

HIS MONTH

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Delafield debates downtown development

Big buildings could change downtown aesthetics

By Kelly Smith Special to The Freeman

DELAFIELD — There were sharp words exchanged newly elected Mayor Kent Attwell and developer Rob Gerbitz during the April 25 Plan Com-

mission meeting. It was not the first rodeo for either guy.

Attwell served as an alderman, plan commissioner, and chair of the influential Lake Welfare Committee before being elected mayor three weeks earlier.

Gerbitz played an instrumental role in the redevelopment of downtown Delafield in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

He was a top aide to developer Bob Lang, the former gift card and calendar entrepreneur whose colonial architectural visions dominate the downtown business district.

Gerbitz is now CEO of Commercial Hendricks Properties of Beloit, which recently purchased its 20th downtown building, including all the former Lang prop-

His boss, Diane Hendricks, is one of the richest women in the country. She and her late husband made millions from a roofing supply company that she changed into a big real estate development

Sitting next to Gerbitz was architect Kent Johnson, who spent much of his career designing the Lang buildings which have become the city's signature.

Hendricks Commercial Properties is proposing to



the downtown business district at the intersection of Genesee and Main streets. One is a com-

the center of

mercial retail and office building facing Genesee Street that may include a public market.

Around the corner, on Main Street, a residential building of condominiums is proposed.

Gerbitz and Johnson argue the development will bring more residents downtown and encourage development other businesses, including a public market.

However, waivers will be required if the city approves construction of the buildings since the designs do not meet city codes.

The buildings are too tall, have too many stories, and are not set back far enough from city sidewalks, City Planner Roger Dupler said.

Attwell is frustrated that Gerbitz and Johnson have not made changes in the plans to bring the buildings into compliance with city

During two previous commission meetings, citizens and commission members said the buildings were too big, too tall and the early 1900s architectural style did not fit into the quaint, historic ambience of downtown Delafield.

Attwell told Gerbitz, "We have had people come in and tell you they don't think its compatible with the surbuild two large four-story rounding area. The Plan rebutted.



of new retail shops and Plans to replace a gas station at the corner of Main and Genesee streets with large multistory buildings is creating a controversy in Delafield because the new buildings would be across the street from another large building at the intersection.

Commission has given you the same kind of feedback."

"I don't see you people trying to make it blend in," the mayor added.

"In three iterations, I don't see you guys taking the feedback and coming back with what people have commented on," Attwell concluded.

However, Gerbitz was also frustrated. He did not believe he was

getting clear guidance from the commission.

"The first day we were here we asked you what you Reiher observed. wanted to see and not anyone was able to tell us," Gerbitz responded.

Changes had been made in the plans reducing the buildings by one floor, increasing the distances set back from sidewalks, and adding architectural amenities, Gerbitz

"I want direction from Delafield Square. you. We brought it down another floor, we set them back further. We are trying to accommodate when you guys give us direction," he

Commissioner James Reiher summarized the importance of the debate.

"If this were three blocks from Genesee Street it would not be as significant. But it is going to be right in the middle. Everything is going to be focused on this building,"

Delafield Square

concluded,

Other commissioners expressed concerns the buildings would alter the landscape downtown because they would be located immediately north, and across Main Street, from another large building,

Built in 2006, the block-

long, three-and-a-half-story building, was the subject of an intense battle between then-Mayor Paul Craig and Lang.

Lang was able to win approval and code waivers from the city for the building only after agreeing to reduce the height of the building to three stories and a partial fourth floor.

Attwell has told The Freeman that if Hendricks would buildings design Delafield Square, he might support its plans.

He has asked Gerbitz to present new details about the design of the buildings, the overall height, and how far the buildings would

See **DEVELOP**, PAGE 2A

INSIDE



Beer garden coming to a park near you

Page 1B



Divine Redeemer national champs

SPORTS/Page 4B











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SECTION B

MAY 2018

Beer gardens returning to county parks this summer

More locations announced; hours extended

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

WAUKESHA — When up, area residents will they'll be able to do that at one of the numerous beer gardens planned for and playgrounds. Waukesha County parks this summer.

off May 14 at Eble Park, 19400 W. Bluemound the beer garden season and the 30th anniversary son. of Eble Park.

custom beer steins availfor patrons.

of Raised Grain Brew- ages. ing Co. in a statement. tions, music, and activities, the season is kicktion.

