

Lake Country

THIS MONTH

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Champion log rollers learn in Lake Country

Oconomowoc produces world champions under tutelage of coach John Hallett

By Kelly Smith
Special to The Freeman

OCONOMOWOC — On fall and winter Sundays, the Magnone family packs the car for the three-hour round trip from their home in Wauconda, Ill., a northwest Chicago suburb, to the Pabst Farms YMCA in Oconomowoc to practice log rolling.

Dominick, 15, has won five youth division boys world championships. Libby, 11, has won four girls world championships.

During the summer, Ellie Davenport, a 21-year-old college student and 2016 women's professional world champion, drives nearly eight hours round trip from her home in Hudson to practice log rolling on Upper Oconomowoc Lake.

She has a simple explanation why she makes the trip: "a great coach."

"John Hallett is the best log rolling coach out there. All you have to do is look at his record," added Richard Magnone, Dominick's and Libby's father.

Hallett, an Oconomowoc veterinarian, has been coaching world-class log rollers, many of them from Lake Country, for nearly two decades.

Log rolling is among two dozen competitive events in timber sports that require skills honed by lumberjacks in the mid-1800s to early 1900s.

Equipped with spiked shoes, log rollers use strength, weight, and balance to stand and rapidly spin logs in the water, casting off their opponents by suddenly altering the direc-

tion of the spinning log.

One of the pinnacles of international log rolling competition is the World Lumberjack Championships, which have been held in Hayward for 60 years.

Three Oconomowoc log rollers were among the four finalists in men's and women's professional divisions in the world championship held Aug. 1-3.

Arrowhead High School Senior Anthony Polentini of Hartland won the world championship in the men's finals by upsetting defending world champion Tanner Hallett, the coach's son, a 2017 Oconomowoc High School graduate now studying mechanical engineering at Cornell University.

Tom Mengwasser, also of Hartland, a 2018 graduate of Arrowhead High School, completed Oconomowoc's sweep of the men's division by finishing third.

In the women's finals, Davenport finished second, losing in the final round to world champion Livi Pappadopoulos of Holman.

Oconomowoc won six additional medals in nine divisions of semi-pro and amateur competitions.

Hallett credits the team's success to the athletes' hard work and willingness to help each other succeed.

Hallett says he focuses on the fun of log rolling, not winning.

"It is an unusual sport. If you make a mistake you fall into the water and that's fun," he told Conley Media.

"If you put too much emphasis on winning, it is going to stop being fun," he added.

"The Halletts' program is



Submitted photo

Cameron Pilgreen of Watertown, left, and Anthony Polentini practice their log rolling skills during a workout at the Pabst Farms YMCA competition pool in May. Polentini later won the men's division in log rolling at the World Lumberjack Championships in Hayward on Aug. 3 while Pilgreen won a second-place medal in a relay event.

like no other program I have known," Davenport explained to Conley Media.

"They work to shape your

fitness, your character, and your strategy. Other programs may work on two of them but only Hallett works

on all three," Davenport said.

See LOGS, PAGE 2A

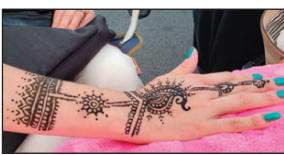
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INSIDE



Endangered bee found in county

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Go beyond the golf simulator

Sports 4B

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Developers scrap plans for City of Pewaukee

Proposal relocated to Summit

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

CITY OF PEWAUKEE — Lake Country Commons developers have decided to relocate their ballpark proposal to Summit more than a year after talks began with City of Pewaukee officials to locate the development in the city.

Diamond Club Entertainment, LLC previously proposed building a baseball park at Pewaukee Golf Club off Golf and Meadowbrook roads but has since executed an offer to purchase a 57-acre parcel in Summit, according to a proposal submitted to the Summit Plan Commission.

