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March 13th urged to be state K-9 Veterans Day

By Amy Smith
Union staff writer

MADISON — If all goes as planned, Friday, March 13, will be designated K-9 Veterans Day in Wisconsin.

State Reps. Andy Jorgensen and Cody Horlacher plan to introduce a nonpartisan legislative resolution in the Assembly to set aside the day to honor the service of all military working dogs, which can be traced back to World War I.

Currently, 13 states have established March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day: California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

March 13, 1942, marked the founding of the United States K9 Corps. The initiative to honor service dogs on that date started in 2009 with retired military dog handler Joseph J. White, whose efforts resulted in

Jacksonville Beach and the entire State of Florida becoming the first to proclaim the recognition.

The more recent effort in Wisconsin was spearheaded by Mabel Schumacher, treasurer of the Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson.

"He (White) started the idea that these dogs need to be honored and these dogs need to be respected," Schumacher said of White.

It was in 2011 that Schu-



macher first brought the issue to the attention of the kennel club, which gave her permission to pursue the recognition further. The treasurer contacted then-state Rep. and current Sen. Steve Nass, R-Whitewater, and state Rep. Andy Jorgensen, D-Milton, who also voiced their support of the idea.

Jorgensen and Horlacher, (Continued on A5)

Right-to-work off to state Assembly

MADISON (AP) — The Wisconsin state Senate passed a right-to-work bill with just enough votes to send it on to the Assembly, where the Republican majority is wider, keeping the measure on a fast track that could put it before Gov. Scott Walker for his signature next week.

Walker, a likely presidential candidate, has promised to sign it into law. The bill passed the Senate 17-15 on Wednesday night, with all Democrats and one Republican voting against

it, after nearly eight hours of debate.

The proposal would make it a crime punishable by up to nine months in jail to require private-sector workers who aren't in a union to pay dues. Supporters say it's about worker freedom, while opponents say it will hurt businesses and lower wages. There are 24 other states with similar laws, including Michigan and Indiana which passed them in 2012.

Democrats argued right-to-work (Continued on A5)

Museum sees year of change

By Ryan Whisner
Union regional editor

In one word, "change" best describes what the Fort Atkinson Historical Society experienced during 2014.

Hoard Historical Museum director Merrilee Lee said on Wednesday that it started in January 2014 with the retirement of Linda Winn as office manager and culminated in December with the resignation of museum director Kori Oberle.

"It was a year of change for all of us," said Lee, who began her duties as director just 24 days ago.

She succeeds Oberle, who resigned in December after heading up the museum since September 2008.

"It has been a good transition and I'm looking forward to all the changes we can work on together," Lee added.

Overseeing her first Fort Atkinson Historical Society annual meeting Wednesday, the director offered her vision of the museum moving forward.

"If I had to put the museum in a place in five years, what would it be? I would see the museum as being a vibrant museum, a place with engaging programming, revolving exhibits exploring our own history. A museum with a purpose."

Lee cited the museum's mission, which is to "protect, preserve and promote" the area history.

She said that in 2015, much of the programming will be dedicated to recognizing and remembering the Civil War in recognition of the 150th anniversary of that war between the states.

Upcoming events include the opening of the duck hunting exhibit in April, a "Dairy Day at the Mooseum" in June, and a Civil War day event to coincide with Gov. William Dempster Hoard's birthday in October. Lee noted that Hoard fought in the Civil War, so the programming will reflect his history and the Civil War.

In addition, the annual Fourth of July Ice Cream Social will remain on the schedule.

"We will be keeping the old, but having new as well," Lee said, inviting society members to offer suggestions for programs in the future.

