

The Journal Times

Now that's a big fish

Nearly 35-pound chinook caught in Salmon-A-Rama **SPORTS, PAGE C1**

Jan. 6 Committee

Former White House official said Trump team's plan 'was nuts' **NATION/WORLD, PAGE B5**



RUSD's future

School Board members worried about lack of progress on referendum, construction

LOCAL, PAGE B1



SUN AND SOME CLOUDS 75 • 63 FORECAST, B6

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022

journaltimes.com

\$2.00

POWERPOINT OPEN RECORDS FIGHT

Costs likely to grow

City spending could near \$250K before it's over

ADAM ROGAN
adam.rogan@journaltimes.com

RACINE — The cost to taxpayers for the City Attorney's Office's five-year battle over a PowerPoint slideshow could grow by tens of thousands of dollars, if not more.

City Attorney Scott Letteney said last week that \$201,312.83 has already been spent in legal fees in the case, paid to a Milwaukee law firm handling the case on behalf of Racine.

There is no telling when the case might conclude. More appeals are still possible.

Mark Hinkston, the attorney representing former Alderman Sandy Weidner in the case, said he plans to file "a motion on Sandy's behalf effectuating a release of the PowerPoint per the (July 6) Court (of Appeals) order and asking for an order that the City pay Weidner's attorney's fees, as allowed in a successful open records case," in an email to The Journal Times.

Weidner told a Journal Times reporter last week that she has spent tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees on the case, but she did not have an exact estimate. The Milwaukee-Journal Sentinel reported that Weidner estimated her lawyer fees thus far to be about \$40,000.

Additionally, Hinkston said he plans to seek having the PowerPoint in question fully released to the public. "I don't believe there's an 'open to some but not to others' concept under the Wisconsin Open Records law," Hinkston wrote in a text message to a reporter Tuesday.

Please see **WEIDNER**, Page A5



ALEX RODRIGUEZ PHOTOS, ALEX.RODRIGUEZ@JOURNALTIMES.COM

John Scott, co-founder of the nonprofit 4th Family, center holding a basketball, is pictured with a group of kids participating in phase two of the "Science of Slam" event.

Where basketball meets science

ALEX RODRIGUEZ
alex.rodriguez@journaltimes.com

A group of kids participated in phase two of the "Science of Slam" event. "Science of Slam" was an assembly program that showed area kids the connection between STEM — science, technology, engineering, mathematics — and the popular sport of basketball. The second phase consists of a three-day long day camp, with the first day at Marquette University Monday and finishing up with two days at Case High School Tuesday and Wednesday. Children participating in the three-day camp are shown the science that goes into the fundamentals of basketball, using training drills that mimic those at the NBA rookie camps.

"SC Johnson's efforts to increase access to education in underserved communities align perfectly with 4th Family's innovative approach to STEM learning," wrote Alan VanderMolen, SC Johnson chief communications officer. "We are excited to introduce STEM to children in Chicago and Racine in a relevant, engaging way that leads to greater diversity and inclusion in STEM."

SCAN: For more photos from Monday and Tuesday at the basketball camp
[NEWSVU](https://www.newsvu.com)



Eli Russel, center, tests his vertical leap during 4th Family's three-day camp Tuesday.



COURTESY OF SC JOHNSON

Four-time WNBA All-Star Ticha Penicheiro passes the ball to a camp participant Monday at Marquette University.

BEST OF RACINE

Nominations begin today

To Our Readers,

One of our favorite projects at the Wisconn Valley Media Group is our annual Best of Racine program. It is a positive way for our readers, our community and our businesses to engage with each other.

For our team, it is always fun to walk into a local establishment and see our awards proudly displayed on front doors, vestibules and in waiting areas. Our annual Winner's publication becomes a coffee table piece for our readers to reference when they are in search of a great restaurant or in need of a professional service.

In 2022, we added a few categories to better recognize the businesses here.

Up first is our nomination round, which begins today, July 13, and ends Aug. 3.

During our nomination round, users will be able to nominate a business in each category one time. Through our program platform we can monitor nominations to detect cheating, which helps keep the contest on a level playing field.

Anyone who nominates 20 businesses will be entered to win a drawing for a \$250 gift card. We will purchase the gift card at a local business of your choice. The keyword there is local. Through this program, we are celebrating the businesses in our communities and we want to provide a gift card to one of our local establishments.

In each category, the businesses with the five most nominations will move to our voting round. The voting round begins Aug. 24 and ends Sept. 14. During the voting round, everyone can vote for their favorite businesses once a day.

After the voting round, we will have another gift card drawing for individuals who vote for at least 20 businesses.

We will announce our winners in our guide at the end of October.

So, we are looking forward to our readers nominating their favorite businesses at go.journaltimes.com/bestof22

It is time to make your voice heard.



