



Snowy success

Good winter for Powers Bluff benefits Wood County | 3A

Central Wisconsin Sunday

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A STRING OF LOCAL GUN THEFTS MEANS THAT UNREGULATED WEAPONS ARE GETTING INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE MOST LIKELY TO USE THEM FOR THE WRONG REASONS

UNLOCKED & LOADED

By Karen Madden | Gannett Central Wisconsin | karen.madden@cwnews.net

While much of the country focuses on whether to enact stricter gun laws, authorities say a different gun-related issue plagues central Wisconsin: weapon thefts.

Recently, the Portage County Sheriff's Department asked the public for help in solving a string of burglaries during which eight weapons, including a Glock handgun and two Ruger 10/22 rifles, were stolen.

"We're concerned with all thefts, but with gun thefts, there's that extra danger involved," Portage County Sheriff John Charewicz said.

The potential safety risk in central Wisconsin was illustrated with the Oct. 13 shooting death of Lee Xiong, 20, of Weston. Two of the guns recovered when authorities arrested Rici D. Vue were stolen from Condition One, a gun shop at 2230 N. Fourth Ave., Wausau, authorities said. Vue is charged with first-degree intentional homicide.

Thieves took a total of 55 firearms during burglaries at Condition One and Statton's General Store, W4771 Gatewood Heights Road, Bradley,

authorities said.

A burglary suspect was holding one of the guns stolen from Condition One when he was shot and killed Oct. 5 by Eau Claire police, authorities said.

Sometimes thieves use the guns, but more often, they sell them to generate money for other illegal activities, such as drug purchases, Charewicz said.

Authorities make gun thefts an investigation priority, said Wood County Sheriff's

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Act 10 gives consultant boost

42 counties pay firm for salary research

By Nick Penzenstadler
Post-Crescent Media



Charles Carlson

five-person Middleton-based Carlson Dettmann Consulting firm.

He's crossed paths with nearly every human resources director in the state, considers 42 of Wisconsin's 72 counties his clients, and is cashing in on his tenure and connections.

The lack of public sector unions created a void that allowed counties and cities to set their own pay scales without bargaining and to compare wages to the private sector.

Since Act 10 became law, Carlson has completed at least 12 compensation studies around the state and is sure to have as much work as he can handle in coming years. At about \$50,000 per study, the consultant has leveraged political changes, cornered the state market and signed nearly \$600,000 in contracts, according to a review by Gannett Wisconsin Media.

Wherever Carlson gets hired, from Jefferson to Wood counties, controversy often follows because of the politically charged nature of tying

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\$1.50 Retail

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Weather/8B

Today:
Partly sunny.
High: 30 Low: 13

Easter Open House & Spring Preview
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- Wine Tasting Saturday 1pm-3pm
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