

Editorial Announcement

## Wisconsin newspapers join national First Amendment campaign

Submitted by Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Wisconsin newspapers have joined the national "Think First" campaign, which aims to help educate Americans about the five freedoms guaranteed in the First Amendment.

The Wisconsin Newspaper Association joins other newspaper and broadcast associations in 28 states in support of the effort, which runs from Aug. 1 to Dec. 31. The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association is also participating.

The campaign was conceived last year by Media of Nebraska after members of the nonprofit Freedom of Information coalition noted polls showing that many Americans lacked basic knowledge of the First Amendment, particularly in articulating the five freedoms that it guarantees.

In a civics survey taken by the Annenberg Public Policy Center, nearly 4 in 10 students couldn't name even one of the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment. Members of the coalition worked together to outline a campaign to combat these disturbing statistics.

After "Think First" debuted in Nebraska in 2018, the dedicated website [www.ThinkFirstAmendment.org](http://www.ThinkFirstAmendment.org) attracted over 400,000 page views within 60 days.

"The First Amendment and the freedoms it ensures are crucial to our democracy," said WNA Executive Director Beth Bennett. "We hope the 'Think First' campaign will serve as a reminder of how important those rights are and encourage Wisconsinites to exercise them."

The Edgerton Reporter editorial reflects the opinion of publisher, Diane Everson and the legacy perspective and worldview of Harland and Helen Everson.



Capital Report

## Groups spend \$17.8M lobbying during first half of 2019

Groups spent \$17.8 million lobbying in Wisconsin during the first six months of 2019, a dip from the previous budget cycle as divided government returned to the Capitol for the first time in more than a decade.

Still, the biggest three spenders for the six-month period all spent slightly more compared to two years ago. The Wisconsin Hospital Association topped the list for most spending during the six-month period at \$430,138, followed by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce at \$414,184 and Marsy's Law for Wisconsin at \$384,479.

WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding said it was a "pretty intense budget process" for his group as most of its effort focused on the Medicaid program. WHA spending was up \$101,670, nearly 31 percent, compared to the same period two years ago as the group got behind Gov. Tony Evers' proposal to accept federal money to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.

Though GOP lawmakers rejected that approach, Borgerding said WHA's goal was to persuade Republicans to embrace as many other Evers Medicaid provisions as possible.

Evers' plan would've freed up \$324 million in state money while drawing down federal dollars to invest in health care programs. Instead, Republicans invested an additional \$588.2 million in general-purpose revenue into Medicaid to accomplish goals such as increasing reimbursement rates for health care providers.

"You had obviously a much more divided process this time," Borgerding said. "That took a heck of a lot of time and effort to try and

move the ball forward on Medicaid one way or another. It was a much different process."

Lobbying reports covering the first six months of the year were due July 31, and as of noon Aug. 2, groups had reported to the Ethics Commission putting in more than 114,000 hours lobbying during the period. By comparison, groups dropped \$18.6 million and 119,878 hours over the first six months of 2017 as Republicans became locked in a budget stalemate that dragged into September.

Over the past 14 years, spending peaked at \$23.9 million in the first half of 2011 as the fight over Gov. Scott Walker's Act 10 and his first budget raged. That topped the \$20.5 million spent in the first half of 2009 as Dems enjoyed control of the governor's office and full Legislature for the first time since the mid-1980s.

Lobbying expenses dropped then to nearly \$17 million in the first half of 2017 and had been steadily climbing until the most recent six-month period.

The dip in spending from the previous budget cycle also comes as the pace of new laws has slowed dramatically compared to recent sessions. Just eight bills became law by June 30 of this year, compared to an average of nearly 26 over the previous decade.

WMC's Scott Manley said the group's focus during the first six months of 2019 was largely on opposing provisions in the governor's budget.

That included the proposal Evers included that would've required property to be val-

ued at its highest and best use to address the so-called "dark store" loophole. WMC has opposed such efforts, arguing they amount to a tax hike on businesses.

That accounted for 13% of its effort during the six-month period, as did seeking a fee schedule for the worker's compensation program and beefing up workforce development.

The majority of the WMC's work was categorized as minor efforts, each of which amounts to less than 10% of a group's overall work.

"The threats to the business community that were in the governor's budget sort of changed the focus of our advocacy," Manley said.

Marsy's Law put all its effort into a constitutional amendment to add rights for crime victims, as it did last session. Even though it ranked in the top three for dollars spent, the group's 274 hours lobbying were well behind WMC's 2,518 and WHA's 2,197. Instead, the group's efforts have largely gone to a paid media campaign that included radio and digital ads.

Under state law, paid advertising has to be included in reported expenses if it's done to urge the public to push lawmakers on a legislative or administrative action.

The Capitol Report is written by editorial staff at WisPolitics.com, a nonpartisan, Madison-based news service that specializes in coverage of government and politics, and is distributed for publication by members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.