Man found dead on south side

Appears to be city's seventh homicide of '22

DEE HÖLZEL
dee.holzel@journaltimes.com

RACINE — The Racine Police Department is investigating the death of a 21-year-old man that occurred Monday night on the 3000 block of 17th Street near West Boulevard.

The victim was identified as Kareem A. McClain, of Racine.

As of Tuesday morning, there

were no suspects in custody.

According to a written statement from the RPD, officers were dispatched at approximately 11:36 p.m. on a report of shots fired. Upon their arrival, officers found McClain on the north sidewalk with a gunshot wound to the head.

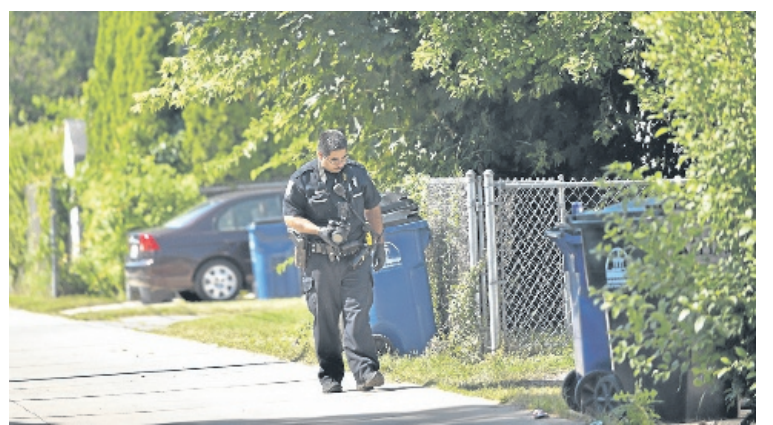
He was pronounced dead at the scene.

If confirmed to be a criminal homicide, it would be the seventh criminal homicide thus far in Racine in 2022, according to

police statistics, all of which have been committed with a firearm. At this time last year, there had only been three homicides within the RPD's jurisdiction.

The RPD is interested in any additional information that anyone may have about the incident. Witnesses or those with information are urged to call the RPD Investigation Unit at 262-635-7756.

Those who wish to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers at (262) 636-9330.



ALEX RODRIGUEZ, ALEX.RODRIGUEZ@JOURNALTIMES.COM

A Racine Police officer, identified only as Aguilar, documents a crime scene near the 3000 block of 17th Street Tuesday morning after Kareem A. McClain was found dead in the area late Monday night.

news+ membership **AT JOURNALTIMES.COM/GAMES**

CLASSIFIED	D5 MONEY	B4 PUZZLES	D5
COMICS	C7 OBITUARIES	B3 SERVICE DIRECTORY	D5
LEGALS	D6 OPINION	A7 FOOD	D1



First lady apologizes

Had said Latinos are 'as unique' as San Antonio breakfast tacos

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jill Biden apologized Tuesday for saying Latinos are “as unique” as San Antonio breakfast tacos during a speech to the nation’s largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization.

“The first lady apologizes that her words conveyed anything but pure admiration and love for the Latino community,” tweeted Jill Biden’s spokesperson, Michael LaRosa.

The first lady flew to San Antonio on Monday to address the annual conference of UnidosUS, a Latino civil rights and advocacy group formerly known as the National Council of La Raza. She also spoke at a Democratic Party fundraiser at a private home before she returned to Washington.



Biden

soms of Miami and as unique as the breakfast tacos here in San Antonio.”

She also badly mispronounced “bodegas,” small stores in urban areas typically specializing in Hispanic groceries.

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists and others registered their offense on social media, with the journalists’ organization tweeting that, “We are not tacos.”

“Using breakfast tacos to try to demonstrate the uniqueness of Latinos in San Antonio demonstrates a lack of cultural knowledge and sensitivity to the diversity of Latinos in the region,” NAHJ said.

But Biden’s attempt at a compliment floundered when she described Latino diversity “as distinct as the bodegas of the Bronx, as beautiful as the blossoms of Miami and as unique as the breakfast tacos here in San Antonio.”

2 transplants attempted with pig hearts

LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

New York researchers transplanted pig hearts into two brain-dead people over the last month, the latest in a string of developments in the long quest to one day save human lives with animal organs.

The experiments announced Tuesday come after a historic but failed attempt earlier this year to use a pig’s heart to save a dying Maryland man — sort of a rehearsal before scientists try again in the living.

Among the lessons: Practice with the deceased is important.

“We learned so much from the first one that the second one is much better,” said Dr. Nader Moazami, who led the operations at NYU Langone Health. “You stand there in awe” when the pig heart starts to beat in a human body.

This time around, Moazami’s team mimicked how heart transplants routinely are done. Once last month and once last week, researchers traveled to a facility housing genetically modified pigs, removed the needed hearts, put them on ice and flew them hundreds of miles back to New York.