The 3,000-seat baseball park would be located north of Delafield Road and immediately west of White Stone Community Church with frontage along Interstate 94 and access from Delafield Road to the south.

City of Pewaukee Mayor Steve Bierce said while it would have been nice to have the baseball park in town, the City of Pewaukee wasn't ready to commit to its first tax incremental finance district.

"I think ultimately that would have been the biggest hang up," Bierce said. "Hopefully someone will have a plan for that land where they won't need to come to us for a TIF."

Although the proposal included a tax incremental finance district, Diamond Club developers Tom Kelenic and Sonny Bando had offered to fund the infrastructure of the development through a developer funded TIF.

While Kelenic praised City of Pewaukee Administrator Scott Klein and City

"At the end of the day, we felt that there really wasn't a lot of momentum within the elected officials of Pewaukee. There's still a lot of people out there that wanted it but I would like them to know that they could have got it."

— Tom Kelenic, developer

Planner Nick Fuchs for their effort in the approval process, he felt elected officials were no longer on board with the project, he said.

"At the end of the day, we felt that there really wasn't a lot of momentum within the elected officials of Pewaukee," Kelenic said. "There's still a lot of people out there that wanted it but I would like them to know that they could have got it."

In October of 2018, Diamond Club's City of Pewaukee proposal was once among three baseball stadium proposals offering similar mixed-use developments within a 15- to 30-minute drive of each other.

The city of Waukesha's plans to build a ballpark for a Northwoods League at Mindiola Park fell through earlier this year. In Franklin, Roc Venture's Ballpark Commons has opened while its independent minor league baseball team, the Milwaukee Milkmen, has already played several games.

Summit proposal

The year-round ballpark in Summit would be used primarily for a summer col-



Sandy Anderson/Conley Media

Diamond Club Entertainment, LLC intends to purchase 57-acres of farmland from Ixonia Bank to construct a baseball park, which would be located north of Delafield Road and immediately west of White Stone Community Church with frontage along Interstate 94.

legiate baseball league, but would also accommodate university, high school, youth baseball and youth softball games. Other ballpark uses include professional scouting and USA baseball events, concerts and festivals, as well as lacrosse and soccer games.

Kelenic said the new location was picked based on its proximity to the highway.

"It's right on the (Interstate) 94 corridor which we felt was important," Kelenic said. "If you travel around the country as much as I do, you'll see a lot of these ballparks are on bigger highways or inter-

states."

Diamond Club's mixed-use development would include a 50,000- to 75,000-square-foot athletic training and wellness facility and two outdoor athletic fields. The athletic training and wellness facility features a large turf playing field to accommodate multiple sports, health and wellness training, physical therapy equipment, offices and restrooms.

Additional ballpark features include a turf baseball field, a restaurant with access from outside of the ballpark, multiple concession stands, restrooms,

rental space, box suites, a youth playground area, an outfield scoreboard and souvenir shop, as well as patio and lawn seating.

Summit plan commissioners reviewed Diamond Club's proposal last Thursday, but no action was taken, said Henry Elling, village planner.

"It's still months away from any kind of final vote and there's at least two public hearings before the end of this process," Elling said. Village President Jack Riley declined to comment, adding it's too early to remark on the proposal as it hasn't reached the Village

Board level yet, he said.

Diamond Club will return to the Plan Commission on Aug. 22 where they will seek a master plan amendment and for the property to be rezoned from agricultural to business park, Elling said. Under the current master plan, sewer and water must service any development constructed in the Lake Country Commons proposed location.

However, the amendment would allow Diamond Club to develop their project without sanitary and sewer with the understanding that it would have to be added later, Elling said.

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Delafield to debate downtown zoning

Bigger, taller buildings might be permitted

By Kelly Smith
Special to Conley Media

DELAFIELD — The Plan Commission and Common Council are going to consider zoning code changes that could end the Bob Lang era of ambiance and architecture in downtown Delafield, according to present and past city officials.

