

ELECTION 2018 | GOVERNOR'S RACE

Cancer survivors take sides in contest

SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

A two-time cancer survivor and state lawmaker is accusing Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tony Evers of lying when he blames Republican Gov. Scott Walker for rising health care costs, the latest salvo in a battle over who would best look out for people with pre-existing conditions.

A Walker campaign ad featuring state Rep. Mary Felzkowski,



Walker



Evers

R-Irma, was released Thursday, the same day that Walker announced premiums for private market insurance plans sold under the Affordable Care Act are projected to drop an average of 4.2 percent next year.

The argument over the costs of health care has been a central focus of the race between Evers, a survivor of esophageal cancer, and Walker. Both sides have run multiple ads featuring cancer survivors arguing over who would be the better governor.

Evers supports the national health care law, while Walker has tried for years to repeal it. Walker this year signed off on Wisconsin joining a multistate lawsuit that seeks repeal of the law.

Evers argues that the law should remain in place, particularly because it guarantees coverage for people like him with pre-existing conditions. Walker favors enacting a state law to guarantee coverage, but Evers and other critics say those protections would not be as strong as what's afforded under the law known as "Obamacare."

Twice during the campaign, Evers and Walker have released dueling ads featuring cancer survivors.

In September, a Democratic group aligned with Evers ran an ad with a cancer survivor saying she couldn't afford her medicine if Walker succeeded in his yearslong attempt to repeal "Obamacare."

Walker responded with an ad featuring Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, herself a cancer survivor, saying "as long as Scott and I are in office" people with pre-existing conditions will have insurance coverage.

Walker's new ad with Felzkowski comes on the heels of two Evers ads released earlier this week featuring women battling kidney disease and cancer accusing Walker of playing politics with health care.

Polls show health care is a dominant issue for voters this year. It's also played prominently in the U.S. Senate race between Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Republican Leah Vukmir.

In a Marquette University Law School poll of Wisconsin voters released Wednesday, 50 percent said they supported keeping the Affordable Care Act in effect, while 44 percent said they favored repealing it. A large majority, 78 percent, said requiring the coverage of pre-existing conditions was very important. Even among those who wanted to repeal the law, 65 percent said it was very important to require coverage for pre-existing conditions.

At the same time he's fighting the national law, Walker also took steps this year to shore up the private insurance marketplace after enrollment in Wisconsin dropped, fewer providers offered coverage and rates went up 44 percent.

The Legislature, at Walker's urging, passed with bipartisan support a \$200 million reinsurance program that takes effect in 2019. Wisconsin joins

ADAMS COUNTY | CANDIDATE FORUM

Sheriff suspends opponent

Investigator placed on leave over 2001 case

JAKE EKDAHL and CHRISTOPHER JARDINE
Capital Newspapers

Adams County Sheriff's Office investigator and sheriff candidate Brent York has been placed on paid leave as investigators look into inconsistencies in his statements in a 2001 civil case in which York and the then-undersheriff were accused of break-



York

ing a jail inmate's arm. York was placed on leave Wednesday — the same day he participated in a candidate's forum with Sheriff Sam Wollin, whom York is challenging in the Nov. 6 election.

At the forum, York questioned the timing of the decision to put him on leave.

"Today's been a difficult day for me," York said. "I was placed on administrative leave from the Sheriff's Office this afternoon about 2:30 (p.m.) ... I had my lieutenant come to my house, take my badge, my gun, and my car ... from a letter I received from our district attorney yesterday afternoon from a 2001 case I was involved in."

Records requested by the Juneau County Star Tribune show that in the 2001 case, Steven Vosen accused York and

then-Undersheriff Kenneth Bitsky of assaulting him while he was in custody at the Adams County Jail and of covering up the assault with help from then-Sheriff Larry Warren.

Vosen's arm had been broken after he was brought into the jail on charges of disorderly conduct, battery and criminal damage to property, according to the records.

Adams County District

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JOHN HART, STATE JOURNAL

WISCONSIN SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Students from around the region converge Friday for the Wisconsin Science Festival's Discovery Expo at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery on the UW-Madison campus. Helping build a balloon model of a giant carbon nanotube is Mia Boyd (second from right), a sixth-grader from Patrick Marsh Middle School in Sun Prairie. The annual four-day festival, which runs through Sunday, offers hundreds of science-themed activities at dozens of communities across the state. Last year, more than 36,000 people participated in the event.

