

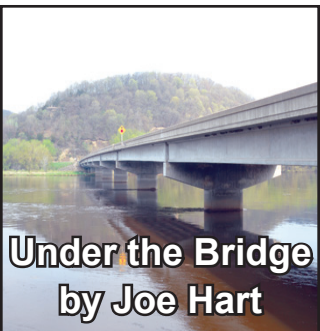
IN YOUR DIAL

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The Boscobel Dial



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Under the Bridge by Joe Hart

Some things can't be planned.

Next week we salute our first responders in the biennial "Hometown Heroes" special section. This week, our local police department gave us a spectacular preview when they acted quickly to save the life of a resident who overdosed, apparently on an opioid.

A salute to Officers Dregne and Kirschbaum. We appreciate your service.

The October 17 Council meeting lasted 16 minutes. The board approved a technical point on a grant for lead pipe replacement. Unanimous votes were taken to approve the minutes, pay the bills, and adjourn.

Hair was blown back on all in attendance.

Did you notice the new windows at the Dial building? Eyesore no more!

More practically, the windows secure the upstairs rooms from the colony of pigeons that called it home.

They seem a little aimless with the change. I almost felt sorry for them until Monday, when I swung around the corner at dusk and woke the entire flock, which had been roosting on the outside ledges of the building. I don't know who was more startled.

The hunt for vote fraud in Grant County has already cost employees a chunk of their time. Now it's going to cost the taxpayers too.

Peter Bernegger, a self-styled investigator whose open records lawsuit against the county was dismissed in August, has appealed the lower court ruling.

Ben Wood serves as Grant County's attorney under a contract that does not include pleadings before the Court of Appeals. The board must approve hiring him at \$175 an hour.

Bernegger has the first move. In November, he'll have to show that the lower court made a procedural error. I've read every one of Bernegg's previous pleadings that I could get my hands on.

I'm not a betting man. But I bet Ben will have a merrier holiday season this year.

A fool. That's who writes about Wisconsin weather in a weekly newspaper.

As soon the ink dried on last week's appreciation of our gentle, temperate autumn, a cold drizzle began to fall, followed by an icy fist in the face.

I vow I will make no more commentary on the weather on this page. No sense in jinxing a good thing.

If you're heading "up north" in the next month or so, be aware that Highway 61 comes to a hard stop at the Kickapoo River just before Highway 14 in Readstown. Bridge repairs have begun.

Just in time for some fall-color joyrides.

The designated detour follows Highway 171 to 14. The fastest detour is probably Day Creek Road, which skirts the river to the east and exits onto 14/61 in Readstown. The prettiest detour starts with County Road C in Soldiers Grove, jumps to Norwegians Hollow, then Prestegard, then County Road M to 14/61.

I'm grateful for the forced opportunity to see some of the countryside.



Dragons, werewolves and skeletons oh my!

Diane Watson and Bob Bremer, Boscobel, are at it again. They have a great display, with new additions of Halloween decor set up in their yard outside of Boscobel on MS/Blair Lane. Be sure to check it out. It is just one of the decorated homes around Boscobel.



Jillson breaks school record Nora Jillson who broke the school record at the Riverdale Invitational on Saturday, October 8th with a time of 18:37. The previous record was held by Abri Brown in 2018 with a time of 19:02.

Photo by Wendi Stitzer

Speedy action commended

Cops save OD victim in Boscobel

By JOE HART

Boscobel police officers prevented an overdose death last week when they administered Narcan on a 911 call.

Officers Travis Dregne and Sid Kirschbaum were dispatched on a medical call to

assist a person who was non-responsive, according to Chief Jaden McCullick.

"This individual was basically dead when they got there," said McCullick. "They quickly realized it was an overdose, probably opioid. They

administered two doses of Narcan right away, and another one shortly after," he said. The emergency personnel administered a fourth dose when they arrived to transport the person to the hospital. "Ultimately the person ended up making it."

Narcan is the brand name of a drug called naloxone that blocks the brain receptors that respond to opioids. It can stop an overdose in its tracks.

Dregne and Kirschbaum, like all Boscobel police, carry Narcan as part of their standard gear.

"This is the first time we've ever had to use it," said McCullick. "Hopefully it will be the last."

Local scope

Like the rest of the state and country, the Boscobel area has seen an increase in opioid overdoses, although our low population density tends to hide the trend.

The main factor is a growing abundance of illegally manufactured fentanyl, a super-strength pain killer originally intended for extreme conditions like cancer. The drug is a synthetic opioid that's 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC). Ingesting just a few milligrams of the dust is enough to kill.

"Across the state and across the nation, you're seeing meth mixed with fentanyl, you're seeing marijuana mixed with fentanyl," explained Grant County Sheriff Nate Dreckman. Many who overdose on fentanyl do so without even knowing they're taking it in the first place, he said.