Those deliberations will delay for at least three to four months decisions on whether to approve plans by Hendricks Commercial Properties to build two four-story commercial and residential buildings on the corner of Main and Genesee streets.

The buildings proposed by Hendricks, the largest downtown landlord, do not comply with city restrictions on the height of downtown buildings, the number of floors, and the distance buildings must be built from streets or sidewalks, called “setbacks.”

The code changes the commission and council might consider could permit larger and taller buildings with more stories built closer to streets and sidewalks, according to city officials.

“This goes beyond any one applicant’s project, these decisions are absolutely going to affect the future of downtown Delafield,” according to Mayor Kent Atwell.

Plan Commissioner Laura Schult told Conley Media she is concerned that Hendricks and other developers will be allowed to build buildings that will overshadow the Lang structures that have dominated downtown for decades.

“Laura is not the only one, I am hearing a lot of people who are saying that,” former Mayor Ed McAleer told Conley



Hammes

Media. “If we are going start discussing c o d e c h a n g e s , then everything should be on the t a b l e s including possibly reopening the 1993 Master Plan, including municipal water,” Alderman Jim Behrend told Conley Media.

Behrend was mayor and McAleer an alderman when the Master Plan was approved in 1993 and new downtown business district zoning was adopted in 1994.

The idea of a municipal water system was rejected in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

McAleer, during a recent Common Council meeting, proposed a compromise he believes will enable the city to approve some version of the Hendricks proposal without having to rewrite the downtown zoning code.

However, proponents of Hendricks’ development plan argue it is time to change the downtown code. They say it is outdated, too restrictive, and one of the reasons the city’s downtown business district is not thriving at the pace of neighboring Lake Country communities.

However, opponents argue the design and architecture of the Hendricks building do not fit into the downtown ambiance created by Lang’s colonial style architecture that has helped the downtown business district thrive for decades.

The two sides argued the issues for more than an hour during citizens’ comments at the July 15 Common Council meeting.

During the meeting, the

Media.

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McAleer

c o u n c i l rejected a recommendation by the Plan Commission that the city grant exceptions to the zoning code

to allow the Hendricks buildings to be approved by the city.

City Attorney James Hammes told the council there is no provision in the city code that authorizes such exceptions and granting the exceptions would be a violation of state law.

Hammes said the council has three options.

It could reject the project because it does not abide by the existing code.

It could amend the city code to permit exceptions regarding size, height, and setbacks under specifically defined circumstances.

Or, the council could rewrite those codes regulating size, height and setbacks.

The council unanimously agreed to instruct the Plan Commission to consider changing the downtown business district code, hold public hearings, and make recommendations to the council about code changes, a process that could take at least three to four months.

McAleer said his compromise would involve establishing an additional downtown zoning district designed to accommodate Hendricks’ new developments.

McAleer said after the city established the codes’ requirements for the new zoning district, the city and Hendricks could begin negotiations as to acceptable architecture, design, height and number of stories in the new buildings.



Submitted photo

Oconomowoc Log Rolling founder and coach John Hallett gives Anthony Polentini some advice during the semifinal round of the men division in Log Rolling at the World Lumberjack Championships on Aug. 2.

Logs

From Page 1A

Like most Lake Country log rollers, Davenport’s interest in the sport was sparked at a young age when she saw rollers practicing at her local YMCA.

Hallett said several YMCAs in Wisconsin began offering log rolling after interest in the sport was piqued by coverage of the Lumberjack World Championships initially by ABC’s “Wide World of Sports” and later ESPN.

Hallett taught log rolling at the Oconomowoc City Beach in the late 1990s, before formally organizing Oconomowoc Log Rolling shortly after the Pabst Farms Y opened in 2004.

Log rollers practice on Western cedar Logs covered with indoor-outdoor carpeting that float in the competitive pool of the YMCA aquatics complex.

During the summer, more than two dozen log rollers train five to six days a week on Upper Oconomowoc Lake in preparation log rolling competitions and lumberjack events held throughout the country.