2,800 citations: Crashes down

Law enforcement keyed on Hwy. 30 from Jan. to June

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A coordinated traffic enforcement effort on Highway 30 in Madison, considered a hot spot for crashes, resulted in significant reductions in crashes and injuries, officials said.

The effort took place from

January through June, on three miles of the highway from East Washington Avenue to the Interstate.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office worked with Madison police and the State Patrol to keep a constant presence on the highway, in a traffic model known as a data-driven approach to crime and traffic safety (DDACTS).

Comparing the data from 2018 to 2017, total crashes were down 12.2 percent, from 98 in 2017 to 86 in 2018; injury crashes were

down 34.4 percent, from 29 in 2017 to 19 in 2018; and total injuries were down 45.9 percent, from 37 in 2017 to 20 in 2018.

No fatalities were reported on the highway the first six months of this year, compared to two fatalities during the same period in 2017.

Those two fatalities were Kirk U'Ren and his wife, Jenni Steiner, killed Feb. 12, 2017, when authorities said a motorist traveling in the opposite direction crossed the median and hit

their car. Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Elise Schaffer said 2,791 citations and 1,634 warnings were issued to drivers during the six-month enforcement.

"The Sheriff's Office will continue to use DDACTS to focus on problematic roads, and through enforcement, work to change driver behavior and reduce crashes," she said.

The model was used in 2017 on Highway 19, with crashes reduced by more than 19 percent.

Robberies up; auto-related crimes drop

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Robberies jumped 100 percent in Madison from last September to this September, but auto thefts and thefts from autos were down, according to data released by Police Chief Mike Koval.

Koval, in his daily blog, said 22 robberies were reported in Madison last month, compared to 11 in September of 2017.

The North and Midtown districts each had six robberies, with four in the East District, three in the South District, two in the Central District and one in the West District.

For the first nine months of

2018, 186 robberies were reported in Madison, an 11 percent increase over the five-year average of 168 robberies through September.

While the West District had the lowest number of robberies, it had the most thefts from autos by far in the six police districts.

There were 88 thefts from autos in September, down three percent from the 91 cases in September 2017.

The West District had 30 thefts from autos, compared to 18 in the Midtown District, 13 in the East District, 10 each in the North and Central districts and seven in the South District.

"Six incidents included some

sort of force being used to enter the vehicle," Koval said. "Thirty-four of the remaining incidents showed no force used, and 23 vehicles were left unlocked when entry was made."

The 884 reports of thefts from autos through September is 12 percent lower than the average of 1,006 reports for the first nine months of the year in the previous four years.

The West District also had the highest number of auto thefts in September at 13, out of 39 stolen autos in the entire city. The East District had 10 stolen cars, the North and South districts five each, four in the Midtown

District and two in the Central District.

The overall September total is 13.3 percent lower than the 45 car thefts in September 2017.

For the year, 295 car thefts have been reported in Madison, a 4.6 percent decrease from the same time frame in 2017, when 282 vehicles were stolen through September.

"Many vehicles were stolen from open garages at night," Koval said. "Of the 39 stolen vehicles, 34 had keys in them and six were unlocked and running at the time of the theft."

Koval said 32 of the 39 stolen vehicles have been recovered.

Man arrested after \$800K in cocaine found



Bartlett

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A man was arrested on tentative charges of possession with intent to deliver for four kilograms of cocaine — with a street value of \$800,000 — that police found in his vehicle, Madison police said.

Edward C. Bartlett II, 29, who has no permanent address, was arrested in a Fitchburg parking lot on King James Way Wednesday by the Dane County Narcotics Task Force, Madison police spokesman Joel DeSpain said.

DeSpain said Bartlett was

in his vehicle when police arrived, and tried to speed away when officers gave him commands.

Bartlett nearly hit an officer and also crashed into an occupied squad car, which law enforcement had used to block him in, DeSpain said.

Bartlett attempted to run

but was caught and arrested, DeSpain said.

Along with the tentative charge of obstruction with intent to deliver, Bartlett also faces possible charges of second-degree reckless endangering safety, resisting and obstructing and a parole violation, DeSpain said.