

Local

Appleton school board race to start with February primary

In addition to incumbent Julie Baker, Jim Bowman, John DeVantier, Gypsy Vered Meltzer and Elizabeth Panzer filed nomination papers for the April 2 Appleton Area School Board election. The primary is Feb. 19.

Read more: <http://www.postcrescent.com/article/20130105/APC010404/301050332>

Juneau council has one race and two open seats

Juneau will have one contested city council election, while two ward seats will be open to write-ins. Former second-ward alderman Robert Affeld will challenge second-ward incumbent Roxanne Buss who won in 2011.

Read more: <http://www.wiscnews.com/461fc1f2-5629-11e2-84db-0019bb2963f4.html>

Sheriffs' deputies file suit against Racine County, county executive

The Racine County Sheriffs Deputies' Association filed a suit against Racine County and Co. Exec. Ladwig Thursday over whether the county may make changes to the association's health care without bargaining.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/e702f740-56d5-11e2-b070-001a4bcf887a.html>

Janesville School District considering incentive pay for administrators

Thirty-five administrative positions including principals and directors in the Janesville School District could earn raises of up to 6% next school year under a new incentive-pay system the administration is proposing.

Read more: <http://gazettextra.com/news/2013/jan/05/janesville-school-district-considering-incentive-p/>

Wausau City Council member seeks more transparency

Wausau City Council Member Keene Winters wants to force city business to be conducted openly by requiring his colleagues to use public email accounts and reveal when they are lobbied by special interests.

Read more: <http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20130106/WDH01/301060318>

Staskunas to run for board seat of man who replaced him in Assembly

Former Democratic Rep. Staskunas, a 16-year state lawmaker who didn't run for re-election, is seeking the Milwaukee Co. Board seat of Sanfelippo, the supervisor who won Staskunas' old West Allis Assembly seat.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/186221561.html>

Milwaukee alderman seeks advisory referendum on Election Day registration

Milwaukee Ald. Milele Cogs wants an advisory referendum asking voters whether the state should continue allowing citizens to register to vote on Election Day. About 54K Milwaukeeans registered to vote on Nov. 6th.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/185935151.html>

State

State bill targets Milwaukee County Board pay, budget

New lawmaker and former Milwaukee Co. Board member Rep. Sanfelippo (R-West Allis) is gaining support for a plan that would allow voters to cut Milwaukee County Board pay by 70% and slash their budget by 85%.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/185942561.html>

State Rep. Donna Seidel resigns office days before term expires

State Rep. Donna Seidel (D-Wausau) has resigned her seat in the Assembly, days before her term expired. Seidel submitted her letter of resignation to Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald's office on December 12th.

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

Racine area Dems propose minimum wage increase

Racine County legislators Robert Wirch and Cory Mason announced Monday plans to reintroduce a bill to raise the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$7.60 per hour and index that figure for inflation annually.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/517a8bac-591e-11e2-81d6-0019bb2963f4.html>

New Legislature sworn in; GOP leaders aim for more harmony, less conflict

The legislative session started Monday with Republican leaders promising swift passage of a bill to reform Wisconsin's mining law and calls for more bipartisanship and a healing of wounds after 2011-2012 conflicts.

Read more: <http://www.wiscnews.com/3a498836-5944-11e2-8804-0019bb2963f4.html>

Lawmakers don't reach deal on ending all-nighters

Leaders from both parties met in secret Tuesday to discuss proposals put forward by Republican Speaker Robin Vos, but have not reached agreement on how to cut down on late-night debate in the state Assembly.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/b73d140e-59f6-11e2-ab8b-001a4bcf887a.html>

Jobs agency gave \$56.2 million in grants and loans, report says

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corp.'s year-end report shows it made \$56.2M available to businesses through 170 grants and loans. Its investments affected 218 businesses and 23,759 jobs in the last fiscal year.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/185725821.html>

Overages send technical college pay soaring past lagging UW salaries

Statewide, 67 instructors gained more than \$50,000 in overages, pushing the average pay for technical college instructors above the average UW professor's, according to 2011-12 salary data from both systems.

Read more: http://www.sheboyganpress.com/article/20130105/SHE019803/301050188/?nclick_check=1

Walker contributor Einhorn backs off WHEDA contract

A conservative Milwaukee financier and big Walker supporter is backing out of a contract to manage \$1M in taxpayer money after media questioned whether the arrangement violated federal conflict of interest rules.

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

Federal

Baldwin sworn in to history books

Upon her inauguration last Thursday into the U.S. Senate, former U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin made history by officially becoming Wisconsin's first female U.S. senator and the country's first openly gay U.S. senator.

Read more: <http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20130104/WDH0101/301040176>

Sen. Johnson to be on budget, commerce committees

Johnson will serve on Senate committees for small business, commerce, science and transportation. Both Baldwin and Johnson will be on Senate committees for budget, homeland security and governmental affairs.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/643cec50-55e8-11e2-a727-001a4bcf887a.html>

Rep. Ryan pushes spending cuts in new Congress

U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan said he will have a prominent insider's role as Republican leaders work for major cuts in federal spending this term. He is critical of what he called Pres. Obama's lack of leadership on spending cuts.

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

State ranked 42nd in job creation at midyear, census report shows

Wisconsin ranked 42 out of the 50 states in private-sector job creation, according to the latest available government jobs data deemed credible by economists. That state was 37th the previous data period.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/business/186044541.html>

Veterans' jobless rate falls but remains high

Soaring unemployment that has bedeviled Iraq- and Afghanistan-era veterans for 5 years has finally reversed. The jobless rate dropped to an annual average of 9.9% last year from 12.1% in 2011, labor statistics show.

Read more: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/01/06/vets-jobless-rate-drops/1812667/>

Three federal actions combine to raise taxes, lower paychecks

Payroll taxes will increase due to three federal actions: the expiration of the 2% cuts in the Social Security payroll tax, certain provisions in the recently completed fiscal cliff deal, and the onset of ACA tax increases.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/e3fefdfa-5a59-11e2-afe6-001a4bcf887a.html>

Wisconsin's Congressional Republicans vote against Sandy relief

The House passed \$9.7 billion in Superstorm Sandy relief in a vote of 354 to 67. Among the 67 Republicans voting against the relief funding were all of Wisconsin's Republican members of the House except Ribble.

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

Upcoming Events

Jan. 15, 7pm - Gov. Walker's State of the State Address: <http://bit.ly/stateofthestateaddress>

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

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