Continuing her look into the (Continued on A5)



LITERACY SUPPORT — Wine, beer and books were highlighted during the Jefferson County Literacy Council's fourth annual "Artful Taste of Literacy" Saturday. The fundraiser was held at the Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson to promote the connection to literacy. Pictured here are scenes from the event. Above left, Stuart Cable and Jill Ottow enjoy some conversation. Above right, Brenda Garrison of Fort Atkinson and Amy Larson of Sun Prairie give literacy some promotion. Directly at right, Betty Matrisch pours a fresh beverage for Kim Campbell of Lake Mills while her husband, Rob, samples one of the many appetizers. Related photos appear on A10. View all photos at www.dailyunion.com. — Daily Union photos by Ryan Whisner.



Rare identical triplets marking first month

ST. CLAIR SHORES, Mich. (AP) — A suburban Detroit couple who have two older children are adjusting to life after becoming parents to identical triplets — a multiple birth that's rare.

The Whiteley family of St. Clair Shores celebrated the one-month birthdays Wednesday for Alexander, Nicholas and Timothy.

The brothers were born Jan. 25 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, but spent nearly a

month in the newborn intensive care unit.

The boys are healthy, their mother, Lauren Whiteley, said. Their older brothers are age 3 and 2.

"I always wanted a big family, and I guess this is the way to do it, get them all at once," Whiteley joked.

Many triplets are the result of fertility treatments, but Lauren Whiteley, 32, said she didn't take fertility drugs. She had an ultrasound at about eight or

nine weeks to confirm the pregnancy, but didn't know what she was seeing.

"It was the ultrasound tech that kind of left the room, came back and I thought something was wrong," Whiteley said. "She said 'No it's good news.' I said 'Oh my gosh! It's twins, isn't it?' She said, 'No, I see three.' This was the shock of a lifetime."

Michael Whiteley, 31, said he asked his wife several times: "Triplets? Are you sure?" It was very overwhelming.

Multiple births don't run in either of their families. "Not even twins," Lauren Whiteley said.

Identical triplets also were born Dec. 5 to a woman in Billings, Montana.

Data on identical triplet births by natural conception varies from one in 60,000 to one in 2 million. Most doctors call the chances one-in-a-million.

Four sets of triplets were born at the hospital last year, but they weren't identical.

Homeland Security bill moves in Senate; House in limbo

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is moving forward on legislation to fund the Homeland Security Department, but the House is in limbo two days away from a partial agency shutdown as conservatives angrily reject the Senate plan.

Many House Republicans say they aren't ready to admit defeat and approve spending for the department without demanding concessions from President Barack Obama on

immigration. They are pressuring House Speaker John Boehner to hold firm against that approach, even as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell argues that it's the best way out of the GOP's dilemma.

No other options are apparent, aside from a partial shutdown of the agency charged with protecting the U.S. against terrorism. Without congressional action, that will happen at midnight Friday — and polls

show Republicans likely to take the political blame.

Boehner met privately with McConnell on Wednesday afternoon, their first meeting in two weeks, but he gave no indication during the day of how he might resolve what has become a high-stakes leadership test two months into full Republican control of Congress.

"I'm waiting for the Senate to act. The House has done their job," Boehner said at a news

conference where he repeatedly sidestepped questions about his plans.

Hours after Boehner spoke, the Senate did act, voting 98-2 to advance the Homeland Security funding bill over its first procedural hurdle. Several more votes will be required to bring the bill to final passage, but that outcome in the Senate is assured with lawmakers of both parties ready to put the fight behind them.

The \$40 billion legislation would fund the agency through Sept. 30, the end of the budget year. One would be the contentious immigration language from the House-passed version that repealed Obama executive actions as far back as 2012 granting work permits and deportation stays to millions of people in the country illegally, including immigrants brought here as kids.

(Continued on A5)



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Senate OKs right-to-work, sends bill to Assembly

(Continued from A1) work would be had for workers, wasn't wanted by businesses and would hurt the state's economy. They also decided how quickly the bill was moving — the Senate vote was just five days after the bill was proposed.

Republican supporters said it would give workers the freedom to decide whether to pay union dues and will attract more business to the state.

"There will be no more important jobs bill in this chamber over the next two years than the bill before us today," said its main sponsor, Republican Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald.

