

Brookfield & Elm Grove

THIS MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2018

Heartfelt gratitude leads to charity efforts

The Beat Goes On raises funds for Children's Hospital, heart transplant program

By Alex Nemec
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262-513-2501

BROOKFIELD — After twins Chloe and Kendall Roehling, now 3, received their heart transplants in the summer of 2016, their parents, Dan and Christine, decided it was time to start giving back.

It all started when Chloe had a stroke when she was just a baby, and the Roehlings found out a blood clot passed through her heart to her brain, caused by an enlarged heart that didn't allow the main valve to close, Dan said.

The condition is called restrictive cardiomyopathy and was incurable, Dan said. The only treatment was surgery. Shortly thereafter, Kendall was tested too and she had the same condition.

In May, Chloe got her heart and at the beginning of July, Kendall got hers, which led to Dan and Christine starting The Beat Goes On the following year.

Dan said during the first summer they held an informal fundraiser.

"It was just a quick get-together. That turned out to be an amazing event," Dan said. "We raised about \$9,000 in that first little period for Children's Hospital."

Dan said in their charitable events, his favorite moment that included a tangible item was a donation to Children's Hospital.

"We were able to purchase an abundance of high chairs. Now when my girls have to unfortunately go in and stay the night, they have a high chair to sit in," Dan said.

Dan said trying to find a high chair when his daughters were there was difficult, but other par-



Submitted photo

The Roehlings from left to right: Max, Dan, Chloe, Christine and Kendall. Dan and Christine Roehling started The Beat Goes On to organize charitable activities after their twin daughters, Chloe and Kendall, received heart transplants two years ago.

ents don't have go through that.

"We got a text message from one of the nurses shortly after donating those things telling us there was a child who was in that hospital for about six months at the time who had never sat up," Dan said.

"Because of the high chair, they were able to find the right pitch because we bought some fairly adjustable high chairs for different reasons. The child was able to sit up for the first time, and you should have seen the family's face."

Dan said that instance is the fuel to make sure they continue doing what they're doing.

"If we can continuously improve the lives of children, hopefully get to the point we are raising enough money and enough awareness that we are impacting and eradicating heart diseases," Dan said.

Connecting with others

Dan said during his daughters' battles, people began reaching out to him and his family, saying they were going through something similar.

"I had a work colleague, someone who I really only exchanged emails with, come up to me and say she was a heart transplant recipient herself," he said. "We had long conversations about what's to come and what we can expect."

The Roehlings expected to have a busy August as they had three planned fundraisers that month, including both a Poolside Fundraiser at Wisconsin Athletic Club in Brookfield on Aug. 4 and Poolside Business After 5 on Aug. 9, while the Heart 2 Heart benefit at The Corners of Brookfield was set for Aug. 18.

The busy August wasn't exactly planned, Dan said, as he emailed both WAC and The Corners trying to procure a place to host their events.

"Both replied almost simultaneously and said 'Yes, we'd love to do something,'" Dan said. "What kind of transpired out of there is we were working both events kind of independently, and then unbeknownst to us they were talking with one another on what they were doing and then everyone was working together. We all aligned our vision for an event."

He said things like the fundraisers and donating the high chairs are moving.

"It's moments like those that will stick with you for the rest of your life and drives the philanthropic activities," said Dan.

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INSIDE



Update around
The Corners

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Facilities projects
should be done
by fall

Page 4A

Central's
Romero just
getting started

SPORTS / 4B



DALE KOOYENGA
FOR
STATE SENATE
5TH DISTRICT

Dale Kooyenga is a father, soldier, businessman, and citizen legislator. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq and continues to serve as a Major in the United States Army Reserves. Dale is a CPA and has experience working with Wisconsin's largest healthcare, financial services, non-for-profit, and government entities. He recognizes the importance of following a budget and enforcing fiscal responsibility.

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What's hot? Supermarket take-out

Demand for ready-to-eat food continues to grow

By JoAnn Petaschnick
Special to The Freeman

WHITEFISH BAY — Barbecued pork smoked in-house daily, freshly made chicken enchiladas, grilled-to-order paninis. Are these delicious-sounding items from the menu at your favorite restaurant? No, indeed. These days you can find them ready to take home from your local supermarket.

Of course, you still can go into a store and buy the ingredients to make your own dinner, but on the days you're too busy or you just don't want to cook, you don't have to settle for burgers, tacos or other fast food (not that there's anything wrong with that). Why bother when you can find lots of these chef-prepared items at Sendik's locations in Germantown, West Bend, Hartland, The Corners of Brookfield, and Waukesha, and at Pick 'n Save and Metro Market stores in the greater Waukesha area?

"Sendik's Family Meals are fully cooked meals ready to be heated up for a family of four. Customers can choose from 11 different varieties, including chicken enchiladas, barbecued pork, and lasagna," said Marissa Worzella, Sendik's marketing/consumer insights manager.

Family meals have been available at Sendik's for three years, but grilled-to-order paninis are a new offering and quite popular, Worzella said. "We have three brand new panini

offerings — Cuban, Italian sausage, and the breakfast panini, as well as a new breakfast sandwich offering, the sausage, egg and cheese breakfast sandwich."

The paninis are ready in three minutes or less.

