

PLAYOFF TIME
Sheboygan Falls seeks fourth
straight state appearance

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The Sheboygan Press

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The scene of a 1540 Ohio Ave. home that was damaged in a Saturday night fire. GARY C. KLEIN / SHEBOYGAN PRESS MEDIA

City weighs land sale for assembly plant

By Jane Roberts
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The City Finance Committee approved a resolution Monday recommending to the Common Council the sale of an 11-acre property on the west side of I-43 and Weeden Creek for the construction of a new manufacturing facility.

The company looking to become a tenant on the land wishes to remain unnamed at this time, but the city would enter into a contract for \$440,000 with Chicago-based real estate company Becknell Industrial, LLC.



“They’re on a pretty aggressive timeline to get this 104,000 square-foot manufacturing facility built,” said Director of Planning and Development Chad Pelishek.

Pelishek said the company would like to begin construction in September, if possible.

The committee approved the resolution based on a version of the contract edited by the Department of Planning and Development.

“Everything in here, they’re in agreement with. They just want to make sure

See LAND, Page A5

Court to hear gay marriage arguments

Associated Press

MADISON — A federal appeals court in Chicago will hear arguments in challenges of gay marriage bans in Wisconsin and Indiana’s on Aug. 13.

Federal judges in both states have struck down the bans as unconstitutional. The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals consolidated the Wisconsin and Indiana cases on Friday and put them on the fast track.

The court separately rejected a request by Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen to have five extra days to submit arguments.

Both states have asked that all 10 judges on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals hear the cases, but it has not yet ruled on those requests.

Usually the 7th Circuit uses three-judge panels to decide cases.

a helping hand

Teens launch effort to help friend’s family that lost home in Saturday fire

By Kali Thiel
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A woman peers out a burned out window at the scene of the fire-damaged home at 1540 Ohio Ave. Monday. GARY C. KLEIN / SHEBOYGAN PRESS MEDIA

When Allison Macknick and Emily Gamb first heard about the fire that Saturday night engulfed their friend Mackenzie Birkey’s Sheboygan home, they knew immediately they had to do something to help.

So Macknick, 19, and Gamb, 18, set out to organize the Birkey Family Relief Drive that will be from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday at Gamb’s home, 4533 S. 18th St. in Sheboygan.

“The Birkey’s are probably one of the most amazing, quirky, fun-loving and incredible families I’ve ever known,” Mack-

See FIRE, Page A2

Historic tax credit program partially restored

By Scott Bauer
Associated Press

MADISON — A moratorium on a wildly popular historic tax credit program that became far more expensive than predicted is being partially lifted after just three weeks, the head of Wisconsin’s economic development agency told lawmakers Monday.

While the program will restart for buildings that meet criteria for being designated as historic, the moratorium will remain in effect for buildings that

don’t have that certification, said Mark Maley, spokesman for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

“We want to focus on things that are truly historic,” Maley said.

The Legislature, with broad bipartisan support, last year doubled the size of the credit to 20 percent of rehabilitation costs and expanded the program to include non-historic buildings built before 1936. The Legislature did not place a cap on how many credits could be handed out.

The moratorium was put in place on June 23 because \$35 million in tax breaks for qualified projects had already been approved, even though only \$4 million were expected to be handed out in the first year.

Of that \$35 million, \$15 million went to non-historic buildings while \$20 million went to those certified as historic, Maley said.

The tax credits for historic buildings far exceeded estimates, and “it’s going to continue to exceed it” now that the moratorium on that part of the

program is being lifted, Maley said.

The more credits claimed the less tax revenue the state collects, but advocates for the program say it more than pays for itself through the economic development generated by the rehabilitation projects.

The decision to partially lift the moratorium, after initially saying it would remain in effect until at least next year, came after discussions with developers, local officials and the state His-

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\$1 Retail
For home delivery pricing see Page A2.

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2 sections, 12 pages

High
64
Low
50

Scattered showers, mainly between noon and 5pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. Northwest wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

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