



**MOBILITY, STRENGTH:** Mariah Lohff opened a new studio, Pilates Reformed, in Whitewater recently. Her goal is to help people of all ages, strengths and mobility levels, including women who are pregnant. – **Section 2**

**SENIOR TRAVEL:** The Senior Travel Club of Walworth County will meet Friday, March 7, at 10 a.m. at Como Community Church, W3901 Palmer Rd., Lake Geneva. Sign up for trips, coffee, donuts and spend some time socializing starting at 9:15 a.m.

Upcoming trips include:

- March 29, “Beautiful Noise” at the Marcus Center, Milwaukee.
- April 30, “Million Dollar Quartet” at the Milwaukee Rep.

For more information, call 480-463-6782.

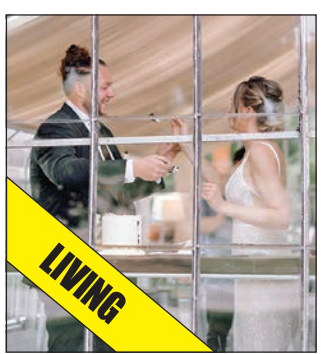
**BIRD BRAINS:** The Lakeland Audubon Society will meet Tuesday, Feb. 25, at the Lions Field House, 270 Elkhorn Rd., Williams Bay, at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The guest speaker will be Jeff Bahls, who has more than 40 years experience with Horicon Marsh, where he works part-time for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He is the current president of the Horicon Marsh Bird Club.

**AUDITIONS:** The Lakeland Players will hold auditions for the musical “Once Upon a Mattress” March 2 at 3 p.m. and March 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the historic Sprague Theatre, 15 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. More information can be found at Lakeland-Players.org or by emailing the director at nikki2@gmail.com.

**DEATHS:** The following local death notices appear inside:

- CAROL J. FERDINAND, 73
- K. HILARY FORD, 93
- GEORGE J. GALLAGHER, 73
- TOM E. HARMON, 63
- JAMES S. MINARICK, 67
- LAUREN ANN THOMAS, 64

– **Page 5**



**UNIQUE VENUE:** Boxed and Burlap, Delavan, is a unique wedding venue featuring a large barn as well as outdoor sites, offering couples plenty of options for celebrating their big day. – **Section 2**

*the Delavan Enterprise*

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# the Delavan Enterprise

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## Delavan-Darien Pyszora named All-Star coach



Delavan-Darien High School boys basketball head coach Todd Pyszora speaks with player Caden Duckworth (10) during a recent game. Pyszora was named one of the head coaches for the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Games this June.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Southern Lakes Newspapers

Delavan-Darien High School boys basketball coach Todd Pyszora has been picked as one of the head coaches for the Division 2 Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association All-Star games in June.

Pyszora received official notification from the WBCA on Jan. 31, and will take on the coaching role at Just A Game Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells on Thursday, June 26.

“This recognition is a remarkable achievement and a testament to Pyszora’s dedication, leadership, and lasting impact on the basketball program and the Delavan-Darien community,” the district wrote in a news release. “His selection as an All-Star Game Head Coach highlights the tireless commitment and passion he brings to the sport and the mentorship he provides to student-athletes.

“The district is immensely proud to have him represent Delavan-Darien on this distinguished platform.”

Pyszora said it was one of the “top three honors” he’s gotten in his coaching career.

“Being recognized by the WBCA Hall of Fame for my 35 years of coaching basketball was a huge honor, and now being selected as one of the Head Coaches for the Division 2 WBCA All-Star Game is another,” he said. “However, my greatest honor has been serving as the head coach for Waukesha West, West Bend West and Delavan-Darien.

“To be entrusted to lead these programs and work with incredible student-athletes has been the highlight of my career.”

Pyszora also expressed deep gratitude to those who have supported him throughout his coaching journey.

“I cannot thank everyone enough – administrators, coaches, teachers, players, parents, and community members – who have been part of this journey,” he said. “Coaching is about more than just the game; it’s about mentoring young athletes and preparing them for their next adventure in life.”

He specifically named DDHS Principal Jim Karedes and retired DDHS Athletic Director Guy Otter for giving him the opportunity to coach at the high school.

“I am incredibly honored to serve as the head coach of Comet Basketball, and I take great pride in continuing to build a strong program,” Pyszora said. “This All-Star selection is a direct result of the hard work and effort put in by everyone involved. I’m excited to represent the school district of

See **COACH**, Back Page

## New fundraiser for football program approved

By Michael S. Hoey  
CORRESPONDENT

The Delavan-Darien School Board approved a new fundraiser for the football program on Feb. 10.

The new fundraising card could eventually replace the Comet Card as a football fundraiser.

Coach Mark Kibler made the request to the board in an attempt to raise more for the program. Kibler said the program raised about \$11,000 this year and needs anywhere from \$15,000-\$20,000. He said the Booster Club will help make up the difference this year. Kibler did not outline what the needs are for the fundraising.

Kibler said Comet Cards, which provide discounts at local businesses, brought in about \$8,000 this year. As a new coach, Kibler admitted he got off to a late start with that program but also said he had some challenges with it because some businesses were upset no one had been around to them in the last couple of years.

See **FUNDRAISER**, Back Page

## Walworth County Clerk warns of jury duty scam

Walworth County Clerk of Circuit Court Michele Jacobs is alerting residents about a telephone scam that recently defrauded a local woman of \$2,000.

The woman reported that she was contacted by an individual claiming to be a Walworth County Sheriff’s Deputy.

The woman’s age was not revealed, and Walworth County Communications Manager Jenny Quill cautioned that people of all ages can fall victim to these scams.

The caller falsely stated that she had failed to report for jury service and needed to pay a \$2,000 fine immediately to avoid arrest. The scammers then instructed her to wire them money. After she complied, they called again, claiming they spoke with the clerk, confirmed that her fine had increased, and demanded additional funds.

“These calls are fraudulent and should be ignored,” said Jacobs. “The Clerk of Circuit Court’s office

See **SCAM**, Back Page



Above: Delavan-Darien’s Joe Ketterhagen wrestles his way to a title at 138 pounds Saturday at the WIAA Division 2 Wrestling Regional at Delavan-Darien High School. Below: Ketterhagen is shown after winning the finals match in his weight class.

BOB MISCHKA Southern Lakes Newspapers

## Area teams sending wrestlers to sectionals

No local qualifiers for team championship race, however

By Jennifer Eisenbart  
EDITOR

How close was it at the top of the leaderboard Saturday at the WIAA Division 2 wrestling sectional held at Delavan-Darien High School?

Rock Valley Conference champion Jefferson was almost unseated in a bid to make it to state as a team.

The Eagles eked out the team victory at the regional with 220.5, just edging the host Comets, who scored 213 points.

Whitewater, which has qualified for team sectionals the last two years, finished fourth with 167 points, while East Troy was fifth (148) and Big Foot/Williams Bay eighth (117).

The girls regional was held separately at Mukwonago Feb. 14, with several area teams advancing.

The top four wrestlers in each weight class advance to this weekend’s sectional meets, where the top two individuals will move on to state.

The WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament will take place Feb. 27 through March 1 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

**Delavan-Darien**

The Comets had 10 of its wrestlers finish in the top six in their weight classes at the meet, with Joe Ketterhagen and Dylan Beighton bringing home the titles at 138 and 215 pounds, respectively.

Ketterhagen had a first-round bye, then had a pin and a major decision to reach the final. There, he earned a 9-4 decision over Fernando Marquina of Catholic Memorial.

After a bye in the first round, Beighton picked up a pair of pins in the quarterfinals and semifinals.

It took less than a period for Beighton to secure the regional crown, as he pinned Thomas Cassady of Lake Mills in 1 minute, 54 seconds.

Three other wrestlers made their respective finals



for the Comets and finished second – Jacob Huff at 157, Brody Nichols at 175 and John Fusco at 190.

Huff bounced back after finishing third at the RVC meet. He reached the final with a pin and a tech fall before being pinned in the first-place match, but came back to earn a 15-4 major decision over Mason Wollin of Lake Mills for second.

Nichols, meanwhile, had a bye before winning by major decision and fall to reach the final. In the

See **WRESTLERS**, Back Page



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# CRIME/COURTS

## Court news

# Drug enforcement busts crack house in Lyons

A known crack dealer is facing multiple new drug charges after a local drug investigation led to a search warrant for a Town of Lyons home.



Megan Werlein

Megan S. Werlein, 27, of Lyons, is charged with three counts of manufacturing/delivering between five and 15 grams of cocaine; possession of methamphetamine; maintaining a drug trafficking place; five counts of felony bail jumping; and possession of drug paraphernalia.

She is scheduled to make her initial appearance in Walworth County Circuit Court Feb. 26.

According to the criminal complaint, the Walworth County Drug Enforcement Unit conducted three controlled drug purchases from Werlein using a confidential informant, before a search warrant was executed on her home.

On Dec. 23, the informant purchased 7.22 grams of cocaine from Werlein at her 1413 Park Street home in the Town of Lyons.

On Jan. 1, the informant purchased 6.95 grams of cocaine from her at the same residence, and on Jan. 10, the informant purchased 6.99 grams from her in the City of Lake Geneva.

On Jan. 31, a search warrant was executed at the Town of Lyons home, where law enforcement uncovered 35 doses of LSD, various items of paraphernalia including a scale with cocaine residue, baking soda – which is used to convert powder cocaine into crack cocaine – multiple drug pipes, sandwich baggies, .82 grams of methamphetamine and a butane torch.

Inside Werlein's room, a mounted locked box was located with a hand-written ledger which included "fronts," or money owed, and four bundles of money totaling \$1,808. Inside her purse, \$118 was located. She is unemployed, the complaint states.

Werlein was arrested on April 10 and May 30, 2024, for possession with intent to deliver more than 40 grams of cocaine. She was released on bond on Oct. 7 and ordered not to possess illegal drugs or commit any new crimes.

If convicted of all 10 felonies in the most recent case, she faces up to 82 years in

prison and \$220,000 in fines.

### Adoptive father faces incest, sexual assault charges

An East Troy man is facing multiple felony charges in connection with the alleged sexual abuse of his cognitively disabled daughter.

The man is not being named to protect the identity of the victim.

An adjourned initial appearance was scheduled Wednesday in Walworth County Circuit Court for the 58-year-old man who is charged with six Class C felonies – three counts of incest with a child and three counts of second-degree sexual assault of a mentally ill victim.

According to the criminal complaint, on Feb. 4 a forensic-interview took place with a 26-year-old woman who has impaired cognitive abilities.

She described being sexually assaulted by her adoptive father at their Town of Troy home. She described the abuse beginning when she was 14 her old and continuing into her 20s.

She said the abuse would take place every time he would help her in the bath, inside of their barn multiple times and once in August of

2024 on a car ride home, after dropping someone off at a train station.

On Feb. 5, a sheriff's detective interviewed the man, who admitted to having sexual contact with the woman, inside their home. He stated the sexual abuse took place 10 years ago and continued for about six months and eventually ended.

He said the sexual abuse started again between July 2023 and September 2024 in different areas of the home and in the barn on the property.

If convicted, the man faces up to 40 years in prison and \$100,000 in fines for each of the Class C counts.

### Drunken driver nearly strikes off-duty officer with vehicle

A preliminary hearing is scheduled Friday in Walworth County Circuit Court for a Lake Geneva man accused of nearly striking an off-duty officer with a vehicle before crashing it, then spitting on arresting officers.



Miguel Angel Bolanos

Miguel Angel Bolanos, 19, is charged with second-degree recklessly endangering safety; three counts of discharging bodily fluids at a public safety worker; resisting arrest; possession of THC; and disorderly conduct.

According to the criminal

complaint, on Jan. 30 at 4:49 p.m., Bloomfield police were called to Overlook Drive for a report of a reckless driver.

On arrival, police located a vehicle crashed in the bushes near a residence east of Daisy Drive. An off-duty Lake Geneva police officer was holding Bolanos down, who was yelling, "I was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Bolanos showed signs of impairment and stated he drank nearly an entire bottle of Hennessy.

The off-duty officer reported that he was walking on Breckenridge Street when he saw Bolanos speeding, fishtail then lose control of the vehicle. He ran up to the vehicle, while Bolanos was revving the engine, and attempted to open the locked door. The off-duty officer reported that Bolanos looked right at him, stepped on the gas, and steered toward him, nearly striking him with the vehicle. He said he was in the process of calling 911, when he heard Bolanos crash again.

Bolanos was taken into custody and placed in a squad car, where he was thrashing, yelling and cursing. As a deputy attempted to calm him, Bolanos spit on the deputy.

Later, while being transported to Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, Bolanos continued to yell and curse, then spit on two other officers.

During a search, police located a THC vaping device on Bolanos.

If convicted of the four felonies, he faces up to 21 years in prison and \$55,000 in fines.

### Illinois man threatens snowboarder with a boxcutter

An adjourned initial appearance is schedule Feb. 24 for an Illinois man accused of holding a boxcutter to someone's neck.

Macgregor W. Hellyer, 18, of Marengo, is charged with second-degree recklessly endangering safety with use of a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct.

According to the criminal complaint, sheriff's deputies were called to Alpine Valley Resort in the Town of Lafayette Feb. 1 for a disorderly conduct report.

When deputies arrived, Hellyer stated he had a verbal altercation with other patrons because he said he was joking about a snowboarder who fell.

Witnesses reported that Hellyer told someone to "watch where the (expletive) you're going," and stated he had a "pipe" on him, which is slang for a firearm. Witnesses further stated the group continued to argue and Hellyer held a boxcutter up to another patron's neck.

Hellyer admitted to having a boxcutter and bringing it up to the patron's neck, but stated he never touched it to the person's neck.

If convicted of the Class G felony, Hellyer faces up to 10 years in prison and \$25,000 in fines.



Macgregor W. Hellyer

## Court blotter

The following people were charged with these Class H and I felony offenses in Walworth County Circuit Court between Jan. 28 and Feb. 11:

### Class H

Class H, punishable by up to six years in prison and \$10,000 in fines:

### Bail jumping

- Shanon P. Newman, 52, of Eagle, felony bail jumping. According to the criminal complaint, Newman got into a drunken crash Feb. 6 on Green Lake Drive in the Town of LaGrange Oct. 11, 2024, at 2:40 a.m.

Newman was out on bond in Waukesha County since Oct. 11 for felony retail theft and was ordered not to commit any new crimes.

- Thomas J. Terry, 53, of New Berlin; two counts of felony bail jumping and two counts of misdemeanor retail theft.

According to the criminal complaint, on Feb. 7 Terry was arrested at Fleet Farm in Delavan for stealing from the store.

He was also suspected of two other thefts at the store, which were caught on video. One of the thefts took place on Sept. 21, 2024, which showed him take a \$99 Milwaukee search light and a \$249 Milwaukee power tool battery. The video showed Terry take the items out of their original packaging then conceal them before leaving the store.

On Dec. 19, he was recorded taking a Milwaukee vehicle charger and battery, valued at \$328. In that theft, he also took them from their original packaging before concealing them and leaving the store.

He was out on bond in Milwaukee County since Aug. 23 for possession of narcotic drugs and was ordered not to commit any new crimes.

### Fleeing

- Todd Palmer Peterson, 61, of Salem; attempting to flee or elude an officer.

According to the criminal complaint, on Feb. 1, a Lake Geneva police sergeant attempted to pull Peterson over, who was operating a UTV on South Lakeshore Drive.

Rather than pull over for the fully-marked squad, he turned onto Maytag Road, then made an evasive maneuver and turned off the roadway and

onto the lawn of a lake estate before slowing and stopping.

When the sergeant exited his squad, Peterson continued almost half a mile to 1172 S. Lakeshore Dr., where he keeps the UTV in storage for the winter. When he was taken into custody, Peterson was physically resistant.

- Raeqwon Deonte Lemar Greer, 23, of Beloit; attempting to flee, or elude, an officer.

According to the criminal complaint, on Jan. 17, a sheriff's deputy attempted to pull Greer over on Interstate 43, near Old 89 Road in the Town of Darien.

Greer continued and exited State Highway 14, disregarded a stop sign, continued through the intersection and re-entered the interstate, leading the deputy on a two-mile chase that reached 100 miles per hour.

The chase ended at 425 Turtle Creek Dr.

