



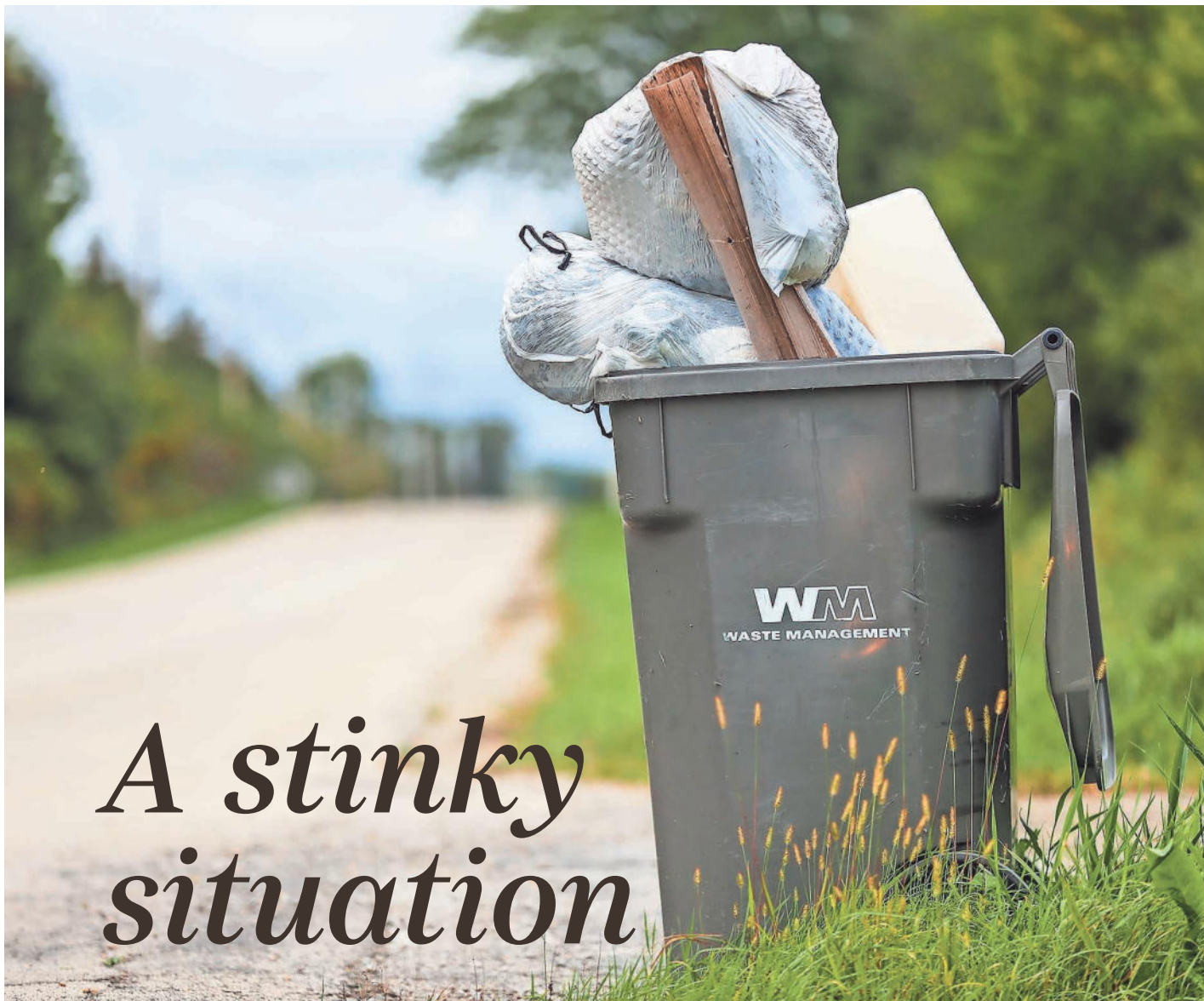
Silverstein: Jury still largely out on Packers' true identity

SPORTS, 4B

THE REPORTER

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A stinky situation

Garbage 'disaster' sees waste piling up in rural Fond du Lac, Calumet counties

Sharon Roznik Fond du Lac Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

ABOVE: Garbage is piling up in communities along the east shore of Lake Winnebago, with some rural areas going more than 30 days without garbage or recycling pickup from Waste Management. The company says it is suffering from a lack of drivers.

DOUG RAFLIK/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

The situation, quite literally, stinks. Alan Martens' garbage is piling up at the end of his driveway in the town of Alto in rural Fond du Lac County.

