

## 3rd District Race

# Van Orden to outspend Pfaff by \$4 million

By PETER CAMERON  
Derrick Van Orden, Republican candidate for the 3rd Congressional District in western Wisconsin, has raised nearly \$6 million for his 2022 campaign, according to filings with the Federal Elections Commission. That's compared to about \$1.4 million for his Democratic opponent, Wisconsin State Senator Brad Pfaff.

Those figures are accurate up to September 30, the most recent reporting deadline. With five weeks of fundraising needing to be reported before the election, Van Orden has, on his own, already shattered the record amount he and Democratic Representative Ron Kind raised for their tight election — about \$5 million — in 2020.

Van Orden nearly won the district that year, when he gave Kind his first serious challenge in years, losing by about three percent and about 10,000 votes.

Considering that finish, his fundraising, and former President Donald Trump's winning the district in 2016 and 2020, Van Orden has to be considered the frontrunner, said Joe Heim, a political science professor emeritus at UW-La Crosse.

"The district is so large that just getting your name and face around is a major undertaking," Heim said. "So his name is much better known than a first-term State Senator Pfaff."

Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District runs along the Mississippi River from Platteville nearly 200 miles north to Eau Claire.

"All this has given Van Orden a distinct advantage," Heim continued. "Add into all this is the normal national historical pattern of the 'out of White House party' gaining seats in Congress, you have an environment favorable to a Republican."

Federal campaign limits allow an individual donor to give a candidate for federal office a maximum of \$2,900 per election, and candidates face a primary and a general, so one person can give a total of \$5,800 to one candidate per election cycle.

### 100 donors gave maximum

More than 100 people have donated the maximum \$5,800 to Van Orden's campaign, according to filings with the FEC. Notable names giving the max include Las Vegas casino magnate Steve Wynn and his wife Andrea Wynn, Kwik Trip CEO Don Zeitlow, billionaire Republican megadonors Dick and Liz Uehlein of ULINE, billionaire Diane Hendricks and Kim Hendricks of ABC Building Supply, and Ross Perot Jr.

Big donors to Pfaff's campaign include Judith Faulkner, CEO and founder of Epic, the health care software giant based in Dane County, her husband Gordon Faulkner, and Kevin Conroy, the CEO of the Madison-based Exact Sciences, all of whom have given \$5,000.

The retiring Kind's campaign committee has given Pfaff's campaign at least \$4,000. Kind and his wife, Tawni Kind, also personally gave Pfaff's campaign at least \$3,000 and \$3,750 each. Pfaff previously worked for Kind's congressional office.

Former Democratic state legislator Tim Cullen gave him \$3,400.

Lynde Uihlein, a Schlitz heir, Democratic donor and relative of Dick Uihlein, gave Pfaff \$2,800. Former U.S. Senator Herb Kohl gave Pfaff's campaign \$2,700.

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### Enjoying a spooky, gooey moment

KINLEIGH HOOKER was having fun with the 'spooky goo' being distributed by elementary teacher Amy Anderson. Anderson's station was one of several enjoying brisk attendance at the North Crawford Fall Festival held last weekend.

### At the Old Oak Inn

# Freaker's Ball planned

By GILLIAN POMPLUN

After a few years of COVID lockdowns, the Old Oak Inn in Soldiers Grove has come roaring back with the 'Freaker's Ball,' planned for Friday, Oct. 28, with doors opening at 6 p.m.

Halloween is widely regarded as one of the most beloved holidays, dedicated to communing with the spirits of those who have passed, candy galore, tricks and treats, dressing up in the fantastic costume of your choice, and coming together as the harvest is coming in, the days getting shorter, and the temperatures colder.

An older name, used among inhabitants of the British Isles for the celebration was Samhain (Sah-win). Samhain was first observed by Celtic Pagans. Samhain marked the Celtic New Year, the end of

summer, and the end of the harvest season. It also signaled the beginning of winter, which they associated with death. On this day, the Celts believed the veil between the living and the dead was especially thin.

