



Brewers are putting together best defense in baseball

SPORTS, 1B

GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE

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CHILD CARE COUNTS WISCONSIN

Program cuts spark fear, concern



Assistant teacher Taylor Schulz plays with Aydin Schumacher, left, Landon Thiel, and Boone Heller, right, in the Sunshine classroom for 1-year-olds at Inspire Dreams Group Child Care in Chilton on Aug. 31, 2022.

Families could soon see surge in prices

Madison Lammert

Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Child care providers across the state are gearing up for a drop in funding — and the effect that might have on families.

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families announced Tuesday that the funding for the Child Care Counts Stabilization Payment Program is expected to be cut in half soon, citing the availability of federal funding.

With the decrease, the total monthly payment amount will drop to about \$10 million and will affect providers' payments starting in May, the beginning of the program's third round, DCF said.

Individual child care providers don't yet know the exact extent to which their Child Care Counts payments will be cut, but given the program is credited with keeping 3,000 child care businesses running, the reduction is sparking great concern.

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Owner Tammy Dannhoff conducts clean up time after a play session on Feb. 28 at Kids Are Us Family Child Care in Oshkosh.

PHOTOS BY DAN POWERS/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

"Will this time, when programs are being notified there is going to be a steep reduction of Child Care Counts payments, motivate people into action to let our legislature know how critical Child Care Counts is?"

Ruth Schmidt, executive director of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association

Trial begins for former teacher accused of child sexual assault

Danielle DuClos

Green Bay Press-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

GREEN BAY — Former Green Bay School District teacher David Villareal has been sitting in jail for two years awaiting trial.

Prosecutors allege he inappropriately touched three of his second-grade students and a third-grader at Baird Elementary School between 2015 and 2017, charging him with four counts of felony child sexual assault.

Originally charged with five counts, Deputy District Attorney Wendy Lemkuil dropped one of the charges Monday morning due to the inability of an alleged victim to be present for the trial.

The trial, which began Monday morning with jury selection, has been delayed multiple times since his arrest in April 2021, partly due to Villareal's struggle to secure and maintain counsel.

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Government sides with Lac du Flambeau tribe over roads

Frank Vaisvilas

Green Bay Press-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

LAC DU FLAMBEAU — The federal government this month sided with the Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe Tribe in northern Wisconsin in a lawsuit brought over a dispute with non-tribal residents over four roads on the reservation.

The federal government filed an amicus brief in the case *Pollard et al. v. Johnson* in support of the tribe's motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

"We are grateful for the United States' recognition of our rights as a sovereign Tribe and for their support in filing an amicus brief in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin," Tribal President John D. Johnson Sr. said in a statement. "We are grateful the United States, who signed the 1854 Treaty acknowledging our Reservation as a permanent homeland, has shown its support by way of amicus brief. This action not

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Former Baird Elementary School teacher David Villareal appears Jan. 6 for a status conference in Brown County Circuit Court, Green Bay. He faces five counts of child sexual assault.

SARAH KLOEPPING/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Trial

Continued from Page 1A

He's had five attorneys and fired his public defender in November due to a disagreement in defense strategies, according to court records. He's being held on a \$50,000 bond.

The 48-year-old Villareal is going to trial in a relatively rare case of a teacher facing prosecution for the alleged sexual assault of elementary students.

The U.S. Department of Education estimated in a 2004 study that one in 10 kids experience sexual misconduct at the hands of educators during their K-12 education, though it's very underreported.

Of the incidents that do get reported, fewer than one in five child sexual abuse reports are prosecuted, according to a 2014 study funded by the National Institute of Justice.

That rings true in Brown County.

Earlier in April, the Brown County District Attorney David Lasee dropped child sexual abuse charges against another former Green Bay teacher, citing insufficient evidence to proceed with the case.

Villareal was a bilingual teacher at Baird, where he mainly taught second grade from 2014 until the spring of 2021 when he was arrested and accused of sexually assaulting three of his former students.

Villareal was originally accused of inappropriate touching in 2017

He was originally accused of inappropriately touching one of his students in 2017, which was reported to the school and the district at the time.

The mother of the student told the school's principal, Michael Sheean, that her daughter said Villareal had inappropriately touched her.

The police were not notified of the allegation in 2017 and weren't involved until more students came forward in 2021, according to Green Bay Police Department spokesperson Jennifer Gonzalez.

A report was filed with the Brown County Child Protective Services in 2017, but Villareal continued teaching, according to school district records.

Four years after the original allegation, Villareal was accused of pinching and squeezing one of his student's buttocks every day between September 2015 and May 2016.

In that same school year, it's alleged Villareal touched the genitals of another second-grade student on the outside of her pants when she went up to ask him a question at his desk, according to the criminal complaint.

