



St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Cross Plains held Community Picnic last weekend at the church. For more photos of the event, turn to page 9.

Middleton • Cross Plains

Times-Tribune

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Cross Country Ski Facility Breaks Ground



Michelle Phillips, Times-Tribune

Central Cross Country Skiing (CXC) broke ground on their facility last week, marking the beginning of construction on the much anticipated training and recreation facility. Pictured L-R: Jesse Turner, River View Construction, David Sonne, Tetra Tech, Mark Torresani, Tetra Tech, Heidi and Don Becker, President Central Cross Country Skiing Foundation, Gurdip Brar, Middleton Mayor, Natalie and Dan Erman, Land Donor, Oyvind Solvang, President Central Cross Country Skiing Inc. and Scott Ackatz, Workshop Architects.

By Michelle Phillips
Times-Tribune

MIDDLETON—Dozens of community and business leaders along with cross country ski enthusiasts turned out for a groundbreaking ceremony on Schwartz Road for Central Cross Country Outdoor Rec-

reation & Sports Center, also known as Erdman Park, on Sept. 10.

The Olympic level training and recreation facility is a partnership between the City of Middleton and Central Cross Country Skiing (CXC). A donation of land from Natalie and

Dan Erdman and monetary donations from Don and Heidi Becker, Hy-Cite as well as fundraising efforts, brought the idea that started with CXC director Yuriy Gusev to fruition.

The center is expected to be a valuable amenity for the region and strengthen the identity

of the region as a place to enjoy an active lifestyle, fitness, fun and wellbeing. It is projected to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors and enhance the ability of businesses to recruit and retain employees.

See CXC, page 2

Board Members Draft Resolution Calling to End Mask Mandate

By Michelle Phillips
Times-Tribune

DANE COUNTY—Dane County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2021 RES-157



has been drafted by District 20 Supervisor Jeff Weigand and supported by Dave Ripp, District 29, and Tim Rockwell, District 19, questions the constitutionality of the Public Health of Madison & Dane County (PHMDC) Face Cover Emergency Order #2. The resolution also asks that PHMDC rescind the health order and seek support of the board and public. They further

ask that there be an explanation of the reasoning of the order and answer questions.

The order was originally put in place on Aug. 19 and is set to expire on Sept. 16. It requires that anyone over the age of two wear a mask in enclosed building with members outside their household. The ordinance also applies to those using public transit.

Weigand said in an email explained why he wrote the resolution, "I believe in transparency and believe the taxpayers should be given the information that the health department is using in making these decisions," he said. "This was driven by a desire to have open and good government which is an issue that I am personally passionate about and an issue that many of my constituents have expressed their support for."

For Ripp, it was more about getting answers from PHMDC. "At least for me it was and is to get the Director to speak to the board and answer questions. That makes the resolution effective as she appeared before the board on Thursday and answered questions. Something she hasn't done in months."

"We are simply asking the health department to share with us and the public the data and science that they are reviewing," said Weigand.

After the resolution was drafted and a copy sent to PHMDC, Director Janel Heinrich gave a presentation at the Sept. 9 board of supervisors meeting. The presentation can be accessed at: <https://dane.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9801171&GUID=AC9A1E0B-ED10-4EEC-8248-C53F76D13D53>.

In regard to allowing public input Vice Chair of the Board of Health for Madison & Dane County Kim Whitmore stated in an email, "PHMDC deeply values the input of the community and key stakeholders and works hard to build relationships and engage with partners as much as possible. However, during an emergency situation, taking additional time to gather community input could result in additional harm. The orders are brought forth with thoughtful consideration of data by experienced and knowledgeable public health staff."

See Resolution, page 5

Town Wants Input on Airport Survey

By Kevin Murphy
Times-Tribune

TOWN OF MIDDLETON—The Town of Middleton doesn't want the opinions of its residents living under the busiest flight path at Middleton Municipal Airport-Morey Field to be diluted in an upcoming survey by the opinions offered from residents living much further away.

A Sept. 9 letter from Town of Middleton board supervisors to the City Middleton Common Council members faulted the design which randomly selects recipients that represent the populations of the City of Middleton and the Towns of Middleton and Springfield as a whole "rather than reflecting the opinions of those most directly affected."