### Identity theft

- Jaykim L. Wilder, 36, of Milwaukee, identity theft for financial gain, two counts of identity theft as party to a crime, misdemeanor theft as party to a crime and criminal damage to property as party to a crime, all as a repeater.

According to the criminal complaint, on Sept. 23, sheriff's deputies were called to Nordic Park in the Town of LaGrange for a report from a hiker that someone smashed her car window and stole her purse with credit cards while she was on the trail.

She said that while she was hiking, an alert came to her from her banks stating there was fraudulent use of her credit cards at Walmart in Whitewater. The Kettle Moraine park ranger confirmed to police there were similar incidents in the area and the suspects were driving a black Jaguar.

Video footage at Walmart showed Wilder and another man arrive in a black Jaguar, enter Walmart together, approach self-checkouts and attempt to purchase gift cards totaling \$620.64 and \$722.24, respectively, then leave the store.

Wilder also scanned a gift card for \$504.94 then attempted to make more transactions for gift cards but was denied. Wilder left Walmart and attempted to make transactions at Walgreens and Casey's but was denied.

On his Facebook page, Wilder posted a photo of himself in the same clothing as what he was captured wearing on video at the time of the crimes and he was standing next to the suspected Jaguar.

Wilder was convicted of identity theft in Sheboygan County for a similar crime that took place on Sept. 16, 2021, and was convicted of robbery with use of force in Milwaukee County on Feb. 20, 2018, making him a repeat offender.

### Possession of an electric weapon

- Francisco D. Morales, 38, of Woodstock, Illinois; possession of an electric weapon, possession of THC – second and subsequent offense.

According to the criminal complaint, on Jan. 13, a sheriff's deputy pulled over a vehicle for speeding on Interstate 43 in the Town of Geneva and smelled marijuana. Morales was the passenger.

A search of the vehicle produced THC wax and a stun gun. Morales admitted the wax and stun gun – with no permit – belonged to him. He was convicted of possession of controlled substance Sept. 22, 2008, in McHenry County, making him a repeat offender.

### Class I

Class I, punishable by up to 3-1/2 years in prison and \$10,000 in fines:

### Drugs

- Ethan Drew Ehrhardt, 26, of Elkhorn; possession of THC, second and subsequent offense; carrying a concealed knife, and misdemeanor bail jumping.

According to the criminal complaint, on Jan. 18, a sheriff's deputy pulled over a vehicle on Highway 12 in the Village of Bloomfield for a taillight out and a dragging exhaust pipe. Ehrhardt was the passenger.

The driver consented to a search of the vehicle and police located a small amount of marijuana on the passenger side and a pocketknife.

Ehrhardt was convicted in Walworth County of felony bail jumping on June 15, 2023, and possession of THC on Jan. 4, 2019. He was out on bond since Dec. 12, 2024, for misdemeanor disorderly conduct and was ordered not to commit any new crimes.

## Trial set for defendant in Louis Vuitton handbag heist

A Lake Geneva man accused of driving the getaway car in an armed robbery for a designer handbag will head to trial in Walworth County Circuit Court.

Kohl A. Lohmeyer, 19, pled not guilty during his July 15 arraignment to armed robbery – as a party to a crime.

During his motion hearing last week, a June 9 jury trial was set, with a May 28 final pre-trial.

According to the criminal complaint, Lake Geneva police received a report from a man on June 12, 2024 who claimed to have been robbed at Walmart. The man told police he met a man, later identified as Logan T. Butler, to sell him a Louis Vuitton handbag for \$600.

At Walmart, their meetup location, Butler suggested going into the bathroom to do the transaction to avoid flashing a large amount of cash. Butler was with another man who was unidentified in the criminal complaint.

In the bathroom, Butler provided \$60 to the man. The man asked Butler for the



Kohl A. Lohmeyer

remaining amount. Butler then lifted his shorts and brandished what appeared to be a firearm. Butler then took the handbag and he and his friend ran out of the store.

On June 20, a detective spoke with Butler, who admitted to being involved in the armed robbery. He said he met the man on Snapchat and arranged to sell him two guns for \$1,000. He said that man did not have enough money so Butler agreed to take the Louis Vuitton bag and some cash in exchange for the two guns.

Butler said he walked into the bathroom with the man and realized the handbag was fake, so he ran out of the bathroom without giving the man a gun.

Lohmeyer was reportedly communicating with the victim on Snapchat and drove Butler to an alley where he parked behind the store. Lohmeyer admitted that he picked up the men from their houses and said he knew "what was going on."

For his role, Butler pleaded guilty to armed robbery and on Oct. 17 was sentenced to eight years of probation and one year in jail.

Lohmeyer is facing 40 years in prison and \$100,000 in fines for the Class C felony.

## Delavan man speeds through town with pocket full of drugs

A preliminary hearing is scheduled Feb. 20 in Racine County Circuit Court for a Delavan man facing several drug charges.



Zakury Ryan Piantino

Zakury Ryan Piantino, 23, is charged with two felonies – possession of narcotic drugs and possession of THC, second and subsequent offense; and misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance – all as a repeat offender.

According to the criminal complaint, a sheriff's deputy pulled Piantino over on Pine

Street in Burlington at 11:13 p.m. on Feb. 9 for driving 94 miles per hour, where the speed limit is 55 mph.

Piantino appeared to be nervous, was fidgeting, talking a lot, and repeatedly asked if he was "good to go." He also exited the vehicle while several times during the exchange and was directed back into the vehicle by the deputy.

The deputy smelled the faint odor of marijuana, so he conducted a search of Piantino's Toyota Camry.

The deputy located 21 grams of marijuana and two oxycodone pills inside the vehicle, as well as \$1,128 in cash.

Inside the squad car, Piantino stated he could feel something in his pocket and that it was Xanax. Once they arrived at the law enforcement center, more Xanax pills were located inside Piantino's jacket. He had a total of 31 Xanax pills in his pockets.

If convicted of all three drug charges, Piantino faces up to seven years in prison and \$20,500 in fines.

## Four-time drunken driver says he consumed 'two tall cans'

A preliminary hearing is scheduled Feb. 27 in Racine County Circuit Court for a Racine man facing his fourth drunken driving charge.

Edgar Garcia, 39, is charged with operating while under the influence, fourth offense, a Class H felony.

According to the criminal complaint, a sheriff's deputy pulled Garcia over on State Highway 45, just north of 58th Road in the Village of Yorkville on Feb. 7 for driving with a suspended license.



Edgar Garcia

Garcia showed signs of impairment, including glassy eyes and slurred speech. He denied consuming alcohol or drugs that day.

He failed field sobriety tests and refused to take a preliminary breath test.

He was transported to a nearby hospital for an evidentiary chemical test of his blood with results pending. He later admitted to drinking "two tall cans" of Mike's Hard.

He was previously convicted of operating while intoxicated in 2008, 2009 and 2013, the report states.

If convicted of the latest charge, Garcia faces up to six years in prison and \$10,000 in fines.



**RON & DEBBIE HELD  
WILL CELEBRATE  
50 YEARS  
OF MARRIAGE  
FEBRUARY 22, 2025**



**Proud retired parents of our two daughters and grandparents of three girls and one boy.**  
Ron, a graduate of Triton College Radiography and University Illinois Chicago Bachelors Management and Deb Held (Cremont) a graduate of East Leyden High School and Niles Beauty School Cosmetology Diploma license.



# COUNTY

## Happy Valentine's Day

Students in Ms. Williams' 3rd grade class at Darien Elementary School got creative in putting together Valentine's Day boxes last week. Among the creations was Charlotte Welch's giant Starbucks mug.

SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Southern Lakes Newspapers/  
Rock Valley Publishing



## Town looking to replace staff

By Michael S. Hoey  
CORRESPONDENT

The Town of Delavan board discussed taking steps to replace two staff members on Feb. 11. Town Attorney Rich Scholze will be retiring from law practice on May 31 and Park Contractor Steve Shoff will retire at the end of the year. The board approved sending out requests for proposals to local law firms as the first step toward replacing Scholze. Requests for Proposal are due back to the town by March 15. Interviews will take place in April.

Scholze has been the Town Attorney since 2009. The board took no formal action regarding Shoff. The board is considering looking at payment to automate the fee to the Community Park boat launch.

### Fire and Rescue coverage expanding

The board approved an expansion of Town of Delavan Fire and Rescue services to a portion of the Town of Walworth. Supervisor Bill Thum-

mel said the Town of Walworth approved because they had a need for help in that area.

According to Thummel, the Town of Walworth will pay the Town of Delavan \$35,000 up front for the town to take over the fire and rescue services. If it is determined by the Town of Delavan at the end of the year that the number of calls in that area cost the town more than \$35,000 to respond to, the Town of Walworth will make up the difference.

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommended approval, saying it would not be a burden on the department. Several board members said it was a good idea as the town has been looking for ways to cooperate with neighboring communities on shared services.

### Variance approved

Despite an opposing vote from Chairman Mary Knipper, a variance was approved that will allow Jim Walsh to add a first-floor bedroom to their home on State Street. Knipper said the Plan Commission rec-

ommended approval and she was the lone vote in opposition at that meeting.

Knipper said she opposed the variance request because she did not see a hardship present that justified it. She said the letter requesting the variance identified the hardship as the desire to add a first-floor bedroom to the home because, as the owners age, they may need it. Knipper said that did not mean the age out of their homes all the time and the need was in the future, not now.

Walsh said that the letter did mention the desire to add a first-floor bedroom but said the real hardship was in the property setbacks. Knipper was not swayed by that argument, as that issue was directly a result of the desire to want a first-floor bedroom.

Knipper's motion to deny the variance request died due to a lack of a second. The motion to approve passed over her opposing vote.

### Town to keep liquor license

The board voted not to

sell one of its reserve liquor licenses to the City of Burlington for \$10,000.

Clerk Michele Starin said one concern of staff was that the village recently denied a similar request from a much closer neighbor, the City of Delavan.

Another concern expressed by more than one board member was that once you sell a liquor license, you won't ever be able to get it back.

### CUP approved for Boxed and Burlap

A conditional use permit was approved that will allow John Neighbors to place a wedding container behind the storage barn at Boxed and Burlap.

Knipper said the issue had been tabled because there were some questions about if the county considers storage containers to be accessory structures that would require a CUP. After checking with the county, it was determined the county does consider them to be accessory structures, so the Plan Commission then recommended approval.

## Board approves football qualifying, seeding changes

Other fall sports also see modifications from WIAA officials

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Board of Control approved recommendations by the committees' advisory committees, including a plan that replaces the 11-player and 8-player football playoff qualifying and seeding system, at its February meeting.

The Board voted to support the plan created by the Wisconsin Football Coaches As-

sociation at the recommendation of the Football Coaches Advisory Committee, reflecting a shared commitment to improving the football playoff selection and seeding process.

Prior to the 2025 season, teams will be divided equally in seven divisions based on enrollment and application for the performance factor for 11-player football programs. Teams will qualify and be seeded for 11-player and 8-player football according to a ranking point system. Programs earn points for each win based on the division of their opponents (Tier 1) of all

games. In addition, teams will be rewarded points for each Tier 1 victory of their defeat opponents for all games played (Tier 2). The sum of each tier is divided by the total number of games played. The total points calculated for each tier is added to determine a team's total point value for ranking within its own division.

The four teams with the highest total points in each division are designated the top seed in the four groupings. Subsequent seeded teams will be added to the groupings in each division based on the

nearest expected travel to higher-seeded teams. A detailed summary of the playoff qualification and seeding plan is available on the WIAA website.

"We commend the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association leadership in conjunction with the WIAA Football Coaches Advisory Committee on their communications with our staff and the football coaches across the state on this redesigned qualification and seeding process," WIAA Executive

See FALL SPORTS, Page 4

## Senior menu

Walworth County Department of Health and Human Services hosts a nutrition program for older adults.

Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. at Westpath at the Lakes, 5680 Parliament Lane on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and at Lake Commis Apartments, 207 McDowell on Monday and Friday.

Alternate menu entrees are

available at dining center locations only and must be ordered two days in advance.

The meal is open to anyone older than 60 and their spouse. Each senior is asked to contribute a \$6.00 donation. Seniors must make a reservation two days prior by calling 262-741-3333.

Feb. 20 - 28  
Thursday - Orange Dijon

turkey, brown rice, seasoned peas, squash, strawberries

Friday - Creamy spinach and artichoke chicken pasta, sautéed mushrooms, whole apple

Monday - Shepherd's Pie, bread and butter, broccoli, whole orange

Tuesday - Garlic butter pork, Ancient grains, peas, sweet potatoes, plums

Wednesday - Hawaiian chicken, yellow rice, green beans, garlic chickpeas, pineapple

Thursday - Salisbury steak, bread and butter, cauliflower, corn, Mandarin oranges

Friday - Lemon dill cod, orzo pasta, creamy cucumber salad, carrots, tropical fruit  
Alternate: Cheese lasagna rol-lups

## From the aisles of the library

We are now live at our new temporary location, 830 E. Geneva St., Suite B - west of TNT Ace Hardware.

With about a sixth of our collection, programming will continue in locations throughout Delavan and the county.

Our resources and services are available to you along with wonderful customer service including computers, copier and brand new - two study rooms completely bookable on our website. Tax forms have also started to trickle in and appointments can be made with the AARP Tax volunteers.



By MICHELLE CARTER  
Contributor

The move to our temporary location is due to the library's expansion project. Once construction begins, the availability of the parking lot, south entrance and elevator will be lost hence the move to a temporary location.

Looking for more details about the expansion? Interested in having an impact on the expansion? Please visit aramlibrary.org for floorplans, a video flythrough of the projected space, and donation details! Donations to our Friends group will continue but will be announced at a later date. Library hours, phone number

and email address remain the same.

For updates, please connect with our Newspaper column (here), social media channels, newsletter and at aramlibrary.org.

As with all moving, dates and times may change but the APL team remains flexible AND committed to serving our community the best we can!

Programs coming up at Aram Public Library:  
• Skip the line and dive right into a JACKPOT book!  
Jackpot books are titles that have long wait lists. Stop in and see if your long awaited title is here. Conveniently located by the new books on the main floor. We might have just what

you're looking for.

Titles are available on a first come, first serve basis, with a 14-day checkout and no renewals.

• Cards and Cribbage, first and third Friday of the month - Meet new people and learn a new game or hone your skills in bridge, gin rummy or cribbage.

All skill levels are welcome.

• Baby to 3, Come Wiggle With Me is back on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. This is a special story time and dance party for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups.

• AARP Tax Aid, registration has begun - AARP Tax Aid Volunteers are back for the year, offering help to seniors and the needy

## Vintage Shop Hop brings 'shopping local' to a new level

Thousands of shoppers will converge on northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin once again for the Spring edition of the popular Vintage Shop Hop on Friday and Saturday, March 7-8.

The event is a self-guided road trip for vintage and antique lovers in the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin region to satisfy their "vintage" addiction and support small business at the same time.

Typically, between 350 to 400 locally-owned vintage shops, antique malls, women's boutiques, occasional and pop-up shops, home decor stores, upscale consignment shops and vintage barn sales in the two-state region participate in this one-of-a-kind event.

According to the 2024 American Express Shop Small Impact Study, 85% of consumers say they were likely to shop "small" that season.

The study goes on to report consumers also say they "shop small" to make an impact locally, with 64% shopping small because they know a portion of their purchase directly impacts the community.

The Vintage Shop Hop would like to see shoppers change their shopping habits year-round. The event is a twice-a-year road trip comprised of nothing but "small businesses."

What started with 180 shops 12 years ago, the Vintage Shop Hop has increased in popularity every year.

"In the spring, shop owners shoot in the arm to boost their sales in what is traditionally slow retail season, not to mention the competition of the online shopping craze," says Ann Campos, founder of the event. "This event gives the shopper a reason to leave the house to shop small and support their local businesses."

The idea came to Campos over a decade ago after talking with a handful of shop owners in her town who had experienced slow sales during the then harsh winter.

"After spending several years producing large vintage markets, I decided to marry my love of vintage decor with my background in tourism promotion, event planning and marketing to come up with a way to reach out and do something for local small business," Campos said. "The result is the Vintage Shop Hop."

The event is only open to locally-owned, no-profit shops. There are no big box stores, franchises or chain stores allowed. Social media has played a huge role in the rapid growth of the shopping extravaganza.

