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SOUP OF THE WEEK

# WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

## Hit-and-run fatalities

A pedestrian on the Far East Side and a bicyclist in Fitchburg were killed in crashes in recent days

LOCAL&STATE. A3

## MAKING THE BEST

Wisconsin football receiver coach not scared of taking over group he did not put together

SPORTS. B1



## US Supreme Court

Justices appear skeptical of state laws allowing counting of late-arriving mail ballots

NATION&WORLD. A8

## Travel delays

More ICE officers head to US airports to support TSA agents facing long lines

NATION&WORLD. A8

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

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## WISCONSIN | FOODSHARE

# Candy, soda buys prohibited

### Evers signs measure adding \$72M to help administer program

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Wisconsin will ban federal food assistance recipients from purchasing candy, soda and other soft drinks often high in sugar content with their monthly allocations,

under a compromise bill signed by Gov. Tony Evers Monday that allocates millions more to run the program.

The bill, which cleared its last hurdle in the Senate last week, will provide the state Department of Health Services an additional \$72 million to add support staff and oversight to avoid hundreds of millions in fines due to common mistakes in administering the Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program, also commonly referred to as food stamps. In Wisconsin, the program is known as FoodShare.

The bill also directs the state's Department of Health Services to request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ban purchases of candy and soda with SNAP dollars. The change could affect up to 20% of the money Wisconsin residents in the FoodShare program spend.

Evers had been urging Republican leaders to approve additional funding for SNAP since August to avoid an anticipated \$200 million in fines paid to the federal government after changes go into effect in 2027, he said in a statement Monday.

"In spite of the chaos at the federal level and the continued attacks on our FoodShare program, I am proud of the work my administration has done over the

past year to ensure our kids, families, veterans, and seniors across our state receive the resources they need to access basic food and groceries," Evers said.

The new federal law imposes a penalty on states with high "error rates," or the rate at which recipients are paid more or less than what they're entitled to receive. States whose error rates

Please see FOODSHARE, Page A6

## 9-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



JOHN HART, STATE JOURNAL

Wisconsin goaltender Ava McNaughton hoists the team's 2026 NCAA Division 1 National Championship trophy during a celebration with fans at LaBahn Arena in Madison on Monday. The Badgers have seen unrivaled success in the past two decades under head coach Mark Johnson, defeating Ohio State 3-2 on Sunday to claim their record ninth national championship. **Full coverage in Sports.**

## MIDDLE EAST

# Extended deadline presents reprieve

### Trump gives Iran 5 more days to reopen Strait of Hormuz

JON GAMBRELL, ELENA BECATOROS AND SAMY MAGDY  
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday the U.S. was talking with a "respected" Iranian leader and claimed the Islamic Republic was eager for a deal to end the war. He also extended a deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face attacks on its power plants, saying it has an additional five days.

Trump's turnaround, which held out the possibility of resolving the war now in its fourth week, served to drive down oil prices and jolt stocks. It offered a reprieve after the U.S. and Iran traded threats over the weekend that could have cut electricity to millions in Iran and around the Gulf, and knocked out desalination plants providing many desert nations with drinking water.

Trump told reporters Iran wants "to make a deal," and claimed U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner held talks with an Iranian leader on Sunday. He did not say who that was, but said the U.S. has not talked to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei.

Iran denied talks were held. "No negotiations have been held with the US," Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf posted on social

Please see IRAN, Page A6

## DEFOREST | WATER SYSTEM

# Fluoride restoration stalled

### No further action planned after Village Board vote ties 3-3

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DeForest's plan to restore fluoride to its public water system is stuck, despite a Village Board vote in January in support of it.

A resolution to start the implementation process stalled on a 3-3 vote during the board's March 17 meeting, with the timeline being one concern.

The board also needs to decide whether to offer alternatives for those who don't want fluoride, such as an alternate water source or a removal system like reverse osmosis.

And for now at least, the Village Board has no further action planned to restore fluoride, Village Administrator Bill Chang said in an email, and reintroducing fluoride won't happen until the board agrees on a way to do so.

In January, the Village Board voted 5-2 to reintroduce fluoride, reversing a controversial

split decision in February 2025 to stop adding fluoride to its water.

Typically, the board has seven members, but there are only six right now because Board President Jane Cahill Wolfgram resigned earlier this month.

Last week's resolution was meant to address how to reintroduce fluoride into the system.

One option would gradually phase fluoride back into three wells that previously had fluoride, but delay doing so in one well until after the village completes the estimated \$55,000 to \$70,000 in improvements the

well needs.

The other option would delay restoring fluoride altogether until the well work is done at all four wells.

During the meeting, Village Board Trustee Taysheedra Allen said she was nervous about moving too quickly on fluoride or implementing it in an uneven way for residents.

"With the (rejected) data center, we heard that we should pause, wait for the research, see what's going on," she said.

Please see FLUORIDE, Page A6

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