The CDC reports statistics on overdoses every four months for different types of illegal drugs and the numbers truly demonstrate the scope of the epidemic. Five years ago, "synthetic opioids"—those made in a legal or illegal laboratory—accounted for 35 percent of all Wisconsin's opioid deaths. Today, they account for 91 percent. And while deaths from heroin actually declined in that time period, deaths at-

(See OVERDOSE, Pg. 2, Col. 1)

School Board modifies head lice policy

By GILLIAN POMPLUN

The Boscobel School Board voted to modify certain clauses in the district's head lice policy at their October 10 meeting. This action followed an extensive discussion about the problems experienced by school staff in responding to chronic infestations with some students or families.

"Our health para and I (and at least one other para) have been working daily since school started with several families with chronic head lice. This involves significant time spent nit combing the hair and manual removal of many, many live bugs from each child's hair several days per week," School Nurse Suzanne Brinkman told the board. "Our goal is to keep the kids in school and learning, but it is taking us more and more time every week, and sooner or later, we're going to wind up taking lice home to our families."

Brinkman said that the chronic cases sometimes are not responding to the treatment, making her worry that they may be dealing with 'super lice,' that have become immune to the standard treatments through repeated exposure.

Brinkman suggested to the board the following changes in the policy:

- 1. There are other effective treatments (that are cheaper and can work when implemented properly) outside of FDA-approved treatments. They are noted on the back of my head lice procedure and are taken from the county's lice treatment/guidance
2. We need to change 'at earliest convenience' for picking students up from school. Students are waiting hours to be picked up, and some families are not coming at all or refusing to pick up and treat students

- 3. There is no guarantee that I (or other staff) can 100 percent accurately determine if nits (eggs) are treated or untreated. This is an inaccurate expectation, and should be removed from policy
4. I recommend sending chronic cases home with any live lice (as our policy states) or limiting to approximately five live lice per student head, sending them home if more than five live lice are noted
5. Students are spending hours (and sometimes entire days) in the nursing office waiting to go home for treatment. Our policy indicates they may wait for parents in the classroom. Should we allow older students to remain in classroom?

"I am not comfortable allowing students with live lice on their heads in the classroom," board member Todd Miller stated. "Our policy currently states 'no live lice in the classroom,' and I'd like to leave it that way."

One board member asked if the decision by some families not to treat the infestation is for financial reasons or just laziness on the part of the families.

"I would say it is not for financial reasons," Brinkman responded. "Badger Care pays for lice treatments, and the district has a limited amount of treatment kits that we distribute to families in need."

Brinkman explained that it is not just the shampoo and combing of students hair that is involved in the treatment. She said that it also involves a lot of cleaning and laundering of items, which can be a very time consuming endeavor.

Another board member wanted to know more about how lice spread.

"Lice do not jump from person to person," Brinkman explained. "They crawl, so that means that the contact would have to be close, or through

(See BOARD, Pg. 2, Col. 4)

"It's a safety issue."

Short-staffed retailer shuttered

By JOE HART

After months of complaints, Boscobel's Dollar General was temporarily shut down by the Fire Chief for safety hazards last week.

"I got a lot of complaints," Mayor Brenda Kalish reported. "They said that you would go in there and you couldn't get down half the aisles at all because they had them completely full of stock. People would go in there with a walker, and they couldn't get through," Kalish said. "The

aisles that weren't blocked weren't stocked. They said the store was so filthy that the floors were sticky when you walked on them."

Fire Chief Hershel Marks said that when he went to investigate the complaints, he was told that the store was short-staffed and had no manager.

"There was a lot of overstock blocking the aisles," he said. "If there were a fire,

(See SAFETY, Pg. 2, Col. 1)

Cozy Acres

More evictions in court

By JOE HART

The Grant County Court heard two more eviction hearings against residents at Cozy Acres Mobile Home Park on Monday, October 17. Janna Smith and Travis Atkinson are two of five householders who've received eviction notices since early September.

Smith's case was dismissed, as she'd come to a payment agreement with manager Bruce Zinkle to bring her lot rent up to date. Atkinson's eviction was ordered by the presiding judge, Craig Day. Zinkle asked the court for the option to execute the eviction at his own discretion, as Atkinson expressed a desire to stay in the trailer park. Day agreed.

Zinkle initiated the eviction proceedings two weeks after the Dial published a two-month long investigation into substandard living conditions at Cozy Acres.

Trailers at the park are as old as 60 years, and many are in a state of disrepair, with broken windows and rotten floors and

walls commonplace. Some have been condemned, then sold and rehabbed. Multiple residents complain that cockroaches infest their trailers and that the poorly maintained private access road in the park causes costly damage to their vehicles.

In 2016, Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), which oversees some of the laws pertaining to trailer parks, issued a warning against Zinkle. According to the complaint, the manager illegally withheld a lease from a tenant who refused to pay the past-due rent of a previous owner of his trailer. At a hearing two weeks ago, Matthew Turner told the court that the same thing had happened to him.

The park is one of six owned by Michelle Gillette, an absentee landlord who lives in Baraboo on a 100-acre horse ranch and event center valued at \$1.6 million. All six of the parks are managed by Zinkle.

