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WASHINGTON COUNTY DAILY NEWS

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German Night at Regner Park



Bradford Paulson/Special to the Daily News

WEST BEND — (Left to right) Gary Fisher, Marie Lemke, Scott Kandel, Joe Pieper, Jim Billman, Tim Henning, Doug Behrends, Tom Beineke, Joe Billman and Colette Merrill, members of the band River City Blaskapelle, in their German attire.



Until Dawn performs during German Night at Regner Park in West Bend on Wednesday.



A very big crowd had fun with some German music, food and beer during German Night at Regner Park.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD

Fund transfer to accelerate Next Generation Housing approved

Will move \$7.5 million from General Fund to NGH Fund

By Grayson Sewell
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make it as easy as we possibly can with the municipal partners that we have who are working with us on the Next Generation Housing Coalition," said Washington County Executive Josh Schoemann.

WEST BEND — The Washington County Board of Supervisors passed a referendum for a transfer of \$7.5 million from the General Fund to the Next Generation Housing (NGH) Fund by a vote of 17 to three, with one abstention due to Chairman Jeff Schleif not being able to attend the meeting, on Wednesday night.

"To put this as succinctly as possible, we're trying to cut federal red tape and

The fund transfer will be used to replace American Rescue Plan Act dollars that were being used for the pilot program to reduce the reporting burden of the municipalities involved, which are Jackson, Slinger and Hartford.

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WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY

Brandtjen worries about different election rules after drop box ruling

By Benjamin Yount
The Center Square contributor

One of the state representatives who's been pushing for answers about the 2020 election in Wisconsin says she has some questions about this fall's election as well.

22nd Assembly District Rep. Janel Brandtjen, R-Menomonee Falls, told The Center Square Wednesday she's worried about different election rules in different communities because

1,852 local election clerks about what the Supreme Court's decision means, and just what is allowed. Specifically whether voters can return more than just their own ballot.

Republican Commission Chairman Don Mills said many of the state's election clerks don't have the legal expertise to navigate the nuances of both Wisconsin and federal election laws.

"Corporations have full time corporation counsel

Newcomers face off to become next County Clerk of Circuit Court

Current clerk won't seek re-election; has held office since 2011

By Grayson Sewell
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WASHINGTON COUNTY — Washington County Clerk of Circuit Court Theresa Russell announced that she would not seek re-election in this year's election, and residents will have to pick a new clerk of circuit court for the first time since 2011. Candidates Connie Hogendyk and Sarah Markos Adjemian both spoke with the Daily News about why they want to become the next Washington County Clerk of Circuit Court

ney's office. I then moved to Fond du Lac as their victim witness coordinator. So, I have a very vast experience in the court system which has allowed me to learn all different areas. I feel very comfortable running an office right now of 40 people and can step in as the elected official, and in the current position, at any level and assist my staff members with duties that, maybe, they're not available for at any given time, which I don't think a lot of elected officials can say.

Adjemian: I feel that I am, because I have the education, I have a bachelor's degree in justice and public policy and I have an MBA, as well. I have 15 years of legal experience.

Washington County Clerk of Circuit Court

Sarah Markos
Adjemian

Age: 43
Occupation:

Register in
Probate for
Washington
County

Residence: Hartford

Years in county: 22

Previous elected/appointed
positions: Register in Probate



Funds

From Page 1A

The goal of NGH is to have 1,000 new homeowner occupied housing units in Washington County over the next 10 years. The pilot program will see developments built in each of the three municipalities with homes in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 price range by undercutting some of the costs associated with building and selling houses.

According to Schoemann, the fund transfer will also allow for greater flexibility in the timing of the spending of the \$7.5 million, \$2.4 million per development, that are now allocated to this project.

While the county will be temporarily non-compliant with their own fund balance policies due to the fund transfer, the county will be in compliance again by the end of the 2022 calendar year with surpluses coming in, according to Schoemann.

"It's our own policies. All the money is literally sitting in the bank, it's a matter of which order is it pulled from and where," said Schoemann. "It's technically on the books out fund balance will be drawn down. But as the money works its way through the 2022 budget, and there is budget surpluses at the end, it's replacing it."

Supervisor Brian Krebs asked Schoemann what would happen if the budget surpluses did not come through, but they are already there, according to Schoemann.