Beyond the salad bar

Something new has also been added at area Pick 'n Save stores — Sunset West, Sunset East and Metro Market — Silvernail.

"We converted the Silvernail location from a Pick 'n Save to a Metro Market and celebrated a grand reopening of the store in late January of this year," said James J. Hyland, vice president of communications and public affairs for Roundy's. The store received a complete refresh and remodel along with the addition of these in-store experiences:

■ CheddarHeads Cheese Co., offering a vast selection of both Wisconsin cheese and cheeses from around the world;

■ Todd's Signature BBQ, where shoppers can find delicious barbecue dishes that are smoked in-house daily;

■ Easy For You, where you can enjoy a fresh seafood entrée and side dishes in an oven ready bag to take home;

■ Tasting Table featuring a different prepared meal made fresh-to-order every day;

■ Top Slice, which gives shoppers the chance to enjoy hot pizza by the slice or take a pizza home for a

last-minute dinner option; and

■ Squeezed, with a selection of fresh smoothies made to order and Pop Stop, freshly popped gourmet popcorn

Looking refreshed

The two Waukesha Pick 'n Save stores on Sunset Drive celebrated their grand re-openings last October, Hyland said. The stores got a complete refresh and remodel and now offer a build-you-own trail mix bar and Top Slice.

"Both of these stores added Pacific Kitchen, a new in-store 'restaurant' that offers made-to-order Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese cuisine including customized ramen, pho and stir fry. All of these dishes are created with fresh ingredients by our chefs who specialize in Asian cuisine," Hyland said.

Many supermarkets have had fresh salad bars and hot bars for some time, and they have become staples for their customers. In addition, "Every Sendik's location has sushi, rolled fresh in the store every day. "On Wednesdays, select rolls are just \$4.99," Worzella added.

How many people are taking advantage of this tasty new phenomenon? A survey of more than 60,000 Consumer Reports subscribers revealed that more than half of them buy meals at the fresh prepared-food counter at the grocery store. It's big business for the industry — and growing.

Stores like Pick 'n Save and Sendik's are redefining the grocery store cus-



Submitted photo

As part of the Metro Market conversion of the Silvernail Road location in Waukesha, Top Slice, which gives shoppers the chance to enjoy hot pizza by the slice or take a pizza home for a last-minute dinner option, was added.

tomers' experience by providing these conveniences. It also helps to keep them coming back to try something new. Hyland explains that the Kroger Co., which merged with Roundy's in December 2015, has invested a significant amount of capital in the Wisconsin stores to achieve the changes.

"Whether it's our Metro Market format or our refreshed Pick 'n Save store format, the feedback from customers has been overwhelmingly positive," Hyland said.

Worzella is also happy with Sendik's customer response.

"Our customers say we offer high quality food and fast and friendly service. They like that we continue to add new flavors/options," she said.



Submitted photo

Sendik's Family Meals are fully cooked meals ready to be heated up for a family of four and include chicken enchiladas.

The makeup of today's supermarket customer base is different, Hyland said.

"Today's customers are not the 'pantry stuffers' of prior generations. They may be young or maintain busy schedules and appre-

ciate fresh, quality prepared food offerings they can grab and go. The grocery industry is constantly changing, and we are changing along with it by listening to our customers and responding to their needs," he said.

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Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

Cops and Bobbers

ELM GROVE — Members of the Wauwatosa Police Department sponsored Cops and Bobbers on Aug. 9. Cops and Bobbers brought equipment for special needs children to spend a few hours fishing. Afterwards, they grilled brats for everyone. Cops and Kids Foundation provides opportunities for special needs children to join with police departments in community services. Emma Beres, 5, of Elm Grove, holds onto the fishing rod as Wauwatosa Police Officer Dan Kane helps guide it to the Elm Grove Pond Park.



Madison Thode, 8, of New Berlin catches a fish in the Elm Grove Park Pond.

Business owner launches ActionCOACH of Brookfield

Location to offer business strategies, group coaching

By Katherine Michalets
kmichalets@conley.net 262-513-2644

BROOKFIELD — Owning and operating a business is complicated, so getting a second opinion and some sound advice can be really helpful.

Todd Ruedt is prepared to do just that with his recently opened ActionCOACH of Brookfield.

Located at 4235 N. 124th St., ActionCOACH offers customized strategies to advise business owners on how to improve their companies.

Ruedt is a certified business coach and intends to partner with owners to grow their companies and make more money. A Brookfield native, Ruedt started business coaching in 2015 with ActionCOACH of Elm Grove, and has worked with multiple business of different sizes, in different market segments.

Services at ActionCOACH of Brookfield will include sales training, one-on-one coaching, group coaching, business planning and quarterly planning sessions with clients. The new office has a training facility and meeting rooms, offering businesses the chance to strategize in a fresh environment.

“Business ownership doesn’t have to be as hard as it often becomes,” Ruedt said. “The goal is to be crystal clear on where you want to be personally and build a plan for the business to achieve this goal. Our program is about building a better life. It’s achievable with the right tools and team.”

Ruedt was named national Coach of the Year in February at the ActionCOACH Business Excellence Forum & Awards Conference for the Americas. “Words cannot express my gratitude to ActionCOACH of Elm Grove for all I’ve learned, both as a client and later (as

a coach myself,” Ruedt said. “They helped me to understand and experience the entire ActionCOACH process, with amazing results. The adventure has been one of endless education and encouragement to become not just a better business person, but a better person overall.”

