

EDGERTON REPORTER

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Potential referendum looms for school district

By Jack McLaughlin
Special to the Reporter

The Edgerton School District (ESD) has taken steps forward with its multi-year facilities study, ones that may lead to a referendum by the end of 2018.

After the recent completion of a facilities study with the help of Bray Architects—an extensive consideration of each of the district’s buildings and their specific needs—ESD is ready to gauge the interest, and generosity, of the community through a survey.

The district will continue to work with Bray and its Facility Advisory Committee (FAC), a cross-sectional group of close to 35 community members (including parents of students,

staff, and residents without children in the ESD system) to draft a final version of the survey, which will be distributed to every home in the Edgerton School District area.

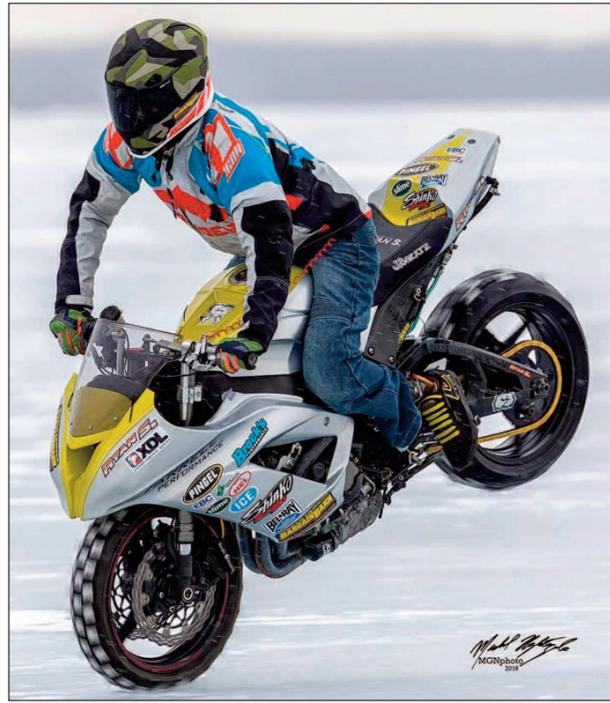
According to Michael Hacker, a representative of Bray Architects present at Monday night’s School Board meeting, the survey will allow community members to rank facilities issues presented to them (via the recently completed study), and through answering a series of tax impact questions, will demonstrate the dollar amount they are willing to support these projects with.

The highest priority issue identified by the FAC after a summary of the district’s facilities study was presented to them last month comes in the

form of student space at Edgerton Community Elementary (ECE). With 719 students inhabiting a building of 93,200 square feet, this offers only 130 square feet per student, a number that, while still within the limits mandated by building codes, falls below industry standard, Hacker noted last month, stating that the district should strive to provide between 150 and 190 square feet per student.

The best path for remedying this predicament, as identified by the district’s FAC, includes two options. The first would see an entirely new school constructed on district grounds, plus renovations to ECE. In this scenario, students from

See **REFERENDUM**, 7



Ryan Suchanek riding his motorcycle in attempt to set Guinness World Record for riding on ice while the cycle is elevated onto the front wheel.

Photo courtesy of Mike Nightengale

Primary tight in Milton, light in Edgerton

By Jack McLaughlin
Special to the Reporter

All throughout the state of Wisconsin, a significant political date is upcoming: nonpartisan primary elections on Tuesday, Feb. 20. The winners will subsequently face off in statewide spring elections on April 3.

Each Wisconsin voter next week will be asked to tighten the race for the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as three potential judges will be winnowed down to two. Candidates include Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Rebecca Dallet, Sauk County Circuit Judge Timothy Burns, and Michael Screnock, a Madison area attorney.

For the Edgerton city council, primaries will not be needed to shave away any candidates, but several races remain. As has been the case in recent years, incumbent Mayor Chris Lund will be challenged by current alderperson Matt McIntyre. Additionally, Jonathan Frye has filed for non-candidacy and will not run to retain his District 1 seat; David Esau will run for it unopposed. During Spring elections, voters will also select council members for the city’s 2nd and 3rd districts, which will feature races between Debby Olsen and Corey Steen, plus Paul Davis and Jim Burdick, respectively.

