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1-27-12 assembly passes mining bill

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Republicans in the state Assembly have passed a sweeping bill to help a Florida-based company open an iron mine in northwestern Wisconsin. The bill calls for state regulators to approve iron mine applications within a year and eliminates challenges to permitting decisions. The measure is designed to clear the way for Gogebic Taconite's plans to open an iron mine near Lake Superior. The company has claimed their project will create hundreds of jobs. Conservationists, though, fear the mine will pollute one of the most pristine regions in the state and hurt the tourism industry. But Republican lawmakers are looking for ways to deliver on campaign promises to create jobs. After nearly four-and-a-half hours of debate, the measure passed on a 59-36 vote. It now goes to the state Senate.

1-27-12 waupun prison inmate died from drug overdose

A convicted killer died from an overdose of methadone while in his state prison cell and officials are trying to determine how he got the drug. The Dodge County Medical Examiner says David Wapp's death was accidental. The 31 year old Wapp was found dead November 8th at the Waupun prison, and the only thing officials knew at the time was that foul play was not involved. Toxicology tests uncovered the overdose. Wapp, of the Mukwonago area, was sentenced in June 2010 to life in prison for the stabbing death of his ex-girlfriend. Samantha Peterson was stabbed 37 times. It happened just four days after Wapp was released from prison for another offense.

1-27-12 mayville soldier killed

MAYVILLE, Wis. (AP) — The family of a Wisconsin soldier killed in Afghanistan is traveling to Dover Air Force base in Delaware where the body of 1st Lieutenant David Johnson is due to arrive. The 24-year-old soldier from Mayville was killed in action yesterday. Johnson was a member of the Army's 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 2nd Infantry Division.

1-27-12 ex-aides to governor walker charged

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Two ex-aides to Governor Scott Walker while he was Milwaukee County executive face charges of doing political fundraising while working on county time. Kelly Rindfleisch was charged today with four felony counts of misconduct in office. She was deputy chief of staff for Walker before he became governor in 2011. Darlene Wink faces two misdemeanor counts of political solicitation by a public

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employee. She was Walker's constituent services coordinator.

1-27-12 waupun school district maintenance and technology bond

The Waupun School board has approved a \$2.5 million dollar maintenance and technology bond. The school district will use the money to fund deferred maintenance at Rock River Intermediate and Meadows View Primary schools. Funds will also be used to upgrade the District's technology system.

1-27-12 wolf delisting

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — Ranchers in the western Great Lakes region are eager to take up arms against a longtime enemy: wolves. The gray wolf comes off the federal endangered species list tomorrow in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin, where the combined population is 4,400. The three states will allow farmers to shoot wolves caught preying on livestock.

1-27-12 wisconsin housing

The Wisconsin Realtors Association says the latest housing numbers show the Wisconsin housing market continues to rebound. Homes sales last year totaled slightly above 2010 levels as median prices fell. Wisconsin Realtors Association spokesman Joe Murray says moving forward the key will be low unemployment. Murray says new home construction is also up.

1-27-12 tobacco control report card

The Wisconsin chapter of the American Lung Association says the latest report card shows mixed results for Wisconsin. Lung Association spokesperson Dona Wininsky says the State of Tobacco Control report shows Wisconsin is a leader in some areas, but falls short in others to protect children and curb tobacco related disease. Wininsky says nearly 21 percent of Wisconsin high school students smoke, 19.5 percent of adults and nearly 15 percent of pregnant women continue to light up. Wisconsin got an A grade for smokefree air, a B grade for the cigarette tax rate but failing grades for tobacco prevention and control funding and coverage of cessation treatment and services.