After Villareal's arrest in 2021, two more students came forward with allegations of sexual abuse against him during the 2015-16 school year.

One of these students told police that he cornered her in a classroom closet, pushed her up against a wall and rubbed his genitals against her. When she tried to leave, Villareal pushed her back into the closet multiple times, according to the criminal complaint.

The student told police that was not the only time Villareal inappropriately touched her.

The other student who came forward after Villareal's arrest told police that he would grab her buttocks every day at the after-school running club at Baird Elementary.

Villareal resigned from the district in April 2021, shortly after his arrest.

Villareal previously worked in Houston and Madison schools

Before joining the Green Bay School District, Villareal worked in the Houston Independent School District in Texas as an elementary school teacher from 2010 to 2012. He told police that his contract was not renewed in Houston due to a "lack of appropriate classroom management," according to the criminal complaint.

The Houston Independent School District would not release Villareal's performance evaluation records, citing an exemption under the Texas public records law.

Villareal also worked as an elementary school teacher in the Madison Metropolitan School District from 2000 to 2006, according to the criminal complaint. The Madison Metropolitan School District said it did not have any records relating to Villareal.

He got his Wisconsin teaching license in 2000, according to the state Department of Public Instruction's educator license database.

Sheboygan attorney Kirk Obear of Birdsall Obear & Associates is representing Villareal; Lemkuil is the prosecutor on the case.

The trial started Monday and is scheduled to run all week.

Danielle DuClos is a Report for America corps member who covers K-12 education for the Green Bay Press-Gazette. Contact her at dduclos@gannett.com. Follow on Twitter @danielle_duclos. You can directly support her work with a tax-deductible donation at GreenBayPressGazette.com/RFA or by check made out to The GroundTruth Project with subject line Report for America Green Bay Press Gazette Campaign. Address: The GroundTruth Project, Lockbox Services, 9450 SW Gemini Drive, PMB 46837, Beaverton, Oregon 97008-7105.

Democrats call on Biden to begin budget negotiations with McCarthy

Ken Tran
USA TODAY

As House Republicans are teeing up a vote this week on a debt ceiling plan that includes \$4.5 trillion in spending cuts, some Democrats in Congress are calling on President Joe Biden to restart negotiations with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., at least on the federal budget.

"He should negotiate on the budget. That is the place to negotiate, and they should start those negotiations now," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., said on CNN's "State of the Union." "Not using the American people and their mortgages as hostage because right now, you've got to simply make clear, we're going to avoid default and get this behind us."

"We pay our bills," Klobuchar added, specifying that budget negotiations should be separate from raising the debt ceiling.

McCarthy has criticized Biden for refusing discussions on raising the debt ceiling and cuts in the federal budget.

"For more than 80 days it's been since I sat down with the president on Feb. 1 to negotiate, to work through this, and he's ignored it," McCarthy said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures."

"I'm beginning to wonder about the words that he says and the thoughts that he's using. Because the idea that he won't even negotiate for more than 80 days, he is now putting the country in default," McCarthy said, pinning a potential default on Biden.

Klobuchar's call for Biden to negotiate strictly on the budget differs from the stance of her colleague Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va.

Manchin applauded McCarthy's bill last week despite some of his own reservations about the proposed spending cuts. He specifically called on Biden to begin negotiations on the debt limit.

"I applaud Speaker McCarthy for putting forward a proposal that would rein in federal spending," Manchin said in a statement.

"I urge President Biden to come to the table, propose a plan for real and substantive spending cuts and deficit reduction, and negotiate now."

McCarthy expressed confidence he had the votes to pass the debt ceiling proposal. "We will hold a vote this week, and we will pass it, and we will send it to the Senate," McCarthy said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has said the debt bill, if the House OKs it, is dead on arrival.

Roads

Continued from Page 1A

only validates our efforts to protect our ancestral lands but also strengthens the relationship between our Tribe and the U.S. government."

Lac du Flambeau tribal officials in northern Wisconsin had barricaded four roads on the reservation Jan. 31, stranding non-tribal residents of some 65 properties by cutting off the only access for vehicle traffic to their homes.

Tribal officials said the easement agreement for the roads expired more than 10 years ago and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and the title insurance companies that handle the properties had not negotiated in good faith to extend the agreements.

Many of the homeowners then sued the tribe in federal court to force the tribe to reopen the roads.

Some residents point out the root of the issue started in 1887 when Congress passed the Dawes Act, which allowed non-tribal people to purchase land on the reservation in the first place.

They said the federal government created the issue and should be responsible for solving the crisis.

The dispute has divided the community as some politicians increased negative rhetoric toward the tribe.