Ruedt operated Grounds Maintenance Services, a Brookfield-based landscaping, lawn services and snow plowing company, for 19 years.

“I am thrilled that Todd has opened the Brookfield office of ActionCOACH,” said Chris Carman, who runs an ActionCOACH office in Mukwonago. “This move will grow the ActionCOACH footprint in southeastern Wisconsin and help more local businesses achieve greater success. I’m encouraged by his vision of uniting local ActionCOACH offices to increase the value we deliver to the community.”

In addition, Ruedt is president of the Elmbrook Education Foundation, on whose board he has served since 2013. He has been involved in many EEF events, raising awareness, volunteering time and donating prizes.

While leading Grounds Maintenance Services, Ruedt donated landscaping services, plants and materials for several projects throughout the Elmbrook School District. He has participated in other ways to give back to the community, as well.

“I’m thrilled to begin this new chapter, which offers unlimited opportunity to help drive business growth and a stronger community,” Ruedt said. “I look forward to offering seminars and events that will help business owners, and partnering with them to chart a new path to long-term success. The future is limited only by our dreams.”

ActionCOACH of Brookfield can be contacted at 262-613-1255, at toddruedt@actioncoach.com, or through Facebook.



Ruedt

The Corners of Brookfield to receive \$7M update

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

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD — IM Properties announced in July that the company will commit more than \$7 million over the next 12 months to common area improvements at The Corners of Brookfield, according to a press release.

“Now, open a year, we want to revisit some elements of the common areas and better execute them for the benefit of our guests, our tenants and the Town,” Robert Gould said, head of U.S. operations at IM Properties.

New improvements will include:

■ Digital Directional Signage which will integrate with a high-tech parking guidance system to help guests easily find parking areas and be directed to open spots.

■ Wayfinding and signage improvements throughout the shopping center.

■ Two new vertical transportation nodes including high-speed elevators serving Union Street West and the new Theater District on Mar-

ket Street.

■ Traffic management improvements.

■ Painting improvements in the parking garage.

■ Wider sidewalks and soft and hard landscaping improvements along High Street, Market Street and Union Street.

■ Construction of a new bridge over Poplar Creek that integrates with an extension to South Janacek Road, which is being undertaken by the Town of Brookfield.

■ Paving of a vacant lot west of Von Maur to provide additional parking.

Already underway

Gould said the first phase of parking guidance improvements has already begun. However, the remainder of the updates will be completed in phases to minimize disruption within the town center.

The latest addition to The Corners is Fresh Fin Poke, a counter-service seafood restaurant that opened July 18. Goddess & the Baker, which offers soups, salads, sandwiches and pastries, is under construction and is

expected to open in October. Silverspot movie theater is also under construction and is slated to open in spring 2019.

“We promised the Town that we would develop a ‘sense of place,’ and we have made great strides with unique store and restaurant offerings, our popular events program and, with 80 percent of our 244 apartments already leased, residents who are contributing to that Town Center feel,” Gould said.

Food trucks

Separate from the \$7 million update, 20 of Milwaukee’s best food trucks and carts will be parked at The Corners from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Wednesday until Oct. 10.

A craft beer tent will provide beverages from One Barrel Brewing Company and Shiner Beer.

In addition to live music, there will be games such as giant Jenga, giant Connect Four, bean bags and more. There will also be a “Kids Zone” with bubbles, sidewalk chalk and more.



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Elmbrook Rotary accepting Business Person of the Year applications

BROOKFIELD — Nominations for the Elmbrook Rotary Club’s second Business Person of the Year Award are now being accepted.

The award recognizes the accomplishments of a successful Brookfield or Elm Grove individual.

The program will also recognize those with a customer focus and an entrepreneurial approach, along with those who’ve demonstrated strong leadership in the community. Last year’s winner was Lisabeth Passalis-Bain, who is the owner/editor/publisher of the Elm Grove News-Independent.

The program kicks off in August with nominations being requested online through Oct. 6.

A selection committee of ERC members, Brookfield officials and Elm Grove officials will review all nomination forms and select the award recipient. The winner will be recognized at the ERC meeting on Oct. 26.

Visit www.elmbrookrotary.org/Page/business-person-of-the-year to make a nomination.

