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Brookfield & Elm Grove

THIS MONTH

AUGUST 2019

School Sisters of Notre Dame hint at possible changes

Elm Grove
organization in
evaluation process

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

ELM GROVE — The School Sisters of Notre Dame are in the process of evaluating the organization in what they called a multi-year “integrated implementation process,” according to a SSND press release.

“As the School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Central Pacific Province look to the future, we recognize the needs of our sisters and ministries continue to change and evolve,” said Sister Debra M. Sciano, SSND, provincial leader. “To meet those ever-changing needs, our SSND Central Pacific Province has been involved in a multi-year Integrated Implementation Process.”

The press release goes on to state, “Change has always been embraced as part of the SSND charism, as we read the signs of the times and respond to the needs (of the) present.”

When asked how or what the organization will change, Trudy Hamilton, SSND director of communications, said “we don’t have any information to share beyond what is in the statement.”

“We are currently evaluating what we have and what we need in order to be about the SSND mission and to



Christina McAllister/Special to Conley Media

The School Sisters of Notre Dame in Elm Grove began in the 1850s as a school for German immigrant children in the Milwaukee area.

maintain a presence in the community, while honoring our heritage,” the press release states. “One thing we will not change is SSND’s commitment to its mission and communities.”

Despite the changes, School Sisters will continue to live and work in

the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and within the greater community, according to the press release.

The Schools Sisters of Notre Dame came to Wisconsin in 1850, primarily serving as a school for German immigrant children in the Milwaukee area.

The effort was led by Mother Caroline Friess, SSND, who then purchased 40 acres of land in Elm Grove to build an orphanage for girls and a home for retired sisters. The property eventually increased in size and became known as Notre Dame of Elm Grove.

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INSIDE



Life Time opens
preview center

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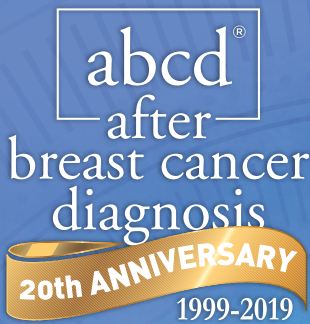
Antiques appraisal
column

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Central grad
pitching for
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Safety Town comes to Brookfield



Photos by Mary Catanese/Special to Conley Media

BROOKFIELD — Children entering kindergarten surround Denise Carroll, the Brookfield Police Department's community service officer, as she cuts the ribbon before the start of Safety Town. The mayor, police chief and fire chief were on hand at Dixon Elementary on July 8 to show support for the event.



Denise Carroll, community services officer, applauds after the ribbon-cutting to start the final Safety Town of the season at Dixon School.

Supporters launch petition to keep Wanaki open

By Darryl Enriquez
Special to Conley Media
denriquez@wi.rr.com

WAUKESHA — Supporters of Wanaki Golf Course have launched an online petition to rally public support for derailing Waukesha County administrators' plans to close the 18-hole Menomonee Falls course at the end of the year.

Last month, Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow and Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Director Dale Shaver announced their intentions to close the course, citing fiscal losses and mounting repair costs. Farrow and Shaver warned Wanaki's red ink of \$150,000 to \$180,000 annually was bleeding maintenance and repair money away from the county's other two courses — Moor Downs in Waukesha and Naga-Waukee in Delafield.

Moor Downs and Naga-Waukee are performing well enough to support operations and infuse cash into a reserve fund, Shaver said.

Farrow said the decision was not easy, and he expected to hear from a contingent of unhappy golfers and constituents who are fond of Wanaki.

The online site at www.savewanaki.org was an opening volley to change the minds of county officials.

Wanaki supporters can pressure Farrow and Shaver, directly, and contact their county supervisors.

The County Board will make the ultimate decision on whether the course closes.

Farrow said he will put

the closure proposal in the draft 2020 budget his office will present to the board. Supervisors can accept Farrow's proposal or strip it from the budget this fall.

Wanaki supporters are pushing for the latter. The website says:

"Please support our community and take the actions below to show our government officials that Wanaki is an important part of our community."

"One of the best things you can do is call Wanaki at 262-252-3480 and make a tee time. If you haven't been there in a while, the course is in excellent condition. Send County Executive Farrow an email and tell him NO to closing Wanaki Golf Course."

