

**SPORTS**

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PAGE A7



S7 672  
B32



# Shawano Leader

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## Group: Government pensions out of control

### System unsustainable, taxpayer group says

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Pensions for city, county and school district leaders are too high, according to a Chicago-based taxpayer group, and if action isn't taken at the local, state and national levels, the pension system could collapse.

Taxpayers United of America, headed by Shawano resident Jim Tobin, released the salary and pension information for top officials in the city of Shawano, Shawano County and county school districts Wednesday, following several months of open record requests.

Wisconsin is one of the first states TUA is looking at in what it hopes will be a national effort to cut the glut from government.

"If more money isn't paid into the pension system, it's going to collapse, and we don't want that," said Virginia Tobin, TUA vice president and daughter

of Jim Tobin. "We don't want to see thousands of teachers have no employment, have no jobs. We want to create a system that is sustainable."

The average personal income for Shawano County residents is about \$28,000, Virginia Tobin said, and the median home value is about \$123,000. Top area officials make \$100,000 or more

just in salary, she said, with fringe benefits going even higher.

Shawano School District Superintendent Todd Carlson receives more than \$170,000 in salary and fringe benefits combined. TUA estimates he will receive \$115,594 annually from his pension and Social Security, with an expected payout of more than \$2.4 million over 21

years.

Recently retired Shawano City Administrator Jim Stadler earned \$99,450 in his last year of work. He is estimated to receive just shy of \$2 million in retirement over 21 years.

"We actually estimated things on the lower end, just to be on the safe side,"

SEE PENSIONS, A2