This created the three-day observance known as Allhallowtide: All Hallows' Eve (31 October), All Hallows' Day (1 November), and All Souls' Day (2 November). It is widely believed that many of the modern secular customs of 'All Hallows' Eve' (Halloween) were influenced by the festival of Samhain.

### Plans for fun

In addition to the Old Oak Inn's wonderful lineup of Friday fish fry entrees and tasty adult beverages, the event in their event center will offer Halloween-goers a night full of holiday fun, theatre, great

music and dancing, costume prizes and so much more.

Music will be provided by local musical talent Dylan Harris, followed by the Freaks of Nature. Cash prizes will be offered for the 'Best,' 'Creepiest,' and 'Most Comical' Halloween costumes, as well as a photo booth to have your creations captured for history.

A \$15 entry fee includes: first drink, 'CharGhoulerie,' hors d'oeuvres and a doorprize entry.

### The schedule

- 6:30 p.m., The Players Theatre Group will provide a live performance
- 7:30 p.m. Dylan Harris and Good Company will perform
- 9:30 p.m. Freaks of Nature present a live performance.

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### At North Crawford Playhouse

# 'Once Upon a Mattress' entertains

Enjoy a lighthearted evening of musical theatre at the North Crawford Playhouse, as they present a modern twist on 'The Princess and the Pea' in the musical comedy, 'Once Upon a Mattress.'

The cast and crew are busy preparing countless medieval costumes, vibrant scenery, and a frighteningly tall stack of mattresses for their first musical production in nearly three years.

'Once Upon a Mattress' roughly follows the original fairy tale, with some inventive and whimsical diversions.

Long ago in a faraway kingdom, Queen Aggravain (Mariah Stolpa) decreed no couples could marry until her son, Prince Dauntless (Nathan Zirk), found a bride.

Princesses came from far and wide to win the hand of the prince, but none could pass the impossible tests given to them by the Queen. That is, until the "shy" swamp princess, Winifred the Woebegone (Sarah Bransky), showed up. Would she be able to pass the Sensi-

tivity Test, marry her prince and help Lady Larkin (Annie O'Brien) and Sir Harry (Blake Zirk) to the altar?

Along the way, audiences will be delighted by an expressive but silent King Sextimus (Jack McLean), a peppy Jester (Lucy O'Brien), and a scheming Wizard (Aiden Unseth), as well as a fabulous ensemble cast.

Buttressed by a bevy of beautiful songs, by turns hi-

larious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the classic tale 'The Princess and the Pea' provides some side-splitting shenanigans. For after all, a princess is a delicate thing.

Performances are November 3, 4, and 5 at 7 p.m. with a November 5 matinee at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door; \$10 for adults and \$8 for students.

It's time for entertainment!



THE TIME HAS COME. The North Crawford Playhouse is ready to present the musical 'Once Upon a Mattress' on November 3, 4 and 5. Don't miss it!

### At North Crawford

# Referendums' tax impacts are updated and lessened

The North Crawford School District recently learned that the tax impact of their upcoming referendums will be significantly lower than initially estimated. In total, the cost to taxpayers per \$100,000 of equalized value has come down from \$208 to \$86 based on a 14 percent increase in equalized value to property in the district.

Up to this point, the school district had estimated a tax impact of \$1.33 per \$1,000 of equalized value for the debt service referendum. Additionally, the district estimated an increase of \$.75 per \$1,000 of equalized value for the operational referendum. The total tax impact for both referendums was estimated to be \$2.08 per \$1,000 of value, or a tax increase of \$208 per \$100,000 of equalized value.

However, following notification from the state of Wisconsin that the district's total equalized value had increased by about 14 percent from last year, those numbers changed significantly.

### New tax impact explained

The new tax impact numbers for the November 8th referendums are as follows:

- for the \$4,500,000 debt service referendum, the district is calculating a \$.55 per \$1,000 of equalized value tax increase.
- for the \$900,000 recurring operational referendum, the district is calculating an increase of \$.31 per \$1,000 of equalized value.
- in total, the district calculates a total tax impact of \$.86 per \$1,000 of value, or a tax increase of \$86 per \$100,000 of equalized value.