"We need signatures on our change.org petition to send a message to our County Executive and the County Board that Wanaki Golf Course is an integral part of our community."

"Wanaki Golf Course promotes an active lifestyle because it is an easy course to walk, has great conditions, and actively supports junior golf programs."

A GoFundMe site has been established to finance the campaign and possibly pay for improvements to the course.

Farrow could not say what would happen to the course after it is closed, but the county was open to all possibilities.

One solution suggested — not for attribution — was that it be converted by a private concern into a residential/recreation area, like what's being proposed at the Pewaukee Golf Course, once known as Willow Run.

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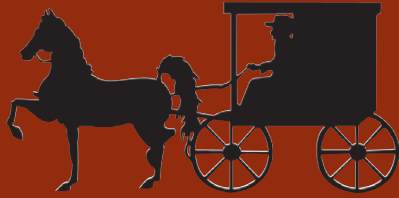
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DNR asking wastewater facilities to participate in contamination study

Brookfield received DNR’s letter requesting sampling at facility

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

WAUKESHA — The Department of Natural Resources is asking several wastewater treatment facilities in Waukesha County and across the state to test for possible traces of a harmful chemical group that poses health risks.

The chemicals are known as PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which is a group of man-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products including nonstick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays and types of firefighting foam that have made their way into the environment,

according to the DNR’s website.

The DNR is asking wastewater treatment facilities to voluntarily submit samples in the absence of statewide standards that monitor PFAS levels. Data collected will be used to evaluate and support rule-making and associated economic impact analyses to adopt statewide water quality standards for PFAS compounds, according to a letter addressed to 125 wastewater facilities in Wisconsin.

Studies indicate the family of chemicals can cause reproductive and developmental, liver and kidney, and immunological effects in laboratory

animals, according to a letter.

For humans, the most consistent findings are increased cholesterol levels among exposed populations, with more limited findings related to infant birth weights and effects on the immune system, the letter states.

With some exceptions for limited industrial uses, chemical manufacturers in the United States have voluntarily ceased production of these chemical compounds, but they are still manufactured in other countries and may be imported through consumer goods, according to the letter.

These chemical compounds, known as legacy

contaminants, can be present on or near sites years after they were used due to their persistent nature.

The statewide initiative comes after the DNR began investigating businesses in the city of Marinette, city of Peshtigo and Town of Peshtigo, according to the DNR’s website.

It was also discovered that PFAS could enter the municipal wastewater system based on initiatives by other states such as Minnesota and Michigan, according to a DNR press release.

Waukesha, Brookfield and Oconomowoc are the three wastewater facilities in Waukesha County that received the DNR’s

letter requesting their voluntary involvement in sampling their facilities.

The Oconomowoc Wastewater Facility is in the process of evaluating the DNR’s request, Oconomowoc Wastewater Facility Operations Manager Kevin Freber told a Freeman reporter.

“We have not made a commitment as to sampling at this time,” Freber said.

“We will continue to work with the department on a long-term response to this issue.”

Waukesha City Wastewater Plant is also in the process of evaluating the DNR’s request, Plant Manager Jeff Harenda said.

Life Time Brookfield preview center opens

Athletic lifestyle resort to open in fall

BROOKFIELD — Specializing in premier athletic workout spaces, Life Time has opened a preview center in Brookfield in advance of its facility opening this fall.

The athletic destination will feature boutique programs, industry-leading amenities, dedicated fitness studios and an outdoor pool deck.

When it opens, the Life Time in The Corridor near Bluemound and Calhoun roads will be the first in the state.

The Life Time Preview Center is located at 17585 Golf Parkway in Brookfield and is open seven days a week for prospective members to learn more about the club.

“At Life Time, we strive to inspire every single one of our members to live healthier, happy lives,” said John Dahman, general manager of Life Time Brookfield. “These brand-new spaces, from our fitness floor to our out-

door pool deck, are designed with our members’ wellness goals in mind, and we are very much looking forward to bringing these state-of-the-art services to the beautiful Brookfield community.”

It includes:

- Dedicated studios for exclusive group fitness, cycle, yoga and Pilates programming; one-on-one personal training and small-group training.
- More than 400 pieces of best-in-class cardiovascular and resistance training equipment.
- T Recovery, a dedicated space for athletic performance and recovery featuring metabolic assessments, nutrition coaching, sports and athletic recovery treatments, and chiropractic and physical therapy care.
- Two full-size basketball courts with Ultimate Hoops leagues and skills training.
- An indoor and outdoor aquatic center featuring leisure and lap pools, resort-style seating and bistro cafe.
- A dedicated Kids Academy, for kids ages 3 months to 11.



