

BRIEFS

Steil steps down as regent after victory

MADISON (AP) — Bryan Steil is resigning as a University of Wisconsin System regent to focus on his first congressional term.

Steil's spokesman, Andrew Iverson, said Steil submitted his resignation to Gov. Scott Walker on Friday afternoon, effective immediately. Steil defeated Democrat Randy Bryce in the Nov. 6 election to fill outgoing House Speaker Paul Ryan's seat.

Walker appointed Steil to the regents in May 2016. He'll have a chance to appoint Steil's replacement if he makes a decision before Democratic Gov.-elect Tony Evers is sworn in on Jan. 7.

Dahmer lawyer's law license suspended

MADISON (AP) — The Wisconsin Supreme Court has indefinitely suspended the law license of the man who defended serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer.

Clients in two criminal cases had disputed attorney Gerald Boyle's fees and said he failed to explain them. Boyle said earlier this year he couldn't properly defend himself against clients' complaints because he got sick following surgery in 2017 and he was medically incapacitated.

The high court agreed with Boyle's assessment and suspended the 82-year-old's license Friday, allowing him to avoid possible sanctions for violating the rules of professional conduct. Boyle gained national attention by representing Dahmer, who killed 17 men and boys from 1978 to 1991 and died in prison.

Shootout leaves 1 dead in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A shootout between people in two vehicles on Milwaukee's north side ended fatally Thursday night.

Police said a 33-year-old man started shooting at a vehicle about 9 p.m. A person in the vehicle returned gunfire, striking the man. He fled from the shootout but later crashed and died on the way to the hospital.

Authorities said the man who returned gunfire stayed on the scene and was arrested. Police continued to investigate.

Settlement reached in frat death lawsuit

CHICAGO (AP) — The family of a Northern Illinois University student who died during a fraternity hazing has reached a \$14 million settlement of their lawsuit.

David Bogenberger of Palatine, Ill., was found dead in November 2012 at Pi Kappa Alpha, the fraternity the 19-year-old was pledging.

Authorities said Bogenberger and other pledges participated in an event that required them to drink vodka and other liquor. According to the lawsuit, a fraternity member moved Bogenberger to a bedroom after he became unconscious, rather than seeking medical attention. Toxicology results later showed Bogenberger's blood alcohol content was about five times the legal limit for driving.

Lame-duck bills would move primary, limit early voting

MADISON (AP) — Wisconsin Republicans plan for a lame-duck legislative session solidified Friday as GOP leaders confirmed they will consider bills that would move the next presidential primary date and restrict early voting. The GOP aims to hold floor debates Tuesday, which would give Republicans a final opportunity to pass legislation before Republican Gov. Scott Walker leaves office.



Scott Walker

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald circulated paper ballots to their chambers' leadership committees asking for a vote to authorize the session. The ballots included vague, one-sentence descriptions of six bills on the chamber's agenda.

The most contentious bill is a proposal to move the 2020 presidential primary from April to March. Republicans have acknowledged the shift is a purely political tactic; conservative state Supreme Court Justice Daniel Kelly, a Walker appointee, will be on the April ballot and Republicans fear a Democratic wave could cost him his job. They've said decoupling Kelly's race from the primary could help him.

Bill calls for 3 elections in 3 months

The bill would create three elections in three months: the February state primary, the March presidential primary and the April state general election. Local clerks have balked at the plan, saying it's logistically impossible to administer so many contests in such a short period of time.

Republican Rep. Kathy Bernier told the Wisconsin State Journal the bill also will limit in-person early voting statewide to roughly two weeks before an election. Currently, municipalities set their own hours and dates for in-person early voting. Bernier told the newspaper the bill is designed to create uniformity and wouldn't include any restrictions

on hours or locations for voting places. She didn't immediately return voicemail messages from The Associated Press.

U.S. District Judge James Peterson in 2016 struck down Republican-authored restrictions limiting municipalities to one location for in-person early voting and limiting in-person early voting to weekdays. Peterson said imposing weekday limitations intentionally discriminates against Democratic-leaning black residents in Milwaukee. State attorneys have appealed the ruling.

Scott Ross, executive director of One Wisconsin Institute, which brought the lawsuit, issued a statement saying Republicans are trying to "rig" election rules again.

