

Lake Country

THIS MONTH

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Area chef finds calling at Holy Hill Café

Oconomowoc woman inspired to run her own business

By Kelly Smith
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HUBERTUS – Managing the Holy Hill Café is going to be one of the biggest challenges that Karen Arndt, 46, of Oconomowoc has faced in her culinary career. A culinary management graduate from Waukesha County Technical College, Arndt is taking over the establishment as it completes a transition from a full-service cafeteria to a coffee, sandwich and breakfast café.

With its large commercial kitchen and buffet line, and seating for up to 150 customers, the café is located in the Old Monastery Inn, which was built 102 years ago onto the side of a hill directly below the Basilica and National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians at Holy Hill.

Robert Mitchell, executive director of the Holy Hill church and shrine, explained the transition from buffet to café is intended to provide cost-effective, quality food and refreshments to the hundreds of thousands of visitors – described as “pilgrims” by church officials – who come to tour and worship at the shrine.

“We have a menu of soups, salads and sandwiches. Our primary mission is to serve the pilgrims,” Arndt said.

“But we want to go beyond that; we want to reach out to the community,” she added. “A lot of people don’t know we are here.

“We want to add some items to our menu and maybe make some changes in our hours to attract the people in the local community who come here to bike and hike and enjoy the beauty,” she concluded.

For example, Pumpkin Chili is a new addition to the café menu that Arndt says is receiving favorable reviews.

Instead of using the traditional beef along with tomato paste broth, she uses chicken and a chicken broth with a pumpkin puree to create a unique flavor.

“I have never had anyone who tried it say they did not like it,” she explained.

Seasonal swings

One of the biggest challenges that Arndt faces in managing the café is the extremely seasonal nature of its business.

During the Kettle Moraine’s spectacular fall color season, it can be standing-room-only in the café.

However, in the midst of winter the dining area and kitchen are almost empty.

“It can be feast or famine,” Arndt explained.

“During the fall color season, we are packed with a line of people outside waiting to get in,” she continued.

During peak seasons, beginning in June, the café is open four days a week from Wednesday to Sunday.

It is open three days a week, Friday through Sunday, during the winter and spring seasons from November until June.

After spending about 25 years working in various manufacturing jobs, Arndt,



Karen Arndt of Oconomowoc, manager of the Holy Hill Café, prepares coleslaw.

at the age of 40, and after taking a European trip with her teenage son, decided “it was time for a change.”

While enrolled in the WCTC culinary management program, she interned as a kitchen manager at the Inspiro Catholic Youth Retreat Center at the intersection of highways K and C in the Town of Merton.

After the retreat center was closed in 2017, she held various part-time food service and grocery jobs until she learned of the Holy Hill Café opportunity from former co-workers at the retreat center.

Arndt says it is a coincidence that most of her culinary career has been spent managing kitchen and food operations at religious facilities owned by the Catholic Church.

Holy Hill history Catholic and Protestant churches in Europe and the eastern United States sent missionaries to the Upper Midwest in the mid-1800s to serve the thousands of settlers lured to the lakes and forests by cheap land prices and new opportunities.

One of them was Father Francis Paulhuber of Salzburg, Austria, who was struck by the beauty of a large hill near a farm he was visiting and purchased 40 acres for \$50.

“I feel sure that hill will become one of the most noted places in all of this land; when it shall be consecrated and made holy; a place of worship and pilgrimage when tens of thou



Kelly Smith/Special to Conley Media

The Holy Hill Café is located in the Old Missionary Inn, which used to be the residence for friars who lived at Holy Hill.

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INSIDE



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Town of Delafield updates zoning codes [Page 3A](#)



Reuter makes own name at Pewaukee High [SPORTS/ Page 4B](#)



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Pewaukee names Heier new police chief

Ex-Milwaukee officer starts May 1

By Brandon Andereg
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PEWAUKEE — For the first time in 42 years, the Pewaukee Police Department will be led by someone from outside the department — Milwaukee Police Inspector Timothy Heier. Heier was selected by the Pewaukee Police Commission to replace Chief Jay Iding, who retired after being on the Pewaukee

Police Department for 34 years. “Between his credentials and his demeanor, we are really excited to have him in the village of Pewaukee,” said David Spakowicz, Pewaukee Police Commission president. Heier, who’s a 29-year veteran of the Milwaukee Police Department, will be sworn in April 30 with his first day starting May 1. Since he was selected, former police chiefs have

reached out to Heier to prepare him for his new role in the police department, Heier said. Heier is looking forward to meeting Pewaukee’s police officers, business owners and community members, he added. “I can’t ask for anything better than for them to reach out to me and help me along,” Heier said. “I think it’s going to be an easy and smooth transition moving forward.” Heier also said he feels fortunate to be working in a community such as Pewaukee, adding that it’s a great