Submitted photo
A brochure promoting Life Time, an athletic lifestyle resort, that will open in Brookfield this fall.



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‘Are my old items valuable, or only old?’



BARBARA EASH

Antiques Appraised

Appraisal requests come through private home visits, appraisal fairs, column readers and client referrals. Some owners look for factual history that might dictate cultural value. Others have sentimental attachment, but all want due diligence for their items. This question comes across frequently, “are my old items valuable, or only old?”

1.) Quail Decorated Plate: Thiensville

Your decorative quail plaque was made by William Guerin, a leading decorative arts company between 1885-1932. In that era, over 48 factories from Limoges, France exported decorated porcelain. The word Limoges has become a generic term often used for assorted qualities of porcelain imports — some were never manufactured in France. Your authentic, good condition, 16-inch charger plate has scalloped edging, artist signature and original back wire hanger.

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2.) Match Safe: Waukesha

Collectors of unusual things look for items that are intriguing and can be displayed in a limited area. This late-19th century foundry cast, three-inch match container is a prime example. These handy holders were hung by the cook stove for easy accessibility and kept matches dry and ready for strike. Often stamped with advertising slogans they were give-a-ways or used as premiums. People also hunt for larger size examples that have a second compartment for burnt matches.

Value \$35

3.) Desk: Elm Grove

Many early 20th-century furniture makers used factory production methods that took half the time of earlier craftsmen. Affordable price



ing found a ready market for elaborate designs that were literally pressed into service. Flat boards were steamed, then the surface was rolled over with a sharp steel die to produce a detailed imprint. Portions of dressers and desks were patterned this way prior to assembling, then furniture was stained or painted. There even was a technique to press grain patterns onto cheaper, secondary woods that resembled natural growth. Current market demand for similar drop-front desks is little to non-existent. Considering damage on this example, value might reach \$100.

4.) Teaspoons: Waukesha

Plated ware is mostly from the Victorian era and is a

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.

machined product, not hand wrought sterling silver. The electroplating process delivered low prices to the masses, but with use the silvering wore away. It was an era when fruit was used as dessert and shaped fruit spoons were favored as wed-

ding presents. Thousands of plated tableware pieces have been treasured for years but are now being placed into the marketplace from inherited sources. **These spoons are selling \$3-7 each.**

Note: Valuable American sterling flatware usually is

marked, “Sterling.” The wisest decision when selling ... get at least two quotes!

5.) Chess Set: Delafield

Oak Tree Imports from Spain exported thousands of game sets starting in the middle-20th century when table games were a popular past-time for Americans. These chess pieces are small and whittled, not exquisitely carved and were normally cushioned in silk packaging. **The board would have been purchased separately through tourist trade, total value is \$50.**

6.) 1950's Pink

Remodeling? Don't fill your dumpster with vintage building supplies! Reduce, re-use and re-cycle. An antiques

dealer who specializes in architectural items might purchase your discards. This includes good condition bathroom fixtures, especially unique colors! **Anyone who is building a mid-century accented home or 1950s restaurant might pay \$100 or more for this trio.** A bathtub could double that price plus the buyer might prefer to remove the items for you. FYI: In 1954 Mamie Eisenhower decorated the White House with so much pink it was referred to as the Pink Palace.

(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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Elmbrook student named National Science Bee champion

BROOKFIELD — Elmbrook School District student Joshua Wang is a science wiz and he has a first-place National Science Bee award to prove it.

From June 7-10, Wisconsin Hills Middle School and Swanson Elementary School took part in the National Science Bee competition, which is a science-themed, buzzer-based academic quiz competition.

They competed against students from across the country, and Wang took home first place in the 6th Grade Division.

Swanson student Matthew Wang took fifth place in the Elementary School Division.

Wisconsin Hills student Swar Khopkar made it through the preliminary rounds and into the semifinals, and ended up tied for 28th in the 6th Grade Division.