"The event was destined to grow quickly," Campos explained, "between the shop owners looking for a unique, low-cost way to promote not only their shop but their town too, and shoppers who are excited to have a list of hundreds of fun shops dropped in their lap. The result? You can't hold them back!"

The two-state event has grown organically over the past 12 years and now stretches from the Mississippi River on the west to Lake Michigan on the east, and goes north to the Wausau and Green Bay in Wisconsin and south to I-80 in Illinois.

"We encourage the shops to create an in-store promotion - a day unlike the other 363 days of the year," says Campos. As a result, shoppers will find fun promotions like



"pop a balloon" or "spin the wheel" to determine their discount, door prizes, meet-the-maker, paint demos, live music, food trucks and free swag bags just for stopping in.

Others create punch cards, promotions to get people moving around their region, or hire live music and invite food trucks to park in their lots.

"The participating shop owners are very passionate about the history of their antiques as well as their buildings. To compete with big box stores, small business owners have to be creative in their marketing efforts and work extra hard to get noticed," Campos said. "I'm just happy I can help them out by using my experience to bring customers to their doorstep with this fun shopping event. To my knowledge, it's the biggest event of its kind in the Midwest."

Many shops are set in historic and unique buildings in downtowns, villages, and the countryside, brimming with history, which sets them apart from their competitors in big shopping malls.

Shoppers will find stores located inside century-old barns, historic schoolhouses, banks, and churches all making the shopping experience memorable.

Shop owners who are interested in participating in this affordable event just need to send a private message on the event's Facebook page.

For shoppers, the road trip planning for the Vintage Shop Hop is made easy with an interactive GoogleMap and master list of shops. The event's GoogleMap includes all shop details that can be accessed on mobile devices while shoppers are traveling the area. The list and map are both found on the event's webpage at all times and have become a "road trip bible" for shoppers. Find both at vintagehophop.blogspot.com or follow the event's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VintageShopHopEvent.

### Area Wisconsin shops participating

- Home Decor & Gifts, 316 W. State St., Beloit, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Vintage Bliss, 3100 S. Riverside Drive, Beloit, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Vintage Etcetera, 2526 S. Riverside Drive, Beloit, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Gunny & Co, 914 Exchange St., Brodhead, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Harvest Moon, 929 W. Exchange St., Brodhead, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Sawdust & Iron, 207 Allen St., Clinton, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Antique Farmer, LLC, N6041 WI-89, Delavan, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Feels Like Home, 18 W. Fulton St., Edgerton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- M's on Main, 522 N. Main St., Edgerton, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, additionally 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 9
- Hen House Thrift Boutique, 7 E. Main St., Evansville, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days

See SHOP HOP, Page 4



# •Fall sports

Director Stephanie Hauser said. “They provided tutorials and welcomed feedback from coaches and member schools.

“This process is a reflection of WIAA’s mission to be responsive to its membership and make key decisions about programs, rules, and eligibility with transparency among all stakeholders,” she continued. “The WIAA Board of Control and WIAA staff support this new qualification and seeding process and will continue working collaboratively to enhance its procedures, ensuring greater efficiency and the best service possible for its member schools.”

Another football coaches’ recommendation receiving Board approval expands the 8-player football tournament bracket to 32 teams in 2025. The 8-player season will begin the same week as 11-player football to accommodate for the added round of the playoffs.

Two recommendations by the volleyball coaches were approved impacting the Tournament Procedures, effective in 2025. The highest seeded team will be considered the home team during the Tournament Series. At pre-determined sites when equally seeded teams are playing, the first school alphabetically will be considered the home team, unless a team is playing on their own court, which will constitute the host being declared the home team.

In addition, each participating team will be permitted a maximum of 18 players in uniform for each game of the Tournament Series, an increase from 15. The change does not impact the total of 22 team personnel permitted on the bench.

The sport of tennis had seven coaches’ recommendations approved. Four of those address seeding protocol at the sub-sectional level. The actions add another criterion, establishes clarity and defines a prescribed criteria order for the seeding process. Following head-to-head criteria, results and scores against common opponents will be applied, followed by re-sults versus indirect opponents. In situations when two or more players are tied after applying the criteria, a random draw will now determine the respective seeds.

Another tennis Tournament Procedure ratified by the Board revises language to state a sin-

(Continued from page 3)

gles player or doubles team in Division 1 must play a minimum of six matches at any flight during the regular season to be entered in the sub-sectional tournament at Flights 1, 2 and 3 only. Singles and doubles teams in Division 2 must play a minimum of five matches at any flight during the regular season to be entered in the sub-sectional tournament at Flights 1, 2 and 3 only.

Other Board decisions impacting tennis included prohibiting smart watches or other communication devices on the court, unless approval is provided for medical purposes, and adjusting the tournament schedule in years Memorial Day lands on the Monday of sub-sectionals, which now may be scheduled that week on either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Two fall sports had one coaches’ recommendation approved by the Board. Permitted headgear language will be added in the cross country regulations consistent with the track & field regulations. In golf, schools will now be permitted to conduct a practice round at the regional tournament site during the regular season on non-school days.

Two advisory committee recommendations related to officials were approved. Beginning in 2025-26, yellow cards in girls lacrosse will no longer be reported to the WIAA office, and swimming and diving officials will allow black pants to be worn as a uniform option.

Five fast-tracked conference realignment plans were ratified for implementation in 2025-26. Lourdes Academy, will be moved from independent status into the Eastern Wisconsin for girls tennis, and Grantsburg will move into the Heart O’ North Conference in girls golf after participating as an independent. Martin Luther and St. Augustine Prep will both transition from independent status to the Woodland Conference in boys volleyball, and a proposal by Tomah was approved to merge the Mississippi Valley and Coulee Conferences to form a new boys Western Wisconsin Hockey Conference.

Other action by the Board included approvals of the procedural monthly general fund financial statements, fall sports financial statements, the deferred liability fund statement and general fund payments.

# •Shop Hop

(Continued from page 3)

- The Vintage Roost, 228 W. Main St., Evansville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Copper Creek Resale and Discount Center, 422 W. Highway 11, Footville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- 608 Vintage, 34 S. Main St., Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. both days
- Best of Janesville Vintage Mall, 3138 S. Highway 51, Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Chicken Coop Collectibles, 6507 W. Hwy 14, Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Frayed Edges Boutique, 3719 S. County Rd. G, Janesville, Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- J&B Outlet & Resale, 2342 Center Ave., Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- J&M Vintage Finds, 3832 W. Hwy 14, Janesville, Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Property Pickers Estate Sales and Shoppable Warehouse, 770 S. Main St., Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- The Creative Corner Decor and Gifts, 2624 E. Milwaukee St., Janesville, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days
- Vintage Market, 8301 E. Hwy 14, Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- 2nd Time Around Resale Shoppe, 34 Merchant Row, Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Ar Home by Artful Retiques, 229 Parkview Drive, Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Goodrich Antiques and Vintage Uniques, 742 E. Madison Ave., Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Hattie and Elsie, 650 College St., Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Red Rooster, 613 W. Madison Ave., Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Monroe Antiques Mall, 1003 16th Ave., Monroe, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Lollygag Antiques, 16 6th Ave., New Glarus, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Cool School Antique Mall, 7427 156th Ave., Bristol, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days
- Flippin’ Fabulous LLC, 448 S. Pine St., Burlington, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days
- Josette Boutique, 573 N Pine St., Burlington, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- The Rustic Barrel, 7135

- McHenry St., Burlington, Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wilted Rose Resale & Gifts, 2931 Union St., East Troy, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Home Decor & Vintage, 41 S. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- The Grainery (at Duesterbeck’s Brewing Co.), N5543 County Road O, Elkhorn, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Fontana Home West End, 158 Fontana Blvd., Fontana, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- A Summer’s Garden Florist and Gifts, 5617 6th Ave., Kenosha, Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Authentique, 625 57th St., Kenosha, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- EQUINOX botanical boutique, 5901 6th Ave. A, Kenosha, Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Latibule, 4906 7th Ave., Kenosha, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Serendipity on 7th, 4706 7th Ave., Kenosha, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Vintage Underground, 5817 6th Ave., Kenosha, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Wooden Chair Antiques, 5710 4th Ave., Kenosha, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Lake Geneva Antique Mall, 829 Williams, Lake Geneva, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- The Rabbit Hole, 264 Center St., Lake Geneva, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days
- Fox And Fork LLC, 203 W Main St., Rochester, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- A Trew Find, 336 E Main St., Twin Lakes, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Restoration Reserve, 1201 Main St., Union Grove, Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Second Street Staff, 107 N Second St., Watford, Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Watford Unique Antique Market, 318 E. Main St., Watford, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- Real Deal Vintage, 30702 113th St., Wilmot, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
- The Fuzzy Pig, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., Whitewater, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.



## Weekly connection

# Calves and the open gate



By  
**SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

We finally got some snow last week. Winter decided to make an appearance before we rolled right into spring, and I’m sure the snowmobile enthusiasts appreciated it. I think we got three snows in five days dropping about a foot of the white stuff here in these parts.

One of those snowy mornings, I took my four-wheeler out to the back pasture to feed my feeder calves a couple buckets of grain like I do every day. The wind was really blowing, and the snow was flying in my face and eyes. When I got to the pasture gate, I unchained it and drove right through.

Now usually the calves all come running after me and my buckets of grain and I just leave the gate open while I drive to the bunk to feed them. This time I drove right by the calves and they just kind of stood there not wanting to walk into the driving wind and snow in order to follow me to the bunk. I stopped and called them and then went a little farther waiting for them to start walking my way. Still, they just stood there and starred so I drove a little further and called them again. All of a sudden, a

couple of the older leaders of the pack turned their back to the wind and started heading away from me right for the wide open gate.

Now you have to understand that these calves had never shown me this behavior before and I was in an immediate panic. I knew if I turned around and tried to beat them to the gate it would cause them all to run right through and out into the open field. I quickly made my decision, and I gave the ATV full throttle straight ahead. My plan was to try and get to the fence downstream a little and quickly climb over the fence in order to cut off the leaders and stop them from walking out through the gate. I flew over the creek on a bridge and raced toward the fence. The drifts were so deep that I buried my machine deep in the snow, so I hopped off and raced to the fence on foot. I quickly climbed over the fence and

ran up into the field. By this time, three or four of the bigger calves had walked through the gate and out into the field. I knew that I didn’t have a moment to spare so I circled high up into the field on foot. “No, no, no!!” I yelled as I ran, hoping that they would just turn around and go back into the pasture. I did not have time to chase calves all morning and I prayed desperately, “Lord, please don’t let them take off into the field.”

Well, all at once the younger ones in the back did not like all my yelling and they turned and ran back into the pasture, and sure enough the older leaders who had already stepped through the gate turned and ran back into pasture, following the younger ones. I ran to the gate with a shout of praise for the Lord who had helped me avert a huge headache. By the time I had dug my four-wheeler out of the drift, all the calves were standing at the bunk eating their grain with a look of complete innocence on their faces.

Of course, a million sermon illustrations popped into my head immediately as I stood there I thought how the gate is the temptation we

face to leave God’s pasture and enter into a life of our own pleasure and sin. The farmer with the grain is God bringing us the promises of blessings if we follow Him. The snow and wind in the face is the resistance a Christian feels from the world around them when they choose to live for Christ. The calves turning and walking toward the gate was easier than walking into the snow and wind. God tells us to resist temptation and follow His plan for our lives and we will be blessed. He doesn’t force us to follow Him. In fact, He leaves the gate open for us to choose. Sometimes we get tired of the wind and snow in our face, and we think there’s an easier way. God warns us when we are going the wrong way and He calls out for us to change our course. His Word lets us know not to leave the pasture, but He gives us the free will to turn back to Him.

All I know is that I was sure glad those calves turned around at the last second and went back into the pasture. It saved me a ton of time and struggle. I think next time... I will close the gate.

Until next week, God bless.

## The time is now to help

# Single mom struggles with mother, expenses



By  
**SAL DIMICELI**  
Columnist

Dear W.C.,

*My mother and I moved in together last year because we thought it would help both our circumstances.*

*My mother needed some caregiving after having her knee replaced and I needed help with watching my 8-year-old son after school. I am a single mother and do not receive any help from my ex-husband.*

*Unfortunately, my mother’s health has not improved, and I have become her caregiver until she improves. I have missed so much work due to her many medical appointments and with all the driving my car has needed repairs.*

*My son needed another pair of glasses after his were broken beyond repair, so that was paid out of pocket. I had to pay for one of the car repairs so I could continue to get to work and the doctor’s offices, but there is more work that needs to be done that I cannot afford.*

*These expenses, on top of less time at work have caused us to fall behind in our rent. I don’t know how we will get through the next few months without falling behind in everything. I am trying to keep it together so as to not worry my mom and son, but it is getting more and more difficult every day.*

*I do not see a light at the end of the tunnel until my mom improves, so I am humbly begging for help out of this situation I find myself in.*

on top of financially supporting everyone and completing household tasks usually completed by two adults, is more than most people undertake in a day.

Add in the stress of unpaid bills, worrying about becoming homeless, and you get an idea of what this single mother was experiencing.

When I contacted this single mother, I found a woman who was strong and capable. When she began to tell me everything she had been going through, the tough exterior was soon shed, and the tears began to flow. She apologized for crying but I assured her she was safe shedding those tears with me. Who else did she have to share with how overwhelmed and stressed she felt?

After learning additional facts about her situation that were not included in her letter, and more about her mother’s health – including an extensive infection she contracted due to the surgery – we talked about her job and their budget. It was a blessing that her employer was understanding about what she was going through. In a normal month, this mother would get by with very little to spare, but they got by. With the extraordinary expenses over the past six weeks, and the reduction in income due to missed days at work, it would become more difficult to catch up with each passing week.

I learned in addition to paying for her son’s glasses,

she had also had to take him to the emergency room when he had come down with the flu. Her car needed new tires and an additional repair she could not afford.

I immediately arranged for her car to go in for service and new tires. We also would pay for three months’ rent, her outstanding utility bill, and provided gift cards for gas and food.

The mother again began to cry, as she felt the stress of poverty being lifted from her shoulders. The mother humbly tried to deny she needed additional help but when I explained she would need this to help her get through the next few months, she accepted graciously.

Thanks to our support this single mother, her son and her mother are all safe from the possibility of becoming homeless, utility disconnection and even hunger. Our assistance has provided the safety net that caught them just in time, thanks to “you” and the Family Foundation 2025 \$40,000 Matching Grant.

We hope you will take advantage of the Family Foundation 2025 \$40,000 Matching Grant as your donations will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling your donation and the assistance we will be able to provide. Thank you!

*Health & Happiness,  
Love and God bless everyone,  
Sal*

**Please help:** There are many coming to us in desperation. Our good fellow creations need our compassion. Together we make a big difference. Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now

to Help, P.O. Box 1, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. The Time Is Now to Help is a federally recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization. You will receive a tax deductible, itemized thank you receipt showing how 100% of your donation was used for providing poverty relief. Please visit our website for more information, to read more columns and/or to make a donation.

**A very special thank you:** Family Foundation, Carolyn J. Gable Foundation, Kunes Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Paper Dolls, Timothy and Brenda Wegge, Bonnie Glennon, Anderson Moran Construction, Michael and Mary Alice Deutsch, HomeTown Auto Exchange, Steven and Deidred Trumble, Barbara and Lee Zuzanek, Kathryn Drexler, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation, Gregory and Jean Marie Dexter, Mitchell and Nancy Venema, John Oregan, Roy and Vickie Terracina, Carol Feist, Mary Jane Feist, Tim and Margaret Kumbier, Karen Aasen, Kenneth Kelley, James Dyer, John and Cindy Schmidt, Francis Fish, Gregory and Pamela Peterson, Michael and Kathe Beach, William Antti, Aileen Hodges, John and Rita Race, Doris Wiechmann, Dennis and Carol Gilhooley, Delavan United Methodist Church, Russ Perkins, Alan and Constance Henninger, Duane and June DeYoung, St. James United Methodist Church Women in Ministry, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, and all who support The Time Is Now to Help donation boxes. For more information, visit [timeisnowtohelp.org](http://timeisnowtohelp.org).