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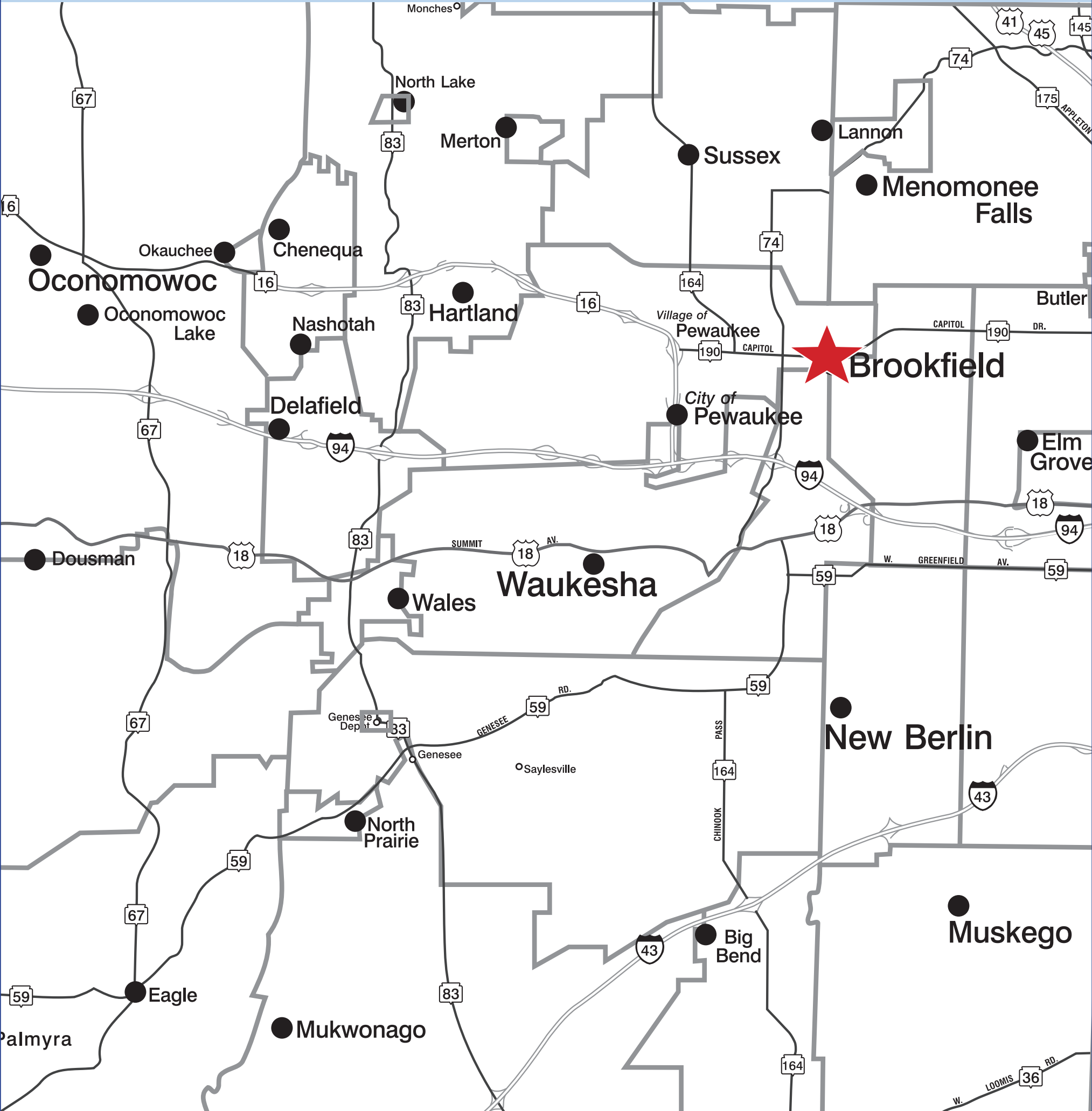


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SPORTS
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Kubler Shuler
Submitted rendering
Plans for a 54,000-square-foot conference center with an attached 168-room Hilton Garden Inn will be discussed at the joint Brookfield Plan Commission and Common Council meeting Tuesday at 7 p.m.
Brookfield conference center design plans unveiled
Plans call for 54,000-square foot center with 2 ballrooms, 168-room hotel

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Biggest career mistakes college grads make ▶ 8B

Falls knocks off North in state softball quarterfinal ▶ 1B, Sports

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Retail titan torn down
Sears at Brookfield Square demolished


TOWN OF EAGLE
Authorities think alleged gunman stole neighbor's car
Sheriff's Department: Pogreba may be in La Crosse or Minnesota
By Brian Huber
huber@freemans.com
262.513.2674
TOWN OF EAGLE — The man who is being sought after a violent domestic incident involving a gun may have fled the area in a car stolen from a neighbor's home, authorities said Thursday.
Jonathan Pogreba, 43, remained at large even after a 16-month arrest at his

And We Report to You!

History is in the bag with Civil War cartridge box

Q: This Civil War relic has been passed down through our family. Other than our relative's name on a note inside, we have no other information. Can you tell us about it and where to donate such an item?
— *Peter, Whitefish Bay*

A.: Your 1860s U.S. Cavalry steerhide, cartridge box is often called an ammunition case/pouch. The attached riveted loops would thread unto a soldier's belt and usually would have been positioned on the frontal, right hip. This example is the most issued style and its authentic condition represents it was field-worn, which collectors like to see. The wear pattern shows leather flaking and crazing at the fold and interior pocket edges. The oval, brass, U.S. box plate attached on the front flap is in excellent condition.

Personal inherited antiques like this would be loved and appreciated by a growing number of collectors. Possible donation options could include: First, contact the local historical society or regional military museum where your ancestor lived. You will find dedicated peo-



BARBARA EASH
Antiques Appraised

ple who can research records and often help you track additional family history. Many museums might accept similar, donated items or possibly can arrange for on-loan pieces. Fair market value is \$475.

Q: I read your column and would love to know about this vase that is over 100 years old. It belonged to my great-grandmother, who came from Sweden. As a child I was always entranced by it.

