

Fraud rampant in COVID aid

Labor Department estimates more than \$63 billion paid out improperly **NATION, PAGE A4**



History made

Knights hold off Wildcats, earn first trip to state **SPORTS, B1**



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MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Judy Krahn, left, with Denise Lorenz. Krahn, whose childhood doctor told her parents she likely wouldn't live past 30, celebrated her 75th birthday Feb. 28.

A5 75, La Crosse woman keeps on defying the odds

On landmark birthday, loved ones celebrate Judy Krahn's remarkable life

EMILY PYREK
La Crosse Tribune

Reaching septuagenarian status is not uncommon, but for Judy Krahn marking 75 years is something of a miracle.

On Sunday, Feb. 28, Krahn celebrated her 75th birthday, marking over four decades past the life

expectancy her doctor estimated when she was a child and 15 years beyond the average lifespan for a person with Down syndrome.

Krahn was born in Beloit, the oldest of three sisters. She was raised in La Crosse and has been a resident her entire adult life. Lively in personality, she has charmed countless people throughout the decades, some of whom joined her on a birthday Zoom call on the weekend. Denise Lorenz, who met Krahn in 1989 at Riverfront, now Aptiv, arranged the virtual party, with staff at Hope Stay Assisted

Living in Holmen, where Krahn moved in last week, preparing an ice cream cake — her favorite.

When Krahn was young, her parents were told she likely wouldn't live beyond 30, but she has thrived. For over 35 years, Krahn worked at Riverfront, mainly in packaging, and was known as "queen" of the organization, says Lorenz, who was staff trainer/team leader for around seven years and was Krahn's caseworker. After transitioning to work in higher education facilities, Lorenz returned to Aptiv four years ago, and has

been Krahn's designated legal guardian for 30 years.

Lorenz remembers the excitement when Krahn turned 50, and she has continued to marvel at Krahn's energy and enthusiasm for life. Krahn makes friends wherever she goes, whether through her previous volunteer work at Gundersen, putting out the waiting room magazines, or at karate classes, where she reached brown belt status.

"Karate was very important to me," Krahn noted during a Zoom

Please see **BIRTHDAY**, Page A2

GOOD WORKS | BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF SPARTA

Staying connected with club members

The Boys & Girls Club of Sparta provides engaging, educational and fun after-school and summer programs for youth in grades 3 through 12, with an emphasis on academic success, healthy lifestyles, character development and citizenship.

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Please see **GOOD WORKS**, Page A2

COVID-19 (+19) as of Sunday

Cases	12,230
Deaths	78
Active	189
Recovered	11,963
Hospitalized	Not Available
Vaccinated	35,663 doses
Total tests	65,129

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

STATE	Dept. of State Health Services
Cases (+464)	563,960
Deaths	6,412
Vaccinated	1,391,496 doses

U.S.	Centers for Disease Control
Cases	28,355,420
Deaths	510,777
Vaccinated	75.2 million doses

Trouble tracking variants

Experts: US efforts to find COVID mutations piecemeal, inadequate

JILL R. SHAH
Bloomberg News

U.S. efforts to detect dangerous, fast-moving COVID-19 mutations that are already bedeviling states remain slim and disconnected as the Biden administration seeks to speed up the process.

While as many as 7,000 to 8,000 samples are being analyzed weekly, that's just 1.7% of the 463,843 new cases in the U.S.

last week, making it little more than a random effort. Meanwhile, three highly contagious variants have gained significant footholds in the country, with two showing an ability to evade — though not yet overcome — existing vaccines.

State health departments directly send just 770 of the samples analyzed by U.S. health officials, with the rest coming from academic, commercial and state labs. That can lead to over-sampling in areas where labs are located. And the academic labs often have little direct contact with local health departments that need to swiftly start contact

tracing to control the spread, said David Haussler, scientific director at the University of California-Santa Cruz Genomics Institute.

"We should be doing vastly more," Haussler said in a telephone interview. "With that light level of sampling, by the time you notice it, it's already spread too far to do anything about it." The U.S. should model its efforts after the U.K., he added. That country reported a 10.9% sequencing rate for samples collected during the last week in January.

Please see **VARIANTS**, Page A2



AL SEIB, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Grand High School teaching assistant Alfredo R. Fong, 70, gets a COVID-19 vaccination from Nurse Practitioner Mary Ann Topico as Los Angeles Unified employees received their first dose of the vaccine on Feb. 17.

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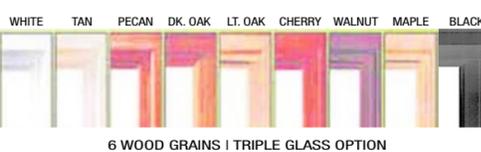


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