

# Lake Country

THIS MONTH

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## Lake Country skiers test mettle at ‘The Birkie’

Hundreds compete in world ski event

By Kelly Smith  
Special to The Freeman

PEWAUKEE — Elizabeth Loya, 46, a Pewaukee mother of three teenage boys and a senior clinical coordinator for a biotech company, has spent two years training for one of the world’s toughest cross-country skiing competitions.

She is at a fitness center by 5 in the morning kick boxing, weight lifting, or high intensity interval training, before returning home to get the kids off to school and start her work day.

Later this month she will be among nearly 375 Waukesha County Nordic skiers making the five-hour drive to Cable and Hayward in northwestern Wisconsin to compete in the Slumberland American Birkebeiner and Kortelopet races.

Nearly 300 skiers from Lake Country registered for the events last year, according to the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, organizer and host of the event.

More than 5,000 skiers from southeastern Wisconsin have participated in the races in the past 19 years, said Ben Popp, executive director of the ABSF.

The ABSF anticipates nearly 10,000 skiers representing nearly two dozen countries will compete in the races on Feb. 23 and 24.

“The Birkie” is a 34.1 mile cross country race that twists, turns, and weaves through the western edge of the Chequamegon National Forest along U.S. Highway 63 between Cable and Hayward.

It is the only North American event on the professional WorldLoppet international tour of 20 cross country races in Europe and Asia.

### Birkie fever

The Birkie is considered one of the most challenging courses on the circuit.

“It tests you to your limits,” said Thomas Stuber of Delafield, an Arrowhead High School counselor.

“When you finish, it reminds you what your life has been like, because at times out there you feel so close to death,” added Stuber.

Stuber has completed the course in less than three hours and finished 29th among the top 200 elite skiers in the world.

Loya, a triathlete who has competed in the shorter 26-kilometer (about 15 miles) Kortelopet race, spent 2016 preparing for her first Birkie.

But her sweat and sore muscles were for naught; the 2017 race was cancelled the day before it was to run.

Unseasonably warm weather and rain melted much of the snow leaving the course a dangerous combination of mud, ice, and too little snow for safe ski racing.

“Last year was pretty deflating but I got over it,” Loya told The Freeman as she prepared for the 2018 Birkie.

She initially questioned whether she would return this year, citing the challenges of “getting my work and personal schedule in sync with my husband’s and three busy kids.”

But, Loya has what race promoters describe as “Birkie Fever.”

“Birkie Fever is a euphemism for excitement,”



Submitted photo

Skiers line up prior to the start of the 2016 American Birkebeiner, regarded as one of the toughest international cross country ski events. 2016 was the last time the race was conducted. The 2017 competition had to be canceled because of a lack of snow brought on by unseasonably warm weather and rain a couple of days before the event in Hayward.

explained Charlie Ritter of New Berlin, a retired medical equipment salesman, who has competed in 19 Kortelopets and three Birkies.

“The excitement of the race. The excitement and anticipation of looking forward to it every year,” he added.

“It helps get you through Wisconsin winters,” Ritter concluded.

“It is about being active all year,” added Greg Sanden, 53, of Hartland, “Hiking, biking, a 10 K race or two, then skiing when possible.”

Sanden has competed in six Birkies.

“I hit the gym throughout the year to maintain some level of cardiac fitness,” Jerry Kania, of Pewaukee, explained.



Loya



Sanden



Kania



Stuber

“I ski on my weekends off on our property up north near Eagle River,” said Kania, a pharmacist at Children’s Hospital.

### Race history

The Birkie was founded in 1973 by Hayward tourism entrepreneur Tony Wise who

became a fan of Nordic skiing while serving in the military in Germany during World War II.

The race honors a historic Norwegian event in 1206 when two warriors called “Birkebeiners” skied an infant prince to safety during a civil war.

The prince later became king of Norway and the “Birkebeiners,” named for

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### INSIDE



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Dr. Jay Lo, D.C., of HealthSource Chiropractic of Hartland, has been in private practice since 2000.

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*A century of sound at St. John’s Military Academy*

Photos by Mary Catanese



Pipe Major Brian Donaldson leads the 100th Corps, SJNMA 2018, out of the Noble Victory Memorial Chapel on Jan. 26.



Zhou Wei Wang receives a 100th Anniversary Medal from Dr. Jack H. Albert, Jr., president of St. John’s Northwestern Military Academy on Jan. 26.



Cadets enter the Noble Victory Memorial Chapel to celebrate 100 years of the pipe and drum corps at St. John Northwestern Military Academy on Jan. 26.



Erin DeNova takes a photo of her son, Brendan DeNova, during the celebration of the 100th pipe and drum corps.

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# A love of nature that will last an eternity

## DNR renames part of Lapham Peak Trail to honor Sandgren

By Chris Bennett  
Special to The Freeman

DELAFIELD — Judy Sandgren often walks the trail named for her late husband, Paul, in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine Forest located near her home in Delafield. She does so with her dog, Champ, and swears Paul is with her.

The trail is named for Paul.

Sandgren passed on in March 2016 from brain cancer. He worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for decades, and his last post was as superintendent of the Kettle Moraine State Forest's Southern Unit.

In August, a number of governmental bodies came together and renamed a short section of trail in the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine Forest Southern Unit for Sandgren.

This is no small feat. The section of trail was previously named for Alonzo Cushing, a Delafield native who received a Medal of Honor at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 during the American Civil War.

"He probably wouldn't like it," Judy said of Paul's reaction to the road being renamed. "He was very humble that way. He got plenty of awards, and he was kind of low-key about it. I would say he'd be embarrassed."

Judy does not share in what she believes would be her husband's reaction.

"I think it's really great," Judy said. "I wish he was here so he could enjoy it some more but, actually, I think he is in spirit. I think he does actually walk with me when I'm on it."

