

Overtime headaches

Badgers fall again in extra time | **1B**



ONLINE BUSINESS

Marshfield mechanic reaches customers through YouTube | **6B**



Central Wisconsin Sunday

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

Exchange decision put Walker's donors at odds

Governor's campaign took funding from supporters, opponents of state-run effort

By Ben Jones

Gannett Wisconsin Media Investigative Team

MADISON — In the week after the Nov. 6 presidential election, Gov. Scott Walker was confronted by an issue that divided his biggest financial backers.

A review of campaign finance data by Gannett Wisconsin Media indicates groups and individuals that support a state-run health care exchange spent millions helping Walker survive this year's recall election.

The same review shows that others, who are strongly opposed to the exchanges, also spent millions this year on the governor's behalf.

With these dollars in the background and a federal deadline approaching,

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CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Categories of special interest groups that donated to Gov. Scott Walker's campaign in the recall election earlier this year:

Manufacturing and distributing: \$1,464,432

Health services/institutions: \$661,236

Business donors: \$649,019

Health professionals: \$644,865

Insurance industry: \$459,321

Source: Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

SCHOOL SPENDING

New funding for old issues

School districts use little-known law to tax millions for energy projects without going to referendum

By Adam Rodewald

Gannett Wisconsin Media Investigative Team

Wisconsin school districts are increasingly making use of a law that has allowed them to spend at least \$134.5 million beyond their revenue limits without going to referendum.

The law, approved by the Legislature in 2009, allows districts to increase local

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BY THE NUMBERS

Five largest amounts of tax dollars obtained by districts through the energy efficiency exemption since the law was enacted in 2009. The numbers include estimated interest costs on loans.

>> Racine Unified School District: \$42 million

>> Oshkosh Area School District: \$28.6 million

>> Saint Croix Central School District: \$14.4 million

>> Monona Grove School District: \$7.4 million

>> Green Lake School District: \$6.4 million

Source: School district records and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

HOLIDAY SHIPPING SURGE SET TO BEGIN

SPECIAL DELIVERY

By Jeff Starck and Logan Carlson | Central Wisconsin Sunday

An expected nationwide increase in the shipping of holiday packages is creating jobs and work for local shipping contractors. Land's End, which operates a distribution center in Stevens Point, plans on hiring 1,000 seasonal workers, and has added a second shift to handle the increased orders they will receive during the next month.

"Last year, we shipped out 180,000 packages" between our three distribution sites in Wisconsin because of orders placed on Cyber Monday, said Harry Schutte, vice president of global operations for Land's End.

During the holiday season, Land's End expects to see about 50 UPS trailers, each packed with about 3,000 packages, leave its loading docks daily, Schutte said.

Cyber Monday — Nov. 26 — is the day many online retailers hold sales to attract consumers, and is a leading reason for the surge of Internet purchases, according to UPS and FedEx, and one of the drivers in the increasing number of packages being shipped this holiday season.

FedEx is forecasting a 13 percent increase in shipping this holiday season as compared with last; UPS predicts a 10 percent increase; and the U.S. Postal Service expects a whopping 20 percent jump in the number of packages shipped between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

UPS expects to move 527 million packages between Thanksgiving and Christmas

HOLIDAY SHIPPING TIPS

Ship early. Ship by Dec. 15 if you want to avoid costly last-minute shipping rates, otherwise packages can be shipped as late as Dec. 22 to arrive by Dec. 24.

Pack well. Use ample packing peanuts, newspaper, tissue paper or foam to protect fragile items. If a package arrives damaged, keep everything as it arrived to help with any insurance claims.

Source: Wepak-n-Ship

this year, exceeding last year's record of 480 million packages. FedEx predicts it will ship 280 packages, an increase from the 247 million packages last year. The Postal Service expects to deliver 365 million packages.

"It's the calm before the storm right now," Dale Thompson said Wednesday morning. Thompson owns Wepak-n-Ship, a retail shipping company in Marshfield, which ships packages through FedEx, UPS, Spee-Dee Delivery and the U.S. Postal Service.

Thompson said he plans on keeping his business open on Saturdays to handle the increased volume of packages being shipped. He suggested customers come early in the morning, as traffic tends to increase at about noon and

doesn't let up through the afternoon. Lines out the door aren't uncommon this time of year, he said.

"We'll ship as many packages in December as we do in June, July and August combined," said Thompson, adding that while his store usually closes at 5 p.m., he'll only close up when "customers stop coming through the doors."

Packages make up the largest share of the increase in holiday shipping activity, said Bill Allinde, the postmaster at the post office in Wisconsin Rapids. Increases in letter volume isn't as great as it has been in the past.

"It's not like it used to be 15 years ago where we had stacks

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Dale Thompson, owner of Wepak Shipping in Marshfield, prepares a shipment Friday. LAURA HILLER/CENTRAL WISCONSIN SUNDAY



0 40901 06012 3
\$1.50 Retail

For home delivery pricing, see Page 2A

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Obituary/2A

Shirley Krause

Weather/5B

Today: Partly sunny, breezy.

High: 33 Low: 11



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