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Germantown agrees to sell historic Highway View School



By Peter Bukowski

Jan. 10, 2012 | Germantown - After months of searching, the Germantown School District may finally be ready to sell the old Highway View School. Over the school district's winter break, a representative of Germantown Development LLC, contacted Business Manager Rick Ericksen about purchasing the property on Pioneer Road.

On Monday, the Germantown School Board voted unanimously to accept the offer of \$100,000 and move forward with the sale. Another vote will be needed to finalize the deal after a contract is drawn up and presented to both sides.

In April the board approved the razing of the historic buildings since the structures had fallen into disrepair. Suitable alternatives were never found as neither instructional nor administrative use would outweigh the potential cost of re-modeling.

Although it was deemed demolishing the building may make the property easier to sell - the property with the buildings had been on the market for several years with no takers - it would cost about \$100,000 to raze. The board deemed that a necessary cost if a buyer potentially recuperated the district those costs with a higher purchase price.

In December, the state authorized a loan for the \$100,000 needed to complete the demolition. Just a few weeks later, Germantown Development approached the district and made an offer that would allow the district to sell the property without having to do any demolition work. >>Read Full Article

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Transit system's 'smart card' fare system two years away

By Steve Schultze of the Journal Sentinel

Jan. 18, 2012 1:12 p.m. | The new "smart card" fare collection system for Milwaukee County Transit System buses won't be ready for two more years, an unexpectedly long time that drew criticism Wednesday from county supervisors and the bus drivers union.

In addition, the paper bus transfer will not be eliminated when the new smart card systems are in place - contrary to earlier plans - though they would be gradually phased out, transit system officials said.

The continuation of paper transfers drew rebukes from the drivers union, who said disputes over validity of transfers creates stress and sometimes leads to physical attacks on drivers.

"How many assaults do we have to have before anything is done?" asked Rick Bassler, vice president of Local 998 of the Amalgamated Transit Union. He called the 24-month time frame for installation of the new system ridiculous and warned it could be obsolete by then.

The current bus fareboxes and paper transfer system have been in place for 26 years. >>Read Full Article

Outagamie sheriff settles inmate death lawsuit

By The Associated Press

Jan. 18, 2012 1:06 p.m. | Appleton - The Outagamie County Sheriff's Department says a lawsuit filed by the widow of a man who died in the county jail has been settled for \$1.3 million.

The family of Curtis Heino named Outagamie County and a jail nurse as defendants in the civil case. The 27-year-old inmate died January 13, 2008 after contracting bacterial pneumonia.

A jail investigation found there was no evidence Heino was denied treatment or received poor care. The sheriff's department said Wednesday the county's insurer, Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Co., settled the lawsuit. Health care services at the jail are now administered through a contract with Correctional Health Care Companies. Sheila Heino did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Sex ed bill headed for Assembly vote

By The Associated Press



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