Many of them train year-round participating in other sports or rigorous fitness programs to maintain the strength, balance and endurance necessary to compete in contests of three to five matches.

During competitions, Hallett carries an iPad equipped with a special coaching application that enables him to video — and then replay —

each match.

Between matches, he reviews with each log roller their mistakes so they can correct them in the next match.

Oconomowoc has become a training hub for northern Illinois and eastern Wisconsin log rollers, said Olivia Judd, who is ranked eighth in the country among professional log rollers.

It is the only destination in the region with the facilities, equipment and coaching for elite log rolling training, explained the 29-year old immigration lawyer from Chicago who also commutes to Oconomowoc for training.

Hallett’s athletes are trained to rely on self-motivation rather than encouragement — or pressure — from parents and coaches, said Amy Cunningham of Oconomowoc, whose 16-year-old daughter, Meredith, is a member of the team.

“It is almost surprising. He is the best log rolling coach, yet he does not seem to care much about the number of medals won,” Cunningham observed.

“At practices, everyone has fun. He encourages them to do better, perform at a higher level, but he does not pressure,” she concluded.

Hallett earned a veterinary medicine degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he was a national champion collegiate rower.

He and his wife, Heidi, who is also a veterinarian, established the Hallett Veterinary Hospital in 1997.



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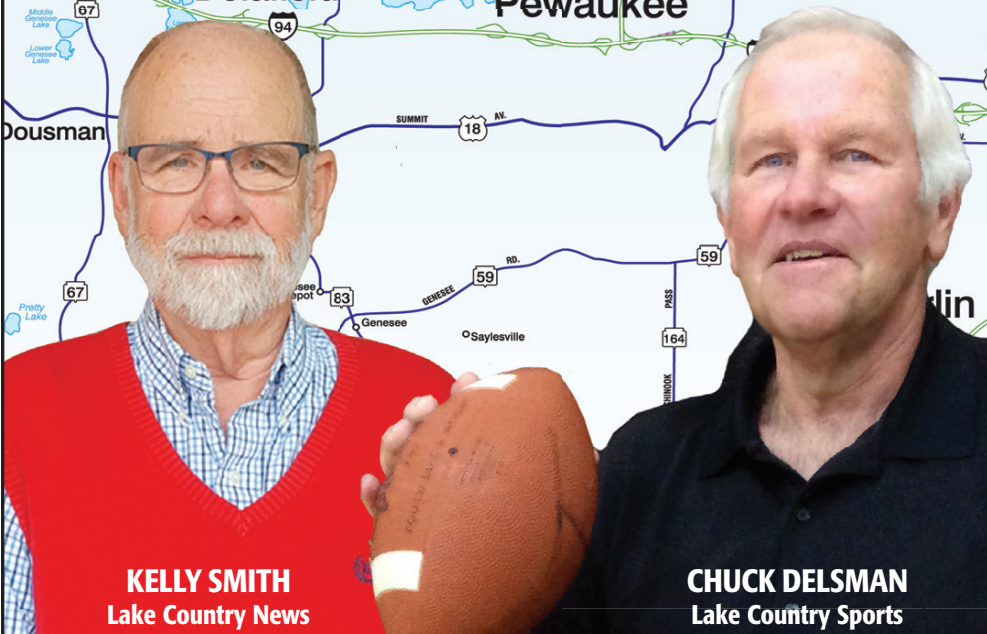



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Kelly Smith/Special to Conley Media

Lake Country Fire and Rescue chief sworn in

DELAFIELD — Lake Country Fire and Rescue Chairman Robert Bellin, of Chenequa, congratulates Chief Matt Fennig at swearing in ceremonies in Delafield where Fennig replaced former Chief Kevin Keith who retired. Fennig's wife, Amanda, son, Owen, 12, and daughter, Addison, 10, attended the ceremonies.

