

SPORTS

Red Hawks football team downs Craig, 42-15, in regular season final, gears up for playoffs. • B1



LOCAL

Family hopes to raise money to take disabled daughter, a Milton School District student, to Walt Disney World in Florida. • A3

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Rock County jury finds doctor negligent

Milton man awarded more than \$500,000

By Frank Schultz

Adams Publishing Group

JANESVILLE

Robert Vyvyan seemed overcome with emotion Oct. 13 as a Rock County jury agreed with him that a doctor had been negligent, poking a hole in his esophagus six years ago.

The jury voted 10-2 for the verdict against Dr. William Brandt, a longtime local internal medicine specialist, and MMIC Insurance. A 10-2 vote is enough

for a verdict in a civil trial.

"It's what I had hoped for, prayed for," Vyvyan said afterward.

The jury awarded Vyvyan more than \$500,000: \$400,000 for future pain and suffering; \$100,000 for past pain and suffering; \$70,000 for medical expenses; and \$12,000 for lost income.

"It wasn't about the money. I'm a professional engineer, and the most important thing in my profession is to do no harm, and I think that falls right in line with being a doctor," Vyvyan said.

Vyvyan, of Milton, filed his lawsuit in 2018, claiming

malpractice in Brandt's performance of an upper endoscopy. The procedure involves a probe inserted through the mouth and throat to view Vyvyan's esophagus, the tube that conveys food to the stomach.

Vyvyan was having trouble swallowing and had lost weight. He occasionally could not swallow at all and had to force himself to vomit.

The procedure at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-Janesville was intended to get a view of the problem with a fiber-optic camera. Brandt saw what he thought was a ring of scar tissue that had narrowed the esophagus, so he inserted devices

called dilators to widen the esophagus.

Vyvyan went home after the procedure feeling fine, but he awoke from a nap in intense pain, and he was taken to UW Hospital for emergency surgery, said his lawyer, Scott Salemi.

Salemi said Brandt erred in not seeing that Vyvyan's esophagus was inflamed. Salemi suggested more conservative treatment—an acid blocker or steroids—could have helped Vyvyan while avoiding the injury.

Defense attorney Mark Budzinski said Brandt did what he had done thousands of times before as an internal medicine

specialist in Janesville for more than 40 years: He saw a ring of scar tissue and tried to expand the structure with dilators.

Budzinski pointed out that adverse outcomes are seen in 1% of these procedures, and this was just one of those times.

Salemi argued that Brandt should have diagnosed eosinophilic esophagitis, commonly known as EoE.

EoE is a chronic immune-system disease that inflames the esophagus, as a reaction to food, acid reflux or allergens.

EoE increases the risk of perforations in this procedure and

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'Nature doesn't take care of itself anymore'

Wetlands group works to keep habitats healthy and thriving

By Pam Beres

Special to The Milton Courier

With fall colors reaching their peak and the days growing shorter, people are taking advantage of unseasonably warm temperatures and heading outdoors.

With an abundance of rivers, lakes and streams nearby, some like to hike or kayak in search of migratory birds.

Some fish or hunt while others simply enjoy the natural beauty found along the waterways and wetland areas.

Casual recreationalists might see the wetlands as healthy and thriving. But the members of Lake Koshkonong Wetlands Association, established in 2003, know there are always projects or problems needing attention and habitats to restore.

It keeps them busy year round.

Penny Shackelford, secretary for the wetlands group, said everyone benefits from wetlands.

While enjoyment is a key feature, wetlands also help control flooding by acting as a sponge by absorbing heavy rains. It slows the water down, purifying and cleaning it as it passes through.

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A salute to Schroeder



Anthony Wahl/Adams Publishing Group

The Milton marching band competes in the 36th Annual State Marching Band Championships at Perkins Stadium in Whitewater on Oct. 16, just two days after Milton's assistant director, John Schroeder, collapsed at the end of a practice and was unable to be revived. A can of Coca-Cola, Schroeder's favorite soda, and a snare drum he recently purchased sit atop the marching band podium in remembrance during the emotional performance.

MHS marching band places third in state competition after passing of beloved director

By Scott Froehlich

Adams Publishing Group

WHITWATER

On the day after the loss of their beloved longtime assistant director John Schroeder, Milton High School's 111-member marching band placed third with an emotional performance at the Wisconsin School Music Association's annual Marching Band Championships on Oct. 16.

According to a message posted by the Milton High School Band Facebook group, Schroeder collapsed at band practice Oct. 14 with an unknown medical condition and was unable to be revived after being taken to the hospital. Prior to the Oct. 16 event, the

band was given the option to forgo the competition in light of their assistant director's recent death.

For the members of the band, however, that was not an option. Kyla Swanson, a senior who plays tenor drum on the drum line, said the tragedy only strengthened the group's resolve.

"We knew we were going to perform, even after John passed, because we knew this is what he would have wanted," she said.

Fresh off the heels of a successful showing at the Sauk Prairie Marching Band Invitational on Oct. 13, MHS musicians rallied behind the devastating news and gave an inspiring performance at the state championship in Whitewater that earned them 77.175

points out of a possible 100.

As the band took to the field, members—all donning black and white ribbons on their uniforms—took a knee in solidarity and observed a brief pause before the opening number.

First on the three-song set was the quintessential "Bohemian Rhapsody" by the rock band Queen, followed by Simon and Garfunkel's "Sound of Silence." Concluding the show was a radiant display by the color guard during a rendition of Coldplay's "Paradise."

Aided by the effects of a smoke machine, KayLea Jacobson, a sophomore playing the vibraphone, helped set the mood.

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