

CARING KIDS

County social worker Ganzow given state recognition | A10



LIFESTYLES: Cajun 'dirty rice' dish no chopped liver | A4

SPORTS: Badgers Big Ten Tournament champions | B2

WHITEWATER: 'Nuts in a Nutshell' at Seniors in Park | B8

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GOING HOME — Jefferson County veterans service officer Yvonne Duesterhoeft presents the purple heart for the late Fort Atkinson soldier Victor O. Draeger to Carl Hale, commander of American Legion Paris Post 1, at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. Hale, in turn, took it to the Epinal American Cemetery, where Draeger is buried.

French adopt Fort G.I.'s grave

By Pam Wilson
Union staff writer

JEFFERSON — The Purple Heart lay forgotten in the bottom of a bin of miscellaneous items at a flea market when an unknown benefactor found it and started its journey back to the soldier who earned it.

A graduate of Fort Atkinson High School, Victor O. Draeger died at age of 19 after being wounded in Mirecourt, France, during World War II. He is buried in the Epinal American Cemetery in Mirecourt, where, unbeknownst to Draeger's home community, local citizens have adopted and cared for his grave ever since his death in 1944.

And now Draeger's Purple Heart medal is on display at the town hall in Mirecourt, where Draeger lies buried in the American Battle Monuments Commission's Epinal American Cemetery.

The Purple Heart, a symbol of sacrifice, is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next-of-kin in the name of those killed in action or who die of wounds received in action.

It was thanks to that unidentified benefactor that this

(Continued on A3)

Council resolution Tuesday

In recognition of the French town of Mirecourt adopting and caring for the grave of a fallen American soldier for the last 70 years, the Fort Atkinson City Council is considering a resolution thanking that community.

The resolution will come up on the agenda of the council's regular meeting this Tuesday.

Dick Schultz, council president, has been working with Yvonne

(Continued on A3)

Fort Kennel Club takes lead in state observance

K-9 veterans earn salute

By Amy Smith
Union staff writer

The Fort Atkinson Kennel Club honored military and service dogs during the inaugural K-9 Veterans Day Friday at the American Legion Dug-out.

The keynote speaker for the event was retired military dog handler Jerry Witt, Brookfield, who served in the Vietnam War. Witt shared his experiences as a dog handler, noting that dogs not only saved his life, but the

lives of many men during his time in the military.

He underwent 12 weeks of training to become a scout dog handler, his mission being to support the infantry unit by leading the patrols through the jungle.

The handlers and their dogs lead ahead about 30 or 35 meters to detect booby traps or enemy scents. A German shepherd named Skip was Witt's first dog.

The retired dog handler shared two missions in partic-



A guest hears accolades.

ular in which Skip saved his life.

"In the first instance, and there were many, it was about

110 degrees. This was the third day of my mission and I knew I was going in tomorrow and catching a chopper back to base camp, where we would have minimum of 72 hours rest," Witt recalled. "As we are going through this rice paddy with the water up to my knees and up to Skip's chest, we were tired and the sun was setting. He was out ahead of me on leash, and we had about another 50 yards to go."

"All of sudden he decides to

(Continued on A7)

Campus cost cuts under way

EAU CLAIRE (AP) — Chancellors at the University of Wisconsin's Eau Claire and Whitewater campuses are making cost-cutting plans to deal with a proposed \$300 million reduction in state funding for the UW System, even though the Legislature has yet to consider the cuts included in Gov. Scott Walker's budget.

UW-Eau Claire Chancellor James Schmidt said the university will offer voluntary separation incentives to about 325 eligible faculty and staff, the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram reported.

"Fewer resources will mean we can support fewer faculty and staff. This will require us to strategically eliminate positions and reinvent how we serve our students more efficiently," Schmidt said in an email to faculty and staff.

"While I hope this voluntary separation incentive program will help us identify the majority of the position savings we need to meet our budget challenge, there is no guarantee that it will do so," he said.

UW-Whitewater Chancellor Richard Telfer tells the Janesville Gazette that he will not fill 41 positions that are either open or will be vacant because someone is planning on leaving.

Twelve of the 41 positions are full-time faculty jobs that affect

(Continued on A8)



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS — The Whitewater High School girls' basketball team won the WIAA Division 3 State championship following a 49-43 win over Appleton Xavier at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon Saturday. The Whippets capped off a perfect 28-0 season, earning the school's first-ever State title in basketball, boys or girls. A full recap of Whitewater's tournament wins and additional photos appear on B1. — Daily Union photo by Kevin Damask.

