

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER: 2008, 2010, 2011





President Donald Trump has threatened to impose a 30% tariff on the European Union by Aug. 1. KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS FILE

EU mulling retaliation for Trump tariff plan

Prospects have dimmed for trade pact with U.S.

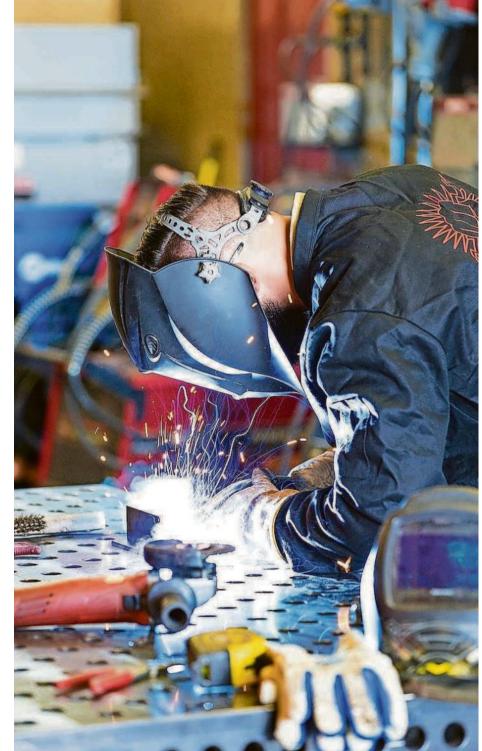
Philip Blenkinsop REUTERS

BRUSSELS – The European Union is exploring a broader set of possible countermeasures against the United States as prospects for an acceptable trade agreement with Washington fade, according to EU diplomats.

An increasing number of EU members, including Germany, are now considering using wide-ranging "anti-coercion" measures that would let the bloc target U.S. services or curb access to public tenders in the absence of a deal, diplomats say. The European Commission, which negotiates trade agreements on behalf of the 27-member bloc, had appeared on course for a agreement in which the EU would still have faced a 10% tariff on most of its exports, with some concessions. Such hopes now seem dashed after President Donald Trump's threat to impose a 30% tariff by Aug. 1, and following talks between EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic and U.S. counterparts in Washington last week. Sefcovic, who has said a 30% tariff would "practically prohibit" trans-Atlantic trade, delivered a sober report

Pell grants to include more workforce training

Could set low-income residents in WI on path to better jobs



Natalie Yahr Wisconsin Watch

> The federal budget bill that passed this month has drawn much attention for polarizing Medicaid work requirements, cuts to food aid and new funding for immigration enforcement. But one item tucked into the lengthy bill has been on bipartisan wish lists for more than a decade.

> It allows eligible Americans to use Pell grants, the federal government's largest grant program for undergraduates, to pay for shorter workforce training courses than what previously qualified.

> Such courses could train a range of workers, including welders, truck drivers, emergency medical technicians and cybersecurity analysts, though exactly which programs will be eligible for funding hasn't been decided.

> In Wisconsin, where many such jobs regularly go unfilled, proponents say the grants could set low-income residents on a path to better jobs, while also aiding the employers and the communities that rely on those workers. Meanwhile, a small group of critics say the new program could lead some students down a dead end road of low wages.

Who qualifies for the grants?

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A student practices welding techniques at Nicolet College. New federal grants promise to allow students to pay for shorter workforce training courses than what previously qualified. PROVIDED BY WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Like existing grants, the new Workforce Pell grants are available to students who demonstrate "exceptional financial need." Funding will vary based on the number of hours or credits of the training, hovering below the maximum annual Pell grant of \$7,395, according to Jobs for the Future, a national nonprofit focused on education and workforce issues.

Unlike the existing grants, Workforce Pell is open to people who already have a bachelor's degree, as well as those without. People who hold graduate or professional degrees are still barred. Students apply by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The grants, which can be used for

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Milwaukee alderman obsessed with getting himself better parking



Daniel Bice Milwaukee Journal Sentinel USA TODAY NETWORK – WIS.

There are a lot of issues Milwaukee city officials should be focusing on, such as affordable housing, widespread pothole problems, reckless driving and lead poisoning.

Then there's the rising murder rate in Milwaukee.

But Ald. **Lamont Westmoreland** has other things on his mind:

Like parking.

Specifically, his free parking spot at City Hall.

His space, he believes, is not good enough. So on July 15, West-

Westmoreland Westmoreland Westmoreland

proposed resolution calling for him to get a wider parking spot.

The proposal recommends taking Westmoreland's space in the **Frank Zeidler Municipal Building** parking garage, combining it with a couple of adjacent slots and then redrawing the lines to reduce them from three spaces to two. Westmoreland and Ald. **JoCasta Zamarripa** then would each get one of the two new wider spots, and a midlevel staffer in Mayor **Cavalier Johnson's** office would be bumped from his stall.

Incredibly, seven other council members have agreed to co-sponsor the proposed resolution, which has been assigned to the Public Works Committee, which meets July 23.

So what is exactly going on here?

In an interview, Westmoreland said he asked to move from his original space after he tore his Achilles tendon while playing basketball a little more than a year ago. But when he made the switch, he realized his new slot was only 8 feet wide, making it difficult for him to squeeze his 2021 Volkswagen Atlas SUV into it. His previous stall was 10 1/2 feet wide, he said. The parking space had previously been used by former Ald. **Jonathan Brostoff**, who often drove and parked his wife's minivan there.

So Westmoreland contacted the city Department of Public Works, but he said he was basically ignored. He then talked to a top staffer in the Mayor's Office. He even dragged City Clerk **Jim Owczarski** into the issue, demanding that he get DPW to give Westmoreland one of four specific parking spaces already assigned to other city workers.

"I'm growing angry with this parking situation," Westmoreland wrote to Owczarski on June 30. "I need some help here. This is ridiculous."

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