Heier

place to work, live and raise his family. “How cool is it to work for a police department that has a lake on its patch?” Heier said. “This is a place I want to be a part of, and my family wants to be a part of.” Heier began his career as a Milwaukee police officer in 1991. He was promoted to the rank of detective in 1999 and served nine years in the Homicide Division. He was

promoted to lieutenant of detectives in 2009 and held supervisory positions in the Criminal Investigation Bureau, Organized Crime Division, and in Milwaukee police Districts 2 and 7. From 2011 to 2014, he served as a supervisor in the Crisis Negotiation Unit that responded to incidents involving barricaded armed suspects and hostage situations. Heier was promoted to captain in 2014 and has commanded the Internal Affairs Division, the Investigation and Intelligence Bureau and was responsible

for all criminal investigations in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 6. He also commanded District 5 of the Neighborhood Patrol Bureau. Spakowicz added that it was a tough choice with so many qualified candidates, but police commissioners believe Heier will have a positive impact on the village and the department, he said. “He is an exemplary law enforcement executive and that will help the future members of the department also grow professionally,” Spakowicz said.

Piggly Wiggly brings home the bacon with delivery

By Gary Achterberg
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SHEBOYGAN — There’s a new reason to “Shop the Pig.” Piggly Wiggly Midwest, the grocery chain with more than 100 stores across Wisconsin and northern Illinois, announced that it will begin offering same-day delivery services from nearly all its stores. “We’re proud to partner with Piggly Wiggly Midwest to bring customers in Wisconsin a new way to have fresh groceries and everyday essentials delivered from their local Piggly Wiggly store to their door in less than an hour,” said Sarah Mastrocchio, vice president of business development for Instacart. Instacart in the North American leader in online groceries. It already has arrangements with numerous other grocery chains across the nation. Piggly Wiggly customers throughout Wisconsin can access the online shopping service at Instacart.com/

ShopthePig or open the Instacart mobile app on their iPhone or Android device. Customers then select their city and store, add groceries to their “cart,” choose a delivery window from one hour to five days in advance and check out. An Instacart personal shopper will pick, pack and deliver the order. “Piggly Wiggly is pleased to offer Instacart’s delivery service to our customers,” said Gary Suokko, chief operating officer for Piggly Wiggly, which has had its headquarters in Sheboygan since 1911. “We’re proud to continue providing the best fresh produce, meats and grocery items — with the convenience of never leaving your home,” he added. The service is not only easier for families and people who may not be able to leave their homes, but it is flexible, West Bend Piggly Wiggly Scan Coordinator Sarah Augustine said. “The thing is, you can have it delivered two hours from now or six days from now,” said.

Fox Brothers Piggly Wiggly Marketing Director David Dickelman said he thinks the service will appeal to those with a busy lifestyle, and he is happy to help them. “Every year we survey our customers and there’s been some interest,” Dickelman said of home delivery of groceries. Fox Brothers owns 10 Piggly Wiggly stores in southeast Wisconsin, including in Oconomowoc, Hartland, Hartford, Jackson, Slinger and Richfield. Area participating stores include: ■ Ozaukee County — Cedarburg, Mequon, Port Washington and Saukville ■ Washington County — Hartford, Hubertus, Jackson, Kewaskum, Slinger and West Bend ■ Waukesha County — Brookfield, Hartland, Menomonee Falls, Oconomowoc and Sussex First-time customers of Piggly Wiggly Midwest on Instacart can enter the code “PWM1035” at checkout through March 23 to get \$10 off an order of \$35 or more,



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Brian Weber of West Bend pulls down items on the shelf as a customer walks down the aisle March 5 at Piggly Wiggly in West Bend. The grocery store chain is offering a delivery option for customers that order their groceries online.

according to a news release. Instacart offers an unlimited free delivery service from available stores on www.instacart.com. gram that gives customers orders of more than \$35. Details are available at from available stores on www.instacart.com.



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Pewaukee Chick-fil-A now open

By Ashley Haynes
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PEWAUKEE — A downpour of rain didn't dampen the celebration for guests awaiting the grand opening of the new Pewaukee Chick-fil-A, located at 1454 Capitol Drive. The 5,000-square-foot restaurant opened its doors to the first 100 guests at 6:30 a.m. on March 14, and those who waited in line were rewarded with a year's supply of free food. The 100 person quota was filled by 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, but the celebratory spirit continued well into the first work day for employees at the location.

