



English

Other NewsBank Products

[Search History](#) [Saved Articles](#)

Search Results for "LIFE Study" in All Text

Post-Crescent, The

[Edit Search](#) | [New Search](#)

Show Help ▾

[Back To Results](#)

[Previous](#) **Article 16 of 24** [Next](#)

Save this Article

2006 editorial agenda quarterly update

Post-Crescent, The (Appleton, WI) - June 25, 2006

Author: The Post-Crescent, staff

1. Health care costs

With Massachusetts' groundbreaking plan to insure all of its residents by next April as inspiration, health care reform in Wisconsin has a chance to take a nice step forward by paying more attention to several rough, workable plans to provide health coverage across the state. Also noteworthy was the 20th anniversary of ThedaStar, ThedaCare's medical helicopter that has saved countless lives in the Valley. But we've still got a long way to go, as evidenced by the top response to a lobbying group's survey of state CEOs on the top business concern facing their companies: health care.

2. Economic development

A study conducted every five years on the quality of life and positives and negatives of the area was just released, offering a blueprint for improving the Valley and, in turn, making it more attractive for employers. Also, a variety of large events in the area this summer are drawing tens of thousands of people and millions in tourist dollars. However, statewide, concerns abound. A recent poll found business leaders worried about finding skilled workers and large firms still complain that Wisconsin's business climate is unfriendly, from high taxes to a lack of government incentives as the manufacturing base continues to erode.

3. Fiscal responsibility

The Taxpayer Protection Amendment, a successor to the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, died in early May, which is good news. Though TPA was a misguided answer, the state budget picture remains a big concern. State Sen. Mike Ellis, R-Neenah, (left) and Sen. Robert Cowles, R-Green Bay, note the projected \$2.6 billion structural deficit in the next biennial budget as a result of poor practices in assembling the current one. In the Fox Cities, a controversy regarding Appleton's purchase of a fire truck revealed a surprising clash between hard numbers and the appreciation of local business.

4. Education

The Weyauwega-Fremont school district's woes have quieted, but after a failed referendum, animosity remains. That should be ironed out so the board can focus on its mission: to educate children as best it can. The Appleton Area School District may face a tough decision in the future on a booster club plan to build a football stadium that would require millions in district funds. On the bright side, local schools stayed off the annual No Child Left Behind failure list, and a national plan to limit soda and sugar-based drinks in schools merely caught up to what some local districts were already doing.

5. Energy

As it becomes more and more apparent that government leaders can't or won't perform some legislative magic to keep the price of gasoline down, consumers are taking things into their own hands, whether it's purchasing a hybrid vehicle or finding alternative ways of getting around. Wisconsin is trying to ride the wave of ethanol as it becomes more popular. The looming problem, however, still remains how increasing energy costs will affect consumer prices on just about everything, as well as the state's lucrative tourism

0 Saved Articles
 this article

[Email](#)

[Bibliography \(export\)](#)

[Print](#)

Quick Links

[Find articles by The Post-](#)

[Crescent, staff](#)

[Find more articles from page](#)

[12C](#)

[Find more from section "Views"](#)

[Find all articles from June 25,](#)

[2006](#)

industry, which is hitting its peak summer season.

6. Government accountability

There's an uproar in Grand Chute, as some town board members are going against what a committee recommended and citizens voted on at the annual meeting in regard to the members' compensation. At the state level, the conviction of Department of Administration employee Georgia Thompson on corruption charges involving the awarding of state contracts is being used by political opponents of Gov. Jim Doyle as an example of what's wrong with Doyle's administration. And the state Assembly wrongly killed a bill that would have strengthened ethics enforcement in state government.

7. Working poor

There sure isn't much good news for the working poor in our area. As the Fox Cities quality-of- **life study** showed, helping the growing low-income population in our area will be a significant challenge. Health care, day care and government services intended to help the poor have become more difficult to obtain. The financial struggles facing the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley are another obstacle for those looking to pull themselves up. Our communities will have to decide how important it is to help those who need a hand.

8. Civic involvement

A spirited campaign by both sides of the Appleton smoking ban brought out voters who wanted to weigh in on a referendum to revise the ban. Other areas had key votes on school issues and contested local races. Looking ahead, it's good to see that many state legislative races in our area will be contested, some for the first time in a long time. And on a host of issues large and small, people are becoming informed, getting involved and making their voices heard to those who represent them. That's great to see.

9. Environment

An audit of the state Department of Natural Resources' Fish and Wildlife Account showed that it's spending more money than it's taking in. It's an issue that plays right into the hands of the DNR's critics in the Legislature, but it's a problem that the agency certainly has to monitor. And, with the return of warm weather, the dredging of PCBs from the Fox River continues, as does the debate about what to do with them.

10. Community

The immigration issue has been in the forefront of national debate recently, so it has been a topic of debate in the Fox Cities, too. Debate is OK. Divisiveness and hostility is not. And, as the quality-of- **life study** noted, we have a lot to be happy about here, but we face many challenges to maintain that high quality.

Section: Views

Page: 12C

Correction: *The Weyauwega-Fremont school district did not have a referendum vote in April, as the editorial board agenda update mistakenly stated. Correction ran on page C-6, Tues., June 27, 2006.*

Record Number: app23058325

Copyright (c) The Post-Crescent. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.

To bookmark this article, right-click on the link below, and copy the link location:

[2006 editorial agenda quarterly update](#)

[Back To Results](#)

[Previous](#) **Article 16 of 24** [Next](#)