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## THE GRAMMAR GUY

by Curtis Honeycutt

### What's up with 'that'?

By Curtis Honeycutt Special to the Reporter

Sometimes you can have too many of one thing—like presidential primary candidates, for instance. You can have too many toothpaste options at the grocery store. You can also have too many pillows on your bed.

Organization expert Marie Kondo is a household name because of her minimalistic outlook. However, you don't want to get rid of all of your pillows—right? You need at least one.

In our writing, we tend to overuse the word "that." We sprinkle little thats into our writing as if they were throw pillows on our furniture. "That" is a conjunction that connects dependent clauses to independent clauses.

We need it if a subordinate clause uses conjunctions such as after, before, because, while and in addition to. For example: He said that because he likes hotel waffles so much, he intended to set the alarm clock on his phone before going to bed.

The AP Stylebook instructs us to use "that" "to introduce a dependent clause if the sentence sounds or looks awkward without it." Here's an example: I think that I am a robot. Another: I find that no one believes my robot claim.

Most of the time, we should also use the word "that" before certain verbs, including assert, declare, make clear, point out, and state: I would like to point out that I haven't mentioned Abraham Lincoln up until this point.

Now you're thinking about Abraham Lincoln. Usually, we can omit "that" when a dependent clause follows a version of the verb "to say." For example: Abraham Lincoln said he looked better without a mustache. Our inclination is probably to insert "that" after "said." Also, rewrite a sentence if the word "that" appears back to back.

What have we learned so far? We only have a few reasons to omit the word "that." In fact, the AP advises, "When in doubt, include that. Omission can hurt. Inclusion never does."

Does this mean we should use throw pillows with reckless abandon? Maybe—but don't tell Marie Kondo.

Or perhaps this is a lesson we can apply more broadly to our lives—omission can hurt; inclusion never does.

## Police Report

The police report is compiled from information provided by the Edgerton Police Department but is not a complete list of police activities. Persons listed in the police report as having been arrested or issued citations should be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

On the night of July 24, Officer Kanable referred a juvenile male to juvenile probation for the theft of bicycle. On July 26, Officer Cowden referred two juvenile males to circuit court for disorderly conduct. On July 27, Officer Kanable referred a juvenile male to circuit court for trespassing and disorderly conduct.

At about 1:30 a.m. on July 28, Officer Donstad issued Amanda Sue Richards, from Janesville, the following citations: operating while intoxicated (first offense), operating with a prohibited alcohol concentration (first offense), and unreasonable and imprudent speed. After he issued Richards the citations Donstad released Richards to her grandmother.

Donstad issued Jeffrey Steven Siefken, from Edgerton, the following citations on the afternoon of July 31, after a two-car collision on North Main Street near Piggly Wiggly: operating while intoxicated (first offense), operating with prohibited alcohol concentration (first offense), operating after suspension of registration, failure to yield the right of way, and operating without insurance. After issuing Siefken the citations Donstad released Siefken to his girlfriend.

On Aug. 7, Officer Fellmeth issued Marie Bunch, from Edgerton, a citation for allowing her black-and-white cat to roam at large.

Officer Donstad issued citations for trespass and disorderly conduct to Jared K. Lawver, from Edgerton, on the night of Aug. 3.

Active member - Wisc. Newspaper Association

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**PRINT & ONLINE:** Edgerton address \$68 per year, \$38 six months, \$24 three months. State of Wisconsin \$70 per year, \$40 six months, \$27 three months. Out of State \$72 per year, \$42 six months, \$30 three months.

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Overdoses are happening everywhere, all over the country. In our current society, the streets are filled to the brim with laced heroin that's often mixed with Carfentanil and other fentanyl analogs. Dealers are now adding it to street pressed pills, cocaine, meth, and marijuana too.

Carfentanil was made in 1974 to be used to tranquilize elephants and other large mammals. It's not meant for human consumption. Most of the time Carfentanil cannot be reversed by Narcan, the anti-opioid overdose reversal drug used today. Someone who is exposed to Carfentanil can experience dizziness, clammy skin, shallow breathing, heart failure and respiratory depression leading to a fatal overdose.

Carfentanil and other opioids are responsible for a high number of overdose deaths in the U.S. every year. Addiction is a completely preventable condition. No one should have to die as a result of their addiction.

Any addict who does cease to be a son, daughter, mother, or father but instead becomes a mere statistic of our nation's massive drug crisis.

For more information on the opiate epidemic, visit [www.narcononsuncoast.org/blog/narcan-resistant-fentanyl-found-in-pennsylvania.html](http://www.narcononsuncoast.org/blog/narcan-resistant-fentanyl-found-in-pennsylvania.html)

If you are in need of a no-cost referral to a treatment center, call us at 877-841-5509  
Shauna Krout



## Legal News Today

Full text of these legal notices appear on pages 14 & 15

Town of Fulton resolution #1

Town of Fulton resolution #2

Town of Porter meeting

Town of Sumner special meeting

Edgerton School District board minutes-July 22

Legal notices must be received by Mondays at 5 p.m. Send to info@edgertonreporter.com.