

MILIO'S SANDWICHES

Promotion is available at participating locations only. Additional ingredients will be charged at regular menu prices. This offer cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Tax and gratuity are not included. Sandwich of the Month pricing applies to Spicy Beef only and is valid from Jan. 6 to Jan. 31, 2025.

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL



'It was worth every minute'

Family waits 30 minutes to order, and two hours for the meal, but the payoff at Culver's was 'beauty' to behold

LOCAL&STATE. A3



STEPPING UP

Steven Crowl's increased aggressiveness key to Wisconsin's 4-game winning streak

SPORTS. B1

'Vital to our country'

President-elect Trump says he would consider military force to take Greenland, Panama Canal

NATION&WORLD. A2

A nomad's lifestyle

Minnesota couple is selling everything to live, work in long-term rentals around the country

NATION. A13

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

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NURSING HOMES | STATE INTERVENTION

SSM Health sales allowed

Purchase of 3 sites by New Jersey firm carries conditions

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Wisconsin officials, who had blocked the sale of SSM Health nursing homes in Madison, Baraboo and Waupun to a New Jersey company, have granted a probationary license allowing the pur-

chase but requiring the buyer to meet conditions related to quality of care and finances.

Under an agreement between the state Department of Health Services and the company, Complete Care, the buyer must take special steps if multiple serious regulatory violations occur, explain how several recent incidents at the Madison facility happened and file monthly financial reports.

If Complete Care fails to meet the conditions, in effect for a year,

DHS "has the authority to revoke (the) probationary license, without right to appeal," according to the agreement, reached Dec. 20 and obtained Tuesday by the Wisconsin State Journal.

Nonprofit St. Louis-based SSM Health said in July it planned to sell the facilities to for-profit Complete Care. They include 184-bed St. Mary's Care Center in Madison, the largest of Dane County's 18 nursing homes; 102-bed St. Clare Meadows in

The Madison facility must do a "root cause analysis" of four citations from June to November and draft an action plan to address their causes.

Baraboo; and 50-bed Christian Home and Rehabilitation Center in Waupun.

In September, DHS denied Complete Care's application, citing the company's "history of noncompliance" with regulations. According to the new agreement, the denial also stemmed from lack of proof the company had sufficient money to operate the Baraboo and Waupun facilities and lack of patient information requested for the Waupun center.

Please see **NURSING HOMES**, Page A7

OPERATION FRESH START | ATWOOD MUSIC HALL



AMBER ARNOLD PHOTOS, STATE JOURNAL

Myia Rex-Dean, 24, with Operation Fresh Start, shows some of the construction work she has done in the balcony of the Atwood Music Hall on Winnebago Street. The building was erected in 1932 for a church, with the balcony serving as a choir loft.

Program comes full circle

Participants in Build Academy now help to renovate former OFS headquarters

BARRY ADAMS
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This is not the typical project for Dallas Rucker and Myia Rex-Dean.

They're still getting paid \$15 an hour, using circular saws, nail guns and measuring tapes, but this job at 1925 Winnebago St. brings with it a little more meaning.

For almost 40 years, the 10,000-square-foot space was home to Operation Fresh Start, which since 1970 has provided



From 1980 through 2018, the site was home to the offices of Operation Fresh Start, which since 1970 has offered training in job and life skills to young people.

pathways to careers for more than 9,000 teens and young adults. Now, in a full-circle moment, the former space is being

"I've never seen anything like this. I'm just blown away."

Myia Rex-Dean, 24, of Operation Fresh Start's Build Academy

transformed into the Atwood Music Hall thanks to the efforts of students like Rucker and Rex-Dean who are part of OFS' Build Academy, which provides training for those trying to enter the trades.

And if the schedule holds, music could be bouncing off the venue's rust-colored lamella ceiling by June, five years after OFS moved out of the building for bigger digs on Milwaukee Street.

Please see **ATWOOD**, Page A6

SPRING ELECTION CANDIDATE FILINGS

State, local races ahead

MITCHELL SCHMIDT and LUCAS ROBINSON
Wisconsin State Journal

President-elect Donald Trump has yet to be sworn in. Lawmakers elected in November have just taken their seats. But Wisconsin's next election is already underway.

Tuesday was the deadline for candidates to register for the state's nonpartisan spring election.

On the ballot: candidates for state Supreme Court, state superintendent of public instruction, and hopefuls in hundreds of municipal and school board elections. They'll have less than three months to make their case to voters before they head to the polls April 1.

The headliner statewide will be the Supreme Court race, which will determine whether liberals hold on to their narrow 4-3 advantage or conservatives reclaim the majority they held for more than a decade until 2023.

Conservative Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Brad Schimel and liberal Dane County Circuit Judge Susan Crawford are running for the seat held by departing liberal Justice Ann Walsh Bradley.

The election comes as the state's highest court prepares to rule on a handful of high-profile cases, including a Dane County judge's November order tossing out most of Act 10, former Gov. Scott Walker's signature law that gutted public sector collective bargaining in Wisconsin.

Crawford represented union groups in a 2011 lawsuit seeking to overturn the law, telling PBS Wisconsin at the time it was "aimed at crippling public employee unions."

Schimel, who served as attorney general under Walker

Please see **FILINGS**, Page A7

■ **Inside:** List of candidates for area races. **A5**

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