

Brookfield & Elm Grove

THIS MONTH

JANUARY 2019

Sendik's project to add main-level presence at The Corners

\$5 million renovations to grow grocery store's presence starting in January

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD — Now solely in the lower level of The Corners, Sendik's Food Markets will invest \$5 million into the Town of Brookfield location to increase the store's footprint, which includes a main-level presence.

The store will grow by about 5,000 square feet to be a total of 40,000 square feet and will be expanded to be fully integrated into the main shopping level at The Corners, adding a mezzanine level lounge, and dining and bar offerings, Sendik's and IM Properties announced recently.

The work on the grocery store will start in January and it will remain open during construction. Construction is expected to be completed by summer.

More choices on tap

Some additions that customers can expect at the larger store, according to the announcement, are new services, expanded food choices and greater convenience.

Those include inclusion of 7,000 square feet on the main Union Street level adjoining L.L.Bean that will house a convenient floral shop and home goods department, expanded grab-and-go selections and more.

There will be a mezzanine level served by escalators featuring a gathering space with sofas, tables, a gas fire and piano that overlooks Sendik's newly designed store.



Submitted rendering

A \$5 million investment into the Sendik's location in the Town of Brookfield will increase the store's footprint, which includes a main-level presence.

In addition, there will be a bar offering a range of beer, wine and gourmet coffee.

A grill station where customers can have fresh meats and fish cooked to order while they browse the salad bar, with a choice of eating at home or at the in-store bar or lounge, will also be added.

"Providing an unmatched customer experience has been at the forefront of our mission since 1926," said Ted Balistreri, co-owner at Sendik's, in a statement. "We want to capitalize on the recent success we have had with our store at The Corners of Brookfield and enhance the customer experience

by adding amenities this community has been looking for. The growing popularity of the town center, coupled with the willingness of IM Properties to continue to elevate the center's offerings, makes The Corners of Brookfield the perfect fit for this type of unique grocery store."

"We want to capitalize on the recent success we have had with our store at The Corners of Brookfield and enhance the customer experience by adding amenities this community has been looking for."

— Ted Balistreri, Sendik's co-owner

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Claim dismissed in Marcus suit against Corners

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Working to stop veteran suicides

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Coach Kennedy steps down at Brookfield Central

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The goal is zero: Preventing veterans' suicides

DVA holds discussion at Waukesha church

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — Gerald Sieren had decided on suicide.

"I actually got to the point of having a gun to my head, and my dog stopping me," he said, saying he then turned to a counselor at a veterans' center.

"She said, 'You need to go get treatment,'" said Sieren, a former Marine and an outreach and recovery regional coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sieren and Mark Provencher Jr. were presenters at a seminar by the Wisconsin DVA at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waukesha recently.

The pair explained training materials called QPR — Question, Persuade, Refer — designed as a first response in suicide prevention and led a discussion about tailoring the training to veterans. About 25 community members attended.

Sieren said he had been working with the Wisconsin DVA for three years and Provencher, a retired Marine who served for 22 years, has worked with both the DVA and the Center for Veterans Issues.

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S., according to the presenters. In Wisconsin, there were 133 veteran suicides in 2014, according to data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Suicidal thoughts, the presenters said, typically stay in the mind for about five minutes.

"During that five minutes, if you can intervene, when that thought is the strongest, you can avert the suicide," he said.

This is understandable to Sieren, who has been diagnosed with suicidal ideation.

"Thoughts come in and out, but they can be pretty intense at times," he said.

'We think we're Superman'

Provencher said it can be difficult for veterans to admit to others what they are struggling with.

"We can dig ourselves out of anything, we've been through tougher situations," he said, adding that many veterans also feel the need to be strong for others.

"We think we're Superman," Provencher said. "For vets, it's easy to push away the pain, to self medicate."

Sieren agreed, adding that some feel a responsibility not to share their feelings with loved ones.

"I want to be strong for them, I don't want to be a burden. If people say, 'Are you OK?' You're going to say 'yes,'" he said.

Provencher advised family and friends focus on listening carefully and having compassion in conversations with veterans.

"It's not just one thing. There's probably five to 10 different things going on with that veteran," he said.

