

Wisconsin IN BRIEF

Chase through three counties ends with arrests

Through three southeastern Wisconsin counties has arrested five suspects. Numerous law enforcement agencies chased the white van on Wednesday morning through Milwaukee, Kenosha and Walworth counties.

The van was stopped after running over a guardrail in southern Kenosha County. Officers surrounded the van, drew and ordered the suspects to get out of the van, got face down on the pavement and were taken to jail.

It closed southbound traffic on the Interstate.

Marquette student who fell from balcony improving

Doctors upgraded the medical condition of a Marquette student who fell off a balcony at an off-campus apartment building.

A hospital in Wauwatosa said the 21-year-old man has been upgraded from critical condition to satisfactory condition. Department Deputy Chief Jack Christianson said the man was injured during a railing when it gave away just after 2 a.m.

The hospital has not released the name of the student at his request.

Published reports, the university is investigating along with the Milwaukee Police Department and the Wisconsin State Patrol.

Associated Press

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12th person granted immunity in John Doe

DINESH RAMDE
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — A secret Milwaukee County investigation that has already led to criminal charges against five people close to Gov. Scott Walker took a step forward Wednesday when a judge granted immunity to a 12th witness.

David Halbrooks, a former Milwaukee municipal judge and private attorney, requested and received immunity in the so-called John Doe investigation, according to online court records.

A John Doe investigation is one in which witnesses can be compelled to testify under oath about potential criminal matters. The case is conducted in secrecy, and the only part of a John Doe investigation that is public is the granting of immunity. The proceeding allows witnesses to be subpoenaed, while forbidding them to talk publicly about the case.

Eleven other people, including Walker spokesman Cullen Werwie, were granted immunity between July 2010 and April 2011.

The secret investigation centers on people who served during Walker's time as the Milwaukee County executive before he was elected governor in 2010. Allegations ranging from campaigning on county time to embezzling money from a veterans program have ensnared people close to Walker.

Walker himself hasn't been charged with wrongdoing and has repeatedly said he's cooperating with the investigation. However, he also set up a legal defense fund, a move allowed only for officeholders who have been charged or are under investigation for election or campaign violations.

Walker's campaign recently made public filings that transferred \$60,000 to the fund to pay for attorneys.

The defense fund was set up to become a campaign fund for Walker. The Republican faces a recall election that was sparked by the case and Republicans paid for that effectively ended bargaining rights for public workers.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, the Democrat challenger in the June 5 election, was elected governor last week under circumstances under which he ranged the legal defense fund.

Walker's campaign said that the fund was set up with the guidance of the state board and reiterated that it isn't a target of the investigation.

THIS 'PEEPS PORRIDGE' WAS JUUUUUST RIGHT



"Peeps Porridge" by Patricia Roberson was the winner of the Racine Art Museum's third annual International Peeps Competition. Her creation captured more than 10 percent of museum visitors' votes. The competition drew more than 3,000 visitors to the museum during its three-week run, setting daily attendance records along the way. RAM invited artists of all ages to participate in the only museum competition of this kind in the world. Visitors to RAM enjoyed a riot of electric pastels and a chance to cast their vote for their favorite creative Peeps pieces. This year, every Peeps entry, 65 in total, had a PEEPls Choice vote. Roberson received a Longaberger Peeps basket along with a Racine Art Museum family membership.

Ruud Run 5K Run Fun Walk for May

STURTEVANT
annual Ruud Run and Fun Walk
8:30 a.m. on
May 19.

Registration starts at 7 a.m. on the Racine High School Campus, 1000 W. Washington Ave. Zone opens at 7:30 a.m. The 5K Run & Fun Walk starts at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast is available at 9 a.m. The Kid's Mile starts at 9:45 a.m. The raffle and silent auction will follow.

Fees are \$17 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and young. Registration includes an official T-shirt and a goodie bag. Proceeds from the event will benefit Racine Activities for Children. To register, visit www.ruudrun.com