Tax Alliance's Berry reviews budget at Whitewater gathering

By Ryan Whisner
Union regional editor

WHITEWATER — Greater Whitewater Committee members received an overview of Wisconsin's budget, economy and politics during a program Thursday morning at Jessica's Family Restaurant in Whitewater.

Wisconsin Taxpayers Al-

liance President Todd Berry presented his views on the state to the Whitewater-area business leaders during a special morning session. The tax alliance is a nonpartisan, nonprofit foundation.

"Our mission, really, is to teach and inform the public about state and local government, how it works, how it is financed, and so forth," explained

Berry, formerly of Jefferson. His presentation was a brief explanation of the state budget, which he described as a "ramp through the state budget."

The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee will hold four regional public hearings later this month to take comments on Gov. Scott Walker's 2015-17

(Continued on A8)

Sullivan vet receives diploma after 70 years

By Pam Chickering Wilson
Union staff writer

JEFFERSON — Leslie "Les" Ingersoll left high school in the fall of his senior year to enter the Navy, and he never returned, going into farming after World War II. Now, at age 87, he finally has his diploma, presented on Friday afternoon in appreciation for his service to his country.

Ingersoll, a resident of Alden Estates in Jefferson, knew something was up when his daughter bought him new, red, white-and-blue clothes to wear for a Friday concert. But all he knew was that a member of a military service organization

would be present. The part about receiving a belated high school diploma was a complete surprise to him.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you," the veteran said, and as the honors kept coming, he added, "Well, I'll be darned."

Present for the ceremony were numerous other Alden residents; members of Ingersoll's family; Jamil Kahn, the 2nd District Commander of the Disabled American Veterans in Wisconsin; Cassandra Schug, superintendent of schools for the Watertown Unified School District, and Mark Putra, president of the Watertown school

(Continued on A5)



GLAD GRAD — Les Ingersoll, 87, a resident of Alden Estates in Jefferson and a native to the Sullivan/Concord area, was presented his high school diploma in a surprise ceremony Friday. Ingersoll had joined the Navy during World War II prior to his graduation. Shown above, Watertown Unified School District Superintendent Cassandra Schug and Watertown school board President Mark Putra present Les Ingersoll with his diploma from Watertown High School, with Ingersoll's daughter, Cathy Price, at right.



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A DOG-GONE GOOD TIME — The Fort Atkinson Kennel Club held the first K-9 Veterans Day on Friday at the American Legion Dugout. State Reps. Andy Jorgensen and Cody Horlacher plan to introduce a nonpartisan legislative resolution in the Assembly this week to officially establish March 13 as a day to honor the service of all military working dogs, which can be traced back to World War I. K-9 Veterans Day is intended to honor military dogs, as well as canines working with police, customs, the border patrol, service and therapy. Pictured here from left to right in rows starting from above are scenes from Friday's ceremony: Row One — A crowd gathers to recognize the day; Horlacher, left, and Jorgensen listen to a few words from state Sen. Steve Nass, Nass speaks on behalf of some of the first military dogs. Row Two — Sheriff's office Lt. Greg Jansen attends the ceremony with his retired service dog, Ellie Mae; Peter Stojanovich, of Franklin, and his wife, Diane, have adopted two retired military dogs; Dog-shaped cookies are special treats at the event; Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Deputy Scott Gukich attends with his partner, Mink. Row Three — Tracy Hays, of Dousman, brings along her retired military dog, Kestrel; Dogs in attendance are treated to a few snacks of their own; From left, Nass, Jefferson County Sheriff Paul Milbrath, keynote speaker Jerry Witts and Jefferson County Kennel Club Treasurer Mabel Schumacher listen to a guest speaker. Row Four — A few owners attempt to rangle their dogs for a group picture. — Daily Union photos by Amy Smith.



K-9 veterans earn state salute

(Continued from A1) sit down right in the rice paddy," Witt continued. "I tried to get him up, and all of sudden it dawned on me that he was trying to tell me something. Sure enough, a couple of inches below the water line was a trip wire. For that and many other times, I was very grateful." The second instance shared was Skip's final mission.

"We were working in an area

just filled with booby traps," Witt said. "We working down this trail and it had rained very heavily the night before. All of a sudden, Skip stops dead in his tracks. He turns his head, signaling me not to come any closer because he was in trouble. I sensed that his foot was stuck in a trip wire and this was serious. He just froze and the only thing he moved was his head. He tried to back up and the trip

wire got caught in his harness, and it exploded."

While rushing Skip back to the base for medical attention, Witt noticed that he had been hit by a piece of shrapnel, but in the excitement, he hadn't even felt it.