"Interaction is really key," Provencher said, stressing that it takes time to build a rapport, and those relationships are needed as individuals continue working on their mental health.

Sieren said it is important to find the right person to work with. He focuses on his own experiences when helping fellow veterans.

"I've been where they are," he said. "I am where they are."

Sieren says that although there is not a single solution to helping prevent veteran

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Center for Suicide Awareness Emotional Support Text Line
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suicide, he does believe that "everyone can beat the bug."

In his own case, he has learned what can drive suicidal ideation, and so avoids alcohol when feeling angry, depressed or upset.

Sieren said it is important that family members and friends who are concerned about their loved ones, keep an eye on little things. He said many veterans, like himself, will work to not give outward signs of any struggle.

"Nobody knew when I put that gun to my head," he said. "My mom, she never knew."

The group discussed how difficult transitions from military to civilian life can be and the role guilt can play in mental health.

"My guilt wasn't from what I did, it was that I started to enjoy it," said Sieren, of his experience as a Marine.

Sieren said he also struggled with guilt in sharing his experiences with others.



Eileen Schmidt/Special to The Freeman

Mark Provencher Jr., left, and Gerald Sieren present at a veterans suicide prevention training session by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church recently.

But as time goes on, he feels this less frequently.

"The more I do it, the less I feel when I leave," he said.

Provencher said for his own health, he relies on the support of his family and sees both a counselor and pastor.

"I feel that the healing that you're looking for, and the things that are going on, can't be done without it being mental, physical, and spiritual," he said.

The Rev. Jason Hacker from Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church noted the program has not been offered around the Milwaukee metro area previously.

"My goal is to try to encourage other groups and organizations in the community to do this," Hacker said.



Eileen Schmidt/Special to The Freeman

Mark Provencher Jr. sets up resources for a veterans suicide prevention training session by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, held at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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‘The Nutcracker’ comes to Dixon Elementary

Classic ballet brings high school and grade school kids together

By Royce Podeszwa
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BROOKFIELD — Eight years ago, Ivy Smith’s mom told her to take her 4-year-old little sister to the neighbor’s house for a play rehearsal. Some of the neighborhood kids put together a production of “The Nutcracker” ballet to perform for their parents. The ballet was such a success, the families petitioned Elmbrook School District to perform it in an auditorium the following year. At the time, Smith had no idea this little trip to a neighbor’s would inspire her to help create a nearly decade-long tradition.

On Dec. 15, and for the seventh year in a row, Dixon Elementary School hosted its annual ballet production of “The Nutcracker,” performed by grade-schoolers and produced by high-schoolers. Every year, any kid from

kindergarten to fifth grade is invited to take part in the performance. This year is looking to be the biggest one yet with around 60 actors and dancers eager to show off their talent.

“They don’t turn anyone down,” said Elizabeth Halberg, a local mom whose daughter is a flower in the ballet. “If you want to be in this then they’ll find a place for you.”

Smith began her career as a performer but now she’s the director of the whole show. Parents help raise needed funds and set up the auditorium, but the ballet itself is entirely produced by Smith and her high school friends.

“There’s always this panic and then it all comes together and it’s super, super cool,” Smith said.

Costumes are custom-made for each kid every year. Kings, queens, toy soldiers, tutus, mice and mirlitons sparkled under the lights and ran and danced to the classical tunes dur-



Royce Podeszwa/Special to The Freeman

The Mirlitons costumed dancers rehearse for “The Nutcracker.”

ing the rehearsal.

Smith said each year is a little bit different. Through trial and error, they see what works and what doesn’t work to put on the best show they can.

“It’s like herding cats,”

Halberg said. “It’s cute and it’s a labor of love.”

Smith is expecting this year’s audience to have the highest turnout yet.

After a private show for the school on Friday, two more performances were

held on Saturday.

Tickets cost \$5 each and all proceeds went to benefit the Fisher House of Wisconsin, a local charity that provides housing for veterans and their families seeking medical treatment.

How will new USDA meal rules affect schools?

