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LOCAL/STATE

3 PAGES

PSSST!

Compiled by The Capital Times staff

City Attorney Eunice Gibson has won the "Cutting It Close" award from Comptroller Paul Reilly for spending \$1,397,696.50 compared to a 1992 budget of \$1,397,597.

Reilly and his staff just finished closing the 1992 city budget books and found Madison did better than expected.

The city ended 1992 with a general fund balance of \$5.7 million. Of that, \$2 million was applied to the 1993 budget, leaving a carryover of \$3.7 million. Reilly said this is about \$630,000 less than the amount carried over in January 1992.

"Typically, we like to have about \$2.5 million to \$3 million for cash flow purposes," Reilly said.

He said the city doesn't get its state shared revenue funds (\$14.5 million) for the year until November, making a balance for cash flow purposes all the more important to get through the first 11 months and avoid short-term borrowing.

Also, as part of the budget, the city has a \$400,000 contingency fund. The money is budgeted but not allocated to a specific purpose. It is used to fill in holes where needed.

And financially, things keep getting tighter and tighter for the city. This year Mayor Paul Soglin is asking agency chiefs to develop emergency financial plans if the budget gets stretched too far, as it almost did in 1992.

One good surprise is that revenues exceeded the estimate by \$893,000 — in spite of income from interest being down by almost \$650,000.

The increase in revenues is from \$129,000 in federal disaster aid received in 1992 for the 1991 windstorm. "In addition, we submitted an amended claim which resulted in an additional \$430,000 to the city," Reilly said.

Other surprise revenues were \$54,000 from court fines and costs, \$518,000 in licenses and permits and \$115,000 in payments from enterprises such as city ramps, golf courses and sewer systems.

The Monona Terrace project will be built on slot machines. No, not on current gambling revenues, but actually on a different era of slot machines. In the 1940s, slot machines seized by state agents were chopped up and buried as part of the landfill that created Law Park. The beverage and tax agents a half-century ago had their headquarters in the Wilson Street State Office Building.

A large picture capturing the agents destroying machines, found in the State Historical Society, now hangs in the office of the Division of Criminal Investigation in the Justice Department.

PET ELIGIBLES



I'm a healthy female cocker spaniel. I'm 7 years old, friendly and trained. Won't you come and take me home? I'm available for adoption at the Dane County Humane Society, 2250 Pennsylvania Ave.

The shelter offers low-cost spay and neuter services for eligible families. For shelter hours or more information, call 245-3340.

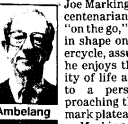
DUNAGIN'S PEOPLE



"THE PRESIDENT JUST PASSED US JOGGING."

He's on go — to 100 years

By Jerry Ambelang
Area News Chief



Ambelang

Joe Marking, soon a centenarian, is still "on the go," staying in shape on his exercise, assuring all he enjoys the quality of life available to a person approaching the landmark plateau.

Marking, who has lived in the Cross Plains and Madison areas all his life, will mark his 100th birthday on Feb. 25.

It's an exciting time for him, with birthday dinners, a centennial open house yesterday, relatives coming in from around the state and nation, scores of cards to peruse, congratulatory letters from Gov. Tommy Thompson, Mayor Paul Soglin and Bishop George Wirz to enjoy.

But he hasn't varied from his normal routine, which makes present day exercise advocates smile.

When I talked with him five years ago, he was still hobbling around on a beefy snowmobile on his corner lot at Kendall and Highland in winter, doing lawn work in the summer, walking, doing his own housework, "keeping busy."

Four years ago, when he was 96, daughter Doris Stallmacher and husband Duane talked him into moving in with them.

That's when he initiated a new daily exercise regimen — a 20-minute warmup walk, and a solid hour of pedaling on the recreation room exercycle.

"But never on Sunday," said the religious Marking, a churchgoer who never misses a weekend Mass at nearby St. Maria Goretti Church, or Blessed Sacrament, where the family went for 60 plus years.

He's unofficial "grandfather" for third-graders at Blessed Sacrament School, which includes making occasional visits.

His advice — keep active and exercising, whether it be on the job, walking, pedaling, or your

own thing.

Born in 1893 in the Cross Plains area, he farmed and did carpentry work there, took classes at a Madison business school, and worked for the Olds Seed Co. and Chicago and Northwestern Railroad for a while.

He married Rose Nonn in 1925, bought a house and took a job with the University of Wisconsin Chemistry Department mixing and handling chemicals for students. To get there, he walked several miles daily to and from the old chem building for 33 years before retiring. His wife died in 1978.

