

EDGERTON REPORTER

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Revised school district budget released

By Jack McLaughlin
Special to the Reporter

Although numbers won't be finalized until later in the year, the Edgerton School District (ESD) has released revised budget numbers for the 2018-2019 fiscal year at its 2018 Annual School District Meeting, with a projected tax levy impact of \$10,387,035, which puts this year's projected mill rate at \$9.96 per \$1,000 of Fair Market Value (FMV).

This number, which according to ESD officials is identical to last year's, does not incorporate the potential bump it would see should the Edgerton community vote in favor of passing two referendums that will appear on the ballot this November. Should both pass, including the non-recurring

capital referendum for \$40.6 million and a recurring operational referendum for \$1.25 million, school officials estimate the mill rate would jump to \$10.94 per \$1,000 FMV.

According to District Director of Personnel and Finance Dr. Tad Wehner, the current projected tax levy, while revised, is still only an estimate, as final calculations won't be finalized until October.

A final enrollment count of students is tabulated by each district in the third week of September, this is then sent to the state where education officials approve the numbers in mid-October.

The tax levy impact for school districts is generated through a number of factors, including property assessment. Another factor that will lead to

finalizing this year's levy number is the completion of the district's property assessments, which is slated to be done by Oct. 1.

Wehner also noted that state aide, an amount of money to be given to public schools from the State of Wisconsin each year, influences the levy amount.

Since state aid has gone up since last year after a large political push for this, congruently, it will cause property taxes to fall.

And while this is a break for Edgerton taxpayers, Wehner doesn't believe the move truly invests more money into schools, as he claims it is supposed to do, since a district's state aide and levy amount are inversely related.

"It's really just a form of political kickball," he said.

Back to school in Edgerton

By Jack McLaughlin
Special to the Reporter

Sept. 4, 2018, it's a date circled on so many calendars throughout the city of Edgerton in funeral red. It means one thing and one thing only to Edgerton children: back to school.

And while the city's youth are unanimously mourning next Tuesday as the end of their summer freedom, the Edgerton School District (ESD) is already in preparation for the new year, after holding staff meetings earlier this week and it's annual School District Meeting last Monday.

According to District Administrator Dr. Dennis Pauli, the biggest update coming with the 2018-2019 school year is the district's pair of referendums, one operational and one capital, that will appear on the November election ballot. While the district has collected data from a set of community surveys, only election will tell the outcome.

Another aspect of the swiftly approaching school year that has not yet been totally defined is the district's enrollment totals.

Even though no numbers can be given with surety at this point, Dr. Pauli was able to tab-

ulate an estimate for Edgerton Middle School after consultation with officials.

"From everything we've seen so far, I think the numbers are going to be higher," he said, noting that after a preliminary count the school is showing an increase of 39 students from the previous year.

Final counts for enrollment are taken the 3rd week in September and submitted to the state.

Another change to the new school year that will affect students and visitors alike is the addition of a state of the art Raptor Visitor Management

See **BACK TO SCHOOL**, 2



The Thresheree in one of its early years.

Photo courtesy of Rock River Thresheree, Inc.

Thresheree set for celebration of agriculture and industry

By Jack McLaughlin
Special to the Reporter

Try and fight it all you like, but summer is on its way out. But with cooler weather and a long winter on the horizon, Edgerton residents have at least one more end-of-the-season celebration they can count on: the 62nd annual Rock River Thresheree (RRT).

The festival is a celebration of the area's agricultural history and a first-class show of the machinery, particularly gas and steam-powered engines, that helped with each year's harvest.

"The Midwest is what I like to call the breadbasket of America. The steam engine is what first helped to truly open

up the Prairie and allowed these 5 or 6 states to be so productive. It's what makes us who we are," said Thresheree Vice President and Director Charlie Hendrickson.

According to Hendrickson, the 2018 RRT will have an estimated 300 tractors in addition to 30 steam engines.