Local education officials don’t expect many changes

By Ashley Haynes
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WAUKESHA — In December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture introduced some new guidelines for its national school meal program, scaling back slightly some of the rules first introduced as part of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. While fruits and vegetables are still required with each meal, schools now only need to offer whole grain products 50 percent of the time and the process of scaling back sodium levels has been extended. Flavored, low-fat milk can also return to school lunch rooms. While the USDA is touting the changes as a way to “empower” local schools and allow them more flexibility, area school districts aren’t expecting to see many changes.

“It’s not going to be a really big change for us, but there are a few products that it’s going to help us improve. Right now, whole grain pasta is probably the biggest thing,” said Cindy Jensen, director of

school nutrition for the School District of New Berlin.

She says students are not particularly fond of whole grain pastas. There have been moves to try and make it look like the enriched pasta many are used to.

Jensen says products like white wheat bread and pastas were originally designed for school lunch programs by food manufacturers because students were put off by the darker color of whole grains.

Now that students only need whole grains half the time, Jensen says there is a possibility to go back to enriched white pasta.

As for how whole grain has affected lunchroom classics like pizza crust and chicken nuggets, Jensen says students have adjusted in a more amenable manner.

“As a registered dietician, while I thought the (2010) regulations went too fast, I still think that we can promote it as a good thing because it’s good for anybody,” said Jensen.

While she is pleased overall with the new USDA rules, Jensen says she

would ideally like to see the national sodium restrictions left as is and not furthered.

The new USDA rules just give school districts more time to get to the required sodium levels. The final target sodium amount for high school students is less than 740 milligrams at lunch and less than 500 mg for breakfast. That cuts current targets almost in half.

Jensen added that she still expects the biggest source of food waste to be fruits and vegetables that students throw away.

More of the same

In the Elmbrook School District, the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act led to a 6 percent decline in lunch participation and the decision to remove both of the district’s high schools from the national program. They still follow the USDA’s Dietary Guidelines for Americans, but have more of a chance to expand their food offerings.

“What’s kind of interesting is they make it sort of a big deal, but actually they didn’t do much at all,” said Cheryl Peil, Elmbrook director of food service. “To me, this is just my opinion, but I feel that it’s pretty much just the

same.”

In Elmbrook, almost a decade after the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act was put into place, Peil says that kids have pretty much accepted whole grains as the norm.

She agrees that the least popular rule for meals has not changed — being required to have a fruit or vegetable. Peil says the rule was the “biggest hit” to come out of the 2010 act in terms of students’ tastes.

“They’ve held us pretty tight to everything. They gave us some leniency when there was a change in government a few years ago now,” said Peil.

She says it’s still a good thing that Elmbrook chose to opt the high schools out of the USDA program, as they’ve been able to expand their à la carte offerings.

Getting students involved

In the West Bend School District, there’s a sense of optimism following the adjustments made by the USDA. Abby Padilla, director of school nutrition, says while the rules regulating whole grains have also become the norm, it’s always a good thing to have the chance to branch out.

“We are excited for any opportunity to have a little more flexibility in our menu planning and getting involvement from staff and students for taste testings and things like that,” said Padilla.

She says the district is consistently accepting feedback on the spot from students and regularly seeking their opinions on new food options to pin down offerings that they’ll actually want.

Padilla says school districts have better insight about students’ tastes. In the case of the WBSD, trying to emulate foods that students are eating outside of school is the goal.

This is made more difficult by the USDA sodium restrictions, but those will now be incorporated at a slower rate.

“Any time we don’t have to make a drastic change really quickly, it’s going to help us ease into things,” said Padilla.

There is an interest in healthier food options in West Bend. Padilla says one of the most popular lunch options at the high school level is actually the salad bar.

“I think if they (students) have a say (in food options), they should be more interested in it,” Padilla said.

ELMBROOK SCHOOLS

‘Aggressive growth’ predicted in elementary enrollment

Tonawanda Elementary will reach capacity by 2022-23

By Ashley Haynes
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BROOKFIELD — The Elmbrook School District has reached its highest level of resident student enrollment since the 2003-

04 school year. Just under 7,000 Elmbrook students are Brookfield residents and resident enrollment has increased by 741 over the last six years. Enrollment projections predict an “aggressive growth” will continue at most Elm-

brook elementary schools over the next several years. Tonawanda Elementary School is expected to be the first K-5 school to reach capacity in the district, starting in 2022-23.