U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany, a Republican who represents much of northern Wisconsin in the Seventh Congressional District and is considering a run for

U.S. Senate against Sen. Tammy Baldwin, had written a letter to LDF Tribal President Johnson saying the move by the tribe appears to be a shakedown attempt and threatened legislative action.

Elizabeth Lindquist, one of the affected homeowners, said Tiffany's response is the wrong one.

"Rep. Tiffany must immediately and abruptly change his tone towards the Tribe," she wrote in the Facebook group "Lac du Flambeau News and Discussion." "He needs to work with tribal leaders to right the wrongs of the past — wrongs committed against the Tribe, and also wrongs committed against property owners who were deceived by Realtors and title companies."

Town officials held a special meeting March 11 and accepted the tribe's offer to remove the barricades for 90 days in exchange for \$60,000 while negotiations for a more permanent solution continue.

Negotiations are ongoing as the June deadline approaches.

Frank Vaisvilas is a Report for America corps member who covers Native American issues in Wisconsin based at the Green Bay Press-Gazette. Contact him at fvaisvilas@gannett.com or 815-260-2262. Follow him on Twitter at @vaisvilas_frank. You can directly support his work with a tax-deductible donation online at GreenBayPressGazette.com/RFA or by check made out to The GroundTruth Project with subject line Report for America Green Bay Press Gazette Campaign. Address: The GroundTruth Project, Lockbox Services, 9450 SW Gemini Drive, PMB 46837, Beaverton, Oregon 97008-7105.

Obituaries

TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

| Name | Age | Town, State | Death Date | Arrangements |
|---------------|-----|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| *Mazur, Frank | 94 | Goodman | 16-Apr | Roubal Funeral Home |

* Additional information in display obituaries

Obituaries appear in print and online at www.GreenBayPressGazette.com/Obituaries

Frank Mazur

GOODMAN - 94, of Goodman, WI passed away peacefully on April 16, 2023, at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain, MI. He was born at home, on January 28, 1929, in Armstrong Creek, Wisconsin. He was the youngest of 13 children born to the late Leon and Caroline Mazur.

Frank is survived by his wife of almost 70 years, Veronica (Pickard) and their three children, David (Pam) Mazur, Phelps, Carol (David) Cramer, Green Bay, and Patti (Mike) Loos, Land O Lakes, Fl, seven grandchildren, eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Andrew Loos.

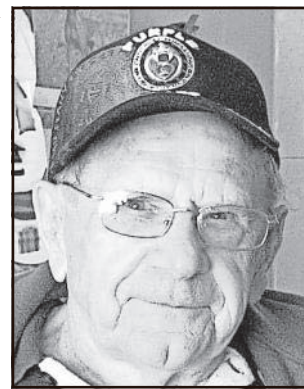
He served in the First Calvary Division of the infantry in the Korean War as a Corporal. After being wounded and earning the Purple Heart, Frank returned home and married the love of his life, Veronica, on June 20, 1953, at St. Joan of Arc Parish, in Goodman, Wisconsin. Frank was employed by Goodman Forest Industries for 38 years and retired as a supervisor. He enjoyed spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, and gardening. After retirement, Frank and Veronica made several trips in the winter to the gulf coast. They attended many First Calvary reunions to reconnect with some of Frank's friends from the army. The VFW was especially important to Frank. He was the Commander of the Klesewski-Leja Post #7444 in Armstrong Creek, WI for several years, and enjoyed planning activities, fund-raising, and honoring fallen veterans. He was a lifetime member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the DAV (Disabled American Veterans).

Visitation will be held from 10am to 11am on Friday, April 28, 2023, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Goodman. Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11am at church. Father Soja Joseph will officiate. Burial with full military honors will follow in the Glenwood Cemetery in Goodman.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Klesewski-Leja Post #7444 in Armstrong Creek, WI.

Many thanks to the staff at the VA Hospital in Iron Mountain. Frank received wonderful care through the years, and especially these last few weeks in the CLC unit. Thank you, Dr. Julie, for always making time to keep us informed. Your kindness and compassion meant the world to Frank and our family. A special thank you from Frank's children to his dedicated wife and our loving mother, Veronica. Dad was with us far longer than ever expected. It was because of mom's tireless devotion. Her loving care and dedication were more than any facility could ever provide. We love you mom.

Roubal Funeral Home of Wausaukee is assisting Frank's family with arrangements.



In Loving Memory of JUSTIN MARK PLATE



Who would have been 34 years old today, born on April 25, 1989. Justin, Have a very Happy Birthday in Heaven. We will always love you and miss you.

Love,
Dad, Mom, Jordan,
Heather & Max

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AND

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