

LOCAL

Candidates for Milton School Board answer questions about the district's top issues ahead of the April 5 election. • B2

SPORTS

Milton High's softball team will travel for games in Florida ahead of what it hopes could be a successful 2022 campaign. • B1



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With the help of Meg Layton of Tallgrass Restoration, right, Dianne Moller releases a rehabilitated bald eagle named Lafayette on the Tallgrass Restoration site north of Milton on Sunday. Lafayette was given the name because it came from Lafayette County after a vehicle strike near the town of Gratiot in December 2021. Moller is the executive director of Hoo's Woods, a nonprofit focused on raptors and other birds of prey near Milton. In 2023, the organization will celebrate its 25-year anniversary.

Moller of Hoo's Woods sends bald eagles back into the wild

By Tom Miller

Special to The Milton Courier

KOSHKONONG MOUNDS — It was gray, chilly and drizzling rain shortly after noon Saturday at the Koshkonong Mounds Country Club.

For Storm, it was perfect flying conditions, especially for a frequent flyer who had been

cooped up for the last couple of weeks.

Storm is a bald eagle who was found on the ground in the Koshkonong Mounds area after a vicious wind storm a few weeks ago.

The person who discovered Storm contacted Dianne Moller, who has dedicated the past 25 years of her life to rehabilitating injured raptors at her Hoo's Woods Raptor Center outside of Milton. Over the course of a typical year, Moller rehabs between 75 to 200 raptors while also caring for the

several raptors Hoo's Woods uses in public appearances to educate the public about the birds of prey.

"We have one of the top collections of educational raptors in the Midwest," Moller said. "That includes a bald eagle, a golden eagle, a snowy owl, a great gray owl, a peregrine falcon and others."

Moller decided to turn the release of two rehabbed eagles into a public viewing opportunity this weekend.

Saturday's release of Storm back into the wild was

conducted at Koshkonong Mounds Country Club, and the second release occurred around noon Sunday at Tallgrass Restoration at the corner of Highway 59 and County N. The company offered to match up to \$10,000 in donations this year.

About 50 people attended Saturday's release despite cool, rainy weather. On Sunday, about 200 people watched under sunny skies as a bald eagle named Lafayette was reintroduced into the wild.

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Teacher nurtures young musicians

Westlund's own love for music started at an early age

By Sara Myers

Adams Publishing Group

Jessica Westlund's love of music started as a second-grade student. The Hales Corners native began piano lessons at that time

and then later started taking band classes as a fifth-grader in the Whitnall School District.

"I knew music was going to be my thing," Westlund said. "It came easily to me."

In high school, Westlund was inspired by her marching band teacher and found being a part of the band very rewarding, especially when she competed at local competitions. She decided in high school she wanted to go into music education because she made a lot of friends and it became a refuge to her.



Westlund

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PROGRESS 2022

Blackhawk Tech expands virtual offerings

By Sara Myers

Adams Publishing Group

When the COVID-19 pandemic began two years ago, Blackhawk Technical College was prepared.

It was already employing a platform called MyEd Choice, which allows students to choose how to attend classes—virtual, in-person or a hybrid model. So when the school had to close its campus in March 2020, BTC was able to allow students to continue attending classes quickly without being there in person.

The learning support services staff at the college assisted in helping professors take their classroom lesson plans to a virtual setting for the rest of the 2020 spring semester. And when it reopened, it adapted some of its offerings to be more virtual-friendly or responsive to social-distancing.

But even after the initial wave of shutdowns subsided, many students had to attend classes from home because their children were homeschooling or for other pandemic-related reasons.

Now, two years later, BTC has continued to make use of the MyEd Choice platform, and it

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County considers jail overhaul plan

Vote on \$96 million facilities plan was possible Thursday

By Scott Froehlich

Milton Courier

The nearly 100-year-old the Pinehurst Building, which houses both the Rock County Sheriff's Office and Rock County Jail, resembles a "fixer-upper" with squeaky floors and a leaky roof.

Instead of a leaky ceiling, the basement floods regularly. Electrical equipment is stored in potentially unfavorable conditions, and the main room



Submitted Photo

A rendering of the front entrance of the proposed Rock County Jail.

where radios and stun guns are stored is susceptible to pooling water, Capt. Curtis Fell of the Rock County Sheriff's Office said.

"That (room) floods frequently with quite a bit of water in there; there's no other

place to keep them," Fell said of the equipment.

Meanwhile, as the department has grown, space for conference meetings and training sessions has become hard to schedule.

Thursday night, county

supervisors will consider a resolution to spend \$96 million on the Rock County Sheriff's Office's plan to overhaul its nearly 200,000-square-foot jail and law enforcement services facilities. The price tag is significantly lower than the initial \$116 million estimate in 2021, and funding for the project would be phased over the next three years ending in 2024.

If approved by the board, the new Rock County Jail complex will be equipped with the sheriff's office, a new jail, law enforcement services and other services aimed at meeting needs of both staff and the jail population.

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