"All of the money already is in the coffers, so to speak. So, property taxes, literally by the end of the month are all collected, the dollars that have come through from ARPA have already come in," said Schoemann. "We're sitting on the dollars, it's just a matter of how they work their way out the door. Quite frankly, it's an accounting procedure that we're going through. So, there isn't a risk of that, the risk in that regard would be if we get some unexpected expenses, we'd have to come for another General Fund transfer."

According to Schoemann, with the fund transfer he hopes that the fastest moving development, which is the one in Jackson, will "be able to move dirt" after the first thaw of 2023, and the county will be handing out keys to home buyers by the end of 2023.

Supervisor: Sounds like subsidized housing

Supervisor Lois Krueger-Gundrum, however, had an issue with the program itself. According to Krueger-Gundrum, it sounded like the program was subsidized housing, which she wanted no part of.

"It sounds to me like we're

subsidizing, which I don't think the Washington County taxpayers' funds should be used to subsidize builders and developers. I think that you've identified very specific areas, and so, it's not going to go to wide group of people, it's going to go to these selected developers and builders," said Krueger-Gundrum.

"I think it's really nothing more than a subsidy, and I don't think taxpayer money should be used to subsidize developers and builders, and if I'm wrong in that assumption you can correct me, but I will be voting no."

According to Schoemann, that is not at all what the project will be doing.

"We're trying our best to create a system that isn't subsidized housing," said Schoemann. "Instead, we're hoping to set it up so that we can prevent the equity theft that does happen with subsidization, which is called the TIF District, which happens in every single municipality in this county in the industry and commercial setting. I fought like hell to not have that."

According to Schoemann several of these types of developments are popping up across Wisconsin, where the county or municipality will undercut the land and infrastructure costs by selling homes as is.

"We're attempting to hit the \$300,000 sweet spot, while not giving a subsidy and preventing equity theft," said Schoemann.

The county will implement procedures so the homebuyer can't just turn around and sell the house at a profit to prevent equity theft.

The county will also have a \$25,000 forgivable loan program where homebuyers have to pay back the loan through 200 hours of service for community organizations a year for seven years, or by donating \$38,000 to community organizations over the same period, according to Schoemann.

"We're trying to create something that doesn't exist. Nobody is doing this," said Schoemann. "There is nobody trying to figure out how do we do this without subsidizing, and in order to keep pace with the market we need to move fast."

The board also approved a resolution for the acceptance of a Wisconsin Youth Prevention Grant for funds to help fight teenage substance abuse in the county, and an amendment to an ordinance saying that the county would not accept any grants or donations for the administration of elections.

The next meeting of the Washington County Board will be held in the Herbert J. Tennes Government Center located at 432 E. Washington St. at 6 p.m., on August 10.

Thomsen said.

Brandtjen was quick to point out that it was the Elections Commission's guidance in 2020 that told local clerks they could use ballot drop boxes. And the Election Commission insisted up until the Supreme Court ruling that the drop boxes were legal because they were not specifically banned by state law.

"If we cannot agree on the process before the election, it puts the entire election in jeopardy," Brandtjen explained.

Ruling

From Page 1A

Democratic Election Commissioner Mark Thomsen said clerks have run elections without Commission guidance in the past.

"To imply that somehow we have to say something more than what the court already did, and that to not do it is somehow doing a disservice to clerks who know better than me how to run elections, I think doesn't serve anybody well at all,"



AP Photo/Armando Franca

A forest fire reaches olive trees in the village of Colmeias, near Leiria, central Portugal on Wednesday. Thousands of firefighters in Portugal continue to battle fires all over the country that forced the evacuation of dozens of people from their homes.

Wildfires scorch parts of Europe amid extreme heat wave

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — A spate of wildfires is scorching parts of Europe, with firefighters battling blazes in Portugal, Spain, Croatia and southern France on Wednesday amid an unusual heat wave that authorities are linking to climate change.

In Portugal, Civil Protection commander Andre Fernandes said multiple fires have caused the evacuation of more than 600 people. About 120 people needed medical treatment, with two people — one civilian and one firefighter — suffering serious injuries, Fernandes said.

Water-dumping planes helped 1,300 firefighters combat the worst of the blazes in the nation's central area, while another 1,000 worked to bring other fires under control.

The European heat wave is also sparking flames in Spain and France — and in Turkey at the other end of the Mediterranean.

