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1-30-12 80 wisconsin soldiers still awaiting service benefits

OSHKOSH, Wis. (AP) — Dozens of Wisconsin National Guard soldiers are still waiting for thousands of dollars owed to them for their service in Iraq but delayed due to bureaucratic glitches and clerical errors. The soldiers say the Army has acknowledged it owes them money, but they don't understand why they still haven't received it. The soldiers are members of the Wisconsin National Guard 1157th Transportation Company. After spending much of 2006 and 2007 in Iraq they were due extra pay or leave. Some got their compensation, but about 80 are still waiting. U.S. Representative Tom Petri of Fond du Lac says the government has created an "embarrassment" by mishandling the compensation. He says he and other lawmakers will step in if payments continue to be delayed.

1-30-12 fire damages fdl duplex

Nobody was injured but a pet cat died in a duplex fire in Fond du lac over the weekend. Firefighters were called to the scene at 80 Guindon Boulevard Saturday afternoon to a report of flames showing from the structure. Fond du Lac fire chief Peter O'Leary tells WFDL news on the scene that when firefighters arrived they were able to quickly extinguish the fire...but there is extensive smoke and heat damage. O'Leary says the duplex is uninhabitable and the Red Cross is assisting the family. He says it appears the fire started in a garbage can in the kitchen. A nine year old boy in the house called the fire department. The fire remains under investigation.

1-30-12 animal cruelty

OSHKOSH, Wis. (AP) — An Winnebago County judge has dismissed a felony charge against a man accused of starving his dog to death, after doctors said the defendant wasn't competent to stand trial. Nineteen-year-old Bryan Hutcherson had been charged with animal mistreatment. His pit bull puppy had been found dead on an Oshkosh sidewalk last March due to extreme malnutrition. An Oshkosh Northwestern report says he was given two competency evaluations, and doctors came to conflicting conclusions. A third evaluation indicated he wasn't competent to stand trial. Prosecutor Scott Ceman says he had no choice but to recommend dismissing the case. Judge Karen Seifert agreed Friday.

1-30-12 goding sentence

A former Fond du Lac city engineer convicted of child sex assault is going to prison for a long time. At a

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sentencing hearing Friday Fond du lac judge Dale English sentenced Rick Goding to 30 years in prison followed by ten years extended supervision. Goding pleaded no contest last November to one count of first degree sexual assault of a child. The maximum sentence was 40 years in prison. Before he was sentenced Goding apologized and said he was sorry and ashamed for what he had done and that he accepted responsibility for his actions and "whatever the consequences are." A criminal complaint says Goding had sexual contact with a girl more than 50 times when she was between the ages of three and seven.

1-30-12 fdl man bound over for trial in auto theft case

A Fond du lac man accused of stealing a Mercedes Benz in Milwaukee and setting the car in fire in Fond du Lac has been bound over for trial. Twenty three year old Marshall Marfitt waived his preliminary hearing in Fond du lac Court Friday. According to a criminal complaint Marfitt said he stole the car because he needed a ride home and set the car on fire so he wouldn't get into trouble.

1-30-12 senate majority leader travel reimbursements

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The Wisconsin Senate's top Republican leader collected more travel reimbursements last year than any other legislator. Records released today show Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald collected \$18,128 in 2011, up from \$16,544 in 2010. State lawmakers from outside Dane County can collect \$88 per day in reimbursement on top of their salaries.

1-30-12 walker-integrity

WAUWATOSA, Wis. (AP) — Governor Scott Walker said he's confident his integrity will remain intact after a secret investigation that has already resulted in charges against some former staffers while he was Milwaukee County executive. Two women on that staff were charged yesterday with engaging in political fundraising while at work. Two other former Walker associates were charged on January 5th with embezzling more than \$60,000 from veterans and their families.

1-30-12 evers-school voucher program

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — State Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Tony Evers is pressing the Assembly to pass a bill that would freeze school voucher expansion. The state budget Republican Governor Scott Walker signed last summer laid out new qualifying criteria for vouchers based on a city's size, poverty levels and per-pupil spending. The new standards made districts across Milwaukee County as well as in the city of Racine eligible.

1-30-12 republican anti-abortion agenda

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin Republicans say they're focusing on jobs this year but numerous proposals that advocates say are part of an anti-abortion agenda are working their way through the Legislature. Those measures range from changes in the state's sex education curriculum to weighing in on the national debate over when life begins.

1-30-12 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.

1-30-12 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.

1-30-12 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.

1-30-12 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

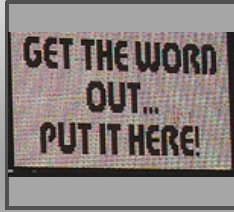
1-30-12 4k open houses and registration

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

1-30-12 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.



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