

Area sees increase

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism released 2022 economic impact data, showing the state's tourism industry generated a record-breaking \$23.7 billion in total economic impact. The highest-ever overnight visitation helped fuel the growth, with Grant County playing a pivotal role by contributing \$108 million in total economic impact.

The 2022 total economic impact surpassed the previous statewide record of \$22.2 billion set in 2019. Grant County also surpassed the previous record of \$97 million set in 2019. Additionally, last year, Grant County Tourism supported 1,009 part-time and full-time jobs across various sectors of the industry and generated \$6.8 million in local tax revenue. Statewide, tourism generated \$1.5 billion in state and local tax revenue.

Without this revenue, each Wisconsin household would pay an additional \$620 to maintain the current level of government services. "We knew we were making an impact as we continue to market Grant County, but I never expected this," Amy Olson, Grant County Tourism Council President, said. "I am proud of our council and the efforts and hard work we do to partner with communities and organizations to promote our area. Sharing our area with visitors benefits us all."

Neighboring counties also saw record-breaking economic impacts:

- Crawford County was up 6.7 percent, from \$67 million in 2021 to \$71 million in 2022.
- Iowa County's economic impact grew 10.8 percent, from \$67 million in 2021 to \$74 million in 2022.
- Lafayette County saw a significant increase, from

\$23 million to \$27 million, up 18.7 percent.

Richland County's economic impact increased from \$36 million to \$40 million, a 12.2 percent increase.

In 2022, there were 111.1 million visits in Wisconsin, which was up 8.8 million visits, or 8.7 percent, over the previous year. This includes a record 45.4 million overnight visits, or a 13.8 percent increase from 2021. Overnight visitors, on average, spent nearly three times as much as day trip visitors.

To learn more about Wisconsin tourism's record-breaking year, view the 2022 economic impact data, including a county-by-county breakdown, at industry.travelwisconsin.com/research.

"Tourism is both big fun and big business," Anne Sayers, Secretary of Wisconsin Department of Tourism,

said. "I'm so grateful for the innovation and dedication of the folks who make up Wisconsin's tourism industry. Each one of them played a role in setting this record. Aided by strategic marketing, Wisconsin convinced more visitors to stay longer so they could add more activities to their itinerary, delivering a deeper economic impact. I congratulate the entire industry on an incredible record-breaking year."

The Grant County Tourism Council promotes the county through its annual Grant County Activity Guide publication and website, grantcounty.org/tourism. For more information about tourism in Grant County, Wisconsin, please call 608-822-3501, email contact@grantcounty.org or contact a member of the Tourism Council.

Powers to be released

In accordance with WI State Statute 301.46(2m), it has been determined that the attached information on Jordan Powers should be released to the local media. On 06/27/2023 Mr. Jordan Powers will be released to Community Supervision and supervised by Agents from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Office in Lancaster. Jordan Powers will be residing in Lancaster and living in the 300 block of W. Elms St in a temporary living placement house.

This notification is not intended to increase fear; rather, it is our belief that an informed public is a safer public. Sex Offenders have always lived in our communities; but it was not until the WI Sex Offender Registry and Community Notification Law was enacted



that law enforcement was able to share this information with the community. Citizen abuse of this information to threaten, intimidate, or harass registered sex offenders will not be tolerated.

- Conviction Dates:
- 948.12(1m) Possession of Child Pornography
 - 943.10(1)(a) Burglary
 - 961.41 (3g)(e) Possession of THC

- 961.573(1) Possess Drug Paraphernalia
- 948.02(2) 2nd Degree Sexual Assault of Child Modifier

Release Date: 06/27/23
Mr. Powers will be released to Lancaster, WI. Mr. Powers will be on supervision with the WI Department of Corrections until July, 2026

Upon release, Mr. Powers will be on Global Positioning System (GPS) for life. Mr. Powers will be on the Wisconsin Sex Offender Registry Program. Mr. Powers is not allowed to have unsupervised contact with minors. He is required to comply with all probation rules of supervision and the City of Lancaster Sex Offender Ordinance - Chapter 357. The WI Sex Offender Registry can be located at <http://doc.wi.gov>.