All Pop-Up Beer Garday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., beer-garden.

and Saturday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. A rotating list of five of Raised Grain's beers will be on tap, and custom beer steins will be available for purthe days finally warm chase. The Pop-Up Beer Gardens will also have want to celebrate and food trucks, yard games and music. Some parks have swimming access

In addition, the Pop-Up Beer Garden is expand-Raised Grain Brewing ing to nine Waukesha Co. is again partnering County Park locations in with Waukesha County 2018 from three in 2017. Parks to hold the beer Minooka, Fox Brook and gardens, which will kick Naga-Waukee Parks will continue to host beer gardens, and Muskego, Road, Brookfield. The Menomonee, Fox River, kickoff will include Nashotah, Mukwonago three days of events to and Eble Parks will celebrate the opening of host their first beer garden events this sea-

"The Pop-Up Beer Gar-Tthere will be triple dens draw more people the number of beer gar- into our parks — some den locations in 2018, for the first time - to enjoy our wonderful able and new food and facilities," said Waukeentertainment options sha County Executive Paul Farrow in a state-"This year's beer gar- ment. Raised Grain, our den season brings a lot local brewery, has been of new experiences for an excellent partner Waukesha County fami- in creating this enjoylies," said Nick Reistad able experience for all

Annual sticker mem-"In addition to new locabers will have access to the park, while day pass visitors will receive a ing off with a big open- beer token with their weekend celebra- daily entry pass (\$6 for entry and one token).

For full details on the den locations will be Pop-Up Beer Gardens, open Thursday and Fri- visit rgbrewing.com/



Raised Grain Brewing bartender Kasey Englebert pours some beer during Waukesha County's first beer garden kick off at Minooka Park in Waukesha last summer.



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new too!) So...now is the time to stock up!! Realistic Silk Florals * Gifts * * Home Decor * Greenery *

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Downtown Delafield business owner and former Alderman Rick Lieblang supports Hendricks Commercial Properties' proposed construction of two new multistory buildings down-

Develop From Page 1A

be set back from the side- to their favorite shops. walks.

The city code requires a Realtor, downtown maximum height of 45 business owner weigh feet and three stories, in Dupler said.

buildings Joe Hendricks'

Based on the height of has not supported. the buildings, the code requires the setback to be one. a minimum of 44 feet on all sides, Dupler said.

37 feet to 11 feet.

Talking traffic, parking

streets.

The number of vehicle trips per day would double about the impact such a at the intersection rang- development would have ing from about 115 to 240 on other businesses withadditional trips depend- in the city especially ing on the day and time of given the parking probthe trips as result of the lems we already experidevelopment, according to ence," he added. a traffic study.

ley of raSmith engineer- former alderman, ing said the increased agrees with Deklotz. traffic would not significantly affect traffic flow in add \$400,000 in real estate downtown Delafield.

Regarding Hawley said the develop- with the other downtown ment will not significantly businesses. There is a impact available parking going to be a public marspaces downtown provid- ket that we need in ed shoppers are willing to Delafield," Lieblang said. use public parking lots within a block or two from that without an increase the downtown business in police and fire protec-

However, Hawley conceded that local consumers may not be used to walking a couple of blocks

Local real estate agent Deklotz cannot are 57 feet and four sto-remember a downtown development project he

But he does not like this

"The development is very much out of charac-The setbacks on the pro- ter with the look and feel posed building range from of the historic district in Delafield. The reduced setbacks and massive size of the proposed development For decades, there was a would dwarf and overpowgas station at the intersec- er all other buildings in tion of Main and Genesee the city," he wrote in a letter to the city.

"I am also concerned

Downtown However, Patrick Haw- owner Rick Lieblang, a

> "Those buildings will taxes. They will bring in parking, customers who will shop

"And you will get all of tion costs," he concluded.

Warmer weather means tasty, comforting treats

Lake Country landmarks LeDuc's, Buddy's are ready for peak season

By Chris Bennett Special to The Freeman

meatloaf are to winter.

