



Luis Diaz attempts to pull his kayak into the dock as his mother Maria Flores waits patiently during the Kayak Launch Celebration at Frame Park on Tuesday.

Launching a launch

WAUKESHA — A community celebration and ribbon cutting event was held Tuesday to officially open the kayak launch in Frame Park.

The celebration included a presentation and formal ribbon cutting, launch demonstrations, free kayak rentals courtesy of High Roller Fun Rentals, free hot dogs, live music by Ben Janzow, and a presentation by Waukesha residents Barb and Gene Geiger about their five-month kayak journey on the Mississippi River.

Photos by Kenny Yoo,  
Special to Conley Media



Sisters Jessica and Debra Camarillo paddle in the Fox River during the Kayak Launch Celebration at Frame Park on Tuesday.

Oconomowoc school district preliminary budget projects 11-cent mill rate increase

By Ashley Haynes  
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OCONOMOWOC — For school district residents, a slight increase to property tax bills is currently projected heading into the next school year.

As the district continues the process of completing a final 2019-20 budget, a budget proposal predicts an 11-cent increase to the mill rate.

The mill rate (the tax rate applied to a homeowner's property value to generate the school district property tax amount) is expected to

increase 1.26% from \$9.32 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$9.43 per \$1,000.

A home worth \$250,000 would expect to pay about \$2,357 for the school portion of their taxes.

This is a \$29.45 change over the 2018-19 budget.

A home worth \$350,000 would pay about \$3,300 in 2019-20, a \$41.23 increase.

The district's tax base has grown every year for the past five years.

The mill rate estimate will be updated for the annual meeting in September.

As far as how many students are currently expect-

ed to attend the school district next year, a decrease has been projected.

The district is projecting a 0.9% decrease in the number of full-time students enrolled — about 49 students.

The 2019-20 budget proposal says this is the first time in over 10 years that the district has predicted a decrease in membership.

However, with residential development happening throughout the district, administrators are hopeful that enrollment growth will soon return.

Staffing levels are expected to increase by about eight

full-time employees based on class size guidelines and enrollment changes.

The preliminary budget also assumes a 15% loss of state aid.

The document says this is considered a "worst case, yet realistic" scenario due to the impact of higher debt service costs related to the 2016 referendum.

Next year's property tax levy is projected to increase 4.3% due to some expenditure increases (in areas such as compensation, benefits and utilities), a \$50 increase in revenue limit authority and the assumption that state aid will decrease.

IN BRIEF

Man allegedly steals sister's car, \$4K of uncle's jewelry

WAUKESHA — A Jackson man has been charged with stealing from his sister and uncle after both people reported their personal property missing.

Joshua J. Reimer, age 32, is facing several charges, including theft of movable property, after he allegedly stole from two family members.

According to the criminal complaint, an Oconomowoc resident reported several items of jewelry missing from his home on June 1 and that about 4:30 p.m., he saw a small blue card turn into his driveway. The man identified the two men in the car as his nephews, one of whom is Reimer.

After Reimer entered his

family member's home by saying he needed to use the restroom, he allegedly stole several items of value.

The complaint says after the man called around to some family members, he learned Reimer was driving around in a car stolen from his sister.

Officers located Reimer on Highway 67 just south of Oconomowoc at about 8:05 p.m. and during the traffic stop, police allegedly found syringes, a substance believed to be cocaine or heroin, and jewelry wrapped inside a Lifesaver candy wrapper.

A total of nine pieces of jewelry were found; the victim estimated he had over \$4,000 worth of property stolen.

Reimer could face over eight years in jail upon conviction.

Best-selling author, CEO coach to speak at Carroll

WAUKESHA — Shannon Byrne Susko, best-selling author, CEO advisor and coach, will appear at Carroll University from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on June 25 in the Stackner Ballroom of the Campus Center, 100 N. East Ave.

Susko will discuss the topic of three-year highly achievable goals (3HAG) with business leaders. This will include how to spot key market opportunities, identify the priorities that address these opportunities, how to map a three-year plan — both quarterly and annually — and how to track progress and spot needed changes on three- and five-year goals.