The heart wants what the heart wants, and it's obvious Judy's heart desires Paul. Paul worked for the DNR for more than 30 years. Paul and Judy married in October of 1985, and Paul took a position with the DNR at Lapham Peak in the fall of 1986.

Paul retired from the DNR in July of 2015. His brain cancer made the rigors of the job too much. Judy left her job to take care of Paul, and enjoy as much as they could of their final days together on earth.

The section of trail named for Paul is easily described as a misshaped T. The trail begins at the entrance of the park on Hwy. C. It traverses a short distance west, and intersects with a trail that connects the Ice Age Trail and Glacial Drumlin Trails.

Judy said Paul saw a need for the trails to be connected. The company that paved the trail concurred.

"Whoever paved the trail — the project manager said to Paul, 'This trail is really going to be busy,'"



Submitted photo  
Paul Sandgren poses on his 60th birthday.



Submitted photo  
The sign that marks the Paul Sandgren Recreational Trail placed by the Department of Natural Resources. The dog is Champ, which is Paul and Judy Sandgren's dog.

Judy said. "I've paved a few of these trails, and there are people on them all the time."

Judy and Paul traversed the trail together when he was still alive — first on foot, and then she pushed him in his wheelchair.

Paul graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in natural resources — recreation resource management, and enjoyed being outside. Judy said Paul didn't hunt or fish much, but liked to ski and golf and bike and be outside.

The DNR might have been the perfect career for

Paul. His personality made him a natural for the position.

Anne Korman, current superintendent of the Kettle Moraine State Forest's Southern Unit, worked together with Sandgren for several years. Sandgren was hired as assistant superintendent in 2012. Korman counts 29 years with the DNR.

Korman said there are 155 miles of trails in the Southern Unit, and she needed to learn their intricacies. When she presented her concerns to Sandgren, he asked if she skied. Korman said she did, and

Sandgren invited her to make time to spend time on the trails. Korman said Sandgren's theory was the best way to learn your job was to do your job.

"He went about his business with an open attitude," Korman said. "He had a great sense of humor. He could make you laugh, or point out something light-hearted in a sensitive situation."

"He had a very infectious laugh. He was very large — you always knew when he was coming in a room. He had a larger-than-life personality. He made work fun."



Submitted photo  
Tom "Doc" Klein of Dousman, a veteran of 31 Birkies, works out at the cross-country ski loop at Lapham Peak State Park.



Submitted photo  
Elizabeth Loya of Pewaukee is frequently at a fitness center by 5 a.m. preparing for the American Birkebeiner cross country ski race to be held Feb. 24 in Hayward.

## Birkie

From Page 1A

the birch bark leggings they wore, became a symbol of national courage.

The race starts in Cable, population 885, 17 miles north of Hayward.

The skiers must navigate steep hills and tricky turns through the forest and then race across a frozen lake.

They continue racing onto a snow-covered wooden bridge built over Highway 63 so they can finish in downtown Hayward where there are tens of thousands of spectators cheering and clanging cow bells.

The estimated 25,000 to 30,000 spectators consume nearly every

motel room, rental cabin, resort, and lodge within an hour's drive of Hayward, a Sawyer County city of about 2,300, settled by a lumber baron in the 1870s.

Crowds could be larger this year because The Birkie was given a prominent role in the NBC television network promotion of the Super Bowl which was played in Minneapolis, about two hours southwest of Hayward.

In addition, the Birkie will begin immediately after the Winter Olympics Nordic skiing competitions are completed in South Korea.

However, Popp says there is the possibility there will be fewer skiers from Lake Country in the competition this year than previously because of a lack of snow

and unseasonable warm winter temperatures in southeastern Wisconsin.

### Skiing locally

Some of the local skiers are members of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snow Making Project.

The Friends of Lapham Peak is a nearly 30-year-old not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting and promoting the Lapham Peak unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, located three quarters mile south of the Highway C/Interstate 94 interchange in the Town of Delafield.

Since 2006, Friends of Lapham Peak Snow Making project has raised more than \$250,000 in private and corporate donations

for the purchase of equipment to provide man-made snow along a one-mile ski loop.

Because of the unseasonable warm weather during the past two winters, the loop has been the only snow-covered training venue available north of Chicago and east of Madison, according to Popp.

Popp recently visited Lapham Peak State Park to learn more about the snow making process.

He believes man-made snow is a resource the Birkie could use in the future to help prevent cancellations like last year.

(This is the first of a two-part series about the American Birkebeiner. The second part will appear in the March edition of Lake Country Monthly and will report on the race on Feb. 24.)



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Submitted photo

Bartelt donates 1,151 pounds of food

DELAFIELD — Bartelt. The Remodeling Resource, a family-owned remodeling firm specializing in residential and commercial design and construction, hosted a food drive in December for Hunger Task Force and donated 1,151 pounds of nonperishable food items with the help of community members. “We’d like to thank our clients, employees, industry partners and neighbors for supporting our food drive,” said Rick Bartelt, owner. “We are excited that we exceeded our 2017 goal and are able to help so many families in need.” Pictured from left to right are: back row, Jessica Boll, Chris Bartelt, Dawn Manthey, and Terri Inhof; and front row, Amanda Coakley and Mary Sweet. Hunger Task Force’s mission is to prevent hunger and malnutrition by providing food to people in need today and by promoting social policies to achieve a hunger-free community tomorrow.



Submitted photo

CELA collects 2,000-plus books for Milwaukee students

CITY OF PEWAUKEE — Christian Education Leadership Academy students Max Neumann, left, and Emberley Knuteson stand before more than 2,000 books that the school helped collect to support students at St. Marcus School in Milwaukee. The book collection was for the Home Libraries for Kids program. HL4K’s mission is to create home libraries for children to develop their interest and love for reading.