Endangered bee species found in Waukesha County

WAUKESHA — Waukesha County's Park System announced Friday that the rusty patched bumble bee, a federally endangered species in the United States, has been discovered locally.

During the Park System's first bumblebee survey of the year, administered by volunteers in Citizen Science Programs, residents made the discovery.

According to a County Parks press release, the rusty patched bumble bee was the first species of bumblebee to be listed under the Endangered Species Act in 2017.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that populations of the bee have declined by 87% in the last 20 years.

But several of them were found in native prairie plantings that park staff and volunteers are working to restore and maintain.

"One of the leading causes of the rusty patched bumble bee's decline has been habi-

tat loss and degradation due to factors such as invasive species," said Waukesha County Conservation Biologist Julia Robson. "To find such a unique species in one of our parks that is actively utilizing native ecosystems such as prairie and oak savanna that we are working to restore and improve throughout the county is a sign that what we are doing has been successful."

Bumble bees are among the most important pollinators of crops such as blueberries, cranberries and clover, and almost the only insect pollinators of tomatoes. Bumble bees are more effective pollinators than honey bees for some crops because of their ability to "buzz pollinate," a technique used to release pollen firmly held by anthers.

The economic value of pollination services provided by native insects (mostly bees) is estimated at \$3 billion per year in the United States.



Photo courtesy of Sam Holm

Rusty patched bumblebees, an endangered species, have been discovered in Waukesha County parks.

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



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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 pastime 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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BluesFest 2019

Photos by Mary Catanese/Special to Conley Media



Jennie Devoe sings during the 13th annual Waukesha Rotary BluesFest on Aug. 9 at Naga-Waukee Park.



Scott Bolstad, who has been to every Waukesha Rotary BluesFest, enjoys the music and a cigar on Aug. 9.



Bill Donnelly and Lois Farrell dance to the blues at the Waukesha Rotary BluesFest on Aug. 9. Friends for years, they've come to every BluesFest at Naga-Waukee Park.

CP Railway projects underway in county

Sealed Corridor Project aimed at increasing safety

By Brandon Anderegg
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PEWAUKEE – The Canadian Pacific Railway has started work on several railroad crossings as part of the Waukesha County Sealed Corridor project.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration are installing safety features and improving roadways at crossings located on the “Soo Line rail corridor,” which spans across multiple communities in western portions of the county.

In 2016, the FRA awarded a \$3 million grant to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to increase safety at 11 railroad crossings along 10 miles of the Canadian Pacific rail line. WisDOT matched those funds with \$750,000, said Lisa Stern, chief of railroads and harbors at WisDOT.

The project will replace old warning devices and circuitry that is no longer supported by manufacturers along with updating road designs, which have contributed to safety concerns, according to the Waukesha County Sealed Corridor project description. Additional updates include fencing, gates, curbed medians and pedestrian crossings.

Rapid development, frequent passenger trains and a recent increase in freight train volumes are a part of the reason why these 11 crossings were identified for updates, according to the application. However, the crossings, found in the village and City of Pewaukee and Hartland as well as the city and Town of Delafield, are also on the route that had been chosen for the High-Speed Rail Study between the Twin Cities and Chicago, Stern said.

“They were very familiar with some of the challenges with crossing safety because this area had been heavily studied, but under the whole high-speed rail project back in the day,” Stern said. “So, there was a lot of familiarity with the issues here.”

The high-speed rail was rejected in 2010 and WisDOT



Brandon Anderegg/Freeman Staff

New warning devices and signals have been installed at the crossing where the Canadian Pacific Railroad crosses Duplainville Road just north of the R&D Industrial Park in the City of Pewaukee.

has no intention of reviving the project at this time, Stern said.

“As far as state level, there has been no move towards that,” Stern said. “We haven’t been given any direction to look at it. We’re not precluding it but we’re not pursuing it either.”

