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# Daily Jefferson County Union

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## County chiefs, sheriff honor officer, community service

By Ryan Whisner  
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WATERTOWN — The Jefferson County Chiefs & Sheriff Association on Wednesday honored several individuals — both citizens and sworn law enforcement officers — who have gone above and beyond the call of duty during the past year.

Kicking off the association's annual dinner at Turner Hall in Watertown, Lake Mills Police Chief Patrick Matuszewski wel-

comed those in attendance.

He made references to the concept of the thin blue line, which simply represents law enforcement and those affiliated with law enforcement.

"The thin blue line is that we stand to protect our communities, our streets from chaos," Matuszewski said. "It is the difference between chaos and peace. That is what the thin blue line means."

The association president acknowledged that 2016 was very

challenging for law enforcement and 2017 appears to be heading in the same direction.

"I do appreciate the fact that everything the individuals in this room, in their positions, do on the thin blue line so we can continue to keep our communities safe," Matuszewski said. "We are out there battling evil out on the streets on a regular basis and may God bless each and every one of you who are standing there on the thin blue

(Continued on A5)

## Fort pair charged in meth case

By Ryan Whisner  
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JEFFERSON — Two Fort Atkinson residents have been charged with possession of methamphetamine near a school. Both Alyssa Saucedo, 24, and Charles Ressler, 29, were charged with possession of methamphetamine. (Continued on A3)

## UW-W student dies from crash injuries

WHITEWATER — A 21-year-old University of Wisconsin-Whitewater student has died of injuries suffered when his car collided head-on with a semi-truck hauling a fuel tanker last week.

Ryan Timothy Gellings of Campbellsport died on Friday, Jan. 13, as a result of injuries sustained in the crash on U.S. Highway 12 two days earlier.

A junior at UW-Whitewater, Gellings was majoring in integrated science/business.

Memorial services will be

held at 6 tonight, Jan. 19, at Shepherd of the Hill Catholic Church, W1562 County Highway B, in Eden. Visitation is from 2 p.m. until the time of services at the church. In lieu of flowers, donations toward a memorial bench in Columbus Park are appreciated.

The UW-Whitewater flag was flying at half-staff today in memory of Gellings.

Counseling services were available at University Health and Counseling Services locat-

(Continued on A3)

## Gas station held up

## Suspect sought in Helenville robbery

By Ryan Whisner  
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HELENVILLE — A lone suspect robbed an undisclosed amount of money from a Helenville gas station earlier this week.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Detective Leah Meyer said an unidentified male entered Ron's Market, the BP gas station at the intersection of U.S. Highway 18 and County Highway D, on Monday, Jan. 16.

Meyer said the suspect walked into the station around 8:33 p.m. and demanded money from the attendant. No weapon was displayed. He obtained an undisclosed amount of cash from the register and left on foot.

The detective indicated that the suspect was last seen running north on Highway D.

The suspect was described as a white male between the ages of 20 and 25 years old, approx-

imately 5 feet, 7 inches tall with a slender build. She said he was wearing bluejeans, a camouflage hooded sweatshirt, black Vans brand shoes, a white/black neoprene skull mask and Carhartt knit hat.

The incident was the second robbery in Helenville in two months.

On Monday, Dec. 19, the Helenville branch of American National Bank at W3308 U.S. Highway 18 was robbed around 12:40 p.m.

In that incident, the suspect reportedly displayed what appeared to be a real firearm and then jumped the counter and took cash from two teller stations.

In addition, the suspect bound both of the bank employees' wrists and stole one of their vehicles.

Anyone with information on either one of these cases is urged to contact the Jefferson (Continued on A7)



IN A FOG — Jefferson County awoke in a fog this morning, but that had nothing to do with not getting enough sleep. Fog was forecast for throughout the day, with a 40-

percent chance of light rain in late afternoon and tonight. Friday will be cloudy with light morning rain likely, while Saturday also will be cloudy with a 40-percent chance of light rain

and highs in the upper 40s. Pictured here is the fog enveloping an oak tree off of Interstate 94 near Ixonia. — Daily Union photo by Pam Chickering Wilson.

## Vital records now can be issued statewide

JEFFERSON — Thanks to a new law that took effect Jan. 3, statewide vital records now are able to be issued at local registers of deeds offices.

"The vital records would be your marriage, death, birth and, this year, divorce certificates, as well," Jefferson County Register of Deeds Staci Hoffman said. "In the past, only the state was able to issue divorce certificates. This is something new that we'll be able to issue statewide."

However, it will take time before older records are available. Not all records have been in-

dexed electronically yet by the Wisconsin Vital Records Office, which manages and stores copies of birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates and declarations and terminations of domestic partnership in the state.

