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DeLafield barn to smile again

Plan Commission recommends council approve project

By Kelly Smith
Special to The Freeman

DELAFIELD — “Every town has some unusual image that helps define it. The Smiley Barn is the embodiment of this town. It is impossible to overstate how important the Smiley Barn is to Delafield,” said Al Kutil of Madison.

“When you were coming home on I-94, you weren't feeling well, you had a bad day at the office, then you saw that Smiley Barn, it just changed your day,” said Jim Zahorik of Delafield.

“It is wanted. It has a purpose. It is the Smiley Barn,” added Jamie Stanishlawski.

Testimony from these and about a half dozen other citizens prompted the Plan Commission May 30 to recommend that the Common Council approve the restoration of the historic Smiley Barn at the northwest corner of the interchange of Interstate 94 and Hwy 83.

The legendary landmark of the yellow barn-shaped building bearing the huge smile existed from the late 1970s until the early 2000s when a new owner of the building removed the smile.

Summit businesswoman Maria Luther recently purchased the building, where she plans to open a toy and candy shop in August.

She has asked the city for permission to use thin aluminum fabric and black texture paint to restore the giant smile and large pair of eyes on the east and west ends of the building.

She told the commission there are more than a thousand signatures on petitions urging restoration of the big smile.

There were about a dozen of her supporters wearing Smiley Barn T-shirts at the commission meeting.



Submitted image

Plans for restoring The Smiley Barn have been submitted to the city of Delafield by Summit businesswoman Maria Luther. The Plan Commission approved the barn but not the large gumball mural beside it.

Based on their testimony, they appeared to be a diverse group of advocates for the smile.

Kutil and his wife, Laurie, are publishers of a Madison-based travel blog who suggested the big smile is a magnet for tourists and the city will experience an uptick in tourism revenues as soon as the smile is restored.

Stanishlawski is a 17-year-old who recalled her parents and grandparents telling stories about how the smile served as a landmark guiding travelers to their destinations.

She said her teenage peers want to have the opportunity to experience the Smiley Barn landmark.

Zahorik is a retired airline pilot with a reputation as a sometimes-hard-nosed critic of city government.

Yet, he fondly recalled to the commission how the Smiley Barn was a welcome sign that he had reached

home after long airline flights.

There has never been much of a question about whether the city wanted to approve the smile. The issue was how to do it.

According to the city code, the smile is defined as a sign and it is a sign larger than allowed by the code.

City Planner Roger Dupler suggested the commission declare it public art similar to a mural that is painted on a barn along Highway 83, a few miles north of the Smiley Barn.

“Art is in the eyes of the beholder,” suggested Commissioner Jim Reiher, “and in this case the community is the beholder.”

Reiher, an attorney, also suggested the barn could be declared a historical architectural feature.

“It is noncontroversial. It is non-partisan. It is unifying. It is family,” suggested Reiher.

No gumball machine mural

The only debate of the night was whether the city should allow the mounting of a large mural depicting a giant gumball machine on the barn silo next to the giant smile.

Reiher suggested that the giant gumball mural was an integral part of the public art created by the giant smile.

Commissioner Tim Aicher disagreed. Aicher, a member of the governing board of the historic Hawks Inn, suggested the smile was a legitimate historic landmark.

However, he argued there is no historic attachment to the gumball mural, which he suggested was directly linked to promoting the candy and toy store and therefore should be considered signage.

Dupler pointed that as signage the gumball mural was too large, and the commission agreed to reject it.

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Kiwanis River Run keeps fun flowing



Shayla and Nic Martin make their way down the river with their children, 5-year-old Kyla and 6-year-old Everett, during the 45th annual Kiwanis River Run at Koepp Park in Pewaukee.

Pewaukee Kiwanis member John Vitale starts the racers during the 45th annual Kiwanis River Run at Koepp Park in Pewaukee on May 13.

Photos by Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman



Ben Bliss carries his rented canoe with friend Christian Sternke.



Joey, an Australian shepherd, is unsure of what he got himself into as he tags along for a ride in the Kiwanis River Run at Koepp Park.



Christian Sternke is set in the canoe as friend Ben Bliss pushes him into the river to get set for the race during the 45th annual Kiwanis River Run at Koepp Park in Pewaukee.



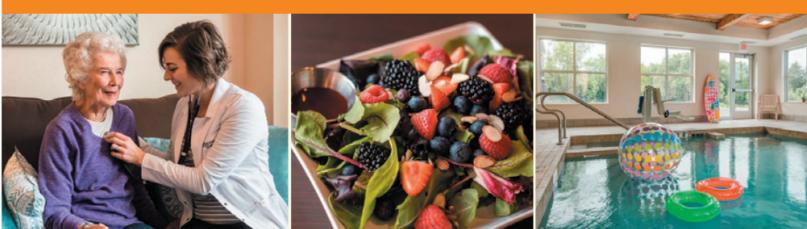
Jeanne Engerson makes her way down the river in her kayak.



