



Gains at risk

The economic downturn that resulted from the coronavirus pandemic is affecting women more than men.

Work & Wheels, inside

Hospitals, schools trying to adapt

Rock County hospitals are changing visitation rules and Turner schools are closing as virus cases rise. **Pages 3A, 12A**

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A 'crossroads' for public safety

Walworth County municipalities asking voters to exceed levy limits for third-party paramedic services

By Jonah Beleckis

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Bruce Vander Veen, chief of the Sharon Fire/EMS Department, says many Walworth County communities are at a

"crossroads" when it comes to funding emergency services.

Voters throughout the county will have a big say in what the future looks like through various referendums on the Nov. 3 ballot.

"We need to do something

about this," Vander Veen said. "Getting worse at this time is very real. And I think it's very important that people understand. Even though it's tough economic times, there's never a perfect time to do this. Our need

is real today, and we really can't put this off."

The villages and towns of Sharon, Darien and Walworth are seeking to exceed their levy

Turn to **SAFETY** on Page 11A

RELATED

• **More school referendums:** The Delavan-Darien and Clinton school districts will be asking taxpayers for additional funding with referendum questions on the ballot this fall. /8A-9A

Read more election coverage at [gazettextra.com/election](#).

Sharing the road

Prolific marathon runner helps people with disabilities finish races of their own



ANNA MARIE LUX
BETWEEN THE LINES

F. Robert Russo Jr. parked his car at Janesville's Rotary Gardens on Sept. 5 and began lapping up the miles.

He dashed through Palmer Park and the farmer's market. He glided past his childhood homes on St. Lawrence and Oakland avenues. He even sprinted toward Beloit.

By the time he returned to his car, Russo had covered 26.2 miles.

"It was very enjoyable," he said of completing his 24th Boston Marathon, more

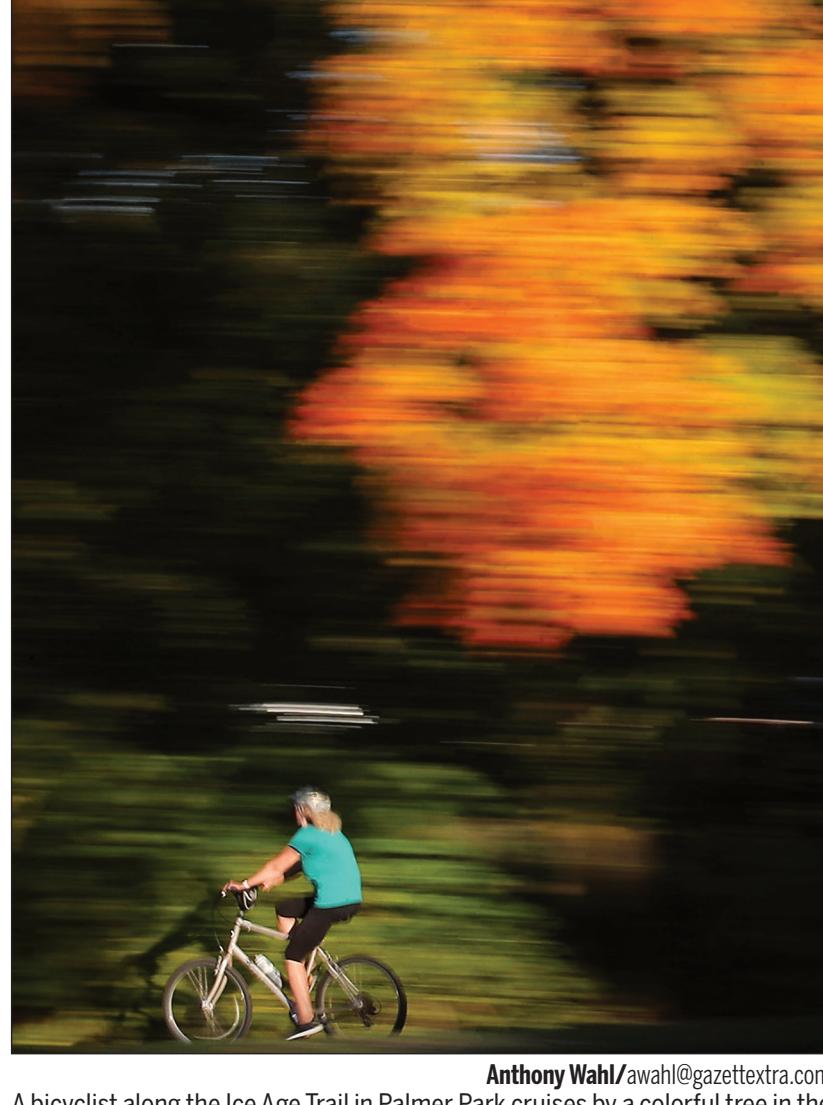
Turn to **ROAD** on Page 10A



F. Robert Russo Jr., giving the thumbs up, helps disabled runners in a 5K run in Havana.

Submitted photo

Fall color in a flash



Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazettextra.com

A bicyclist along the Ice Age Trail in Palmer Park cruises by a colorful tree in the autumn sunshine Thursday.

County eyes increased spending

Tax levy, rate increases part of \$212 million budget plan

By Neil Johnson

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JANESVILLE

In a year when COVID-19 is causing government budget gaps, Rock County's fiscal outlook, thanks in part to a growing rainy-day fund, appear in good shape.

Under the proposed 2021 county budget, spending would grow 8.8% in large part because of bigger paybacks on loans and a slew of projects to county facilities and roads.

Rock County Administrator Josh Smith on Thursday presented the county board its first look at the upcoming budget, which is on pace to be finalized in mid-November. It forecasts an increase in spending of \$17 million.

Continued upward bumps in county

Turn to **BUDGET** on Page 11A



Court blocks extension of absentee ballot deadline

Dems could take case to US Supreme Court

By Todd Richmond

Associated Press

MADISON

A federal appeals court on Thursday blocked a decision to extend the deadline for

counting absentee ballots by six days in battleground Wisconsin, a win for Republicans who have fought attempts to expand voting across the country.

If the ruling stands,

absentee ballots will have to be delivered to Wisconsin election clerks by 8 p.m. on Election Day if they are to be counted. The ruling makes it more likely that results of the presidential race in the pivotal swing state will be known within hours of poll closing.

Democrats almost certainly will appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. A spokesman and an attorney didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Under state law, absentee ballots are due in local clerks'

Turn to **DEADLINE** on Page 11A

OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 10A

- Elizabeth Ann "Liz" Anderson
- Steven J. Craig
- John Doherty
- Patricia (Amour) Embling
- Deb K. (Butterfuss) Ensley
- Lonnie J. Haseman
- Janice Hazel (Graham)
- Howard
- Kelly J. Jeglum
- Dolores E. (Van Pool) Moore
- Kathleen Ann (Rivers) Perman
- Joseph H. Viertel
- Robert W. Zimmerman

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 82 | Low 61
Mostly sunny;
winds subsiding

More on 11A

Classified.....7C, 7D Lotteries.....10A Puzzles.....5D

Comics.....8B, 4D Nation/World .9B-12B State.....2A

Legals.....10B Opinion.....4A, 6A TV/Advice.. 7B, 3D, 6D

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