



# The Stoughton Courier Hub

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## INSIDE THIS EDITION

### Opinion



River restoration will help bring balance

Page 4

### Sports



Merchants wrap up HTL season

Page 5

### Community



Dairyland Dessert Cafe donations

Page 10

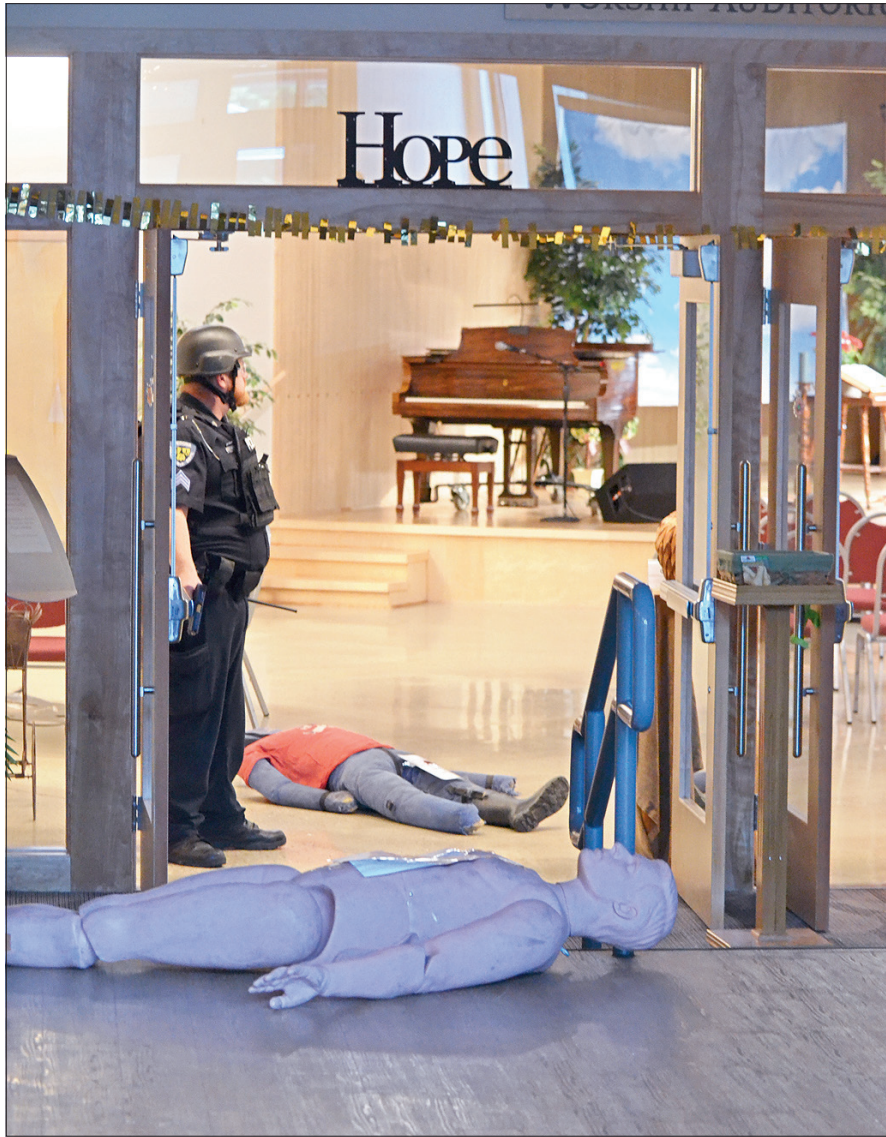


Photo by Maddie Bergstrom

Police officers from multiple departments around the area took part in training drills to prepare for possible situations involving active shooter threats – and how to save lives.

## Stop the threat, save the injured

### Stoughton Police Department joins area departments for active threat response training

BY MADDIE BERGSTROM  
Staff reporter

Throughout the past two weeks, officers from the Stoughton Police Department spent time training for a seemingly unimaginable situation: shots fired and mass casualties in a church.

As a member of the Suburban In-Service Training Association (SITA), Verona works alongside officers from Stoughton, Monona, Oregon and McFarland on Active Threat Response training, which involves stopping a dynamic situation with mass casualties.

"Pretty much known in the media

realm – in the civilian realm – as an active shooter," VPD Lieutenant Dustin Fehrmann said. "But active threat response concepts aren't specific to guns or firearms whatsoever – it could be anything. An act of violence with a motor vehicle, with a weapon, a sword, machete – any of those things. (If) there's mass killing going on, it's an active threat."

Active threat training typically takes place once a year throughout the various SITA communities, Fehrmann said. For training this year, Sugar River United Church in Verona took on an eerie feeling as officers responded to large-scale active threat scenarios.

Training sessions were held on July 20-21 and 27-28 and began at the Verona Fire Department. There, officers participated in a tabletop

Turn to **Police**/Page 8

### City of Stoughton

## Council back to an even dozen

### Patrick Butler, Christina Scanlon appointed to fill pair of vacancies

BY SCOTT DE LARUELLE  
Managing editor

After being shorthanded for the past few months, the Stoughton City Council is back to a full dozen members as two new alders were appointed and sworn in at the board's Tuesday, July 25 meeting.

Patrick Butler was appointed to fill the vacancy in District 4 that opened in May with Fank Raff's resignation, and Christina Wozniak Scanlon was appointed in District 1 to fill the vacancy created when Rachel Venegas resigned at the end of June due to moving out of the district.

They were the only applicants for the open seats, and will serve until a special election can be held in April 2024 for a full, three-year term.

During a brief question-and-answer session, Butler, who has lived in Stoughton for 19 years, said his interest to participate in city government stemmed in part from his conversations with Dist. 1 Alder Brett Schumacher.

"Poor Brett is on my wife and my walking route, so I talk his ear off from time to time about various things," he explained. "I've always taken an interest in politics, it's what I went to school for. Brett has talked to me a couple times about maybe stepping up and being more active. I have more time now."

"I decided you can kind of talk about things or you can actually participate."

Butler said he's taken a particular interest in the city's growth in recent years.

"I grew up in Onalaska, it's grown tremendously, I look at some of the other towns, and I want to make sure Stoughton grows smart but continues to grow,"

Turn to **Council**/Page 10

### Business

## Stoughton Hospital gets "A" for social responsibility

### Low Institute Hospitals Index 2023-24 national ratings

Stoughton Hospital has been recognized by the Low Institute for outstanding social responsibility, receiving an "A" grade on the 2023-24 Low Institute Hospitals Index.

According to a July 26 Stoughton Health news release, the hospital ranked eighth out of 106 hospitals in Wisconsin. According to the Index, Stoughton Hospital also received "A" grades in Value of

Care, Patient Outcomes, Clinical Outcomes, Patient Satisfaction, and Cost Efficiency. These are independent rankings and hospitals do not apply or pay to be listed.

"We are honored to receive the Low Institute's recognition of our social responsibility for the second year in a row," said Stoughton Health president/CEO Dan DeGroot. "We will continue to act in the best interest of our patients, community, and staff letting our mission of providing safe, quality healthcare with exceptional personalized service guide us."

Turn to **Hospital**/Page 9



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