



Jones' tenacity, toughness pays off

SPORTS, 1B

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Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld, a professor of anesthesiology at Medical College of Wisconsin, co-authored a new study for JAMA Network Open on the barriers faced by physicians who seek mental health care. Physicians carry a far greater rate of depression, anxiety, PTSD, and suicide than the general population. PROVIDED BY THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN

THE LOSSES WEIGH HEAVY

Physicians don't access mental health care, and the stakes couldn't be higher

Natalie Eilbert Milwaukee Journal Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

In the span of Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld's career as an anesthesiologist, he's lost three colleagues to suicide, and he's only in his 40s. • Those losses weigh heavily on Ehrenfeld, who also serves as the executive director of the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment at the Medical College of Wisconsin. • "For me, it's been very personal to have lived through those losses and to think about how the system has failed these physicians — my colleagues — because the problem is not the person. The problem is the system we drop these people into," Ehrenfeld said.

That system is at the center of a new report published by JAMA Network Open Aug. 14. The report, co-authored by Ehrenfeld, underscores the severe mental health treatment gaps of physicians, the culture of fear and stigma that deters help-seeking, and the profound consequences for physicians.

After years of conversations on the topic with friend and colleague Dr. Daniel Saddawi-Konefka of Harvard Medical School, the two physicians teamed up with Dr. Christine Yu

Moutier, chief medical officer at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, to better understand the unique mental health challenges physicians encounter.

One-third of physicians struggle with depression, nearly a quarter with anxiety, and 10% have post-traumatic stress disorder, rates far higher than the general population.

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SUPREME COURT RACE

Bradley's decision to not run puts party in dilemma

Who will emerge for conservatives now?

Daniel Bice and Mary Spicuzza

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Bradley's decision to not seek a second full term on the state's highest court sets in motion questions about who will emerge for conservatives in next spring's election.

Bradley's announcement came with a message for conservatives who have lost their majority over the course of recent elections.



"The conservative movement needs to take stock of its failures, identify the problem, and fix it," Bradley said in an Aug. 29 statement. "I will not seek reelection to the Wisconsin Supreme Court because I believe the best path for me to rebuild the conservative movement and fight for liberty is not as a minority member of the Court."

The announcement came after months of uncertainty about Bradley's political future. Earlier this year, Bradley told WisPolitics.com that she planned to run again to "ensure that there is a voice for the constitution and for the rule of law to preserve that in the state of Wisconsin."

Bradley also continued to pummel state Appeals Court Judge Chris Taylor, who is running in the 2026 Supreme Court race, on a number of issues, including Marsy's Law and judicial recusals.

But Bradley faced some pretty big issues.

Liberal candidates have won four of the last five Supreme Court elections. In 2023, the court flipped to a liberal majority for the first time in well over a decade with the election of Justice Janet Protasiewicz. Liberals secured their majority in April 2025.

And Bradley raised no money in the first half of the year, while Taylor took in more than \$583,000 during that period.

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Sales tax holiday, state microbe among state bills in August

Hope Karnopp

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

It's been a relatively slow August in the state Capitol, with few public hearings and no voting sessions in the Assembly or Senate, but lawmakers have still introduced numerous bills for consideration.

Those include changing rules for campaign fundraising and signature-gathering, creating a sales tax holiday during back-to-school season and extending the statute of limitations for second-degree sexual assault.

Here's a roundup of notable legisla-

tion introduced this month. None of these bills have received public hearings, the first step to becoming law. Lawmakers have drafted more than 400 pieces of legislation this year, though only a fraction will end up becoming law.

Extending statute of limitations for sexual assault

Wisconsin has a 10-year statute of limitations for second-degree felony sexual assault, referring to the amount of time a prosecutor has to file a criminal complaint. This bill would extend it to 20 years, giving survivors more time to

come forward.

Second-degree sexual assault involves a lack of consent, plus other situations like use of violence or force or a victim who's unconscious or under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

The legislation would also give immunity from drug and alcohol citations to survivors and people who help them report the crime. Another provision in the bill would give survivors more ways to terminate a lease.

Lawmakers say they've consulted with prosecutors, sexual assault survivors and advocates on the legislation. The bill has been introduced before — it gained Democratic support and passed

the Senate in 2022 — but hasn't reached the governor's desk.

Authors: Sen. Howard Marklein, R-Spring Green; Sen. Jesse James, R-Thorp; Rep. Karen Hurd, R-Withee

State sales tax holiday for back-to-school shopping

This bill would exempt clothing and school supplies from state sales taxes between the first Friday in August and the following Sunday each year. Democratic lawmakers say the idea will help families amid inflation.

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