# Obituaries

## K. HILARY FORD

K. Hilary (nee Cocks) Ford passed away peacefully at age 93 on Feb. 4, 2025, in Harbor Springs, Michigan.

Hilary was born on Jan. 12, 1932, in Mexico City, Mexico to S.H. Euan and Katherine I. (nee Phillips) Cocks. She grew up in Mexico and went to high school in Toronto, Canada. She finished her nursing training at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London shortly before meeting a dashing young captain in the British Army stationed in Detmold, Germany. After seven months of courtship-via-letter, Hilary and Martin W. Ford were married in Bantry, Ireland in August of 1956, the beginning of a 68-year union treasured by both.

Hilary and Martin and their young family landed in Fontana in 1965, where they resided for ten years before building a home in rural Walworth Township. They bought an unproductive pasture and embarked on a lifelong journey of restoring the native prairie and hardwoods. Hilary loved birds and birding; she fledged many broods of bluebirds from nest boxes she monitored. Over the years, Hilary volunteered as a Girl Scout leader, a Picture Lady in Walworth County schools, in master gardener programs, and with the race committee at Lake Geneva Yacht Club.

When her children had mostly fledged, Hilary returned to her nursing practice. She received her BSN from Alverno College in 1990 and enjoyed a later-in-life career with Golden Years Nursing Home in Walworth, and home health nursing in Walworth County.



After Martin and Hilary both retired, they enjoyed traveling in their motor home, always making birds the focus of their trips around the U.S. On one of those adventures, they fell in love with Door County, and made the decision to relocate. Hilary treasured their years there, especially the dear friends they made at St. Luke's Episcopal Church and in the Ellison Bay community.

Hilary is survived by her beloved husband Martin of Harbor Springs, Michigan; daughter Deborah of Ellison Bay; son Christopher (Alison Hill) of Harbor Springs; and son Richard (Julie) of Walworth. She adored her grandchildren William, Nicholas, Jasmine, and Vivian. As Viv says "She was everything a grandmother should have been". She was preceded in death by her son Geoffrey (1964-1968).

Hilary's family is very grateful for the compassionate care provided by the staff of Pineview Cottage in Harbor Springs, and Hospice of Michigan.

No services are planned. If you would like to remember Hilary, her family suggests memorial contributions to Door County Land Trust, P.O. Box 65, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 or Lakeland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 473, Elkhorn, WI 53121. Or simply get to know an unfamiliar bird.

Services are in the care of Stone Funeral Home.

## LAUREN ANN THOMAS

Lauren Ann Thomas, 64, longtime resident of Delavan, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025 at her residence. Lauren was born on Sept. 17, 1960 to the late Wayne and Gay Thomas.

Lauren dedicated her life to helping others. She spent over a decade running a youth outreach program dedicated to helping kids in gangs who were addicted to drugs and alcohol to get off the streets to a better life. After moving to Wisconsin, she spent a few years as a foster parent, trying to give kids a safe and secure place to grow up in. Her true passion however came in her love of animals. She grew up with both cats and dogs and loved being around them whether at home or volunteering at a local animal shelter. She loved volunteering at "Toledo Keeping the Faith Foundation", a charity dedicated to helping cats find the care they needed, whether that's a warm place to stay and food to eat or to find a new loving home.

Also, upon moving to Wisconsin, she decided to pursue her love of antiques, first becoming the manager and then the owner of Lauren's Antique and Art Centre, which she has been affiliated with for over 30 years. She also grew the reputation for her over the top



Halloween decorations and love for full size candy bars to the trick-or-treaters, as Halloween was her favorite holiday. When she wasn't watching movies, football, and/or eating pizza, she loved donating to different animal causes, like animal shelters and wolf conservation. She was always one to focus on the good and never the negative, and as such was hoping that rather than spending time mourning at her funeral, that anyone who is capable and willing, to make a donation to either "Toledo Keeping the Faith Foundation" or to your local favorite animal shelter. As in life, nothing would make her happier than knowing there are animals out there getting the help they need.

Lauren is survived by her son Jason Wayne Thomas, brother Mark Thomas, and nieces Hilary, Kristen and Julia. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A private family service was held. Lazarczyk Family Funeral Homes of Lake Geneva and Delavan is proudly serving the family.

# Death notices

## CAROL J. FERDINAND

Carol J. Ferdinand, 73, of Delavan, passed away on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, at Bay

Harbor in Madison.

Monroe Funeral Home in Delavan is assisting the family.

## GEORGE J. GALLAGHER

George J. Gallagher, 73, of Delavan, passed away on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at home. A Celebration of Life will

be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025 at Monroe Funeral Home in Delavan. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

## TOM E. HARMON

Tom E. Harmon, 63, of Delavan, passed away on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, at home.

Visitation will be held from 2:30 until 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025 at Monroe Funeral Home in Delavan.

## JAMES S. MINARICK

James S. Minarick, 67, of Delavan passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, at Mercyhealth in Janesville.

Visitation will held from 11 a.m. until noon on Friday, Feb. 21, 2024 at Monroe Funeral Home in Delavan.



From left, Joe Roppe, his wife Nancy Roppe and Alva Clymer – all of Portage County – meet with fellow advocates of county-owned nursing homes to prepare for a meeting with state officials Jan. 9 at the Hilton Madison Monona Terrace in Madison.

# Wisconsin residents fight to keep nursing homes public

Portage County residents have fought the sale of their public nursing home for years

By Addie Costello

WPR AND WISCONSIN WATCH

This story was produced and originally published by Wisconsin Watch, a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom. It was made possible by donors like you.

Nancy Roppe, 64, has advice for anyone speaking at a Portage County Board meeting: Write your statement down, rehearse it ahead of time and keep it under three minutes.

As she leaves home for each board meeting, her husband Joe offers his own advice to his wife: "Don't get tased."

Roppe, a self-described "five foot nothing, crippled little old lady," fiercely opposes selling Portage County's public nursing home to a private bidder. She's spent years causing "good trouble" in voicing that opinion to elected board members. Deputies have escorted her out of meetings "more than once," she said.

Board members say the county can no longer afford to operate the nursing home. They see Roppe differently, describing her as caustic, extremely loud and unproductive. But it's hard to deny the impact she and other organizers have achieved. The nursing home remains in county hands – for now.

During years of debate over the Portage County Health Care Center's fate, organizers successfully landed two referendums on the ballot to increase its funding, both of which voters approved. And after Roppe and her colleagues in 2024 highlighted the poor reputation of one potential buyer, the board chose not to accept its offer.

Several grassroots campaigns across Wisconsin aim to halt the privatization of county-owned nursing homes, which tend to be better staffed, have higher quality of care and draw fewer complaints than facilities owned by for-profits and nonprofits,



"I got a big mouth and I use it," says Nancy Roppe, who has spent years organizing against Portage County's plan to sell its public nursing home. She is shown making public comments during a meeting of the Portage County Board on Dec. 17, 2024, in Stevens Point.

as WPR and Wisconsin Watch previously reported.

Portage County, whose nursing home holds a perfect 5-star federal rating, was one of at least five Wisconsin counties last year that considered selling, started the sales process or sold their county-owned nursing homes citing budgetary concerns.

Proponents of keeping nursing homes in county hands have created social media pages, yard signs, T-shirts, and petitions and led protests – all dedicated to slowing and stopping sales.

A for-profit company decided against buying Lincoln County's nursing home after an organizer and board member sued the county over the sale. Organizing in Sauk County has drawn federal regulators' attention. Public nursing home supporters in St. Croix County packed a meeting where board members ultimately voted against selling.

But some of those victories may prove short-lived. Sauk County's board approved a

buyer last year, Lincoln County is looking for new buyers, and the Portage County Board voted in December to again consider a sale.

"If I can throw a monkey wrench in what they're trying to do, I'm going to exhaust every possible avenue to do that," Roppe said in an interview.

But after years of fighting the sale, she might be running out of options.

## Sister's memory fuels advocacy

Roppe's older sister Carol could make friends with complete strangers.

"That was one of her best things," Roppe recalled. "She just knew everybody."

Carol, a long-time nurse, was 57 years old when she began needing care following a kidney cancer diagnosis. She lived at home between treatments – until the day she fell.

The cancer had deteriorated her spine, which the small slip fractured. With no way for her family to give her proper care at home, she

moved into the Portage County Health Care Center.

Roppe visited her every day until Carol died in 2015.

When the Portage County Board started discussing selling the nursing home, Roppe started to speak up at its meetings, tapping her comfort with public speaking.

"I got a big mouth and I use it," she said.

In 2018, Roppe and other organizers campaigned for people to vote in favor of a ballot referendum to raise taxes to keep the nursing home in county hands.

Voters approved it with 61% of the vote.

But Portage County board members worry about more than just operating costs. The center was built in 1931 and hasn't been significantly updated in 30 years. The building needs major renovations, board members and advocates acknowledge.

A 2022 referendum asked voters whether they would take on higher taxes to build a

See NURSING HOMES, Page 7

# You ought to be in pictures!

THIS IS AN OPEN CALL FOR SUBMITTED PHOTOS TO BE USED IN THIS NEWSPAPER.

▼ Community events, car washes, festivals, lemonade stands, school projects – people at work and at play. We are interested!

▼ Show the community what your group has been doing!

▼ NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

▼ Just point, shoot, and e-mail!

▼ We need you to ID everyone in the photo, first and last names required

▼ Tell us what's happening in the photo

▼ Please do NOT crop your photos.

▼ Tell us who took the photo and we will give them a photo credit

E-mail your photos at the highest possible resolution to: jeisenbart@southernlakesnewspapers.com ON FRIDAY

PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEBSITE, mywalworthcounty.com



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# LEGAL NOTICES

## MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DELAVAN-DARIEN JANUARY 13, 2025

President Dave Henriott called the regular meeting of the Delavan-Darien School District Board of Education held at the School Administration Center to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** D. Henriott, D. Salas, D. Kirkpatrick, K. Hermann, T. Schutt, K. Pohl, G. Moses

**Administrators Present:** Superintendent D. Halbesma; Business Administrator A. Klein; Director of Teaching & Learning J. Thompson; Director of Pupil Services M. Burke; Director of Buildings & Grounds J. McKinney; Coordinator of Marketing & Communications A. Duchernin; DD Techs Administrator M. Rick; Principal J. Karedes, B. Rowe, S. Waller, K. Pickel

The press was represented by Mike Hoey, The Delavan Enterprise.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by K. Hermann to approve the agenda as presented and T. Schutt seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote of 7-0.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by D. Salas and seconded by K. Pohl to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2024 meeting. The motion carried on a voice vote of 7-0.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by T. Schutt and seconded by D. Salas to approve the Manifest of Bills dated January 13, 2025; gifts and grants of \$500.00 for the DDHS Student Council from Delavan Ladies; \$740.00 for the DDHS Girls Wrestling Program from Steven Schultz Jr.; \$1,000.00 for the DDHS Development New York Trip this Spring from Victoria Sykes Loudon; \$2,500.00 for DDHS Orchestra Activities from Greg Olson from Krumwiede Home Pro; Invention Project STEM Kits (\$2,687.50) for CCLC from National Gender Project. Build Moto Club Raffle Donations: Whiskey Ranch, hat donation (\$25.00); Avila MMA, week of lessons (\$120.00); Sweet Zen Spa, spa package (\$150.00); and Advanced Auto Clinic, two oil changes (\$200.00); Build Moto Club Donations: \$100 from A+ Power Sports & Equipment, \$100 from Hunter's Auto Service, \$500 from Greenies Clubhouse, and \$500 from the Schuenke & Sorg Families. The motion carried on a voice vote of 7-0.

**Designate Number of Regular Education and Special Education Open Enrollment Spaces Available for the 2025-2026 School Year:** Director of Pupil Services M. Burke summarized the purpose of designating seats for open enrollment as well as presenting the Board with an updated Special Education Service Matrix. T. Schutt moved that in grades 4K-12th, the Delavan-Darien School District approves all regular education open enrollment student applications for the 2025-2026 school year. D. Kirkpatrick seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0. D. Salas moved that in grades 4K-4th, the Delavan-Darien School District approves zero (0) enrollment applications for students with disabilities due to space, service availability, and caseload sizes for the 2025-2026 school year.

T. Schutt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0. T. Schutt moved that in grades 5th-12th, the Delavan-Darien School District denies all open enrollment applications for students with disabilities who have needs at a weighted level of no higher than a moderate level due to space, service availability, and caseload sizes for the 2025-2026 school year. D. Henriott seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0. D. Salas moved that in grades 4K-12, the Delavan-Darien School District approves any students currently enrolled during the 2024-2025 school year with special education needs who are attending our District on open enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year.

K. Pohl seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0. T. Schutt moved that in grades 4K-12, the Delavan-Darien School District approves any siblings of students currently enrolled during the 2024-2025 school year with special education needs at a weighted level no higher than the moderate level due to space, projected caseload sizes and space availability for the 2025-2026 school year.

D. Kirkpatrick seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0. (See addendum of chart in the minutes available on the District website.)

**Notice of Educational Options:** Director of Teaching and Learning J. Thompson presented the Notice of Educational Options. A motion was made by D. Kirkpatrick and seconded by G. Moses to approve the Notice of Educational Options. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0.

**Act 20 Requirements - EMLSS Handbook & Early Literacy Remediation Plan:** Director of Teaching and Learning J. Thompson presented on the new Act 20 requirements of the Board reviewing and approving the EMLSS Handbook and Early Literacy Remediation Plan. A motion was made by G. Moses and seconded by T. Schutt to approve the EMLSS Handbook. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0.

**Proposed 2025-2026 New Allied Arts Classes - Phoenix Middle School:** Phoenix Middle School Principal B. Rowe presented on the 2025-2026 New Allied Arts Classes request. The student course selection will determine which classes will be offered: Percussion Ensemble, Drama, Digital Art, Cultural Art, 3D Art, Painting, Visual Art,

Computer Science Principles & Robotics, Green Architecture, Agriculture in Action 1, Agriculture in Action 2, Outdoor Skills: Exploring Wisconsin DNR, Introduction to Animal Science, Agriculture, Spanish 6, Spanish 1 and Health 5. A motion was made by K. Hermann and seconded by T. Schutt to approve the new proposed allied arts classes for the 2025-26 school year at Phoenix Middle School. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0.

**OpenSciEd Curriculum Adoption:** Director of Teaching and Learning J. Thompson stated that the middle school science team (6-8) has been reviewing and piloting Middle School Science curriculums over the past year and a half. The team narrowed the curriculum down to OpenSciEd and Amplify. And requested to adopt the OpenSciEd curriculum. A motion was made by G. Moses and seconded by T. Schutt to adopt the OpenSciEd curriculum for Phoenix Middle School Science 6, 7, 8. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0.

**Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit Report:** Business Administrator A. Klein reviewed the audit findings and they are the same as every year due to the district being short on staff in separating duties and many smaller districts receive these findings also. A motion was made by K. Pohl and seconded by D. Henriott to accept the 2023-2024 audit report. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0.

**Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Report:** Business Administrator A. Klein stated that each year the District is required to submit an annual report showing revenues, expenses, and fund balances for all District funds. As discussed previously, the PI-1505 was replaced with WISEdata Finance real time reporting. He stated that the District ended the year with a "surplus" of \$705,981.83 versus the balanced budget originally presented in the Districts Original Budget. It is important to note that this higher than expected "surplus" is due to a number of factors listed below which means that the District's actual unassigned surplus was \$347,960.20, or .93% of the District's originally budgeted revenues and expenses. As discussed during the approval of the 2024-25 Original Budget, the District is estimated to spend down \$345,915.28 of the \$358,021.63 in restricted funds listed above with some prepaid expenses carrying forward into the 2025-26 fiscal year. As discussed during the April 24 Regular Board Meeting, the District was able to add \$347,960.20 to its Unassigned/Working Capital Needs Fund balance to continue to work toward a fund balance "level sufficient to minimize or avoid short term borrowing for cash flow purposes" as per Board Policy 6235. At this time, the District has not needed to borrow any funds during the 2024-25 fiscal year.

**Financial Statement for December 31, 2024:** Business Administrator A. Klein reviewed the financial statement for the month ending December 31, 2024. Operating cash on hand \$2,983,328.63, funds accessed on business line of credit \$0.00, and net operating funds \$2,983,328.63. The purchasing card usage for the month ending November 20, 2024 was \$109,912.30. A motion was made by K. Hermann and seconded by D. Kirkpatrick to approve the financial statement for the month ending December 31, 2024. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote of 7-0.

