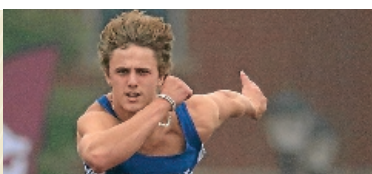


BARABOO NEWS REPUBLIC

Off and running

Track and field athletes to watch **SPORTS, B2**



Take a hike or a drive

Tips to get started on journeys through the woods or cross-country **FEATURES, B7, B11**



AFTERNOON SHOWER 47 • 34 FORECAST, B12 | **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022** | baraboonewsrepublic.com

SSM Health donates to shelter

\$50,000 will help Baraboo Area reach more homeless

JOHN GITTINGS
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Mary Petri and Stacy Reichhoff — two residents of the Baraboo Area Homeless Shelter — are grateful for the shelter's efforts in helping them and other clients.

And thanks to a \$50,000 donation Tuesday from SSM Health, the shelter, which is also known as Pathway Home, will be able to help more people in need. In ad-

dition to the monetary gift, SSM Health, which owns St. Clare Hospital, provides health care and other resources at Sauk County's only shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

During a short morning gathering, Reichhoff explained how she moved into the shelter after losing her home in Beloit. She moved to Portage to be closer to her children, but said her "housing fell through."

"I was offered the job and I took it," said Reichhoff, who works as the house manager of the shelter. "I absolutely love the task of helping other people and trying to help

them get back on their feet."

In October, Reichhoff said she left for a short time to move in with her partner, who passed away in January due to heart failure. She said she moved back to the shelter and her position.

"I really consider everybody here my family and really, really deep friends," Reichhoff said. "I also suffer from Parkinson's disease, so they make everything really easy and try and help me whenever I need it."

Each client has 90 days to live at the shelter, according to Reichhoff. She said the clients each have various upkeep responsibilities.

The Rev. Dave Mowers, the president of the board of directors of the Baraboo Area Homeless Shelter, said the partnership with SSM Health makes sense. The gift will equate to roughly one third of the shelter's 2022 operating budget, Mowers said, and will help with purchasing the building the shelter currently leases.

Mowers added that owning the facility will allow current spending on rent to instead be used to help clients.

"We care for the holistic needs of our patients, our clients that is," said Mowers. "The medical needs that people have here are really

pretty staggering. What we're finding is that we're an important cog in how health care works for the people that we serve. It's really great that we've got these two community institutions collaborating and working together for the good of folks who are really vulnerable and need additional help."

Petri, a mother of five, said that staff and management at Pathway Home genuinely care about what residents go through in helping them rebound. She moved in when she was eight months

Please see **SHELTER**, Page A2



BRIDGET COOKE, NEWS REPUBLIC

WORKING THE POLLS

Poll workers Tim O'Keefe and Craig Cafilisch check in voters Tuesday at the Baraboo Civic Center, where more than 640 voters had cast ballots by late morning for the spring election. Look for local election results in Thursday's edition.

Zelenskyy appeals to UN for tribunals

Ukraine president wants action after civilians tortured

OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKYI AND EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

BUCHA, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused the Russians of gruesome atrocities in Ukraine and told the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday that those responsible should immediately be brought up on war crimes charges in front of a tribunal like the one established at Nuremberg after World War II.

Zelenskyy, appearing via video from Ukraine, said that civilians had been tortured, shot in the back of the head, thrown down wells, blown up with grenades in their apartments and crushed to death by tanks while in cars.

Over the past few days, grisly images of what appeared to be civilian massacres carried out by Russian forces in Bucha before they withdrew from the outskirts of Kyiv have caused a global outcry and led Western nations to expel scores of Moscow's diplomats and propose further sanctions, including a ban on coal imports from Russia.

Zelenskyy said that both those who carried out the killings and those who gave the orders "must be brought to justice immediately for war crimes" in front of a tribunal similar to what was used in postwar Germany.

Please see **WAR CRIME**, Page A5

Former president's daughter testifies

Ivanka Trump was with father most of day during Jan. 6 riot

MARY CLARE JALONICK, LISA MASCARO AND FARNOUSH AMIRI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ivanka Trump, former President Donald Trump's daughter and one

of those closest to him during the insurrection at the Capitol, is testifying before the House panel investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack.

Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the committee's chairman, said Tuesday afternoon that she had been answering investigators' questions on a video teleconference since the morning and was not "chatty" but had been helpful to the probe.

"She came in on her own" and did not have to be subpoenaed, Thompson said.

Ivanka Trump, who was with her father in the White House that day, is one of more than 800 witnesses the committee has interviewed as it works to compile a record of the attack, the worst in the Capitol in more than two centuries. She is the first of Trump's children known to speak to the committee and one of the

closest people to her father.

Whether she gives the committee new information or not, her decision to cooperate is significant for the panel, which has been trying to secure an interview with her since late January. The nine-member panel is particularly focused on what the former president was doing as his supporters broke into the

Please see **IVANKA**, Page A9

Trial begins for attempted homicide

North Freedom man accused of trying to kill parents

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Screams filled a Sauk County courtroom Tuesday as the prosecutor played a recording from a 911 call during the first day of an attempted homicide jury trial.

The yelling was from a North Freedom woman in June 2020. Suzanne Bahr had called the police initially to report that she and her husband, Bill Bahr, were in their home around 3 a.m. when they heard what they

thought were rocks being thrown against the siding, breaking windows. Panic set in as they realized it was gunshots.

Outside of 113 South Oak St., her son, Gary Wayne Dickson, was firing a Taurus Judge revolver at the home, leaving holes within the siding and smashing the windows to their bedroom. As a dispatcher worked to retain information about what was happening and a Sauk County sheriff's deputy was speeding toward the home from West Baraboo, Dickson smashed in a sliding glass door and entered the home. The Bahrs went into their basement, with Bill carrying a gun he had recently purchased.

While the prosecution and defense echoed one another in describing how these events unfolded, what happened next is unclear due to a divergence in their opening arguments.

Assistant District Attorney Rick Spoengten argued Dickson walked down the hallway to his parents' bedroom carrying a flashlight and a gun before discovering they had gone downstairs to hide and allegedly fired at them "repeatedly," missing by inches. Bill fired back.

"Rather than say, running away, dropping the gun, Gary goaded him," Spoengten said.

Please see **TRIAL**, Page A3



BRIDGET COOKE, NEWS REPUBLIC

Sauk County Assistant District Attorney Rick Spoengten delivers his opening argument to the jury Tuesday during the first day of a trial for Gary Wayne Dickson, who is charged with first-degree attempted intentional homicide.



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COMMUNITY	A2	OPINION	A11	COMICS/PUZZLES	B5
LOCAL/STATE	A3	SPORTS	B1	CLASSIFIEDS	B10
NATION/WORLD	A4	ADVICE/TV	B4	WEATHER	B12



Amtrak adding new passenger route

Part of Chicago-Milwaukee-Twin Cities investment

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Wisconsin Dells and Portage don't expect improvements will be necessary at either city's train station as part of a large rail improvement project between Chicago and the Twin Cities that will add another daily round-trip.

Last month, the Wisconsin and Minnesota departments of transportation announced a \$31.8 million federal grant to double passenger rail service on the 411-mile corridor that connects Chicago, Milwaukee, La Crosse and St. Paul — covering more than half the project's costs.

The Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) Inter-city Passenger Rail Project adds a second round-trip

train on the same route used by the existing Amtrak Empire Builder and Hiawatha Service trains, along with improvements to the existing rail lines.

The project will cost a total of \$53 million.

Wisconsin Dells and Portage public works directors Chris Tollaksen and Philip Livingston are not aware of any improvements that would be needed for either city's Amtrak stations to accommodate the new train, which is scheduled to begin operation in late 2024.

The project has been supported by both Democratic and Republican politicians, including U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin and former state Sen. Luther Olsen, along with cities and chambers of commerce along the rail line.

The state of Wisconsin is pledging \$6.1 million for the project, which will add a second daily round-trip



JOHN GITTINGS, DELLS EVENTS

The Amtrak Train Station Wisconsin Dells could start seeing two daily round-trip trains as part of a \$53 million rail project to increase the frequency of the route between Chicago, Milwaukee and the Twin Cities.

the extraordinary collaboration among states, local economic groups and freight and passenger rail," Wisconsin DOT Secretary Craig Thompson said in a news release on March 9. "The team effort we are celebrating today brings us a stronger and more diverse transportation infrastructure that strengthens supply chains, connects businesses and universities, and brings us all closer together with more travel options."