The bidding process for road construction fell behind schedule after the state ran into funding difficulty. Initially, it was believed all funding could be used for road construction where there is an at grade crossing. However, it was later determined those funds could only be used for warning devices, Stern said.

“We revised the schedule because there was a lot going on with the FRA requirements for the sealed corridor,” Stern said. “There were a lot of little details that kept being brought to light as we were moving forward.”

The road construction bidding process will begin in the next few weeks and by fall, Stern hopes to have safety features installed at all crossings, she said. Project completion is slated for spring of 2020.

Local impact

In addition to safer railroad crossings, the sealed corridor project could spark an increase in “quiet zones” in the county. That’s because the state and federally funded projects would bring these railroad crossings within 5 percent of

Sealed crossings

Vettelson Road, Delafield. Cottonwood Avenue, Hartland. Maple Avenue, Hartland. North Shore Drive, Town of Delafield. Parkside Lane, City of Pewaukee. Kopmeier Drive, Pewaukee. Wisconsin Avenue, Pewaukee. Oakton Avenue, Pewaukee. Forest Grove Drive, Pewaukee. Duplainville Road, City of Pewaukee. Clark Street Pedestrian Crossing, Pewaukee.

meeting federal guidelines for quiet zones.

A quiet zone is defined as a section of a rail line at least one-half mile in length that contains one or more consecutive public highway-rail grade crossings at which locomotive horns are not routinely sounded when trains are approaching, according to the Federal Railroad Administration.

Quiet zones are particularly an important issue in the two Pewaukees, where elected officials continue to hear from residents how train horns are disturbing. “There are still people out there that really want to know where we are on the quiet zone project overall,” said Bob Rohde, village trustee.

Zesti owner to open new restaurant

By Brandon Anderegg
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DELAFIELD — Zesti restaurant owner Michael Feker has plans to open a new restaurant in Delafield called Americas.

Feker says the goal is to open his restaurant by September in the former PrimeOne Steakhouse building, which is located at 515 Wells St.

Menu items at Americas include cuisine from all over the western hemisphere, from Canada down to Argentina, Feker said.

“The menu is not one of

those crazy sized menus that’s going to drive you nuts from reading it,” Feker said. “But there will be different foods from each country.”

The restaurant will offer a lunch and dinner menu ranging from empanadas and Ecuadorian flatbread to meatloaf and tenderloin. Food options will cost between \$4 and \$29.

“I want the entire community to be able to have a light and reasonably priced lunch all the way to a four-course meal,” Feker said.

Similar to his other restaurants, Americas will

have a rustic and comfortable themed interior, Feker said. Moreover, it will also have garage doors, which is staple feature found in all of his restaurants, he added.

“We were the first ones to do that in Hartland and the first in Delafield,” Feker said. “That’s an accent I like to have in all my restaurants.”

Americas will be the fourth restaurant that Feker operates in the area. His other restaurants include Zesti in Hartland, IL Mito in Wauwatosa and 2Mesa Eatery in Milwaukee.

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New golf experience like no other in state

The Practice Station is elite training facility

By Chuck Delsman
Special to Conley Media

NEW BERLIN — You’ve been to the driving range hundreds of times. You pound a couple of buckets of balls with a handful of clubs.

But when you’re finished, you’re not exactly sure just how much your practice time helped.

On the range, you can’t really tell just how far you were hitting your 6-iron. Other than the yardage signs, you can’t tell if you were short of your target or long. And with your driver, how far did you really hit it? Did it go 200 yards? Or maybe 220? And how far did it roll out?

And not many ranges have good, playable sand traps, if any at all.

The list of practice scenarios can go on and on. Until now.

Perhaps the most innovative practice facility in the state opened this spring in New Berlin. The Practice Station, owned and operated by teaching professional John Bauer of Oconomowoc, can be found at the former nine-hole course called the Preserve at Deer Creek. While it’s still in its growing stages and improvements are being made daily, the facility is open for business.