“We are always looking at space and projecting population... just doing the best we can, but Tonawanda is our smallest school,” said Board of Education President Kathryn Wilson. The five-year enrollment

projection predicts that by 2022-23, Tonawanda will have 512 students. The optimal capacity for the building based on class size is 494. While the other elementary schools aren’t expected to reach capacity as soon as Tonawanda, Wilson explained that doesn’t mean it will never happen. All elementary schools will still a solid enrollment increase each year.

With housing market trends and birth rates constantly fluctuating, it’s difficult to tell whether one building could experience a surge in students.

In the case of Tonawanda, the need for an addition has been brought up casually, but nothing has been set in stone.

“It’s still just a discussion. If these pro-

jections are accurate, then we’ll have to do something, but there are a number of options,” said Wilson.

She says rearranging the district’s boundaries to more evenly distribute the number of students in each school building is one such option that Elmbrook could consider. Wilson explained that already has to happen periodically.

She believes that next steps in the discussion would likely involve the district putting together a Citizens Task Force to make recommendations and involve more voices from the community before making any decisions.

Enrollment projections show that Elmbrook secondary schools should be able to accommodate the continuing enrollment growth.

Elmbrook schools get a \$250K state Fast Forward grant

BROOKFIELD — The School District of Elmbrook, in conjunction with the Greendale and Menomonee Falls school districts, was awarded a Wisconsin Fast Forward Teacher Training and Development Grant for \$250,000 by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

The grant will be used to offer tuition reimbursement for enrollment at Carroll University for teachers who already hold a bachelor’s

degree and a general education license and want to add special education licensure, as well as for educational assistants who hold a bachelor’s degree and would like to earn a Master of Arts in Teaching to gain certification in both elementary and special education.

“Special education continues to be a significant teacher shortage area,” said Pam Casey, Elmbrook’s director of human resources.



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Brookfield Central grad is an AP State Scholar

Sun also named Presidential Scholar

BROOKFIELD — A 2018 Brookfield Central graduate, Sophia Sun, has been named an Advanced Placement State Scholar for Wisconsin.

The College Board grants then State AP Scholar Award annually to the top male and female students in each of the 50 states and District of Columbia for their performance on AP exams.

“Elmbrook is incredibly proud of Ms. Sun’s achievements,” said Superintendent Mark Hansen. “The recognition that she continues to receive for her work is both admirable and very well-deserved.”

Sun was previously named a 2018 Presidential Scholar based on her academic achievements. She is attending Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Sun is the third Elmbrook School District student to receive the AP State Scholar Award in the past seven years, including Rachel Soble (Brookfield Central, 2011) and Nikil Prasad (Brookfield Central, 2013).

The AP program offers students the opportunity to take college-level courses while in high school and to take end-of-course exams to demonstrate their mastery of the subject area. The AP Program offers exams in 38 subject areas. Students earning a score of three, four, or five on AP exams generally receive college credit, advanced standing, or both at many colleges and universities worldwide.

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THIS MONTH

Lake Country
THIS MONTH



Submitted photos

Bill Kraus, owner of MISSION BBQ, poses in the restaurant prior to it opening last month. “I got the easy job of just saying thanks and making good food,” Kraus said.

On a MISSION

New BBQ restaurant serves up salute to vets

By Royce Podeszwa
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262-513-2651

BROOKFIELD — MISSION BBQ is a classic Southern-style barbecue joint with a hefty side of patriotism.

Owner Bill Kraus, a Wauwatosa native, thinks it’s about time he opened one of MISSION BBQ’s 75 locations in his home state. His is located at 18340 W. Bluemound Road.

“There’s no place like home,” Kraus said. “Every opening is special, but this one is emotional. This one is personal.”

Kraus said his idea of a barbecue growing up in Wisconsin was only burg-

ers and hot dogs on a grill. After traveling to the South and trying classic BBQ, Kraus said, the experience left him wanting more. He was shocked that the food wasn’t available everywhere in the United States and thus set out to make his dream a reality.

MISSION also sells their signature “Hero” reusable cup for \$3.99. \$2 out of every cup sold will go toward the USO. Customers can bring the cup back to any location and get a refill for \$0.99. The first 100 cups sold will also come with a MISSION BBQ deck of cards. Customers can then turn in one of the 52 cards a week for a free sandwich, side or dessert.