Photo courtesy of the Delafield Chamber of Commerce

CCi joins Delafield Chamber of Commerce

DELAFIELD — Corporate Contractors Inc. recently joined the Delafield Chamber of Commerce, which held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the event. CCI is a general contracting firm focused on making its every project an example of inspired design realized by purposeful construction that reflects a sensibility to its clients’ visions of construction. Corporate Contractors Inc. is a part of the Hendricks Holding Company Inc. portfolio of companies, which has created many of the downtown Delafield buildings. Pictured from left to right are: Jeff Gross, Kettle Moraine School District; Clark Chiaverotti, State Farm — Wales; Erin McDonald, The Delafield Hotel; Matt Kirchoff, The Kirchoff Group; Brad Austin, CCI; Dawn Geeleher, Response Realtors; Carla Bodway, Waukesha State Bank; Sharon Reitsma, CCI; Steve McNeal, CCI; and Michael Ramsdail, CCI.



Photo courtesy of Hartland Chamber of Commerce

Your Team Real Estate joins chamber

HARTLAND —The Hartland Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Your Team Real Estate as a new member. Ambassador Deb Nollen of Area Welcome, left, presents Kristi Artiles of Your Team Real Estate — Realty Executives Integrity with a membership plaque from the chamber. Also pictured from left to right are ambassador Nicole Hansen of First Bank Financial Centre; Kim Schedler, Sue Heitz and Tina Catalanotte of Your Team Real Estate; and ambassador Dr. Brandon Meye of Lake Country Health Center. Your Team Real Estate — Realty Executives Integrity is a full-time realtor with market experience in Lake Country, Brookfield, Menomonee Falls, Waukesha and the surrounding southeastern Wisconsin communities. The office is located at 810 Cardinal Lane, Hartland and can be reached at 262-501-6963.

Optometric boutique Theia Vision Care opens in Hartland

By Brandon Anderegg  
banderegg@conley.net.com  
262-513-2657

HARTLAND— French Impressionist painter Claude Monet is known for his series paintings, in which his observations of the same subject, viewed at various times of the day, are captured in numerous sequences. By looking at one of Monet’s paintings from earlier in his career and comparing it to a painting of the same scene from just before he died, you’ll notice a blurriness to the latter — a result of the age-related eye condition called cataracts, said Dr. Anna Koeck. Koeck, an optometrist by trade, held the grand opening of her optometry business in Hartland called Theia Vision Care recently. And if you were to step into the quaint little optometric boutique located at 213 E. Capitol Drive, you’d notice a series of Monet’s paintings that depict the effects of his eye condition.

Similar to the differences found in Monet’s paintings, Koeck has the experience to notice the subtle changes that occur in the human eye. In fact, she can find unrelated health conditions just by looking at the patient’s eyes. “I can actually see the twisted blood vessels caused by hypertension in your eye, or swelling caused by diabetes or your dry eye that is actually caused by the undiagnosed sleep apnea,” said Koeck. Though Koeck prides herself on her ability to take care of all patients, she feels particularly passionate about caring for children, she said. So much so that she offers free eye exams to children who have not had one in the past. “I also feel strongly about providing the best care for little ones who may not know to tell you if they are having vision issues or may even be having other concerns,” she said.

But Koeck said offering the latest medical ocular procedures and making sure her patients’ eyes are healthy isn’t the only aspect of her business. She said having the latest innovations in contact lenses along with fashionable frames is also key in providing comfortable vision and visual health for all of her patients. “We want you to feel your best,” said Koeck. “From your overall health to your vision to your sense of fashion and style.” Koeck lives in Hartland with her husband, Josh, and her 2-year-old son, Maks. She said she’s excited to bring her family-owned business to Hartland and serve the community. “We are thrilled to bring our patient focused integrative medicine approach to Hartland, WI and the Lake Country Area,” said Koeck. For more information, call 262-361-0022 or visit <http://www.theiavisioncare.com>.

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Pewaukee Superintendent Mike Cady talks to students.

Submitted photo

# Hands-on leading

## Cady wants to engage everyone involved in Pewaukee School District

By Chris Bennett  
Special to The Freeman

PEWAUKEE — Everyone seems to want a piece of the superintendent of a school district. It seems Mike Cady would have it no other way.

Cady took over as the superintendent of the Pewaukee School District in August after serving for several years as the district's chief academic officer.

He took the helm from JoAnn Sternke, who served as superintendent for more than a decade before retiring.

Don't worry about Cady spreading himself too thin in his new duties.

"You really, as a superintendent, are most effective when you interact with as many groups or stakeholders in the district as possible," Cady said. "Your job, when you lead an organization like this, is to connect with and engage everyone associated with your school system."

Cady said the Pewaukee School District numbers about 3,000 students and 400 employees — from teachers to custodians, cafeteria personnel to maintenance workers, and more.

Cady's current role is the result of moving up the ranks through 25 years in education, and he will readily admit every stop in his career prepared him for his current role in Pewaukee.

"Everything I do involves working with and through other people," Cady said.



Cady

with students and our staff."

As one moves higher up in education their view broadens and expands, and Cady has made a career of expanding his horizons.

He taught in Pewaukee, and moved into administration with a position in the Nicolet School District in Glendale. He returned to Pewaukee and worked as an associate principal at Pewaukee High School.

Cady served as the principal at Franklin High School from 2004 to 2012, when he returned to Pewaukee as chief academic officer in his third tour of duty with the district.

Cady is also in the process of completing his Ph.D. in leadership in the areas of learning and service at Milwaukee's Cardinal Stritch University. He defends his thesis — Studying the Efficacy of Blended Learning in Math in High-Performing High Schools — in March.

Like almost all school districts in suburban southeastern Wisconsin, Pewaukee is in excellent shape, and can cite test scores as proof. Cady said some ideas in learning are broader than test scores, and said

"That's what it boils down to. Sometimes it's called the b a l c o n y view, but I try to be much more in the mix

Pewaukee wants to make students future-ready. The high school class of 2031 started school this year. The challenge in front of educators and administrators is to ensure students are prepared to live and thrive in a world that does not yet exist.