"It's fantastic. The training process has been really awesome. It was actually really fun — they taught me how to make milkshakes," said employee Ray Christensen III.

For him, working at Chick-fil-A isn't as much about the money as it is about caring about the community and getting to know the people around him.

He said Chick-fil-A really brings to the Lake Country area a business that truly cares about the com-

munity, while being a fun place to work.

He added that his friends are definitely jealous that he gets to work around delicious food all day.

The motto of caring about the community comes from the top down in franchise owner and operator Kyle Bartz.

He says he's already worked to try to instill this goal into the minds of all his employees and wants to stand out as the first Chick-fil-A in the area.

"I really hope that we're gonna be that hometown kind of feel type restaurant. I've told all my team my goal is to be the most caring company in the Pewaukee-Lake County area," Bartz said.

Bartz said so far, he's hired 82 employees and is searching for 10-20 more people which will contribute to the local economy.

Some employees, like Moriah Knutson, sought out the company because of the good things they've both experienced and hear about Chick-fil-A.

"I used to go to the one on Capitol (Drive in Brookfield) all the time and noticed what great service they had and heard about how well they treat their



Submitted photo

Guests lined up to claim their free year's worth of Chick-fil-A at the Pewaukee location. The first 100 guests snagged the prize.

employee," Knutson said.

When asked if working at Chick-fil-A lives up to its reputation so far, she said, "For sure it is. It's definitely busy, but they trained me well."

Restaurant specs

The Pewaukee location, which is open from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, features Chick-fil-A mobile order-

ing pick-up parking spaces, a designated mobile pick-up counter, a two-story indoor playground completed with a toddler section, a drive-thru with dual ordering lanes that can handle upwards of 200 cars an hour, and a 20-seat outdoor patio.

Bartz said the modern design of the store is part of his commitment to pro-

viding a "remarkable experience" for guests.

"I am excited to bring our freshly prepared food and genuine hospitality to an area that has been waiting its own Chick-fil-A for a long time and to have an opportunity to serve the community outside my restaurant," Bartz said.

For more information on the Pewaukee location, visit facebook.com/cfapewaukee.



Mary Catanese/Special to Conley Media

Lake Country Community Fest

TOWN OF MERTON — Michael and Diana Brenner and the Foxy Squares dance during the Lake Country Community Fest March 23 at Arrowhead High School.

Cafe

From Page 1A

sands shall come to do homage to the Virgin Mary and her son," he wrote.

Through the stewardship of the Roman Catholic Church's Order of Discalced Carmelites and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, the property grew to 432 acres.

The first church, a tiny log cabin, was built in 1863. It was replaced by a larger structure in 1881 and the existing church was constructed in 1926.

With its soaring towers and majestic stained glass windows, the church is 168 feet long, between 80 and 90 feet wide, and 88 feet high; sitting nearly 1,500 feet above sea level on the highest elevation in southeastern Wisconsin.

Holy Hill was declared a shrine in 1903 by Pope Leo XII and the church designated as minor basilica by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006.

It is among is 84 churches in the United States that have received special recognition and rites by a pope.

It is listed on both the Wisconsin and National Registers of Historic Places and was declared by Gov. Tommy Thompson in 1998 as "a valued historical landmark and an architectural masterpiece."

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Animated for anime at Pewaukee Public Library



PEWAUKEE — The Pewaukee Public Library's manga/anime club made pins and buttons bearing their favorite characters on March 7. Kaylie Walters uses the machine to punch her anime image as Sandy George gives her direction.



LJ LeFlore shows off her newly made anime pins.

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Alex Nemecek/Freeman Staff

A chick looks up at the watering jar in its cage at Merton Feed Company.

Poultry in motion

Merton Feed Co. uses Girl Scout cookie boxes to transport chicks

By Brandon Anderegg
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MERTON — During Girl Scout cookie season, one might consider how the cookie boxes could be repurposed before tossing them out.

A local family-owned business, The Merton Feed Company, discovered the often-discarded boxes can be converted into a vessel for transporting the animals they sell.

“Over the years, we’ve found that girl scout cookie boxes are perfect for putting baby chicks in,” said Michelle Serres, part-owner of the Merton Feed Company. “It’s just awesome that we can reuse them and they’re sturdy. And it helps the Girl Scouts get rid of the boxes they don’t need.”

Fortunately for the company, the Girl Scout cookie season is at a time when chicks arrive at the Merton Feed Company.

“Usually by the time Girl Scout cookies are being sold, that’s usually around the time our chicks start to come in,” Serres said.

Customers typically purchase between eight and 12



Alex Nemecek/Freeman Staff

Greg Serres holds chicks to put in a box for Oliver and Lucius Frazier.

chicks, making the boxes the right size for delivery purposes, Serres said. In the last few months, the company has already received many boxes, she added.