Kraus’ children, father and grandfather all served in the military. He said every day he is humbled, proud and inspired by his family and the many others he meets who have served.

“I got the easy job of just saying thanks and making good food,” Kraus said.

He said that his best part of any day is at noon, when he shuts down the entire restaurant for two minutes to play the national anthem.

Their very first location opened on Sep. 11, 2011. Kraus says the day was an intentional choice to try and help change the world back to the way it was before the terrorist attacks 10 years prior.

Celebrating the season of lights



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

Rabbi Levi Brook and Chabad of Waukesha-Brookfield and friends watch as Town of Brookfield Chairman Keith Henderson lights the Menorah on Dec. 9.



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

Kym Cores, of Prismatic Flames, performed during the fire portion of the the Chabad of Waukesha-Brookfield's Fire and Ice Celebration at The Corners of Brookfield on Dec. 9.



Ashley Haynes/Freeman Staff

The first Wisconsin location of Texas-based restaurant Uncle Julio’s opened recently at Brookfield Square, 245 S. Moorland Road.

Uncle Julio’s now serving Mexican ‘from scratch’

BROOKFIELD — Authentic, made-from-scratch Mexican cuisine is now up for grabs at Uncle Julio’s, the latest establishment to open in Brookfield Square as part of the development of the former Sears department store site.

The first location in Wisconsin, Uncle Julio’s, 245 S. Moorland Road, hosted its grand opening event recently. The chain is based in Texas.

According to a press release from the company, the restaurant is known for fresh, high-quality

ingredients and memorable dining experiences.

“We deliver an upscale, authentic dining experience anchored by made-from-scratch freshness and a menu that offers the kind of interactive and memorable dining experiences our guests can’t get anywhere else,” said Tom Vogel, CEO of Uncle Julio’s.

Visitors are able to watch as guacamole is made tableside, look into the open kitchen to see dishes being prepared or even crack open a “Chocolate Piñata.”

The atmosphere of Uncle Julio’s is described as a “mix of old world Mexican and modern industrial décor.”

Cooks serve up traditional dishes such as tacos and enchiladas, as well as mesquite grilled combinations and seafood combinations.

Uncle Julio’s is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.unclejulios.com/locations/Brookfield/.



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Bella Gusto employee Nate Rupnow tosses a pizza to prep for customers Dec. 26 in Oconomowoc.

Business leaders get creative to find workers

Labor shortage remains huge issue for employers

By Alex Nemec
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262-513-2661

WAUKESHA — A tight labor market in Waukesha County is forcing area business owners to get creative to land the talent they need.

“Everything from looking at untraditional sources of talent to enhancing their facilities to really reviewing their corporate culture and making sure that reflects what they want to project to prospective employees,” said Suzanne Kelley, president and CEO of the Waukesha County Business Alliance.

The unemployment rate in Waukesha County remains very low at 2.5 percent in October, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Kelley said the workforce shortage is the No. 1 problem facing the region right now.

“You’re seeing ‘help wanted’ signs all over Waukesha County and I think that’s an indication that we continue to have a very tight labor market,” Kelley said.

To address the problem, Kelley said, businesses need to have a multifaceted, three-pronged approach.

“They need to attract, develop and retain,” she said. “The Waukesha Coun-

ty Business Alliance is working with our members on all three of those tenets.”

Dan Schwefel, owner of Schwefel’s Restaurant in Oconomowoc, said there is a lack of workers in every industry right now, which creates problems and issues.

“When you’re in the service industry, our customers are looking for someone to take care of them,” Schwefel said. “They want things in a timely manner and with a friendly face on them.”

“That does become more difficult with the employment situation the way that it is, there’s no doubt about it.”

Schwefel said he hasn’t seen the workforce shortage this bad since 2000, when he would hire anybody with a pulse if they walked in the door.

“Hiring new people now is definitely difficult,” Schwefel said. “Fact of the matter is I have a lot of good employees that have been here a long time. That helps me a lot because I have a good staff.”

Factors

Kelley said there are several factors contributing to the workforce issue in the region.

