

Overworked staffs deserve our grace

A little patience and kindness go a long way, especially if you venture out to shop or eat.

For many reasons, some of them not entirely clear to anyone, almost every business is running with short staff and has been for months. The pandemic, lockdowns and other pressures already were heavy, and then the staff numbers dwindled.

“Help Wanted” signs are posted everywhere, but applicants and good employees are hard to find. That makes it difficult for restaurants, stores, taverns and other businesses to run normally.

This means that customers will notice changes in service, such as longer wait times, servers spread thin and even shortened hours of operation. Nobody is happy about it, and the businesses aren't trying to ruin anyone's day.

So, as customers, that's our cue to be understanding, polite and patient. If the pizza place doesn't answer the phone on the first or second try, the staff may be up to their elbows in orders and unable to add another at that moment.

If you don't have enough time to wait for a table in a place that has only two servers or an understaffed kitchen, say “thanks” and find someplace that can accommodate you.

It's not the cashier's fault if you have to stand in line a bit longer at the grocery store, and with few exceptions, all the workers you meet are trying as hard as they can to help their customers.

Life is frustrating in many ways right now, so we all have to realize that it serves nobody to lose your temper or be rude or impatient. Many places have even posted signs asking for patience as they deal with the staff shortages.

It's also not the fault of the employees if your favorite entrée or item at the store is out of stock. If the employee shortage was not trouble enough, businesses are also dealing with serious disruptions in the supply chain.

It's already the perfect storm for service and retail businesses, and they don't need rude customers to make it even worse.

It's OK to be frustrated, but we do best if we keep that sentiment to ourselves and don't push it onto the people who did show up for work and those trying to get the shelves stocked again.

Just be kind.

In Our Opinion

Today in History...

Here are some highlights in world history on this date, Oct. 28:

1858—Rowland Hussey Macy opens his first New York store at Sixth Avenue and 14th Street in Manhattan.

1886—The Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, is dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

1962—Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev informs the United States that he has ordered the dismantling of missile bases in Cuba; in return, the U.S. secretly agrees to remove

nuclear missiles from U.S. installations in Turkey.

1996—Richard Jewell, cleared of committing the Olympic park bombing, holds a news conference in Atlanta in which he thanks his mother for standing by him and lashes out at reporters and investigators who'd depicted him as the bomber, who turned out to be Eric Rudolph.

2002—American diplomat Laurence Foley is assassinated in front of his house in Amman, Jordan, in the first such attack on a U.S. diplomat in decades.



Dem candidates amass campaign cash

Wisconsin's primary doesn't happen until August of next year. But the major Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate are busy gathering resources for the primary and general election fight ahead.

Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes raised more than \$1.1 million during the third quarter as he pulled more from donors than either U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Oshkosh, or his top Democratic rivals, according to a WisPolitics.com review of their fundraising reports.

Barnes reported spending \$419,033 during the three-month period and finished September with \$711,089. It was his first fundraising report after getting into the race this summer.

Johnson, who hasn't said whether he will seek re-election, reported \$906,290 in receipts and \$2.3 million cash on hand after spending \$316,936 during the period.

45 Years Ago—1976

—The Valders High School marching band and Viking Ship float, sponsored by the Valders Lions Club, each won first place prizes in the District Lions Convention parade last weekend in Fond du Lac. Lions Club members Glenn Thomsen, club president, and Richard Christianson attended the convention seminars.

—The Rev. Carl Peters, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Valders, was the Manitowoc-area clergy delegate to the general convention of the American Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C. The event included participation in the opening Communion service at the National Cathedral, with more than 2,000 worshippers gathered.

—Viking Bow & Gun Club and Manitowoc County Fish & Game Association released 282 pheasants in the Valders area. Local hunters will be

able to try to harvest the birds during the hunting season.

His fundraising dipped from the \$1.2 million he raised in the second quarter. Johnson also continued to lag behind other top Senate targets in the 2022 cycle.

U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., reported \$9.5 million raised during the three-month period, while U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., raised nearly \$8.2 million. Among the incumbents who typically show up on the national lists of top targets, Johnson's fundraising was closest to U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan. The New Hampshire Democrat raised nearly \$3 million.

Among Wisconsin Democrats, state Treasurer Sarah Godlewski and Alex Lasry—on leave from his position with the Milwaukee Bucks—both topped \$1 million in receipts. But that was largely due to personal money they put into their campaigns.

Godlewski reported nearly

\$1.4 million in receipts. That included \$315,000 that she gave directly to the campaign and another \$685,000 that

Capitol Report

By WisPolitics.com

she loaned to the operation two days before the reporting period closed. She spent \$818,070 and had \$786,494 in the bank.

Lasry, meanwhile, reported more than \$1 million in receipts, though that included a \$750,000 loan he gave his campaign Sept. 28, two days before the reporting period closed. He has now loaned his campaign \$800,000, and Lasry listed \$1.5 million cash on hand after spending \$574,443 during the three-month period.

Outagamie County Exec-

utive Tom Nelson, meanwhile, reported \$222,920 raised, \$211,348 spent and \$417,928 in the bank.

Among other Democrats in the race, Steven Olikara raised \$102,449, spent \$93,850 and had \$64,328 in the bank. Olikara, founder of the Millennial Action Project, announced in May that he was exploring a bid and then formally entered the race in mid-August.

Gillian Battino, a Wausau doctor, raised \$88,926, spent \$88,394 and had \$34,695 in the bank.

Barnes showed a stronger small-dollar fundraising operation than his top rivals in the Senate race. Of the more than \$1.1 million he raised, Barnes reported \$403,762 in unitemized donations of \$200 or less during the three-month period.

Johnson reported \$376,832

See Funds p. 17

VHS band, Viking ship wow parade panel

able to try to harvest the birds during the hunting season.

25 Years Ago—1996

—Members of Faith Lutheran Church Women of Valders heard a spellbinding presentation by Fela Warschau of

Looking Back

By Brian Thomsen

Sheboygan, a survivor of the Holocaust. She spoke of the suffering that began for her and her family when the Nazis invaded her native Poland in 1939. She lost both parents and two brothers to the gas chambers, but she and her sister survived. She met her future husband in a relocation settlement and they eventually immigrated to the United States and settled in Sheboygan.

—A group of women from

St. Mary Church in Clarks Mills spent the recent Make a Difference Day repainting a statue of the Holy Family at the church cemetery. The day is sponsored by the Catholic Knights. In on the project were Judy Vogel, Dorothy Muench, Alice Maney, Betty Koerner and Rita Pritzl.

—The Valders High School boys cross country, ranked first in the state in Division 2, had a disappointing sectional meet on its home course, finishing third and missing a return trip to the state meet. Only senior Austin Voigt will represent the team after finishing fourth to advance as an individual qualifier. The girls team finished eighth, and team leader Jessica Mahlik, who qualified for state the past two years, missed the cut.

10 Years Ago—2011

—A new state law allowing

people with a permit to carry a concealed gun likely will have little impact locally, police and other authorities said. Th law took effect this week, although local gun dealers think it will generate few permit applications in the county.

—Seven area residents helped build a church in Mexico this fall, after helping construct a home in the same area a year ago. The members of Faith Evangelical Free Church in Manitowoc traveled to Mexico to help build the church after seeing the need during the previous mission trip. The group included Jack and Katie Schmeisser of Collins, Andy Dexheimer of St. Nazianz and John Coleman of Valders.

—The Valders High School football team fell hard to Kewaunee, 43-0, in the first round of the WIAA Division 4 playoffs.



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