— *Julie, Brookfield*

A.: With the letter "S" on the bottom, your vase is attributed to the Schlaggenwald Ceramics Workshops (Bohemia), now called the Czech Republic. This 11-inch-tall, bisque vase remains white and is

not glazed. There is a larger floor size that also was made and both were imported throughout Europe and America. Visually stimulating was enough reason for owners to like them and these vases still hold intrigue. Very few have survived in good condition.

The descriptive name given to this vase type was "Bird Nest Stump Vases." This example has a free-form shaped mouth, scattered realistic plant life, stone pebble base, bird nests with eggs and hand-molded blossoms. Examples are found with or without added color detail.

Your vase is in excellent condition with a value of \$275.

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.

(Barbara Eash is a member of the Certified Appraisers Guild of America.)





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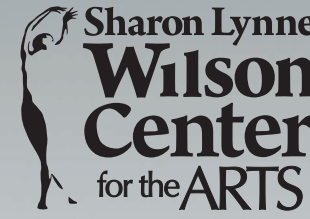
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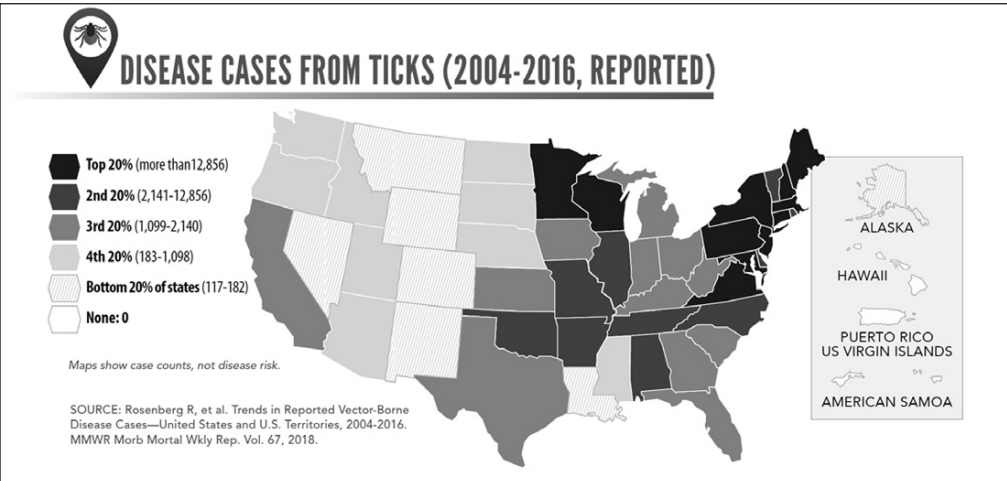


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Keep yourself safe from ticks

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — ‘Tis the season for ticks. With warmer weather, insects are out in stronger force, and ticks can present health risks for both people and their pets.

“I do believe there has been an increase in population, but awareness has (also) ramped up quickly,” said Jeff DeCoste, president of Mosquito Squad of Waukesha County & Milwaukee North Shore.

He said warmer weather is likely the biggest factor in the increased number of ticks, although with more cognizance among the public about the need for tick bite prevention, people are observing the insects more often.

“People, when they’re walking through wooded areas, now they’re much more diligent in looking for ticks so they’re seeing more,” DeCoste said.

In a report released earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said diseases from tick, mosquito and flea bites more than tripled in the U.S. from 2004 to 2016. In a state-by-state analysis, the CDC reported Wisconsin had one of the higher rates of disease cases from ticks in that time frame, with over 33,000 cases.

The CDC report said increased commerce and travel are putting more U.S. populations at risk of tick and mosquito bites.

Mosquito Squad has been in operation for eight years. It provides mosquito and tick control for residences and businesses throughout

Removing a tick

If you do find a tick attached to your skin, remove it as soon as possible using a tick removal device or a set of fine-tipped tweezers, the CDC said.

- Use the tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin’s surface as possible.
- Pull upward with steady pressure. Don’t twist or jerk the tick.
- After removing the tick, clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
- Avoid folklore remedies like painting the tick with nail polish or petroleum jelly or using heat to make the tick detach. Never crush a tick with your fingers.
- If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor.

— Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

the metro Milwaukee area.

DeCoste recommends following these tips to keep ticks away from yards during the summer months:

- Clean — Keep your yard as clean as possible. DeCoste suggests clearing out grass clippings and other debris or dark and damp areas where ticks could gather. “Ticks are really small and they don’t do well in the sun. If you have a two-foot pathway that is lit in the sun, they won’t be able to walk across that,” he said.
- Choose — Select plants that are less attractive to deer, as ticks tend to travel on deer. Talk with a nursery or landscaping company for advice on plant selection.
- Check — Look over possible hiding places, including bases of fences, brick areas and patio retaining walls. “Anywhere it’s dark and damp,” DeCoste said.
- Care — Watch out for family members and pets. Use tick medication and for animals consider flea and tick collars. Make sure to

follow the instructions when using both.

- Call — Contact the pros for extra help with keeping ticks away from your property. DeCoste said his business treats some customers as often as every three weeks. The season tends to run from early May to the first few weeks of October. “Sometimes we will do some applications in April because people will start seeing activity,” he said.