"What is the school district going to look like when your 4-year-old kindergarten kids graduate from high school?" Cady said. "We know that we are preparing students for a very different economy. We are really engaged in that work, as we prepare them for a more global economy."

Cady said predictions state that 40-65 percent of the jobs that exist today will eventually be taken over by technology. The district is focusing on developing students as lifelong learners who possess adaptable skill sets. The days of teachers disseminating information and expecting rote regurgitation are long past.

In the near future, Cady said the district will engage in strategic planning in March. He needs to hire a new principal at Pewaukee High School, and also help develop a facilities master plan.

Cady said Pewaukee is the fastest-growing school district in Waukesha County over the last 10 years. Given the demands of students, parents, teachers and more, it's unlikely the demands on his time will ebb anytime soon.

# YMCA at Pabst Farms launches annual campaign

OCONOMOWOC — The YMCA at Pabst Farms has launched its annual campaign with the goal of raising \$312,000.

The annual campaign is the YMCA's primary fundraising effort with 100 percent of donations going directly toward ensuring programs are affordable for all and its doors are open to all who wish to participate.

"The annual campaign has been a part of our Y's culture since long before we moved to Pabst Farms," said Jon Lange, CEO, in a

statement. "We are continuing to elevate the visibility of the campaign with help from a network of volunteer leaders in our community. More than 1,400 Y members received financial assistance last year, totaling over \$285,000. Charitable gifts from Y donors made it possible for 1,112 youth to have a safe place to learn and build confidence after school and Summer Day Camp; for 263 individuals with special needs to participate in programs centered on physical activity, recreation, and

socialization; and for 350 individuals to connect with their faith and with each other through Bible studies for men and women.

The focus of this year's campaign is on building potential for youth; ensuring opportunities for all regardless of differences in financial, physical, or cognitive abilities; and helping individuals develop a healthy spirit.

The Y's Annual Campaign will run through March 10.

— Freeman Staff

# Hartland projects in progress

## Task list includes condos, water tower makeover

By Brandon Anderegg  
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262-513-2657

HARTLAND — The village has multiple projects in the works including a proposed condominium development on the northeast side, a plan to realign Highway KE, new outdoor benches downtown and beautifying the village's water towers, according to a Jan. 15 Plan Commission agenda.

The proposed location for the new condominium project is on 80 acres of land between Mary Hill Park and Winkelman Road. The site plan indicates 72 single-family homes and 54 duplexes for a total of 126 units, according to Village Administrator David Cox.

But the development project is still several months off with various factors to consider before construction begins, said Cox. Due the proposed project's location, the village has had to consider a plan to adjoin split segments of Highway KE near Highway K, which both village and Waukesha County officials have been discussing for quite some time, according to Cox.

The plan would call for relocating Highway KE near Highway K northeast of the Bristlecone Pines subdivision and the Legend at Bristlecone golf course. That intersection is now a split intersection with a 90-degree turn, but under the new plan, Highway KE would run from Jungbluth Road to Winkelman Road — a safer alternative that would increase the flow of traffic, Cox said.

He added that the new route would effectively split the condominium development project in half, yet another reason the village has been planning ahead. Cox said not only would the village allow the county the right of way, but the village would make sure there were appropriate landscape buffers for homes adjacent to the highway.

"That county highway may not come for, let's say 10 years after their house is built," said Cox. "But at least we know that we planned for it and the location is as buffered as possible from their home."

Moreover, the Plan Commission must consider amendments to the village's Comprehensive Plan as parts of both the condo project and rerouting Highway KE. The amendments involve routing the highway as well as a future land use designation to allow more dense development for the condo project.

Cox said the Village Board wouldn't take any action until after a public hearing scheduled for March 26. If the board approves the amendments, the process of approving a development and zoning plan could be done as early as June.

### Water tower

In upcoming years, the village will be repainting at least two of its water towers, on Hill Street and Coventry Lane, according to Cox. At the Jan. 15 Plan Commission meeting, staff sought commission and



Submitted photo

The Plan Commission was given a few water tower color scheme options and it chose this design for all of Hartland's towers, according to Village Administrator David Cox. This design works best because a green stem will camouflage the accumulation of dirt, Cox said.

resident feedback for potential water tower painting schemes. Both the 15 or so residents at the meeting in addition to commission decided that a green stem and white top was the most aesthetically pleasing option, said Cox. Both the Commission and Village Board approved the new design, he said.

### Downtown benches

The Downtown Business Improvement District sought village approval of a coordinated plan to replace all 17

existing benches downtown and to add two more at the Jan. 15 commission meeting. The BID is proposing shared cost between itself and the village, using business sponsorships for the benches. The proposed bench and installation plan will present the need for additional concrete pads or footings in some locations.

The design and location of the benches have been approved by the commission. The Village Board will review the design, location and the BID's finance plan for the benches on Feb. 26.

# Hartland names Freeman official newspaper

HARTLAND — The village of Hartland designated the Waukesha Freeman its official paper following a decision by the Village

Board on Jan. 22, according to the Village Board meeting agenda.

Hartland Village President Jeff Pfannerstill said

the citizens of Hartland deserve more extensive coverage of their community.

— Freeman Staff



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# A cause that hits close to home

## Pewaukee student’s dad inspires her efforts to benefit Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

By Ashley Haynes  
ahaynes@conleynet.com  
262-513-2681

PEWAUKEE — When Hannah Reynolds found out that her father, Jeff, had been diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia, she had a difficult time processing what the diagnosis meant and how she could help. It wasn’t long before she landed on fundraising as an ideal option. The Pewaukee High School student is participating in a sizable fundraising effort this year, the largest one she has ever helped organize.

“When I first found out about the Students of the Year campaign, we had a meeting with a representative from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and she was just telling us how much effort and time it would take,” said Reynolds. “My mom just gave me this look, but I was like ‘nope, I’m going to do this.’”