**Next Meeting Date:** Regular Meeting - February 10, 2025 - 6:00 p.m. and Regular Meeting - March 10, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by K. Hermann and seconded by D. Kirkpatrick to go into executive session, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(c) to discuss and take action, if appropriate, on employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. More specifically to discuss preliminary notices of non-renewal of administrator contract(s), and future duties, employment and compensation of administrators. The motion carried unanimously on all aye votes 7-0.

The Board went into closed session at 7:15 p.m.

(Published in Delavan Enterprise Feb. 20, 2025 WNAXLP - 467984)

## WALWORTH COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT 975 W. Walworth Ave. Delavan, WI 53115 January 14, 2025 1:30 p.m.

### CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Commissioner Logterman.

### ROLL CALL

Commissioner Duncan, yes; Commissioner Logterman, yes; Commissioner Snyder, yes, remotely left the meeting at 1:46 p.m.; Commissioner Tapson, yes Others present: Neal Kolb, Administrator Lori Peternell, Finance Officer Jennifer Greenlee, Administrative Assistant Todd Hanson, Assistant Administrator Kevin Berg, Engineering Services Director Jared Loofthorpe, Water Reclamation Superintendent William Cole, Axley Brynelson

### PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS/ OTHER BUSINESS - None

### CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Commissioner Snyder and seconded by Commissioner Duncan to approve:

- Regular meeting minutes dated December 10, 2024
- Closed Session minutes dated December 10, 2024
- Receipts and disbursements for December 2024
- Accounts Payable listings -

General \$116,193.11

e) WalCoMet Declaration of Official Newspapers - Resolution 2025-02 Elkhorn Independent, Delavan Enterprise, Lake Geneva Regional Times f) Biosolids Tractor Service - Authorized Johnson Service to perform the 1,200 hour service for \$6,215.14.

### NEW BUSINESS

**a) WalCoMet Election of Officers -** Commissioner Snyder motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-01 establishing the officers for the WalCoMet Commission designating existing officers for 2025 President, Dean Logterman; Secretary, Doug Snyder; Assistant Secretary, William Duncan. Commissioner Duncan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**b) Soil Sampling Equipment Purchase -** Commissioner Duncan motioned to authorize staff to purchase a UTV from A1 Power Sports & Trailer Sales of Elkhorn for \$26,888.43 and soil sampling equipment from Prosser's Ag Service LLC for \$39,015.00 for a total cost of \$133,903.43. Commissioner Tapson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

**Convene in Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Section 19.85 (1) (G) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFERRING WITH LEGAL COUNSEL FOR WALCOMET WHO IS RENDERING ORAL ADVISE CONCERNING STRATEGY TO BE ADOPTED BY WALCOMET WITH RESPECT TO LITIGATION IN WHICH IT IS LIKELY TO BECOME INVOLVED (phosphorus removal project liquidated damages update).**

**Remain in Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Section 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (performance review evaluation of administrator)**

Commissioner Tapson made a motion to convene into a closed session, seconded by Commissioner Duncan and roll call as follows:

Commissioner Logterman	Yes
Commissioner Snyder	Yes
Not Present	
Commissioner Tapson	Yes

District Attorney and Administrator Kolb requested Kevin Berg, Engineering Services Director, remain for the closed session regarding the phosphorus removal project liquidated damages update. The Commission entered closed session at 1:47 p.m.

### RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Duncan made a motion to convene into an open session, seconded by Commissioner Tapson and roll call as follows:

Commissioner Logterman	Yes
Commissioner Snyder	Yes
Not Present	
Commissioner Tapson	Yes

The open session was reconvened at 3:36 p.m.

### Consideration of Action Arising from Closed Sessions

Commissioner Duncan motioned to direct the District Attorney to pursue the direction discussed in the closed session. Commissioner Logterman seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Logterman motioned to have the Attorney composite the administrator's performance reviews. Commissioner Tapson seconded, and the motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURN:** Commissioner Tapson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Duncan, and the motion was unanimously passed. The Regular meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Douglas R. Snyder  
Secretary

APPROVED: February 11, 2025

(Published in Delavan Enterprise Feb. 20, 2025 WNAXLP - 468054)

## ORDER FOR RAZING THE HOUSE LOCATED AT 28 N. THIRD STREET DARIEN, WISCONSIN, 53114 UNDER \$66.0413

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2024 the Village of Darien Building Inspector's office posted on the property located at 28 N. Third St., Darien, Wisconsin 53114, and legally described as follows:

TAX KEY: QOP00047

LOT 1, BLOCK 10 OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF DARIEN, WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN.

ALSO, A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE SOUTH-EAST~ OF SECTION 27, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 15 EAST, VILLAGE OF DARIEN, WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN, BEING A PART OF FREMONT STREET AS SHOWN ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF DARIEN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK 10, OF SAID SUBDIVISION, THENCE SOUTH 60° 21' 51" WEST, ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID BLOCK, 44.82 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1 OF SAID BLOCK; THENCE NORTH 29° 31' 21" WEST 15.34 FEET; THENCE NORTH 60° 23' 27" EAST 44.80 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 29° 38' 35" EAST 15.32 FEET TO THE PLACE

OF BEGINNING.

an official placard which indicated that the Village had determined that, due to a fire, the building was dilapidated and out of repair, and consequently dangerous, unsafe, and unsanitary, and otherwise unfit for human habitation which contained the following notice that: "This building may not be used for human habitation, occupancy or use"; and

WHEREAS, Rosa D. Ramirez aka Rosa Ramirez is the owner of the property located at 28 N. Third St., Wisconsin, 53114; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §66.0413(1)(b) gives the building inspection department the right to issue an order to the owner of the building to raze the building; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §66.0413(1)(c) provides that if a building inspection department determines that the cost of repairs of a building such as the building located at 28 N. Third St., Darien, Wisconsin 53114, would exceed 50% of the assessed value of the building divided by the ratio of the assessed value to the recommended value as last published by the Department of Revenue for the Village of Darien, the repairs are presumed unreasonable; and

WHEREAS, the building inspector's office for the Village of Darien has made said determination; and

WHEREAS, the building located at 28 N. Third St., Darien, Wisconsin 53114, is dilapidated, or out of repair, and consequently dangerous, unsafe, or otherwise unfit for human habitation.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered:

1) That Rosa D. Ramirez a/k/a Rosa Ramirez shall raze the building located at 28 N. Third St., Darien, Wisconsin 53114 by April 1, 2025;

2) That this order shall be served upon Rosa D. Ramirez aka Rosa Ramirez or her estate designee and all holders of any encumbrances pursuant to Wis. Stat. §66.0413(1)(d).

VILLAGE OF DARIEN  
By: Shannon Markley  
Village of Darien Building Inspector's Office

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 10th day of February, 2025  
Walworth County, Wisconsin  
Tracy M. Koch, Notary Public  
Commission Expires: 9/2026

(Published in Delavan Enterprise Feb. 20, 2025 WNAXLP - 468064)

## STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WALWORTH COUNTY

EDUCATORS CREDIT UNION  
1326 Willow Rd.  
Mount Pleasant, WI 53177  
Plaintiff,

vs.

HOLLY N. SCOTT,  
JOHN DOE SCOTT  
Unknown Spouse of Holly Scott,

ZACHERY C. ROSSMILLER  
W8771 Walnut Rd.  
Delavan, WI 53115,

JANE DOE ROSSMILLER  
Unknown Spouse of Zachery Rossmiller  
W8771 Walnut Rd.  
Delavan, WI 53115,

LVNV FUNDING LLC  
c/o Corporation Service Company,  
DISCOVER BANK,  
MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT, INC., and  
WALWORTH COUNTY CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT.

## FORECLOSURE PUBLICATION

Case No: 25-CV-000027

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN  
To each person named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The foreclosure complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 days after February 20, 2025, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the foreclosure complaint. The Court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the Court, whose address is 1800 County Road NN, P.O. Box 1001, Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121, and to the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 735 N. Water Street, Suite 205, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 days, the Court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the foreclosure complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the foreclosure complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

We are attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2025.

DARNIEDER & SOSNAY  
By: Electronically signed by Michael A. Sosnay  
Michael A. Sosnay,  
Attorney for Plaintiff

P.O. ADDRESS  
735 N. Water Street, Suite 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 277-1400  
State Bar No: 1059549

(Published in Delavan Enterprise Feb. 20, 27 & March 6, 2025 WNAXLP - 468077)

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF DELAVAN

Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the City of Delavan Plan Commission, to be held March 3, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 123 South Second Street, the following will be considered:

1. Public Hearing on a conditional use petition to amend the Group Development to include In-Vehicle Display or Service and Outdoor Sales or Land uses for Automotive Sales at 1830 Hobbs Drive, Unit H (tax parcel XSBP 00002E), within the Manufacturing Light (ML) Zoning District. Applicant: Noel Vargas, for N & G Auto Sales LLC

2. Public Hearing on a conditional use petition to amend the Group Development land use allowing for multiple principal buildings on a single parcel (XCRE 00032A) and within the Creekside Condominium (XCRE 25 through XCRE 32) within the Residential Mixed-8 (RM-8) Zoning District. Applicant: Shodeen Group LLC

3. Public Hearing on a request to consider Planned In-fill Development Amendment to the Official Zoning Map for a revised Step 3 General Development Plan at 2400 E. Geneva Street located in the Manufacturing Light (ML) Zoning District to allow for a residential development in the area of the Lake Lawn Resort golf course near North Shore Drive. Applicant: Harbor Club at Lake Lawn, LLC

Anyone wishing to speak will be given the opportunity to be heard. Dated this 10th day of February 2025.

Andrea White  
City Clerk

(Published in Delavan Enterprise Feb. 13 & 20, 2025 WNAXLP - 467913)

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PERMIT

The **Town of Richmond** intends to apply for a permit from the Wisconsin DNR to treat up to **155** acres of water in **Lake Lorraine** with aquatic herbicides to control **Eurasian Water Milfoil, Coontail, Elodea, Curly Leaf Pond Weed, Algae, Cattails and Chara for Limited Locations**. The proposed treatment would occur between **April 1, 2025 and November 1, 2025**. The **Town of Richmond** will conduct a public informational meeting on the proposed treatment if five or more individuals, organizations, special units of government, or local units of government request one. The meeting would give interested parties a chance to learn more about the proposed treatment from the permit applicant. The **Town of Richmond** is not required to, but may change the proposed treatment based on information provided by citizens attending the meeting. Any request for a public meeting on the proposed treatment must be made within five (5) days after this notice is published. The request must specify the topics to be discussed at the meeting, including the problems and alternatives, and must be sent in writing to **Town of Richmond** and to Wisconsin DNR, Attn: Heidi Bunk, 141 NW Barstow St. Room 180 Waukesha, WI 53188. This public notice is required by Chapter NRI 07, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

### Town of Richmond

(Published in Delavan Enterprise and Whitewater Register Feb. 20 & 27, 2025 WNAXLP - 468192)

## STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WALWORTH COUNTY

LVNV FUNDING LLC  
Plaintiff

-vs-

ZACHARI FUJII  
AKA ZACHARY FUJII  
Defendant

**Small Claims Amended Summons**  
Case No. 24SC00611

**TO: ZACHARI FUJII  
AKA ZACHARY FUJII  
4209 ROBBINS RD  
DELAVAN WI 53135-3500**

You are being sued by: LVNV FUNDING LLC in the Small Claims Court of WALWORTH County, located at 1800 COUNTY RD NN RM# 2055 ELKHORN, WI 53121.

A hearing will be held at 8:30 a.m. on March 6, 2025. If you do not appear, a judgment may be given to the party suing you. A copy of this amended summons along with the summons and complaint is being mailed to you.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin this February 13, 2025.

KOHN LAW FIRM S.C.  
ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED BY:  
/S/JOHN H. DANNER IV  
JOHN H. DANNER IV  
Plaintiff's Attorney  
State Bar No. 1125953  
735 N. Water St., Suite 1300

Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 276-0435

(Published in Delavan Enterprise Feb. 20, 2025 WNAXLP - 468137)

## ORDINANCE AMENDING WALWORTH COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS the Walworth County Board of Supervisors has heretofore been petitioned to amend the Walworth County Code of Ordinances, and

WHEREAS the petition has been referred to the County Zoning Agency for public hearing, and

WHEREAS the County Zoning Agency, on due notice, conducted a public hearing on the proposed amendment, and filed their recommendation with the Board, and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment has been given due consideration by the Board in open session,

NOW THEREFORE, THE County Board of Supervisors of the County of Walworth do ordain as follows:

The Walworth County Code of Ordinances, Zoning and Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (and accompanying Zoning Map) is amended in the following respects:

1. West Road Cottage Industries, Town of East Troy – Filed a petition to amend SAID ZONING MAPS FROM C-4 LOWLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO C-2 UPLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LANDS:

Tax parcel # P ET1800006A, Section 18, East Troy Township.

2. Big Foot Holdings, LLC, Town of Linn – Filed a petition to amend SAID ZONING MAPS FROM R-4 MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT (SEWERED OR UNSEWERED) AND B-3 WATERFRONT BUSINESS DISTRICT TO R-1 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT (UNSEWERED) THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LANDS:

Tax parcel # I L 1200005F, Section 12, Linn Township.

All lands on tax parcel I L 1200005F to be rezoned to R-1.

ATTEST this 14th day of January, 2025.

Rick Stacey  
County Board Chair

ATTEST this 14th day of January, 2025.

Susi Pike  
County Clerk

(Published in Elkhorn Independent, Delavan Enterprise and Whitewater Register Feb. 20 and East Troy News, Walworth/Fontana/Williams Bay Times, and Sharon Reporter Feb. 21, 2025 WNAXLP - 468043)

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT OF A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP FOR WALWORTH COUNTY 2050 WITH UPDATE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a public hearing will be held by the County Zoning Agency in the County Board Meeting Room of the Government Center located at 100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin on **Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.** covering proposed amendment to the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Map for Walworth County 2050.

(The items may not necessarily be heard in the order listed on this notice.)

**Amendments to Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Map for Walworth County 2050**

Joan Coehoorn – Owner, Section 27, Darien Township. The property owner is requesting to amend approximately 40 acres shown on the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan from (AP) Prime Agricultural to the (I) Industrial land use category, and a determination that such request meets the "extraordinary circumstances" standard due to this request being outside of the annual Land Use Map Amendment timeframe. The requested amendment is to allow the property owner to seek a future rezone from the A-1 Prime Agricultural Land District to M-1 Industrial District for a principal use for warehousing facility. The property of concern is located on the west side of Old Highway 89, approximately 310 feet north of the intersection of Old Highway 89 and Rolling Meadows Drive, identified as the western half of Tax Parcel B D 2700008.

Pursuant to Section 66.1001(4) Wis. Stats.

The petitions to amend said comprehensive plan map are on file at the Land Use and Resource Management Department, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Dated this 14th day of February, 2025.

Walworth County Zoning Agency requests any arrangements for handicapped access, sign language interpreter, or other assistance; please call our Offices at 262-741-4972 at least 48 hours prior to the Meeting.

(Published in Elkhorn Independent, Delavan Enterprise and Whitewater Register Feb. 20 and East Troy News, Walworth/Fontana/Williams Bay Times, and Sharon Reporter Feb. 21, 2025 WNAXLP - 468171)



# Nursing homes

(Continued from page 5)

new facility. That passed, too, earning 59% of the vote.

But county leaders haven't moved forward with construction. They say the county can't afford it, even with the voter-approved levy, due to rising construction costs.

The board rejected advocates' calls for yet another referendum.

"Is this a business that Portage County should be in?" That's what Portage County Board Chair Ray Reser asks. He says the county board is focused on keeping the nursing home beds in Portage County, even if the county no longer owns them. The groundswell of support for the nursing home doesn't surprise him.

"It's a really beloved institution in the county," Reser said, while adding that it's not the facility it once was.

When Carol moved into the nursing home, Roppe knew it didn't have the newest amenities or the nicest building. But it had the best care, which the federal government still rates "much above average."

Portage County's only other nursing home is for-profit and rated "below average."

Roppe now spends some entire days organizing to protect the nursing home, even though a decade has passed since her sister lived there.

