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SOUP OF THE WEEK

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL



Death penalty

Republicans in the Legislature propose to reinstate capital punishment for child sexual abuse cases

LOCAL&STATE. A3

JUMPING AHEAD

Strong play down the stretch from Wisconsin men's basketball could improve seeding

SPORTS. B1



Winter weather

Millions struggle to dig out after major storm hammers northeastern US

NATION. A2

In Mexico

25 National Guard members killed in attacks after cartel leader eliminated

NATION&WORLD. A8

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

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EAST SIDE | ROYSTER CORNERS DEVELOPMENT



AMBER ARNOLD, STATE JOURNAL

Madison plans to buy vacant land along Dempsey Road in the Royster Corners redevelopment, above, and other empty parts of the former Royster-Clark fertilizer plant site on Madison's East Side so they can be developed.

17 properties sought for unfinished neighborhood

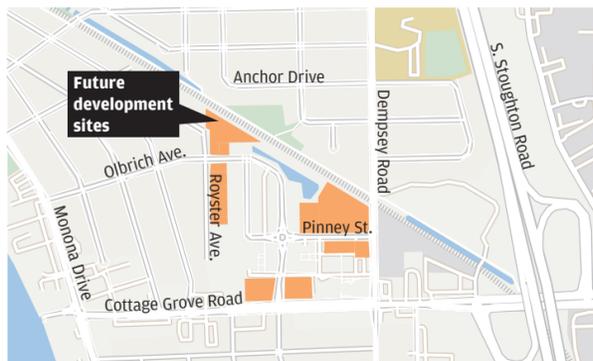
Plans for 33-acre site are likely to include multiple housing types

NICOLE POLLACK
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The city of Madison plans to buy 17 properties near Pinney Library on the East Side to complete a partially developed neighborhood that was proposed well over a decade ago.

The Royster Corners redevelopment brought single-family homes, multiple apartment buildings and a new public library facility to the site of the former Royster-Clark fertilizer plant along Cottage Grove Road.

Land city plans to acquire



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But parts of the redevelopment, which Ruedebusch Development and Construction said years ago would see the 33-acre

site transformed into a mixed-use community, still haven't materialized.

A resolution set to be

introduced at Tuesday's City Council meeting would authorize the city to pay \$5.2 million to Ruedebusch for vacant properties on Cottage Grove Road, Pinney Street, Sargent Street, Olbrich Avenue, Royster Avenue and Grand Oak Trail and spend another \$1 million to prepare the land for redevelopment.

The city hasn't decided what it will do with each property, but future development plans will likely include multiple types of housing, said Matt Wachter, director of the Department of Planning, Community and Economic Development and executive director of Madison's Community Development Authority.

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STATE OF THE UNION

House sets for Trump address

LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will stand before Congress on Tuesday to deliver the annual State of the Union address to a suddenly transformed nation.

After a year back in office, Trump has executed a head-spinning agenda, upending priorities at home, shattering alliances abroad and challenging the nation's foundational system of checks and balances. Federal agents killed two Americans while they protested the Trump administration's immigration raids and mass deportations.

As the lawmakers sit in the House chamber listening to Trump's agenda for the year ahead, the moment is an existential one for the Congress, which essentially became sidelined by his expansive reach, the Republican president bypassing his slim GOP majority to amass enormous power for himself.

"It's crazy," said Nancy Henderson Korpi, a retiree in northern Minnesota who joined an indivisible protest group and plans to watch the speech from home. "But what is disturbing more to me is that Congress has essentially just handed over their power."

She said, "We could make some sound decisions and changes if Congress would do their job."

The country is at a crossroads, celebrating its 250th anniversary while experiencing some of the most significant changes to its politics, policies and general mood in many Americans' lifetimes.

Please see UNION, Page A6

RESTAURANT NEWS | PORTA BELLA

Clutch of calls, fond memories

Storied establishment to close its doors on Sat. after 58 years

SAMARA KALK DERBY
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The wife of one of Porta Bella's owners has been filling in at the host stand during the restaurant's final weeks and said the stories she's hearing have gotten her "totally verklempt."

"I've been getting all of our lovely customer memories,"

said Julie Shinnick, whose husband, Ed Shinnick, founded the restaurant at 425 N. Frances St. 58 years ago with Wally Borowski.

She said she's been hearing about the engagements, the first dates, the anniversary dinners.

"All of the 'I brought my dad, my mom,' 'this was where my graduation (dinner) was,' 'We had our wedding reception here,'" Julie Shinnick said. "I've been listening to that for the past three weeks, when this really became public."

Porta Bella has been slammed since word got out about its last day, which is Saturday. No reservations remain. Walk-in seating and carryout orders likely won't be accommodated if the past week is any indication.

"People would come in for a lunch reservation and find out how busy we were getting, and then they would book two or three more visits," Julie Shinnick said.

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SAMARA KALK DERBY, STATE JOURNAL

The sign that greeted customers Monday evening: Only seating standing reservations, no walk-ins. Apologies for the inconvenience. — Porta Bella.

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