Dairy treats and grilled that food should be lumped sphere." into the category we all ing than a vanilla cone on ther grilled hamburger as the family-friendly. sun starts to disappear water.

by those who provide for eight years. such wonderful cuisine.

love for the restaurant so works." frequently that they have pickles guy."

best man in his wedding. Labor Day weekend. Suttner's wire fox terrier, Buddy, served as the best LeDuc's luscious man. Buddy's been gone offerings for about nine years.

"When he died, I was just miserable," Suttner said. "I said, 'Don't worry - you'll never be forgot-

All are buddies at Buddy's

Beach Bungalow meant to evoke the feel- There are a lot of reguing conveyed by the lars. Kenny Chesney song "No Caribbean — Lac instead.

"It's what you feel er from winter to spring

there," Suttner said. "You guard. don't have to be 1,000 relaxed

Buddy's serves beer crazy.' know as comfort food. and margaritas for adults There is little more and also slushies and ice refreshing and comfort- cream for children — Sutstresses a hot day, or a freshly Buddy's is meant to be

Suttner operates over the horizon follow- Buddy's under a contract ing an afternoon on the with Oconomowoc, and the joy of custard should Your passion for the ship he maintains with and get an education in food of summer is shared the city. He's run Buddy's the art of frosty treats.

is still surprised that peo- tner said. "We serve good is very little air in cusple stop to take pictures products at a fair price. If tard, unlike ice cream, Frozen Custard. Some good hot dog. We're just air. Kinsey said custard is patrons express their doing it right, and it very dense.

nicknames — like "Root ness on the Friday of 1, 2016 after buying it beer float guy," or "No Memorial Day weekend from the Shackton family. In Oconomowoc, John ends until school lets out. restaurant for 17 years Suttner named Buddy's Buddy's closes for the after buying it from the Beach Bungalow after the season the Monday of LeDuc family, who start-

Steve Kinsey is open year-round at LeDuc's, but in rare moments questions the wisdom of his logic.

"At least golf courses are smart enough to close in the winter," Kinsey said. "This is a communi-Suttner said Buddy's ty where people still is come here all the time.

Add "Strawberry shake Shirt, No Shoes, No Prob-guy" to the list of aforelem." One doesn't need to mentioned regulars who travel to the shores of the would take exception to hit the LeDuc's closing in the sands on the shores of winter. It doesn't, by the La Belle Lake way, but Kinsey admits the recent shift in weath-

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when you're sitting caught the restaurant off-

"We went from snow to WALES — Custard and miles away. You can be warm so fast — it's just a beef hot dog are to sum-three miles from your hard to make that adjustmer what pot roast and house or 20 miles from ment," Kinsey said. "We meatloaf are to winter. your house, and you have went from hoping someatmo- one pulls in to two lines outside the window. It's

> bought the Kinsey restaurant a couple of years ago after a career that making circuit boards. He and his family were longtime, regular patrons of the custard stand.

Those who don't know he praises the relation- make the trek to Wales

Custard contains "I believe that they like higher amount of butter, In Wales, Steve Kinsey that we did it right," Sut- fat, and egg yolks. There of the sign at LeDuc's you get a hot dog, it's a which contains a lot of

Kinsey and his family Buddy's opens for busi- took over LeDuc's on July and is open only on week- The Shacktons owned the ed the endeavor in 1980.

Steve Kinsey's three daughters Alicia, Andrea and Anna — each worked their way through college LeDuc's. Anna Kinsey is now the general manager. Anna Kinsey holds degrees in marketing and finance from UW-White-

Anna Kinsey predicts a bold, bright and tasty future for LeDuc's.

"I always wanted to own my own business, and go the entrepreneurial route," she said. "I really liked the old owners, and got really close to

