



CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF, OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS, OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.

E T C .

Vote and listen

I was trying to decide Monday evening between writing about Tuesday's primary election and my reaction to the Brewers' trading relief pitcher Josh Hader for very little.



Steve Prestegard
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Which did I choose? Read on. Tuesday's vote, if you must: I apologize for interrupting your summer to point out that there is a primary election Tuesday. (Which now makes me wonder about a conversation I had at the Boy Scout Troop 82 airport breakfast, in which someone asked me if I had considered a different career path, such as going into politics. I didn't think he was trying to insult me, but ...)

It was interesting to observe in the past couple of weeks the highest-polling Democratic U.S. Senate candidates pulled out of the race (though they will still be on the ballot) in favor of Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes. That has not happened in the other hot race, the Republican governor's race, where the three main candidates and their supporters have been sniping at each other for weeks.

I met Barnes four years ago. I have not met the others. The question I would like to ask Barnes is why he thinks non-Democrats, including Republicans, should vote for him. Whatever you think of him, U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin) has represented Republican voters for the last dozen years, following 18 years when Wisconsin Republicans weren't represented at all in the Senate.

The Third Congressional District race features all but one candidate seeking to be as moderate-appearing as U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-La Crosse) and his predecessor, U.S. Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-Osseo), were. I regularly received emails from Kind's media people noting his high bipartisan ratings. I didn't see him publicly bucking his party's presidents, but perhaps that's too much to ask in today's hyper-partisan politics.

I saw one of state Sen. Brad Pfaff's supporters at two places this weekend, during which he informed me that he was frightened by Republican candidate Derrick Van Orden. Having met Van Orden (a former Navy SEAL), it occurs to me that a lot of people are frightened not by political candidates, but by \$4 to \$5 gallon gas, inflation approaching 10 percent, and negative economic growth since the beginning of the year (which is called a "recession" unless you work for the White House spin machine), along with the latest episode of public violence.

And now for something completely different: My email Tuesday morning included an offer to purchase Platteville football clothing. (Perhaps for the last time since our last child is a senior.) Not to single out PHS, but I repeat what I have written here before that those of us in the workforce would like to be able to purchase more professional-looking team wear (regardless of who our favorite teams are) beyond T-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies while not spending upwards of \$100 on a custom order. (See previous sentence including the word "inflation.")

Polo shirts are borderline for professionalism, but it's hard to support your team wearing a polo in the middle of the winter (especially with, in an odd byproduct of the COVID pandemic, gyms are colder in the winter thanks to a combination of more air flow and fewer people in the seats). Dress shirts and sweaters with team logos are the ticket for the professional fan.

14 of 41 is good in baseball, I guess: The joke going around social media Monday was that Music Television, later known as MTV, went on the air (more precisely on your cable TV system — remember that, CenturyLink cystemers?) Aug. 1, 1981, with the addition "thanks for 14 years of great music."

It took a few years for MTV to show up at our house since the parents paying for cable TV didn't immediately upgrade for the children to be able to watch, but I was familiar with music videos anyway from three TV shows on channels we did get, NBC's "Friday Night Videos," the syndicated "Solid Gold," and TBS' "Night Tracks." As expected, my (and other) parents didn't quite get the music video thing, which is interesting because in the years since many music videos have popped up from acts who weren't alive during the video music era (for instance, Elvis Presley from his movies, Jimi Hendrix, and the original Chicago including original guitarist Terry Kath — their 1970 Tanglewood concert is gold).

Popular music for some time now seems to have gotten to the point where more thought and money goes into the production of the video than the music, and acts are judged on their physical appearance more than their music. As for MTV, I don't know what it plays other than "reality TV" since I don't watch anymore. Fortunately there are a lot of places to watch live music around here each summer.



All opinions on this page represent the views of the writers and not necessarily the views of The Platteville Journal.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

WILL proposes Open Records fixes

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty issued a policy brief that encourages the Wisconsin Legislature to fix Wisconsin's Open Records Law, in light of a recent Wisconsin Supreme Court decision, to ensure that government actors are held accountable when they are sued for withholding records.

Without legislative action, the Wisconsin Open Records and Open Meetings laws may lack the necessary teeth to force public officials to promptly turn over records.

"Without action, Wisconsin's public records laws could be rendered toothless," said WILL Deputy Counsel Lucas Vebber. "The Wisconsin Legislature should make it a priority to act to ensure public officials are transparent and accountable to voters and taxpayers."