"We took a very conservative approach to estimating the tax impact as we put together our referendums," Munson explained. "Some of the projected numbers we were using, such as student enrollment, state generalized aid, and equalized value, were based on historical data from the school district."

## New TUDARE program manager details her approach to members

By GILLIAN POMPLUN

Sara Strassman, Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) program manager made a presentation to members of the Coulee Region Trout Unlimited chapter in LaCrosse on Wednesday, Oct. 19. Strassman took over the job in July from 16-year veteran Jeff Hastings.

"Taking this job is kind of bringing me full circle back to the small watersheds," Strassman told the group. "Prior to this, I worked for WDNR on the Mississippi River doing water quality and sediment work, and co-managing the commercial navigation system, and before that I did dam removal work."

Strassman said that she grew up fishing in Michigan, and "remains a bait fisher." She said that her family does most of their fishing in Michigan, while vacationing and visiting with family.

Strassman detailed for the group what her priorities will be for Driftless Area trout fisheries in her new role. She said that some of the key opportunities she hopes to develop include working with municipalities on water quality trading projects, supporting development of managed grazing and regenerative agriculture, developing new partnerships in other recreation groups, and work with new techniques in the headwaters of streams.

"Of course, our focus on brook trout habitat and creating greater stream resilience in the face of greater flows from storm events will continue," Strassman said. "We also continue to incorporate habitat for nongame species in our projects as those species have also been impacted by climate change."

"We're encouraged that the actual numbers coming into the district are much better than we anticipated, which in the end means a lower tax impact for our resident taxpayers," Munson said. "I think it's important to note that the average taxpayer in the district will pay less than \$.50 per day in additional taxes. That seems like an excellent return on investment considering they're making a \$5.4 million investment in our staff, students, and school district."

The school district will have two referendum questions on the ballot at the November 8 general election.

The first question will ask voters to authorize the school district to exceed the revenue cap by \$900,000 on a recurring basis to meet operational expenses in the district. The operational referendum will be phased in over a four-year period, with an additional \$300,000 in the first year, \$250,000 in the second year, \$200,000 in the third year, and \$150,000 in the fourth year.

The second question will ask voters to authorize the school district to borrow \$4,500,000 to complete capital improvement projects in the school district. Some of those projects include a complete reroof of the building, replacement of the exterior upper wall system, replacement of all exterior windows, renovation of bathroom and shower facilities to meet state and federal codes and laws, and other capital improvement projects as funding allows.

The district will host one final Community Referendum Meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Soldiers Grove Fire Station.

The district will host a Referendum Open House in the school cafeteria on Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 6-7:30 p.m. Residents will have the opportunity to tour the school, and ask Superintendent Brandon Munson any questions regarding the referendums.

Strassman said she has been meeting with various agencies to develop a better understanding of what Trout Unlimited's role in helping municipalities achieve phosphorus standards through streambank restoration projects could be.

"Achievement of the phosphorus standards for small municipalities is too expensive for them to accomplish through infrastructure development," Strassman explained. "For this reason, streambank restoration projects are a very cost effective option and represent a real opportunity in the watersheds."

Strassman said she is also looking for funding and opportunities to partner with municipalities on inventories of crossings. She cited the work Monroe County had done in the last several years as groundbreaking, and described the data they've developed about fish passage issues with crossings in their county as crucial to be able to design projects and secure funding for them.

"Habitat fragmentation is a significant issue for our trout fisheries," Strassman said. "With all the infrastructure funding coming down the pike from the federal government, this is a real opportunity for counties and municipalities, and a real opportunity to make a difference in our trout fisheries."

Strassman said that many local governments are beginning to take a more proactive approach to crossing replacements, and building in more natural patterns for stream systems. She said that one good partner in this work is FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance.

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