Reynolds is taking part in The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Wisconsin’s first Student of the Year event. It includes area high school students competing in a seven-week fundraising campaign. The group that raises the most money will be named the Leukemia Lymphoma Society 2018 Student of the Year for the Wisconsin chapter at a special gala. Reynolds handpicked her team members for the group “Straight Outta Chemo,” named aptly in her effort to still have fun. She has spent weeks of coordinating to pull together a business plan to reach her goal of \$15,000. The campaign will end March 1.

“I spent a lot of time brainstorming what businesses I wanted to talk to for sponsorships,” said Reynolds. “I also spent a lot of time figuring out what fundraiser would give me the best outcome.”

With her team, Reynolds has organized a wealth of fundraisers to take place over the next seven weeks. She will be selling bracelets at basketball games, partnering with local businesses who are willing to donate their proceeds, and participating in a miracle minute. A miracle



Submitted photo

Pewaukee High School student Hannah Reynolds and her father, Jeff Reynolds. Hannah is taking part in a new fundraising event for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She is looking to raise at least \$10,000 for the organization by March 1, in support of finding a possible cure for the disease. Jeff Reynolds was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia in 2010.

minute involves sharing her story during halftime at a basketball game and collecting as much money as possible from spectators.

“I’m a little nervous about the miracle minute, but all my friends will be there supporting me,” said Reynolds. “My dad is excited. He is really proud of me and what I’m doing. He knows it’s in his honor.”

She is optimistic that she will meet and even surpass her \$15,000 goal in the coming weeks.

### A difficult decision

Julie Reynolds, mother to Hannah, wasn’t even sure if she was ready to tell her child about her husband’s diagnosis when it first came to light in 2010. Julie explained that Jeff has been consistently getting sick and suffering from sinus infections, colds and bronchitis that weren’t cured by the normal doses of antibiotics. After checking in with a specialist, Jeff received his diagnosis of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, a type of leukemia normally found in 70-year-olds. Jeff was then placed on a watch and wait list, which

meant that once his symptoms surpassed the side effects of chemotherapy, he could begin treatment. It took six years for him to reach that point.

“We did not tell the kids the diagnosis of cancer for a year,” said Julie Reynolds. “I was scared to put that burden of the ‘cancer’ word on them.”

She explained that is a common struggle with families going through the watch and wait stage. Julie says Hannah was understandably distraught for some time, but then determined to find a way to help. One of her first fundraisers at Asa Clark Middle School, a bagel sale, brought in \$262. Julie has now taken on the role of supporting other families when it comes to sharing a diagnosis with children.

To donate to Hannah’s efforts, visit <http://events.11s.org/wi/milwaukee2018/hreynolds>.

Check donations can also be made out to “Leukemia & Lymphoma Society” or “LLS” at 200 S. Executive Drive, Brookfield, WI 53005. Include “Hannah Reynolds” in the memo line.



Sue Boyer/Special to The Freeman

### All together now

Beginning skaters follow Naga-Waukee Ice Arena instructor Eric Baltramonas across the ice in a session for children ages 4 to 6 on Jan. 13. The class is offered through the Oconomowoc Park and Rec department with classes for different age groups.

# Waters exiting as Pewaukee Chamber president

## Leaves to teach after 5 years leading organization

By Katherine Michalets  
kmichalets@conleynet.com  
262-513-2644



Waters

PEWAUKEE — The Pewaukee Chamber of Commerce is searching for a new president after Nancy Waters announced she will be leaving the role.

Waters has been chamber president for five years. She said she has decided to move back to Texas to be near to her parents who are in their 80s, but first wants to spend two years teaching English in China.

“I have had a wonderful and full five years serving as your Pewaukee Chamber

of Commerce president and it has been my favorite job because of the opportunity to work alongside all of you amazing individuals, entrepreneurs, and community and business leaders,” she said in a statement.

In her message, Waters wrote that in the past year she has completed an advanced certification to teach English as a second language and is pursuing opportunities to teach in

China for two years.

“I am so very proud of the Pewaukee Chamber of Commerce. It has truly been a labor of love (and a lot of long, long hours of work). But new leadership provides a new opportunity for even greater growth, innovation and partnerships and I know you will support him/her as you have supported me these last five years. Embrace the change; change is good,” she wrote.

People interested in the position can send resumes to Chamber board Chair Lisa Oman at [loman@johnsonbank.com](mailto:loman@johnsonbank.com).

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Lake Country THIS MONTH



# Pressed art bowl, toy truck real treats for collectors

**Q:** This was one of my mother's treasured bowls. What would it be worth today?  
— *S.P., Elm Grove*

**A.:** Pressed art glass bowls made at different quality levels entered the market during the golden age of iridescent glass, 1907-1928. Firms were known as glass houses and creations were manufactured to rival more expensive glassware. The iridescent color was simply sprayed on before the final firing and thus earned the name "Poor Man's Tiffany."

Your bowl was made by the favored Northwood Co. and became most well-known because of glass ware lines in West Virginia. This company used high-quality molds with labor-intensive procedures to produce exquisite detail on thousands of glass pieces. The iridescent era came to an end with the 1929 stock market crash. Ready for shipment, there were large amounts of glassware stored in wooden barrels of straw, but no buyers could be found. Eventually traveling enterprises purchased the loaded boxcars and people could win a piece of glass as a carnival prize. To this day it is still known as carnival glass.

Some Northwood pieces have an ID mark on the underside of which collectors want to see. The mark (encircled and underlined capital "N") is quite pronounced on your bowl. Sold as an ice cream serving bowl, the pattern is "Peacock and Urn." It was made in several colors other than your pastel ice blue example. The peacock is showcased on the flat center and the ruffled edge curves inward.

