

Middle School
Band Concert
Milton Middle School

7:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 27

Milton COURIER

\$1.00

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Milton, Wis.

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The Cabinet



RICK MILLER PHOTO | COURIERNEWS@CHARTER.NET

Trae Leeder of Icon Woodworks shows off a new cabinet in the Milton College Museum in Main Hall. Leeder and alumnus Rob Koch had the cabinet built to display an African tapa cloth, spears and a bow. The cabinet emulates those from the college's original library. See story on page 6.

Residents can become Milton planners at May 27th meeting

By **RICK MILLER**
Associate Editor

Next Thursday night, a meeting will take place at the Seventh Day Baptist Church on plans for the Parkview Drive business district. The 720 E. Madison Avenue location is just one clue that it will not be an ordinary city meeting.

There will not be a traditional "public comment" period at the May 27th meeting. Instead, citizens are invited to take part in virtually all of the proceedings. The special, interactive community meeting is designed to discuss ideas and gather citizen feedback on possible changes that could transform Milton's eastside into a city square.

While there will be future city meetings and presentations that deal with the part of the district being called Goodrich Square, next Thursday's meeting is essentially the golden opportunity for citizens to speak up and take part in change. Intersecting segments of Madison Avenue, Parkview Drive, High Street and Janesville Street form the square.

"We're hoping as many people as possible from the community show up," said Dan Kennelly, associate planner with city planning firm Vandewalle & Associates, Inc.

"It's intended to be a very collaborative and focused design effort, with the idea of looking at this Goodrich Square area, and really trying to come up with key ideas and solutions to help move it forward and make it more than what it is now."

City officials commissioned the \$30,000 study as part of a strategy to revitalize the eastside business district, and also prepare for a post-2014 world when north/south thru traffic will move from Janesville Street to the Highway 26 bypass. It is being paid for with \$15,000 in funds generated by the increased property value in tax incremental financing (TIF) district 8, and a \$15,000 matching grant from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

"It seems like there's both some opportunities that will emerge as a result of the bypass, as well as some challeng-

See **Meeting** page 3

Milton's arbitration case will draw statewide attention

By **DOUG WELCH**
Managing Editor

If the School District of Milton and the Milton Education Association go to arbitration, as it appears the two groups will, the eyes of school districts and teacher's union statewide will be fixed on the outcome.

The district and MEA appear headed for an arbitration hearing to settle differences for a proposed 2009-2011 labor agreement. That hearing could be held as early as next month and could be the first education labor agreement arbitration hearing in the State of Wisconsin in 16 years.

One can bet there will be many interested observers in the hearing, a first of its kind in more than a decade and a half. Milton Schools Superintendent Bernie Nikolay said he expects the hearing will draw interest from around the state.

"We're out front a little bit on this," Nikolay said. "As far as I know, no other district is scheduled for arbitration ahead of us. There will probably be interest in whoever goes first, second or third."

Milton may be among the first school districts in many years to go to arbitra-

tion over a labor agreement but many are likely to soon follow.

Dan Rossmiller, director of government relations for the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, noted that changes in the Qualified Economic Offer law have opened the door once again to arbitration hearings. For the past 16 years, Rossmiller noted, if a school district made the local teacher's union an offer that matched the QEO criteria, the settlement would be imposed on the union.

That's no longer the case. Rossmiller estimated that out of the state's 425 school districts, less than 150 have settled labor agreements.

"With the economy going the way it is, I think you are going to see more of this," Rossmiller said.

"There's going to be a curiosity because we haven't had these."

At the heart of the Milton disagreement is health insurance. The school district's offer to the MEA includes a change in health insurance carriers for the more than 200 union members plus retirees. After reaching an impasse in negotiations in January, the district filed for arbitration. An arbitrator's decision could very well set the tone for comparisons of what

could be considered reasonable health insurance benefit packages being offered by employers.

Bob Butler, an attorney for the WASB, said health insurance issues have been contentious in other districts as well.

"Other districts have made the change," Butler said. "But it's difficult to compare because health insurance is such a regional issue."

Butler also said that in the past two years, many unions have had to settle for less than other years.

"The past couple of years the settlement pattern has come down," Butler said. "A lot of unions have settled for less than what their aspirations were in order to off-set staff reduction."

