

## No bull

Scientists are potty training cows to use a 'MooLoo' to help control livestock waste. • B6



## The challenge

The franchisee of the Culver's in Johnson Creek is trying to win a service challenge. • A3

# Daily Jefferson County Union

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## Concepts approved for new Fort neighborhood

By Randall Dullum

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A planned new neighborhood on the City of Fort Atkinson's northwest side has taken another step forward.

The Banker Road Neighborhood Plan set of concepts was approved unanimously by the Fort Atkinson City Council last Tuesday, and staff were authorized to develop and issue a request for proposals for interested developers.

City Manager Rebecca Houseman LeMire said that in April, the city contracted with Vandewalle & Associates, Inc., Madison, to create a concept neighborhood plan for the city-owned parcels along Banker Road, located east of the high school and south of Hoard Road.

At that time, council members approved funding of not-to-exceed \$28,870 through the city's contingency fund account to pay for the services.

The City of Fort Atkinson owns three

parcels of land — previously located in the Town of Koshkonong and annexed into the city earlier this year — totaling about 75 acres of land.

"The city purchased this land in 2018 with the intent of developing it for residential purposes," LeMire said.

When the land was purchased, she said, the city also purchased a set of engineering and subdivision plans from the previous developer, whose development fell through.

Since that time, the city engaged Vandewalle & Associates to assist in creating a new comprehensive land use plan in 2019 and a new zoning ordinance the following year.

This past April, she said, the firm was hired to work with staff to create concept plans for a new and diverse neighborhood along Banker Road.

"We extended an invitation to the city's

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## SPACE TOURISTS



John Kraus

In this Aug. 8, 2021 photo provided by John Kraus, from left, Chris Sembroski, Sian Proctor, Jared Isaacman and Hayley Arce-neaux stand for a photo in Bozeman, Mont., during a "fighter jet training" weekend to familiarize the crew with G-forces.

## Four will circle Earth on first private space flight with no astronaut on board

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — For the first time in 60 years of human spaceflight, a rocket is poised to blast into orbit with no professional astronauts on board, only four tourists.

SpaceX's first private flight will be led by a 38-year-old entrepreneur who's bankrolling the entire trip. He's taking two sweepstakes winners with him on the three-day, round-the-world trip, along with a health care

worker who survived childhood cancer.

They'll ride alone in a fully automated Dragon capsule, the same kind that SpaceX uses to send astronauts to and from the International Space Station for NASA. But the chartered flight won't be going there.

Set to launch Wednesday night from Kennedy Space Center, the two men and two women will soar 100 miles (160 kilometers) higher than the space station, aiming for an altitude of 357 miles (575 kilometers), just

above the current position of the Hubble Space Telescope.

By contrast, Virgin Galactic's Richard Branson and Blue Origin's Jeff Bezos briefly skimmed space during their short rides in July — Branson reached 53 miles (86 kilometers) while Bezos hit 66 miles up (106 kilometers).

As the private flight's benefactor, Jared Isaacman, sees it: "This is the first step toward a world where

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## COUNTY BUDGET

## Tax rate may decrease as committee tackles budget

By Steve Sharp

Adams Publishing Group

JEFFERSON — It's early in the ballgame, but as it was proposed on the first day of finance committee budget hearings in Jefferson County for 2022 Monday, it appears that taxpayers could see a 21-cent decrease in their tax rate per \$1,000 of equalized valuation from the current year.

In November of 2020, the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a countywide tax levy of \$29,051,683 for 2021, which brought with it a tax rate of \$3.73. In 2020, the countywide levy was \$28,045,222 with a general operations tax rate of \$3.80. The levy as it is proposed for 2022 would be \$29,292,371, an increase of \$240,688.

Among the major reasons for the proposed decrease in the tax rate has been an increase in the equalized valuation of property in the county.

Jefferson County Administrator Ben Wehmeier reminded finance committee members that this is the ninth budgeting process he has been involved with in his almost decade-long tenure with the county. Wehmeier said it was hard for him to believe it's been that long.

One thing county department heads and others in the budgeting process for the county have working in their favor that past administrations may not have had, is they get started earlier in the year. They are also known for negotiating and trying hard to cooperate, and this has led to less controversial and abrasive

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## FDA experts among group opposing US booster shot plan

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and MATTHEW PERRONE

Associated Press

The average person doesn't need a COVID-19 booster yet, an international group of scientists — including two top U.S. regulators — wrote Monday in a scientific journal.

The experts reviewed studies of the vaccines' performance and concluded the shots are working well despite the extra-contagious delta variant, especially against severe disease.

"Even in populations with fairly high

vaccination rates, the unvaccinated are still the major drivers of transmission" at this stage of the pandemic, they concluded.

The opinion piece, published in The Lancet, illustrates the intense scientific debate about who needs booster doses and when, a decision the U.S. and other countries are grappling with.

After revelations of political meddling in the Trump administration's coronavirus response, President Joe Biden has promised to "follow the science." But the

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Jae C. Hong

In this Aug. 26 file photo, Parsia Jahanbani prepares a syringe with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in a mobile vaccine clinic operated by Families Together of Orange County in Santa Ana, Calif. An international group of scientists is arguing the average person doesn't need a COVID-19 booster yet — an opinion that highlights the intense scientific divide over the question.

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