Your example has surface fading, which is common, especially if stored in a lit cabinet. **Market value is \$155.**

### Glass collecting tips

■ The internet introduces immense competition with ease and convenient access, which greatly impacts prices. Also, internet sales continue to provide hundreds of examples which in the past were considered rare, but no longer are.

■ Many collectors are retiring and complete collections are entering the marketplace.

■ There are very few new collectors for pressed carnival glass. They tend to love one piece but not interested in a collection or certain artist.

■ In the 1960s, new carnival glass was made from old molds, which perpetuates confusion.

■ Reissued pieces and copies continue to be imported. Most have sharp edges, low color quality, vague details and smaller sizes.



**BARBARA EASH**  
Antiques Appraised

If one pays a high price, insist on a guaranteed receipt that it is truly of antique age.

### Vintage toy truck

You certainly were a lucky kid if you owned one of the finest die-cast toy trucks ever made. One could play rough with this large-scale, practically indestructible truck. With dual back tires, this model was designed for hauling cargo, but often used for giving rides to younger brothers and sisters. It did not need to be wound or buttons pushed — the power source for thousands of miles was imagination!

Starting in 1945 the Smith-Miller Toy Co. in Santa Monica, Calif., closed after 10 years of production. Most toy trucks up to that time were farm-related vehicles. This toy maker often contracted to manufacture specified truck models bearing names and advertising slogans for oil companies and many other businesses. Sales also increased by applying military influences during this postwar era. The company only used the highest-quality paint, lettered decals and construction methods. An army green

color was used for military-related equipment and indeed looked authentic. Similar trucks today have been found with a bed frame tarpaulin cover. Very few things bring such poignant memories to a once owner of a toy like this.

Your truck has minor modifications but is collectible and has a **value of \$200-\$400.**

*(Barbara Eash is a member of the Certified Appraisers Guild of America, specializing in appraisals of antiques and collectibles and has extensive experience writing and speaking about antiques.)*

### Submit an item for consideration

Do you have an item or collection of items that could be shared in a future newspaper column? Let Barbara Eash hear about it!

To have your item or collection considered send the following information: up to three, sharp, well-lit photos of front & back of the item(s), measurements as well as any history or hearsay, length of ownership and your full name, address and daytime phone number. Mail: Waukesha Antique Shop, ATTN: Barbara Eash, 1427 E. Racine, Ave. Unit E-2, Waukesha, WI 53186 or email: beappraisals@gmail.com. If your item(s) are considered for a future column, we will contact you. No photos can be returned and no purchase of items will occur.



Submitted photo

Camille Pierce, payroll specialist at IPS; Sarah Lutz, benefits specialist; and Pete Feaman, vice president, at the IPS offices in Delafield.

## Payroll's progress

### Technology having massive impact on industry

**By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt**  
Special to The Freeman

DELAFIELD — The technological revolution has resulted in a makeover for the payroll industry.

"The days of employees wanting to get their check stub on a Friday and take it to the bank have kind of gone away," said John Feaman, president at Integrated Payroll Services, or IPS, a payroll and human capital management services business headquartered in Delafield.

Payroll systems have been changing rapidly in the wake of a technological push toward a more mobile and data-driven society, along with a shifting legal and political landscape, according to Feaman. He said both employees and employers are now often looking for more advanced, streamlined, and comprehensive ways to work with payroll and other related systems.

"Instead of traditional payroll, we're also handling benefits administration, electronic on-boarding" and more, said Feaman, who noted workers are more accustomed to conducting their lives electronically and administrators prefer not to monitor and work with different systems for various areas of employee management.

"H.R. professionals are liking it and employees are definitely demanding it," he said.

Feaman's father, Larry Feaman, had a background in the payroll industry. He started IPS in 2010 with John Feaman and his brother,



Feaman

Pete, who are both certified practicing accountants, along with their sister Leslie. Another sister, Sarah, joined the firm last fall.

In recent years, Feaman said the company has added a series of human capital management services to the business suite, and is structuring systems in the cloud to allow access from all locations.

### Market on the rise

The global cloud-based payroll market is expected to increase at a rate of 6 percent in coming years to reach \$9.9 billion by 2023, according to a Research and Markets analysis released late last year.

Cloud-based humans capital management systems are key for companies with employees traveling and for those with employees working remotely, which has also been increasing. Over 40 percent of workers worked remotely at least some of the time during 2016, according to Gallup News.

In addition to technology, developments in the legal and political landscapes have influenced payroll and human capital system operations.

"The Affordable Care Act has definitely affected my industry," said Feaman, who said payroll has been the main industry responsible for handling reporting requirements in the law, also known as Obamacare. He said that overall his clients

have grown adept at handling those changes in the years since the law was implemented.

As to the new federal tax plan passed last year, Feaman said IPS software is designed to automatically accommodate any changes in rates.

Feaman offered these tips to businesses on handling payroll in the new year:

■ **User-friendly software**  
Feaman said businesses handling their own payrolls should invest in software they are comfortable operating.

"I've seen employers handling payroll themselves that have gotten into trouble. They might not be up to date on compliance," he said, adding that consulting with a payroll provider can help with this software selection and setup.

■ **Classify correctly**  
Make sure employees are appropriately designated in all systems as employees or contractors.

As contract work is increasing and tax laws are changing, the Internal Revenue Service is looking into this aspect of reporting by companies more carefully, according to Feaman.

■ **Ask for more**  
For businesses working with a payroll provider, Feaman encourages asking what suite of services and streamlining options they offer.

"They might not know that the technology is available to them," he said. "Especially for companies that have employees that maybe aren't centric, they are throughout the nation."

"You can use systems to communicate with them."

## Carroll students intern at Shorehaven

OCONOMOWOC — Interns Ellen Wertz and Quinn Krause, both 22, are rounding out their Carroll University senior year with a 24-hour-a-week investment in senior health.

The exercise science and pre-occupational therapy majors chose Shorehaven's Strength and Fitness Center for this semester's internship because they wanted to learn about health platforms for a variety of clients.