Before major board votes, the Roppes post the meeting agenda and other details to their "Save the Portage County Health Care Center" Facebook group." Nancy prints and delivers agendas to advocates without social media and crafts her

own public statement. Joe sets up a livestream of the meetings for those wanting to watch at home, and Nancy arrives in-person at least 15 minutes early.

Nancy follows each meeting by typing up a colorful summary to share with those who couldn't watch. "The Grinch is alive and well in Portage County," she wrote in December after the board voted to solicit buyers.

"I enjoy the fight," she said. "I wish I didn't have to fight, but I'll take the fight on."

**St. Croix County creates victory**

Nearly 200 miles west of Portage County, the St. Croix Health Care Campus is no longer the subject of a privatization debate.

A discussion about selling prompted opponents to flood a St. Croix County board meeting last August.

"There were more than 100 rather annoyed people there," said 70-year-old Celeste Koeberl, who attended.

The board ultimately voted to keep the highly rated nursing home public, determining its revenue would likely grow, aided by higher state reimbursements and a federal grant to open a dementia wing.

Board Chair Bob Long said his colleagues never seriously considered a sale. But Koeberl credits local organizers with a victory.

"I think that that's an encouraging thing, that when we show up, when we speak up, we can make a positive difference, and we should remember that," Koeberl said.

She doesn't know anyone at the nursing home but joined neighbors in opposing the sale after learning about the possibility last summer – seeing the center as providing quality care that the county can't afford to lose.

"Everybody has experience with an older person in their family who needs help, and everybody who faces that learns the dearth of resources," Koeberl said.

In Portage County, nursing home advocates face challenges in maintaining the energy that propelled them early in their fight. They regularly filled county board meetings years ago, Nancy Roppe said, but now just six to eight attend each meeting, with additional folks at particularly important ones. Some core group members have died in recent years.

"People are going to get older and sicker and are just not going to be able to physically do it anymore," Roppe said.

At a December board meeting, nine people testified against selling, with two speaking in favor. Still, the board voted 17-8 to move a step closer by approving a potential sale.

Roppe likes to remind her colleagues that they have a winning record so far, despite the challenges.

"You cannot now get all depressed," she said. "The fight continues."

**Advocates take case to state officials**

Portage County's nursing

home debate has swirled for the majority of Grace Skibicki's 14 years living there. She can't recall any board members seeking her opinion.

"What's their beef with us?" Skibicki asked. "Is it because we're old and we don't count?"

She moved into the nursing home following a stroke in 2011. Without an easy way to join meetings from the nursing home, she relies on friends for updates.

Skibicki worries public pressure won't be enough to persuade the board to tap the brakes on a sale. Board members won't be up for reelection until 2026.

But setting the facility would also require state approval.

That's why the Roppes and more than a dozen public nursing home advocates from Sauk, Portage, Lincoln, Marathon and Walworth counties met with state officials in January in Madison – a two-hour trip from



Opponents of privatizing county-owned nursing homes led by Nancy Roppe, left, walk past the Wisconsin State Capitol en route to a meeting with state officials on Jan. 9 in Madison. "I wish I didn't have to fight, but I'll take the fight on," Roppe says of her effort to keep Portage County's nursing home public.

Stevens Point in Portage County.

It was the organizers' first meeting after years of advocating in individual counties.

"We were working more in our own little backyard, where now we're branching out to say, 'Hey, we need help from the state,'" Nancy Roppe said.

The organizers rehearsed questions in a hotel conference room before meeting with officials at the Department of Health Services and the Office of the Secretary of State.

The state can block individual sales based on a buyer's financial instability or poor past performance. But the state can't force a county to keep its facilities.

No matter what happens in Portage County, Roppe considers all of her effort worth it. Delaying the sale this long matters for residents who have relied on the nursing home in recent years.

Last year she received a reminder of that impact in the mail: a card from a former neighbor whose late husband Paul spent his final years at the Portage County Health Care Center. If not for the facility, she could not imagine where he would have ended up, the neighbor wrote.

"If we did nothing else, there was a place where Paul got the best possible care in his last days," Roppe said.

*The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (WisconsinWatch.org) collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication. All works created, published, posted or disseminated by Wisconsin Watch do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of Southern Lakes Newspapers or any of its affiliates.*

County's Code of Ordinances – Shoreland Zoning to construct additions to a residence. The Ordinance requires a 25 foot street yard setback and prohibits the addition from being in the 50 foot vision triangle of an intersection. The applicants are requesting 15 foot street yards and an addition within the 50 foot vision triangle of an intersection. The property is zoned R-1, Single-Family Residence District (unsewered). The property is described as Tax Parcel(s) H556 00016 and is located at W5666 Wren Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. STAFF REPORTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Adjustment takes testimony and will then recess for the purpose of viewing properties if needed, thereafter, will reconvene into open session to deliberate and make decisions on March 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

**WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Rose Smith-Miller, Secretary

If uncertain of the location of the Government Center, contact the Land Management Office at (262) 741-4972. Requests and arrangements for handicapped access, sign language interpreter, or other assistance; please call our offices at (262) 741-4972 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

(Published in Elkhorn Independent, Delavan Enterprise and Whitewater Register Feb. 20 and 27, 2025  
East Troy News, Walworth/Fontana/Williams Bay Times, and Sharon Reporter Feb. 21 & 28, 2025  
WNAXLP - 468086)

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**Town of Bradford**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 10th, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. at the Bradford Town Hall the Town of Bradford Planning and Zoning Committee and the Town Board will hold a joint public hearing on the following requests:

A request by Cabin Creek Properties LLC in regards to a request for a Land Division 35.01+ acres of Parcel No. 6-3-234.01 part of the NE ¼ of the SW 1/4 of Section 31, Milner Rd., Town of Bradford, under Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Bradford.

A request from Tim Bliss in regards to a request for a Land Division of 10 acres of Parcel No. 6-3-91.2 part of the NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 and SE of NE of Section 13, Bradford Townhall Rd under Chapter 19 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Bradford.

The purpose of the hearing is for the Planning and Zoning Committee and the Town Board to hear all interested parties. Further information may be obtained from Marlina Jackson, Clerk, Town of Bradford.  
Email: townbradfordclerk@gmail.com, Phone 608-713-2631.

The Planning and Zoning Committee will meet immediately following the public hearing to consider a recommendation on the request. Town Board members may be present. The Town Board of Bradford will be meeting immediately following the P&Z committee meeting for the recommendation.

Marlina Jackson, Clerk  
Town of Bradford

(Published in Clinton Topper Feb. 20, 2025  
WNAXLP - 468084)

## LEGAL NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing before the Plan Commission of the Village of Darien on **Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, for the purpose of hearing all parties, their attorney or agents with respect to the Conditional Use Permit application submitted by Splash Properties LLC. The applicant is petitioning to have a restaurant at 42 S. Walworth St., in the Village of Darien, within the current Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District.

The public hearing will take place in the Board Room at Darien Village Hall, 24 N. Wisconsin, Darien, WI 53114. The Planned Commission is seeking public input. You may attend the public hearing in person or submit a letter or email expressing your thoughts to the Village Administrator at P.O. Box 97, Darien, WI 53114 or [azimmerman@darienvillagewi.gov](mailto:azimmerman@darienvillagewi.gov).

The Plan Commission will review and may recommend to the Village Board, the application of Conditional Use for approval of the above-mentioned property, to allow a restaurant in the Neighborhood Commercial District.

/s/ Abby J. Zimmerman  
Village Administrator/  
Clerk-Treasurer

(Published in  
Delavan Enterprise  
Feb. 20 & 27, 2025  
WNAXLP - 468188)

### STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WALWORTH COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ESTATE OF  
Joan D. Butenschoen

**Amended Notice to Creditors**  
(Informal Case No. 25PR08)

### PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 11/04/1943 and date of death 05/19/2024, was domiciled in McHenry County, State of IL, with a mailing address of 932 West Avenue, Woodstock, IL 60096.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is May 12, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Walworth County Courthouse, 1800 County Rd. NN, PO Box 1001, Elkhorn, Wisconsin, Room 2085.

Electronically Signed by  
Michele Jacobs  
Probate Registrar  
February 3, 2025

David A. Rasmussen  
P.O. Box 250  
Walworth, WI 53184  
262-275-5669  
Bar Number 1012810

(Published in  
Delavan Enterprise  
Feb. 13, 20, & 27, 2025  
WNAXLP - 467734)

### WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING JANUARY 14, 2025

The Walworth County Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Stacey at 5:00 p.m. in the County Board Room at the Walworth County Government Center, 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Roll call was conducted and the following Supervisors were present: Chair Rick Stacey; Vice-Chair Sheila T. Reiff; Su-

pervisors Brian Holt, Dennis Karbowski, Joanne Laufenberg, Kenneth H. Monroe, Susan M. Pruessing, Joseph H. Schaefer, and Bud Wojcik. Supervisors Kathy Ingersoll and Al Stanek were remote. A quorum was established.

**Others in attendance:**  
Walworth County Administrator Mark W. Luberda; and Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use Resource Management Michael Cotter.

Joseph H. Schaefer, Walworth County Board Supervisor, District #2, delivered the invocation.

**Amendments, Withdrawals, and Approval of Agenda**  
On motion by Supervisor Karbowski, second by Supervisor Schaefer, the agenda was approved by voice vote with no withdrawals.

**Approval of the Minutes**  
On motion by Supervisor Holt, second by Vice-Chair Reiff, the December 10, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes and the December 10, 2024 County Board of Supervisors Meeting minutes were approved by voice vote.

**Comment Period by Members of the Public Concerning Items on the Agenda**  
There was none.

**Appointments/Elections**  
There were none.

**Communications and Matters to Be Referred**  
Chair Stacey announced that unless there was a request for an individual communication to be discussed, the Clerk would dispense with the reading of each title and the Chair would direct that all communications be referred or placed on file as indicated on the agenda.

1. Claims Received After Agenda Mailing
2. Claims: a) Petition for Writ of Certiorari and Claim for Relief – Delavan Lake Sanitary District, Petitioner v. Walworth County Board of Adjustment and Walworth County, Respondents (To be referred to the Executive Committee)
3. Jackson County Res. No. 57-12-2024; Town of Curran Res. No. 2024-1; Town of Hixton Res. No. 2024-02; Town of Knapp Res. No. 1-2024; Village of Melrose Res. No. 4-2024; Village of Merrill Res. No. 21-2024; Town of Adams Res. No. 2024-01; Town of Bear Bluff Res. No. 24-1; Town of Manchester Res. No. 2024-03 regarding the request for help and assistance to decrease the continuing negative impact the elk are having on affected citizens and their property in Jackson County (To be placed on file)
4. Correspondence from County Clerk Susi Pike regarding Walworth County Elected Officials Bond (To be placed on file)
5. Correspondence from United Way of Walworth County Board of Directors and Executive Director Brian Holt Re: Allocation of ARPA Grant Funding for 2024 (To be placed on file)
6. Report of the County Clerk Regarding Communications Received by the Board and Recommended to be Placed on File
  - None
7. Report of the County Clerk Regarding Communications Received by the Board After Agenda Mailing
  - Claims: a) Claim for Damaged Property – Isaiah Garcia; b) Notice of Injury and Claim – Jayden Paul (To be referred to the Executive Committee)
  - Chippewa County Res. No. 53-24 – Resolution to Formally Support the Creation of an Inpatient Psychiatric Treatment Facility in Northern Wisconsin – Tim Easker (To be referred to the Health and Human Services Board)
  - 8. Report of the County Clerk Regarding Zoning Petitions (To be referred to the County Zoning Agency)
  - Lake Beulah Holdings LLC C/O Chris Trebatowski, East Troy Township. Rezone approximately 1.1 acres of B-3 Waterfront Business District to R-1 Single-Family Residence District.

mately 1.1 acres of B-3 Waterfront Business District to R-1 Single-Family Residence District.

**Unfinished Business**  
**New Business**

**Reports of Standing Committees**

**County Zoning Agency Report of Proposed Zoning Amendments**  
1/0 West Rod Cottage Industries C/O John Stoss – Owner, Section 18, East Troy Township. Rezone approximately 0.37 acres of C-4 to C-2 – Approved 6-0 (Supervisor Stacey recused himself) (December 19, 2024 County Zoning Agency Public Hearing)  
Chair Stacey relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Reiff and recused himself due to a conflict of interest at 5:05 p.m. Stacey noted the petitioner for Item #1, West Rod Cottage Industries, is a direct neighbor of his and is seated on the Lake District board. On motion by Supervisor Pruessing, second by Supervisor Karbowski, Item #1 of the County Zoning Agency Report of Proposed Zoning Amendments was approved as recommended by the County Zoning Agency by voice vote. Chair Stacey resumed as Chair at 5:06 p.m.

2. Big Foot Holdings LLC – Owner, David Schawk – Applicant, Section 12, Linn Township. Rezone approximately 0.58 acres of R-4 and B-3 to R-1 – Approved 7-0 (December 19, 2024 County Zoning Agency Public Hearing)  
On motion by Supervisor Schaefer, second by Supervisor Pruessing, Item #2 of the County Zoning Agency Report of Proposed Zoning Amendments was approved as recommended by the County Zoning Agency by voice vote.

**Executive Committee**  
1. Ord. No. 1360-01/25 – Amending Section 2-134 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances Relating to Children with Disabilities Education Board – Vote Required: Majority (Recommended by the Executive Committee 5-0 and the Children with Disabilities Education Board 5-0)  
On motion by Supervisor Holt, second by Supervisor Monroe, Item #1, Ord. No. 1360-01/25, was approved by voice vote.

**Finance Committee**  
1. Res. No. 63-01/25 – Authorizing a Budget Amendment of \$325,000 in the Walworth County Sheriff's Office Budget for Patrol Overtime and Associated Fringe Benefits for the Year Ended December 31, 2024 – Vote Required: Two-thirds (Recommended by the Executive Committee 5-0 and the Finance Committee 4-0)  
2. Res. No. 64-01/25 – Authorizing the Closure of Highway Project CTH C USH 14 to USH 14 and Transferring Remaining Funds to the Road and Bridge Construction Committed Fund Balance for the Year Ended December 31, 2024 – Vote Required: Two-thirds (Recommended by the Public Works Committee 5-0 and the Finance Committee 4-0)  
3. Res. No. 65-01/25 – Authorizing the Closure of Two Capital Projects Completed During 2024 and Transferring Remaining Funds to the General Fund Building/Equipment Reserve Committed Fund Balance for the Year Ended December 31, 2024 – Vote Required: Two-thirds (Recommended by the Public Works Committee 5-0 and the Finance Committee 4-0)  
4. Res. No. 66-01/25 – Authorizing the Application and Acceptance of the Office of Crime Victim Services Victim Waiting and Comfort Room Enhancements Grant and Establishing a Budget – Vote Required: Two-thirds (Recommended by the Finance Committee 4-0)  
5. Res. No. 67-01/25 – Authorizing the Acceptance of the Aging

and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Modernization Project Grant and Establishing a 2025 Budget – Vote Required: Two-thirds (Recommended by the Health and Human Services Board 9-0 and the Finance Committee 4-0)

Supervisor Karbowski offered a motion, second by Vice-Chair Reiff, to approve Item #1, Res. No. 63-01/25. A roll call vote was conducted. Total votes: 11; Ayes: 11 – Holt, Ingersoll, Karbowski, Laufenberg, Monroe, Pruessing, Reiff, Schaefer, Stacey, Stanek, and Wojcik; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. **Res. No. 63-01/25** was approved by roll call vote.

Supervisor Monroe offered a motion, second by Supervisor Schaefer, to approve Item #2, Res. No. 64-01/25. A roll call vote was conducted. Total votes: 11; Ayes: 11 – Holt, Ingersoll, Karbowski, Laufenberg, Monroe, Pruessing, Reiff, Schaefer, Stacey, Stanek, and Wojcik; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. **Res. No. 64-01/25** was approved by roll call vote.

Supervisor Staneck offered a motion, second by Vice-Chair Reiff to approve Item #3, Res. No. 65-01/25. A roll call vote was conducted. Total votes: 11; Ayes: 11 – Holt, Ingersoll, Karbowski, Laufenberg, Monroe, Pruessing, Reiff, Schaefer, Stacey, Stanek, and Wojcik; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. **Res. No. 65-01/25** was approved by roll call vote.