Planning for the project began in 2012 and final designs are projected to be finished later this year. Other funding for the project came from the Federal Railroad Administration Restoration and Enhancement Program (\$12.6 million) to offset operations costs for the first three years. The state of Minnesota pledged \$10 million and Amtrak pledged \$5 million as well.

train on the corridor. Construction for the project is slated to begin in 2023, with five stations (four in Min-

nesota, one in La Crosse) undergoing infrastructure improvements.

"This vital rail project came together because the federal government not only recognized its importance to the region but

Madison man in custody after high-speed chase

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A Madison man remains in custody after allegedly leading Columbia County deputies on a chase last week at speeds in excess of 100 mph while fleeing a town of Caledonia hotel where hundreds of grams of methamphetamine were later found.

Paul R. Ripp, 49, has been charged with vehicle operator flee/elude officer, second-degree recklessly endangering safety and possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine. He is also facing charges of felony and misdemeanor bail jumping, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia.

At his initial appearance on April 1, Ripp appeared by video from the Columbia County Jail after being arrested on March 29. During the hearing, Colum-

bia County Judge Troy Cross set standard felony conditions for Ripp and set his cash bond at \$25,000.

According to the criminal complaint filed on April 1:

Columbia County Sheriff's deputies were notified about Ripp, who had multiple active warrants, possibly being at a hotel in Caledonia on March 28. Law enforcement spoke with a hotel employee who stated Ripp had been staying at the hotel.

Deputies arrived on the scene and observed a white pickup truck, allegedly driven by Ripp. The truck left the hotel parking lot at high speeds and deputies pursued it because they believed



Ripp

During the pursuit, a female passenger called the Sheriff's Office to say she was going to jump out of the vehicle once it slowed down.

the truck was being driven by Ripp.

The deputies in pursuit turned on their emergency lights and located Ripp on the Interstate traveling westbound. During the chase the officers reported going up to 116 mph. The truck exited the Interstate and onto Tritz Road.

While on Tritz Road, the deputies reported speeds reaching 90 mph. The complaint alleges the truck then turned onto Highway

33 going over 100 mph.

During the pursuit, a female passenger called the Sheriff's Office to say she was going to jump out of the vehicle once it slowed down. Deputies reported seeing a woman jump from the vehicle after it slowed down.

A lieutenant located the truck later in the woods and reported it appeared to have collided with a tree.

Law enforcement entered the hotel room Ripp was allegedly staying at in Caledonia and found smoking pipes and small plastic bags with an unknown residue in. They also located Ripp's driver's license in the room.

In the hotel room, officers allegedly found 338.4 grams of methamphetamine with a glass pipe with suspected methamphetamine residue. There was also a bag of suspected cocaine

in the hotel room.

Wisconsin Dells Police informed authorities Ripp was at a Dells hotel the following day on March 29, and he was taken into custody.

Two Columbia County Sheriff's detectives interviewed Ripp on March 29. He allegedly admitted to driving the white pickup and took off when he noticed deputies following him.

The complaint alleges Ripp told the detectives he drove as fast as 120 mph on the Interstate. During the interview, Ripp admitted there was three-quarters of a pound of methamphetamine in the room, the complaint said.

Ripp allegedly said he deals drugs, mostly methamphetamine, during the interview.

Ripp is scheduled to be back in court on April 26 for a pre-trial conference.

DNR to move boulder marking eastern end of Ice Age Trail

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Hikers completing the Ice Age Trail will have to walk just a little farther starting this spring.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources plans to move a boulder marking the eastern terminus of the 1,200-mile trail about 1/3 of a mile to the top of a hill overlooking Sturgeon Bay.

The move will return the rock to the spot it originally occupied until 2001, when the official trailhead was moved to the more wooded area near vault toilets.

"Over time with the tower being there and the restrooms being there it started to become more of a landmark area," said Missy Vanlanduyt, the DNR's section chief for recreational partnerships. "We're going

to move it back to its original rightful location."

Known as a "glacial erratic," the metamorphic rock was left in what is now Door County some 12,000 years ago during the last ice age. It was later moved to Potawatomi State Park, said Melissa Pierick, director of marketing for the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

Pierick said the boulder, scarred by its glacial jour-

ney, is a perfect example of the features highlighted by the trail, which snakes south to Janesville, then north into Langlade County and west to the Minnesota border, following the southern edge of the former ice sheet.

