

Local

Jefferson County voter turnout breaks records in 2012

Jefferson County Clerk Barb Frank said a record number of county voters cast ballots Nov. 6- 44,589 or 78% of registered voters. The June recall against Walker and Sen. Scott Fitzgerald drew 77% of registered voters.

Read more: <http://dailyunion.com/main.asp?SectionID=36&SubSectionID=110&ArticleID=13396>

Commission promotes regional transit taxes plan

A group commissioned by Walker will recommend new fees and laws to generate \$6.8B for roads and transit systems during the next decade. Fox Valley leaders are taking special note of the regional transit changes.

Read more: <http://www.postcrescent.com/article/20130102/APC0101/301020205>

No. 1 story of 2012: Congressman Ryan runs for VP

Rep. Paul Ryan's VP bid raised the longtime local legislator to a new level of national prominence, becoming the No. 1 story of 2012, topping the list of ten stories voted on by Racine Journal Times newsroom staff.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/5fc7c0d8-538a-11e2-bda5-0019bb2963f4.html>

Gov. Walker seeks support for mining at Green Bay business

GOP lawmakers are rekindling efforts to allow a new mining operation in northern Wisconsin that they say will bring hundreds of new jobs, but failed to win support last year due to environmental concerns.

Read more: <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20130102/GPG0101/301020310>

Nickels has challenger for mayor

Tony Bugarino filed his nomination papers Wednesday with the required 200-plus signatures and will be on the April 2 spring general election ballot seeking to unseat Justin Nickels as mayor of the city of Manitowoc.

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

Eleven bid to become La Crosse's next mayor

Eleven candidates will appear on the primary ballot for La Crosse mayor. All but four of the 15 candidates who declared for the city's top elected position filed nomination papers with signatures by the deadline.

Read more: <http://lacrossetribune.com/c63a521e-5564-11e2-9298-0019bb2963f4.html>

Dane County exec Joe Parisi to face no challengers in spring election

In 2011, Joe Parisi fought off five other candidates to become Dane County executive, filling a two-year vacancy. Parisi will face no challengers for a four-year term of office on the 2013 spring election ballot.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/f458cefe-5538-11e2-a1c5-0019bb2963f4.html>

State

Walker has yet to issue pardons or set up pardon board

Walker hasn't issued any pardons or filled the state's Pardon Advisory Board. No explanation has been given as to why Walker isn't exercising one of his office's most expansive powers to restore felons' former rights.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/185362731.html>

Wisconsin AG wants to fight child trafficking

Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen wants to make ending child trafficking a priority in the next year. Although his office has no statistics on the matter in Wisconsin, he is asking for more than \$900K in the next budget.

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

Wisconsin lawmakers try again on drunken driving laws

Among other accountability measures, Rep. Ott of Mequon and Sen. Darling of River Hills say they plan to introduce a bill that would criminalize first-time offenses for drivers with high blood alcohol percentages.

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

Wind farm study results a mixed bag

In a series of tests conducted by the Public Service Commission, acoustical experts from various sides of the wind power debate sampled homes in Glenmore, near the Shirley Wind project, for low-frequency noise.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/business/185495001.html>

New mining bill expected to be presented this month

Republican leaders including Walker are calling legislation that would ease mining regulations and potentially create thousands of jobs in Wisconsin a top priority and plan to introduce the mining bill later this month.

Read more: http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20130103/WDH03/301030123?nclick_check=1

Incoming Speaker Vos seeks lower tax rates

Republicans who control the Legislature want to push a plan to lower income tax rates for middle-income taxpayers in Wisconsin during the 2013 legislative session, incoming Assembly Speaker Robin Vos said.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/185483181.html>

Glenn Grothman's anti-Kwanzaa comments create ruckus

Grothman officially denounced Kwanzaa, calling the African-American cultural observance fake, fraudulent and one that "almost no black people today care about... just white left-wingers who... divide America."

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/7bcd5e04-552a-11e2-844e-0019bb2963f4.html>

Wisconsin candidates file nomination papers

Two Supreme Court hopefuls, the superintendent and his opponent have filed nomination papers for this spring's elections. Candidates had until the end of Wednesday to turn in at least 2K signatures to the GAB.

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

Federal

Wisconsin delegation weighs in on fiscal-cliff vote

U.S. Rep. Ryan said he voted for the bill to protect as many Americans as possible from a tax increase, but he cautioned that the country's debt will not be controlled until Congress addresses government spending.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/185391401.html>

Sen. Ron Johnson backs 'fiscal cliff' deal

Sen. Ron Johnson compromised on his anti-tax position to support a deal that raises taxes on the nation's wealthiest citizens to avoid an automatic tax increase on the rest of them. The bill passed 89-8 in the Senate.

Read more: http://www.postcrescent.com/article/20130102/APC0104/301020189?nclick_check=1

Ryan, Rubio split on fiscal cliff vote

Marco Rubio and Paul Ryan, two of the GOP's top White House prospects for 2016, chose opposite sides in the fiscal cliff battle, as a deal to avoid automatic tax increases made its way through Congress this week.

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

No and yes votes on cliff bill say there's more work to be done

"Without getting this done, it would have jeopardized the economic recovery," Dem Rep. Ron Kind said. GOP Rep. Sean Duffy says many of the "no" votes- including his own- came because there weren't spending cuts.

Read more: <http://www.businessnorth.com/kuws.asp?RID=4612>

Budget crusader Ryan stays silent in fiscal showdown with Obama

Ryan, who rose to prominence on a singular issue of slashing federal spending, hardly spoke out at meetings or in public as it became clear that he was in a losing battle to champion his budget-cutting doctrine.

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

Hillary Clinton discharged from hospital

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was discharged from a New York City hospital Wednesday evening after three days of treatment for a potentially dangerous blood clot in her head, the State Department said.

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

House GOP lets Violence Against Women Act passed by Senate die without a vote

House GOP failed to vote on the Senate's 2012 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, a bill that extended domestic violence protections to 30M LGBT individuals, immigrants and Native American women.

Read more: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/02/violence-against-women-act- n_2398553.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/>