"We'll be able to issue any birth certificate statewide back to the beginning of (the records)," Hoffman said. "The state is working on back-indexing all the births first. So they want to get all those done before they go into the other vital records."

Marriage certificates from

June 21, 2015, and on are available. Death certificates from September 2013 and thereafter also can be issued.

Confidential records such as adoption records are not available.

"It's a great thing. This is going to save so much time," Hoffman said of the statewide vital records access. "Often, we have people who no longer live in the area they were born in and need to get a copy of their vital record or their birth certificate for their driver's license or to get married. Now, they can go into their local register of deeds of-

file and get it right there."

The cost for any vital record is \$20 for the first copy and \$3 for each additional copy when purchased at the same time.

It can take 15 to 20 minutes to get a copy of a vital record, Hoffman said. Still, she said, she believes it is well worth the wait to not have to drive to another county.

"You can order vital records online," Hoffman said. "That's through a different system, though, and it does cost extra because the credit card company does the background check that we normally do.



"When somebody comes in, they have to show us their ID, fill out a form and prove they know all the stuff that's on this record," she added. "When you do it online, they don't have that, so they do a background check."

(Continued on A3)

## Lake Mills' seniors get out, about

By Matt Gardner  
Special to the Union

LAKE MILLS — For nearly a decade, Carol Burrows has been trying to find a way to provide seniors and other Lake Mills residents to interact with each other at a community center.

Although the longtime Lake Mills resident hasn't been completely successful in all of her efforts, Burrows has checked off part of her goals list.

Two months ago, with the help of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lake Mills, Burrows opened Club 55, a seniors club designed to get people age 55 and above out of the house.

So far, the results have been nothing but positive.

"It's a health benefit. It's mentally, physically and socially stimulating for seniors," Burrows said. "We're getting more people as they find out about it."

Burrows began her quest for a senior/community center in 2009, when she hosted gather-

(Continued on A8)

## Economic diversity affects healthcare across county

(Editor's Note: This article is the second in a periodic series of stories, written by people with different perspectives, focusing on diversity in the Fort Atkinson community. Each writer has been asked to address three issues: (1) What diversity issues have you noticed and how have they impacted you in your life/families/job, etc.; (2) What does equity mean to you; and (3) Should we, and how can we, change? This spring, a Diversity Forum will be held for people to discuss their differences and similarities. Feel free to contact Jude Hartwick, coordinator of series, with comments at JHartwick@fortatkinsonwi.net or at (920) 568-0626.)

By Kristin Wallace  
Rock River Free Clinic

I have been a member of the Fort Atkinson community for over 10 years and have been privileged to work for both the United Way of Jefferson and North Walworth Counties and the Rock River Free Clinic. My role in leading both of these organizations has allowed me a perspective that I am not sure I would have recognized had I not been involved in these safety-net

agencies.

Jefferson County is fortunate to have an array of vital helping services and for that, I am very proud. However, it does highlight the fact that economic diversity is very present in our communities and we need to challenge ourselves to address the causes and work toward solutions. I would like to offer a perspective as it relates to economic diversity and the delivery of healthcare services.

We know from Wisconsin state surveys that in Jef-



erson County alone, at least 5,000 of our community members remain uninsured. We can make some assumptions about this population.

Since the state Medicaid program, BadgerCare, expanded several years ago and now provides insurance for those who make less than \$1,000 a month (for a single person), many among us who make the lowest wages are now insured through BadgerCare. This is a significant improvement and the health services

(Continued on A8)



February 4, 2017 • Jefferson High School

All-Day event to benefit the School District of Jefferson and Tomorrow's Hope

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# Denver to allow pot in public

DENVER (AP) — Denver is starting work Wednesday on becoming the first city in the nation to allow marijuana clubs and public pot use in places such as coffee shops, yoga studios and art galleries.

"Socially aware" approved the "voters use" narrowly last November. But the ballot proposal didn't spell out many rules for how the marijuana could be consumed, beyond saying that the drug can't be smoked inside and that patrons must be over 21.

A workgroup made up of Denver business owners, city pot regulators and marijuana opponents starts work on suggesting regulations in the afternoon.

The state Liquor Control Board already has decreed that no businesses with a liquor license can allow marijuana use. That leaves it to restaurants that don't serve alcohol and other event spaces.

There's no deadline for Denver to finalize rules. Supporters hope to see the city start accepting applications by this summer.

Emmett Reistroffer, a cannabis-industry consultant who ran last year's campaign to allow public marijuana use, said the eventual regulations will require neighborhood approval for any pot clubs or coffee shops.

Reistroffer organized a recent public meeting about the measure and invited interested businesses, saying a few dozen showed up to find out more.

"There are plenty of places in Denver where you can find neighbors who want this kind of establishment," Reistroffer said.