"I'd like to expand, in the future and, hopefully, open a couple of more



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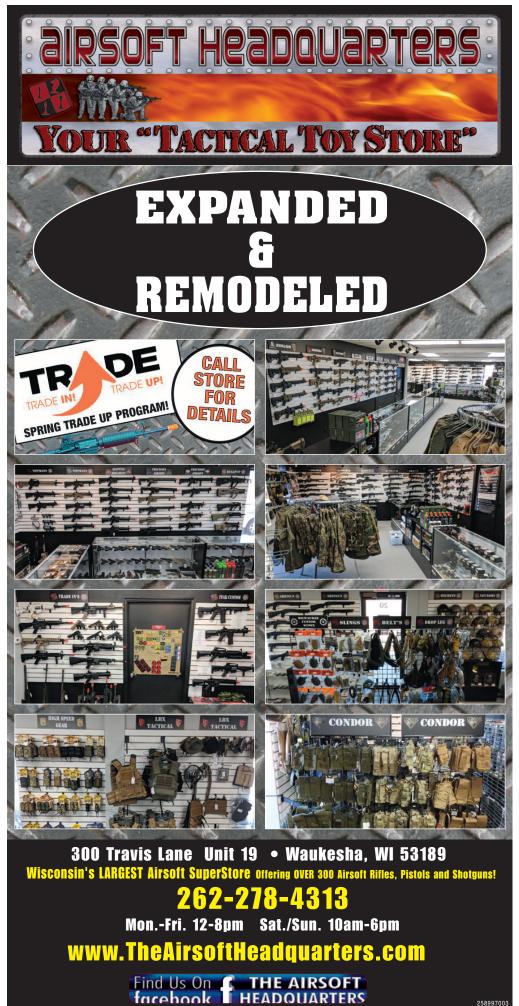
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Here comes the bride!

Godey's Lady's Book was one of very few printed magazines that lasted through the Civil War. It was published between 1830 and 1878. Louis A. Philadelphia Godev's women's magazine had an annual \$3 subscription

The most beloved component in each issue was a picture of French fashion. This was before color printing. Mr. Godey printed the black-and-white image of French designer clothing and each sheet was hand-tinted to add This process color. required 150 women to individually hand-tint, then stitch the centerfold page into every volume. version could differ from yours.

These fashion inserts recorded the progression used extensively until the of clothing and hair styles for almost 50 years. The publication's success was largely due to Mr. Godey hiring a female editor, which was totally unheard With each generation, Submit an item of. When these pages are found today, many are framed and authentic examples that will have a center crease, proof it was delicately removed from satin gown and bobbed newspaper column? Let the magazine. Framed hair. examples can be found today with value ranging from \$25-\$75.

sions, but also pure white and damage will affect ship and your full name, about antiques.)



BARBARA

EASH Antiques Appraised

was difficult to achieve. In 1840, Queen Victoria married Prince Albert and initiated a widely copied trend when she chose a pure white wedding gown. Brilliant, strong colors of the monarchical regalia showed well on white.

Top it off

Recently, I attended a wedding where the grandmother's personal collec-Inevitably, each copy had a tion of vintage cake topdegree of variation in tint- pers was a charming and ing skill; your neighbor's popular part of the reception decorations. Bride and groom figures on top of wedding cakes were not 1920s; earlier ones were wax or bisque with a 2-inch value. Today's example is address and daytime phone height. Most vintage cake toppers found today are from the mid-20th century. clothing styles changed on cake toppers. This 1920s example is 4 inches in tuxedo, the bride has a could be shared in a future

The most valuable exam- it! ples are found from the Note: Before 1840, wed- military groom and a the following information: ding dresses were often short, tailored dress on the up to three, sharp, well-lit made from common color bride. Most are regarded as photos of front & back of fabrics and had shorter family treasures and very the item(s), measurements length. These dresses could few reach the marketplace. as well as any history or and has extensive experibe worn for future occa- Condition, color fading hearsay, length of owner- ence writing and speaking

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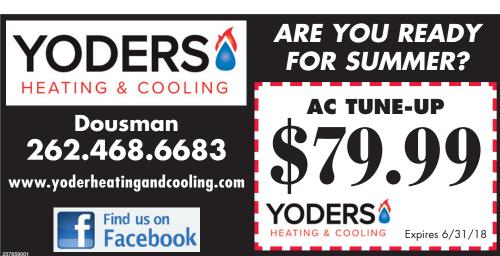
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(Barbara Eash is a member of the Certified Appraisers Guild of America, specializing in appraisals of antiques and collectibles













Attwell sworn in as Delafield's mayor

DELAFIELD — Mayor Michele DeYoe turns over her gavel to newly elected Mayor Kent Attwell shortly before Attwell was sworn into office during ceremonies last month at City Hall. Attwell defeated follow Alderman Al Zietlow in the April election. DeYoe did not seek re-election.