He remains an avid reader, and has been a subscriber to The Capital Times since 1925. As a faithful follower of TCT founder and editor William T. Egan and the Progressive Party, he attended many of the La Follette campaign talks.

"I never miss an election," he said, "and with my Progressive background, I always vote Democratic. I voted for President Clinton."

Why the longevity? Heredity is involved. Brother George is 92, while the baby of the family, Sister Mary Henry Marking, is a mere 81.

"I live one day at a time, with very little stress because I'm very even tempered," he said. "I don't smoke and never was much of a drinker. I lived in a very happy marital atmosphere, and my wife and I always believed in good nutritious meals with lots of fruits and vegetables."

He survived being struck by a car 12 years ago, and "I've taken one multivitamin tablet daily for 50 years," he said.

AMBLING WITH AMBELANG



Joe Marking, who will mark his 100th birthday this month, continues to work out on his exercycle.

He has "old people's" arthritis in the knees and shoulders, and has to crank up his hearing aid in company. He's in good health, reflecting on a blood pressure reading last week that registered 134 over 60.

"I went from a snowblower to the exercycle, but I keep on going," he said with good humor as he revved up the pedal machine. "I still enjoy life."

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LODI — Lodi School Administrator Chuck Pursell was jubilant electors approved a \$7.3 million multi-phased building plan.

"The vote proved one of the opponents wrong," he said with glee.

"He said it would be a cold day in hell before Lodi voters approve a building referendum."

"They did. And while Lodi doesn't resemble the place he mentioned, it was below zero in Lodi this morning."

Pepper spray legality pushed

EAU CLAIRE (AP) — The state should make it legal for citizens to carry a spray made from a tropical pepper plant that can stop potential assailants without inflicting permanent injury, a lawmaker says.

The essential ingredient of the habanero pepper is OC — oleoresin capsicum. It is hotter than the jalapeno, likened to cayenne and praised by law enforcement officers.

It temporarily blinds anyone sprayed with the substance and "feels a lot like flames on your skin," Eau Claire police Sgt. John Taylor said.

But it lacks the hazardous side effects of chemical sprays that have led to damage suits against police and sometimes make a disturbed person more violent.



Plachco

'It's almost a magic snake oil.'

ED NOWICKI

"It's almost a magic snake oil," said Ed Nowicki, a police trainer at Milwaukee Area Technical College. "You can spray me all day with chemical Mace and I can still fight, but one shot of OC and it takes the wind right out of my sails."

Many Madison police officers carry OC as an alternative to Mace.

OC causes involuntary closing of the eye and an inflammation of the mucus membranes in the throat and nose, making it difficult to breathe.

It is a misdemeanor in Wisconsin to carry an unregistered pistol but a felony to carry a pepper spray. Wisconsin and California are the only states with criminal penalties for using the organic sprays.

Rep. Kimberly Plachco, D-Racine, wants the Legislature to rewrite the law, giving women something to protect themselves against muggers and rapists.

"Women are already using this pepper spray as a self-defense mechanism in this state," Plachco said. "If they use it properly, I don't believe most judges would prosecute."

"It's time we have a form of non-lethal defense for people," she said. "Our laws are keeping the sprays out of the hands of law-abiding people."

Robson drops out of race, backs Barca

The Capital Times

State Rep. Judith Robson of Beloit has withdrawn from the Democratic race for the 1st District congressional seat left vacant by Defense Secretary Les Aspin.

Robson, 53, said she had collected about \$45,000 for the race, far less than she predicted would be needed to finance a winning campaign.

She has thrown her support to state Rep. Peter Barca, D-Kenosha, who estimated he might spend \$250,000 for the primary and perhaps twice as much for the May 4 special election.

The other Democrats in the April 6 primary are Jeffrey Neubaer of Racine, who is the state Democratic Party chairman, and Rep. Wayne Wood of Janesville.

Robson, who was expected to get the backing of women's groups, said today that her endorsement of Barca reflected her belief that he shares the same progressive values and concerns that she holds about working men and women of the district.

Barca hailed Robson's endorsement, saying he joins her in wanting to reform the health care system, address women's issues and create new jobs.

On the Republican side, the likely candidates include Janesville business executive Mark Neumann, who ran against Aspin in 1992, and state Rep. Charles Coleman, R-Whitewater.