Skip made it through a successful surgery, but four days later, he suffered from a staff infection that would take his life.

"I had watched my best friend die," Witt recalled. "You get so close to these animals. You get closer than your wife or your children at that time; you just bond."

The next day, Witt was required to choose another dog and begin training. He said he picked the best dog he possibly could — a German shepherd labrador mix named Satan.

"I was so upset at the time

with my commanding officer, but I understand it now," Witt said. "If I would have waited a week or 10 days, I would have never stepped foot in that jungle again, or if I did, I would not have been the person I should be."

Witt handled Satan for the remainder of his tour in Vietnam and credits him with saving an entire team of men.

The men were on their way to

meet up with another American company, but had been given incorrect coordinates. They approached a group that was not expecting them, so Witt decided that he and Satan would head down the trail to alert the company of the situation.

"I yelled out, 'I'm an American. I have a dog with me, don't fire,'" Witt said. "So that dog was credited with saving a lot of lives. He saved my life many, many times."

Witt went on to express his gratitude for the recognition of military and service dogs during Friday's ceremony.

"It troubles me that when the last helicopter left the embassy in 1975, none of the dogs came back from Vietnam," Witt said. "About 50 percent of them were euthanized, and the others were let go."

As part of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association, Witt helped establish a federal bill that allows military dogs to be adopted after service.

Out of the 48 men with whom he trained, Witt was one of 13 who survived the Vietnam War. Also speaking at the event were state Sen. Steve Nass, state Rep. Andy Jorgensen, state Rep. Cody Horlacher and Jefferson County Sheriff Paul Milbrath, who was the first dog handler on the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office police force.

Nass spoke on behalf of some of the earliest known and most decorated war dogs, specifical-

ly Stubby.

The pit bull was the first reported war dog in America. 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.

"Stubby actually alerted the troops to ongoing gas attacks and was also credited with capturing a German soldier who made it to the trench lines," Nass said.

Nass also spoke on military dogs' involvement in Vietnam and Afghanistan and the legislation that honors them like any other member of the military.

"Until the year 2000, military dogs were treated as military equipment," Nass said. "An act of Congress actually changed that. A dog handler can now take their dog home."

Nass closed with the reading of poem in recognition of all military and service animals.

"It's amazing what our best friends do for us and what they do for the United States military and lives they have saved and the significant sacrifice they have provided through all these years," Nass concluded.

Horlacher thanked the Fort Atkinson Kennel Club for taking the time to reach out to its legislators for a cause about which they are passionate.

"Not only does it take courage (Continued on A10)

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Human Services' Ganzow earns Caring Kids Award

MADISON — In recognition of March as Social Work Month, a local child welfare professional employed by Jefferson County Human Services was among those honored Thursday for their outstanding work.

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Eloise Anderson presented the seventh annual Caring for Kids Awards during a ceremony Thursday in the Governor's Conference Room of the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Among those saluted was Kelly Ganzow, who has been with Jefferson County Human Services for nine years.

She was commended for her work conducting initial assessments of child abuse and neglect reports. In particular, Ganzow was recognized for serving as a strong advocate of the Intensive In-Home Services safety initiative that allows children to remain in their homes with proper supports. She also has initiated creative use of respite care.

Ganzow was nominated for the award by colleague Laura Wagner.

Brent Ruehlw, Jefferson County Child and Family Division manager, accepted the award on Ganzow's behalf.

"These awards serve as a way to recognize the work that these caring professionals do to help children and families have better lives," said Secretary Anderson. "Social work assists people in all stages of life and helps meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable."

Award selection criteria included years of service and experience, adapting to new initiatives, advocacy, leadership and a proven record of ensuring the well-being of children and families.

Five other child welfare professionals were honored Thursday as well. They included Joyce Helz of Winnebago County Human Services, Amy Hendrick of Outagamie County Health and Human Services, Edith "Edie" Ritsman of Sheboygan County Health and Human Services, Stephanie Suchowski of Waukegan County Health and Human Services and Mina Teske of Brown County Human Services.



CARING FOR KIDS — Kelly Ganzow, a nine-year employee of the Jefferson County Human Services Department, was recognized Thursday during the seventh annual Caring for Kids Awards ceremony in the Governor's Conference Room of the Wisconsin State Capitol. She was commended for her work conducting initial assessments of child abuse and neglect reports. In particular, Ganzow was recognized for serving as a strong advocate of the Intensive In-Home Services safety initiative that allows children to remain in their homes with proper supports. Brent Ruehlw, Jefferson County Child and Family Division manager, is pictured above accepting the award from Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson on Ganzow's behalf.