Senate Democrats pointed to a coalition of more than 440

businesses that organized against the bill, the more than 1,700 people who testified or registered against it at a hearing, as well as unions for professional baseball, football and hockey players, as evidence that those who will be affected don't want it to pass.

Republicans rejected several Democratic amendments, including bolstering worker training by \$30 million, increasing poverty aid for public schools, removing the provision making violation of the law a misdemeanor and delaying implementation for three months.

The bill as passed would take effect immediately upon Walker's signature. Fitzgerald said there was "adequate time" for unions and businesses to ex-

tend contracts now, and not be subject to the law, before Walker signs it.

Democratic Minority Leader Jen Shilling, who called the proposal anti-business, pleaded with Republicans to "be the hero for the future of our state" and vote against the bill. Ultimately, just enough Republicans voted for the bill to pass it.

Sen. Jerry Petrowski, of Marathon, was the lone Republican to vote against it. Petrowski said in a statement that he was "not convinced that the supposed benefits of passing this bill will materialize and offset a potentially disruptive impact on our economy."

"I'm a Ronald Reagan Republican, and a like President Reagan, I was a union member

for many years," he said.

Spectators frequently applauded Democrats and occasionally interrupted debate. About a dozen were removed by police. "This is not about democracy. You work for the people of the state!" one person yelled during Fitzgerald's opening comments. Later, another person was removed after shouting, "You're robbing our families! You're robbing me!"

"They chanted 'Shame!' after the bill passed and the Senate adjourned."

About 2,000 people protested inside and outside the Capitol for a second day Wednesday. While sizable, the protests didn't compare with four years ago, when up to 100,000 people gathered at the Capitol to urge

rejection of the law that came to be known as Act 10. In addition to disallowing the automatic withdrawal of union dues, that law took away collective bargaining from nearly all public workers except over wage increases no greater than inflation.

Passage of that law spurred the 2012 recall against Walker, which he won. For years Walker had downplayed his longtime support for right-to-work, saying it wasn't a priority and he hoped the Legislature wouldn't take it up, but last week he promised to sign the bill.

Shilling said the bill was a "hail Mary to please outside special interest groups with a governor who is traveling the nation on the taxpayers' ex-

pense pursuing his presidential ambitions."

Meanwhile, Sen. Janis Ringhand, District 15, called fast-tracking the bill "a cowardly move by Republican party-bosses who are scared to think that their Senators might think on their own, or even worse, listen to people back home."

"This is a cynical scheme to lower wages for everyone, kill worker training programs and distract us all from the Republican's terrible record on jobs and the economy," the senator added.

"Let's be clear: If you have job in Wisconsin, if you work for a living, Republicans want you to work for less than you are making today — period," Ringhand concluded.

Historical Society, museum experienced much change during 2014

(Continued from A3) Atkinson Historical Society very much needs the continued financial support of our many members and other donors that make the programs of this museum possible," he said.

He explained that in 2014, the society reported a net income of \$242, marking the third positive year in a row and \$23,000 better than budgeted.

Despite the positive balance, receipts were down in nearly every category while expenses were almost the same as in 2013.

Going forward, in 2014, the board changed its policy on the use of the Mary Hoard Trust Fund as one of multiple ways the society is considering as it seeks alternative or additional revenue sources for the Hoard Historical Museum.

Rather than actually taking the interest and dividend income that comes from the trust, the society will use a percentage calculated on the 10-year average percentage gain, he said.

For 2015, Gray said, the rate

of return is 4 percent.

"This change results in an increase of \$17,000 in the earnings used to fund current operations of the society for 2015," Gray said. "To conclude, the society is just getting by financially. With your continued financial support, we can and will do more."

Also Lee recognized Beverly Dahl, who was named the 2015 Volunteer of the Year at the annual volunteer reception at the museum in September 2014.

Lee noted that Dahl has served as a volunteer since 2010, working in the archives, helping at kitchen receptions, training other volunteers and planning garden events.