Vice-Chair Reiff offered a motion, second by Supervisor Karbowski to approve Item #4, Res. No. 66-01/25. A roll call vote was conducted. Total votes: 11; Ayes: 11 – Holt, Ingersoll, Karbowski, Laufenberg, Monroe, Pruessing, Reiff, Schaefer, Stacey, Stanek, and Wojcik; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. **Res. No. 66-01/25** was approved by roll call vote.

Supervisor Holt offered a motion, second by Supervisor Ingersoll, to approve Item #5, Res. No. 67-01/25. A roll call vote was conducted. Total votes: 11; Ayes: 11 – Holt, Ingersoll, Karbowski, Laufenberg, Monroe, Pruessing, Reiff, Schaefer, Stacey, Stanek, and Wojcik; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. **Res. No. 67-01/25** was approved by roll call vote.

**Transportation Coordinating Committee**

1. Res. No. 68-01/25 – Authorizing the Rebranding of the Transportation Programs – Vote Required: Majority (Recommended by the Transportation Coordinating Committee 5-0)  
On motion by Supervisor Monroe, second by Supervisor Staneck, Item #1, **Res. No. 68-01/25**, was approved by voice vote.

**Reports of Special Committees**  
There were none.

**Comment Period by Members of the Public Concerning Items Not on the Agenda**  
Eryca Card of Elkhorn, Wisconsin, a teacher for the Elkhorn Area School District, presented a project involving Middle School 6th-grade students who wish to create picnic tables for the Veteran's Park. Card requested approval to be placed on the next County Board Agenda for the students to present their proposal.

**Chairperson's Report**  
There was none.

**Adjournment**  
On motion by Supervisor Monroe, second by Supervisor Schaefer, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Prepared By: Kathleen Aukland,  
Administrative Assistant  
Submitted By: Susi Pike, County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
COUNTY OF WALWORTH ) SS

I, Susi Pike, County Clerk in and for the County aforesaid,

do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors for the January 14, 2025 meeting.

(Published in Elkhorn Independent, Delavan Enterprise and Whitewater Register Feb. 20 and 27, 2025  
East Troy News, Walworth/Fontana/Williams Bay Times, and Sharon Reporter Feb. 21, 2025  
WNAXLP - 468042)

### PUBLIC HEARING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Please take notice that a public hearing will be held by the Walworth County Board of Adjustment on March 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. and decisions on March 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room (Room 114) in the Government Center (formerly known as the Courthouse), 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin to consider the following:

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, February 12 & 13, 2025
5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Variance Petitions

1. Lauderdale Residence Trust, owner / Aiden Stevens, applicant – Section(s) 26 – La Grange Township

Applicants are requesting a variance from Section(s) 74-174 / 74-181 of Walworth County's Code of Ordinances – Shoreland Zoning to construct a residence. The Ordinance requires a 75 foot shore yard setback. The applicants are requesting shore yard setbacks of 65 feet for the residence and 30.3 feet for the driveway. The property is zoned R-1, Single-Family Residence District (unsewered). The property is described as Tax Parcel(s) H L62600027 and is located at N7688 West Shore Drive, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

2. Barbara A. Touchett & James E. Walsh Jr., owners / Barb Touchett & Jim Walsh, applicants – Section(s) 21 – Delavan Township

Applicants are requesting a variance from Section(s) 74-181 / 74-219 / 74-221 of Walworth County's Code of Ordinances – Shoreland Zoning to construct additions to a residence. The Ordinance requires a 25 foot rear yard setback and a 5 foot side yard setback. The applicants are requesting a 23.5 foot rear yard and a 3.9 foot side yard. The property is zoned R-2A, Single-Family Residence District (sewered). The property is described as Tax Parcel(s) FDLA 00174 and is located at 1502 State Street, Delavan, Wisconsin.

3. Dennis L. & Laurie A. Gaszak Sr., owners / Dennis & Laurie Gaszak, applicants – Section(s) 10 – East Troy Township

Applicants are requesting a variance from Section(s) 74-165 / 74-181 / 74-221 of Walworth County's Code of Ordinances – Shoreland Zoning to construct an accessory structure. The Ordinance requires a 25 foot street yard setback and 25 foot rear yard setback. The applicants are requesting a 16.6 foot street yard and 3 foot rear yard. The property is zoned R-2, Single-Family Residence District (sewered). The property is described as Tax Parcel(s) PMR 00102E and is located at N9110 Ash Street, East Troy, Wisconsin.

4. Kyle P. & Kelly M. Salek, owners / Kyle Salek, applicant – Section(s) 26 – La Grange Township

Applicants are requesting a variance from Section(s) 74-181 / 74-201 / 74-221 of Walworth



# Coach (Continued from front page)

Delavan-Darien on this stage.”

**About the WBCA All-Star Games**

The WBCA All-Star Games are annual showcase events featuring the top high school basketball players in Wisconsin.

These games provide an opportunity for elite senior athletes to compete at a high level while raising funds for charitable organizations throughout the state.

Proceeds from the event

support several Wisconsin-based charities, including: Camp Hometown Heroes; Camp Wawbeek/Easter Seals of Wisconsin; Garding Against Cancer; MACC Fund; and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Wisconsin.

Beyond the games themselves, the WBCA also hosts All-Star banquets to honor the selected players and coaches, recognizing their hard work, dedication, and contributions to the sport.

# Wrestlers (Continued from front page)

championship, he dropped a 4-1 decision to James Bratz of Shoreland Lutheran, but came back with an 11-0 major decision over Dominic Staver of Big Foot/Williams Bay.

Fusco, a pair of pins, had a bye and managed to make the final. There he was pinned by Owen Burling of Lake Mills, but got a 4-1 decision over Joe Ebel of Jefferson to take second.

Other sectional qualifiers for the Comets were Kevin Vaughn (third at 113) and Dalton Warrenburg (third at 120).

**Big Foot/Williams Bay**

In addition to Staver's third-place finish, BF/WB qualified four other wrestlers for sectionals, with Carter Ries bringing home the 165-pound title.

Ries had a first-round bye, then secured a pair of pins to make the final. There, he won by technical fall by outscoring Hunter Burr of Martin Luther 17-0 in 3:53.

Ryne Huff made it to the 120 final with a bye, a tech fall and a pin, but ran into Jarvis Porcaro of Whitewater – who had racked up three titles and two runner-up finishes this year.

Porcaro pinned Ryne Huff in 3:23, but Ryne then came back to pin Warrenburg (Delavan-Darien) to secure second.

Also qualifying for sectionals for BF/WB were Jonah Henningfield (third, 126) and Jake DeMarco (fourth, 190).

**Whitewater**

The Whippets did everything they could to try and secure a team sectional berth, even wrestling RVC girls 100-pound champion Adalynn Frye at 106 pound to earn points.

Frye finished fifth and is an alternate for sectionals.

Meanwhile, in addition to Porcaro's title at 120, the Whippets added titles from Connor Friend at 144 pounds and Traysen Thomason at 150.

Friend had a bye to the quarterfinals, then picked up a pair of pins to make the title bout. There, he won by fall over Christian Cardon of St. John's Northwestern Co-op in 4:32.

For Thomason, the route was similar. A first-round bye was followed by a fall and then a tech fall. In the championship, he pinned Thomas

O'Brien of Jefferson in 1:35.

Jasen Porcaro also made finals for Whitewater at 132, with a bye, a pin and a tech fall. He lost to East Troy's Brady Collins by tech fall in the championship, but took second without having to wrestle, having previously defeated Sergio Velasquez of Shoreland Lutheran earlier in the day.

Richi Kalra was the final qualifier for the Whippets, taking fourth at 175.

**East Troy**

The Trojans earned titles from Landen Bogard (126) and Collins – who reached the 132 final without having to wrestle more than a minute in any of his previous rounds.

Bogard, meanwhile, had a first-round bye, then advanced by pin in the quarters and semis.

In the final, Bogard won by tech fall in 2:30 over Aiden DeBlare of Jefferson, 18-1.

Owen Feucht added a second-place finish at 113 pounds, losing by fall in the final before defeating Delavan-Darien's Vaughn 6-0 in the second-place match.

Sean Cain finished third at 106 and Hunter Rehfeldt fourth at 285 to qualify for sectionals.

**Girls sectional**

At the Mukwonago sectional, Big Foot/Williams Bay, Delavan-Darien, East Troy and Whitewater all had wrestlers make it to the finals.

For Big Foot/Williams Bay, Chloe Pearce won the title at 145 pounds, downing Serenity Salas of Westosha Central by pin in 2:14 in the championship match.

Natalia Jesberger of Delavan-Darien added a title at the girls 165-pound weight class. There, she won by pin in the final in 5:27 over McKenzie Healy of Mukwonago.

Helaina Sprager of East Troy won her 185-pound semifinal by pin, but was injured in the process. She was unable to contest the final against Marianna Kubicz of Whitewater, who added the final area title by injury default.

Sprager took second by virtue of her semifinal pin over Carly Corelli of Westosha Central.

Other sectional qualifiers were Delavan-Darien's Gracie Blue (fourth at 152), and Whitewater's A'Lani Ross (fourth at 126) and Payton Taylor (third at 165).

# Scam (Continued from front page)

will never call and demand immediate payment for a jury duty-related fine. Official jury summonses and failure-to-appear notices are sent via first-class mail. Court officials and officers do not make phone calls to threaten arrest or demand payments.”

Residents who receive such calls and are unsure of their legitimacy should hang up immediately and contact the Clerk of Circuit Court's office at 262-741-7012.

Individuals summoned for jury duty first receive a questionnaire by U.S. mail, followed by a summons with instructions on how and when to report.

Those who fail to com-

plete and return their questionnaire, or who fail to appear for jury duty, will receive a written notification of their failure to comply, which may include notification of a hearing scheduled before a judge. But they will never receive a phone call demanding money.

The Clerk of Circuit Court's office may issue a fine for failure to appear, but notification will always be sent via an official letter.

For more information about the Clerk of Circuit Court's office and the Walworth County Circuit Court system, visit [www.co.walworth.wi.us/151/Clerk-of-Circuit-Court](http://www.co.walworth.wi.us/151/Clerk-of-Circuit-Court).

# Fundraiser (Continued from front page)

He said he had to do repair some relationships to get those businesses to participate.

The program Kibler got authorization to use is through a company called Leading Edge. The company would run most of the fundraiser, which Kibler said would take a lot of work off his shoulders. This program would also create discount cards at businesses but not just local businesses.

National chain businesses will be recruited as well so family members who don't live in the area can still purchase and use the cards in their own communities.

Kibler said the Wilmington football coach raised \$30,000 this year using this program. He also said the

Comets Cards would remain at least temporarily.

If the new program was successful, Kibler said the Comet Card program could be passed off to the Booster Club or some other group.

President Dave Henriott said his concerns included a possible negative impact on local businesses and the image the more fundraising gives to the district, though even he voted to approve it in a unanimous vote.

**Track assistant coach added**

The board approved a request to add a paid assistant coach for track and field. Athletic Director Kyle Polzin said participation in track and field has increased in recent years and the program

is now the largest athletic program at the high school with 63 athletes last year and 71 the year before that.

The current program has one head coach and four assistants. Polzin said the coach-to-athlete ratio is larger than in other sports like football, which has seven total paid coaches and fewer athletes. The cost to add another coach is \$2,300.

**Wrestlers recognized**

The board recognized four members of the high school's conference champion wrestling team. John Fusco won an RVC title at 190 pounds the weekend before the meeting. Dylan Beighton won the 215 pound title. Brody Nichols is a back-to-back champion at 175 pounds. The school

also fielded a girls' wrestling team for the first time and Natalia Jesberger is the school's first-ever girls' conference champ at 165 pounds.

**Academics recognized as well**

The Board also recognized Honor Roll and High Honor Roll students at the high school. Principal Jim Karedes said 58% of the students at the high school had a GPA at or above 3.0 for the first semester. Thirty percent of D-DHS students made the Honor Roll and 28% made the High Honor Roll.

Jaymee Thompson, Director of Teaching and Learning, also recognized the large team of staff who have been working to meet

Act 10, a new state requirement for implementing the Science of Reading instruction into the district.

Thompson said it has not been an easy task and several people have been essential to meeting the requirements. The Reading Team consists of Jen Grossen, Jenni Hildebrandt, Helen Guerrero Castro, Kelly Laschinger, Katrina Loebel, and Matthew Hadlock. The Instructional Coaches Team consists of Jessica Draffkorn, Sara Daubner, Irma Nixon, and Joseph Wehrenberg. The EL Coordinator is Cindy Brown and the Teaching and Learning Coordinator is Kelly Jones. The Math Interventionists include Cori James, Erin Rae, and Amber Hooverson.

Thompson also thanked school staff and administrators.

**New psychology class to be offered**

The Board approved a new college-level psychology class to be taught by Julie Quartucci. The class is in partnership with UW-Whitewater/UW-Rock County through a program called Partners in Education.

**Phoenix grading periods to change**

As a result of the Allied Arts classes the board approved for Phoenix Middle School for next year, the grading periods will be changed from the current trimester system to quarters and semesters.

# SPORTS

# Comets get needed win

By Michael S. Hoey  
CORRESPONDENT

The Delavan-Darien boys' basketball team won its first game since Jan. 9 with an 80-64 win at Whitewater on Feb. 13.

“These kids have worked awfully hard and reaped the benefits of a victory, which is nice,” Coach Todd Pyszora said.

“They have busted their tails all year long, stuck the course, came to practice every single day, played real hard,” he added. “I’m really proud of them and their effort here tonight.”

It did not look like there would be much celebrating early on as the Comets fell behind 9-0. Pyszora said the Comets fell behind 10-0 at Whitewater last season. He said he did not know what was behind the slow starts, but he was glad to see the Comets play some really good basketball to get back into the game.

Part of the problem in the first half was the Comets left Whitewater's Ty Hagedorn

open on the perimeter and he nailed three three-pointers.

“We knew he was a decent shooter,” Pyszora said. “We got caught on help defense and he hit some threes on us in the first half.”

Pyszora said the Comets were a little too focused on stopping a couple of the other Whippets and that meant someone else was going to be open sometimes.

“We just didn't close out quick enough on him,” he said.

Once some adjustments were made, the Comets quickly came back and took a 13-12 lead. The game was tight for a bit, then the Comets got hot and opened up a 32-24 lead near the end of the half.

The Comets then scored 28 at the half and led 32-28 at the first eight points of the second half to take command. Hunter Rendon got hot from beyond the three-point line and the Comets built a 52-34 lead.

“I've been waiting for a start like that for a while,” Pyszora said of the good second-half start.

“I was really proud of how they came out and executed to start the second half,” he said. “We always talk about scoring first and then getting a defensive stop and we did that plenty of times.”

The Whippets (1-18, 1-9 RVC) made a run and got their deficit down to 56-47 with just under ten minutes to play, but the Comets answered back and pushed the lead up to 72-53.

“By and large, we had an answer every time they made a run,” Pyszora said. “We kept them at bay and we did what we needed to do by spreading them out and getting enough stops down the stretch to salt it away.”

Pyszora said Rendon, Haaken Horvath, and Caden Duckworth all played very well. He said the Whippets did not do a good job of containing Duckworth as he repeatedly was able to grab a rebound and then travel the length of the floor and get a layup.

“We had a lot of kids that stepped up and played really well,” Pyszora said.

Hovestol led the Comets with 24 points. Rendon added 22 and Duckworth had 15.

The Comets did drop a 68-51 decision to St. Augustine Prep on the road on Feb. 11. The Comets were competitive early and battled St. Augustine (10-11) to a 17-17 tie. St. Augustine took the lead for good on a three-pointer by Zamari Whitmore and built a 31-23 lead at the half.

Fueled by transition baskets, St. Augustine built a 59-36 second half lead and cruised from there.

Hovestol led the Comets with 15 points. Duckworth added 11 and Rendon had ten.

The Comets (4-15, 2-8) had a home game against Brodhead postponed due to the weather on Feb. 14. They traveled to Jefferson (6-14, 2-9) on Tuesday and will host East Troy (8-12, 5-7) on Friday.

The Comets will travel to Oshkosh on Saturday to play Beaver Dam (10-10) at the arena of the Wisconsin Herd semi-professional basketball team that is affiliated with the Milwaukee Bucks.

# Delavan-Darien falls to Jefferson

By Michael S. Hoey  
CORRESPONDENT

The Delavan-Darien girls' basketball team fell to Jefferson 59-53 at home on Feb. 11. The Comets got off to a good start on Senior Night, but the Eagles came through down the stretch to secure the win.