They used special new methods to check for any worrisome animal viruses before sewing the heart into the chest of each deceased recipient — a Vietnam veteran from Pennsylvania with a long history of heart disease and a New York woman who’d benefited from a transplant earlier in life.

Then came three days of more intense testing than living patients could tolerate — including frequent biopsies of the organ — before doctors disconnected life support.

Already the Food and Drug Administration is considering whether to allow a small number of Americans who need a new organ to volunteer for rigorous studies of either pig hearts or kidneys. NYU Langone is among three transplant centers planning trials — and has a meeting planned with the FDA in August to discuss requirements.

Testing in the deceased could help fine-tune how the first trials in the living are designed, said Dr. David Klassen of the United Network for Organ Sharing, which



NYU LANGONE HEALTH

Dr. Nader Moazami, right, and cardiothoracic physician assistant Amanda Merrifield, center, and other members of a surgical team prepare for the transplant of a genetically modified pig heart into a recently deceased donor on July 6 at NYU Langone Health in New York. Experiments are raising new hope that pigs might one day help fill a shortage of donated organs.

oversees the nation’s transplant system.

“They serve as an important sort of stepping stone,” said Klassen, who wonders if researchers next might consider tracking the organs for a week or so in a donated body rather than just three days.

Animal-to-human transplants, what scientists call xenotransplantation, have been tried for decades without success, as people’s immune systems almost instantly attacked the foreign tissue. Now, pigs are being genetically modified so their organs are more human-like — increasing hope that they might one day help fill a shortage of donated organs. More than 100,000 people are on the national waiting list for a transplant, most of them kidney patients, and thousands die every year before their turn comes.

The most ambitious attempt so far came in January, when doctors at the University of Maryland Medical Center transplanted a pig heart into a dying 57-year-old. David Bennett survived for two months, evidence that xenotransplantation was at least possible. But initial testing missed that the organ harbored an animal virus. What caused Bennett’s new heart to fail and whether that virus played any role still isn’t known, the Maryland researchers recently reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Months earlier, the NYU team and researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham separately were testing pig kidney transplants in the deceased, people who’d donated their bodies for science.

NYU’s recent heart experiments will add to the evidence as the FDA decides whether to allow formal studies in living patients.

But NYU Langone’s Dr. Robert Montgomery, a kidney transplant surgeon who received his own heart transplant, said continuing careful experiments in the deceased is critical to figuring out the best methods “in a setting where a person’s life isn’t at stake.”

“This is not a one-and-done situation. This is going to be years of learning what’s important and what’s not important for this to work,” said Montgomery, who has a list of almost 50 people who’ve called desperate to volunteer for a pig kidney transplant.

The FDA hasn’t signaled how soon it might decide whether to allow such studies. At a recent two-day public meeting, the agency’s scientific advisers said it was time to try despite a long list of questions. They include how best to modify the pigs, as several biotech companies — including Revivacor, which supplied the NYU organs — are pursuing different options.

It’s not even clear which organ to attempt first in a clinical trial.

Weidner

From A1

“From our perspective, a record cannot be ‘a little bit public’ or ‘a little bit open’ ... It either is or is not.”

Hinkston said he also plans on “requesting a couple other items” from the city, but that he “will not go into” what those items are at this time.

The PowerPoint in question was shown by Letteney to the City Council in a closed-door meeting in August 2017, while Weidner was still an alderman. Reportedly, the PowerPoint contains more than 70 slides depicting communications between the City Attorney’s Office and aldermen that aldermen then shared with constituents. The City Attorney’s Office claims that those messages should have been considered confidential and aldermen were wrong to share them with the public.

Weidner has said that the ma-

majority of the slides were directed at her communications specifically. She later requested the PowerPoint from the City Attorney’s Office, which rejected her request, claiming that the PowerPoint could not be shared because of attorney-client privilege, even though she had already seen it.

Weidner challenged that rejection in court. The case was initially sealed but later became partially public.

On July 6, a Court of Appeals decision stated that, essentially, the City Attorney’s Office was wrong to reject Weidner’s initial request on the grounds of attorney-client privilege. That decision could pave the way for the PowerPoint being released, but that remains to be seen.

Hinkston has been allowed to view the PowerPoint “in camera” — a legal term meaning essentially “for attorney’s eyes only” — but Weidner still reportedly has not seen the PowerPoint since it was initially shown in August 2017.

Senior Living

with a Cherry on Top!

Sweet Abilities

COOL Ice cream and Live MUSIC

Join us for an

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & TOUR

Celebrate summer with a sweet treat from Sweet Abilities Ice Cream Truck and top it off with some live entertainment.

Thursday,
July 21

3:00 - 5:00 pm

RSVP! to Carie at
(262) 914-3188 by
Friday, July 15th

SWEET DEAL!

Move in by
August 31st and get
1 MONTH FREE

Waterford

PLACE

ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

808 Cornerstone Crossing, Waterford, WI | waterfordplace-assistedliving.com