Why fuss? Go with the snow flow

By Jeff Richgels and Jerry Ambelang
The Capital Times

Commuters were shrugging off Sunday's record 7.5-inch snowfall as they arrived at work and other activities downtown this morning.

"Why should you get upset? It's a hazard of living in Wisconsin," Elery Hitchcock of Edgerton said as he waited to report for jury duty this morning. "You have to expect it and just deal with it the best you can."

Hitchcock's stoicism was especially noticeable considering the extra work he had to overcome — a work injury that left his left hand and forearm immobilized in a large bandage.

"I just taped the handle up so the blower would keep running," said Hitchcock, 51. "It's self-propelled so then I could just run it with one hand."

Hitchcock, who injured his hand while doing construction work, said he cleared three driveways Sunday — his, his mother's and a neighbor's.

Dane County Clerk of Courts Judith Coleman said jurors who reported a little late wouldn't face any penalties.

"We're flexible and kind," she said with a chuckle.

Coleman said jury duty was called off once: Dec. 3, 1990, when 17 inches of snow fell from Sunday evening through that Monday afternoon.

A man who identified himself only as John, a county employee, said he was a couple of minutes late arriving for work and didn't have time to chat.

"But I got everything dug out this morning," he said. "Hey, this is

Wisconsin. What do you expect in February? Eighty degrees and sunny?"

Sunday's precipitation set a record for Feb. 21. The all-day snowfall measured 7.5 inches; the previous high mark was 6 inches, set in 1971.

All of Dane County's main roads were passable, but snow covered and slippery this morning with another inch of snow that fell after midnight, said Steve Haag, Dane County highway superintendent. Secondary roads were more of a problem.

Adding to the displeasure was the windchill, which hovered around zero and was expected to stay there throughout the day.

"The biggest problem this morning is the blowing snow," said Haag. "We're getting some drifting in the rural areas as the winds pick up. This snow is really light and moves around easily, and that is causing troubles for motorists."

The weekend snowfall dropped 9 inches of new snow on the Madison area, and another couple of inches is expected before it tapers off to flurries and ends tonight.

The 9 inches already exceeds the average 6.7 inches that southern Wisconsin is used to in February, said Brian Pierce, meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Madison.

The total for February now tops 10.5 inches, with more on the way today.

"The storm is not unusual for February," he added. "We can expect one or two of these this month. But this storm dropped more than usual."

Area law enforcement agencies were reporting no serious injury accidents as a result of the storm.

Lawyer, spouse bilk woman

STURGEON BAY (AP) — An 87-year-old woman says she doesn't think she will ever see any of the \$110,000 that an attorney and the attorney's husband have been convicted of stealing from her.

But Eulalia I. Addison of Sturgeon Bay said she's "not going to waste time being angry."

"Well, what can I do about it?" she asked. "I have enough for my income to live on from year to year."

A Brown County jury convicted Challoner Morse McBride and her husband, J. Ronald McBride, on Friday of 10 counts related to the pilfering of Addison's assets from 1986 to 1991. Both remain free on signature bonds.

The jury found Challoner Morse McBride guilty of being party to the crimes of embezzlement and three counts of theft by fraud. J. Ronald McBride, manager of his wife's Sturgeon Bay law firm, was convicted of being party to the crimes of embezzlement and five counts of theft by fraud. He was acquitted of one embezzlement count, assistant state attorney general Matt Frank said.

"The allegations were that they used much of Eulalia's money for their own purposes, including paying off the mort-

gage ... on their law offices," Door County District Attorney Gary Schuster said.

J. Ronald McBride, reached at his Baileys Harbor home, declined to comment.

Each of the counts is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, Frank said. A sentencing date was not set.

Addison said she hired the law firm after her sister's 1981 death and agreed to J. Ronald McBride's request to handle her tax returns as well. She said she asked him to send her a bill.

"He said, 'That won't be necessary, I'll take care of it,'" Addison said Saturday. "So he took care of it, in more ways than one."

The McBrides bilked Addison by giving her an inflated figure on what she owed in state and federal income taxes and pocketing the excess, Schuster said.

3 found slain in drug house

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The near-west-side building where a woman and two men were found shot to death appears to have been a drug house.

Capt. Thomas Perlewitz added that authorities were called to the structure about 10:45 p.m. Sunday by a person who went there to buy cocaine and found one of the three on a stairway.

Perlewitz said the victims were a 30-year-old woman, a 29-year-old man and a 39-year-old man.

Detective Lt. Mike LaPointe said they all had been rooming in the building.

The names of the victims were still being withheld today pending notification of relatives.