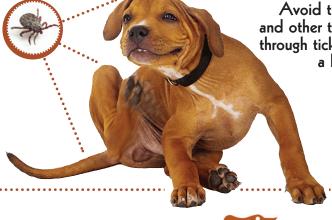
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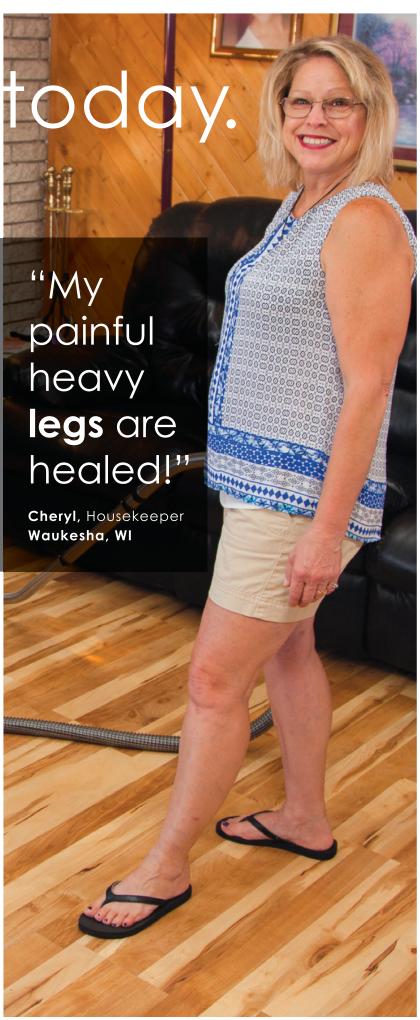


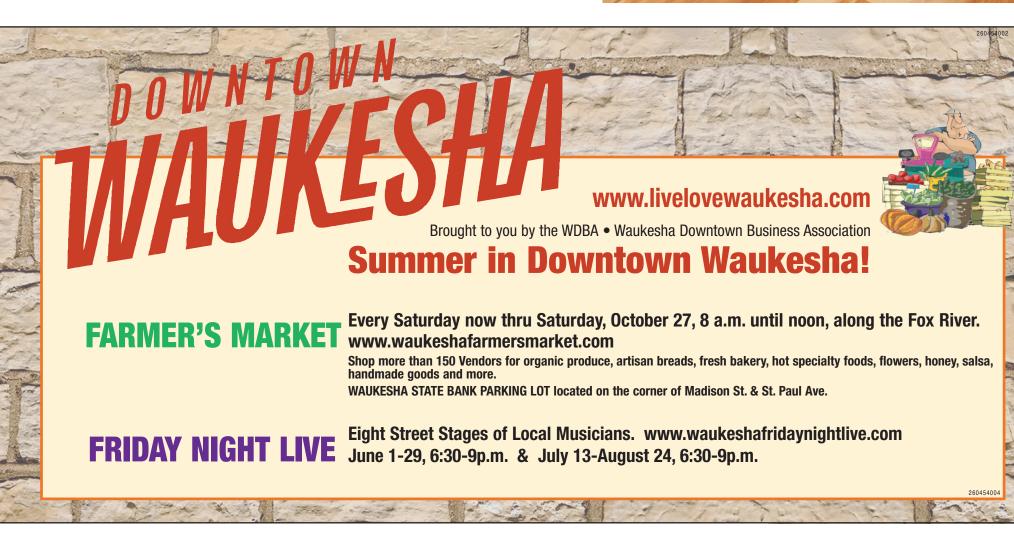
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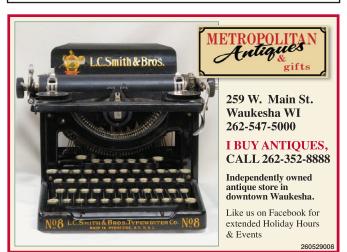












Veterans still serving others in local Herus Group chapter

By Chris Bennett Special to The Freeman

scan of any part of the body is off-limits to those men and women who return home from defending American know shrapnel.

multiple combat deployments work with me." to Iraq and Afghanistan as a noncommissioned officer in the United States Army.

injury. In 2016, a motorcycle waist down. accident forced him to the ter, which is named for Clement Zablocki.

spent days in severe pain as a endured. result of the CT myelogram,

CITY OF PEWAUKEE — A Milwaukee VA for four days, been blessed." magnetic resonance imaging he eventually made it to Froedtert Hospital Wauwatosa.