These Elmbrook students

made it to the national level:

- Joshua Wang: Science Bee Champion — 1st Place (out of 83) — 6th Grade Division.
- Matthew Wang: Science Bee finalist — fifth place (out of 99) — Elementary School Division.
- Swar Khopkar: Science Bee semifinalist — 28th place (out of 83) — 6th Grade Division.
- Reva Hegde: Science Bee and Geography Bee participant.
- Erin Hu: Science Bee and Geography Bee participant.
- Darrick Li: Science Bee participant.
- Kartik Ramachandula: Science Bee National qualifier.
- Vaidehi Ramachandula: Science Bee National qualifier.
- Liem Rao: Science Bee and Geography Bee participant.



Submitted photo
Elmbrook student Joshua Wang, who took first place in the 6th Grade Division of the National Science Bee, stands with his plaque and medal.

Festival of Books names keynote speakers

WAUKESHA — National Book Award finalist Andre Dubus III and Wisconsin Poet Laureate Margaret Rozga have been named the keynote speakers for the 10th annual Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books.

The book festival will be held Nov. 1 and 2 on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at Waukesha campus.

Dubus has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Magazine Award for Fiction, two Pushcart Prize and an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature. His books are published in over 25 languages and he teaches full time at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

During his keynote conversation on Nov. 1, Dubus will talk about reading and writing in this age of glowing screens and the lasting power of words. He'll describe literature's singular


ability to carry human beings deeply into their own hearts and minds in a way that no other medium can match, even in the 21st century's digital age.

Margaret Rozga, Wisconsin poet laureate and former UWM at Waukesha professor, brings to that role an active and activist's voice. Her poems draw on her interest in history, the environment, women's roles and social justice issues. Her most recent book, "Pestiferous Questions: A Life in Poems," was written with support from the American Antiquarian Society.

She has been a resident at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, the Ragdale Foundation and Sundress Academy for the Arts.

Rozga will share her keynote presentation — an exploration of woke poetry — on Nov. 2, with guest poet and past Wisconsin Poet Laureate Kimberly Bleaser.

For more information, visit sewibookfest.com.

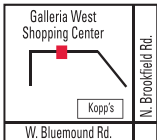


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Ex-Brookfield Central footballer gets probation for drug charges

By Ashley Haynes
ahaynes@conley.net
262-513-2681

WAUKESHA — An accomplished football player who played for Brookfield Central High School's team was sentenced to 18 months of probation after being charged with drug-related offenses earlier this year.

Julian Banda, age 18, was given 18 months of probation for two counts of possession of THC.

Banda originally pleaded guilty to a charge of manufacturing/delivering THC and one charge of maintaining a drug trafficking place.

However, those charges were amended during a July 1 hearing, according to Waukesha County Circuit Court records.

Banda was a 2017 and 2018 honorable mention all-state wide receiver on Brookfield Central's back-to-back state runner-up football teams (2017-18). He was also a first-team All-Greater Metro Conference wide receiver in 2017 and 2018.

Banda is not to have any contact with ex-Central basketball star Gage Malensek, 18, who is also facing drug-related charges.

According to a criminal complaint, Malensek alle-

gedly sold a confidential informant THC vape cartridges and marijuana on several dates at various locations throughout Brookfield.

One of these instances, on Jan. 25, allegedly involved Banda.

The complaint says the CI was able to purchase four THC vape cartridges for \$290, as well as marijuana. During this transaction, the complaint states Malensek was not present to provide the contraband, but did get it to Banda, who completed the deal for Malensek.

For over two years on the

Lancers basketball team, Malensek, a 6-foot guard, averaged over 20 points per game. Malensek went over 1,000 career points in late January 2018, then became the program's all-time leader in assists in February on his way to first-team all-conference honors and an honorable mention All-State selection.

Malensek entered a not-guilty plea to seven charges, including manufacture/deliver THC and maintaining a drug trafficking place.

His plea/sentencing hearing was set for Aug. 1, after this publication's press deadline.



Photo courtesy of the Waukesha County Business Alliance

North Central Group joins Alliance

BROOKFIELD — Coming in early 2020, the Brookfield Conference Center (North Central Group) will have 44,000 square feet of meeting space in Brookfield. Brandon Smith of North Central Group holds a Waukesha County Business Alliance membership plaque.

Kohl's starts seasonal hiring

MENOMONEE FALLS — Summer is still in full swing in Wisconsin, but Kohl's announced its plans for its seasonal hiring, which includes more early hiring of employees than last year.