The letter went on to state that town residents living west of the airport's main runway bear the brunt of the noise, pollution and safety risk from the approximate 40,000 annual aircraft operations at the airport than the city as a whole while receiving little benefit in return.

The letter questioned the validity of a survey that according to the Town of Middleton board members would give more weight to opinions from residents unaffected by the airport.

The airport survey is in an early stage of development but the opinions to be solicited of an estimated 1,500 residents of the city and the Towns of Middleton and Springfield, will be randomly selected to represent the population of those municipalities plus age and gender characteristics, said Nick Mastronardi, CEO of the Middleton-based Polco survey firm.

"The survey sample will be weighted according to their population. Right now, there is no plan to give additional weight beyond their (respective) population," Mastronardi said Monday.

The city is paying Polco \$28,500 to conduct the survey and compile the results.

See Survey, page 5

Bat Infected with Rabies Found on Sidewalk in Middleton

MIDDLETON—Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC) has identified a rabid bat. The bat was found on a residential sidewalk on Manito Court in the City of Middleton on Sept. 12. At this time, there is no known exposure to people or pets, but the bat was collected and tested as a precaution, and the test for rabies determined that the bat was infected.

Public Health Animal Services staff will be going to the neighborhood and talking to the occupants of the houses in the vicinity of where the bat was found. Anyone who thinks they may have had contact with this bat is asked to call the non-emergency Police and Fire Dispatcher at 608-255-2345 and ask for Animal Services.

"While not all bats carry rabies, it is not uncommon to find a rabid bat in our community," said PHMDC Environmental Health Supervisor John Haus-

beck. "If you find a bat outside that is not acting normally, especially if they're seen during the day or on the ground, don't touch it, call the Animal Services Officer Dispatch right away."

Rabies is a deadly virus spread to people from the saliva of infected animals. After a bite by a rabid animal, the infection moves from the bite wound to the nerve cells, causing a variety of symptoms starting out as fever and body aches, as the virus spreads to the central nervous system.

"August and September is typically peak season when it comes to the number of bats submitted for rabies testing," said Hausbeck. "To date, 15 bats have tested positive for rabies in Wisconsin, this is the 11th in Dane County. Last year, a total of 25 cases were seen statewide and seven bats tested positive in Dane County."

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LOCAL

CXC

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Michelle Phillips, Times-Tribune

A diorama of the Cross Country Outdoor Recreation & Sports Center was on view at a groundbreaking for the facility Sept. 10.

Arts + Literature Laboratory and
Middleton Community Development Authority Present

Middleton
Jazz Fest

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 5-9:30PM

5PM
THE CHERRY PIT

6PM
JESSE SCHAFFER HUWE & MUENCH

8PM
LADIES MUST SWING

STONE HORSE GREEN / DOWNTOWN MIDDLETON

ART LIT LAB

MIDDLETON

JCP
John and Carolyn Peterson
Charitable Foundation, Inc.

MIDDLETON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WORT

Guests at the groundbreaking could view plans for the facility, which will begin with trail construction and adds buildings with indoor facility in later phases. The facility will offer training from youth through advanced athletes. It will also have snowmaking equipment in case none falls from the sky.

Gusev addressed the crowd and stated, “It will provide opportunities to everyone—community centers, public schools and other groups that are interested.” Middleton Alder Kathy Olson, thanked Gusev and said, “We are so excited.”

Assembly Rep. Dianne Heselbein then spoke and reiterated Olsen comments and said she had never cross country skied before saying, “What I would like to do is challenge you to come out here sometime and learn together this winter.”

“This facility is expected to be a major cross country skiing destinations for a big part of Wisconsin,” said Middleton Mayor Gurdip Brar, “It is the tireless efforts of Yuriy Gusev, the cross country skiing board and the membership working with Matt Amundson, Mike Davis and other city staff, which made this happen.”

“This is an outdoor adventure playground for all four seasons,” added Anne Sayers Wisconsin Department of Tourism secretary-designee. She said the center fits in perfectly with

an initiative the department has forged with the Wisconsin DNR and is expected to bring tourists and tourist dollars to the area.