Butler said many districts have proposed to cut staff due to reductions in the state funding formula, which in turn has forced unions to settle for less in order to save jobs.

An exact date has yet to be set for the hearing but Nikolay said the sides are trying to decide on a June date.

Because the process hasn't been used in Wisconsin in so long, Nikolay and oth-

See **School** page 4

Milton College alum, furniture maker, recreate history

By RICK MILLER
Associate Editor

Thanks to Milton College alumnus Rob Koch and local furniture maker Trae Leeder, a piece of Milton College history has been recreated. After consulting with Milton College Preservation Society director Judy Scheehle, Koch and Leeder decided to manufacture a cabinet that replicates those that were originally in Main Hall.

"I wanted to do something to help the Milton College Preservation Society, and that's really what started all this," said Koch, a resident of Muskego, "I'm not an artisan myself, but I was looking for what I felt could help the organization."

Scheehle explained to Koch and Leeder (as she has to many others) that she has so many artifacts and items in the college museum collection, finding ways to properly display them is a constant challenge. An antique African tapa cloth made from tree bark and a hunter's bow and spears are examples of items collected by college faculty researchers as they traveled the globe, but which have been difficult for Scheehle to display.

"Because of the odd shape of the spears, African wengie wood bow and the tapa cloth, they did not have a proper home," Scheehle said, "It seemed a natural fit to have a talented woodworker like Trae make a cabinet similar to what these items would have been displayed in. I gave him photos of the original 'Cabinet,' and he and Rob collaborated on the rest."

The cabinets Scheehle refers to had quite a legacy at Milton College. Before Whitford Hall was completed in 1906, the school's library and reading room were in Main Hall. The room's walls were lined corner-to-corner with

tall, walnut book cabinets with glass doors.

After the library was moved to Whitford Hall, many of the cabinets remained in their original location, and they became primary display space for faculty treasures or student research items. Eventually, students and staff began referring to the wall of shelves as simply "The Cabinet," and another college tradition was born.

Leeder studied historic photos of the original library cabinets and did the best he could to match the design. He also built it in period, modular style so more units could be added in the future. The finished piece includes an insert designed specifically for holding the bow and spears upright.

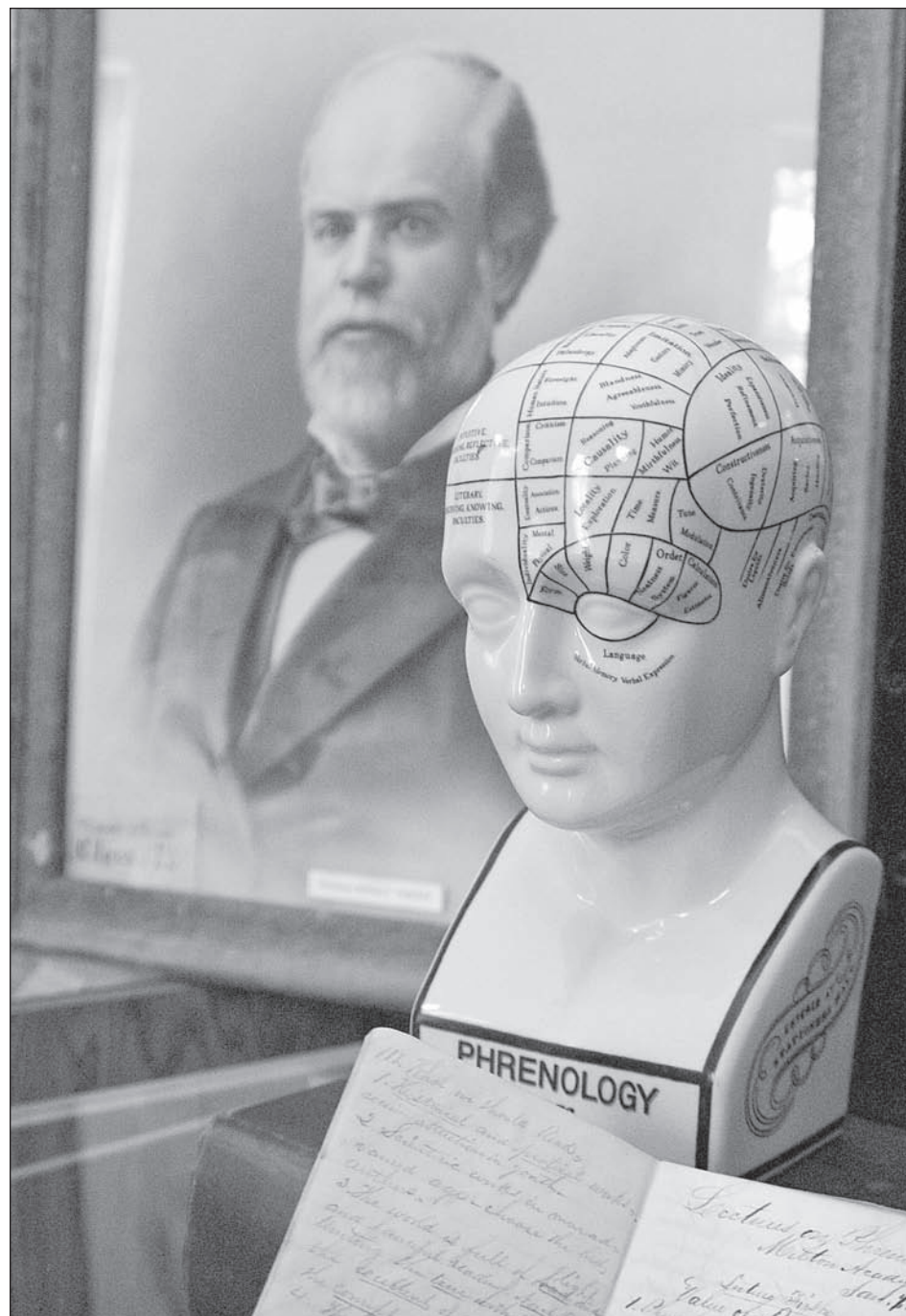
Said Scheehle, "It's a beautiful piece, and the custom cabinet makes a perfect display home for these late 19th century items. I am very pleased with the outcome."