Held over Labor Day weekend, this year's event runs Aug. 31-Sept. 3, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily at Thresherman's Park, located at 51 E. Cox Rd. in Edgerton. Ride-in tractors will be available to transport guests from parking areas to the main gates. Admission for adults is \$10, with a senior discount on Friday that will lower admission that day to \$8. Children under 12 can enter free of

charge.

This year will feature the usual Thresheree highlights, with the Parade of Power, a procession of burly modern and antique tractors that runs through the fairgrounds, beginning daily at 2 p.m. Additionally, the annual celebration hosts several small museums dedicated to agricultural industry, a fully-functioning sawmill, gristmill, and sorghum mill, train rides, machinery displays by citizens, military displays, food vendors, and much more.

RRT also supports an expansive flea market annually, with trinkets ranging from hats and clothing to interesting, agriculture-related items.

See **THRESHREE**, 2



Hanging out

On Wednesday, Aug. 22, Brendt Kienbaum (top, barely visible), Jon Walker (middle) and Austin Graves (bottom) hang tobacco high in a shed that is used to air-cure the crop on the Dave and Judy Kienbaum farm on Lake Drive Road. Edgerton was once known as "Tobacco City U.S.A." and the tradition of growing the labor-intensive crop continues to this day. See more photos documenting area tobacco crops and the currently ongoing harvest on page 8.

Photo by Jennifer Hamm

Outreach still recovering from storm

By Jack Miller
Sports Editor

The Edgerton Outreach Building is still recovering after a July 13 storm ripped off the bricks on the top left of the

building, which destroyed the ramp leading up to the front entrance.

The ramp at the front door was replaced with stairs shortly after the storm, but the front entrance of the building is no



The front entrance of the Edgerton Community Outreach building is no longer being used after a piece of brick from the damaged portion of the building fell off near the front.

Photo by Jack Miller

The Edgerton Reporter

will be published
one day late
next week due to
the Labor Day holiday.

*Please call our office with
any questions at 884-3367.*

Referendum ball punted to next year by Dunkirk

By Tristan McGough
Special to the Reporter

The Town of Dunkirk got a detailed update on the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) effort from committee Chair Ingrid West at the last regular board meeting of Aug. 20, 2018.

The update was critical, due to the looming dates whereby legal applications with accompanying documents must be filed in order to meet the cascading deadlines required by any municipality wanting to hold a referendum.

After considering the fast and tight turnaround time constraints for a binding referendum, any prospects for getting it on the Nov. 6 ballot for general elections were rapidly dismissed.

So, fundamentally at stake was board action on The Rural Preservation Program (RPP) Committee's recommendation for an advisory non-binding referendum on rural preservation, elections to be held on Oct. 23, 2018, with the intention to separate the referendum from the fiscal and electoral issues surrounding the thick General Election this November.

See **DUNKIRK**, 3

longer being used after debris from the damaged portion of the building recently fell onto the front area. The back door is currently being used as the entrance into the building.

Sarah Williams, Director of the Edgerton Outreach, said the front entrance will not be used indefinitely, and that she expects construction on the front door to start roughly in a week and a half.

Williams said she is hoping the front entrance will be operational sometime by the end of September.

There is still no ramp at the Outreach Building, but people without access to the building can still get help from the Edgerton Outreach by calling (608) 884-9593.

Gas Watch

Nat. Average.....	\$2.839
WI Average.....	\$2.800
WI lowest - Kenosha.....	\$2.590
USA Average	\$2.838
Janesville.....	\$2.690
Milton.....	\$2.690
Newville.....	\$2.690
Edgerton.....	\$2.710
Evansville.....	\$2.650
Fort Atkinson.....	\$2.740
Cambridge.....	\$2.690
Stoughton.....	\$2.740
Madison.....	\$2.710
Milwaukee range:..	\$2.690 - \$2.990

Latest prices reported for one gallon of unleaded gasoline according to local observations and GasBuddy.com as of 5:00 p.m., Monday, August 27, 2018. Prices listed are the lowest in each city, which may be one or more stations

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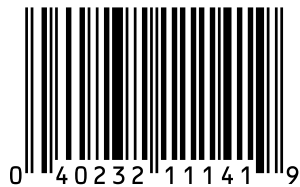
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