

The Journal Times®

Race and assessments

A shocking housing revelation reported

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Car in the water

SUV pulled from Root River; driver accused of OWI

LOCAL, PAGE A7



Bass, walleye and bluegill, oh my!

How OK is it to eat fish caught in the Mississippi?

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Tamyra Morgan found support while mourning the loss of her 17-year-old son, Dontrell Bush, during a Racine Interfaith Coalition vigil on May 12, 2021.

Documentary to take hard, personal deep look at Racine

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RACINE — Many kids feel like they need to carry guns, William Howell knows. He did too.

“I carried guns many times in my childhood,” Howell said. “We were just middle school kids.”

Howell explained that although he went to Gilmore Middle School (now known as Gilmore Fine Arts) in Racine, he and his friends weren't from Gilmore's side of town, and that fact alone made them feel like potential targets. “You were labeled as what-

ever gang or street that was prominent in your area whether you knew them or not,” Howell stated.

One day, while skipping school, a friend showed off a gun. When he pulled it out, he accidentally fired it, sending a bullet right past Howell's ear.

Howell left Racine in 1998 when he was 17 years old and still lives in Milwaukee.

He wanted to distance himself from the life that he had back home, a life that constantly intersected with violence.

But he's getting back to his roots. His family lives here. His uncle, Art, whose career with the Racine Police Department spanned for almost four decades, was the Racine Police Chief from 2012 until his retirement in 2021.

In the last couple years, however, it wasn't family that pulled Howell back. It was violence. It was young men in similar situations to the ones he experienced, but weren't so lucky to get out alive.

In two separate acts of armed brutality within months of each other, standout Horlick High School basketball stars Marcus D'Antonio “Earl” Caldwell Jr., 20, and Dontrell “Trell” M.



ERIC A. JOHNSON, JOURNAL TIMES FILE PHOTO

Paying his respects, Alliaes Williams, 18, signs a basketball Oct. 18, 2020, at a makeshift memorial erected in tribute to Racine man/former Horlick basketball standout Marcus D. Caldwell Jr., who was shot and killed the night prior on Yout Street.

Two lives



Caldwell

Marcus Caldwell was killed on the night of Oct. 17, 2020, allegedly while running away and being shot in the back by **Khalil Buckley** who was found guilty of first-degree intentional homicide in November; Buckley will likely die in prison.



Bush

Dontrell Bush was at a party on Clairmont Street and was unarmed when Joshua Daniel, then 18 years old, allegedly walked in and shot the 17-year-old. According to police, “Daniel stated that he is from West Chicago and that what he did was just normal behavior there.” A jury trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 10.

Bush, 17, were shot and killed in Racine.

Howell is now making a documentary about them, their surviving family members and the gun violence that surrounded the young men's shortened lives, and the violence that continues in the city.

“A Cage That Echoes” will be-

gin streaming for free Oct. 17 on Tubi (tubitv.com), a free online streaming service.

“This documentary is meant to put a spotlight on the City of Racine. To hold us accountable for us and our children,” Howell said. “Politicians can no longer just show up here with promises but no policies; acting as if they

can't hear the pain of the ghetto echo through their upper-class neighborhood.

“Every kid can't be like Marcus or Dontrell. Every kid can't shoot a ball, but they can shoot a gun,” Howell continued. “Every kid doesn't get the love that they all deserve and when a jealous heart collides with a brave one, death is often the outcome.”

Many of those who commit gun violence have been survivors of it. “From my personal experience or from the people around me and what I saw, I saw that ‘hurt people hurt people,’” said Nakeyda Haymer, a Racine County employee who works within the youth correctional system supporting those leaving juvenile incarceration as they reintegrate into free society.

“Hurt people hurt people” is

Please see **CAGE**, Page A3

WATCH: Scan this QR code with a smartphone and follow the link to see the trailer for “A Cage That Echoes” **NEWSVU**

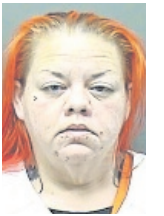
10 years for killing partner

She says he was abusive, feared he would kill her

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RACINE — A woman who shot and killed her partner in December 2019, alleging he was abusive and fearing he was about to hurt her, was in Racine County Circuit Court on Monday for sentencing, just 10 days after pleading guilty to a reduced charge that was the result of a plea deal.

Angela Scheit, 41, was sentenced for second-degree reckless homicide with use of a dangerous weapon to 10 years in prison for the shooting death of Victor Perez, 45, in December 2019.



Scheit

The defendant has credit for time served of approximately two years and eight months.

Scheit claimed she shot in self-defense because she feared her allegedly abusive partner would kill her.

The plea agreement and 10-year sentence recommendation were the result of a negotiated settlement between the Racine County District Attorney's Office and defense counsel Jillian Scheidegger and Patrick Caferty.

The DA's Office, defense attorneys and even the judge addressed the fact the public might perceive 10 years as a light sentence for a shooting death.

However, as Judge Timothy Boyle noted, had the case proceeded to trial, the jury might have found the defendant not guilty of the homicide by reason of self-defense.

“This case might have had no consequences,” he said. “There is that potential.”

Allowed to speak on her own behalf, Scheit apologized only for “being put into a position to make a choice I never wanted to make.”

She told the court she understood there were consequences for her actions.

“I'm sorry a mother had to lose her son, a sister had to lose her brother, and children who have lost their father,” she said. “I am also sorry, to my family, as well, that my consequences are now yours.”

Self-defense

The defendant was originally charged with first-degree intentional homicide.

However, Scheit claimed she shot in self-defense after Perez threatened her with a gun. The firearm turned out to be a facsimile, but Scheit's attorneys stated she did not know that.

At the time of her arrest, Scheit

Please see **SENTENCED**, Page A3

WATCH: Angela Scheit addresses the court at her Monday sentencing **NEWSVU**

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