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Submitted photo

Several local school districts including Kettle Moraine, Pewaukee and Hartland are using the Safe-Latch on their classroom doors to more quickly secure them in case of an emergency.

School districts using Safe-Latch to quickly enhance security

Inventor is a KM grad; wife a local teacher

By Ashley Haynes
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262-513-2681

WALES — After yet another school shooting happened recently at a high school in Texas, once again school districts will seek to reassure parents that their children will be safe when they get to school, and they will continue to identify ways that security can be even stronger.

Several Waukesha County school districts have found a simple and cost-saving device that allows school staff to secure multiple classroom doorways at once. Safe-Latch, an accessory that installs onto a door and can be locked without a key, is being used in the Kettle Moraine, Pewaukee and Hartland school districts.

Dave and Scott Hoffman of Hoffman Security, which bought the product from the inventor Chris Blawat in 2016, say the need for Safe-Latch was discovered locally.

“This is a product he (Blawat) invented for his wife. After Sandy Hook, schools were updating their lockdown policies, but she had two doors in her classroom which was virtually impossible,” said co-owner Dave Hoffman.

He explained that Safe-Latch is a cost-efficient way to go, at only \$30 a device as opposed to replacing entire door systems, which can easily jump to over \$100. Hoffman says the ease of using Safe-Latch allows teachers to focus on what their job actually is. For a teacher with two doors to a classroom, being able to quickly secure both is imperative.

“I truly don’t believe that you can spend a better \$30 on a classroom door than our device. It’s not glamorous, it’s not frilly — it just works,” Hoffman said.

Safe-Latch devices are being used in 120 schools nationwide in 20 states, about 4,000 devices in

active classrooms. Safe-Latches are made right here in Waukesha County, as the Hoffmans and Blawat are all Kettle Moraine alumni.

With Safe-Latch, the door remains locked at all times, while still allowing easy access for both teacher and student. In the event of a lockdown situation, Safe-Latch can be slid up or down on the door frame, allowing the door latch to engage in the frame and secure the room.

No keys are needed and the door is locked from the inside. The original versions of Safe-Latch were tested in the Kettle Moraine School District at Wales Elementary School, where Blawat’s wife teaches.

A good investment

Since making the decision to install Safe-Locks, both the KM and Pewaukee school districts have been pleased with the apparatus. In the KMSD, the fact that the Safe-Lock was being tested there and a passed referendum created the perfect storm to start looking at safety options.

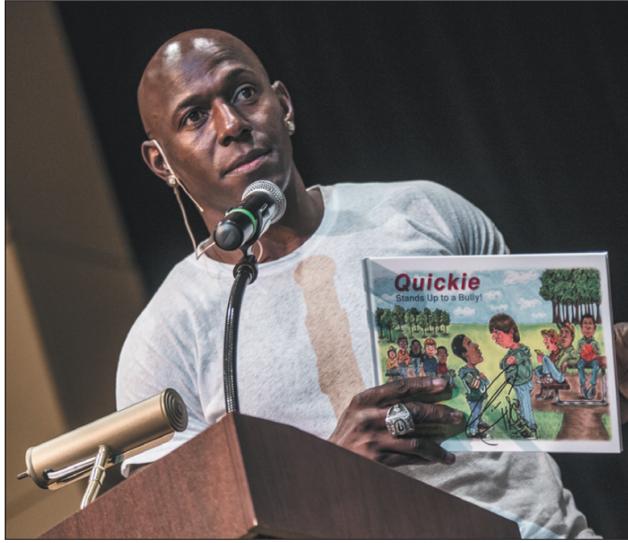
“The first thing we redid was rekey the door locks because our locking system was obsolete, and then we installed the Safe-Latches,” said Dale Zabel, director of facilities and safety.

With over 600 doors at Kettle Moraine High School alone, the district is saving tens of thousands of dollars.

In the Pewaukee School District, Superintendent Mike Cady says Safe-Latches are being used as part of a larger security protocol.

“It allows you to have the mechanism in place so you can quickly lock doors when you need to, especially in rooms with multiple staff members or substitute staff members who may not need keys,” said Cady.

A day Packed with fun



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

PEWAUKEE — Pewaukee Lake Elementary School students received a reward for taking first place in Goodwill’s Pack’er Up Donation Challenge on May 21 — a visit from former Green Bay Packers star Donald Driver. Meeting the kids at Pewaukee High School’s auditorium, Driver read to them from his children’s book, “Quickie Stands Up to a Bully.”



Pewaukee district names Spadoni as Asa Clark’s associate principal

PEWAUKEE — The Pewaukee School District has hired Katie Spadoni as the next associate principal of Asa Clark Middle School.

She fills the vacancy created by Anthony Pizzo, who will take over as principal of ACMS on July 1.