"We're exploring all age groups, from pediatrics to geriatrics," said Wertz. "This internship offers a hands-on method of working

with active older adults. We're learning how to approach different situations involving a variety of skill levels."

Krause said the new HUR exercise equipment is what first caught her eye.

"I've never seen anything like it. It's so high-tech, the way the air compression system adapts to the older individual," she said.

The first morning on the job both students jumped in the pool with the water Zumba class. Since then, they've taken land Zumba, yoga, and cardio classes with the 50-plus members, now

numbering almost 250 residents, staff and the public.

"It's so exciting witnessing how members are increasing their overall wellness, believing in their ability to grow stronger, gain more confidence and improve their balance and agility," said Krause.

Next steps are to observe physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy practices in Shorehaven's 5,000 square-foot therapy area, delve into what sets senior fitness apart, and eventually teach classes at the new center.

— Freeman Staff

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PREP WRESTLING

Pewaukee’s Sklenar, Halverson etching their own legacy

Senior captains hope to bring home a state championship

By Dave Radcliffe  
dradcliffe@conley.net  
262-513-2655

PEWAUKEE — The Battle on the Bay wrestling tournament is a good measuring stick early in the season to see where one stacks up against high-end competition within the state.

So when Pewaukee senior Jacob Sklenar was able to overcome being mis-seeded to reach the finals and pull off a come-from-behind victory, one might think that feeling could only be topped by a trip to the Kohl Center, or better yet, a state title.

“They had placed a few places higher than us at Bay Port, so I knew it would be an exciting meet,” Sklenar said. “I talked to the team beforehand about leaving a legacy and stuff like that. To see the team pull tougher and wrestle for every bit of those six minutes, get pins where we’re supposed to get beat, I’ve never been so excited.”

Being a team leader is what Sklenar and teammate Eric Halverson have taken on their senior year as members of the Pewaukee wrestling team. Both have reached state — Halverson is a two-time state qualifier — and have the goal of not only returning to Madison, but also bringing home a medal.

While that’s undoubtedly important to Sklenar and Halverson, they have taken the role of team captains to heart.

“I’ve always wanted to be able to take the leadership role even since my freshman year,” Halverson said. “I came up with really good leaders and wanted to take some of the best qualities from each of them and apply it to the team this year. Being a captain with Jacob Sklenar is the easiest thing on earth. We’ve been friends forever so we’re on the same page with everything.”

Being a team leader comes



Kenny Yoo/Special to the Freeman

Pewaukee’s Jacob Sklenar avoids a lock from Mukwonago’s Hunter Bourd in the 170-pound match during a nonconference dual Nov. 30 at Mukwonago.

with its fair share of responsibilities, but for a program that is typically expected to be one of the best, this season brought on a unique challenge.

“Coming into the year I didn’t know how good we’d be,” Pewaukee wrestling coach Ed Kurth said. “We were moving guys around, throwing freshmen in the lineup. Last year, we won five regional titles and four conference titles, so coming into this year, everybody said we’re going to have a down year. I knew we would have inexperience, so it’s pretty special when you lead a team to do some things that aren’t expected.”

Both Halverson and Sklenar were understudies over the past few seasons of Jacob Raschka and Blaze Beltran, a pair of state champions. Stepping out of their shadow and trying to keep Pewaukee wrestling at an elite level sounds like a pressure-packed situation, but it’s one they have fully embraced.

Kurth isn’t surprised. “When they were in eighth grade at the youth wrestling club banquet they were giving speeches there, and I was like, these guys are excellent examples and advocates,” Kurth said. “They’re good spokespeople for the sport and our program.”

“The biggest thing to me through this season is that they’re such team-oriented leaders. They like to help out

the younger kids. They like to teach, and they’re extremely good examples.”

Look no further than last season to see how much of a team-player Sklenar is. While he could have qualified to wrestle at 170 pounds, Sklenar moved up a weight class to help senior teammate Conner Goodman.

Goodman suffered a torn labrum during a preseason scrimmage and missed his entire junior year after a promising sophomore campaign. While Sklenar could have outwrestled Goodman for the spot at 170 pounds, he instead insisted on moving up to 182 for the betterment of the team.

“I wrestled in a couple meets at 170 to convince my coaches that I should wrestle at that weight class for regionals, but then I bumped up so it was easier for Conner to wrestle,” Sklenar said. “Conner was able to qualify and it went great for me at 182. I was able to win my way through at regionals and sectionals to make it to state.

“I think it’s a huge thing that Kurth and I and Eric bring up this year when other kids bring up cutting weight. The heaviest I weighed at state was 173.6 and people we weighing in six pounds above 182, so it’s a good way to bring up an example that if you’re doing it for the team and for the people you love, it’s going to turn out great for the team



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

Pewaukee senior Eric Halverson wrestles at a WIAA Division 1 regional last season.

and yourself and people are going to believe you want it more.”

Now returning his focus to wrestling at the 170-pound weight class, Kurth believes Sklenar can do something special to finish his senior year:

“He’s kind of the X-factor I think in a lot of these tournaments he enters,” Kurth said. “Who has a state qualifier dropping down a weight class?”

Sklenar eclipsed 100 wins this season and is now 41-3 this season.

Halverson was a major contributor dating back to his freshman year when he won 32 matches and has continued to be a dominant force on the mat since, booking a trip to state as a sophomore and junior.

But having been to the Kohl Center twice with little to show for it, Kurth believes the ability is there for Halverson to bring home a state title at 138 pounds. It’s just a matter of simplifying his approach.

“Personally, I think he is not narrowing down his options to whatever is most simple,” Kurth said. “I think he made some choices that ended up giving other guys some points (at state). That happened both years. He’s a guy that can win a state title, so we’ll see what happens this year. He’s going to (St. Cloud State University) and I know he was concerned about who was watching him.”

