



FFA gets floral
Saige Heelein was among Craig FFA students learning the basics of floral arranging in a Sunday session. **Page 6A**

Team LeBron wins in NBA
Although Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo led the way with 38 points and 11 rebounds, Team LeBron rallied to defeat Team Giannis, 178-164, on Sunday in the NBA All-Star game. **Page 1B**



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Report: Evers to propose decriminalizing pot

He would also propose legalizing marijuana for medical conditions

Associated Press

MADISON

Gov. Tony Evers will propose decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana in his plan for the next state budget, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Evers also will propose legalizing

marijuana for medical conditions including cancer, post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic pain, the Wisconsin State Journal reported.

Under the proposal, people with previous convictions for possessing small amounts of marijuana could have their records expunged.

The proposal also will allow possession and use of a marijuana derivative used to treat seizures—CBD oil—without a doctor's certification.

Evers will release his proposed budget Feb. 28. Evers' office gave the newspaper an overview of the plan on condition it not be shared with others before publication.

The new Democratic governor previously advocated decriminalizing marijuana but didn't give details.

It's unclear if the Republican-controlled Legislature will approve the plan. Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, a Juneau Republican, has said he opposes medical marijuana and isn't sure such a law could pass the chamber. State Assembly Republican leaders have indicated openness to legalizing marijuana only for medical purposes.

Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul has said he supports legalizing medical marijuana to help people deal with pain and provide the state with new revenue.

Wisconsin permits only possession of CBD oil, a marijuana derivative that does not produce a high, for people with a doctor's certification to treat a medical condition. Evers' plan would remove that requirement.

Medical marijuana would be available to people for whom a physician, or a medical practitioner under the direction of a physician, recommends it to treat a "debilitating medical condition." Those conditions include cancer, glaucoma, AIDS and Alzheimer's disease.

The medical-marijuana plan would be

Turn to **EVERS** on Page **7A**

On- and off-ramps



Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazettextra.com

CNC machine operation student Stacey Williams measures an item on a CNC lathe at the Blackhawk Technical College Advanced Manufacturing Training Center in Milton.

Pace at which Blackhawk Technical College plans new courses is accelerating

By Catherine W. Idzerda
cidzerda@gazettextra.com

JANESVILLE

In 1975, Blackhawk Technical College offered 38 degrees in professions such as ward clerk, drafting and fast-food operations.

It now offers more than 80 technical diplomas, associate degrees, certificates and apprenticeships in areas such as information technology, culinary arts, radiology and nuclear technology.

In the future, students might see associate degrees in organizational leadership, digital marketing, graphic design and alcohol and other drug abuse counseling.

Blackhawk Technical College's courses and degrees have always evolved as jobs have changed. But now the pace has accelerated, and more effort is focused on making a degree a pathway to something more, school officials said.

Blackhawk Technical College's courses and degrees have always evolved as jobs have changed. But now the pace has accelerated, and more effort is focused on making a degree a pathway to something more, school officials said.

In October, the Blackhawk Technical College Board approved the "concept review" of four new associate degrees: organizational leadership, customer service and sales management, digital marketing and alcohol and other drug abuse counseling.

The program descriptions include labor market analysis, local employer survey results, salary information, other technical colleges that offer similar degrees, survey data from

local employers, estimated pay and how the degrees might serve as a base for future schooling.

"In the past, the way we thought about these programs is that if they transfer to a four-year program, great. If not, so be it," said Zahi Atallah, vice president of academic affairs at Blackhawk. "Now, we want to consider the four-year option from the onset."

Certificates or associate degrees from Blackhawk should get students jobs after graduation, Atallah said. They also should provide ways to move up the career or education ladder.

Consider the alcohol and other drug abuse counselor program. If approved at the state level, the courses would give students associate degrees, serve as state-approved substance abuse counselor training and prepare students to take the National

Turn to **BTC** on Page **7A**

Defining moment?

Expectations high for sex abuse meeting, but some are bracing for disappointment

By Jeremy Roebuck

The Philadelphia Inquirer

In what could be a defining moment for the papacy of Pope Francis, more than 100 top Catholic bishops from around the world will travel to the Vatican this week for a conference aimed at dealing with the issue of clergy sex abuse.

Pope Francis is the first church leader to convene such a meeting to discuss the issue. And after a year in which high-ranking church officials resigned in scandal, the conference that opens Thursday could present an opportunity for him to dispel criticism that he has responded sluggishly as the crisis continued worldwide.

But should his four-day event fail to deliver, the pope risks cementing the impression among detractors that he remains resistant to meaningful change.

Sex abuse victims are expected to set up shop outside the Vatican as the prelates meet privately.

"They know that this is a very high-stakes meeting," said Massimo Faggioli, a theologian and scholar of church history at Villanova University. "The attention here in Rome is already similar to what you'd see for a papal conclave."

As if to signal his seriousness, Francis this weekend took his most meaningful step to date by defrocking Theodore McCarrick, a former cardinal and archbishop of Washington, D.C., after the church found him



Associated Press

Pope Francis addresses a group recently in Rome. The pope has convened a meeting of more than 100 Catholic bishops from around the world, which is set to begin this week at the Vatican.

guilty of sexually abusing minors and adult seminarians.

Though the Vatican had defrocked hundreds of priests for sexual misconduct since the worldwide crisis began nearly two decades ago, McCarrick is the first cardinal in modern history to be expelled from the priesthood, the most serious penalty the church can impose.

Before that significant move, Francis and his aides in recent weeks had sought to temper expectations for this week's conference. The pope suggested last month that anticipation surrounding the conference had grown well beyond anything the meeting itself could deliver.

"Let me say that I've perceived expectations that are a little inflated," he said.

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OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 6A

- Jeffrey "Jeff" Farnsworth
- DorEtta J. Nelson
- Debra J. Sperry

TODAY'S WEATHER

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