1-27-12 thin ice concerns

Following three drownings over a three-day period after people broke through thin ice on Wisconsin waters, state recreational safety specialists are again strongly cautioning that ice on many state waterways is not thick enough to safely support a human – much less any type of vehicle. Conservation Warden Todd Schaller, recreation safety chief for the Department of Natural Resources, says the ice is always unpredictable, but this winter's mild weather has resulted in ice levels much thinner than normal for this time of year. A car with two occupants broke through thin ice on the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir near Mosinee on Saturday. One occupant was able to exit the vehicle and make it out of the water but another drowned. Early Sunday a man walking on thin ice on the Fox River in Oshkosh broke through. His body was recovered Monday. On Monday, a rural Warren man drowned after falling through the ice on a private pond in Monroe County. The man was riding a rough-terrain vehicle when the accident happened. Two other people fell through thin ice in December, bringing to five the number of people who have died in such incidents this winter. An ice angler broke through thin ice on High Fall Flowage in Marinette County and drowned, and a teenager broke through the ice of on a quarry near Oshkosh and drowned. Temperatures that have reached into the 50s in southern Wisconsin in the last week have continued to slow ice formation, and even helped melt ice that had already formed. Conditions vary throughout the state with some of Wisconsin larger lakes like Lake Winnebago and Lake Mendota still having open water. Many river systems also remain open. "It is important that ice fishers use caution if conditions in their area allow them to venture out," Schaller said. "If ice thickness is unknown, stay on the shore and stay dry. The ice fishing season will be here soon." Schaller says people should use this time to brush on some ice safety precautions. Review these with others who enjoy the outdoors – especially any children. Ice poses dangers on ponds, lakes and rivers.

Before you go:

Contact local sport shops or bait dealers to ask about ice conditions on the lake or river you want to fish. Learn about the water you are going to use. Know if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows that have currents known to thin the ice.

When you go:

Do not go out alone. If you do, carry a cell phone and let someone know where you are and your expected return time. Follow that timeline.

Carry a spud bar to check the ice while walking to new areas during daylight only.

Carry a couple of spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket to help pull yourself – or others – out of the ice.

Do not travel in unfamiliar territories at night.

Watch out for this:

Look for clear ice. Clear ice is generally stronger than ice with air bubbles in it or with snow on it.

Watch out for pressure ridges or ice heaves. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water and may be an obstruction you may hit with a car, truck or snowmobile.

1-27-12 homestead tax credit clinics

The Wisconsin Homestead Credit is a tax benefit for renters and homeowners with low or moderate incomes. It is designed to lessen the impact of rent and property taxes. Property taxes do not need to be paid before filing for Homestead Credit. Qualifying persons can get back some or all of their state taxes withheld during the year. Household income that is reported includes all income for tax purposes plus certain nontaxable income. Nontaxable income include gross Social Security, SSI, Railroad Retirement, pensions, IRA income and income from investments, etc. You have until April 15, 2016 to file for your 2011 homestead credit, and after April 16, 2012, you can receive credit back to 2008. The maximum amount of Homestead Credit can be as high as \$1,160. Expect to wait six (6) to ten (10) weeks for the payment from the time it is submitted. To check up on payments you can visit the department's website at www.dor.state.wi.us. Other assistance is available by calling the Madison office at 608-266-8641.

To qualify for Homestead credit you must:

- Be a legal Wisconsin resident for all of 2011
- Have a household income less than \$24,680
- Be a owner or renter of the homestead during 2011
- Not be claiming farmland preservation credit for 2011
- Not be living in a nursing home and receiving medical assistance
- No claim may be filed on behalf of a person after his or her death

Julie Hilbert the Benefit Specialist for Fond du Lac County will be conducting Free Homestead Tax Clinics during the month of February. Please see below for dates and locations. If you are unable to make it to one of the clinics please schedule an appointment by calling 920-929-3521.

What to bring: 1099's from Social Security, banks, pensions, and any other statements of income and a copy of your property tax bill or a completed rent certificate.

HOMESTEAD CLINICS

Riverview Apartments – 101 Western Avenue, Fond du Lac – February 1, 2012 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Grand Court Apartments – 630 W. Arndt St., Fond du Lac – February 2, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Westnor Apartments – 653 W. Arndt Street, Fond du Lac – February 2, 2012 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Heather Meadows – 235 Winnebago Street, North Fond du Lac – February 3, 2012 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Northgate Apartments – 350 Winnebago Street, North Fond du Lac – February 3, 2012 from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Ripon Senior Center – 301 Watson Street, Ripon – February 6, 2012, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Waupun – 301 E. Main Street, Waupun - February 7, 2012 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Campbellsport – 163 E. Main Street, Campbellsport – February 8, 2012 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Brandon – Grand Vista Apartments, 552 E. Washington, Brandon – February 9, 2012 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

1-27-12 fdl county tax bills due soon

Fond du Lac County Treasurer Julie Hundertmark reminds real estate property owners that the first installment payment of 2011 property taxes is due on or before January 31, 2012. Taxpayers are encouraged to pay their taxes by mail to avoid waiting in long lines. Please return the appropriate payment stub(s) with your payment. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if a payment receipt is requested. Apostmark will determine timely payments. Payment for parcels located in the City of Fond du Lac and the Village of North Fond du Lac should be made payable and mailed to the Fond du Lac County Treasurer Office, 160 South Macy Street, P.O. Box 1515, Fond du Lac WI 54936-1515. Payments for all other municipalities (Towns, Villages, Cities) are collected by the appropriate municipality. Please see tax bill payment stub for further payment details. All delinquent taxes are subject to interest of 1% per month (fraction of a month counts as a whole month) from February 1 until paid and in addition, will be subject to an additional penalty of ½ % per month.