"Along the trail you'll find these glacial erratics — these big boulders that are unlike the rock that is naturally in the area," Pierick said.

Vanlanduyt said the hill-top location is more scenic, features more parking and is slated to eventually be developed with a picnic area.

"And it doesn't have a vault toilet in the back-ground," Pierick said.

Jen and Greg Seymour (also known by their trail names, Chica and Sunsets) were two of the 83 hikers to complete the trail last year, finishing their two-month

journey on Sept. 8 in the Door County park.

"The spot where the eastern terminus rock is currently is in a parking lot, next to a bathroom, with no view or overlook," Jen said. "The rock doesn't really stand out and was actually a bit hard for us to find."

Seymour said the Ski Hill Overlook would make "an amazing terminus and finish (or start) to the trail."

Trial

From A1

"You think you're that good, Bill?" is what he said."

Dickson's attorney, Steven Sarbacker, told jury members that Bill Bahr initially told police that he had been the one to fire the first shot at Dickson. Sarbacker said that was legal because

Bahr had the right to protect his home and Sarbacker didn't seek to "vilify" him. Though Sarbacker said it was when Bahr aimed through the floor blindly and shot Dickson two more times that it was no longer in self-defense.

"Your house is a temporary shelter," Sarbacker said. "It's not an execution chamber to get someone out of your life."

The responding deputy found Dickson in a pool of his blood, shirtless, in the home. He was taken to UW Hospital via MedFlight and treated for his wounds, which Sarbacker said went through Dickson's body.

Spoentgen said that while Dickson initially told authorities he didn't remember anything about that night, he voluntarily told a deputy who had later ac-

companied him to the hospital for a follow-up visit that he remembered specific details, like how the gun felt in his hand.

While prosecutors are arguing that Dickson intended to kill his stepfather and harm his mother, Sarbacker laid out a story of a man who has struggled with addiction and maintaining relationships. A man who was feeling anxious over a scheduled court appearance and wanted to talk to his mom.

Dickson was charged with strangling and beating up a woman in January 2020 in a West Baraboo hotel room. Responding officers found a knife in the wall of the room and Dickson lying next to the pool with a bleeding arm. According to the criminal complaint, the woman told police Dickson had allegedly held her down to a bed by her neck while threatening her with a knife and wrapped a phone cord around her neck as she attempted to escape. Dickson was found to have a blood alcohol level of 0.20%.

Dickson is not allowed in the North Freedom home after years of disengagement, Sarbacker said. That night, he had been staying with a friend roughly 10 miles away. He had been drinking. According to the criminal complaint, when his blood was tested at the hospital roughly two hours after he had been shot, he



BRIDGET COOKE, NEWS REPUBLIC

Dickson, 39, listens as his attorney presents opening arguments in a trial that's scheduled to last two weeks.

had a blood alcohol content of 0.13%. A later test through the Wisconsin Crime Lab found he also had ketamine in his system that night, which was revealed during a motion hearing March 11, according to court records.

Dickson called his mom repeatedly, leaving voice-mails on the answering machine. Neither of the Bahrs answered the ringing landline because they were getting ready for bed.

Sarbacker said Dickson had attempted to die by suicide for the third time in his life that night, but for some reason, the gun he took from the friend he was staying with didn't go off when he aimed it at himself. That's when he decided to drive to North Freedom.

He argued that it was "not really a shootout," and that Bill Bahr told po-

lice he had been the first one to fire, hitting Dickson, and Dickson's bullets ended up far away from his parents. Sarbacker told the jury that Dickson cannot be found guilty of attempted intentional homicide because authorities had not proven Dickson meant the Bahrs harm. There was no ballistics expert brought in for example, he said. Dickson was acting irrationally because of his "involuntary intoxication" brought on by having alcohol use disorder.

"What we have here is a tragedy, there's no doubt about it," Sarbacker said. "People have a breaking point, whether it's emotions or a combination of a lot of alcohol and a lot of drugs."

Follow Bridget on Twitter @cookebridget or contact her at 608-745-3513.

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- ✓ Ability to start shift between 12am-3am and end shift around 9am
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- ✓ Ability to follow company safety guidelines and policies
- ✓ Ability to work weekends and holidays

Benefits Offered:

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- ✓ PTO (Paid time off), Sick and Paid Holidays
- ✓ Medical, Dental and Vision insurance
- ✓ Life insurance and 401K plan

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