" by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Sean Duffy won the seat in 2010.

Read more: <http://www.ashlandcurrent.com/article/12/01/21/kreitlow-noted-emerging-candidate>

### **Thompson backs Walker bargaining decision 1/23/12**

Former Gov. Tommy Thompson said Monday that he would not second-guess Gov. Scott Walker for taking steps to greatly limit collective bargaining for most public employees, but does not support right-to-work.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/137937678.html>

### **Right-to-work measure clears Indiana House 1/25/12**

Indiana is poised to become the first right-to-work state in more than a decade after the Republican-controlled House passed legislation on Wednesday banning the collection of mandatory fees from workers.

Read more: <http://usat.ly/RighttoworkmeasureclearsIndianaHouse>

### **Documents detail Tommy Thompson's earnings in private sector 1/25/12**

According to public filings and reports, former Gov. Tommy Thompson has earned more than \$8.5 million in compensation since 2005 from a web of private sector companies including a prominent D.C. lobbying firm.

Read more: <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20120125/GPG0101/301260023>

### **Obama to Republicans in State of the Union: Game on 1/25/12**

In his third State of the Union address, Obama issued a populist call for income equality and challenged GOP lawmakers to work with him or move aside so he could use the power of the presidency to produce results.

Read more: <http://www.sheboyganpress.com/article/20120125/SHE0101/120125007>

### **Congressional candidates approve of Obama help for rural colleges, broadband 1/25/12**

Former Democratic state Sen. Pat Kreitlow says Obama's plan to invest in community and technical colleges and rural broadband expansion should be Congressional priorities. Rep. Sean Duffy (R-Weston) agrees.

Read more: <http://www.businessnorth.com/kuws.asp?RID=4218>

### **STOCK Act: Insider trading bill to receive Senate vote next week 1/26/12**

The STOCK Act, a Senate bill banning members of Congress from trading corporate stocks based on nonpublic political information will see a vote next week, according to Democratic sources working on the bill.

Read more: <http://huff.to/STOCKActInsidertradingbilltoreceiveSenatevoteneckweek>

## Upcoming Events

For a listing of statewide events visit <http://www.seiuwi.org/events/>

For a listing of legislative hearings visit <http://committeeschedule.legis.wisconsin.gov/>