The highest level of tick activity, based on the insect’s lifestyle, is typically in April and May and later in September and August, DeCoste said.

The most common human biting ticks that populate Wisconsin, according to the CDC, include the American dog tick, also sometimes called wood ticks; black legged tick; and brown dog tick.

When outdoors, it is best to avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter and to walk in the center of trails, according to the CDC’s website.

Foxconn Training Center open

By Katherine Michalets
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CITY OF PEWAUKEE — In order to train the many skilled workers needed for the Foxconn project, the Foxconn Training Center has been created on its development site in Mount Pleasant.

Lead contractors, Gilbane Building Company and Hoffman Construction, Wisconsin Operating Engineers Local 139, the Wisconsin Building Trades Council, Racine Mayor Cory Mason, Case IH, and Miller-Bradford & Risberg implement dealers comprise the Skill Improvement and Apprenticeship Fund group, which is funded by the members of Wisconsin Operating Engineers Local 139 to provide local residents and underemployed individuals the opportunity to enter the construction trades and participate in the Foxconn project.

“We have been working like hell to create the real opportunities for Wisconsin residents,” said Terrence McGowan, president of Wisconsin Operating Engineers Local 139, in a statement. “The Foxconn promise can only be kept if we deliver the training, funding and opportunities that taxpayers expect, especially to a region that has seen devastating economic impacts over the years.”

Regional workers are being trained through the Big Step program at Racine’s Gateway Technical College.

Operating Engineers Local 139, based in the City of Pewaukee, is financing the training personnel and numerous pieces of heavy equipment; Case IH and Miller-Bradford & Risberg are also providing equipment; Hoffman is paying for fuel costs; and Gilbane is providing land and coordination of the training.

The Foxconn training facility will allow for on-site, hand-on operation of heavy equipment and required safety training that will allow trainees to attain apprenticeship status and get to work on the project.

raSmith purchases Waukesha engineering firm

By Katherine Michalets
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BROOKFIELD — raSmith has grown its structural engineering division with the acquisition of Matsen Ford Design Architects in Waukesha.

The company announced the purchasing of Matsen Ford assets on Thursday.

According to the announcement, since 1987, Matsen Ford has worked on projects nationwide in conventional structural system design, cold-formed steel framing design and finish systems design.

“Our combined capabilities and experience will better position raSmith as trusted advisors and technical experts in structural engineering,” according to the announcement.

In addition, raSmith said by acquiring Matsen Ford, its own structural engineering practice that includes cold-formed steel engineering will be strengthened, in addition to its building design practice.

“Matsen Ford is a pioneer in cold-formed steel engineering that has leveraged its vast expertise into a growing building design practice,” reads the announcement.

Matsen Ford’s 10 structural engineers and technicians will join raSmith’s structural team of 17 individuals. The Matsen Ford staff will move to raSmith’s Brookfield office today. raSmith has experience in cold-formed (light-gauge) steel engineering that includes residential, sports/entertainment, retail, educational and hospitality, all of which benefit from the use of the lightweight, high-strength and non-combustible steel.

Holmi joins TBG Networks

WAUKESHA — Troy Holmi has joined the IT support company TBG Networks in Wauwatosa.

Holmi specializes in client and prospect communications and office support.

“Troy is an asset to our group because he helps us keep our office organized administratively. He is the ‘voice of TBG Networks’ on the phone and has received enthusiastic reviews from our clients because of his friendly and helpful manner,” said Toomas Mitt, president of TBG Networks, in a statement.

TBG provides an umbrella “Peace of Mind” service, virtual phone, remote access and monitoring, anti-virus, auto updates, and cloud spam filtering, among other services.

Founded in 2003 by Toomas and Antonija Mitt, TBG Networks has helped companies in the Midwest design networks and manage their technology.



Holmi

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Elmbrook facilities projects on track for fall completion

By Ashley Haynes
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BROOKFIELD — Students returning to Brookfield Central and Brookfield East high schools this fall will be able to utilize some new outdoor amenities.

An Elmbrook School District proposal approved earlier this year allowed for the construction of new tennis courts at both schools and a reconstructed softball diamond at East, as well as the reorientation of Central’s diamond. All projects should be completed within a September-to-October time frame, just in time for back to school.

“We did have a few days of rain that slowed us down but it hasn’t been too bad,” said Director of Facilities Randal Johnston.

Tennis courts will be ready for use at East High School later this month. For Central High School students, courts will be completed by mid-September. Work at both softball

diamonds is underway, with project completion slated for October. The total project scope will see the removal and replacement of nine tennis courts at both schools and the replacement of two softball diamonds. New storage at East High, new bleachers, storm drainage and irrigation for the diamond outfields are anticipated for completion this fall.

At the Dec. 5, 2017, Board of Education Meeting, the board approved the BCHS & BEHS tennis and softball projects at an amount not to exceed \$3,700,000 and began the design process.

The original schedule for the construction work saw the paving of the tennis courts begin in June, with the courts ready for use by July. Work on the softball diamond had a more general starting date of any time within June through August. The schedule predicted that the softball diamonds would be ready for use by the end of this summer.