The company said it's seeking candidates for the back-to-school, fall and holiday shopping seasons. The retailer said it's hiring for an early wave of seasonal positions across 500 stores, nearly double the number

of stores with early hiring positions compared to last year. All Kohl's stores, distribution and e-commerce fulfillment centers will use full- and part-time store associates to support omnichannel and customer service functions.

Kohl's is seeking about 3,000 associates across all states throughout the country.

"Our early seasonal hiring strategy positions Kohl's for success during

the back half of the year and ensures our store teams are fully staffed and trained to meet the needs of our customers during the holiday season," said Marc Chini, Kohl's senior executive vice president, chief people officer, in a statement. "Our full-time, part-time and seasonal Kohl's associates bring to life the omnichannel shopping experience that sets Kohl's apart, and we look forward to welcoming our new asso-

ciates whether they're looking to earn additional money for holiday gifts or seeking to start their careers in retail."

How to get YOUR news in The Freeman

The Freeman wants your community news! We will publish the happenings at your schools and community groups — as well as everyday items — in this space on Page 2. But we need your help to get these announcements and pictures published. Submissions must be typed or emailed. No handwritten submissions will be accepted. Please send news items and photos to: news@conley.net



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Photo courtesy of Waukesha County Business Alliance

Dyslexia Achievement Center joins Alliance

ELM GROVE — Dyslexia Achievement Center offers private practice tutoring, academic evaluation and instruction in Elm Grove. It recently joined the Waukesha County Business Alliance. Barbara Felix of Dyslexia Achievement Center holds her membership plaque.



Photo courtesy of the Waukesha County Business Alliance

ManagePoint LLC joins Business Alliance

WAUWATOSA — ManagePoint LLC is an IT managed services and IT cyber security firm in Wauwatosa. It recently joined the Waukesha County Business Alliance. Janet Curtis of the Bryon Riesch Paralysis Foundation and a Waukesha County Business Alliance ambassador, left, presents a membership plaque to David Steger of ManagePoint LLC.

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One town, two good LOL teams

Rivalry always competitive no matter the record

By Chuck Delsman
Special to Conley Media

BROOKFIELD — For years, one of best rivalries in Waukesha County high school sports has been the spirited action between the athletes at Brookfield Central and Brookfield East. You name the sport and the games or matches are extremely competitive.

And that level of competition is no different when it comes to Land O’ Lakes baseball in Brookfield. Both the Bulldogs and Blue Sox are strong teams that enjoy the intracity rivalry from game to game, from season to season.

Not only do the two Brookfield teams battle for supremacy year after year, but they share the same field (McCoy Park) and the same concession stand. That makes for one of the most unique arrangements ever in the historic Land O’ Lakes league.

“Sharing the same field in the same town is certainly unique for the Brookfield teams,” said LOL commissioner Craig Larsen. “It’s a good rivalry. They’ve played a lot of close games over the years. Obviously, playing on the same field makes for some difficult scheduling at times, especially when games are rained out and need to be rescheduled. But they both do a great job of making it work. Guys like Pat Tobiasz and Johnny Arnold of the Blue Sox and Jeff Mierow and Jason Booth of the Bulldogs are the foundation for both teams. Those four guys make it work.”

While the Bulldogs have had the better of the rivalry since the two teams started playing each other in 2004, the Blue Sox are always there, challenging their crosstown rivals to the max. And this year’s game between the two produced another thriller earlier this summer.

Playing before one of the largest crowds ever at McCoy, the Bulldogs scored a narrow 6-4 win over the Blue Sox.

“We made one big out-field error that in my mind turned the entire game around,” said Tobiasz, managing the Blue Sox for the first time. “It definitely was a game we could have won. You just can’t make mistakes like that against a quality team like the Bulldogs. We gave them an extra out and they scored three runs off of it.”

Both the Bulldogs and Blue Sox have been perennial playoff teams and appear to be headed in that direction again

this summer.

The Bulldogs, managed for the first time this year by longtime player Jeff Mierow, have the best record in the two-division, 11-team league and already clinched the Lake Country Division title and a spot in the playoffs. The Bulldogs, with several newcomers in their lineup, have established themselves as the team to beat this year.

The Blue Sox are in the middle of a hotly contested race in the five-team Suburban Division for the three playoff berths.

While they play in different divisions, both managers agree there are some special vibes on the field when the two teams play each other.