The organizer of the opposition campaign also is attending Wednesday's meeting. Rachel O'Brien said she's concerned that businesses won't be able to safeguard against intoxicated patrons driving home.

The measure does not allow participating businesses to sell pot, so they won't have any control over what people are consuming. Patrons would have to bring their own marijuana, or whoever it's edibles they use inside or areas they smoke in outdoor areas.

"If you are neither serving nor counting the potency of the product, nor counting how much they consume, how are you protecting the public when they leave your property?" O'Brien asked.

A bill to allow pot clubs statewide is pending at the state Legislature.

The pot-club bill has bipartisan support but uncertain prospects, especially as Colorado and other legal pot states avoid word on whether Donald Trump's administration will tolerate pot businesses in states flouting federal drug law.

(Editor's note: The author, Kristen Wyatt of the Associated Press, can be reached at <http://www.twitter.com/APKristenwyatt>.)

**CLUB 55** — Club 55 meets Tuesdays and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Lake Mills. Designed for persons age 55 and up, the club provides socializing, crafts, games and other activities designed to get people out and about. Shown above left, Karen Crosby, at far right, demonstrates how to make small paper gift boxes in December. Above right, Marilyn Denser, left, and Pat Forest work on making German Stars, a Christmas decoration, at Club 55 in December. At right, residents from Trinity Pines and Brook Gardens joined attendees at Club 55 in December for a morning of socializing, refreshments and bingo. A related story appears on A1. — Lake Mills Leader photos.



# Lake Mills' Club 55 helping get seniors out and about

(Continued from A12)  
ings at the Rock Lake Activity Center. Her first one attracted 27 people.

She then mostly held small get-togethers at the RIACC's Fort Memorial Hospital Room. But with marginal heat there, she and other attendees had to keep their coats on during winter months.

So Burrows' goals of a community center were put on the backburner for a while. Then last year, she went in front of the Lake Mills City Council with her ideas for a more regular locale.

The council agreed, and suggested use of the community room in the Lake Mills Municipal Building. At first, that seemed like a great idea, because the community center was handicap accessible and designed for this purpose.

However, Burrows and the people who attended the gatherings had to set up and take down whatever tables and chairs they used in the community room. Physically asking that wasn't going to work.

"I continued looking until the Congregational Church called and asked if we'd be interested in using their lower level. The whole area wasn't being used at the time," Burrows said. "The people with UCC have been very generous to us so far."

Currently, Club 55 meets Tuesdays and Thursdays

from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in First Congregational UCC's basement, which is accessible by elevator or stairs.

On a recent Thursday, attendees were playing cards and working on puzzles before Karen Crosby — a former fellow teacher in the School District of Fort Atkinson prior to their respective retirements — arrived at midday to help them craft snowflakes. The ex-art educator is a member of the Lake Mills Arts Alliance.

"The Arts Alliance has been a great help," Burrows said. "Carolyn Liedtke comes in and does watercolors. She says she's not phenom, but she's sharing knowledge. She's been phenomenal."

Club 55 has seen at least a dozen or more people come and go throughout the days it meets, but Burrows is hoping more people will start attending as the word gets out. Right now, Club 55 runs on donations from local organizations such as the Lake Mills Area Community Foundation and from time given by volunteers.

Club 55 has had a day where residents of Trinity Pines and Brook Gardens have come over and participated in activities. Tanya Smith with Rock-n-hands Massage Therapy came to the Jan. 17 meeting to give five-minute massages.

Burrows said she would like to get residents of Rock Lake Manor over to Club 55 in the future. And since

Club 55 is right next door to Lake Mills Middle School, she's hoping its seniors can interact with middle-schoolers in some way later this school year.

Thus far, Club 55 is serving its biggest purpose in Burrows' mind — getting seniors out of the house.

"Once my kids were out of school, I was surprised by how much I didn't get out into the community," said Lake Mills resident Terry Johnson, a participant. "You take it for granted, but you always need to get out there."

Meanwhile, Burrows is working with city staff and other community leaders to find a more permanent solution for a community/senior center.

Last spring, the Lake Mills City Council formed the Multi-Use Facility Committee with the intended purpose of studying the feasibility of a community center in the city. Burrows is a member of the nine-person committee.

"People and looking moving to Lake Mills look at the schools and look at the local businesses," Burrows said. "But they also go into the library. Librarians have told me people come in and ask, 'Do you have a community center?'"

"We need to start looking into it. This won't happen overnight because we're just getting started," she added.

# Economic diversity affects healthcare across county

(Continued from A1)  
available to these folks are nearly identical to any private insurance plan.

Therefore, we can assume that the uninsured in our area are not at the lowest earning levels as most of these people have been able to qualify for BadgerCare.