Proposals to update facilities

at both Brookfield Central and Brookfield East had some residents concerned earlier this year. Brookfield Central’s athletic fields bump up against a residential neighborhood and homeowners expressed concerns that increased lighting, a reoriented softball field and extended game hours — cut off at 10 p.m. — will impact them.

Some Brookfield aldermen also expressed concerns with the city’s relationship with school district leaders, saying that at the time the project proposals crossed their desks, it had already been in the works for three years.

In a letter submitted to the Brookfield Common Council at a May 15 meeting, following a public hearing on the then-proposed projects, Johnston acknowledged residents’ concerns in a letter and stated, “we have taken steps since that meeting (public hearing) because we continually work to be a good partner in our community.”



Photo courtesy of Thomas Juran

A drone captured the ongoing athletic facility work at Brookfield Central High School recently. A new softball diamond and new tennis courts are underway.

Libraries of the future

Elmbrook OKs new middle school learning spaces

By Ashley Haynes
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BROOKFIELD — Pilgrim Park Middle School and Wisconsin Hills Middle School are set to receive new learning spaces.

In early August, the Elmbrook School Board approved both construction projects with a maximum cost of \$582,000. The process of rethinking what the schools’ future libraries should look like began three years ago and encompasses the desire to create spaces that promote collaborative, hands-on and student-guided learning.



Rendering courtesy of Elmbrook School District

Pilgrim Park Middle School will soon get a redesigned library space to support collaborative and student-led learning. Wisconsin Hills will also get a new space.

students and teachers can collaborate differently in the school.

The funds for the updated learning spaces will come from PTO fundraising efforts, the Capital Improvement Budget and Innovation Budgets. The money will go toward new furniture and redesigning the spaces to accompany both large- and small-group learning spaces. Flexibility and wide open spaces are key.

The district is hoping to pursue a midyear construction project at Pilgrim Park with Wisconsin Hills work scheduled to take place over the summer.

While some district administrators were eager to tout the learning advantages of having modernized learning spaces, others questioned whether the investment would be worth it and if the move would be fiscally responsible.

Board member Allison Malnar was one person who questioned whether new library spaces would be the best place to invest \$582,000, especially with enrollment, numbers increasing and the possibility of having to expand space at Tonawanda Elementary in the future.

“It used to be a hub of really great resources that we’re thankful for, and now it’s a hub of much more than that. It’s very learner-centric.”

— Lisa Rettler, principal of Wisconsin Hills Middle School

“This should all be taken into account when you recommend this to the board, knowing all of these capital improvements,” said Malnar.

Concerns about knocking out some of the walls in the Pilgrim Park library and replacing them with glass were also brought up. While the intent is to be able to watch students from across the library in smaller learning spaces via the new glass walls, it is one of the costliest portions of the project.

“In reality, I know that for many schools, traditional library functions are dead,” said board member Jian Sun. “I know it’s hard to determine something at one point in time for the next five years.”

The board voted 5-2 to approve the projects.

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THE FREEMAN'S 2017-18 FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Central’s Romero just scratching surface

Future Gopher made trips to state second nature

By Dave Radcliffe
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BROOKFIELD — A three-sport athlete conceivably has a chance to make it to state 12 times in their high school career.

Lexi Romero went to state 11 of those possible 12, only missing out in track and field her freshman year.

The Brookfield Central graduate isn’t half bad at that sport. In fact, she’ll be attending the University of Minnesota on scholarship.

The point is, Romero had one of the best four-year stretches a high school athlete could possibly have. She capped it off with an outstanding senior year in golf, gymnastics and track, making her a prime choice for The Freeman’s 2017-18 Female Athlete of the Year.

“It will be kind of nice focusing on one thing,” Romero said of her upcoming track career at U of M. “Transitioning from golf to gymnastics was always really hard because gymnastics is so physically demanding and golf isn’t, but now to be able to train and specialize in one sport the entire year will definitely help out.”

Before looking too far ahead, reflection on Romero’s time at Brookfield Central — and beyond — is necessary.

Gymnastics was Romero’s first passion, starting out before she was even in grade school.

“I did club right up until high school started, so I had that five days a week,” Romero said. “That kept me busy, so once I quit that I wanted to keep doing it, but not to that extent.”

She made an immediate impact for the Brookfield co-op, reaching the podium twice as a freshman with finishes of fourth in the balance beam and fifth in the floor exercise.

“She’s just so powerful,” Brookfield gymnastics coach Erin Kotka said. “You don’t usually see that as a freshman. Her drive, she goes up there and does everything full out. She doesn’t have a half gear. She’s 100 percent all the time, so that was awesome to

have.”

Romero medaled twice in each of her four years as a high school gymnast. But entering her senior year, a gold was still eluding her.

Not only was Romero able to capture that elusive first-place finish in floor exercise, but she came up just short of winning the all-around competition, settling for runner-up.

“It was just a really good feeling because that’s been my goal,” Romero said. “Making it to state obviously was my first goal (and getting on the podium), which I did freshman year. After that I just really wanted to take first in something, so it was a really nice way to end my whole gymnastics career winning an event.”

Romero was a medalist in floor all four years, and she also added her third medal in beam this past winter by finishing sixth.

It was an excellent way for her to follow up her best golf campaign to date. That’s where it all began athletically for Romero as a Lancer, who simply tried out for the team with some prodding from her dad.

