



Sports
Local sports awards
▶ Page 1B



Business
Barber takes a leap of faith
▶ Page 4B

OZAUKEE COUNTY



NEWS GRAPHIC

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Tuesday, July 14, 2026

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Emergency 160 feet up



Photo courtesy of Ozaukee Central Fire Department

Emergency responders work to remove a construction worker who had a medical emergency atop the crane at the Aurora Medical Center in Grafton Friday morning.

By Lisa Curtis
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GRAFTON — Ozaukee Central Fire Department members have been preparing to train for an emergency on the 160-foot crane that has been on site at the Aurora Medical Center hospital in Grafton as part of a major hospital addition.

But they hadn't had a chance to test their plan as of late last week.

On Friday morning, that plan went into action in an actual emergency scenario.

County 911 dispatchers received a call that a construction worker had suffered a medical emergency atop the crane, which is an estimated 10 stories high.

Interim OCFD Fire Chief Matthew

Karpinski told the News Graphic that the department has a handful of members who are trained in the type of technical rescue needed for these scenarios, and they were working at the time of the incident.

Since no aerial fire ladders could reach the height required, crews used a crane to deliver the equipment up to

See RESCUE, PAGE 6A

2026-27
general
school aid
estimates
released

MTSD could see second
highest percentage
change in the state

By Charley Hanney
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OZAUKEE COUNTY — Unlike last year, early estimates show that Mequon-Thiensville School District could now see an increase in state aid for the 2026-27 school year, while Cedarburg and Grafton school districts may see a decline.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction last week released its estimates of the general school aid for each public school district. According to the DPI, general school aid is the largest form of state support for Wisconsin public schools, reducing the reliance on local property taxes as the only source of revenue.

The department is required by state statute to publish estimated aid amounts by July 1 every year.

The estimates allow districts to develop their fiscal year budgets and are based on 2025-26 budgeted dollars, according to DPI. These figures may change by Oct. 15's aid estimate, as it uses audited 2025-26 actual expenditures for all school districts, not budget data.

"A district's general aid can increase or decrease due to changes in funds available from the state as well as changes in any of the three local factors comprising Wisconsin's general equalization aid formula: property valuation, enrollment, and shared costs," DPI wrote.

This upcoming school year, however, marks another year districts will operate without additional state funding, as there was no increase in the state's general school aid appropriation included in the 2025-27 biennial budget.

"The general aid appropriation remains at \$5.58 billion for the third consecutive year, leaving the state to redistribute the same level of funding among districts through Wisconsin's equalization aid formula," DPI added, noting that 2017-18 was the last time general aid appropriation did not increase.

See AID, PAGE 6A

INDEX

Ozaukee Proud . . . 2A
Local .3A,4A,6A,3B, 6B
Obituaries5A
Sports1B, 2B
Calendar3B
Business4B
Classified5B

Volume 144 • 55 • 12 pages



Area fires keep crews busy

By News Graphic staff

OZAUKEE COUNTY — Three garage fires — one that extended to a home and another that started in the driveway and spread to the garage — kept firefighters busy from southern Ozaukee County to the northern half this weekend.

Cedarburg
The Cedarburg Fire Department was dispatched

to a reported garage fire at a home on Walnut Street in the city of Cedarburg at 2:26 p.m. Sunday.

The incident was immediately upgraded to the full still level on MABAS Card 1-11. It was later upgraded to the 1st box alarm, and eventually the 2nd box alarm to bring in additional units, according to a press release from the Fire Department.

Cedarburg Tender 164 was the first arriving unit,

getting on scene within four minutes of being dispatched, according to the press release. Tender 164 was returning from another fire in a neighboring community, and was staffed with its maximum of two personnel and equipped with 3,000 gallons of water.

There was fire through the roof upon Tender 164's arrival, and the crew deployed its master stream

See FIRES, PAGE 6A



Photo courtesy of Southern Ozaukee Fire & EMS Department

Fire consumed an SUV and pickup truck in a Mequon driveway.

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Highland Road Bike Spur project on schedule

Crews begin grading work



Photo courtesy of the Mequon-Thiensville Trails Foundation

Looking west on Highland Road, asphalt along each driveway between Rotary Park and the Ozaukee InterUrban Trail was removed to make way for the new trail that will allow users to bike, walk or run safely.

By Charley Hanney
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MEQUON — Residents who live on a stretch of Highland Road just west of Port Washington Road may have recently noticed markings over their driveways signaling the next step in the Highland Road Bike Spur project.

According to the Mequon-Thiensville Trails Foundation, crews began cutting over those markings June 30, and last week, started removing the asphalt along each driveway and filling them with gravel. This gravel will remain until the trail is near completion in late August and will be topped with the required asphalt depth to match current driveway requirements.