Spadoni graduated from St. Norbert College in 2010 with a Bachelor’s of Education degree and a minor in language arts. She began her career teaching third grade in Watertown before working in the Elmbrook School District the past four years.

Spadoni recently earned her



Spadoni

master’s degree from Carroll University in educational leadership.

“I am excited for the opportunity to join the phenomenal team at Asa Clark and continue the trajectory of greatness that has been established in the Pewaukee School District,” said Spadoni. “I cannot wait to meet the families, students and staff members in the upcoming months.”

— Freeman Staff

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Bad fortune has plagued Martin

Senior has suffered serious injuries past two years

By Chuck Delsman
Freeman Correspondent



Martin

very first day of practice, in a one-on-one drill, his left knee locked and down he went. Martin knew immediately what had happened.

"As soon as I heard that pop, I knew I had blown my ACL," Martin said. "I was shocked. I couldn't believe it was happening again to me. I had worked so hard rehabbing to get ready for my final season. I missed the entire soccer season but I knew I still had basketball in front of me.

"Blowing my knee was a terrible experience. It was traumatic. But it happened and I've worked through it. I can't say enough about how good my family and my teammates have been. And Coach Haase has been outstanding. He came to my house that night after I suffered the knee injury and told me that no matter what I was going to be a big part of the team. Having him there for me meant a lot."

Haase, who has seen Martin come through all his camps and been a part of the AHS basketball program the last four years, said he was counting on Martin to be a big contributor.

"Nick is as good of a kid as they come," Haase said. "He was definitely going to be part of our rotation. He's a true point guard and floor leader. Plus, he's tough as nails. He's not the biggest guy on the court, but he never was afraid to take the charges. Being a soccer player, he has great vision and feet. Remember, he had to play against Trevell Cunningham all of last year in practice and that made him a better player. I don't know why bad things happen to good people, but Nick Martin is just a great kid."

Martin said his family had a tough November. Besides him having ACL surgery, his father, Mike, had knee replacement surgery the week before Nick had his knee operated on.

"I can't say enough about how good of a job my mom, Debbie, did taking care of the two of us," Martin said. "She was there to help us whenever we needed something. And my sister Hailey even came home from college early to help us out. I know my dad and myself really appreciated all of their hard work."

If Arrowhead's Nick Martin didn't have any bad luck, he wouldn't have any luck at all. That's been the sad story for the AHS senior the last two years.

What he had hoped to be two productive seasons finishing high school has turned into a medical disaster for the personable 18-year old. It's not the way any athlete should have to finish his high school career.

Martin, who has played soccer and basketball at Arrowhead since his freshman year; took his first two medical blows his junior year. Midway through the fall soccer season an opponent put a slide tackle on him and he ended up with a dislocated shoulder. That forced him to miss the remainder of that season.

He recovered in time for the start of the basketball season and the 5-foot-11 point guard was getting better and better with each week as his minutes on the court improved. And then disaster struck again. As the Warhawks were preparing for the WIAA Division 1 sectional, Martin tore his right ACL. He was heartbroken at the time and the injury became worse when he had to watch his team win the sectional berth and earn a spot in the prestigious state tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

"It was tough to have my season end right before we made the run to state," Martin said. "I had to miss the sectional and the state games. That was hard to take. But I knew I still had my senior year left."

He worked extremely hard to get back to 100 percent all summer and fall. He missed the fall soccer season but was cleared and ready to go when basketball practice started in mid-November. He was excited to get back on the court and contribute to the team's success this winter.

And then, out of nowhere, the unbelievable happened. On the

Fulton runs the race of her life

Arrowhead grad takes 18th at Boston Marathon

By Chuck Delsman
Freeman Correspondent

TOWN OF MERTON — When Naomi Fulton went to the starting line April 16 at the 122nd annual world-famous Boston Marathon, the 31-year-old mother of two wondered what she had gotten herself into.

Competing in the field of more than 12,000 runners, Fulton not only was aware of the fact she was going against hundreds and hundreds of professional runners from around the United States and the world, but this was just her third marathon ever and her first time on the big stage at Boston.

But that was the least of her worries. Hours before the grueling 26.2-mile event the weather changed for the worse. A cold, icy rain had started to fall and because they run due east from outside of Boston into the city, a near gale-force headwind hit every runner directly into the face for the entire race. Because of those brutal conditions, this was a year that times were not going to be very impressive. Survival was going to be most important.

"Ever since I started training in November, I couldn't wait for the challenge of competing in the Boston Marathon," Fulton said. "And then when the weather got so terrible I was a little disappointed. Remember, I had trained all winter, running on the country roads around my house near Merton. The cold never bothered me. But Monday morning was bad. Cold, a big headwind and a driving rain is what greeted us at the starting line. But at that point I wasn't going to let the conditions ruin this opportunity. I knew getting a good time was out the window. That's when I decided to persevere, block everything out and do the best I could."