“We’ve gotten a great response and we have an abundance of the Girl Scout cookie boxes right now,” Serres said. “The chicks came in and they’ll continue to come in until August so before you know it, the abundance of boxes will be gone.”

For those who would like to drop off boxes, Merton Feed Company owners

Greg and Michelle Serres requested that people break them down so they can easily be stored in a dry area.

The feed company on Mill Street not only supplies several hobby farms in Southeastern Wisconsin with feed and other products, but also offers advice based on knowledge accumulated over the four generations the family has run the business.

For more information on the Merton Feed Company, visit www.mertonfeed.com or stop by at the feed mill at N71-W28312 Mill St., Merton.

HARTLAND

‘North Forty’ development OK’d after two years

By Brandon Anderegg
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HARTLAND — A subdivision proposed by Neumann Developments known as The Glen at Overlook Trails could generate \$109,900 in tax revenue, estimates suggest.

The Glen at Overlook Trails was approved at a Village Board meeting March 25.

The Jungbluth family, who sold the 40 acres to Neumann for the development, had been trying to redevelop the land for 15 years, said Jeff Pfannerstill, village president.

“Hartland continues to grow and move forward, and this development will be a true part of that growth and expansion,” Pfannerstill said.

The Glen at Overlook Trails will include 50 condo-

miniums located on 40 acres at N56-W28528 Highway K between the Mary Hill subdivision and Winkleman Road, near Jungbluth Road. The condos will be priced between \$400,000 and \$600,000.

The development was a point of contention for the neighboring Mary Hill subdivision because some Village Board members were concerned with how much traffic Overlook Trails would generate. This is why, in part, the number of condos was decreased from 126 to 50.

“We are excited to be through the entitlement process and on to the construction process,” Neumann said.

“We hope to break ground in May.”

Tax revenue

Using \$450,000 as a base

price per unit, the assessed value of the development when it’s completed is \$22.5 million, which equates to an increase in the assessed value of Hartland by 1.84 percent, said Dave Cox, village administrator.

Based on the current mill rate of \$3.69, the development would pay about \$82,900 in annual taxes to Hartland. Moreover, they would pay about \$27,000 in annual taxes for debt service based on a mill rate of \$1.20, Cox added. Total village taxes are estimated, at the low end, to be \$109,900 for the entire subdivision.

Overlook trails has about 0.64 miles of road, which could cost taxpayers approximately \$31,000 to \$58,000 in road maintenance cost, which is a part of Hartland’s total road maintenance cost of approximately \$3.9 million.

Town of Delafield approves major permit code changes

By Kelly Smith
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TOWN OF DELAFIELD — The yearlong process of changing the town codes that regulate economic development and conditional use permits ended March 26 with the Town Board unanimously adopting recommendations of the Plan Commission.

The changes in Chapter 17 of the town zoning code reduce by nearly half the number of permitted commercial conditional uses and outlines how the town may approve or reject permit applications for those uses.

Conditional uses such as adult-oriented establishments, airports, gas stations, convenience stores, hotels, motels and fast food establishments will no longer be

permitted in the town, according to town officials.

The changes in Chapter 18, which regulates land divisions and development, define specific standards that residential developments of 20 acres or more must meet to win approval from the town.

This new ordinance is enforced, according to Town Engineer Tim Barbeau, when the Plan Commission rejects development proposals that fail to meet the specific standard contained in the new code.

The changes are intended to streamline town regulations and comply with a recent change in state law that requires local governments to approve conditional use permits if the land owner is meeting requirements for the conditional use that are defined in local codes, said Town Chairman

Larry Krause.

However, other town officials also point out that the new code will allow the town to retain some of the flexibility it had in regulating residential and commercial developments that existed prior to the change in the state law.

The new law, according to local government officials, restricts the ability of municipalities to reject applications for conditional uses and makes it more difficult for citizens to oppose new developments and the issuing of the permits.

The legislation was adopted and signed into law by former Gov. Scott Walker in 2017 after the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that municipalities had the power to reject conditional use permits even if the property owner met the qualifications for the uses described in local codes.