The state Supreme Court recently issued a decision in an open records dispute, Friends of Frame Park, U.A. v.

City of Waukesha, that clarified what it means to "prevail" in an open records case. To "prevail" means, among other things, that a court can award attorney's fees. But the decision in Frame Park made clear that a party can only "prevail" under Wisconsin law when a court makes "a final decision on the merits" and "grants a judgement for one party over the other."

This interpretation of "prevail" could significantly impact enforcement of Wisconsin's public records law. Under the Frame Park analysis, the statute does not clearly allow parties to recoup attorney's fees if the governmental entity eventually releases the records before the time a suit is filed and the time the circuit court makes a decision. In practice, this may make it prohibitively expensive for Wisconsinites to enforce open records requests that government actors refuse to comply with, thus thwarting the transparency and accountability that open records laws are meant to secure.

Vebber and Samantha Dorning, Bradley Foundation Legal Fellow at WILL, propose some simple legislative

reforms to make clear what it means for a litigant to "prevail" in situations where a records holder releases records after a suit has been filed.

- Add a test into the statute that would simply require the court to find that the litigation itself caused the records to be released in order to award fees.

- Alternatively, state law could adopt the same definition of "prevail" that exists under federal law, litigants will be able to recover fees in the event the government provides records after a suit has been filed.

- In addition, state law could allow other forms of relief in public records suits beyond simply a mandamus action. In the open meetings context, for example, the law may be enforced by seeking "legal or equitable relief, including but not limited to mandamus, injunction or declaratory judgment, as may be appropriate under the circumstances."

Adopting these type of changes would shift the balance of power back to the public, rather than the government entity.

MADISON JOURNAL

Infrastructure in existing corridors

by Tom Still
President, Wisconsin Technology Council

Almost everyone wants and needs reliable electricity, especially in an era when electric vehicles are hitting the roads in greater numbers, the digital world is ever-expanding and the "decarbonization" of energy generation is evolving in many markets.

What very few people want, on the other hand, are high-voltage transmission lines running through their back yards.

Finding better ways to deliver large amounts of electricity to millions of homes, businesses, schools and elsewhere can be partially addressed, in Wisconsin and elsewhere, by using "rights of way" along certain highways and even rail corridors for transmission.

Making better use of laws and practices that allow utilizing such physical easements, in Wisconsin as well as other states, was addressed during a Tech Council Innovation Network luncheon in Madison July 26. Speakers said buried lines bordering major transit corridors are just part of the short-term answer but agreed the need and the ability to efficiently move electrons underground is poised to expand.

The opportunity is not confined to underground transmission of high-voltage direct current electricity.

Telecommunications lines can be buried in the same rights-of-way, providing much-needed broadband connections along the route for rural areas and drivers of connected and autonomous vehicles.

"The concept is, as we build out the transmission structure, to coordinate the planning of that build to couple transmission together with broadband and EV charging — and doing it all within highways rights-of-way," said Randy Satterfield of NextGen Highways, a group working in Wisconsin and other states.

It is not just a theory. Wisconsin is one of very few states that has allowed use of rights-of-way for transmission, spanning nearly 20 years. About 40 percent of all such corridors in the U.S. can be found in Wisconsin. As Satterfield noted, Wisconsin already has a "playbook" other states can adopt — which was addressed during a 20-state conference held last month in Minnesota.

Most of the barriers are not technical. Cables can be buried about five-feet deep and require only a small band of a typical interstate right-of-way. There are no known effects on human health due to the mitigating effect of the Earth's magnetic field. Buried lines come with ample safety mechanisms to prevent accidental damage from excavation.

Transmission line repairs would take longer, however, and fewer states have state transportation agencies that are

as accustomed to the idea as the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

The biggest advantage, other than also making room for broadband cable, is to harden the U.S. electricity grid while making it capable of moving large amounts of wind and solar power.

Existing alternating current lines are ill-suited to move large amounts of renewable power from where it is produced to where it is consumed. Groups such as the Federation of American Scientists believe the answer lies in making way for more High-Voltage Direct Current lines.

Higher construction cost is a likely barrier, but the time saved by not routing overhead lines through natural or populated areas could make up the difference. Why spend years fighting public opposition if there is a chance to use existing rights-of-way with fewer delays?