That could make a world of difference for Halverson, who can now focus solely on closing out his high school wrestling career with his college choice out of the way. Halverson said he never thought he would commit to wrestle at the next level, but then the offers started coming.

“They just didn’t really have what I wanted,” Halverson said. “I actually looked at St. Cloud myself because of Josh Berg, one of our past wrestlers who went there. I looked at what they had for majors first and they have a business management major and that’s exactly what I wanted. So I went there on a visit and I just love the campus.”

Halverson spoke highly of their coaching staff and mentioned similarities between Kurth and St. Cloud State wrestling coach Steve Constanzo.

“It was a no-brainer for me when they asked me to be on the roster,” Halverson said. “The coaching staff is great there and they have exactly what I want. It felt really good to get that decision out of the way. My junior year I felt a little stress. You’re supposed to know where you want to go, what you want to major in, so it felt like so much weight was off my shoulders. Now I could really focus on my school work and wrestling.”

Halverson runs his record to 40-4. He’s taken pride in what the young Pirates have

accomplished as a team.

“We have a lot of guys coming up from JV from past years and they’re all stepping up and doing what they need to do,” Halverson said. “They’re taking it upon themselves and working out as hard as they can, applying what they’ve learned in practice in meets. It’s amazing seeing guys step out in these big meets. Guys in that situation will sometimes crack, but a lot of guys are pulling out really close wins. It’s amazing to see what they’re doing for us.”

Kurth has embraced the underdog role this season and it’s helped them become the Woodland Conference dual and tournament champs. He believes his two senior captains are reveling in the opportunity as well.

“It’s like having two extra coaches because they can give advice from a lot of aspects, not just wrestling,” Kurth said. “I would trust these guys to run a practice if I weren’t there.

“They’re pretty down to earth. They know they have their own flaws, they make their own mistakes on the mat, so they’re kind of like a dad where they want to use their own experiences to help the younger kids. They talk about when they were freshmen and the seniors that led their team. Now these freshmen when they’re seniors, they’re going to be talking about days of Halverson and Sklenar.”

County has rich history in wrestling

March of Champions  
greatest state atmosphere



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When it comes to the sport of high school wrestling in Wisconsin, several schools have been powerhouses over the years both in the individual competition and the team tournament. Not many can compare with the likes of Wisconsin Rapids, Mineral Point, Luxemburg-Casco, Stoughton and Coleman to mention a few.

But wrestlers from Waukesha County have more than held their own at the state level, both in the individual tournament and the prestigious team tournament. Recent success has been outstanding, with numerous kids capturing those coveted state championships. It has to be an exhilarating experience to have your hand raised on Saturday championship

night in front of capacity crowd at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Before I get into some of the local history, the state individual wrestling tournament is probably the best state tournament the WIAA offers each year. Big crowds take in the action all three days and come Saturday night, when the championship matches are wrestled on three mats, the excitement that is generated when the March of Champions featuring all of the finalists takes place with the lights turned down low is something that no other sport can offer. It’s an atmosphere that can’t be recreated in high school sports in this state.

Plus, this is a sport that requires some of the most rigorous training that any

sport can offer. No other sport offers the grueling practice schedules either that wrestling does, even though swimmers might want to take exception to that.

Now it’s back to Waukesha County. And here’s a quick capsule of some of that history.

Since the sport was first offered in 1940, county wrestlers have captured 78 individual state titles and five state team crowns. East Troy, coached by John Stockowitz, won three straight Division B state titles in 1986, 1987 and 1988. Waukesha South, coached by Ken Heine, bagged the first county state team title in 1980 and Muskego, coached by Greg

Aprahamian, won the title in 1994.

Individually, the first state title was won by Jack Marks of Oconomowoc in 1961. He was undefeated that year with an 18-0 record at 145 pounds. Ken Haacke of Muskego was next when he won the 180-pound crown in 1963 with a 29-0 mark. Others winning titles in the 1960s were Carl Maltisch of New Berlin in 1965, Lud Kroner of Oconomowoc in 1966, Dale Spies of Muskego in 1969 and Randy Robb of Sussex Hamilton in 1969. Maltisch was undefeated that year at 25-0 and Kroner was 27-0.

A total of 14 wrestlers in state history have managed to win four consecutive state crowns. So far, Waukesha County has been blanked from that list. Right now Arrowhead sophomore Kegan O’Toole has that chance after winning the 120-pound title last year as a freshman.

The area has produced a

pair of three-time state champions. The first one was Eric Swick of Kettle Moraine who won the 152-pound crown in 1994, the 160-pound title in 1995 and the 171-pound championship in 1996. Rather amazing, Swick was undefeated all three of those seasons, going a perfect 108-0 in those remarkable campaigns. That’s the longest career winning streak in county history.

The other three-time state champion is Nick Hucke of Arrowhead. He won the 125-pound title in 2006, the 130-pound crown in 2007 and the 135-pound banner in 2008. He won his final 88 matches.

Winning two state titles from the county have been Jim Semrad, Jeff Semrad and Ryan Lewis of Waukesha South, Rod LaMarche of Waukesha North, Tom Larson of East Troy, Mike Griswold of Oconomowoc, Ben Askren, Jake Suelohn and Andrew Crone of Arrowhead, Chad Leviner and Billy

Schlottke of Mukwonago, Roland Dunlap and Jordan Gruettner of Muskego and Jacob Raschka of Pewaukee.

Arrowhead has won the most individual state titles with 17. Waukesha South is next with 11 and Oconomowoc and Muskego have 10 champions each.

The most successful wrestler in county in history has to be Askren. He went to the University of Missouri where he won a pair of NCAA championships and later represented the United States in the Olympic Games in 2008 at Beijing. His younger brother Max also captured one NCAA title wrestling for Missouri.

There you have it. A quick look at the history of the great sport of high school wrestling in Waukesha County. Do your self a favor one of these nights and go to one of the highly competitive matches that take place all the time. You won’t be disappointed.

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