

## Local

### **Walworth County deputies file lawsuit over county benefits**

The Walworth County Sheriff's deputies association filed suit in October, saying Act 10 violated its members' rights. The issue was taken up in private by the Walworth County Board Executive Committee on Monday.

Read more: <http://gazettextra.com/news/2013/jan/15/walworth-county-deputies-file-lawsuit-over-county/>

### **Aldermen to discuss putting Racine tax caps to voters**

Ald. Shields says that instead of taking the state-imposed tax caps in stride, the city could put a referendum on the April 2 ballot asking voters if they want to permit the city to raise the property tax levy by up to 5%.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/7ff1f8e6-5f11-11e2-8bce-001a4bcf887a.html>

### **Fitzgerald: Quick action unlikely on Milwaukee County Board pay referendum**

Sen. Fitzgerald said an attempt to hold a referendum to slash the pay of Milwaukee County supervisors is unlikely to be fast-tracked. Sen. Darling and Rep. Sanfelippo want the referendum on the April 2nd ballot.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/186990321.html>

### **Appointed, not elected: Gateway board can levy taxes, hold referendums**

Gateway Technical College's appointed Board of Trustees has the authority to hold referendums, like the one they're likely to approve Monday that will ask taxpayers for \$49M for facility construction and renovation.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/12b979c4-5d37-11e2-b3bc-0019bb2963f4.html>

### **Retire now, teachers union advises**

The Janesville School Board met Tuesday and voted 6-2 to reject the teachers union's offer to negotiate. In a letter to the union, the board said they will hear employees' input on the handbook that replaces contracts.

Read more: <http://gazettextra.com/news/2013/jan/10/retire-now-teachers-union-advises/>

### **Former Walker aide Darlene Wink gets probation, avoids imprisonment**

Former Walker aide Darlene Wink- one of six people who faced criminal charges due to a long-running secret investigation- was sentenced Thursday to a year of probation for doing campaign work on county time.

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

### **Legislature considers allowing districts tax cap exemptions for safety expenditures**

The last budget eliminated a 2009 measure that gave school districts the opportunity to raise \$86 million for school safety improvements. Sen. John Lehman said he plans to advocate restoring it in the 2013 budget.

Read more: <http://lacrossetribune.com/aaa8c304-5d44-11e2-ba4c-0019bb2963f4.html>

## State

### **In State of State address, Walker pushes for tax cuts, mining and more choice schools**

Walker pushed for income tax cuts, mining and regulatory reform during his State of the State address, and reiterated his pledge to create 250K jobs by 2015. The speech comes as he prepares to run for re-election.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/11324656-5f78-11e2-b548-001a4bcf887a.html>

### **UW System overpaid health premiums, pensions**

A Legislative Audit Bureau report found that the UW system overpaid health premiums by \$15.4M May 2011-September 2012. The report also found the system overpaid \$17.5M in retirement contributions in 2011.

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

### **Assembly leaders reach deal on all-nighters; gallery rules OK'd over Dem objections**

Assembly Republicans and Democrats reached a deal aimed at avoiding late-night sessions, but they could not agree on new rules for Assembly gallery visitors, which were passed over objections from Democrats.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/807c5d10-5b42-11e2-ad6f-001a4bcf887a.html>

### **Names of candidates for spring election certified**

The GAB certified incumbent Roggensack, Fallon and Megna, running for Supreme Court, will have a primary Feb. 19 while incumbent Evers and Pridemore will face off for DPI secretary in the April 2 general.

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

### **Final report delayed on cost of dropping same day registration**

The Wisconsin GAB is waiting for estimates from a few state agencies before they can complete a report which will detail what it would cost the state to stop offering voter registration at the polls on Election Day.

Read more: <http://www.wrn.com/2013/01/final-report-delayed-on-cost-of-dropping-same-day-registration/>

### **Gov. Scott Walker's rules overhaul would make it harder to obtain unemployment benefits**

With hopes of boosting the economy, Walker is suggesting vast changes to state regulations including one change that requires unemployed workers to submit four job applications a week instead of the current two.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/187156121.html>

### **Lawmaker lands on Capitol Police protester watch list**

State Rep. Chris Taylor, D-Madison, who has participated in the daily Solidarity Sing Along at the State Capitol, has been placed on a list of other singers maintained by Capitol Police to keep tabs on participants.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/4d020ec6-5e62-11e2-8068-0019bb2963f4.html>

### **Retirement trust funds up, but many expected to still see pension cuts**

The trust funds that make up the Wisconsin Retirement System made December gains, but state projections show that about 50% of retirees in the program could see their pension checks cut by up to 13% this spring.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/29303db4-5e77-11e2-8b35-0019bb2963f4.html>

## Federal

### **Fiscal cliff vote nets Duffy protest**

Returning for a fifth time in the past month and a half, members of the Superior branch of The Action, a national movement, stood in the cold for an hour to protest Rep. Sean Duffy's "no" vote on the fiscal cliff bill.

Read more: <http://www.superiortelegram.com/event/article/id/73681/>

### **Paul Ryan speaks in Racine County for first time since campaign**

For the first time since his vice presidential loss, U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan made an appearance in his home state and district Sunday, speaking about the national health care law at a Racine TEA Party event in Caledonia.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/03073750-5dc8-11e2-81d3-0019bb2963f4.html>

### **Wisconsin hospital group fights health reform law**

The Wisconsin Hospital Association is one of 21 associations fighting an ACA provision that gives hospitals in other states a \$256M increase while Wisconsin hospitals will lose \$9.4M in addition to a \$2.6B Medicare cut.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/d56be3a8-5f76-11e2-a820-001a4bcf887a.html>

### **Rep. Paul Ryan maneuvers for position ahead of immigration-reform fight**

U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) is jockeying for a position on immigration reform. He has been discussing comprehensive immigration reform with U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.).

Read more: <http://thehill.com/homenews/house/277651>

### **Moore, Kind praise president's gun control initiatives**

Democratic U.S. Reps. Gwen Moore and Ron Kind offered praise for a series of sweeping gun control measures announced by the Obama administration. Moore said the actions "are a good first step."

Read more: <http://dc.wispolitics.com/2013/01/moore-kind-praise-presidents-gun.html>

### **Petri to chair highways subcommittee**

House Transportation Committee Chairman Shuster named Rep. Petri chairman of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, calling him "an expert on the issues" due to his service on the Transportation Committee.

Read more: <http://dc.wispolitics.com/2013/01/petri-to-chair-highways-subcommittee.html>

### **Pocan to serve on Budget Committee; named assistant whip**

U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan today announced his appointment to the House Budget Committee. The Madison Dem joins committee chairman Paul Ryan, R-Janesville, and U.S. Reps. Gwen Moore and Reid Ribble on the panel.

Read more: <http://dc.wispolitics.com/2013/01/pocan-to-serve-on-budget-committee.html>

## 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/>