The 1.5 mile off-road paved trail, which connects the Ozaukee Interur-

ban Trail to Rotary Park on the north side of Highland Road, began construction this past spring, as certain trees were removed in preparation for the 10-foot wide path. The foundation determined that the north side of the road was the most suitable for the trail due to several reasons, including the amount of homes on the south side of the road in closer proximity to the trail, a study indicating the north side would be safer, as well as the south side needing additional real estate acquisition and causing project delays.

“Our MT Trails Foundation board and supporters are very excited to see the 1.5 mile bike/pedestrian trail being marked out along Highland Road and the significant progress this week, and we appreciate the cooperation of the northside neighbors on

this project,” the MT Trails Board of Directors wrote, noting that the project will be completed by no later than Oct. 2. “We are currently planning a ribbon cutting and fun event for all to celebrate the trail’s opening on Sunday, Oct 18th at Rotary Park.”

The city of Mequon also added that the Highland Road Bike Spur represents years of “planning and collaboration, along with both community and governmental support.”

Other improvements resulting from this project include the installation of additional stormwater infrastructure and a flashing crosswalk beacon at River Road.

To stay up-to-date on the trail’s progress, visit <https://mtcfives.org/mttrails/> and follow MT Trails Foundation on Instagram and Facebook.

NorthShore Classical Academy receives \$250,000 grant

By Charley Hanney
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SAUKVILLE — NorthShore Classical Academy has received a \$250,000 grant from the William S. Knight Foundation Inc., an investment the school said provides critical early-stage support as it prepares to open in September 2027.

According to the NCA, the grant helps lay the foundation for what will be the first private, classical high school in Ozaukee County. It will enable the academy to modernize the building it purchased last year at 321 S. Dries St. in Saukville, develop curriculum, attract faculty, expand community outreach and build the infrastructure needed to serve future generations of students.

The William S. Knight Foundation is a private, philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing classical education, entrepreneurship, self-reliance and civic responsibility. Through strategic grantmaking, the foundation supports educational

institutions, youth leadership programs and initiatives that promote free enterprise, constitutional principles and American heritage.

“We are deeply grateful to the William S. Knight Foundation for this transformational investment in NorthShore Classical Academy and the families seeking a rigorous, virtue-centered educational option for their children,” Board President Cheryle Rebholz said. “We share a belief that families deserve access to a rich liberal arts education that develops both intellect and character and challenges students to pursue truth, goodness and beauty. Together, we are creating an institution that will prepare students not only for college and career success, but for lives of responsible citizenship and making meaningful contributions to their communities.”

The school last month secured necessary financing needed to begin renovating its campus, which was initially home to a Catholic parish school and contains 11 class-

rooms, administrative offices, a full-size gymnasium with three basketball courts, expansive sports fields, as well as a large cafeteria and commercial kitchen.

“We are pleased to support NorthShore Classical Academy as it prepares to open its doors,” Foundation Secretary and Treasurer Gary Grabowski said. “We share a commitment to advancing classical education, cultivating civic understanding and preparing young people to lead lives of purpose, character and service. NorthShore Classical Academy will be a valuable asset to Ozaukee County, Milwaukee’s greater North Shore area and the State of Wisconsin.”

Rebholz also sees the foundation’s generosity as a catalyst for attracting additional donor support.

“Together, we can build a lasting legacy of educational opportunity, creating a school that will inspire young minds, strengthen families and serve our community for generations to come,” she said.

Washington Avenue, Lincoln Boulevard intersection in Cedarburg temporarily closes

CEDARBURG — The northbound lane of Washington Avenue will be temporarily closed from Lincoln Boulevard to approximately 160 feet north as part of the ongoing South Washington Avenue Reconstruction Project.

Traffic will be detoured using Lincoln Boulevard to Evergreen Boulevard to Western Road and back to Washington Avenue. This closure is expected to last between two to three weeks.

The pouring of the driveway approaches and other concrete flat work

should be completed by the end of this week. Traffic continues on Washington Avenue continues to be on the two west lanes while the two east lanes are closed. The next phase of traffic control involves closing the two east lanes of Washington Avenue in the intersections with Pioneer Road and Lincoln Boulevard to allow for work to take place in those areas.

After the concrete work is completed, fine grading and paving of the first layer of asphalt will take place for the two east

lanes of Washington Avenue along the entire corridor. The fine grading and paving work are tentatively scheduled to begin the week of July 20 with likely completion sometime in the following week.

The project is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 6, but it could be completed earlier. For any questions, concerns or special requests, contact Director of Engineering & Public Works Mike Wieser at City Hall at 262-375-7610 or email mwieser@city-ofcedarburg.wi.gov.

Cedarburg motorcyclist seriously injured after hitting deer

ELBA — A Cedarburg man was seriously injured in a motorcycle crash after hitting a deer in the township of Elba Sunday morning.

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Office was called to the crash which occurred shortly before 8 a.m. in Elba near Columbus. The 37-year-old man was flown to UW Health University Hospital in Madison.