As things turned out, Fulton not only did that but turned in by far the best race of her career. Considering her inexperience in a

major national event like Boston, she thrived. Rather amazingly, the 2004 Arrowhead graduate finished in 18th place overall, believed to be the best finish ever by a Waukesha County female runner and one of the top places ever by a female from Wisconsin.

Fulton, who ran at Arrowhead as Naomi Bong, covered the course in a time of 2:50.48. The race winner was Desiree Linden of Michigan with a clocking of 2:39.54. She became the first female runner from the United States to win the event since 1985.

In fact, it was a huge day for American runners in the female division. USA runners grabbed an all-time best 17 of the first 20 spots.

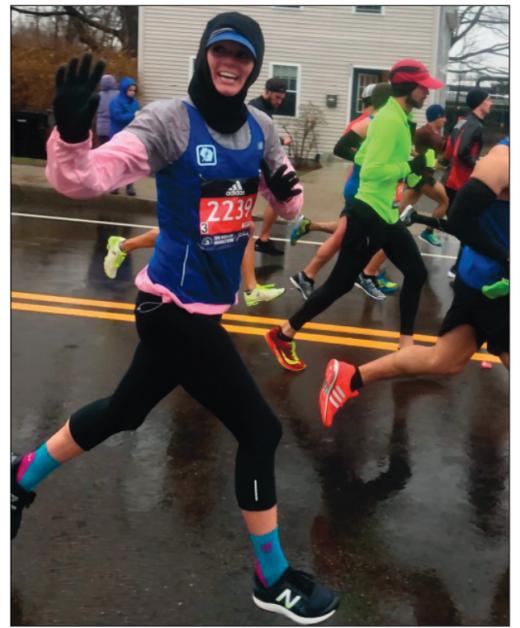
"After the race I really didn't have any idea of where I had finished, what place I had gotten," Fulton said. "Again, with the bad weather, I just wanted to do the best I could and survive the day. When I saw that I had finished 18th overall, I couldn't believe it. I knew right then that all of the miles over the winter, all of the hard work had paid off."

Going into the race, Fulton, a teacher and cross country coach at the Christian Education Leadership Academy in Pewaukee, thought a spot in the top 100 would be great.

"With all of the world-class runners and professionals in the field, I was pumped up to see if I could crack the top 100," Fulton said. "I was flabbergasted when I saw my final placement. To be the 15th fastest American runner made me proud. I felt honored and blessed to be part of a group of American runners who did so well. To be part of history like that made the day all that more special."

Fulton finished two spots ahead of former Waukesha West cross country and track standout Serena Ramsey Burla. Burla finished 20th overall with a time of 2:53.03. Burla runs professionally now and lives in Virginia.

Fulton, who ran four



Submitted photo

Naomi Fulton, a 2004 Arrowhead grad, waves as she runs the Boston Marathon. Fulton had the race of her life, taking 18th place in the women's division.

years at Arrowhead in both cross country track, had mild success in high school. She ran three years at the state meet for the Warhawks in cross country and three more years in track. Her best finish at the state cross country meet was 21st in 2002 and her best finish in track was a sixth in the 800-meter in 2003.

While she ran competitively for the first time as a sixth grader at Divine Redeemer School in Hartland when she finished second in the mile run at the Arrowhead Grade School meet, she said she got hooked on running from that first day.

"I had never run before that meet at Arrowhead when I was in sixth grade," Fulton said. "From that point on I was hooked. I won the mile run the next two years and then at Arrowhead once I got to high school. But long-distance races never appealed to me. Then I got married and my husband, Luke, and I started a family and running a marathon was something I wanted to challenge myself with. I ran my first marathon in 2015 in Chicago and had a time of 2:46.26.

That time was just under one minute from making the Olympic Trials. Two years later I went back to Chicago and didn't do as well. I didn't hydrate myself enough and I ran 2:54. But those times qualified me for Boston and there I was Monday, on the starting line. It's kind of crazy how the story played out."

After returning home, she was back teaching at CELA the next day. She didn't run Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday but was back at it on Friday.

"That was the first day back running and it was tough," the positive-thinking Fulton said. "But I have to admit it, my legs felt like noodles, kind of like Jell-o. But I did five miles and got it done. Even as I get older, I still love running. It's definitely a passion. I'm so thankful for everything. Being a mom helped me dedicate so much time to preparing for Boston. Running gives me a time to relax, enjoy the quiet and pray a little bit. To be part of that big successful American group at Boston was awesome."

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WIAA STATE TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Arrowhead relay misses graduation to win at state

Warhawks' 4x400 beats out West, Hamilton for top spot

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

LA CROSSE — Graduation came a few hours late for Arrowhead seniors Sarah Edwards, Abby Bartelson and Kayla Vogt.