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

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Delafield collects hundreds of stuffed animals



Submitted photos

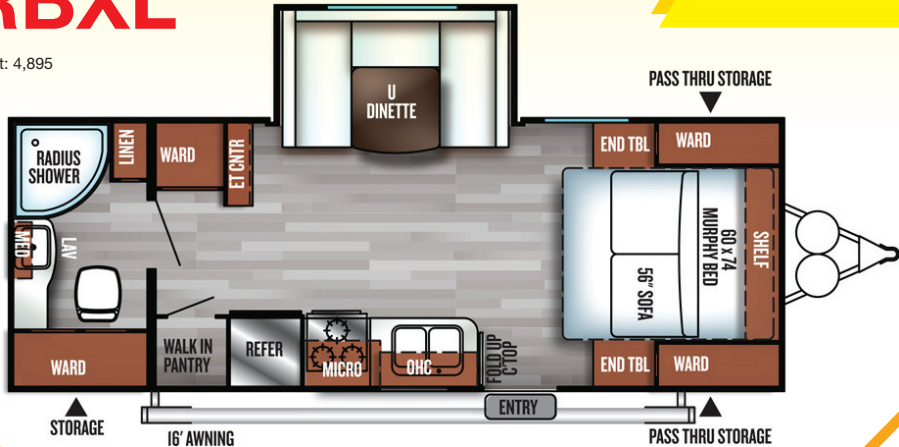
DELAFIELD — The city collected more than 1,000 Beanie Babies and stuffed animals for its February stuffed animal drive. The goal of the drive was to collect stuffed animals and Beanie Babies for children in need, city Clerk Michelle Luedtke previously told a Freeman reporter. Sandy Zastrow, a family member of utility billing clerk Susan Johnson, will wash them, sew them and start visiting the organizations involved including Haus of Peace in Watertown, Mary's Room in Sheboygan, Family Promise in Wales, local fire departments for their trucks and Operation Smile. Above, at left, Delafield Police Officer Joe Walker helps bag and distribute the donated stuffed animals. At right, a look at some of the donations the city during the campaign.

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2019
SALEM CRUISE LT 233RBXL

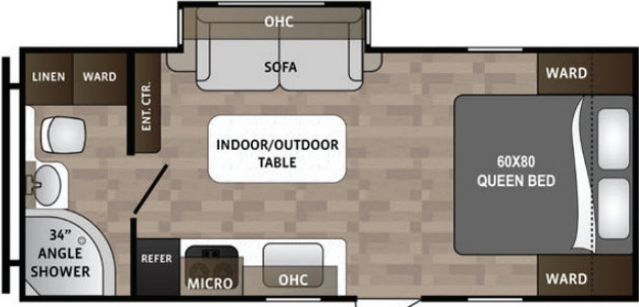
NT2347
Unloaded vehicle weight: 4,895

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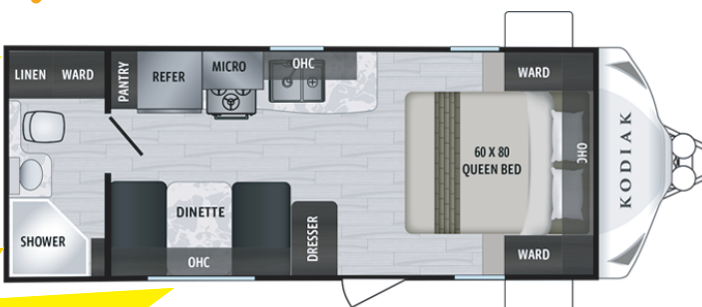
2019
KODIAK CUB 185MB

NT2370
Unloaded vehicle weight: 3,896



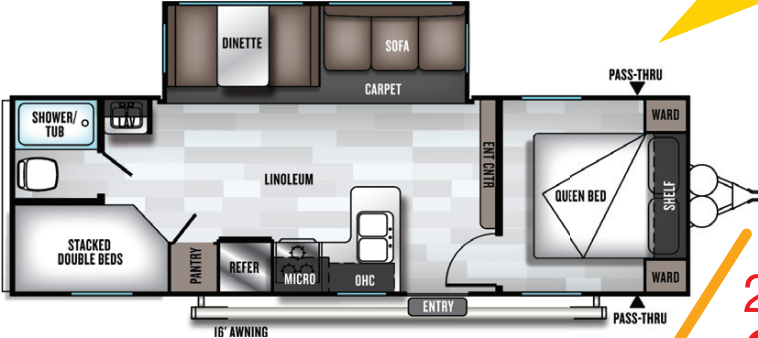
2019
KODIAK 210QB

NT2361
Unloaded vehicle weight: 3,960



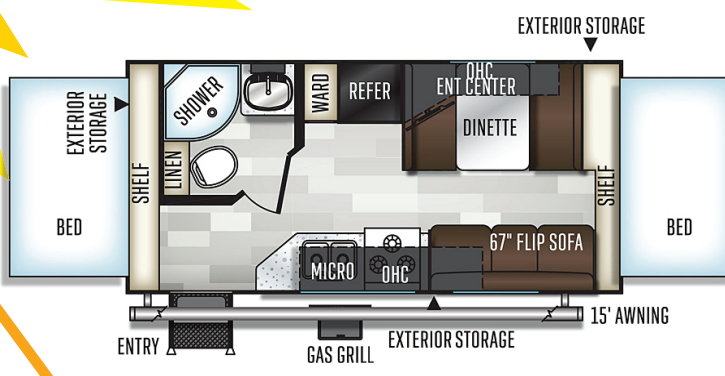
2019
SALEM 26DBLE

DNT1631
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2019
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Medical charts just what doctors ordered

