

\$300-\$500 CASH
for Complete Junk Vehicles



American Auto
608-332-7336
call for your quote today!
www.AmericanAutoMadison.com

SUNDAY STATE JOURNAL

Free-for-all for governor

While Rebecca Kleefisch got 55% of GOP delegates' votes, she fell short of winning her party's endorsement

LOCAL&STATE. A3

PEREIRA IN CHARGE, WOODS WITHDRAWS

Rookie leads PGA Championship by three, Tiger bolts after 79

SPORTS. C1



Music for the summer

After two years of pandemic improvisation, our area has a packed schedule of live music events

SUNDAY BEST. D1



SUN AND CLOUDS 61 • 40 FORECAST, A28 | MAY 22, 2022 | MADISON.COM

CHEATING THE LANDFILL | ONE MAN'S TREASURE



JOHN HART, STATE JOURNAL

Travis Flannery sorts through a storage locker of items in the basement of his apartment building in Cross Plains. Most of the items are things he has found while Dumpster diving.

Dumpster diver dishes the dirt on fortunate finds

SAMARA KALK DERBY
skalk@madison.com

Travis Flannery has found headphones, cans of soup, salad fixings, grapes and a perfectly new, unopened coffeemaker. Once he found a horde of party supplies. Another time he came face-to-face with a raccoon.

"He was right there, and he was big, staring right at me, munching on some food and I slammed the lid down. I ran," he said. "You never know what you will get."

Flannery, 28, thought he knew about Dumpster diving, but figured people did it mainly to scavenge food. Then he began watching videos on YouTube and was amazed at what people found.

"It was just so shocking and exciting to me," Flannery said.

Two months into his new hobby, Flannery said he finds tremendous amounts of waste in Dumpsters, most of it from big-box stores.

Part of the appeal is the thrill of what he might find, but Flannery

also wants to keep perfectly good items out of landfills. He uses some of the things himself, gives them to friends and relatives, and sells some on Facebook and eBay.

State law doesn't prohibit Dumpster diving, but municipalities have varying ordinances and enforcement mechanisms.

Madison police spokesperson Stephanie Fryer said "rubbish scavenging" is prohibited by city ordinance. It carries a \$124 fine for adults, but none for juveniles, she said.

Over the past five years, the city has issued only one citation for the activity, in 2018, police records custodian Julie Laundrie said.

Please see DIVING, Page A8

WATCH: Travis Flannery shows off what he's found Dumpster diving.

Point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. NEWSVU

UKRAINE FALL OF MARIUPOL

Worry about soldiers growing

Pro-Kremlin leader threatens tribunals

ELENA BECATOROS, OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKYI and CIARAN MCQUILLAN
Associated Press

POKROVSK, Ukraine — Concern mounted Saturday over Ukrainian fighters who became prisoners at the end of Russia's brutal three-month siege in Mariupol, as a Moscow-backed separatist leader vowed tribunals.

Russia claimed the Azovstal steel plant, which for weeks was the last holdout in Mariupol and a symbol of Ukrainian tenacity in the strategic port city, now in ruins with more than 20,000 residents feared dead. Its seizure delivers Russian President Vladimir Putin a badly wanted victory in the war he began in February.

The Russian Defense Ministry released video of Ukrainian soldiers being detained after announcing that its forces had removed the last holdouts from the plant's miles of underground tunnels. Denis Pushilin, the pro-Kremlin head of an area of eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed separatists, claimed that 2,439 people were in custody. He said on Russian state TV that the figure includes some foreign nationals, though he did not provide further details.

Please see UKRAINE, Page A26

■ **Inside:** Russian missile attacks on Ukrainian schools may amount to war crimes. A26

Looking for that union label

Madison-area rise in activity mirrors national landscape

EMILIE HEIDEMANN
eheidemann@madison.com

A growing number of workers in Madison and around the country have moved to unionize or picket as they push for higher wages, better working conditions, improved benefits and a better work-life balance.

That movement, as businesses scramble to attract and retain talent, is part of a new "zeitgeist" and resurgence around

unionization spurred by the pandemic, said Michael Childers, UW-Madison professor of in the Department of Labor Education.

A history professor and the executive director of the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University told the Washington Post something similar last March: that immense student debt, wages that haven't kept up with the cost of living and the economic fallout of the health crisis have sparked a fire, in young adults especially, to unionize.

"Workers are expecting more from their workplace," Childers said. "I don't see that stopping

anytime soon (amid a) tight labor market. People are resigning in record numbers. Workers aren't dumb. They see the writing on the wall."

Workers unionize to "sit down with their employer as an equal," he explained. Unions, by definition, allow for the collective bargaining of compensation rates, schedules, benefits, leave, retirement plans and more.

Critics of unions say such organizations inhibit economic growth and even hurt taxpayers, according to a February Wisconsin Policy Forum report.

Please see UNIONS, Page A13



KAYLA WOLF, STATE JOURNAL

Workers picket at Trachte Building Systems in Sun Prairie. A growing number of workers from several Madison companies have moved to unionize in recent weeks.

news+ membership

News+ offers exclusive digital content for our members. Discover local history at your fingertips with our new digital archives. GO.MADISON.COM/ARCHIVES

BUSINESS	A14	OBITUARIES	A20	SUNDAY BEST	D1
COMICS	INSIDE	OPINION	B1	TAKE FIVE	D4
NATION&WORLD	B13	SPORTS	C1	TELEVISION	INSIDE