Totally worth it.

The Warhawks' 4x400-meter relay team avenged a runner-up finish in 2017 at the WIAA State Track and Field Championships on June 2 thanks in part to a phenomenal final leg by Vogt, giving Arrowhead's quartet a winning time of 3 minutes, 55.42 seconds.

Who needs a graduation ceremony anyway?

"I'd rather be here," Vogt said. "We've got to finish out our last race and once we finish out the race, we graduate."

It was déjà vu for Vogt, who also ran a blazing final lap in the 4x4 at the Classic 8 Conference Outdoor Meet to clip Waukesha West and, at the time, give the Warhawks a share of the team title. That decision was later changed due to a scoring error, but nothing can take away this result.

"I knew every time that I like doing that," Vogt said. "That's what pushes me to go faster. I know my team worked their butt off to do that, so I need to do mine. Basically I knew with the times and everyone's places were, I was going to get the baton where I expected and I was just going to have to give everything I had."

Vogt, who also managed to reach the podium by taking fifth in the 400 (57.25), received the baton from Bartelson in third place with West senior Brooke Lytle and Hamilton junior Morgan Price left to chase down.

It took nearly the entire 400, but she got the job done to give the Arrowhead girls their one and only state title of the



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Muskego junior Kate Jochims, far right, runs the 3,200-meter run as she's trailed by Pewaukee junior Zoe Goodman, far left, during the WIAA State Track and Field Championships on June 1 in La Crosse.

weekend.

"Just before the race we thought, 'We've really got a chance here,'" Schueth said. "We have three seniors who are missing graduation. We might as well be here."

Edwards, who also earned an individual medal thanks to a sixth-place showing in the 300 hurdles (45.39), ran a strong opening leg to put the Warhawks in a good spot.

"Just the way that we run, we're doing it for each other," Edwards said. "All we think about is doing it for the team and getting each other in the best position possible, so focusing on that really helps."

If it wasn't for those dastardly Muskego relay teams, Arrowhead senior Jacob Biewer could have been a three-time state champion.

That being said, a first and two seconds is still plenty to write home about.

Biewer won the 100-meter hurdles by finishing in 14.50 seconds to edge a pair of Kimberly teammates and win a state title he never could have seen coming 12 months ago.

"Last year if you told me I was going to be first at state I would have never believed you," Biewer said.

"Over the past season I've been working nonstop, just watching video and tape, making sure I know exactly what to do to get the best I can be."

Biewer also ran the fastest time in preliminaries. Joining him on the podium was Brookfield East senior Abel Christiansen, who finished fifth (14.98).

Conditions were iffy throughout the morning and early afternoon in La Crosse with storms in the forecast.

"The fact of it being a little bit more windy was like, 'I'm not going to run a good time,'" Biewer said. "But then again I'm racing against people who are in the same conditions and that's really what matters. Time didn't matter in this race. It was really how I can do compared to everyone else."

Biewer was the heavy favorite after Bay Port senior Cordell Tinch was suspended earlier this spring. Tinch was expected to challenge for four state titles, but Biewer said he received a little more competition than expected with the improvements made by Kimberly seniors Austin Wallace and DJ Stewart.

Regardless, being the top seed was quite a change-up compared to last season when Biewer finished eighth.

"It was a lot different than last year, I'll tell you that," Biewer said. "I was so happy being the top and just tried to be focused as possible and not freak out too much. It was really intense but I was able to keep my cool."

Arrowhead's 4x1 and 4x2



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Arrowhead senior Kayla Vogt, right, edges out Waukesha West junior Brooke Lytle, middle, and Hamilton junior Morgan Price to win the 4x400-meter relay final during the WIAA State Track and Field Championships on June 2 in La Crosse.



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Arrowhead senior Jacob Biewer runs the 110-meter hurdles during the WIAA State Track and Field Championships on June 2 in La Crosse.

relays, both anchored by Biewer, had to settle for runner-up finishes to Muskego. Biewer also could have challenged for gold in the 300 hurdles if not for a groin injury, but a state title in the 110 event helps mask that disap-

pointment. "It definitely does," Biewer said with a smile.

With state champions in 13 different events over the weekend, there were also some who came up just short

and had to settle for silver.

Pewaukee senior David Young took a hard tumble at the finish line in an effort to win the boys D1 400, but came .08 shy of nipping Neenah senior Colin Enz and finished second at 49.11.

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Tea for one — not two



BARBARA EASH
Antiques Appraised

Q. This tea set is one of my favorite possessions that had belonged to my grandmother.

— K.L., Elm Grove

A. Not for child's play, this small tea set was marketed to be used for single-serve tea time. Refined sugar as we know it was not yet in use, making sugar bowls similar in size to the teapot. It had to be large enough to accommodate small sugar chunks. Height of the teapot is 5 inches, the covered sugar bowl is under 4 inches and the cream pot is under 3 inches.