1-27-12 winter parking restrictions

The City of Fond du Lac Police Department and the Department of Public Works is taking this opportunity to remind the members of the community that the **WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS** are now in effect. Parking from November 15th to March 15th is restricted between the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. **On EVEN NUMBERED DAYS**, starting at 8:00 p.m. parking is restricted to the EVEN side of the street. **On ODD NUMBERED DAYS**, starting at 8:00 p.m. parking is restricted to the ODD side of the street. Any **METERED AREA** is still restricted to 60 minutes between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. This ordinance overrides all other on-street parking restrictions where parking is allowed. Please remind family, friends and overnight guests of these restrictions as violations can be costly. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions please call the shift commander at 322-3710.

1-27-12 fdl county sheriff's department law of the month

This time of year, law enforcement officers, tow truck operators and emergency responders are busy working on the side of highways to rescue motorists and remove vehicles that have slid off icy roads or into other vehicles. Although the frigid conditions test their resolve, the greatest danger these workers face is being hit by vehicles traveling at high speeds just a few feet away. To protect law enforcement officers, tow truck operators, emergency responders, road maintenance workers, and others who work on the side of roadways, Wisconsin has a Move Over Law. The law requires drivers to shift lanes if possible or slowdown in order to create a safety zone for a law enforcement vehicle, ambulance, fire truck, tow truck or highway maintenance vehicle that is stopped or parked on the side of a road with its warning lights flashing. To create a safety zone on interstate highways and other divided roads with multiple directional lanes, you must move over to vacate the lane closest to the law enforcement or other emergency vehicle if you can safely switch lanes. If the road has a single directional lane or you can't safely move over because of traffic, you must reduce your speed until safely past the vehicle. Violating the Move Over Law can be expensive as well as dangerous. A citation costs \$263.50 with three demerit points added to your license (Wis. Stats. 346.072). When drivers disregard the Move Over Law, they are putting lives at risk. Failure of motorists to create a safety zone by moving over or slowing down is one of the major reasons that motor vehicle crashes kill more law enforcement officers on duty than any other cause. Tow truck operators, highway maintenance workers and emergency responders also are killed and injured when drivers don't move over or slow down. By obeying the Move Over Law, drivers can protect themselves, their passengers, our officers and others who work on highways from needless injuries and deaths. Have A Safe Month,

Sheriff Mck Fink

1-27-12 4k open houses and registration

The Fond du Lac School District will again be offering a half-day, 4 year-old-kindergarten (4K) experience next fall. Children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2012, are eligible to attend. Currently there are classrooms at the following District elementary schools: Chegwin, Pier, Riverside, Rosenow, and Waters. Programs will also be offered at the following community partner sites: Camelot Children's Center, Christian Parents for Kids, Children's Choice, ADVOCAP Head Start, Hope Preschool, Kids Connection, Kidz Choice Learning Center, Marian University Early Childhood Center, Mary Linsmeier, Shining Stars Learning Center, Wright Care Kiddie Kampus Daycare and Preschool, and the YMCA. Your child is eligible to attend 4K at any of these locations for no charge. This year the participating childcare center partners are holding Open Houses. This is a visit only, registration packets will not be available at the centers. The centers will be open from 5:00-6:30 p.m. and the schedule is as follows: Tuesday, January 24th –