The Waupun veterinarian says for several months now, garbage pickup has been sporadic, and about three weeks' worth of trash is heaped in bags around his overflowing trash bin.

"We get emails saying they are coming a day late, and then they don't show up at all," Martens said. "Meanwhile, all the trash is attracting animals, it's strewn all over in the ditches and it's becoming a health hazard."

Another resident living east of Waupun near Horicon Marsh reported on a community Facebook page that recent torrential downpours soaked his garbage that's been sitting out for five weeks, awaiting pick-up.

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Jail phone calls get less expensive in six counties

At least for first minute

Chris Mueller Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

The cost of the first minute of a phone call from jail got less expensive this spring in six Wisconsin counties.

In late May, Chippewa, Green, La Crosse, Rusk, Sheboygan and Waupaca counties all reached new agreements with their phone service provider, Securus Technologies. The new agreements eliminated higher rates for the first minute of a call from jail in favor of a uniform rate for each minute of the call and made rates consistent for different types of calls, according to a Securus spokesperson.

The cost of phone calls from jail can be a burden for incarcerated people and their families, especially those from low-income backgrounds.

"This is an ongoing effort as we partner with customers to make communications more accessible," said a statement from Securus Technologies, which serves more than 3,400 agencies and over 1.2 million incarcerated people across North America.

The elimination of a higher rate for the first minute did not necessarily make calls from these jails less expensive overall. The cost of a 15-minute intrastate phone call went up in three of the six counties: Rusk County increased from \$8 to \$8.70, Sheboygan County increased from \$9.70 to \$10.35 and Waupaca County increased from \$7.83 to \$9.60.

The cost went down significantly in La Crosse County, where a 15-minute intrastate phone call went from \$14.30 to \$4.35. In Chippewa County, the cost of a 15-minute call went down from \$13.65 to \$8.70, while the price in Green County dropped from \$14.77 to \$9.90.

Here's how the cost of an intrastate

See JAIL, Page 7A

Gableman says he will compel election clerks to comply with election review if necessary

Molly Beck Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON - Former Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman said Monday he is willing to compel election clerks to turn over documents and provide testimony as part of Assembly Republicans' review of the 2020 election outcome.

Gableman, an attorney who is overseeing the review as a special counsel,

released a six-minute video on Monday defending the review by saying he was not seeking to challenge the election's result and outlined some details of the review, which includes subpoenaing election clerks who do not comply with his requests.

"The purpose of this investigation is to determine what was supposed to happen in our elections and what did happen, to see what went well as well as

to see what might have gone badly," Gableman said.

"We will request from those officials and others with potential knowledge of unlawful actions and will compel them if necessary to produce documents and testimony."

Taxpayers are paying about \$680,000 for the Assembly Republicans' review of

See ELECTION, Page 7A



Former Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman is overseeing a Republican review of the 2020 election. He released a six-minute video on Monday defending the review. YOUTUBE



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FBI: Coroner identifies remains as Gabby Petito

Curt Anderson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORTH PORT, Fla. — The FBI says a county coroner has confirmed that human remains found in remote northern Wyoming along the border of Grand Teton National Park are those of 22-year-old Gabby Petito, who disappeared while on a cross-country road trip with a boyfriend, who is now being sought by authorities in Florida.

Teton County Coroner Brent Blue determined her manner of death was homicide, but did not disclose a cause of death pending final autopsy results, officials said Tuesday. Petito's body was found Sunday near an undeveloped camping area surrounded by woodlands and brush about 30 miles northeast of Jackson, Wyoming.

The FBI also requested for anyone with information about boyfriend Brian

Laundrie's role in Petito's death to contact the agency.

Meanwhile, authorities renewed their search Tuesday of a swampy preserve area near the home of the boyfriend wanted for questioning in Petito's death.

Police in North Port, Florida, said Tuesday morning that investigators have returned to the Carlton Reserve to look for Brian Laundrie, 23.

Investigators searched the 24,000-acre Florida nature preserve over the weekend without success. They focused on the area after Laundrie's parents told police he may have gone there.

Authorities are using helicopters, drones, dogs and officers in all-terrain vehicles in their search for Laundrie. About 75% of the search area is underwater.

On Monday, the FBI went to Laundrie's parents' home in North Port and

removed several boxes and towed away a car neighbors said Laundrie's mother typically used.

Laundrie and Petito had been living with his parents at the North Port home before the road trip on which she died.