A Bessemer, Mich., native, Dahl moved to Fort Atkinson from Illinois eight years ago after retiring from Lucent Technologies. She chose Fort Atkinson because it was halfway between her friends in Illinois and her family in Wisconsin.

Semi-retired, Dahl works 11 hours a week as an operations assistant at the Hoard Historical Museum.

Dahl thanked the Fort Atkin-

son Historical Society for honoring her with the Volunteer of the Year recognition.

"In 2007, when I decided to move to Fort Atkinson from Illinois after retiring, I didn't actually know anyone who lived here; it just seemed like a nice place," she said.

Upon moving to Wisconsin, Dahl said, one of her first goals was to learn to garden in the state, so she began master gardener training.

She said Oberle came to the Master Gardeners seeking volunteers to put a garden in along the Hoard House fence, intended to mirror the garden that Bill and Mary Hoard once maintained.

Dahl noted that one of her other goals was to become involved in local volunteering, so she came over to see how she could help.

One thing led to another through development of multiple gardens on the museum grounds and she never has left.

"Along the way, I met many of the people who regularly volunteer here and was drawn into their other volunteer opportuni-



Merilee Lee



Beverly Dahl

ties, including the archives and providing programming using the museum gardens as teaching aids," Dahl said. "So, as with any volunteer position, I feel I've gotten more out of our association than the museum has, but I appreciate the recognition."

Dahl joins these past Volunteers of the Year: 1986, George Swartz; 1988, Lillian Kerbel; 1987, Ruth Rockwell; 1987, David and Jean Tyler; 1988, Carolyn Web; 1988, James Baird; 1989, Laura Beane; 1989, Wilma Haukom; 1990, Maxine Meyer; 1990, Barbara Starke; 1991, Pat Landowski; 1992, Carol Bonnet; 1993, Del-

la Pierce; 1994, John and Lue Ehinger; 1995, William Ward; 1996, Howard and Betty Goodman; 1997, Allan Haukom; 1998, Karen Simpson; 1999, Jim Nelson; 1999, Estelle Wiesmann; 2000, Howard Goodman.

Also, 2001, Milo and Joan Jones; 2002, Jan Kraus; 2003, Betty Schubert; 2004, Pat O'Connor; 2005, Marjill Fuge; 2006, Dick and Carol Wanier; 2007, Brenda Peterson and Mary Gates; 2008, Allan Christian; 2009, Ann Engelman; 2010, Diane Carter; and 2011, Ron Langgeller; 2012 Karen and John Syens; 2013 Linda Niemeyer; and 2014 Sue Zimmerman.

Meanwhile, retiring members of the society's board of directors, Anders Yocom and Tony Bolz, were recognized.

"I don't know if during my time here that there are two people who have contributed more of their time, effort and knowledge to the museum," Langgeller said.

The pair were presented with certificates for penies from Roger F. and Sandra L. Anderson.

In addition, Langgeller recognized Sue Zimmerman, who had to step down from the board due to health concerns. He said that in addition to being on the board, she has been a dedicated volunteer working with the Mystery of the Mounds exhibit, tours, classes and programs.

Langgeller informed the board that Zimmerman would not be seeking a third term, but that she has promised that as her health improves, she will look for ways to assist at the museum.

New members elected to serve on the board of directors include Bonnie Geyer, Karen Gomez, Sue Johnson, John Molinaro and Joel Winn.

March 13 K-9 Veterans Day

(Continued from A1) who took over Nass' 33rd Assembly District seat after the November election, plan to introduce the proposed resolution during the next legislative session. Schumacher said she hopes it will be passed before March 13, although there is some uncertainty in light of the political turmoil in the State Capitol.

Schumacher added that the cause has received support from 47 of the 99 Wisconsin Assembly members and nine of the 33 state senators thus far.