The cobalt blue pieces were most likely manufactured by J.K.W. Porcelain Works in Bavaria, Germany. One of the most popular decorating motifs in the day were Vienna-style courting scenes. This company, along with many others, prospered in the early 20th century by exporting merchandise worldwide. Using transfer-print decorations with an identical scene on each piece made it affordable to the general public and tourist trade. More expensive porcelain sets had a different hand-painted scene on every piece. Your set most likely would have had a matching cup, saucer and possibly a serving tray — often sets were divided up within family members. The partial gilt edges brushed on this footed set lend toward late production years 1920s-1930s. Condition is excellent. **\$150.**

Q. I inherited this sewing cabinet and would like any history that you could give. Also I need a lead for paper restoration on the photograph displayed on the door panel.

— E.R., Brookfield

A. I will address the cabinet inquiry, and might suggest for further family history contact the Wau-



paca Historical Society. ART CPR is a good conservator.

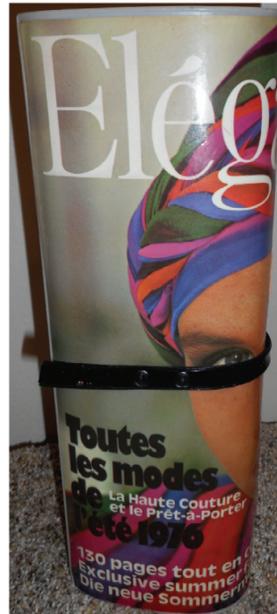
Through the early 20th century, before specialty stores, shoppers were accustomed only to a local general store; a one-stop mercantile provided not only supplies but social interaction. Most all rural towns had their general store that stocked hardware, fabric, firearms, Christmas toys, cast-iron stoves, animal feed and animals and more. Furniture-quality floor and countertop displays were provided free-of-charge by companies marketing specialized brands. In exchange, these cabinets were assured prime retail-floor positioning for maximum vision. The sewing of family clothing, household linens and the repair of kept thread not only useful, but needed. It was common to go to the store for one spool.

In 1894 the Eureka Thread Manufacturing Co. of Canton, Mass., paid generous wages to its 475

employees. In a time when very few paying jobs were available for women, 98 percent of Eureka's workforce was female. A typical, six-day work week was 58 hours and, believe it or not, paid a flat salary of \$6.08.

Most cotton-thread display cabinets found today are of oak. This early mahogany stained cabinet held only the finest of silks. Contents were not displayed in plain sight but behind closed doors that provided security and protection against country stove-generated soot. This type of cabinet has a history of being repurposed for alternate uses. Your 1890's countertop display cabinet is 22 inches wide, 14 deep, 27 high. All seven drawers have the original pulls. The current market value is **\$350.**

NOTE: In the 1980s there was a surge of interest in thread cabinets. Reproductions were introduced that brought some very good



fraudulent examples but looked too new.

An up-and-coming collectible:

Clutch purses are considered a piece of adornment and this purse fashioned as a folded magazine has pizzazz. The new idea was to use a clutch with casual jeans and not just an evening gown. The style became popular in the 1960s-'70s and several companies manufactured them. The hard plastic outer shell is printed with vitality graphics and it has a silk-lined interior. The best part is the element of surprise

when the snap-clasp reveals it's not really a paper magazine! If in perfect condition, value **\$70.**

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 owner-

ship 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.

(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.)

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Delafield historian Margaret Zerwekh dies at 98

Helped secure Medal of Honor for Cushing

By Kelly Smith
Special to The Freeman

DELAFIELD — Delafield historian and citizen activist Margaret Zerwekh, 98, died at Angels Grace Hospice May 11, according to her daughter Sally Weber. Zerwekh devoted nearly 25 years of her life to persuading the federal government to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Delafield Civil War hero Alonzo Cushing, who died during the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863.

Cushing was killed while commanding Union artillery troops along a wall on Cemetery Ridge, fending off Confederate troops in an advance later known as Pickett's Charge.

During ceremonies at the White House on Nov. 6, 2014, President Barack Obama presented the medal to members of Cushing's family and praised Zerwekh.

"Good to see you, Margaret," the president said as he waved to Zerwekh and she waved back to him.

"Margaret is also the granddaughter of a Union veteran and lives on the property that was once owned by Cushing's father," the president explained.

"When she discovered the story, she spent over 25 years researching, writing letters, and raising her voice to ensure that this American soldier received the recognition that he so richly deserved," the president added.

Obama also praised Zerwekh for her ability to persuade both Republicans and Democrats in Congress to work together to pass the necessary legislation to secure the medal for Cushing.

Cushing is the only Civil War veteran to receive the Medal of Honor posthumously, according to U.S. Army officials.