And while no primary is needed for the Edgerton School Board, the election does present the district with an interesting predicament: it is slated to be one member short of a full board. Jordan Wileman’s seat is up for election after four years of service on the Edgerton School Board, yet he will not be returning this April. The other board members up for re-election in the Spring, Steven Doll, Kelly Kwiatkowski, and Derek Nimmer, are running unopposed with no candidates declaring for the race by its Jan. 2 deadline. This leaves the Edgerton School Board with 4 open seats, yet only 3 candidates, and

See **PRIMARY**, 7

Stunt driver steers toward new record

By Michael Krenn
Special to the Reporter

There is no enforced speed limit for motorcycles driven on frozen-over Lake Koshkonong.

So, this past Sunday, area motorcycle stunt driver Ryan Suchanek throttled his 200-horsepower Kawasaki ZX-10 sport cycle above 60 miles an hour on a deserted expanse of the iced-over lake. And then, employing a tricky braking maneuver, he coaxed the high-powered machine onto just its front wheel—a stunt known as a “stoppie.”

Suchanek, who lives in the Town of Milton, is the owner of the World Famous Bargain Barn, a motorcycle parts business in Edgerton. He also travels around the country, appearing in motorcycle racing

and performance events where he does stunts during intermissions. He performs in the indoor World Championship Ice Racing Series in the winter and in the XDL Stunt Riding Championship in the summer.

This past Sunday afternoon he was riding his motorcycle on a lengthy patch of Lake Koshkonong plowed clear of snow. The isolated spot, ignored by folks engaged in ice fishing, is located on the north and west part of the lake, just south of the endpoint of Bingham Rd.

Seen from a distance—a safe distance—on the ice, cyclist and machine looked to be the mechanized counterpart to rider and horse in a rodeo show bronc riding event. But unlike what

See **SUCHANEK**, 8



Cold swims, warm memories

More than 100 people took the frigid plunge into Lake Ripley’s waters during the 2018 “Dip for Dozer” event on Saturday. The annual event continues to honor the memory of Dustin “Dozer” Zuelsdorf, who died in a motorcycle accident in 2004. Above: Dustin’s mom, Kim Zuelsdorf (middle) takes her 13th dip. See story and more photos on page 12.

Photo courtesy of Steve Gaspar

Fulton Church celebrates completion of additions

By Jack McLaughlin
Special to the Reporter

Although Fulton is what most people would consider a small town, it’s up to big things after recently completing a series of substantial additions onto its community church.

This past Sunday, Feb. 11, Fulton Church held a double-service to commemorate the completion of its Phase II building project, where the construction teams and involved community members were recognized before an audience of nearly 300. “It was a really special Sunday,” said Pastor Larry MacKenzie.

The church, which has stood at its North Fulton St. location since the middle of the 19th century, saw a major upgrade completed in 2003. Referred to as Phase I, this project created a new sanctuary attached to the building’s south side—the space where sermons are preached—that is capable of holding roughly 260, according to MacKenzie.

“Before the addition we used to say it was standing room only [for high-attendance programs], especially on

Christmas and Easter,” said longtime churchgoer Jim Raymond of the building’s previous space concerns.

The Fulton Church Phase II initiative, which according to Pastor MacKenzie was started in March of 2017 and completed in December of last year by the Madison-based company NCI Construction, brings even more space for gatherings and its Sunday school programs.

The first facet of Phase II saw the addition of a large gathering hall immediately attached to the building’s north side—opposite the 2003 addition. Affording room for congregation members to interact before and after a service or other event, the space can hold roughly 100 people and was built in place of the church’s dated Old Hall, which was demolished.

Additionally as part of the Phase II project, a large multipurpose room was built abutting the north side of the recently-constructed gathering hall. With room enough for nearly 300 people, the area will be used, as its name suggests, for a variety of purposes, such

as providing more room for its space-needy Sunday school programs and a meeting location for the church’s Awana Club gatherings.

Size and contemporary sleekness considered, one of the most impressive aspects of

the Phase II project comes from the church community. According to MacKenzie, funding for the project’s \$2.3 million bill is coming exclusively from the Fulton congregation. While a mortgage for the project was secured from the Bank of

Edgerton and Bank of Milton (with help from Vice-President Bob Cullen), church-goers alone raised the initial \$800,000 needed to begin the project. “I’ve always said we have such a great group of people here,” said MacKenzie.



Guests filter into the expansive, newly completed multi-purpose room at Fulton Church.

Photo courtesy of Fulton Church

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Latest prices reported for one gallon of unleaded gasoline according to local observations and GasBuddy.com as of 5:00 p.m., Monday, Feb. 12. Prices listed are the lowest in each city, which may be one or more stations.

