

BARABOO NEWS REPUBLIC

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SPORTS, C1



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Tuesday, February 24, 2026

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LOOKING TO BOLSTER AREA'S ECONOMY



JOHN GITTINGS, NEWS REPUBLIC

Curt Davey, a self-employed construction contractor, works on a new house at the Rolling Prairie Development on Portage's north side on Tuesday afternoon. Housing developments are coming to a few Columbia County municipalities this year. Juneau and Sauk Counties hope to add housing as well.

County leaders detail expected developments in 2026

JOHN GITTINGS
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County leaders across Southcentral Wisconsin are looking at housing, business development and future energy projects to help bolster the area's economy in 2026 and beyond.

Leaders in Juneau, Sauk and Columbia counties are hoping to attract more residents with affordable developments

throughout the area. Juneau County is giving small grants to help business startups, and Columbia County is hoping to see an increase in sales tax revenue.

Here's what they're planning.

Sauk County

Focus points this year include tourism, housing and Wisconsin River shoreline development, according to County Board

Chair Tim McCumber.

"We're hoping to have a more impactful relationship with the private sector and help shape and focus those areas," McCumber said regarding housing and development, particularly in main economic hubs like Baraboo, Reedsburg and Lake Delton.

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Gov. candidate: Time to chart different path for Wisconsin

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MADISON — U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany doesn't like the path he sees Wisconsin going down.

Half of Wisconsin's first-graders don't read at grade level. Energy prices have

increased. The state ranks near the bottom for starting a business by some financiers and small-business publications.

Fixing those problems is going to take changes in leadership, said the Hazelhurst Republican, the sole surviving serious contender for the Republican nomination

for governor this year.

"When you look at the states across the country, they're diverging at this point," Tiffany said in an interview with the Wisconsin State Journal. "They're either choosing this path of stagnation, or they're the dynamic states of America."

Tiffany's first foray into politics was in 2009, when he became a supervisor for the town of Little Rice, population 300, west of Rhinelander and north of Tomahawk in Oneida County. He was also appointed

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