Q: My family was from Pennsylvania and this bowl has always been cherished by previous generations. Could you tell us about it and a value please?
— *Diana, Brookfield*

A.: Hardworking Americans had been averse to luxury decorative items until importers introduced attainable prices. Many have credited the upswing of imported goods as a result of the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Pennsylvania. Reinhold Schlegelmilch started a porcelain works in Germany late 1800s. He perpetually updated molds, patterns and only used quality transfer prints. Hand, brush-touch color was added to trim. This bowl is from his high-quality years which ended around 1910. (After 1910, the porcelain molds were simpler with mostly floral patterns and those today have low market value.)

Your back-stamp is known as the “red mark.” In red color are “R.S. Prussia” and a star, the green fern-wreath has reddish frond tips; it is his most copied maker’s mark. In the 1890s, artist Charles Dana Gibson worked as the illustrator for Life magazine. He portrayed his Gibson Girl images as progressive trend-setters, which made him very popular. This porcelain series mimicked the magazine’s Gibson Girl with a series called “Seasons.”

Your bowl with the “Carnation Mold” has an ornate scalloped edge with flared, blown-out relief. The fall season motif has soft, wispy colors of burnt orange, muted yellow and lavender. Decorations include the use of unpainted leaf silhouettes, a background technique used for interest and dimension.

Your 11-inch diameter bowl with a 3-inch depth is in mint condition. This centerpiece bowl could interest both R.S. Prussia and Gibson Girl collectors.

Minimum value is

\$375.00.

Charted territory

Q: Thank you for your consideration of these anatomical training charts. I think they are unique but unfortunately I have never had the number 9 chart.
— *Michael, Elm Grove*

A.: There is always a compelling interest in universal health and medical concepts. The original 10 anatomical charts were created in 1910 by Dr. F. Frohse at the University of Berlin and used internationally. This was an era leading up to World War I when commerce, trade and supplies were interrupted. A. J. Nystrom Chicago, was a major educational publisher and distributor of this American Edition, © 1918, known as Amer-Frohse Anatomical Charts. They were edited by professor Max Brodel of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Maryland. Historically, charts and maps have been difficult to update and often rendered obsolete. Currently however, some educational and reference documents have been given a “historical development value.” Many are now being preserved and collected as early database models.

These charts are housed in an oak case on spring-loaded dowels that independently pull down, then retract for protective storage. They are printed on linen-covered canvas and visually large enough for classroom instruction. Each chart contains concise referencing,