Koch noted that some of the walnut used for the cabinet came from planks rough-cut at the Rock River Threshere in the 1960s.

New exhibits

In addition to the new cabinet in the college museum, Scheehle has gathered items for a new exhibit on phrenology, a formerly popular science that charted the shape of the human skull, and reasoned that different areas represented various human traits. The display includes hand-written lecture notes of college founder Rev. William Whitford dated January 4, 1851, when the school was still Milton Academy.

Founded by German physician Franz Joseph Gall in 1802, phrenology was valued by many scholars of the day, and Whitford's notes show the science was also considered important for self-



RICK MILLER PHOTO | COURIERNEWS@CHARTER.NET

HEAD STUDY - Another new exhibit at the Milton College Museum displays materials that were used in the study of phrenology, a formerly popular science based on the external examination of the human head. The display includes hand-written lecture notes of college founder Rev. William Whitford dated January 4, 1851, when the school was still Milton Academy. A portrait of Whitford is behind the phrenology guide head.

See **College** page 7

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College/Alumni recreate history

Continued from page 6

improvement.

"It improves the moral condition of many," Whitford wrote, "by developing the laws which govern man's moral and religious nature, every feature of morality, every element of right and wrong...and seeds and doctrine of religion."

The added link with Milton is that phrenologists also believed homes should not be square, but have many sides. Joseph Goodrich's 1844 Milton House is six-sided, and pre-eminent phrenologist Orson Fowler visited Milton in 1850.

"I have been fascinated with the 'science' of phrenology since learning of Orson Fowler's visit to Milton in 1850," Scheehle said, "Then to find a 1851 lecture given by President Whitford and more recently discovering two students

at the college that actually had their heads read, I couldn't resist doing an exhibit on it."

Yet another change at the Milton College museum is in the 1940s room, where Scheehle has mounted a six-by-three foot "service board." Constructed in 1944, the eight-paneled board displays the names of students who were serving in World War II, and has a capacity of 400 names.

"We here at Milton are proud of our service board," the Milton College Review student newspaper stated on May 24, 1944, "but prouder still of the people it represents."

The museum in Main Hall is open June through August on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m., or to arrange a tour call (608) 868-2354.

More information on Milton College can be found online at www.miltoncollege.org.