For those who make over \$1,000 a month and are not eligible for work-based insurance through their workplace, the burden to purchase insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace is on their shoulders.

There can be subsidies to purchase these plans, but in many cases, the plan deductibles are so high, doctor visits and other treatment would be an out-of-pocket expense for these patients.

Some have elected to pay the fine for being uninsured instead of purchasing these hard to access health insurance plans.

This adds yet another burden to a population that is already struggling to cover their living expenses. According to a worksheet provided by the Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, a single person making as much as \$30,000 a year after paying normal living expenses has nothing to spend on health insurance.

At the Rock River Free Clinic, we see patients who do not have health insurance. Each patient has different circumstances and the stories they tell are real and touching. Some of our patients are very surprised to find themselves in their current situation, some are between jobs, some work but do not have insurance through employment.

The common denominator is they live in Jefferson County, Whiteswater or Cambridge; find themselves without health insurance and make an income of less than 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

We spend time with each new patient to determine if we are the best setting for their ongoing care or if the patient might be a candidate for insurance, because we know it is much more advantageous for patients to have insurance.

Since the BadgerCare expansion several years ago, a number of our patients have migrated to this state provided insurance. We have not had the same success with the Health Insurance Marketplace.

We are able to provide excellent primary care for our patients but for some, their needs extend beyond what a primary care practice can offer. There is a free specialty clinic in Madison, but the wait times are often several months to see a specialist and traveling to Madison for care is sometimes not an option for patients.

This information clearly demonstrates that economic diversity

can have a great impact on the delivery of healthcare services. This is an uncomfortable realization and one that I believe needs to be addressed both regionally and nationally.

Locally, we are very fortunate to have partners in this community who have tried to help close this gap. Fort HealthCare and Jefferson County have provided the sustainable funding needed for the Rock River Free Clinic to operate as a full-time clinic (we are one of the only free clinics in the state with a full-time physician and nurse). United Way of Jefferson and North Walworth Counties and Tomorrow's Hope, along with generous individuals, have allowed us to provide life-saving medications to individuals suffering from chronic diseases and for other services we provide.

I am not sure how much more financial burden our community can bear to help these unin-

sured individuals. I believe the solution lies more at the state and national level. Our free clinic state and national associations (which are both relatively new to the scene) are playing a significant role in educating our legislators on these issues.

These conversations hopefully will lead to an overhaul of our system so that all those among us have the access to necessary health services.

In the meantime, please help support our local partners — Fort HealthCare, Jefferson County, United Way and Tomorrow's Hope — as they are critical to our existence!

# Maps of I-39/90/94 proposal available online

By Jennifer Fetterly  
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Maps just released by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation detail how proposed plans to relieve traffic congestion on Interstate 39/90/94 could affect property owners, businesses and communities.

Interested persons received their first peek at the detailed maps last week on [www.i399094.dot.wi.gov](http://www.i399094.dot.wi.gov), showing interchanges and corridor width being considered for the highway routes.

The DOT is studying how to alleviate traffic congestion and plan for future needs for the 34-mile stretch of I-39/90/94 between U.S. 12/18 Madison beltline interchange and I-39/Highway 78 in Portage.

Five corridor alternatives are being considered, with the final DOT recommendation expected this summer. Officials also are studying capacity expansion. Officials also are studying this expansion. Officials also are studying this expansion. Officials also are studying this expansion.

ing I-39/90/94 corridors.  
DOT officials say construction wouldn't begin until 2025 or later, with the exception of the Wisconsin River area, which would be completed before then.

One of the east reliever options being considered includes a new freeway connection made at I-94, between County Highway N and State Highway 73, that would traverse east of Sun Prairie and north of DeForest and connect back to the Interstate at County Highway V and State Highway 60.

The detailed maps released by the DOT show interchange plans for east reliever routes: two north of DeForest and north and east of Sun Prairie at State Highways 151 and 19.

It also outlines a 2,000-foot corridor width that the DOT is looking at to set down the 370-foot-wide physical footprint highway options. Project manager Larry Barta said the DOT is examining the impact of each corridor alternative and will

make a comparison between them. Economic, social, cultural, environmental and physical impacts will be evaluated.

The goal of the release of the more detailed maps, Barta said, is to get public feedback on any features within the corridor that would be impacted. Federal laws also require environmental impact studies on the highway corridor proposals.

He said that in the next few weeks, the DOT will release an aerial overview of the corridor options on a Google earth map, so people can see what houses, streets and other structures could be affected by the plans.

DOT officials will present I-39/90/94 corridor plans at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at the Village of Poynette Committee of the Whole meeting and at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at Lodi City Hall, 130 S. Main St., sponsored by the Lodi and Lake Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce.

For more information and maps visit, [www.i399094.dot.wi.gov](http://www.i399094.dot.wi.gov).

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