

Local

Unemployment up in nearly all Wis. cities, counties

The DWD reported that almost all of the state's largest cities saw unemployment increase between November and December, with the highest at 11.9%. Most of the state's 72 counties had an increase as well.

Read more: <http://dailyreporter.com/2013/01/23/unemployment-up-in-nearly-all-wis-cities-counties/>

MLK tribute draws hundreds, and some criticism for Gov. Walker

Hundreds gathered Monday to celebrate MLK Day at the annual state Capitol tribute. Walker and Madison Mayor Soglin also attended the state's 33rd annual ceremony, which included speeches and performances.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/b27a54a0-6409-11e2-89be-0019bb2963f4.html>

Milwaukee County Board chair rips proposal to cut salaries, funding

Milwaukee County Board Chairwoman Dimitrijevic said that the proposal to cut supervisors' pay and their budget would weaken the board and boost the co. executive's power, which will upset checks and balances.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/187794001.html>

Ex-aide of Gov. Scott Walker sentenced to 2 years

Timothy D. Russell, a former top aide to Gov. Scott Walker, was sentenced Tuesday to two years in prison after he was convicted of stealing more than \$20,000 from a nonprofit group Walker appointed him to lead.

Read more: <http://www.sheboyganpress.com/viewart/20130123/SHE0101/301230239>

Milwaukee prosecutors investigating two suspected cases of voter fraud

Milwaukee County prosecutors are investigating at least two instances of suspected voter fraud from Nov. 6. The DA's office said they are looking at several referrals from area clerks, but only two required subpoenas.

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

Two GOP Senate leaders back vote before any school voucher expansion

Senate Pres. Mike Ellis (R-Neenah) proposed a referendum requirement for any school voucher expansion. Sen. Luther Olsen (R-Ripon), chairman of the Senate Education Committee, said he supports the proposal.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/32d7d724-60c9-11e2-b90c-0019bb2963f4.html>

Fundraising effort keeps MLK Day celebration going

Students' fundraising efforts kept Racine's annual MLK Day celebration in place this year. The celebration included community service, a rally at Dr. King's statue, social justice workshops and a community dinner.

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

State

GOP begins mining bill push with hearing

The Senate and Assembly mining committees launched the drive toward passage of the bill with a public hearing Wednesday. Supporters and opponents spent all day sparring about jobs and environmental ruin.

Read more: <http://dailyreporter.com/2013/01/23/gop-begins-mining-bill-push-with-hearing/>

Walker: Supporting local, small businesses key to state's economic recovery

Walker emphasized in a speech that state and small business leaders must work together to continue moving Wisconsin forward in a way that benefits the state's economy and ultimately the people in central Wisconsin.

Read more: http://www.marshfieldnews Herald.com/article/20130118/CWS03/301180335?nclick_check=1

Walker to deliver budget address Feb. 20

Republican Gov. Scott Walker will deliver his budget address February 20th, his office announced Wednesday afternoon. The speech will be at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Chamber at the State Capitol in Madison.

Read more: <http://budget.wispolitics.com/2013/01/walker-to-deliver-budget-address-feb-20.html>

Walker says \$340M income tax cut reasonable

Walker promised to make a middle class income tax cut a centerpiece of his two-year budget being released next month. He and Vos think cutting income tax by \$340M over two years is a reasonable starting point.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/Walkersays340Mincometaxcutreasonable>

Hearing to examine benefit overpayments, 'double dipping' at UW System

Tuesday's public hearing at the State Capitol about the mismanagement of \$33 million in University of Wisconsin System health and pension funds will also review so-called "double dipping" by public employees.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/17e3cd42-63fd-11e2-8def-001a4bcf887a.html>

Supreme Court to meet with state lawmakers

Supreme Court justices will meet with lawmakers at a joint meeting of legislative judiciary committees. The Senate and Assembly committees plan to discuss issues related to the court system and the Legislature.

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

Legislators ask for public input on review of state's regulations

Republican state Rep. Dan LeMahieu of Cascade announced Monday that the public is being asked for their thoughts on which state rules and regulations outlined in Walker's plan need to be tossed aside or refined.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/fa9c65e2-6419-11e2-9f6e-001a4bcf887a.html>

Federal appeals court rules on budget repair bill, downs challenge by unions

On Jan. 18, seven public sector unions lost a challenge to the controversial "budget repair bill" that curtailed public employee collective bargaining rights. A federal appeals court upheld the law "in its entirety."

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

Federal

Baldwin supports filibuster reform

Sen. Baldwin will co-sponsor a bill to change the Senate filibuster process: "...the threat of filibuster has been used far too often and as a result political obstructionism in the Senate is now worse than it has ever been."

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

'Right-to-work' legislation proposed in Penn. legislature

Six Republican representatives are bringing right-to-work bills to the Pennsylvania State House as part of the Open Workforce Initiative. One of the legislators has introduced right-to-work bills each session for 14 years.

Read more: <http://tv.msnbc.com/2013/01/22/right-to-work-legislation-proposed-in-penn-legislature/>

Union membership in decline; public sector hit hard

BLS figures released Wednesday show union membership declined from 11.8% to 11.3% of the workforce. Wisconsin's union membership declined about 14%, slipping below the national average for membership.

Read more: <http://lacrossetribune.com/d5bcce6c-65e8-11e2-aa32-0019bb2963f4.html>

House passes Ribble's bill on budget

A bipartisan effort led by U.S. Rep. Reid Ribble to force the Senate to adopt a budget blueprint won approval Wednesday as part of legislation to suspend the limit on how much the federal government can borrow.

Read more: <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20130124/GPG0101/301240303>

Flu season fuels debate over paid sick time laws

An unusually early and vigorous flu season is drawing attention to a cause that has scored victories but also hit roadblocks in recent years: mandatory paid sick leave for more than 40 million workers who don't have it.

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

Paul Ryan working on a budget that balances in 10 years

House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan is working on a budget that a spokesman says will balance in 10 years. Since 2009, the government has been funded by temporary measures, known as "continuing resolutions."

Read more: <http://bit.ly/PaulRyanworkingonabudgetthatbalancesin10years>

The GOP's 48-hour debt ceiling makeover

On Wednesday, House Republicans- many of whom had threatened to plunge the nation into default- will vote on suspending the debt ceiling until May with as little fanfare as Dems did when Pelosi was speaker.

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/the-gops-48-hour-debt-ceiling-makeover-86591.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/>