Milton Wins 2010 Census Challenge against Edgerton

Milton won the 2010 Census Mail Participation Rate Challenge against Edgerton with an 85% return rate. Edgerton's return rate was 76%. In compliance with the terms of the competition, Edgerton Mayor Chris Lund will wear a Milton t-shirt to the next Edgerton Council meeting to be held on May 19.

"I'd like to congratulate and thank all the people of Milton for completing and mailing back their census forms and ensuring our community is accurately counted," said Milton Mayor Thomas Chesmore. Edgerton Mayor Chris Lund congratulated the citizens of Milton and reminded citizens from both communities, "Anyone unable to return the census form can still be counted. Please work with the census workers who will

be visiting you shortly to take the count in person."

Beginning this month, census workers will visit in person every residence that did not mail back a completed census form. Census workers will also re-visit every address that was previously classified as vacant or as non-existent to ensure that classification was correct and to take the count in person if the address was misclassified. To count the more transient populations, census workers will visit service-based locations, such as soup kitchens and shelters. Census workers can be identified by a census bag and badge.

For more information visit 2010census.gov or the City of Milton's Census page <http://www.ci.milton.wi.us/2010-Census-Its-In-Our-Hands.aspx>.

Hicke sentenced to life for 2009 murder of his girlfriend

Milton resident Kyle E. Hicke, 38, was sentenced last week to life in prison for the 2009 murder of his girlfriend Erica Ostenson of Janesville. Rock County Circuit Court Judge James Daley sentenced Hicke to life with parole eligibility in 42 years, when he will be 80-years-old.

Hicke, 38, used his father's 38-caliber pistol to shoot Ostenson, 25, multiple times in the chest at point-blank range on the front porch of her Janesville duplex. He beat Ostenson in the face prior to brandishing the handgun.

The April 22, 2009 incident garnered added media coverage because after the shooting, Hicke led police on a high-speed chase from Janesville to Beloit and back to the crime scene. The chase involved about 10 squad cars from Janesville, Rock County, Beloit and Town of Beloit law enforcement agencies.

Hicke committed the murder in front of Ostenson's son Damon, then five-years-old. Assistant District Attorney Kate Buker used the circumstance to argue for life without parole at the May 13 sentencing, saying that the boy "witnessed the most tragic thing that could possibly happen to him."

Buker said that Damon, now 7, has nightmares and is in counseling because of the tragedy. He lives with his grandmother.

In a statement to the court, Hicke tearfully apologized to Damon and the Ostenson family.

"Please, please believe me that I am very sorry," Hicke said.

Hicke was a convicted felon with multiple arrests for domestic disturbances and battery prior to the murder. Area domestic abuse experts and police say nearly all of Hicke's actions match classic cycles of domestic abuse.

Prosecutors and victim advocates refer to domestic violence as a cycle because it repeats, and the ever-present risk of more violence is the dynamic that makes it so difficult for victims to leave abusers. Victims are even less likely to leave an abuser if children are involved because they want to protect them.

Milton's Marlys Howe is the manager of the domestic violence unit in the Dane County district attorney's office. She reports that on average, it will take an abuse victim seven attempts to leave an abuser before they succeed.

The Rock County YWCA offers the following safety planning tips for victims of domestic abuse:

- List names and numbers of friends, relatives, women's shelters, hospitals or other safe places and hide the list.
- Memorize important numbers.
- Keep a set of car and house keys available and out of sight.
- Have extra keys made and give them to someone trustworthy.
- If you leave, try to park your car in places where the abuser won't look for it.
- If your abuser has a set of house keys, change the locks to your home.

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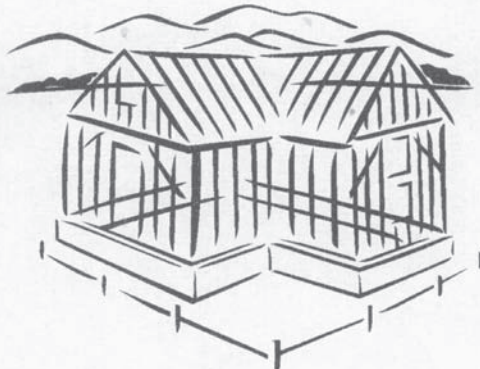
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