Whether they are produced by burning coal or natural gas, by splitting atoms or by harnessing the power of the sun and wind, electrons don't just flow magically through the air. Barring a change in current laws of physics, they must travel from Point A to Point B.

That can be a short distance from a rooftop solar array to the building it serves, or over hundreds of miles via HVDC transmission lines. In the long haul, it may be both. For those who want to speed the switch to renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, however, underground HVDC lines maybe necessary to connect those far-flung points A and B.



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LETTERS

The Platteville Journal, P.O. Box 266, Platteville, WI 53818-0266 • editor@theplattevillejournal.com

Abortion and girls

James Bopp is the counsel to National Right to Life and wrote the abortion ban "model law" that is being adopted all over the country.

Bopp said this in an interview about the 10-year-old from Ohio who was raped when she was just 9 years old, and taken to Indiana for an abortion: "She would have had the baby, and as many women who have had babies as a result of rape, we would hope that she would understand the reason and ultimately the benefit of having the child." Think about the mindset of someone

who believes that a 10-year-old little girl having a child after being raped is a "benefit" to either the girl or to society. This statement shows either a gross ignorance of the risks of "children having children," or a complete lack of care or empathy for what happens to these little girls.

The body of a 10-year-old is not ready for childbirth; the pelvis is simply not large enough. This can result in chronic inflammatory pelvic disease and/or constant urine leakage from a damaged bladder. This little girl could easily have died, been permanently disabled, or been unable to have any

more children. Forcing a child to go through a dangerous pregnancy after enduring the horrors of sexual abuse is just cruel.

Please remember the impact of these callous attitudes toward women and girls when you vote in November.

Sue Strickler
Platteville

Roth CAFO

For the following reasons the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation application on Harvest Lane, Niland See LETTERS page 8A

Answers, questions about Adam's Place



A large crowd sought information on plans (below) for the farm-setting group home.

Project at least two years away, permits needed before construction

by David Timmerman
newseeditor@tds.net

POTOSI — Almost one year ago, Potosi School District residents packed into the Potosi High School Keith Carlton Livens Auditorium to get their first look at the idea of Adam's Place.

The group home is proposed by the family of Adam Toledo to help young inner-city youth escape an atmosphere of bad choices and crime with a different life in rural Potosi.

That meeting 11 months ago featured questions about how the program would work — How would children be chosen? What would be their rules? How would disciplinary issues be handled?

Some of the questions were answered that night, but many more were not as the organization was forming.

Representatives of Adam's Place returned to the Livens Auditorium Monday night, and the audience was armed with some unanswered questions from a year ago, as well as new questions.

While plans for the facilities became more concrete in the past 11 months, some policies to answer those questions were not, which left many in the crowd wanting more before plans move forward.

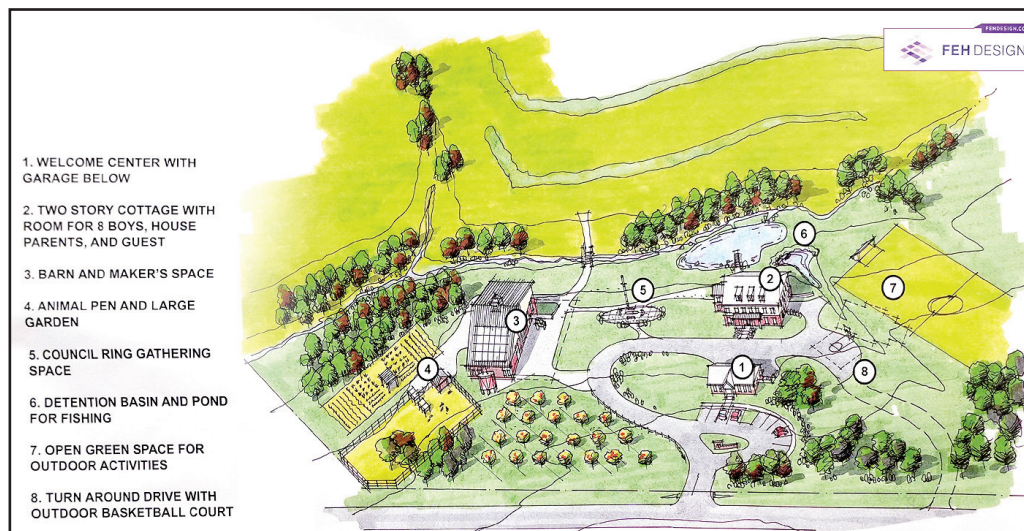
Attorney Joel Hirschhorn and architect Aaron Davies faced a crowd of approximately 80 people, along with an additional 36 watching on Zoom, to give an update on what Adam's Place would look like.

