

**PUBLIC INVESTIGATOR** TAKING TIPS, CHASING LEADS, EXPOSING PROBLEMS

# Can she break her lease?



Carol Perez, a renter in the Rufus King neighborhood, is frustrated to tears with the lack of response from her landlord about safety issues in her apartment. JOVANNY HERNANDEZ/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

## Woman’s apartment has electrical problems, no hot water and a broken door

**Gina Lee Castro** Milwaukee Journal Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

There’s a hole the size of a doorknob inches below the lock on Carol Perez’s back door. ● She’s waited over a month for her California-based landlord to fix it, along with six other code violations that city inspectors identified in her one-bedroom apartment on West Atkinson Avenue. ● In the meantime, a piece of paper towel over the hole and a prayer secures Perez’s door. ● “It’s unfair,” Perez told Public Investigator. “I have a security camera, but I just want out of this lease.” ● Perez moved into the apartment in the Rufus King neighborhood in June, but it’s nothing like she signed up for. There’s no hot water for her to shower or wash her dishes. A large hole in her bedroom closet exposes the pipes and plumbing. She can’t plug in her fan and air fryer in at the same time or a fuse will blow, property management told her.

See LEASE, Page 11A

# UWM loses grant to map racism in old deeds

**Kelly Meyerhofer**  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

In the Trump era, with university research on the chopping block, some professors have become part-time fundraisers for the sake of science. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee professors Anne Bonds and Derek Handley need at least \$30,000 to finish their project after the National Endowment for the Humanities cut their grant this spring. The agency offered no specific reason for terminating the grant, saying the project no longer aligned with its funding priorities. Bonds and Handley suspect their project’s aim — to map racially restrictive housing covenants across Milwaukee County — led it to be flagged within the federal agency. The Trump administration has terminated hundreds of grants related to diversity. “You can’t hide from it,” said Handley, an assistant English professor. “It’s in the title: Mapping racism.” Restrictive covenants included language in property deeds that prevented the sale of land or homes to Black people and people of other ethnicities. They were in place for decades across America to keep certain areas exclusively white, including in many Milwaukee suburbs. The covenants help explain why Milwaukee County has the lowest rate of Black suburbanization of any metropolitan area in the country. The covenants were outlawed in 1968, though some deeds still contain the language today. “People are very interested in how these things transpired,” said Bonds, a professor of geography and urban studies. “A lot of people also just want to know ‘What about my house? What

See MAPS, Page 7A

# Vaccination rates low as start of school approaches

## Misinformation spreads doubt over safety, need

**Andrew Montequin**  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has vaccines in the news again. The U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary has a history of spreading doubt and misinformation around vaccines. He wrapped up June by making false statements that pediatricians encourage vaccinations to make profits. Then he stunned the global health communi-

ty by criticizing a worldwide health alliance as careless based on one old, flawed study. A week ago, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians and American Public Health Association sued Kennedy over recent changes to federal COVID-19 vaccination recommendations. So what are the facts? For children born between 1994 and 2023, the CDC estimates that vaccines prevented 1.1 million deaths and resulted in \$540 billion in direct savings. Why should we vaccinate children? According to Margaret Hennessy, a physician representing the Wisconsin chapter of the American Academy of Pe-

diatricians, the easiest way to say it is that “disease is bad.” “Many of the illnesses we vaccinate against cause premature death, especially in young children,” said Hennessy. Those that don’t kill can cause permanent health problems like blindness. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services website on childhood vaccination says that “vaccines are among the best way to protect the health of our children,” citing frequent deaths from measles, whooping cough and *Haemophilus influenzae* before these vaccines were widely available. In addition to providing protection for individuals, the DHS website says that widespread vaccination means

that diseases have less opportunity to spread. When enough people are vaccinated to reach “herd immunity,” overall case numbers drop, protecting everyone. **The latest on Wisconsin vaccination data** One measure of vaccination rates is the percentage of children who have completed every dose of a seven-vaccine series by the time they reach 24 months old. These include at least 4 doses of DTaP, 3 doses of poliovirus, 1 dose of MMR, 3 doses of Hib, 3 doses of

See VACCINES, Page 8A



By Travelers. For Travelers.




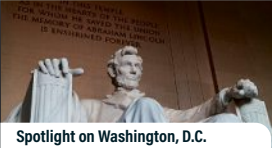
## AMERICA’S MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY CALLS FOR A MILESTONE JOURNEY

As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, explore its history on an expertly planned, expertly led journey with the country’s longest-running tour operator.

CST No. 2006766-20, UBI No. 601-220-855, Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No. ST35613



Scan the code to get your free brochure

 <p><b>Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary</b> 9 Days</p>	 <p><b>American Heritage</b> featuring <i>The Greenbrier Resort</i> 8 Days</p>
 <p><b>Spotlight on New York City</b> featuring <i>Hamilton: An American Musical</i> 5 Days</p>	 <p><b>Spotlight on Washington, D.C.</b> Exploring America's Capital 6 Days</p>

