By Janet Weyandt

Kay Robbins and Kathi McNellis drove from Sheboygan to Madison on Friday in hopes they could get the final legal touch on their same-sex marriage license. The couple got the license on Monday instead, and in a rushed church ceremony, wearing street clothes and without their two eldest kids, who live out of town with their own families, Robbins and McNellis became Sheboygan County’s first same-sex married couple.

A huge amount of privilege comes along from being married people don’t understand until they lose it,” said Robbins, 59. “The number of things we had to do in addition, pay extra for, double this and double that — this is going to make life so much better for my family. We’re so grateful it finally happened.”

Although Sheboygan County issued at least two marriage licenses to same-sex couples Monday, other counties in Wisconsin took a more cautious approach. Crabl’s ruling neither orders clerks to begin issuing licenses nor blocks them from handling them out. Crabl has said she wants the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed the lawsuit challenging the prohibition of same-sex marriage, to draft an order for her spelling out how the order will be implemented.

See MARRIAGE, Page A6

Runners at the start of the Diploma Dash in Sheboygan Saturday. JAY S. KLEIN/SHEBOYGAN PRESS MEDIA

Burke says she can bridge partisan divide

By Janet Weyandt

Democratic candidate for governor Mary Burke is confident she can break through the gridlock and partisanship in Madison and make things happen for Wisconsin. On a stop in Sheboygan on Monday, after delivering a speech at the Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin convention at Blue Harbor Resort and Conference Center, Burke spoke with Sheboygan Press Media about her campaign for governor and where she differs from Republican Gov. Scott Walker.

Jobs are at the top of her list. Her five-point jobs plan includes organizing and promoting clusters of industries or regions that will collaborate with state government to bring jobs to Wisconsin. She also wants to promote a new agenda for education that prepares students for real-life careers earlier and act strategically to predict and fill skills gaps. “Whether it’s engineers or welders, let’s be proactive,” she said.

The state’s economy during Doyle’s administration was nowhere near as robust as Burke now re-

In Burke’s third year in office, Jim Doyle, has taken criticism from the table, working with industry, identifying what challenges they have,” Burke said. “Whether it’s songwriters or welders, let’s be proactive, let’s get ahead of the problem.”

Burke, who was secretary of commerce under Gov. Jim Doyle, has taken over control of her health.

Runners at the start of the Diploma Dash in Sheboygan Saturday. GARY C. KLEIN/SHEBOYGAN PRESS MEDIA

In its third year, Diploma Dash draws more than 500 runners/walkers

By Kali Thiel

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Chris Kehoe is the photo editor at Sheboygan Press Media. See DIPLOMA DASH, Page A2

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A GILD DASH

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