"We all recognize the fact that veterans, no matter who they are, are very worthy of our respect and appreciation," Schumacher said. "It seemed as though K9 veterans did not get the same respect; yet, they, too, served honorably and gave up their lives for their country and also saved a lot of lives. With the number of dogs working in the field after the 9/11 attacks, we thought it was extremely important to honor and recognize their service."

K-9 Veterans Day is intended to honor military dogs, as well as canines working with police, customs, the border patrol, service and therapy.

Even if the resolution does not get to a vote in time, a celebration recognizing the first K-9 Veterans Day has been slated for March 13 at the American Legion Dugout, 201 S. Water St. East, in Fort Atkinson. A speaker who works extensively with service dogs is planned.

Schumacher said the Fort Atkinson Kennel Club also hopes to place a memorial in McCoy Park in the future to recognize the day.

Dogs involved in warfare have a long history. Starting in ancient times, war dogs have been used by the Egyptians, Greeks, Persians, Slavs, Britons and Romans, serving often as patrol.

The first reported war dog in America was a pit bull named Stubby. Stubby served 18 months in World War I and took part in 17 battles on the western front. Eventually promoted

to sergeant, he was the most decorated war dog in World War I.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. military asked pet owners to donate their dogs to the war effort as part of the Dogs for Defense program. The dogs were trained and used for guard and patrol duties.

Former U.S. Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson first authorized the use of dogs in war efforts on March 13, 1942, establishing the K-9 Corps. Dogs accepted into the military underwent a rigorous training program that exposed the dogs to muzzles, gas masks, gunfire and riding in vehicles. The dogs focused on obedience and responding to basic commands, so that they could learn to serve as a sentry, a scout or patrol dog, messenger dog, or a mine-detection dog.

By 1944, the United States Department of War had created 15 Quartermaster War Dog Platoons consisting of 20 enlisted men, 18 scout dogs and six messenger dogs. More than 1 million dogs were used by both sides during World War II.

The most-decorated American military working dog during World War II was Chips, known for storming an Italian machine gun nest in 1943 during the Allied invasion of Sicily.

During the Vietnam War, about 4,900 military working dogs served in the U.S. military and were credited with saving more than 10,000 human lives. A total 232 military working dogs and 295 servicemen serving as dog handlers were killed in action during the Vietnam War, including Lance Cpl. Terrence Daniel Beck of Fort Atkinson; Specialist 4 Richard Michael Banaszynski of Pulaski, and Sgt. Terry John Payne of La Crosse.

The United States euthanized thousands of military working dogs at the end of the Vietnam War rather than bringing them home, and after intense lobbying by veterans who served as dog handlers, the

federal government changed the law in 2000 so that U.S. military dogs can be adopted by American families after their military service. Today, retired working dogs often are adopted as pets or serve as therapy dogs.

Since the terrorist attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, customs dogs, search-and-rescue dogs, border patrol dogs, police dogs and secret service dogs have helped protect and serve the United States. A military working dog named Cairo actually was part of the operation that killed Osama bin Laden.

Modern working dog roles include law enforcement; drug, bomb and explosive detection; sentries; scouts; trackers; intimidations; search-and-rescue; and mascots. The most widely known service that a dog provides is in law enforcement. The canines have proven versatile and loyal officers that are used to chase suspects, track if they are hidden and guard them when they are caught.

Dogs in law enforcement are taught not to respond unless commanded to do so by their handler. Drug and explosive-detection dogs often are used in airports, checkpoints and other places with high security. These dogs undergo training and are able to detect traces of nearly any substance.

Search-and-rescue dogs are valuable in wilderness, disaster, avalanche, drowning and recovery situations. Handlers, as well as highly trained dogs, make up a large component of search-and-rescue missions.

Taking traits from other service duties, customs and border patrol dogs are trained in several disciplines, including concealed human detection, pedestrian processing, and detecting the odors of narcotics, currency and firearms.

Service dogs are specially trained to provide assistance to people who have disabilities such as vision, physical, hearing autism, mental illness or seizures. They also are used by wounded veterans who have returned from combat.

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