

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congress needs to act

To the editor:

Last month The Associated Press reported that the Justice Department has settled pardoned criminal Michael Flynn's lawsuit for roughly \$1.2 million. This, after he pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

Late last year, the U.S. Senate passed a bill, signed into law, that permits senators to sue for \$500,000 if their phone data was sought or obtained without them being notified. The measure, retroactive to 2022, was part of the bill used to end the 43-day shutdown, The Hill reported. (This provision was inserted because the FBI had examined the length of some phone calls made and the numbers called from Jan. 4 to Jan. 7, 2021, before, during and after the Jan. 6 riots. No content was recorded; these weren't "tapped" conversations.) Our Senator Johnson and our Representative Fitzgerald voted for this law allowing senators to sue the federal government.

The president has filed two claims against the government: one for \$230 million claiming compensation due him for the investigation of his mishandling of classified documents, and one for \$10 billion claiming amounts due him for a leak of his tax returns years ago which he alleges damaged his reputation. Previously, the government refused to pay damages for such claims but now is discussing settlement with him. \$10 billion equals about 2/3 of the IRS annual budget.

In March, I contacted our congressman to indicate my concern about these matters, and about Congress' lack of oversight of the executive branch. His office responded by indicating it will look into it.

So Congress permits, without over-

sight, the administration to receive foreign gifts and favors, impound funds, run up huge deficits, conduct foreign military action, gut federal agencies, destroy buildings, and conduct self-dealing settlements, all while the administration refuses to enforce the Epstein disclosure law and bashes judges and foreign allies.

Unbelievable! Congress needs to act!

Robert Storm
Summit

Celebrate libraries and library professionals

To the editor:

This week is National Library Week, a time to celebrate the valuable role libraries and library professionals play in our community. The theme this year, "Find Your Joy," has led me to reflect on what brings me joy about our library and the services we provide. I'm very proud of the work we do here, and one of my greatest joys is sharing the meaningful impact that Waukesha Public Library has on the community.

Take a look at how the library makes Waukesha a better place to live and learn:

■ **Access:** The library loaned more than 1 million physical and digital items last year, connecting readers, learners, and families with the resources they rely on and enjoy.

■ **A vibrant, welcoming place:** The library welcomed 311,246 visitors into a space designed for studying, gathering, and finding inspiration.

■ **Programs that matter:** More than 48,000 people took part in library programs, from early literacy storytimes for our youngest users to Memory Cafés for those living with

dementia and their caregivers.

■ **Studio 321 success:** The library's Makerspace continues to thrive as a center for innovation and hands-on learning. With tools like 3D printers, a Glowforge laser cutter, recording studios, sewing machines, and art supplies, it welcomed 5,998 visitors last year.

Waukesha Public Library is fortunate to have a professional, dedicated, and welcoming staff, along with strong support from our Friends group and the community. I'm grateful to everyone who helps make the library such a remarkable place.

If you haven't visited the library in a while, now is the perfect time to come back. Stop in to explore the 23,421 new items we added to our collections last year. If you don't have a library card, we'd love to get you signed up! Take advantage of our Explore Passes to visit a local attraction, explore the Seed Library and plant something new in your garden, and don't forget that the Summer Library Program starts June 1. I hope you'll stop by and experience all the library has to offer.

Bruce Gay
Director
Waukesha Public Library

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