"To this day, we still don't expand what interests abroad filled with Pechacek said. "During my future. CT myelogram, my legs did-Ben Pechacek is one of n't work. Froedtert did every- herusgroup.com, the Herus those men. Pechacek counts thing they could to try to Group is a business consult-

wheelchair, and recently ment and financial security. received his final orders from Pechacek started Herus He returned home from one the Army. His final rank as a Group in September 2016. of his deployments full of soldier will be staff sergeant. Herus Group is located at shrapnel from a combat He is paralyzed from the N19-W24400 Riverwood Drive,

It's difficult to say if the Milwaukee VA Medical Cen- complications Pechacek expe- of the household," Pechacek With an MRI out of the Servant leadership is an obviveys a sense of responsibility cost of a business's existing money. question, a doctor decided to ous and well-established trait or character. If you're perform a CT myelogram. among those who once wore making service your main Dye is injected into the spine the cloth of the nation. priority for your clients, it and tracked by X-ray in the Pechacek might have founded makes sense that you speak ings. That's when almost every-vice ahead of money without authority." thing went wrong. Pechacek the personal travails he

was there or when it would said. "By doing the correct subside. After being shuffled job, we focus on experience off to a back room at the and helping people, and we've

> Group is The Herus in licensed in 37 states, and Pechacek said he hopes to the company's happened," national footprint in the

According to its website, ing firm specializing in Pechacek is now in a comprehensive risk manage-Suite 350. "Herus is Latin for 'master

rienced at Zablocki are the said. "The master of the impetus for the Herus Group. house is someone who con- the ability to compare the the employer and employee the insurance coverage they an organization that puts ser- from a position of trust and

The Hartland Chamber of Commerce welcomed Herus Group as a new member recently. Ambassador Mark Walters of REMAX/Realty Group, right, presents Allen Bowe, senior vice president of Herus Group with a membership plaque from the chamber.

Also pictured from the Herus Group left to right are: Ben Pechacek, president; Tommy Endres, chief operations officer; Bradley Bechard, businesses solutions specialist; Nick Guerino, BSS; Karina Ainsworth, BSS; Vern Hagstrom, vice president of personnel; Christina Deal, BSS; Dave Weber, BSS; and Diane Holzmann, BSS.

benefit structure against the offerings of its partners, and help the client realize sav-

Pechacek said the Herus is centered on smartphone Group is staffed by a large technology to diagnose medi- Group with that guiding prin-"My focus is not on profit — number of combat veterans. cal issues and render a ciple in mind — to make sure I will forever be a soldier to

'A soldier to my core'

the trend in health care that purchased as a younger man.

Herus Group is also part of fall back on the insurance he er in Pechacek's life. Pechacek founded Herus soldier in me," Pechacek said.

need, before they need it, at a reasonable price.

It is yet another example of When Pechacek reached the idea of servant leaderhis lowest point, he still could ship that is a significant driv-

> "That's the NCO and the "Regardless of my disability,





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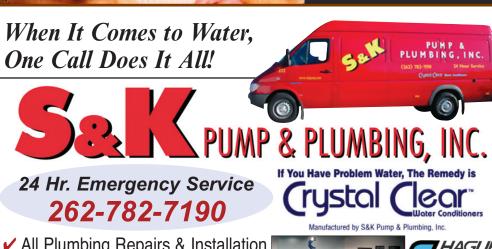
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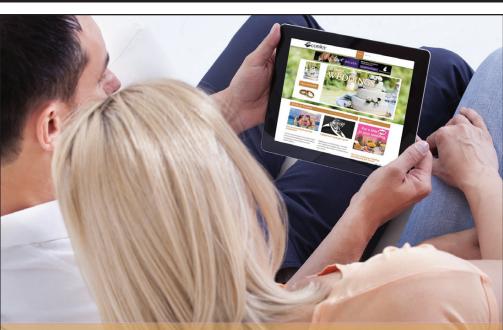
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AWARDS









Divine play leads to championship

Hartland's Divine Redeemer wins Lutheran national title

By Dave Radcliffe dradcliffe@conleynet.com 262-513-2655

HARTLAND — The eighth-grade Divine Redeemer boys basketball team has been on the rise in recent

In 2015, it finished fourth at the Lutheran Basketball National Tournament of Champions. Last year, Divine Redeemer won the consolation bracket.