Susko, founder of

Metronome United and author of "The Metronome Effect" and "3HAG Way," was named among the 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada of 2018 by the Women's Executive Network. She currently serves as a corporate director, as well as a leadership coach, helping CEOs and top executives in a variety of industries keep their companies on the path to growth.

The event is hosted by Carroll University's School of Business Analytics and Business Intelligence Consortium. Cost to attend is \$195 for ABIC members; \$295 for non-ABIC members.

To register and for more information, visit carrollu.edu/abic-3hag.

Water diversion planning nearing completion

Great Water Alliance reps share updated info at New Berlin meeting

By Dave Fidlín  
Special to Conley Media

NEW BERLIN — The long and winding road to solidifying plans for Waukesha's oft-discussed diversion of a Lake Michigan-derived water supply is rounding the bend and nearing completion.

Waukesha officials continue discussing plans with impacted municipalities and state agencies on the diversion plan. Officials in New Berlin, one of the impacted neighboring communities, hosted an informational meeting Tuesday on the project, which could begin with pipeline construction next year.

New Berlin Mayor Dave Ament was on hand at the meeting, as were representatives from Great Water Alliance, the program established to address the full scope of the extensive undertaking, which came to be once the members of the Great Lakes Compact signed off on Waukesha's diversion request.

the program's project manager.

"We're working to get as much information out there as possible," Richardson said. "Our intent isn't to confuse people."

Richardson and others associated with the planning said project specifics will remain fluid in the months ahead until a number of state agencies activate the green light. A review from the Army Corp of Engineers also is required.

Other municipalities intricately involved in the review process include Franklin, Milwaukee, Muskego and West Allis.

Dan Duchniak, Waukesha Water Utility manager, was unable to attend the meeting in New Berlin on Tuesday. In a follow-up interview with The Freeman on Tuesday evening, he said the alliance and city officials want to take all of the input from surrounding communities into consideration.

"This is the end of a 3-year-long planning process," Duchniak said, pointing out 90 percent of the logistics are in place.

At the open house-style meeting at New Berlin's council chambers, Ament continued to emphasize many aspects of the project are outside the city's hands because Waukesha's water supply has been deemed a public safety issue.

But Ament and others on New Berlin's behalf implored representatives of the Great Water Alliance to provide as much timely, up-to-date information as possible, particularly when there is a pivot from a prior plan.

At Tuesday's meeting, renderings revealed a few tweaks to prior conceptual designs pertaining to the route the pipes would traverse through New Berlin.

The Great Water Alliance has established a website, greatwateralliance.com, and is intended to serve as a repository of information, said Catharine Richardson,

Infrastructure

The project calls for constructing two 9-million-gallon reservoirs and a pump station in Minooka Park, near South Swartz Road and County Highway Y.

The official water pipeline route in New Berlin has not been selected, though the preferred route is Oklahoma Avenue to National Avenue, from National Avenue to Coffee Road and from Coffee Road to Racine Avenue.

Duchniak said the aesthetics of the pump station and reservoirs have been a point of concern, particularly from residents close to the would-be structures.

But the goal, Duchniak said, is to create infrastructure that will be as unassuming as possible to the casual observer.



Submitted photo

The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department is seeking help in identifying potential suspects in a recent criminal damage to property case on Wondra Construction Inc. equipment.

Sheriff's Department investigating property damage incident

TOWN OF EAGLE — The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department is seeking help in identifying potential suspects in a recent criminal damage to property case.

According to a post on the department's Facebook page, the property damage took place between April 11-13 to Wondra Construction Inc. construction equip-

ment.

The equipment was located near the area of Highway NN and Sprague Road in the Town of Eagle. The damage to the equipment exceeded \$50,000.

Anyone with any information regarding this crime should contact Detective Mandy Schwartz at 262-896-8138.

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Location	Date	Time
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Milwaukee 18155 W Bluemound Rd. Brookfield, WI 53045	Wednesday June 12 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 pm
	Thursday June 13 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 pm 6:00 pm



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Live Music Provided By SMOOTH BLUES BAND In The Pavilion From 12:00 - 4:00pm