“It’s kind of like things at Brookfield Central and Brookfield East,” Mierow said about the rivalry between the Bulldogs and Blue Sox. “It’s always a battle. We respect them and they respect us. When we played this year the Blue Sox had four or five kids that I coached when they were in high school. We’ve kind of got some wily old veterans and they have a lot of younger guys. The games are a lot of fun. But once we get on the field, we just don’t want to lose to them.”

The Bulldogs are led by a large number of guys who have been around for a long time and have been very successful. Guys like Kris Franzen, Scott Booth, Randy Sobczyk and Mike Jacobs have been solid contributors for many years. The Blue Sox are anchored by Tobiasz, one of the best hitters the league has ever seen, and Arnold, one of the best and winningest pitchers ever in the LOL West. Both of those guys are in their 40s and still going strong. Shortstop Tim Kahle also has played for a lot of years for the Blue Sox in their battles against the Bulldogs.

“It’s a good rivalry with the Bulldogs,” Tobiasz said. They’ve got the better of us over the years and I think a big difference has been the fact that they’ve been a little more disciplined and committed to winning than some of our guys have been. We’ve come close the last few years of actually playing against them in the finals for the Grand Championship. That would have been great for Brookfield baseball. But this year we have a lot of new faces, a lot of younger guys that want to win championships. But the run to the title seems to go through the Bulldogs ever year.”

Sommerfeld loves being a Chinook

Central grad is in third stint with NWL team

By Aaron Carlson
acarlson@conley.net.com

MEQUON — Luke Sommerfeld doesn’t really know where baseball will lead him next, but he does not seem especially concerned about whatever plans the game has in store for him.

Part of that is because he is exactly where he wants to be right now — pitching for the Lakeshore Chinooks.

“God only knows that right now,” Sommerfeld replied when asked about his future. “Hopefully something pops up through a Major League affiliate, maybe (independent league) ball, who knows, maybe overseas. I have a coach who is coaching in the Australian League, so I might go out and play with him this winter.”

“As of right now, I’m just having fun playing, contributing with this team, so I’m going to continue to do that and hopefully we make a playoff run,” he added Sunday, before the Chinooks defeated Green Bay to move within two games of first place in the second half standings of the Northwoods League’s Great Lakes West division.

Sommerfeld helped Lakeshore remain in the playoff race by notching his second save of the season, recording four outs to get the job done. He entered the game with two runners on base with two outs as the Chinooks held an 8-6 lead in the bottom of the eighth. He got out of the jam he inherited, then gave up what proved to be a harmless single in the ninth to close out the contest.

The right-hander has been stingy out of the Lakeshore bullpen lately, yielding just three hits and three walks over his last 10 appearances, with 12 strikeouts covering 10 1/3 innings. For the season, he is 2-1 with a 2.29 earned run average with a pair of saves. He has struck out 20 batters in 15 2/3 frames, allowing eight hits and four walks.

“He has a really good plane on his ball, just working downhill. Obviously his size and his reach, I think, that’s what makes him effective,” Lakeshore manager Travis Akre said. “His secondary stuff is pretty tight, too, so that gives him a real good opportunity to be successful. And, hopefully that will lead to him getting an opportunity down the road in pro ball.”

Sommerfeld is actually in his third stint with the Chinooks, having previously pitched for the club in 2016 and 2017. He has been a part of the starting rotation and pitched out of the bullpen for the club, and said those roles are quite different.

“With starting you get more of a set routine, lifting days, recovery days and everything. You know what you’re going to do,” Sommerfeld said. “I like the bullpen, it’s a lot more fun. A lot more interesting with all the opportunities you may get.”

He added the uncertainty of life as a relief pitcher is part of what makes it enjoyable, along with being surrounded by a bunch of great teammates that have struck a balance between having fun while passing time waiting for their number to be called with remaining focused on what is happening between the lines.

“We’re really involved in the game. We always know what’s going on, but to pass the time we play little bullpen games — password or the name game,” he said. “We try to keep it light, but at the same time, we’re locked in and still worried about the game and know what we’re going to do when we get out there.”

Baseball has provided Sommerfeld with countless memories and experiences, but in a way, it has come full circle as his final game as a high school player came at the place he currently calls his home field — Kapco Park.