According to the Sheriff’s Office, the man was

traveling eastbound on Highway 16/60 when the motorcycle struck a deer in the roadway. The man, who was not wearing a helmet, was the only occupant on the motorcycle and was ejected from it during the crash.

Also responding to the crash were the Columbus Police Department, Columbus Fire Department, Lifestar EMS and UW Med Flight. The highway was closed for about two hours due to the incident.

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We won't be serving a Fish Fry on Friday, July 17.
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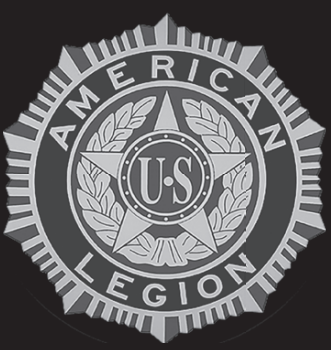
Includes: Half Chicken, Potato, Applesauce, Rolls, Coleslaw, Homemade Desserts, Coffee / Milk.

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Summer Fun...and Summer Jewelry Mistakes

Summer is one of my favorite times of the year. Longer days, vacations, weddings, backyard barbecues, boating, family reunions, and enjoying Wisconsin's beautiful weather. Unfortunately, it's also one of the busiest seasons for lost and damaged jewelry. Having grown up in my mom's jewelry business, I spent more hours behind that counter than I can count. Over the years, I've heard hundreds of stories about lost and damaged jewelry. And somehow, many of them begin the very same way...

"I was just gardening..."
"I was just swimming..."
"I was just putting on sunscreen..."

Most jewelry isn't stolen. It's simply lost during ordinary moments. Here are a few simple ways to help protect the pieces you love this summer.

Swimming, Pools & Hot Tubs

Before taking a dip, consider leaving your rings in a safe place at home. Cold water causes our fingers to shrink, often more than we realize, making rings surprisingly easy to lose in a lake, river, or pool. Pools and hot tubs present another risk. Chlorine can actually damage gold jewelry by attacking the alloys that give gold its strength. Over time, it can weaken prongs, make rings brittle, and increase the chance of losing a treasured gemstone. A relaxing swim simply isn't worth risking a cherished heirloom.

Gardening

Gardening is one of the easiest ways to lose a ring. Digging in the soil, pulling weeds, or even removing your gardening gloves can cause a ring to slip off without you noticing. It may sound unbelievable, but there really was a woman who lost her engagement ring while working in her garden. Thirteen years later, it was discovered wrapped around a carrot that had grown right through the center of it! It's a wonderful story with a happy ending—but most lost rings aren't nearly so fortunate.

Sunscreen and Lotions

We all know sunscreen is important, but it can leave a film on gemstones—especially diamonds—that makes them appear dull and lifeless. If your diamond suddenly seems to have lost its sparkle, it may simply need a good cleaning. Warm water, a drop of mild dish soap, and a soft toothbrush will often restore its sparkle.

Working Out

As many of you know, I usually start my day at AMRAP in Grafton before heading to the store. When I'm working out, I either wear a silicone ring or leave all of my jewelry safely at home. Barbells don't care if your ring is a treasured family heirloom or a brand-new anniversary gift! Heavy lifting and gym equipment can bend rings, loosen prongs, scratch precious metals, and even damage gemstones. Your jewelry should last a lifetime—not take a beating during your workout.

Summer Travel

Vacation routines are different from everyday life, and that's often when jewelry gets misplaced. Hotel rooms, beach bags, bathroom counters, and nightstands have all become temporary resting places for treasured pieces that were accidentally left behind. If you remove your jewelry while traveling, make it a habit to place it in the same secure location every time. A few extra seconds can save a lifetime of regret.

One Last Suggestion

One of the simplest things you can do is have your favorite jewelry inspected once or twice a year. Prongs naturally wear, clasps loosen, and chains weaken over time. Catching a small problem before it becomes a lost diamond is almost always easier—and far less expensive—than replacing a cherished piece. Jewelry was never meant to spend its life tucked away in a jewelry box. It was meant to be worn, enjoyed, celebrated, and passed from one generation to the next. With just a little extra care during the summer months, your favorite pieces can continue making memories for many summers to come.

Have a wonderful, safe, and sparkling summer!

Patty Gallun Hansen, the owner of Gallun Fine Jewelry, is a graduate gemologist and operates a second-generation, woman-owned business. Located at W62N563 Washington Ave, Suite B, Cedarburg, WI, her store specializes in antique, vintage, and estate jewelry, with a strong emphasis on modern engagement rings featuring both natural and lab-grown diamonds. Additionally, Patty is the co-founder of The Love Has Many Facets Jewelry Design Competition and Fundraiser, a collaborative effort with the Cedarburg High School Art Department. You can reach her at 414-301-5255 or visit her website at www.gallunfinejewelry.com.