Republicans unveil other measures

Another bill on the agenda relates to spending federal transportation dollars. Road funding has been another sore spot for the GOP. Assembly Republicans want to raise the gas tax or find new sources of revenue to pump more money into road construction, but Walker steadfastly resisted their efforts. The bill description offers no details of the proposal.

The bill also deals with individual income cuts, but the description contains no details on that, either. Other bills focus on federal waivers allowing work requirements for government benefits, the composition of state agencies and agencies' processes for adopting administrative rules, which are regulations that have the force of law. No further details were immediately available on the measures.

One measure would guarantee health insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. The Assembly passed the bill in 2017, but it died in the Senate. The federal Affordable Care Act already guarantees such coverage and debate over the coverage hurt Walker's re-election bid. Walker said he favored coverage for pre-existing conditions even though he authorized Attorney General Brad Schimel to join a lawsuit challenging the federal health care law.

More women cross state lines to get abortions in Illinois, report says

CHICAGO (AP) — More women have been crossing state lines to get abortions in Illinois, according to a report that comes at a time other states are seeking new restrictions on the procedure.

The findings released this week by the Illinois Department of Public Health show more than 5,500 women from other states traveled to Illinois last year for the procedure, up from about 4,500 women in 2016, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Last year, 19 states adopted 63 new abortion restrictions, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights.

Missouri has only one abortion clinic as of October. The state requires abortion providers to have admitting privileges at local hospitals and mandates a 72-hour waiting

period. Some of the greatest shifts have been in Iowa, which passed a 20-week limit on the procedure. A 72-hour waiting period for the procedure was blocked by the courts.

Abortion restrictions rise

Increasing abortion restrictions have forced women to incur additional expenses in order to access a safe, legal abortion procedure, said Becca Lee, a spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland.

"When access to abortion is politically restricted, those who have the means to travel will do so, and those without means are left most vulnerable," Lee said.

Midwest Access Coalition is a Chicago nonprofit that works to offset such travel costs by providing lodging, food and trans-

portation. Nonprofit volunteer Timma Axel, 28, has helped women in Iowa, Indiana and Wisconsin in recent years.

"It seems like a lot of these (nearby) states have increased the barriers to travel and other health care for women in recent years," she said. "It doesn't seem right there should be this island of health care access in Chicago."

The increase in abortions for out-of-state women is a sign of Illinois' "regressive" approach to protecting unborn children, said Mary Kate Knorr, the director of Illinois Right to Life. "Illinois is an outlier amongst our neighbors, whose legislatures have consulted science and found that discouraging abortions is in the best interest of their residents," she said.

Man, 82, lends hand to fellow veterans

NORTH CHICAGO, ILL. (AP) — In his 82 years, Russ McCann claims he never had a nickname. But the Korean War veteran says "Pops" is fine with him.

That handle was bestowed by Carrie Price, store manager at the Midwest Veterans Closet in North Chicago, where McCann has spent many weekdays for about the past four years volunteering wherever needed.

"They call me Pops because they think I'm old, I can probably outwork all of them," he said in jest. Despite a variety of ailments, McCann has found a renewed sense of purpose at the nonprofit, which provides veterans and their families with clothing, household items, shoes, boots and other basic needs, as well as housing and employment assistance.

"Every day I come in here and I can help a vet, it's a plus for me," said McCann, of Des Plaines. "That's why I'm still vertical — it's helped me physically

and mentally." The personable McCann is considered a celebrity of sorts by the staff and clients, and he's known for corny jokes and quick rejoinders. But it wasn't always such.

"He never told any jokes when he first came," said Mary Carmody, the Midwest Veterans Closet's president. "He was very lonely and sad." With his wife of 54 years gone, McCann was paralyzed in a sense, according to his daughter, Debbie Dusckett. "He was lost after my mom passed away. He had such a hard time," she said.

Those who know him said the Navy veteran has a history of advocacy, volunteerism and good deeds. But it wasn't always enough.

"His volunteering goes so far beyond the vets, but it's after my mom died (that) the closet became his purpose," Dusckett said. "It helped to turn his life around."

The facility is blocks from the Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, where McCann also visits frequently.

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