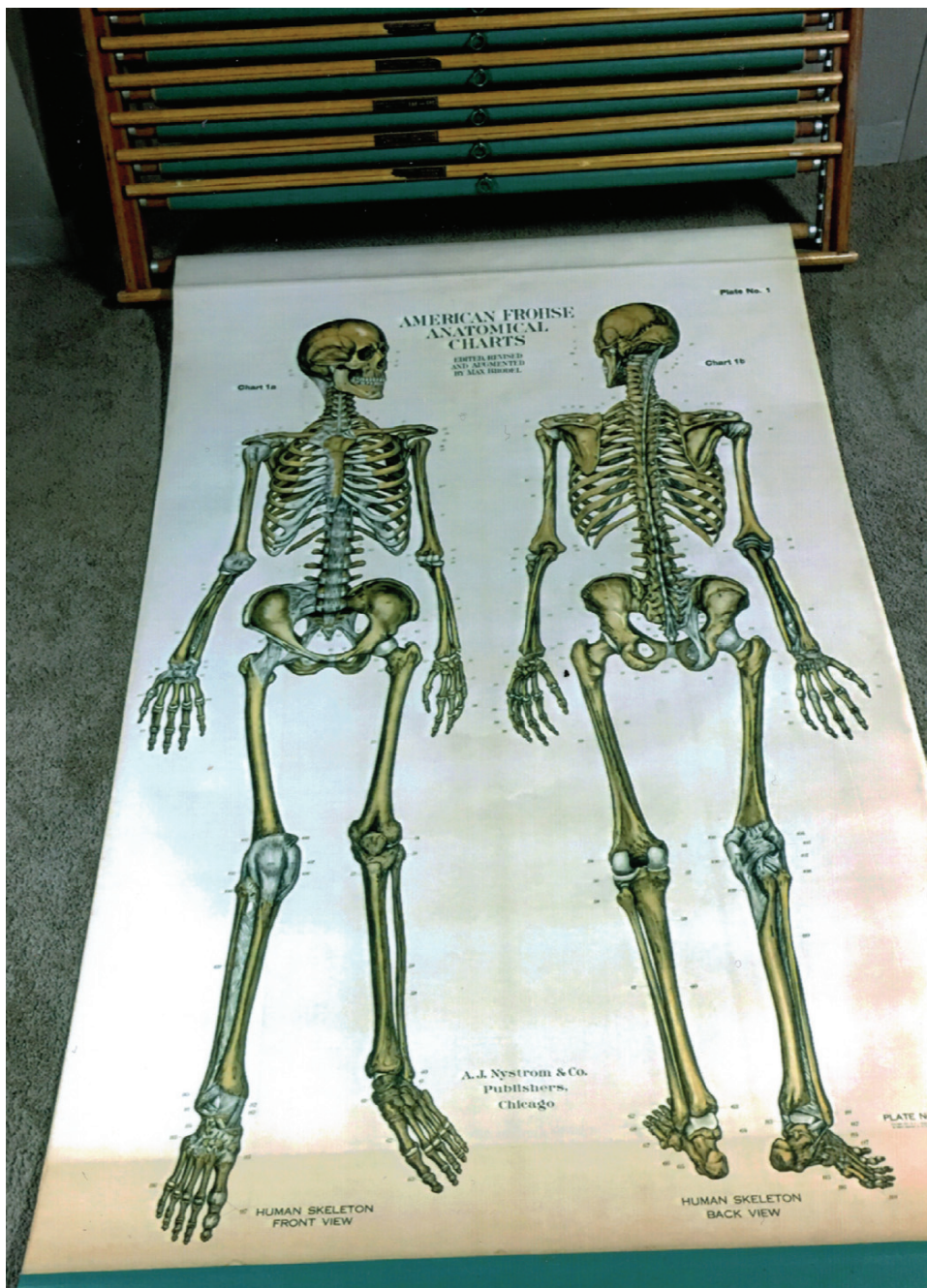
vivid color illustrations and the “latest” of diagnostic details. Number nine missing chart is of the endocrine glands. If you are looking to replace it, singular charts are found online frequently. If all nine charts are original to the oak case, insure it for \$2,400. Condition quality could merit value, up or down. If you have the “Key” booklet that is in both Latin and English, add \$100.

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, specializing in appraisals of antiques and collectibles and has extensive experience writing and speaking about antiques.)



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The All-Freeman Girls Team

Reuter makes own name at Pewaukee

Coach takes Pirates to sectional final in first season

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

PEWAUKEE — Those who have followed Waukesha County high school hoops are familiar with the Reuter name.

Tim Reuter manned the Pewaukee boys basketball team for 30 years until stepping down in 2012. He served as an assistant until this past season and even has an annual early-season tournament named after him.

Another Reuter now appears well on his way to making a name for himself.

In his first season as the girls basketball coach, Jim Reuter, the son of Tim, nearly took the Pirates further than they'd ever been before, falling just one win short of a state berth.

Not a bad start.

And while his magical inaugural season didn't end quite as he hoped, it was more than enough for Reuter to earn the designation of 2018-19 All-Freeman Girls Basketball Coach of the Year.

Reuter was previously the freshman boys coach at Pewaukee and also served as the JV boys basketball coach at Oregon from 2010-13. He made the transition to coaching on the girls side seamlessly, leading the Pirates to a 21-5 record.

"It is a very different job, obviously, but like any coach, it's important to get to know the players, what makes them tick," Reuter said. "Having (assistant coach) Mark Baalke here was absolutely huge. He helped provide some continuity for us. With his experience he brings a lot of great insights. He knew the players really well, so I think he was a big part of our success this year, too."

Reuter was already familiar with some of his players, being a social studies teacher at PHS, which also eased the process. He was a 2004 graduate of Pewaukee — the last time the girls basketball team reached a sectional final.

"A few team members and I already got to know his outgoing personality as our history teacher in the past years and in the beginning of this year which made it a more fun experience having him as our coach," said Ellie Reyes, the lone senior in Pewaukee's starting lineup. "Those who didn't have him as a teacher were lucky enough to spend the

entire basketball season with him.

"He bonded with the team really well and got off to a great start."