In honor of Flag Day, residents and staff at Morningside Assisted Living, City Limits Street in Lancaster, were honored to welcome the members of Lancaster American Legion Post 109. The gentlemen performed a moving ceremony as they raised a new flag on the flag pole. Their time and service are greatly appreciated.



Treatment

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accountable. They make, you know, they have you go to all these support meetings, and there are so many support people there that help you make it through your sobriety and getting your life back together. And it's just incredible."

That structure means that people like Kim know they have a drug test they need to pass at least weekly. That every couple of weeks they need to go in front of the judge to talk about what they are up to.

Kim said that as she has gone through treatment court, she has seen her get parts of normal life back, and then those, too, also become things that she points to on staying on the path of sobriety. She notes that she does not want to lose the apartment, not lose the car.

But the biggest item is the relationship with her children. As she worked through the program, got a job, and worked to improve her, her relationship with her children returned, and they are in her life again, the younger living with her.

Kim's eldest, Whitney, spoke at her graduation ceremony. "I am so proud with you," she told her mother, stating that when Kim was dealing with addiction, she never knew if they ever would have a relationship again.

Kim said being with her family was her driving force. She added that it was before she got into treatment court, she learned her daughter was pregnant with her first grandchild, and the desire to have her granddaughter never see her high was her driving force.

For years before she went into treatment court, Kim was in a relationship with Ryan, and they admit that during that

time in their relationship, they fed off their addictions.

"We couldn't stay away from each other, we were bad influences on each other," Kim said of their relationship then. "We got into a lot of trouble with drugs and everything together."

For the first eight months, Kim and Ryan had a no contact order for one another, as they were seen as having their bad habits feeding off each other. It was not too tough to be apart, however, as Ryan was serving time in jail, then group therapy.

They were able to turn it around, however. After they each had gone through treatment and therapy, when the no contact order was removed, each of them, back in their lives, pushed each other as they worked on sobriety, and Kim stated they became positive influences in each others' lives.

"Nobody thought we could do it on the positive side," Kim quipped.

They pushed each other, and became positive influences in each others' lives from that moment on. They got married, and one of the new goals for them is planning their honeymoon.

For Kim, she has so many things driving her now. She is taking classes on how to run a business, and she wants to take what she learns and someday start her own cleaning firm, having learned so much from her job that she has had for 10 months.

She has a granddaughter that feeds her interest of photography. And she has hope that sometime she will be able to give back to others fighting for sobriety like she has.

"I am just grateful for everybody that helped me."

More about the Treatment Court program next week

Sewer

FROM PAGE 1A

"I am against opening up to anybody for a free-for-all," Alderperson Matt Pennekamp stated on the idea of allowing public hunting.

Council President Shayne LaBudda said that if the council looks at it again, he would want the resolution to be something that decides it for the next 10 years. "If you do it year by year, it will lack consistency," LaBudda said.

The council debated just how to move forward in 2024. One thought was to send it to the Park and Recreation Committee for

options, but Carlson said he was against that because the previous time it was considered, the committee and staff came up with a wider set of options that were ultimately rejected.

Carlson noted that ideas like having turkey or rabbit hunting on the grounds were brought up.

Council member Mike Johanson noted the popularity of turkey hunting, but LaBudda said he "shudders at the thought of someone walking their dog when someone is turkey hunting, rabbit hunting."

"I don't see park and rec, public works or any other committee offering value to this," Carlson stated.

Cassville

FROM PAGE 1A

access to the weight room/gymnasium for volleyball, basketball, and football players.

In other business, the Board approved six open enrollment requests (5 for out of the district; 1 for into the district). The Board is also in the beginning stages of formulating a Vision and a Mission Statement for the District as part of the PLC (Professional Learning Communities) process. In an ongoing effort to initiate a daycare option for the community, the School Board has agreed to form a

committee with the Village Board and CED (Cassville Economic Development). The group hopes to provide information in a public forum to be held in August.

The Board did move into closed session. According to Mr. Luster, the following actions were taken. Kacey Junk was hired for the position of Teacher Assistant/Special Education Services, and Brendan Weber was hired for the HS Math position. Social Studies teacher Jared Blaeser, has also recently taken a position in another school district.

The next School Board Meeting will be on Monday, July 17, at 6:00 PM.

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