

Local

School District of Beloit opposes voucher program

Wisconsin's voucher school program could expand to nine districts across the state under Walker's budget proposal. School District of Beloit officials say they oppose expansion of private school vouchers in Beloit.

Read more: <http://www.beloitdailynews.com/2e841ce8-79ea-11e2-a499-0019bb2963f4.html>

Gateway supports plan to tie technical college funding to jobs

The majority of technical colleges' state funding is based on enrollment, operational costs and property values, but Walker's budget proposes tying funding to job placement rates. Gateway supports the measure.

Read more: <http://journaltimes.com/cadd643e-78bc-11e2-85b7-001a4bcf887a.html>

Unions angered by RUSD superintendent search process

Racine Unified's unions have been left out of the district's superintendent hiring process and leaders aren't happy about it. SEIU Local 152 president: "We're trying to work collaboratively with the district on all fronts."

Read more: <http://journaltimes.com/6c0ad544-79c6-11e2-841c-0019bb2963f4.html>

Adam Neylon carries close Assembly race in Waukesha County

Business owner Neylon won Tuesday's Republican primary for Assembly District 98, all but guaranteeing he will take the Waukesha County seat in the April 2 general election because no Democrats are running.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/191942881.html>

City Council to hold mining listening session Feb. 26

The Ashland City Council is holding a listening session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26 to give Ashland residents an opportunity to offer input about the proposed adoption of mine development guidelines.

Read more: <http://www.ashlandwi.com/c9b25242-7b17-11e2-8d20-001a4bcf887a.html>

No changes in state aid mean tight finances again for Madison, Dane County

Madison and Dane County will again face tight budgets and tough choices under Gov. Scott Walker's budget that proposes no changes in state aid and keeping tight property tax limits on municipalities and counties.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/bd89dfe2-7bb9-11e2-a71d-0019bb2963f4.html>

Medicaid funding protesters greet Walker in Eau Claire

As Gov. Walker met with Republicans at a reception prior to the Eau Claire County GOP's Lincoln Day Dinner, protesters lined up opposed to his decision not to expand Medicare through the federal Affordable Care Act.

Read more: <http://www.leadertelegram.com/61f38860-78c9-11e2-8eaf-001a4bcf887a.html>

State

Joint Finance Committee set to vote Monday on GOP's mining bill

A GOP bill that rewrites state mining laws is scheduled to go before the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee for a vote on Monday, the proposal's final stop before it is forwarded for a vote by the entire state Senate.

Read more: <http://journaltimes.com/3e39120a-b55e-5b94-8624-563ca5359cfa.html>

Governor proposes adding new state jobs; too little, too late, Dems say

Walker wants to add 710 new state jobs two years after he stripped public workers of union rights, charged them more for health and pension benefits and watched the workforce shrink as record numbers retired.

Read more: <http://journaltimes.com/1c1fec79-6f6d-55bf-98ba-a60728f6efe9.html>

Scott Walker to seek \$25 million for venture capital investment

Walker is setting aside \$25M in his budget to boost venture capital investment, but isn't putting forward a plan for how the program will work. The amount and lack of details differ from his \$400M proposal in 2011.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/191673601.html>

GOP bills would let firms cut worker hours with no union talks

Republicans are hurrying bills through the Legislature that they say could prevent layoffs by allowing companies to cut back workers' hours, but Dems on Tuesday called them a renewed GOP attack on unions.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/f120d21a-7af2-11e2-a95e-0019bb2963f4.html>

Ending Election Day voter registration would cost up to \$14.5 million, expert says

Ending Wisconsin's practice of allowing people to register to vote on Election Day would cost up to \$14.5 million when the expenses of several state agencies are taken into account, a GAB spokesman said Monday.

Read more: <http://journaltimes.com/8f6b3722-2f1a-537c-914c-4ae3d5ea8e28.html>

GOP lawmakers lift ban on fundraising during budget period

A policy that reverses a 2009 ban on such fundraising now allows Assembly lawmakers, their campaign committees and support committees to raise funds almost anywhere in the state during budget negotiations.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/20d2fc18-7706-11e2-a931-0019bb2963f4.html>

Supreme Court Justice David Prosser's case appears stuck in neutral

The state Judicial Commission told its special prosecutor not to pursue new avenues to move its ethics case against state Supreme Court Justice David Prosser forward. Ethics charges were filed against Prosser in 2011.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/191306381.html>

Roggensack, Fallone to vie for high court seat

Supreme Court Justice Roggensack will face Marquette law professor Fallone in the April 2 general election in her re-election bid. Roggensack earned more than twice as many votes as Fallone in Tuesday's primary race.

Read more: <http://www.superiortelegram.com/event/article/id/74948/>

Federal

U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin talks health care in Stevens Point

Baldwin, Senate Special Committee on Aging member, held a roundtable discussion at the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Portage County with center leaders and local seniors to discuss health care issues.

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

Sequester would chop long-term unemployment insurance

If the automatic spending cuts take effect as expected at the beginning of March, long-term unemployed Americans receiving federal unemployment insurance will see their weekly benefit checks reduced by 9.4%.

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

John Boehner: Sequester is product of Obama's 'failed leadership'

In a Wall Street Journal editorial published Tuesday evening, House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) blamed President Obama for the nearly \$1.2T in across-the-board spending cuts set to go into effect next month.

Read more: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/20/john-boehner-sequester_n_2721608.html

Ribble, Duffy announce more committee posts

Reid Ribble will serve as vice chairman of the House Transportation Committee's Highways and Transit Subcommittee and Sean Duffy will sit on the House Budget Committee, chaired by fellow Republican Ryan.

Read more: <http://dc.wispolitics.com/2013/02/ribble-duffy-announce-more-committee.html>

Millions strike in India against government policies

Millions of workers in India are on a two-day general strike starting Feb. 20th, demanding the government implement labor laws, stop privatizing public enterprises and provide social protections for the poor.

Read more: <http://www.radiolabour.net/indiastrike-200213.htm>

Paul Ryan discusses immigration on 'This Week'

Lawmakers including Ryan predict that Pres. Obama will fail if he pushes forward his own effort to overhaul the immigration system and urge the administration to hold off while a bipartisan measure is hashed out.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/191592461.html>

Paul Ryan: 'No leadership' from Democrats

Rep. Ryan blamed the White House and Senate Dems for failing to avert automatic spending cuts scheduled for next month, saying, "There's no leadership on the other side of the aisle and therefore no agreement."

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

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/>