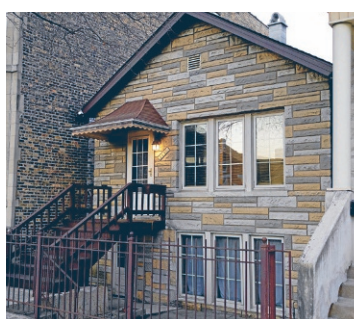


PORTAGE DAILY REGISTER

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SPORTS, C1



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PORTAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

HEARTBREAKING DECISION



JOHN GITTINGS, DAILY REGISTER

Residents packed the Portage School District boardroom on Monday evening as the board discussed closing Endeavor and Lewiston elementary schools. Ultimately, the school board voted 6-1 to close the schools at the end of this school year.

Board votes to shutter 2 schools after voters reject referendum

JOHN GITTINGS
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The Portage School District is closing elementary schools in Endeavor and Lewiston at the end of this school year, following voters' rejection of an operating referendum that would have kept the schools open.

The Portage School Board voted 6-1 on Monday evening to close Endeavor and Lewiston elementary schools, with board Vice President Ellen Stevenson casting the

lone vote against the measure. Portage's rural elementary schools serve 128 students and have seven teachers. Lewiston has 76 students; Endeavor has 52.

District voters rejected a three-year, \$11.1 million operating referendum in a 56% to 44% vote on April 7. The referendum would have continued funding from a five-year, \$18.5 million measure expiring after this school year.

That means, for the first time since 2003, Portage schools will not receive

additional taxpayer support.

Operating Endeavor and Lewiston cost the district about \$1.1 million this year. The district is losing \$3.7 million in tax funding with the expiring referendum and non-renewal in 2026-27.

Lewiston is located at W1195 Highway 127 in the town of Lewiston, while Endeavor is at 414 Church St. in the Marquette County village.

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A4

Tommy's Express Car Wash opens in Portage

Baraboo, Beaver Dam locations also planned

JOHN GITTINGS
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Portage's newest car wash aims to streamline the washing process and make it easier to maintain a clean car.

Tommy's Express Car Wash opened on April 24 at 2725 New Pinery Road on the city's north side.

The soft-touch wash has more than 10 vacuum bays and sells small \$5 detailing kits out of vending machines at each bay.

Car owners can purchase a monthly membership to get unlimited washes. There's also a "PayPerWash" system, which uses an app to automatically select a driver's preferred wash, based on the vehicle's license plate, and lets drivers pay without swiping a credit or debit card.

Drivers don't need a membership, however. Anyone still can drive up to the

cashier lane and pay for a wash.

Two more Tommy's Express locations are planned for Baraboo and Beaver Dam in the coming months.

Car washes at the new Portage location are free through Sunday. Vacuums are free indefinitely, as well as mat cleanings.

"We are hoping to drive traffic and get the public in here so they can get their memberships," co-owner Elise Liegel said. "Take advantage of it."

The wash has two entrance lanes, one

for cash and card payments and another for phone app users.

Monthly membership customers and those who sign up for "PayPerWash" can use the app lane.

After the free trial period ends, car washes will range from \$12 to \$23, with higher price washes providing more services, including wheel and undercarriage cleaning.

Please see **TOMMY'S**, Page A3

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