Dan Erdman told the group that the center had been five years in the making and joked that the donation of land by he and his wife, Natalie, was selfish because now they have maintained, Olympic quality trails backing up to their land.

“This is just a first step,” he said of the facility before giving a history of the land.

Erdman said his father purchased 168 acres in the 1960s and is still farmed by a family member of the original owner.

“Just walking out here—the views, the landscapes—it’s just lovely and now we can share it with the public,” he said.

Don Becker, chair of the CXC Foundation, which has managed the project to fundraising and getting it off the ground, said, “The City of Middleton jumped through a lot of hoops to have it happen.”

Becker told the group that although a lot money has been raised for the center, there is still a need for additional donors.

Becker choked up when he added that the center will be here for his grandchildren to enjoy.

Oyvind Solvang, President Central Cross Country Skiing Inc. started by saying, “I’m also hoping this will be here for my grandkids.

“Being Norwegian, I feel closer to home,” he said of the center.

He reminded the group that star power through top quality athletes will help drive the popularity of the facility and said a key part to bringing athletes in is the facility and venue.

“It’s a gathering place—not just a club—but it circles out,” he said.

The initial development phase, which began on Monday, will include an access driveway connecting the Center to US 14 from Schwartz Road, as well as a parking lot and trail development. \$920,000 were secured in donations by CXC Foundation to begin this initial phase.

The next phase will add lighting and snowmaking infrastructure on the 1.2km section of the trail with the goal to make snow this coming winter. Active fundraising campaign is underway with almost half of the funds secured out of the needed \$500,000 goal.

Later phases consist of developing a mountain bike park trail head, mountain bike park, novice mountain bike trails and a building for CXC’s headquarters that will include a training center, restroom and locker room facilities, and equipment rental and retail space.

To learn more about CXC, the Central Cross Country Outdoor Recreation & Sports Center or to donate, visit: cxcskiing.org.

Rally on the Runway Planned

MIDDLETON—The Seventh Annual Rally on the Runway Fundraiser benefiting the Fond Blanc Foundation School in Fond Blanc, Haiti will be held Oct 8, 7-11 p.m. at Capital Flight, located at the Middleton Municipal Airport-Morey Field.

In 2010 an earthquake devastated Haiti and, as a result, the Fond Blanc Orphanage was established. In 2014 the Fond Blanc Foundation was created to further support the children at the orphanage. Haiti once again finds itself in the face of further devastation: the assassination of President Moise

in early July, followed by a 7.2 earthquake in mid-August. More than ever, these events have created crisis-mode, in terms of basic needs for our Haitian friends and family. Education is the only chance these children have to succeed outside the orphanage. Rally on the Runway was created to further support a successful education program at Fond Blanc.

In addition to funding the school, Fond Blanc Foundation aims to help provide basic needs for the village. At just \$166/child, and 600 children to

educate, feed and support, the organization is hoping to raise \$100,000 through community support.

The fundraiser will offer food, beverages and live music for participants. There will be a silent auction and wine pull and a presentation will be given about the fundraiser as well as the foundation. Tickets are \$50 for one or \$75 for a pair.

For more information and to purchase tickets to the event visit: <https://fondblanc.org/rally/>.

School District Offers Drive-Through COVID-19 Testing

MIDDLETON—The Middleton Cross Plains Area School District (MCPASD) is now offering free and convenient drive-through COVID-19 testing options for students and students’ household members. Household members can only be tested if the student is present and getting tested at the same time. Staff members can also get tested, but household members of staff are not included at this time.

Testing Locations
West Middleton Elementary School

Located in the parking lot of 7627 West Mineral Point Rd., Verona

Open Monday through Friday from 3-7 p.m.


Clark Street Community School
Located in the parking lot of

2429 Clark St., Middleton
Open Monday-Friday from 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Park Elementary School
Located in the parking lot of 1209 Park St., Cross Plains
Open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Prior to getting tested, anyone under the age of 18 needs to have a consent form on file with the district. Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to immediately fill out a one-time electronic consent form for each child. You can find the link to the electronic consent form here.


Please see the following document, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iD9ELt4Ghnt7_0be6DdUxtW913a7loPu/view, for instructions on how to get a free MCPASD COVID-19 test.



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