The team's leading returning scorer, junior guard Lauren Schill, continued to flourish under Reuter. She led the Woodland West Conference with 18.9 points per game and also praised the first-year head coach for the job he did leading the Pirates from the get-go.

"Coach Reuter's goals were pretty simplistic since getting the job to make and keep basketball fun, bring us together and have us play together," Schill said. "We had a solid group coming back and good young players on the team. Coach Reuter with coach Baalke kept things pretty simple early on. They let us play basketball without adding too many complex things for us early in the season."

"Coach Reuter facilitated a positive environment for us. We continued to build and grow during the season."

Hired on May 30, 2018, the 33-year-old Reuter had a full summer to become more accustomed to his players and new role.

"Obviously I watched as much as could — open gyms, summer league, stuff like that," Reuter said. "I thought we had the potential to make a run and be a really competitive team. What impressed me really was I thought the girls came to practice wanting to learn. They were very coachable. They got better throughout the year."

Pewaukee began the season 3-0 before losing to Division 1-ranked Germantown and a perennially tough Pius outfit. In December, the Pirates were handed their second consecutive loss by New Berlin Eisenhower, the defending runner-up in Division 2.

That 70-54 loss seemed to flip a switch for the Pirates. Their only other regular-season loss came against third-ranked Oak Creek as they would go on to win 12 in a row and 16 of their next 17 games in all.

"I think the biggest thing was that they bought in," Reuter said. "It's playing with confidence, not just having confidence in your own ability, but also in your teammates. Really it was no magic potion or pill. I thought we really shared the ball well. It got to be the point where if



Kenny Yoo/Special to Conley Media

Pewaukee's Jim Reuter was selected as the 2018-19 All-Freeman Girls Basketball Coach of the Year.

you're playing against us, we have a lot of different weapons."

While Schill was the focal point of the offense, five different players averaged at least six points per game for Pewaukee, including Reyes.

"I wasn't sure what to expect with him being our coach at first, but his coaching style really helped us during the season and it showed because we had one of the best seasons in Pewaukee girls basketball history," Reyes said. "Overall, I am so happy with how our team played this season and Reuter's coaching is a huge part of that success."

The season-defining win for the Pirates — at least during the regular season — came at home against Eisenhower. Pewaukee shot the lights out in the first half and never let the Lions back into the game, going on to win, 75-64.

While Ike would go on to win the Woodland West by one game, a rubber match loomed in the sectional semifinal at Greenfield.

Once again, Pewaukee emerged victorious and matched its most successful season ever.

Reuter said he had no idea if the opportunity would ever arise to coach at his alma mater, but the stars aligned.

"I was very fortunate to work under Jon Nedelcoff (at Oregon)," Reuter said. "I applied for a teaching job at Pewaukee not knowing if there were any coaching opportunities here. It just happened that the freshman boys job opened up, so I was lucky enough to coach under coach (Mike Basile). I was very fortunate for people like Mark Baalke, having to work with my dad, some really, really top-notch

coaches."

While the Pirates would get knocked off by Whitefish Bay in the sectional final, Reuter's first season was a resounding success by just about any measure, and with a large chunk of its players returning, Pewaukee will have high expectations going into next season.

"Obviously we had a chance this year. It didn't work out, but I really think and hope that loss to Whitefish Bay was really kind of a motivating factor," Reuter said. "The girls see how close they were. They have to work hard

together to try to get to state. It can be done. Yeah, we have a lot of people coming back, but there are no guarantees in life. We can't just waltz our way back there. We have to stay hungry, stay humble and be ready to go."

One of his former players will be looking on eagerly to see what the future holds for Pewaukee girls basketball under Reuter.

"I'm beyond grateful that I got to be a part of Reuter's first girls basketball team and cannot wait to see what him and the girls accomplish in the years to come," Reyes said.

At a glance

Who: Jim Reuter
What: All-Freeman Girls Basketball Coach of the Year
Age: 33
Residence: Oconomowoc
Occupation: Social studies teacher at Pewaukee High School, licensed realtor
College: Bachelor of Science degree, progress toward graduate degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison
Family: wife, Sarah; son, Jude
Accomplishments: In his first year as head coach, Reuter helped the Pirates match their best season in program history as they advanced to the WIAA Division 2 sectional final round. Pewaukee finished with a 21-5 overall record and finished second in the Woodland West Conference standings with a 10-2 mark. The Pirates won 12 straight games beginning with a 57-47 victory Jan. 8 against Pius. That stretch that included two victories over Woodland West champion and defending state runner-up New Berlin Eisenhower, including a 56-40 win in the sectional semifinals.



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