Davies, from FEH Design, showed off facility plans, which included a home to house eight youth along with their host "parents" who would oversee the children.

The campus includes a building for youth to handle livestock they would raise as part of the program, space for technical learning and projects, an orchard, pastureland, and spaces for playing basketball and outdoor sports.

Davies said the facility was reduced in size from the original 10 youth to eight, which means they won't need a conditional use permit for the facility.

But to move forward, the facility needs a sanitary permit for its septic system, zoning changes for the property, and a building permit for the project. The permitting process alone would take six months. After the overview of the



1. WELCOME CENTER WITH GARAGE BELOW
2. TWO STORY COTTAGE WITH ROOM FOR 8 BOYS, HOUSE PARENTS, AND GUEST
3. BARN AND MAKER'S SPACE
4. ANIMAL PEN AND LARGE GARDEN
5. COUNCIL RING GATHERING SPACE
6. DETENTION BASIN AND POND FOR FISHING
7. OPEN GREEN SPACE FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
8. TURN AROUND DRIVE WITH OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT

physical facilities, Hirschhorn fielded 2½ hours of questions about the project, including a number of conflicts between the audience and the presenter.

Hirschhorn was asked whether the facility and its nearly 70 acres would be paying property taxes. He said much of the work he did this past year was completing the paperwork to make the organization a 501(c)3 non-profit, which would make the land and buildings eventually be tax-exempt.

Another person who identified herself as "Karen" wanted to know more about how the house parents system would work, including how would they be relieved at times since they could not be counted on overseeing the youth 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Karen was concerned about the cost of feed for the animals, who would handle such program aspects as animal care and technical education, like welding. Hirschhorn said tech ed would be one of the subject of the facility.

She wanted to know who would be on the advisory board, to which Hirschhorn responded "I would prefer people from this community," adding, "even people who do not agree with me."

While Karen started off her time at the podium saying "I am not going to pretend I am going to agree with everything you are saying," she finished by sharing a story of a youth she knows who was brought to the region in the past year from Tulsa. She said given the opportunity the youth has grown and excelled in the new environment. She wanted to offer bringing that person in to talk to any youth that may be brought into the area.

"I look at this and I am trying to be open minded because every child deserves a better life," audience member Rachel said, asking how youth would be treated when they get sick or have dental issues. The response was they would be brought to a doctor or a dentist.

The medical issues question was brought up later, and showed some of the complex issues the crowd wondered

about when bringing in children from another state, and how insurance or support programs would assist when something medical would come up.

Other in the audience brought up the deficiencies in the levels of support systems in the region, and worried that Adam's Place would find out support they may think they could get would be lacking.

Nicole, a mother who recently moved her family to Potosi from Dubuque, had seen a group home in Dubuque struggle, even with a large staff at its facility. She was concerned that trying to get insurance and support programs to cross state lines would be tough.

"What is going to ensure they are going to get the care they need?" she asked.

"I don't know the answer to that question," answered Hirschhorn.

"We don't have counselors for our own kids," said Trish, another resident of the dearth of support systems, noting that sometimes wait lists are eight months to get children counseling. "Social workers are not available."

"For you to find anyone here even part-time is going to be a challenge," said Sheriff Nate Dreckman. He said he was also concerned about the availability of services for youth, as well as the culture shock for students coming to Southwest Wisconsin and for the community.

"I want to make sure we are working together," he said, offering to be the first person on the advisory board from the region.

Dreckman also wanted to know how much faith will play a role in the program.

Hirschhorn said they are modeling much of the program on Boys Farm, a faith-based program for at-risk youth, but they want to focus more on encouraging participants to find their beliefs so they can choose their own faith, as opposed to the program favoring one church or another.

"There are many churches in this community," said Hirschhorn, who wants to make sure to get them involved.

Jeremy Winkler is the

nearest neighbor of the proposed facility, and having moved his family back to the area to raise his young girls on the family farm, he wanted more details on security and discipline for the youth who will be living nearby.

"I did not like the way I had to live in Madison," he said, comparing the crime level in metro Madison compared with rural Wisconsin. He said he was reassured there was going to be a zero-tolerance policy for drugs, and also liked the setup of the cottage building that would be the dorm for the youth, with a burglar alarm and the stairway crossing in front of the host parents' room, making sneaking out at night more difficult.