“It all started my senior year, in 2014, with Brookfield Central when we won the state title,” he recalled, referring to the Lancers’ victory over Homestead, a game in which he was the starting pitcher for the champs. “That was fun. So, it kind of started there.”

From there, he went to Saint Louis University for four years and finished his college baseball career at Clemson during the spring.



Photo courtesy of Sam Dunn

Luke Sommerfeld, a Brookfield Central graduate, pitches for the Lakeshore Chinooks during a game this season. Sommerfeld is 2-1 with a 2.29 ERA and has two saves pitching out of the bullpen this year.

“Senior year at Saint Louis we won the A-10 title and went to regional in Oxford, Miss., so that was a big one for me. I just liked the camaraderie I had with the teams over the four years,” Sommerfeld said about his time as a Billiken, noting the program won the Atlantic 10 twice in his four years there. “At Clemson, we went to another regional, in Oxford again. ... Just traveling with the guys, going to different cities around the nation, playing some really good players around the nation has been really fun.”

He said those experiences helped him evolve into the pitcher he has become.

“My first four years were fun and it got me to the point where I was more or less just building and challenging myself to get better each year. And then I felt after my senior year, I wanted more of a challenge to get to the next level and try to get drafted, which unfortunately didn’t happen, but that’s OK, everyone has a different route,” he said about the journey that led him to Saint Louis and Clemson. “I did get to challenge myself at the ACC level, but I’ll tell you what, South Carolina is a lot hotter than Missouri.”

“I’m grateful for coach (Darin) Hendrickson at SLU for giving me the opportunity there and I’m grateful for coach (Monte) Lee for giving me the opportunity at Clemson and try to advance my game and challenge myself in the ACC,” he added.

When summer rolled around, Lakeshore is where he wanted to be. He spent time after his freshman year playing for Wisconsin Rapids before his season was cut short due to injury and spent time last year in the Coastal Plain League in North Carolina and Virginia, but Mequon has always been a special place for Sommerfeld. In 47 career appearances for the Chinooks, Sommerfeld has posted a 6-6 record with five saves with a 4.33 ERA in 97 2/3 innings, helping the team reach the postseason twice.

“I kind of asked Jon Cain and Dean Rennicke, who I knew personally, and I said, ‘Can I join you guys?’ and they said yeah, so I spent my next two summers with them,” he said about conversations he had with members of the team’s front office, which led to his first two stints with the club. “And I was grateful, for my third year back, to come back and play for them.”

While the Mequon-based franchise is the closest Northwoods League fran-

chise to his home, the organization appealed to him for more than just geography.

“Honestly, I played against Lakeshore when I was up in Rapids and I saw they had the light blue uniforms and I liked that a lot. I knew they played at Concordia and I knew they had the nicest facilities in the Northwoods and the training staff was Aurora Health Care,” Sommerfeld said, listing things he liked about the Chinooks. “They treat you like a major leaguer. They really want you to develop, they really want you to get better and they treat you really well here.”

Akre said he has enjoyed having Sommerfeld on the team as much as the pitcher likes being a Chinook.

“It’s a comfort level all the way around,” Akre said. “With him being at home, just little things, being able to sleep in your own bed at night, wanting to be here and wanting to be a Chinook, that’s what we ultimately want in the organization — guys that want to be here and make the most of an opportunity.”

And having a player with Sommerfeld’s experience is a bonus, not only in terms of what he contributes when he takes the mound, but also with what he provides for his teammates.

“Him and (Brendan McGuigan) bring that level of experience, and it does help with our young guys,” Akre said. “Luke’s a well-rounded guy. He’s got a great personality, he certainly keeps our dugout loose, keeps the bus rides loose, but he’s knows when it’s his time, he can hit the switch and get into game mode.”

Sommerfeld is always willing to offer suggestions to his teammates.

“I’ll give them little tips here and there,” he said. “I kind of help them with the mental side if they have any questions or maybe even tweaking a grip on a pitch or maybe do something with their mechanics, but I’m not trying to overhaul them.”

His teammates offer something in return. “They keep me young, for sure,” Sommerfeld said.

And like many businesses — and Sommerfeld hopes to remain in the baseball business for quite some time, even though he may not know where is next stop will be yet — it is the relationships you make along the way that make it all worth it.

“Playing here with these guys is great. You make really good, lifelong friendships,” he said. “It’s kind of a blessing. It’s fun.”



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