"She was one of the most wonderful people I had the pleasure of working with while I was in public office," according to former Delafield Mayor Ed McAleer, who served in city government for more than a quarter of a century.

McAleer recalled her work promoting the history of the city.

"I remember stopping by her house and we would talk about the history of the city. But with Margaret you mostly listened," he added.

Court battle over dam

Shortly after his election as mayor in 2008, McAleer helped stop an effort by the city to take over Zerwekh's approximately 18-acre home on the corner of Main and Mill Streets.

At the time, Zerwekh owned the Nemahbin Roller Mill Dam on the Bark River including the approximately 12-acre mill pond created by the dam.

Adjacent to the dam was the home — a former grist mill — that she and her late husband Kenneth had resided in since their marriage

in the late 1960s.

He acquired the property in the late 1940s after he returned from Europe, where he served in World War II.

Some city officials were concerned about Zerwekh's plans to remove the dam and the mill pond and thought her property should be preserved as a park.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources warned her of the possibility of the dam failing in the event of a flood and she decided to remove it.

Although she owned the dam and mill pond, and faced hundreds of thousands of dollars in cost if she tried to repair and maintain the dam, a group of her neighbors went to court in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent her from removing the dam and mill pond.

According to her daughter, Zerwekh was born in Wabasha, Minnesota in 1920, where she grew up on the family farm as the daughter of Alex and Maude Huddleston.

She attended Northland College in Ashland for three years before working as a medical technician at Hill Field Hospital in Utah during World War II.

She later completed her college education at the University of Washington at Seattle before moving to Madison in 1963, where she met her husband Kenneth. They later moved to Delafield.

A 'GREAT GUY' LOST IN DELAFIELD

Al Zietlow dedicated life to serving Arrowhead, community

Longtime educator, alderman dies at 83

By Kelly Smith
Special to The Freeman



Kelly Smith/Special to The Freeman

DELAFIELD — Alderman Al Zietlow, 83, who dedicated most of his life to Arrowhead Union High School and the Lake Country community, died early morning June 5, according to family members.

"We are just very sad and shocked by the news," said Arrowhead Superintendent Laura Myrah.

"He has been an important part of Arrowhead High School since its beginning back in 1956," she continued.

"He taught science and later became an administrator. Two years after his retirement as an administrator he was elected to the School Board."

Zietlow earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and a master's in school administration and management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In addition to his 18 years on the AHS board, he served for 20 years on the former Nashotah School Board and played an instrumental role in the creation of the Lake Country School District, according to Superintendent Mark Lichte.

"He was a great guy. He was instrumental at both Arrowhead and at Lake Country," Lichte said.

Lichte said Zietlow played an important role in the merging of the Bark River and Nashotah school districts to create the Lake Country District and coordinated the construction in 1993 of the school building for the 4-year-old kindergarten to eighth-grade district.

Zietlow was also the founder of the school's Patriots' Program, which annually honors more than 100 vet-

erans and their wives at a school event before each Memorial Day, Lichte said.

'Huge asset to community'

"He was a huge asset to the community. He gave of himself when he did not have to. He was a terrific mentor. Al is definitely going to be missed," said Andrea Shrednick, who has served for 18 years on the Lake Country School District Board.

Shrednick said Zietlow was active in the state association of school boards and several community education programs.

He was recently re-elected as treasurer and member of the board of the Southeastern Wisconsin Region of the Cooperative Education Service Agency.

The agency, headquartered in Pewaukee, was created by the state Legislature to enhance education across the state by encouraging cooperation between private and public schools, administrators, teachers and school board members.

He was also active in a lakeshore homeowners association and served on Delafield's Lake Welfare Committee.

"Al Zietlow was truly dedicated to his community and will be missed by many. His family is in our hearts and thoughts through these difficult times," said Mayor Kent Attwell in an email statement.

Attwell defeated Zietlow in

the April mayoral election.

In 2001 Zietlow was appointed by the Common Council as Sixth District alderman to replace Alderwoman Kathy Aldridge who resigned because of business commitments.

The district includes most of the western shoreline of Lake Nagawicka.

In 2002, Zietlow lost in both his first campaign for mayor and re-election as alderman.

In 2011, Valery, his beloved wife of 50 years, died.

Together they owned and operated AZ Enterprise, which included a small summer resort east of Hayward. According to some of his colleagues, "Al missed Val" and it is reflected in a voice-mail message that has continued to be used since her death:

"You have reached AZ Enterprise mobile phone. CEO Val and her assistant Al are not available at this time."

In 2014, Zietlow decided to return to city politics. He lost his second bid for mayor but was elected alderman.

In January, Zietlow was hospitalized with a medical condition that he said caused his esophagus to swell, making eating and speaking difficult.

After the election, Zietlow appeared gaunt and frail. His last council meeting was April 2.

"He was a great guy. I am going to miss him," said former Mayor Ed McAleer.