So, what makes The Practice Station so unique? It has eight practice stations open every day, starting with a putting green, a groomed sand-trap area and six others that allow golfers to practice shots from measured areas as short as 35 yards out to driv-



John Bauer, pictured left of Oconomowoc, has recently opened The Practice Station in New Berlin, which is a golf training golf course like no other in the state.



Photos courtesy of Emily Ho at The Practice Station

ing holes.

And this is not like going to the range to work on 100-yard shots that just land in the grass. Every station has its own green with a hole and flag, allowing every golfer to actually see where his or her ball ends up. The stations are accurately measured to exact distances and marked accordingly. One of the stations was marked at 102 yards to the green. Others were marked at 137, 159, 170 and 200. And then there’s the driving hole where you tee it up and let it rip on a real golf hole.

Another thing that makes The Practice Station so unique is that all customers have three manicured golf holes they can actually play from tee to green. The first hole is a par-3 that measures 130 yards and the second is a par-4 covering 300 yards. The final hole is another par-4 that measures 350 yards. The holes include freshly mowed greens with bunkers coming in play on all three.

Bauer, who owned and gave indoor

lessons at JBJ Golf in Hartland for the last nine years, is excited about what The Practice Facility will offer golfers of all abilities from southeastern Wisconsin.

“I’ve been in the golf business quite a few years and I’ve never heard of anything like we have or seen anything like this,” Bauer said. “It’s the perfect practice facility because you can practice all the shots and hit into actual greens. If people truly want to work on their games and get better, this is the place to do it.”

Bauer also said at The Practice Station, you can work on all of the shots you’ll encounter when you’re playing a real round.

“You can not only hit the ball off of good lies, but you can also work on the difficult shots, tough lies and tough stances,” Bauer said. “We’ve got practice areas here for every shot you’ll see on the golf course. We’re excited about what we’re doing.”

But unlike going to the range and hitting beat-up balls that have been

around for a few years, The Practice Station has all brand-new Titleist golf balls, making the experience even more realistic.

The Practice Station hopes to have a large driving range available on a year-round basis. Plans are to have that range open every day of the year, with heated bays available on those cold winter days.

And in those cold months of winter when all the local courses are closed, you can still play golf on two simulators located inside the clubhouse. Right now there is one indoor simulator available and come the fall, two simulators will be offered.

Bauer has purchased the cream of the crop in simulators, buying the Trackman units. Trackman is so sophisticated that it measures everything about the golf swing, from club-head speed, to ball speed, to swing path, to trajectory, to club-face angle and many more. Those are available on a rental basis every day, charging \$35 an hour, no matter how many

players you have. And of course, on the simulators, you can play some of the best courses in the world, including St. Andrews, Muirfield, Innisbrook and Bethpage.

While Bauer does a lot of teaching, he’s also hired Heidi Haas-Brotchie to lead his instructors. Haas-Brotchie comes well qualified, having worked at prestigious Geneva National the last six years.

There are all kinds of ways to take part at The Practice Station. Daily fees are available for \$25 Monday through Thursday and \$30 on Friday through Sunday. That price gives you unlimited use of the outdoor facility. It also includes the use of golf carts or push carts.

What might be the best value at The Practice Station is that memberships can be purchased on a monthly or yearly arrangement. Plans are offered for individuals, couples, families and even businesses. All of the memberships include the three practice holes, eight practice stations, chipping and putting greens, discounted simulator practice, driving range (coming soon), golf carts and push carts, and alignment and training aids.

“We’re excited what The Practice Station can bring to the area,” Bauer said. “We’ve got something for every golfer. You can come and practice for 15 minutes at lunch or stay for two or three hours or longer. The entire family can come to practice.”

The Practice Station is located on Sunnyslope Road, about five miles south of Greenfield Avenue. It’s just one property north of New Berlin Eisenhower High School on the same side of the road. For more information call The Practice Station at 262-784-9779.

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