

LA CROSSE Tribune

NBA

Saunders out, Finch in as Timberwolves change coaches **SPORTS, B1**



Hometown talent

Chippewa Falls native stars in new Hulu series **HOMETOWN, A4**



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City gets \$853K federal grant

Additional funding for stormwater improvement project

OLIVIA HERKEN
La Crosse Tribune

The city of La Crosse received additional federal grant money to help fund its storm water system and flood improvements project, officials told the Board of Public Works Monday.

The costs of the project to improve the city's flooding infrastructure have gone up more than \$1 million than originally planned and budgeted, partly due to the pandemic's impact on construction material costs, as well as needing to increase the size of pumps. The grant, offered by the Eco-



Lenz

This new grant is on top of existing federal assistance for the project. Previously, the EDA had approved \$3,677,920 for the improvements.

nomie Development Administration, will cover 80% of the additional costs, lending \$853,920 of federal dollars to the project. Locally, the city will then only need to take on 20% of the cost, or \$213,480.

"The original plan, because we didn't know if we'd get the grant

or not, was to budget for 100% of the additional funds on utility money," said utility manager Bernie Lenz.

"So we'll have some savings in the 2021 budget for only needing to use 20%."

"That remaining money will go back in cash balance and we can

get additional stormwater projects done, which is good news," Lenz told the board.

This new grant is on top of existing federal assistance for the project. Previously, the EDA had approved \$3,677,920 for the improvements.

Specifically this new project

Please see **GRANT**, Page A2

■ **INSIDE: AARP offering community challenge grants, A4**



PETER THOMSON PHOTOS, LA CROSSE TRIBUNE

IGLOO FUN

Top: Silvia Reich, 8, spends time in the igloo she and her brother, Eli, 10, built in the backyard of their home in the town of Shelby, by making a pile of snow and hollowing it out. "It's always warmer in here than outside," said Reich. **Right:** Silvia Reich, 8, and her brother Eli, 10, head into their backyard igloo at their home in the Town of Shelby. The siblings built the igloo in January and have been playing in it ever since.



Police: Mask dispute leads to assault

STEVE RUNDIO
La Crosse Tribune

A 40-year-old La Crosse man was charged Monday in La Crosse County Circuit Court after he allegedly lashed out at a person who requested that he wear a mask.

Danny L. Link was charged with felony aggravated assault of a disabled person and misdemeanor charges of resisting an officer, disorderly conduct and bail jumping.

Link

According to the criminal complaint, La Crosse police were called Feb. 20 to Walgreen's on West Avenue for a report of an assault. An elderly man who uses a walker told police he was standing in the checkout aisle when he noticed the person in back of him, later identified as Link, wasn't wearing a face covering. The man said he told Link that people who don't wear masks are why the COVID-19 pandemic persists. He said Link remained silent during the encounter.

The man told police he completed his purchase and exited the store, when Link approached him, punched him in the back of his head and said "I'm going to beat up your sister." The man said he was perplexed by the comment because he had never seen Link before.

The complaint says police

Please see **MASK**, Page A2

COVID-19 as of Monday

LA CROSSE COUNTY

Cases	12,133
Deaths	75
Active	208
Recovered	11,850
Hospitalized	Not Available
Vaccinated	30,901
Total tests	63,780

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

STATE

Dept. of State Health Services

Cases	559,998
Deaths	6,284
Vaccinated	1,164,425

U.S.

Centers for Disease Control

Cases	27,938,085
Deaths	497,415
Vaccinated	64.2 million

Evers proposes \$2.4 billion in building projects

Half slated for UW System projects

SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers on Monday proposed spending \$2.4 billion on Wisconsin building projects over the next two years, with nearly a half of that going toward projects across the University of Wisconsin System.

Projects include \$163 million for a new state office building in Milwaukee, relocation of the

state historical society museum to a new location near the Capitol and a new juvenile prison in Milwaukee County.

The state building commission is slated to vote on Evers' proposals next month, which would then send the plan to the Legislature's budget committee. The Republican-controlled Legislature will ultimately decide what to fund in the budget it passes and sends to Evers later this year.

Of the nearly \$2.4 billion proposed for projects across 31 counties, \$1 billion will be for

the UW System. That mirrors his capital budget proposal from two years ago, when roughly \$1 billion of the \$2.5 billion was for projects on UW campuses. The Legislature ultimately approved \$1.9 billion in building projects.

Republican co-chairs of the Legislature's budget committee were slow to embrace Evers' plans, without going into specifics. Sen. Howard Marklein called it a "wish list" with some necessary projects and others that he said "require careful consideration." Rep. Mark Born

said investments will be made in building projects but "it won't be at the levels the governor has proposed."

The vast majority of the projects would be paid for through long-term borrowing, an attractive option given current low interest rates.

Projects include: ■ \$163 million state office building and parking garage in Milwaukee, replacing the existing office building there at a

Please see **PROJECTS**, Page A2

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COMICS	B6	NATION/WORLD	A3	SPORTS	B1