"A good contractor would keep at least one of those floorboards squeaky," he quipped.

While rules have not been set up for participants, Hirschhorn noted that the rules will be designed for only individuals who want to participate in the program.

"You are here to stay, not to play," he said. "If you decide the rules are not for you, your parents can pick you up."

Effects on school
Questions were asked about the impact to the school and if the additional children will require more staffing or support, costing the district.

Hirschhorn said the youth would be spread out over different grade levels — not one grade level would be overloaded to require more staff. He added they would not be bringing in special needs children that require more staffing for either the school, or the facility.

Potosi School District administrator Kurt Cohen was asked after the meeting how many students per grade level the school could handle if the facility was operational. Chien said for most middle and high school grades could handle two or three more children without needing additional staffing.

The students from Adam's Place, coming from the Chicago area, would be considered residents of the school district, since they would be coming from a different state,

JOURNAL Obituaries

ISABEL TERESA IVERSON

Isabel Teresa Iverson, age 103, of Livingston, passed away on Saturday July 30, 2022, at her residence with her family by her side.

She was born on Dec. 13, 1918, in Montfort the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Laufenberg) Winkers. Isabel was united in marriage to Homer Iverson on October 14, 1938, in Dubuque, Iowa.

Together Homer and Isabel had 10 children and raised them on the Iverson home farm in Martinsville. Even though she was busy raising her children she was also a hard worker on the farm. Isabel loved to cook, and everything was home-made. She loved dancing, the Grand Ole Opry, spending time with family and visiting with friends. Isabel was a strong lady, even though losing four children was very hard on her, she always found a way to keep on going. She will be deeply missed by her loving family.

Isabel is survived by her six children; Deena (Dale) Magnuson, Ronnie (Judy) Iverson, Rita (Milton) Zimmerman, Linda Rundell, Wanda Iverson, Lisa Iverson, and grandson who they raised after the untimely death of Debbie, Jeremy Iverson, along with many special grandchildren; Rick (Alisa) Iverson, Christine (Dave) Ginter, Sheri (Pete) Erdmann, David Iverson, Mark (Linda) Stewart, Dana (Doug) Wallin, Eric Iverson, Jason (Kasia) Iverson, Dori (Jim) Tibbitts, Greg (Laurie) Zimmerman, Stacy (Dan) Zimmerman, Curtis (Kathy) Zimmerman, Cory Rundell, Jessy Rundell, Ryan (Marilyn) Rundell, Tim (Kendall) Holmes, and Angie (Ben Barrett) Griffiths, and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Isabel was preceded in death by her parents, husband Homer on March 19, 1980, two daughters; Mava and Debbie Iverson, two sons; Lester and Duane Iverson, great-grandson Zach Shawano, brothers: Bill, Hank, Burt, John, Carl, and Irvin Winkers, and two sisters; Alma Davis and Helen McVay.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday Aug. 5 at the Soman-Larson Funeral Home in Montfort with burial to follow at the Rock Church Cemetery in rural Livingston. Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. until the time of service at the funeral home on Friday morning. The Soman-Larson Funeral Home of Montfort is assisting the family and online condolences may be made at www.larsonfuneralhomes.com



as opposed to if they were coming from another Wisconsin school district, where they could be considered open-enrollment students.

Those differences impact the school in two ways. School districts can accept or reject open-enrollment students, who are coming from another school district within Wisconsin, according to Cohen.

Resident students such as academy participants would be counted toward state revenue formulas based on enrollment and state revenue caps, as opposed to open-enrollment payments from another district.

With the exception of Davies, Hirschhorn was up on stage on his own, with a number of people who part of Adam's Place not there to help assist in answering the questions. Last year, Hirschhorn was flanked by associate Alana Weise as well as members of the Toledo family. While construction manager Maureen Carlson was connected via Zoom, others, like the permit specialist from FEH, were not available to explain details on what was needed.

While Hirschhorn said they were adapting the policies of Boys Farm as the basis of their own policies, much of that work had yet to be done, leaving Hirschhorn unable to answer several questions on the setup of the program. That created contentious times during the meeting for the public gathered who did not think their questions were being answered.

More than one person in the

audience accused Hirschhorn or feigning the ability to hear their questions.