Hentges elected president of international funeral group

HARTLAND — Christine Toson Hentges was elected president during the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association 2018 Annual Convention & Exposition.

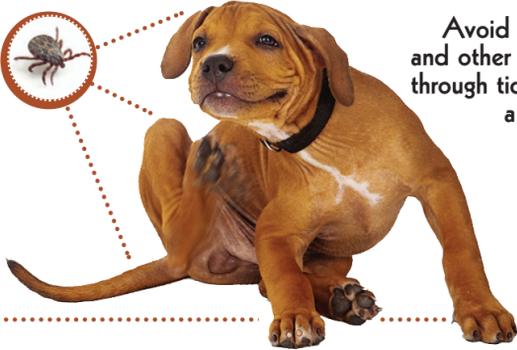
Hentges is president and CEO of The Tribute Com-

panies Inc. in Hartland, which owns prominent cemeteries in Milwaukee, Wausau, Green Bay and Hartland.

She is a fourth-generation cemetarian and is active in the ICCFA leadership.

She previously served as co-chair of the ICCFA Women's Forum, was co-chair of ICCFA's Fall Management Conference in 2005, is a former board member and has held several executive committee positions.

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Selfie stands coming to Kettle Moraine State Forest

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

WAUKESHA — Waukesha-area hikers heading to the Southern and Lapham Peak units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest may notice a “selfie signs” throughout the park.

According to a press release, Travel Wisconsin and Wisconsin State Parks worked together to install 10 signs last fall but will now add 40 signs at various parks throughout the state after hearing positive feedback from park visitors.

The custom-built signs tell users how to set their smartphones on a shelf, which swivels from left to right 180 degrees and tilts upwards 90 degrees so that users can create customizable angles, and capture the best image. The stands are designed with platforms that can hold any size or style mobile device, allowing visitors to safely snap a group photo in front of one of the park’s most scenic views.



Courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism

Those who take photos at selfie signs are encouraged to share their captured memories by tagging photos with #scenicwisconsin.

These new signs will give park visitors a chance to share the beauty of Wisconsin’s state parks with friends and family, said Stephanie Klett, Wisconsin state tourism secretary. “We are excited to build on the success of the original 10 selfie stands. After all, who doesn’t love to take a good selfie?,” Klett said.

The first 10 signs have received positive feedback from park visitors with

posts and comments on social media.

The initiative also received a “Paragon Award of Excellence” from the Public Relations Society of America Southeastern Wisconsin chapter.

The first 20 have been delivered and installed. The other 20 will be added in July.

For more information and selfie sign locations, visit travelwisconsin.com.



Mackenzie Christman/Special to The Freeman

Building a bridge for the community

The bridge over the Pewaukee River in Koeppe Park under construction on June 7.

Horizon students revive the art of the pen pal

PEWAUKEE — Children having a pen pal may seem like an antiquated pastime in today’s era of iPads and video games, but fourth-grade students from Horizon Elementary School recently learned how much fun it could be. Throughout the course of this school year, 17 retired faculty members, including teachers, media specialists, reading interventionists and a principal volunteered their time to become pen pals with 25 fourth-graders. Some of the adults chose to write to multiple students.

“When my kids would enter in the morning and see a letter waiting for them, they were thrilled. This was a great opportunity to connect with adults other than myself or family members,” said teacher Janet Hassert.

She explained that her students would share their letters with her via Google Docs, and she would forward them on to their respective



Submitted photo

Retired kindergarten teacher Susan Katt meets with her pen pal and former student Layla at Horizon Elementary School.

pen pals. Once Hassert got their responses, she would print them for the students — a modern-day version of pen pal writing for today’s learners.

The idea came from Diane Conway, a retired fourth-grade teacher who contacted Hassert with the idea.

“I’m not sure who was more excited — my students or me,” said Hassert. “It also gave great authenticity to their writing; they worked hard to improve their writ-

ten communication, formulating clear and coherent letters, while asking and answering questions.”

The group of Horizon fourth-graders met their pen pals face-to-face for the first time this week during a special lunch. The pals played games, ate, and chatted, further developing these intergenerational connections.

— Ashley Haynes,
Freeman Staff

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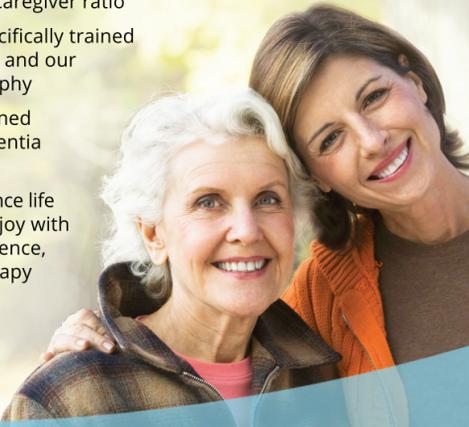
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