This season? National champs.

It was the perfect season for Divine Redeemer, which finished 31-0 and bested 31 other teams to win the 2018 national title at Valparaiso University on March 25.

"Sunday was basically the final four," head coach Eric Haertle said. "We ended up playing a team from Illinois and beat them pretty well and then it was us and a team from Minnesota. I believe we were the last two teams that were undefeated. The final game is held on Valpo's main floor, so we ended up winning 50-40."

It was akin to a three-day version of March Madness for Divine Redeemer and the participating teams. It clinched a berth by winning the state tournament and was one of three schools from Wisconsin to compete in Indiana.

The national tournament has been held for over 70 years. It was Divine Redeemer's fifth appearance, the highest number among teams from Wisconsin.

"It turns we did get the No. 1 seed," Haertle said. "We played a team from Missouri first on Friday morning, then we played a team from Indiana Friday evening. Saturday night we played a team from California and ended up hitting a basket with three seconds left to go up by one and held them off."

The player to make that gamewinning shot was none other than Eric's son, Luke.

"It was such a fun shot," Luke Haertle said. "Everything just had to go right. When the ball was inbounded, it went right to be Ben Lubbers, he tipped it away for (Noah Howard) to grab it. He passed to me right over a defender and for me to finish, everything went so perfect. After I made it I didn't know what to say. I was in awe. Like, 'Did I just make that shot?'

Haertle and Lubbers were both named to the all-tournament team.



Photo courtesy of Andrea Sitzman

The eighth-grade Divine Redeemer Lutheran School boys basketball team poses with the first place trophy after winning the 2018 Lutheran Basketball National Tournament of Champions at Valparaiso University on March 25.

Luke Haertle led the team in scoring and rebounding this season, while provided Divine Redeemer with a strong post presence.

"Ben is just scratching the surface on how good he's going to be," Eric Haertle said. "Noah is far and away the best shooter on the team. He knocked down some big shots in the tournament and throughout the sea-

"Josh Zimbal and Josh Pavlic round out our starting five. They all play club, they know their role. Nobody gets too frazzled and they can all knock down shots.'

Luke went to watch his older brother, Bryce — now a junior at Lake Country Lutheran and a threetime all-conference performer when he reached the national tournament three years ago and finished

"It's really been a goal of mine to beat him ... just a little brotherly competition," Luke said. "But it was such a great experience for us. I thought it was the coolest thing that they got fourth, but now it was my turn to play. I've always been so excited for that. I'm just very proud of my team. Every win we stuck together and it was amazing.'

The local community rallied around the team, with a handful of teachers making the trip to Valparaiso and many family members and friends watching online.

"All the games are webcast so it's on the web with announcers," Eric Haertle said. "It's generally communication students from Valpo. They said there were over 1 million hits that took place over the weekend.

"Our own pastor when we won

Sunday morning to get to the final game, he's based in Michigan, so it's Lubbers, the team's tallest player, a three-hour drive for him and he ended up coming to the finals."

Divine Redeemer won its conference along with four different tournaments that took place around the area this season.

"We're blessed with some very good families," Eric Haertle said. "The kids, a lot of them play club ball for Lake Country Lutheran, so we had a good group of boys that knew what they were doing. I knew (winning the national title) was a possibility."

Luke did as well, but there was the unknown of what kind of competition they would be facing.

"We knew that we had a good team, but didn't really know what other teams would be like because they are from all over the nation, so we've obviously never seen them play," Luke Haertle said.

Luke and many of his teammates will go on to play at Lake Country Lutheran. He will have one season to play at the same school as his brother, and possibly even on the same team.

"I'm looking forward to it," Luke Haertle said. "I've been with my brother, just from playing in the driveway I learned so much from him, so hopefully we'll be on the same team. That would be amaz-

Until then, the Divine Redeemer eighth-graders will continue soaking in that feeling of being the best.

"It really is a memory," Eric Haertle said. "Parents will cherish it forever, and the boys will be called national champions forever, and that's a really cool thing.

Pettine ready to toughen up defense

Packers' new D-coordinator reunites with Wilkerson, Williams

By Rob Reischel

GREEN BAY — Muhammad Wilkerson experienced it firsthand in 2011 and 2012.