“My dad really wanted me to golf,” Romero said. “He took me out as a kid just for fun, so I tried out. It was kind of like, sure, whatever. But then I ended up making varsity, so I thought, ‘oh, I could be kind of good at this.’”

The Lancers’ girls golf team qualified for state as a team every year with Romero on board. She improved by at least 10 positions every time she played at University Ridge Golf Course, culminating in a tie for 20th overall her senior year.

Central finished third as a team.

“I definitely learned a lot from golf,” Romero said. “It’s not physically a hard sport, obviously, but the mental game behind it is a lot. You have to keep playing if you’re playing absolutely terrible. If you hit a bad shot you’ve got to move on and refocus.”

“Also the golf team is such a small team. Four of those girls started freshman year with me on varsity, so we were together all four years and got

really close, so it was a super fun season.”

Then there’s that whole track and field thing.

“We had no idea the first couple of days at practice her freshman year what we had, or who she was,” Central girls track coach Brian Calhoun said. “She had never really run track up to that point.”

Kotka knew what Calhoun had on his hands. In fact, she had to reach out to the former University of Wisconsin and Detroit Lions running back to tell him something important.

“She didn’t compete in all-around at state her freshman year because she pulled her ab,” Kotka said. “But she went and did practice for track. Where a lot of kids will take that first week off, she went that Monday and was doing ab stuff because obviously she’s not going to tell Calhoun.”

Kotka emailed Calhoun to let him know about the injury and inform him that Romero would be a key contributor for the track team moving forward. She was on to something.

“Her and another group of freshmen, we had them doing different tests, and she ran one of the fastest 40 times, so I thought OK, sprints are where she goes,” Calhoun said. “She placed pretty high in conference her freshman year, she was one of our better girls in the relays, so looking around, I was like, hey, we’ve really got something here.”

Romero said she only joined track to stay busy. But it didn’t take long for her to realize it was a sport that could take her places.

“I feel like my sophomore year is when I kind of realized it because I made it to state for first time,” Romero said. “I just kept winning some races and found it exciting.”

She finished seventh in the 100-meter dash in just her second year competing, then duplicated that result as a junior, missing out on the podium by just one spot.

It was time to take the next step — and also figure out a full-proof plan for Romero’s senior year.

“I think she put in a little bit more time in the offseason,” Calhoun said. “This year I



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Brookfield Central’s Lexi Romero has been a star three-sport athlete for all four years in high school. She went to 11 of a possible 12 state tournaments while playing on the Lancers’ golf, gymnastics, and track and field teams.

tried to have a more detailed plan, how many races she would run, what events she’d be in. I think the first couple years she was a little bit younger, just doing a bunch of different stuff, and I think by the end of the year she was tired, not only from the long track season, but from the other sports she was in. So we limited her races earlier on, put her in three or four 400s, that helped her be a little more fresh.”

It showed. Romero looked as strong as ever near the end of her senior season and set a personal record twice at the WIAA State Track and Field Championships.

The result was a runner-up finish in the 100, giving her a silver medal to go along with her first appearance on the podium in La Crosse.

“I knew I did pretty well but I did not know I took second,” Romero said. “I felt like I took fourth but I knew I got on the podium” so I was excited about that.

“Looking up and seeing the times and places, I didn’t see my name at first because it goes from 10th to first. Then I saw my name and thought, oh that’s me, so that was awesome.”

Romero also picked up a point for the Lancers in the

200 with an eighth-place showing.

“I think just having more confidence,” Romero said of the reason for her improvement. “Being to state two times before, I felt it wasn’t as nerve-racking and knowing it was my last high school race ever really helped me focus on the race, my lane and just doing what I do.”

It was nearly the perfect ending to a storybook high school athletic career. Not only that, but Romero more than got it done in the classroom, as well. On May 6, she was honored as one of 33 statewide Scholar Athletes by the WIAA.

“It was kind of a lot to have going on, but winning that award, it was nice to see all that hard work pay off,” Romero said. “I definitely had to learn to manage time.”

She’ll only have to manage her schoolwork at Minnesota around one sport now. Calhoun thinks the sky is the limit for Romero, even if she may have spurned his beloved Badgers.

“She took a trip up there and I think she really enjoyed the atmosphere,” Calhoun said. “They have a good program. They won both the Big Ten Indoor and Outdoor titles. They have a lot of graduates, so I think she’ll be able to get

in there her first year and get acclimated.

“I think she has a lot of untapped potential. Now her focus will be track 100 percent of the year, so I think she’ll really progress. It wouldn’t surprise me if she ended up becoming a conference champion or an All-American because she has that much ability.”

Romero has some family in Minneapolis, which will make the transition easier.

“When I went on my official visit, I really liked the coach,” Romero said. “It seemed like he (Matt Bingle) was there to stay. He loves the team. I think the whole team aspect and being a family more means a lot to the school. They’re building a new track and whole new facilities, which is really nice.”

Calhoun praised Romero’s positive energy and ability to lead by example, traits that should serve her well at the next level where she’s poised to do great things.

“She didn’t miss one practice in four years of track and field and I think that’s pretty remarkable,” Calhoun said. “She’s a phenomenal student, very humble and her teammates respect her. I know that’s across the board in all sports. That’s just a testament to being an overall solid kid.”

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