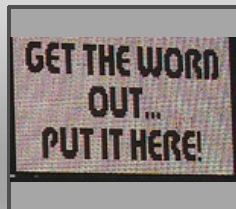
Children's Choice, Head Start/both locations, Hope Preschool, Kids Connection, Marian University Early Childhood Center, Wright Care Kiddie Kampus Daycare and Preschool, and the YMCA; and Thursday, January 27th – Camelot Children's Center, Christian Parents for Kids, Kidz Choice Learning Center, Mary Linsmeier, and Shining Stars Learning Center. Registration for the program is planned for the weeks of February 13th and 20th. At registration, parents will be given information about the program. Questions will be answered on the opportunities offered at the different sites, transportation, and out of district open enrollment. You will also have the opportunity to select a childcare or school site. Parents will need to bring proof of birth and your child's social security number to complete the registration paperwork. The daytime parent and child registrations will be held at the five elementary schools which house 4K programs. **PRE-REGISTRATION FOR THE DAYTIME PARENT AND CHILD SESSIONS IS REQUIRED.** The sessions will be held at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and will run approximately one hour. Sessions will be held on the following dates: Wednesday, February 15 - Waters School; Thursday, February 16 - Riverside School; Friday, February 17 - Pier School; Monday, February 20 - Rosenow School; and Tuesday, February 21 - Chegwin School. Parents need not attend the session located at their neighborhood school. Please call 906-6513 to pre-register for the parent and child sessions. We will fill the sessions on a first call basis. For those parents who cannot attend a daytime parent and child registration, we are also holding a parent only evening registration on Thursday, February 16 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Theisen Middle School – Auditorium, 525 East Pioneer Road. No pre-registration is necessary for this session. If you need further information, please feel free to contact Nancy Hackbarth, 4K Coordinator, by calling 906-6513 or emailing hackbarthn@fonddulac.k12.wi.us

1-27-12 bowl for kids sake

Bowl For kids' Sake, the area's largest bowling fundraiser, kicks off February 17 at Ledgeview Lanes in Fond du Lac. The public is invited to participate. This year's 80's themed event is slated to raise \$80,000 to support one to one mentoring in Fond du Lac County. The event runs through February 19 in Fond du Lac and takes place on March 3 at the Plaza Bowl in Ripon. Pledge sheets and information are available at 448 S. Military, Fond du Lac, or by calling 920-922-8200. Each adult is asked to raise at least \$75 in pledges. Youth are asked to raise at least \$50 in pledges. Bowling is free for those who reach minimum levels. Prizes, including gift certificates and two night get-away adventures at Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells are available based on the amount of money raised. Participants are asked to register in teams of 4 to 6 people. Individuals are welcome, but will be added to teams at the event. Registration deadline is February 10. Additional prizes will be awarded for best 80's themed style and for 80's trivia and song competitions. The person who raises the most money in collected pledges will receive a \$500 gift certificate to the business of their choice. The event is presented by Grande Cheese Company, Mid-States Aluminum, 96-1 TCX, and Charter. Silver Sponsors are Agnesian Health Care, CD Smith Construction, FDL Noon Kiwanis, Fox Valley Savings Bank, J.F. Ahern, Ledgeview Lanes, Society Insurance and Wilderness Resort.

1-27-12 fdl wiener dog races

As two of Fond du Lac's biggest rivalries take to the ice on January 28, 2012, local wiener dogs will be anticipating the game's first intermission to provide fans with a great race on the ice. This year's "Wiener Dog Race On Ice" will be held between the first and second periods of the Fond du Lac Cardinal hockey game against the St. Mary's Springs Ledgers at the Blue Line Family Ice Center. Presented by the marketing students at Fond du Lac High School, this year's event is providing support to the local Fondy Food Pantry by addressing the importance and need of stocking the shelves in the chill of winter. All fans who bring and donate cans of soup (or other non-perishable food items) to the game will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a variety of prizes donated by the local FDL business community. Along with various gift certificates toward purchases at area businesses, some of the prizes include 4 pairs of Green Bay Gamblers hockey tickets, a body massage, tanning package, auto care package option, car wash, and a pedi/manicure. Fans who do not bring non-perishables to donate at the game may also participate in supporting the Fondy Food Pantry by purchasing the raffle tickets. All proceeds from these sales will benefit the Fondy Food Pantry. This year's "Wiener Dog Race" will feature five local dachshund dogs, commonly referred to as wiener dogs, each sporting a colored bandana the same color as the t-shirt of their owners, running from one goal line to the other. When fans arrive at the game, they will receive a colored coupon that matches one of the dogs in the race valid for a "Buy One Get One" homestyle cheeseburger from Tuckers Restaurants. All fans holding the same color coupon as the winning wiener dog at the end of the race will receive an additional coupon from Tuckers for a FREE medium size bowl of chili. The puck drops at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday. Fans are encouraged to arrive early as high attendance is expected at the game. Ticket pricing is as follows: adults and college students - \$4, K-12 students - \$2, senior citizens (62+) and non-school aged children – FREE. Fond du Lac High School athletic passes are accepted.



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