In honor of Senior Night, seniors Addison Stallings, Jaelyn Logterman, and Karyssa Green all started – Stallings in her knee brace.

Stallings injured her knee in a previous game and is done for the season, but the Jefferson coach agreed to allow the Comets to start her and have Cadyn Lumkes, her cousin, win the tip with no opposition. Lumkes tipped the ball to Delaney Stallings who passed to her sister beneath the rim and Stallings made her final shot as a Comet in a touching moment.

After giving the Eagles a free unchallenged basket in return, the Comets built a 13-5 lead. Jefferson (8-13, 5-8 RVC) fought back and took a 20-19 lead. The game was close the rest of the half with Jefferson up 31-30 at the break.

“We got out to a nice lead, we were beating them down the court, then they started beating us down the court,” Coach Christine Lumkes said. “They are a tough team that way.”

The Comets got off to a good start to the second half. Lumkes said the main message at halftime was to stop letting the Eagles beat them down the floor, but then Jefferson turned up the defensive pressure and regained the lead at 39-38. The Eagles pushed that lead to 51-43 with four minutes to play. The Comets hung around but could not get

any closer than six points.

One issue the Comets had was giving up five three-pointers to Jefferson's Ashlyn Enke.

“We have an issue with losing shooters, whether we are in man or zone,” Lumkes said. “We knew she was a good three-point shooter, so that's something we have to work on.”

As for the aggressive Jefferson defense that the Comets struggled with, Lumkes said it was frustrating because the Eagles were using their hands and reaching, something that gets the Comets into foul trouble when they do it. Jefferson was getting away with it for much of the second half until the referees finally started to call fouls for it like they had not earlier.

Lumkes said Jefferson just made the plays they needed

to down the stretch to hold on for the win.

“They used that pocket pass and they'd get that extra pass and lane touch and that probably hurt us much as anything else,” Lumkes said. “Either threes by Enke or the extra pass that led to layups.”

Lumkes said she was proud of how the Comets talked more in the second half, had some great defensive stops and good rebounding, and played with physicality.

The Comets (11-9, 6-6) traveled to Monroe (3-19, 0-12) on Monday night, traveled to Janesville Parker (3-19) on Tuesday, and will close out the regular season at East Troy (19-2, 11-0) on Friday.

The Comets will begin WIAA regional play on Friday, Feb. 28 as the fifth seed at fourth-seeded Monona Grove (11-9).



# State Ice Carving Championship

**Clockwise from top left: Burlington's Mike Austin fine tunes his ice sculpture featuring a turtle during the Feb. 15 Wisconsin State Ice Carving Championship at Wehmhoff Square Park in Burlington. Juneau's Josh Jakubowski works on his ice sculpture. Dan Ingrebrigton, of Franklin, chisels away to create his ice sculpture.**

JASON ARNDT PHOTOS Southern Lakes Newspapers



## Boxed & Burlap

### A UNIQUE WEDDING VENUE

Barn, outdoor sites offer many options to couples

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

Those seeking a unique bridal and event venue may want to consider Boxed and Burlap, on Highway 67 near Highway 50, Delavan, which has been transformed into an elegant space. The property, originally a one-building, two-bedroom farmhouse, was purchased by Lindsay and John Neighbors in 2016 and transformed into a coffee house. It's easy to spot, with "COFFEE" in large letters along the building, encouraging drivers to stop for a cup of quality, self-roasted coffee. The store also carries tea and pastries.

John began renovating the property when the couple purchased it, turning the house into the coffee shop and adding a greenhouse. The garage was transformed into Batten House, which today is used as a bride's room for weddings.

In addition, he built a large barn, capable of holding up to 250 guests at any event. Originally built to hold boats, the couple ran a small garden shop on the property. At Christmas time, John and Lindsay sold Christmas trees and wreaths in the parking lot for a few years.

It didn't take long for the space to grow into a wedding and event venue. The first wedding was held there in 2018.

"They were all family weddings," said Megan Garcia, sales manager for Boxed and Burlap. In 2020, the space officially became a wedding and event venue, and about 55 couples now tie the knot there each year.

While barn weddings have become popular over recent years, there is a difference between the barn at Boxed and Burlap and many others. Unlike many barns, formerly used to house animals and hay, this venue's barn is new with large, windowed doors and skylights to allow natural light to shine in.

Bright clear decorative lights are hung near the ceiling, adding to the ambiance. A built-in bar is at one end of the building, with a separate building for caterers to assemble the food they will be serving.

"There are two outdoor ceremony sites, each beautiful in its own way," shared Garcia. "One has a background of trees and the other is more of a garden space. And if the weather doesn't cooperate, the ceremony can be moved indoors."

"By holding it in front of one of the large glass doors, the same beautiful forest background is still seen," she explained.

Rental for a wedding includes the barn as well as Batten House, traditionally used by the bridal party for preparing makeup and hair. It's a place to relax as wedding festivities begin.

"While the bride and her attendants have a place to enjoy and prepare, we have not forgotten the groom and the groomsmen," said Garcia, adding that an Airstream was purchased and is being transformed into a groom's space.

Rental begins at 8 a.m. the day of the event to allow ample time to decorate for it. The rental of the space includes round tables and white plastic chairs, but the design of the space and setting it up is the responsibility of the renters. Renters can



COURTESY WANDERLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY Southern Lakes Newspapers

Inside Boxed and Burlap's barn, the space is elegantly prepared for a reception. With lighting from chandeliers and plenty of room, it's an ideal space for a wedding or other group gathering.

## Downtown location has coffee, art classes and more

In 2023, a second Boxed and Burlap location opened, this one in downtown Delavan.

The large coffee shop and luncheon venue features plenty of space to visit with friends while enjoying the quality coffee roasted there and used at both locations.

This space is a large venue that has a long history in Delavan, located on the famous Brick Street (East Walworth Avenue), named such from the bricks that were used to pave the street that date back to when the circus wintered in Delavan.

The building was first used as Schulz's Five and Dime and later was part of a clothing store. Today, the multi-use space incorporates a coffee shop, coffee roasting area, rental space for groups, an art gallery and a speakeasy.

Lindsay Neighbors was an art teacher and dreamed of bringing an art space to downtown Delavan. On the first floor, a studio is used by Shannon Osbourne and Rachel Catlett to teach painting classes for people of different ages and abilities.

"We hope to add ceramics and pottery classes in the near future to fully extend the arts experience," Garcia said.

The lower level of the downtown store also serves as an event space, decorated by a Chicago graffiti artist Lindsay brought in.

Additionally downstairs features the speakeasy, called Bar 119. Just as in the days of prohibition, it's a private space that requires a password to access through the secret entrance. There are people who have paid memberships to Bar 119 and may enter at any time the bar is open. Special events require a ticket be purchased.

Non-members may still visit Bar 119 by



COURTESY BOXED AND BURLAP Southern Lakes Newspapers

Boxed and Burlap in downtown Delavan is a beautiful and relaxing space.

asking a member of the staff for the password and being directed to the secret entry. There is a cover charge for non-members.

Boxed and Burlap is at 230 E. Walworth St., Delavan. The hours are Sunday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Friday and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to midnight. To learn more, visit [boxedandburlap.com](https://boxedandburlap.com).



COURTESY WANDERLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY Southern Lakes Newspapers

The large white barn at Boxed and Burlap features a large open space inside allowing for nearly any setup desired, for weddings as well as other gatherings.





# business

## money sense

### Moves to consider during a career transition

#### Look at options in advance

If you are navigating a career transition, what financial moves should you consider? Here are five things you need to know before making a move.

- Know the money involved. If your transition is due to a layoff or early retirement package, you need to understand how much money you'll receive and for how long. Will the money stop if you accept a new role, will you accrue sick leave and vacation time during your transition and will you be paid for unused leave at your final resignation date? You should also investigate if you qualify for any programs that would support you during your transition.

- Know your benefits package. Many companies and organizations offer extended benefit packages for those transitioning into retirement or being laid off. For example, the Federal government may offer coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program, or you can research programs like the Temporary Continuation of Coverage, which can last up to 18 months for separating employees. Regardless of your situation, doing your research and asking questions about programs and support is available to you is key.

- Know your retirement plans. Many Americans have retirement savings in 401Ks and similar programs. Government employees use the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). You should work with a financial professional who can explain how you'll be taxed on withdrawals from these accounts, should you need them. In some cases, you can qualify for early retirement and can avoid the 10% early withdrawal penalties. If you're transitioning to a new role, you may have the option to transfer past accounts like your TSP to a new employer's 401(k) if the plan accepts transfers. Finally, you could roll over your existing savings plan into an IRA allowing you to avoid immediate taxes and potentially providing you with some attractive investment options.

- Review your finances and budget. What sources of income can you count on during this transition? If you have built an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, you may need to tap into it. If you were already nearing retirement age, you may be able to find some part-time work until you land your next full-time job. At the same time, you may want to closely examine your budget to find areas in which you can cut back. One of the many free budgeting apps available online can prove useful in this area.

- Get some answers – and some help. You may want to consult with a financial professional, who can provide advice and guidance and help you work toward your short- and long-term goals.

This can unquestionably be a challenging time for you. But by looking at all your options, drawing on all your resources and getting some financial advice and guidance, you can make decisions that can help you be prepared for whatever life throws at you.

*This article was written by Edward Jones.*



JASON ARNDT Southern Lakes Newspapers

Sydney Huisinga, owner of Ellie Bean Boutique, stands near just a few of the many items available at her store in Burlington.

## Kids consignment store under new ownership

*Ellie Bean Boutique, Burlington, offers affordable prices*



JASON ARNDT PHOTOS Southern Lakes Newspapers

**Ellie Bean Boutique, 265 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington features hundreds of children's consigners. Owner Huisinga instills her passion for outfit arrangements, decorating and children's products at her business.**

By Jason Arndt  
STAFF WRITER

A children's consignment store in Burlington recently underwent an ownership and name change.

Previously known as grayson grape & co, 265 Milwaukee Ave., first-time mother Sydney Huisinga and fiancé Caleb Kresken bought the establishment from owner Dana Erickson and transformed the business into "Ellie Bean Boutique" in honor of their daughter.

Huisinga, a 2020 Burlington High School graduate, officially reopened the business on Jan. 16 after she spent time working with Erickson.

"I was already working here and had already been doing a lot of it for a while," she said. "It is pretty much the same shop. We did change a little bit in the shop to make it more of our own. But other than that, it is pretty much the same."

Ellie Bean Boutique, like its predecessor, features new and gently worn clothing, toys, baby items, books, and many other products from hundreds of consigners.

Huisinga said Ellie Bean Boutique touts diverse product offerings at affordable prices.

"We have a lot of baby items and we carry up to like an adult extra small, so a lot of clothing and a lot

of bamboo," she said, adding that they also have maternity clothing available as well, also at discounted prices.

"Our consigners that were with grayson grape got transferred to us, so we kept building up what we already had."

#### Finding a purpose

Originally from Lake Geneva, Huisinga attended Badger High School as a freshman before moving to Burlington, where she completed the last three years at Burlington High School.

Around the time she gave birth to Huisa, who is now 2 years old, Huisinga discovered grayson grape and immediately fell in love with the store.

"It was perfect because I had a place to go for all of my baby stuff and I saved money," Huisinga said. "It was really nice to have."

As a stay-at-home mother, Huisinga said she wanted to reconnect with the community and began helping Erickson at grayson grape.

"I was looking for something to help me get out of the house and back into the community, and helping Dana a couple of days a week was exactly what I needed," Huisinga wrote in her introductory announcement late in 2024.

**See ELLIE BEAN, Page 3**

## 'Reformed' look at mobility, fitness

*Everyone can benefit from Pilates at new studio in Whitewater*

By Jennifer Eisenbart  
STAFF WRITER

After Mariah Lohff had her first child in January of 2023, she noticed something.

Her normally fit body didn't exactly do what she wanted it to anymore. A life-long dancer who turned to weightlifting as she got older, Lohff said she suddenly couldn't even lift an "easy" weight – 90 pounds.

"The pelvic floor, it's completely torn apart," she said of giving birth.

What Lohff discovered in her aim to become better educated about exercise was Pilates. Now, roughly two years later, she is opening her own studio, Pilates Reformed, in Whitewater – a city that has become home to her after both she and her husband graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

"Pilates is not only for everyone – and I truly mean for anyone – I can work with any mobility level," Lohff explained.

The studio officially opened Monday, with a ribbon cutting at 131 W. Center St., Whitewater. Following the ribbon cutting was a mini-class and demonstration of the key piece of equipment Lohff uses – the Reformer.

Pilates, she explained, offers a little something for everyone. While Lohff worked on Pilates with her mother-in-law to help with range of motion in the woman's shoulder, Pilates can be used at whatever level it needs to be.

Beginners work with a far different set of exercises than the advanced level, but Pilates has also become a popular workout for professional and high-level athletes.

"You'd be hard-pressed to find a professional athlete that hasn't tried Pilates," Lohff explained. NBA great LeBron James does the

exercise, but so does golfer Tiger Woods.

It's also popular among Olympians – gold medalists Kerri Walsh-Jennings (volleyball) and Missy Franklin (swimming) have tried it as well. Even gold-medal gymnast Simone Biles has tried Pilates – though, in her case, it's one of the few things she found difficult and won't be going back to.

As Lohff explains, once she got into Pilates, she discovered how much it toned the entire body –

something that creator Joseph Pilates intended when he started the exercise practice during World War I while interned in a British camp. Lohff prefers to teach – and exercise – using the Reformer, but Pilates can be performed on a mat as well. Mat work and early Reformer work both provide a base for those performing the exercises to move up to more advanced moves.

Currently, Lohff offers only Reformer Pilates. With the Reformer – basically a platform with a sliding carriage allowing resistance exercises using loops and springs – beginners start out on their backs and engage their core while also working specific muscle groups.

Each workout at Lohff's studio is 50 minutes long. As people progress from the beginner levels into intermediate and advanced, workouts can go from one a week to two or perhaps even three – and exercises progress from not just on the back but in kneeling and standing positions as well.

Lohff is certified to teach Reformer 1 and 2, as well as pre-natal and post-natal Pilates. She also now owns a triangle wedge, which allows pregnant women to work in positions other than on their side once they are past 16 weeks in the pregnancy.

"I highly recommend Pilates if



SUBMITTED PHOTO Southern Lakes Newspapers

**Earlier this week, Pilates Reformed owner Mariah Lohff celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting for her new business, at 131 W. Center in Whitewater. Behind her are the Reformer machines she uses in her studio.**

anyone is pregnant, as a way for preparing the body for childbirth," Lohff said. "But I also recommend it for post-natal recovery. Pilates is a game-changer."

She is currently staffing the studio with herself and one other employee but is still looking for at least one other teacher who can potentially handle early morning classes.

As Lohff's career progresses from human resources to owning this studio, one important thing has remained constant.

"It's helping people," she said, adding that she also volunteers in

the Whitewater community. "It's what's been consistent in my career.

"It's just the next endeavor for me – how I give back. I'll never stop learning about how to be better at this," she said.

Classes and costs for Lohff's studio can be found at pilatesreformedww.com.

For more information, contact Lohff by calling 715-571-2202 or by sending an email to pilatesreformed ww@gmail.com.

She can also be found on Facebook and Instagram, under pilatesreformedww.







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## help wanted

### Help Wanted

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## real estate

### Other Real Estate

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**No nights or weekends**

**Please send a resume, questions or to request an interview time to Heidi Schulz at:**  
**[hschulz@southernlakesnewspapers.com](mailto:hschulz@southernlakesnewspapers.com)**

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## GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Continued growth within our group of weekly newspapers and shoppers has caused the need for an additional graphic designer at our Delavan, Wis. facility. This position includes ad design, including web ads, and page design of our weekly publications. Part or full-time position available. Proficiency in Adobe InDesign and Photoshop necessary; prior newspaper experience preferred but not required.

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EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

OPEN POSITIONS

- Food Service Cook - Little Prairie Primary
- Food Service Cook - Prairie View Elementary
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- Food Service Floater

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For more information, or to apply, visit  
<https://www.eastroy.k12.wi.us/district/employment.cfm> or call the district office at 262-642-6710



EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

OPEN POSITIONS

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