More than 800 firefighters battled two wildfires in the region outside Bordeaux in southwest France, according to the regional emergency service. The fires began Tuesday near the towns of Landiras and La Teste-de-Buch, and firefighters hadn't been able to contain them by Wednesday morning.

About 6,500 people have been evacuated from campgrounds and villages in the forested area. The number of injuries is unclear. The two fires have destroyed more than 1,800 hectares (4,400 acres) of terrain. Images from firefighters showed flames racing through thickets of trees and grassland, fanned by strong winds, and smoke blackening the horizon.

The regional administration banned activity in forested areas at risk. Several regions in southern France are on fire alert because of hot, dry weather and high winds. Wildfires swept through the Gard region in southeast France last week.

Portugal has long experienced fatal forest fires. In

2017, wildfires killed more than 100 people. No one has died from a wildfire since then as Portugal improved its forest management and firefighting strategies.

Last year, Portugal recorded its lowest number of wildfires since 2011. But a mass of hot and dry air blown in by African winds are driving temperatures in the Iberian Peninsula beyond their usual highs.

The Atlantic country, which has been on alert of wildfires since last week, is sweltering under a spike in temperatures that is forecast to send thermometers in the central Alentejo region to 46 C (115 F) on Wednesday and Thursday. Authorities said that 96% of the country was classified at the end of June as being in either "extreme" or "severe" drought.

More than 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) had been consumed alone in the district of Leiria, just north of Lisbon, Mayor Goncalo Lopes told Portuguese state broadcaster RTP.

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa, who canceled a trip abroad to deal with the emergency, said that better care of woodlands and abandoned farmland was key to protecting them.

"In 2017, the country realized that having enough firefighters is essential, but it is not enough," Costa said. "We have to get to the root of the problem. The abandonment of property and its non-management is one of the biggest risk factors for forest fires."

Neighboring Spain hit highs of 43 C (109.4 F) in several southern cities on Tuesday. Over 400 people were evacuated Tuesday because of a wildfire that has consumed 3,500 hectares (8,600 acres) in western Spain.

Firefighter: 'It's hell'

Fueled by strong winds, fires raged along Croatia's Adriatic Sea coast as well, with the most dramatic situation reported near the

town of Sibenik, where water-dropping planes and dozens of firefighters struggled to contain the flames that briefly engulfed some cars and a church tower. Regional N1 television reported that some residents evacuated the area in rubber boats. Fires were also reported near the coastal town of Zadar.

Firefighter Boris Dukic told state HRT television that "it's hell, we don't know where to go first."

European Union officials issued a warning last week that climate change is behind the extremely dry and hot summer so far on the continent, urging local authorities to brace for wildfires.

Cayetano Torres, spokesman for Spain's national weather forecaster, said that the "unusual" heat wave and lack of rainfall in recent months has created ideal circumstances for fires.

"These are perfect conditions for the propagation of fires, which when you add to that some wind, you have have guaranteed propagation," he said.

Theresa Russell has ... and I think that we can continue that path. I think there is more changes can be made. You can only so much done in a year, know. I see a lot of potential for cost savings down the line, although [Theresa's] work on that previously, like getting staff cross-trained, getting procedures updated, a point where you can actually have less staff, but without compromising service to constituents. I think that are public servants, and take that very seriously. That's a term used a lot in county, and I actually really love that term. My dad was a pastor and he was a servant to the people. That's how he treated his job, and I think although it's in government, which is slightly different than in a church, I feel I'm a servant to the community and I want to continue to do that.

Daily News: What sets me apart from the other candidate?

Hogendyk: I believe what sets me apart from the other candidate is my, well, I think we have similar experience levels as far as time in court system. However, my experience directly worked under the elected official, the capacity of the court office, as opposed to just a generalized area, gives me an advantage and a much broader knowledge of how to run the office as the elected official. I have been trained by my current clerk of court [in Walworth County] for the last four years as her succession plan.

Adjemian: I think it's current relationships in county that is the main apart. I do have a little more education than her, but education isn't everything, don't know that that matters. I know what the rent needs are in our community and I know I have a lot of ideas and changes. I already talked judges and other important people in county about things we can do in the next few years.

Lottery

Wednesday, July 13
WISCONSIN

Daily Pick 3	
Daily Pick 4	0-9
Megabucks	9-13-19-23-40
SuperCash	5-12-13-17-40
SuperCash Doubler:	
Powerball	22-23-36-40
Powerball	
Power Play	
Badger 5	8-13-21-40

Real Life