The young couple had set out in July in a converted van to visit national parks in the West. They got into a fight along the way, and Laundrie was alone when he returned in the van to his parents' home Sept. 1, police said.

In Wyoming, the FBI announced Sunday that agents had discovered a body on the edge of Grand Teton National Park, which the couple had visited.

Laundrie has been named a person of interest in the case, but his whereabouts in recent days were unknown.

Petito's father, Joseph, posted on social media an image of a broken heart above a picture of his daughter, with the message: "She touched the world."

In an interview broadcast Monday on TV's "Dr. Phil" show, Joseph Petito said Laundrie and his daughter had dated for 2½ years, and Laundrie was "always respectful." During the interview, which was recorded before his daughter's body was found, Petito said the couple had taken a previous road trip to California in her car and there were no problems.

Joseph Petito said the family began worrying after several days without hearing from their daughter.

"We called Brian, we called the mom, we called the dad, we called the sister, we called every number that we could find," Joseph Petito said. "No phone calls were picked up, no text messages were returned."

Joseph Petito said he wants Laundrie to be held accountable for whatever part he played in his daughter's disappearance, along with his family for protecting him.

Garbage

Continued from Page 1A

Hundreds of residents from communities in Fond du Lac and Calumet counties — especially those living along the east shore of Lake Winnebago — are bringing attention to the ongoing delays in trash pickup from Waste Management.

'It's been terrible, a disaster'

The company provides trash and recycling services throughout the state, but lately there's been a lack of communication between the business and the local municipalities it serves, said Taycheedah town chairperson Joe Thome.

"It's been terrible, a disaster, with them telling us their trucks broke down and then you can't get ahold of anyone," Thome said. "We ended up putting a dumpster at the town hall for our residents because we never know day-to-day what's going to happen."

The township is among a string of local governments that have terminated contracts with Waste Management due to ongoing mismanagement and trash pickup delays. Thome said in June they

hired a new company, Harter's Fox Valley Disposal, to handle their bulky waste pickup after Waste Management told the township they wouldn't be able to do it.

"Starting in October, Harter's will be doing all of our trash and recycling, and hopefully that will end the problem and the mountain of emails our clerk has received from a lot unhappy people," Thome said.

Last week, the city of Kiel, a community in northern Calumet County, also voted to end its contract with Waste Management, and is going with a new provider, GFL Environmental. Ongoing problems have been reported in other parts of the county, including the town of Brillion, which is looking to get out of its contract early, said clerk Karen Jannette.

Residents of Brothertown are being told to continue to leave their carts out for pickup and that Waste Management will be sending out trucks as soon as possible. But chairperson Chuck Schneider said it's been a month or more for about half the residents since their last pickup, with the beach roads seeming to be the most problematic areas.

"This is for our recycling only, but our phone's been ringing off the hook," Schneider said. "We are going to see

what happens after a meeting next week with the Eastshore Recycling Commission, but there's a good chance we'll be canceling our contract with Waste Management and going with GFL."

Waste Management staffing shortages contributing to problem

Waste Management says they are between a rock and a hard place and are working feverishly to try and recruit drivers, said company spokesperson Lynn Morgan from the company's corporate office in Germantown.

"We are facing as severe shortage of drivers due to the labor shortage and are concentrating all our efforts recruiting and retaining qualified drivers to service our customers," she said.

Currently, the company has 60 driver openings in Wisconsin. New drivers typically earn upward of \$60,000 annually, she said, which includes wages and incentives, including providing free high education tuition for both employees and their dependents.

Morgan said a nationwide truck driver shortage was predicted a decade ago and now it's happening at the same time the country is facing other factors that play into the declining labor pool, caused by the pandemic.

The company has started its own commercial driver's license training school Morgan said, and is doing everything they can to restore reliable service.

"We appreciate the patience people have extended to us and we know how important this is to people, and it is our goal as well," she said. "We are working at full speed to do everything we can to resolve this."

Those efforts might be too late for many, including New Holstein resident Tara Leithold. She said their garbage has been sitting out for five weeks and the city provided dumpsters near the water treatment plant, where city workers are helping residents unload garbage.

She said she is counting the days until the city starts its contract with a new service provider next month.

"Unfortunately, I can't load our big garage bin into my car, and I don't want to load this old, stinking garbage into my car either," she said. "If anything, this whole ordeal has encouraged me to do better at what I put in my garbage and where to end up."

Contact Sharon Roznik at 920-907-7936 or sroznik@gannett.com. Follow her on Facebook at facebook.com/reporterroz/



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