During Wilkerson's first two years with the New York Jets, defensive coordinator Mike Pettine preached toughness, smarts, aggressiveness and physicality.

Tramon Williams heard the same thing from Pettine in 2015 when both men were in Cleveland. Pettine, who was the Browns' head coach at the time, demanded ferocity and fire from his defense, all while keeping the scheme as simple as possible.

Pettine is now the Green Bay Packers' new defensive coordinator. And Wilkerson and Williams — a pair of free-agent additions this offseason insist the Packers are going to love playing for Pettine.

"It's very aggressive, man," Williams said at the start of the Packers' offseason program. "You have to be smart. It's simple, but it's aggressive. There has to be a lot of smart guys on the field."

Wilkerson agreed.

"Mike is a guy who can be exotic and creative with different blitzes and schemes," said Wilkerson, who played his first seven years with the Jets before signing with the Packers in March. "He'll help the guys on defense be successful."

Defense has been Green Bay's Achilles' heel for years now. So much so that at the NFL Combine in February, Packers head coach Mike McCarthy said: "I'm sick and tired of our defense feeling like the stepchild. I mean, how many times do you have to tell them, 'You're not the stepchild"?"

But that's exactly what the Packdefense has been. And McCarthy is hoping Pettine can fix

Dom Capers ran Green Bay's defense for nine seasons and had far more success early in his tenure.

The Packers were second in total defense in 2009 and fifth in 2010, then had an average finish of 20th between 2011-17. Green Bay was also seventh in scoring defense in 2009 and second in 2010, then had an average finish of 18th from 2011 to '17 and never cracked the top 10 again.

After Capers was fired following the 2017 campaign, many players talked about a lack of accountability. That's never been a problem with Pettine.

"If you want to be on this team,

you have to hold yourself accountable," Packers safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix said. "That's being who you are and showing who you are. Last year was last year. This definitely is a new year and I think we're all excited and pumped up about it."

With good reason. Pettine, a high school football coach in Pennsylvania from 1995-2001, broke into the NFL as a coaching assistant with Baltimore in 2002. Pettine worked his way up the ranks, was the Jets' defensive coordinator from 2009-12, coordinated the defense in Buffalo in 2013, then was Cleveland's head coach in 2014-15.

Even during Pettine's first year as Cleveland's head coach, the undermanned Browns were No. 8 in passing defense (224.5) and No. 1 in opponent passer rating (74.1). Things bottomed out the following season when the Browns were No. 22 in pass defense (250.8) and 30th in opponent passer rating (101.8).

"The thing that I respect over the years with him, they don't give up a lot of completions, they hold vertical control, there's always tight coverage and he does a very nice job implementing that," said Joe Whitt, Green Bay's passing game coordinator. "It's a clean package, it's a good package, but it's a difficult package for quarterbacks to navigate through."

Teams navigated right through Green Bay's defense a year ago.

The Packers ranked 26th in scoring defense and 22nd in total defense last season. Opponents had a passer rating of 102.0 against Green Bay in 2017 — the worst mark in franchise history. Opposing quarterbacks also completed 67.8 percent of their passes, which again was the worst mark in franchise history.

Pettine tries making schemes as simple as possible for his players and complex for opposing offenses to decipher. For the most part, Pettine has found success at almost all of his which has the Packers fired

Maybe, just maybe, the days of being a stepchild could be over.

"I'm very excited about this system," Clinton-Dix said. "Mike is a great coach. He has a lot of energy. He's not taking any mess. I'm excited about where this defense can go this

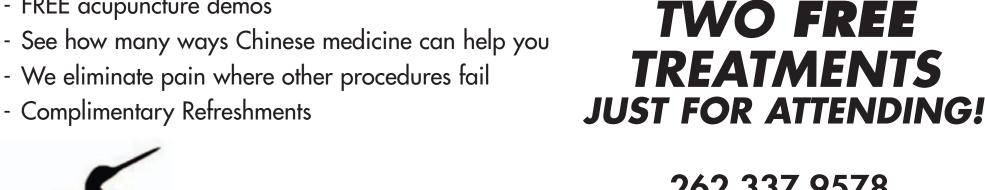
"There's not going to be any loose strings whether you're a 10-year vet or a rookie. Guys are going to be held accountable and I'm excited about



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