Winkler went before the microphone again to try and refocus the group on what they were looking for.

"We are all frustrated," he said. "Before we can get behind you and support, we need those questions answered" on details of how the facility would be run.

To the crowd of his neighbors, Winkler then said "I'm keeping an open mind."

Zoom problems

A number of people connected to the meeting via Zoom, but the limitations of being online were apparent throughout the meeting. Audio problems — namely the inability of microphones to pick up everything said in the auditorium — led to several questions being reposted in the chat by Davies after they were asked in the room.

Throughout the first part of the meeting, messages popped up from people attending on Zoom noting that some people online were not muted causing problems hearing the meeting.

Other disruptions were people connecting with names like Carol Baskin (the antagonist of the Tiger King series) or actress Amber Heard.

One participant in the Zoom meeting, going by the name Michael, propositioned Construction Manager Maureen Carlson via the chat, telling her he liked seeing her in the community, and wondered what her status was.

LETTERS from page 4A

Ridge, in the Town of Marietta needs to be denied:

1. Location: A steep terrain; shallow soil; cracked limestone; runoff into Kickapoo River; leaking into groundwater.

2. Manure: The Nutrient Management Program is outdated; changes in ownership: DuCharme (300 acres) no longer available, Elaine Adams (106.7 acres) no longer available; Wayne Aspen and Phyllis Sanders, not available; excessive spreading in small area leads to contamination, leaking and runoff.

3. Well contamination: Phosphorus and nitrates.

4. Air quality: Odor — people move away.

5. Investment: Property values go down.

6. Economy: Tourism lost; trout streams contaminated; fish die; lose \$1.6 million; taxes go up.

7. Roads: Just a gravel road; hauling heavy equipment; overturns & spills.

8. Human health: high phosphorus & nitrate in the water; confined animal diseases; drug use in water.

9. Due Diligence: More monitoring & oversight; regulation of spreading & water testing; more CAFOs will follow.

10. Deficiencies in application: Should be denied or at least postponed!

Jeanne Ruchti
Wauzeka

Clean water cost

They're not projects most people get excited about. But without upgrades to municipal wastewater treatment plants and community drinking water systems, we'd be in trouble. In the 1800s, illness from contaminated drinking water was

a leading cause of death in western Wisconsin and around the country.

In my years supervising Department of Natural Resources Environmental Loans engineers in western Wisconsin we provided communities with millions of dollars in low cost loans for their water systems. The money comes from Wisconsin's Environmental Improvement Fund, a direct product of the federal Clean Water Act, passed 50 years ago.

I had a chance to visit water treatment plants and celebrate projects in Eau Claire, Bloomer, Arcadia, and several other communities. In recent years, the fund has provided loans including \$11 million each for Eau Claire and Menomonie, \$12 million for Hudson, \$3.5 million for Bloomer, \$6 million for Augusta, \$74

million for La Crosse, and \$80 million for Wausau. On top of that, add \$75 million for lead line replacements around the state.

The goal of the Clean Water Act, passed in an era when rivers burned and frothed with industrial and municipal waste discharges, was to make all our lakes, rivers and streams fishable and swimmable. The impact it's had on public health and the quality of our lives is clearly cause for celebration. We celebrate all those who recognize the importance of clean water and dedicate their professional careers and tax dollars to protect it.

There's still plenty to do as we work with ag producers to reduce nitrates in our drinking water and reduce run-off from fields to combat blue-green algae. We need national standards to deal with emerging contaminants

such as PFAS. When it comes to clean water, it's best to act before we pay the cost in terms of human lives.

Bruce Neeb
Eau Claire

The Platteville Journal will print most letters to the editor, regardless of the opinion presented. Letters should be submitted in a word processing format or in the body of an email. The Journal reserves the right to edit material for English language standards, that is libelous or otherwise offensive to community standards, and if The Journal determines letters are excessively long or redundant. All letters must be signed and the signature must appear on the printed letter, along with a contact phone number or email

for verification. Some submitted letters may not be published due to space constraints, material that duplicates previous letters, or the fact that the letter-writer has no connections to Southwest Wisconsin, including subscribing to The Journal. Candidate endorsement letters and "thank you" letters will not be printed. Publishing letters that do not meet The Journal's Letter criteria requires purchasing advertising. The deadline for submission of letters on elections is three weeks before the date of the election. All letters and columns represent the views of the writers and not necessarily the views of The Platteville Journal.