K-9 vets

(Continued from A1)

to reach out to legislators, but also to come up with that idea and make it happen," he added.

Jorgensen and Horlacher plan to formally introduce a nonpartisan legislative resolution in the Assembly this week to officially establish March 13 as a day to honor the service of all military dogs, which can be traced back to World War I.

Thirteen states have set 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.

It was in 2011 that Schumacher 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. Nass, R-Whitewater, and state Rep. Jorgensen, D-Milton, who also voiced their support of the idea.

"I have served this area for about eight years, and my best legislative work has come from the ideas of the folks I represent," Jorgensen said Friday. "About a year ago, Mabel Schumacher contacted me, and I remember the day well. My chief of staff said, 'You've got to call this lady. She has a really good idea,' and boom, the seed was planted and here we are today."

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

Sheriff Milbrath expressed his gratitude to the Fort Atkinson Kennel Club and state legislators for their efforts in giving military and working dogs their recognition.

The Fort Atkinson Kennel Club hopes to place a memorial in McCoy Park in the future to further recognize the day.

Man, 20, accused of shooting officers at Ferguson protest

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP) — Authorities said a man charged in the shooting of two police officers last week during a demonstration outside the Ferguson Police Department had attended the protest earlier that night, although multiple activists said he wasn't a consistent fixture in their tight-knit group.

St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch said Sunday in announcing the charges that 20-year-old suspect Jeffrey Williams told authorities he was firing at someone with whom he was in a dispute.

"We're not sure we completely buy that part of it," McCulloch said, adding that there might have been other people in a vehicle Williams is accused of firing from.

Williams is charged with two counts of first-degree assault, one count of firing a weapon from a vehicle and three counts of armed criminal action. McCulloch said the investigation is ongoing.

The police officers were shot early Thursday as a late-night demonstration began to break up following the resignation of Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson in the wake of a Justice Department report that found widespread racial bias in

the police department.

"He was out there earlier that evening as part of the demonstration," McCulloch said.

But several activists who've been involved in the protests since the Aug. 9 fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown by a Ferguson police officer told The Associated Press they were not familiar with Williams.

Williams used a handgun that matches the shell casings at the scene, McCulloch said. He also said tips from the public led to the arrest.

Williams, who St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said is black, is being held on \$300,000 bond. County police spokesman Brian Schellman said he didn't know whether Williams had an attorney or when he'd appear in court. A message left at the St. Louis County Justice Center was not immediately returned.

Brittany Ferrell, 26, a protest leader with the group Millennial Activists United, had just left a meeting with other leaders Sunday when word of the arrest circulated. She said no one in the group knew Williams, and they checked with other frequent protesters — who also hadn't heard of him.

Ferrell suspected McCulloch tried to cast him as a protester

to reflect negatively on the movement.

"This is a fear tactic," she said. "We are very tight-knit. We know each other by face if not by name, and we've never seen this person before."

John Gaskin, a St. Louis NAACP leader, said of Williams, "I don't know him. I've never seen him."

Williams, a north St. Louis County resident, was on probation for receiving stolen property, McCulloch said. "I think there was a warrant out for him on that because he had neglected to report for the last seven months to his probation officer," he said.

Online state court records show a man by the name of Jeffrey Williams at the address police provided Sunday was charged in 2013 with receiving stolen property and fraudulent use of a credit/debit device.

There was no answer at the door at the small, ranch-style home. Several neighbors, including the people just across the street, said they didn't know Williams. But one, 26-year-old Jason White, said "He was cool. I never heard of him doing nothing to nobody."

Attorney General Eric Holder said in a statement Sunday that the arrest "sends a clear

message that acts of violence against our law enforcement personnel will never be tolerated" and praised "significant cooperation between federal authorities and the St. Louis County Police Department."

Belmar previously called the shooting "an ambush," and had said the two officers easily could have died, like two New York City officers who were shot and killed in their police cruiser in December.

A 41-year-old St. Louis County officer was shot in the right shoulder, the bullet exiting through his back. A 32-year-old officer from Webster Groves was wearing a riot helmet with the face shield up. He was shot in the right cheek, just below the eye, and the bullet lodged behind his ear.

The officers were released from the hospital later Thursday, and Belmar said Sunday that they "were getting better, not getting worse."

The Ferguson police department has been a national focal point since Brown, who was black and unarmed, was killed by now-former police officer Darren Wilson. A grand jury led by McCulloch declined to indict Wilson in November, and Wilson was cleared of civil rights charges by a Justice Depart-

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