“The No. 1 thing is the economy is very strong right now and that has increased job opportunities as a whole,” she said.

Waukesha County has seen a population increase for the last few years and there are more people in the county than ever before, Kelley said.

“But a robust economy has enhanced job opportunities, so it has become an increasingly difficult to fill openings,” she said.

The aging population is part of the problem as well, Kelley said.

“Employers are facing a growing number of retirements and that is going to continue for the foreseeable future, so that creates a lot of opportunities for people coming into the job market,” she said.

Tom Burns, co-owner of Bella Gusto in Oconomowoc, said the only issue he has had filling staff positions since his business opened in 2015 was when he expanded it.

“We hired that staff back in July and everybody has been intact since,” Burns said. “We pay a little higher than other restaurants do, plus we retain our staff.”

Despite Oconomowoc having a flurry of restaurants going into the city, Burns said Bella Gusto has had a record year and retained a lot of the staff it has brought on.

“We’ve had a good year for us because everyone we hired last year is still on board and kitchen staff is over a year and a half back there, so there’s a lot of stability,” he said.

Schwefel said he is has a full staff for the first time in 2015.

“That being said, if the right candidate walks in that is going to help me I’ll hire them because I’m always looking to make my staff better,” Schwefel said.



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Brookfield & Elm Grove
THIS MONTH

Breach of contract claim dismissed in Corners suit

But bad faith argument brought by Marcus could go to trial

By Cara Spoto
cspoto@conley.net.com
262-513-2653

WAUKESHA — A judge has dismissed a breach of contract claim brought by the Marcus Corporation against the Town of Brookfield and The Corners, but a claim that the defendants acted in bad faith when they embarked on plans to build a movie theater at the development could continue to trial.

The Milwaukee-based Marcus filed a lawsuit in Waukesha County Circuit Court against the Town of Brookfield and Brookfield Corners LLC just over a year ago, alleging the addition of a nine-screen movie theater by competitor Silverspot Cinemas breached the terms of a developer's agreement. Marcus, owner of the Majestic Cinema that sits a mile away from Silverspot's proposed site, has a 10 percent ownership stake as a minority partner in the The Corners.

In an oral ruling delivered Wednesday afternoon, Waukesha County Circuit Judge Michael O. Bohren granted requests brought by the defendants to dismiss the breach of contract claim. He also dismissed a request by Marcus that the court rule the theater addition required its written approval.

Bad faith

But Bohren let stand, at least for now, Marcus's claim that The Corners' proposal to add the now partially completed theater, and the town's approval of that proposal, constituted a

breach of the defendants' "contractual duty of good faith and fair dealing."

In a Sept. 28 court filing, attorneys for Marcus wrote that the company had every reason to believe a theater could never be built at The Corners, mainly because the development agreement never mentioned it. But attorneys for The Corners have argued that Marcus had no reason to believe a theater could never be built on the site. They have also pointed out that Marcus never argued for a non-compete clause in the agreement.

Ruling

Bohren didn't find that the theater addition constituted a de facto modification to the developer's agreement, mainly because the agreement itself doesn't define retail space or exactly how much of it the project can have. He did find, however, that Marcus has a viable argument with regard to the "duty of good faith and fair dealing" it expected as a partner in the project.

"Marcus asserts it would not have entered into the contract knowing a theater was going to be built. The question they ask rhetorically is 'why would Marcus (help to) assure the construction of a competing enterprise?'" Bohren said Wednesday.

"The allegation in the complaint is of a quid pro quo, meaning that in Marcus' assertive guarantee of construction it had the authority to block construction and expansion of the project. Those are alle-

gations, but I am satisfied that they are sufficient to meet the state of the law with regard to the duty of good faith and fair dealing."

In a written statement issued Wednesday evening, Corners attorney John Franke wrote that the developer had "hoped that (the) matter could be fully resolved on the pleadings," but that it looks forward to prevailing on the remaining claim on a motion for summary judgment or, if necessary, at trial.

In the meantime, construction of the theater, which is slated to open in the spring, will continue, he wrote.

"While it is The Marcus Corporation's policy not to comment on pending litigation, we are pleased the judge agreed that our claims that our partners and the Town of Brookfield have not dealt with us in good faith and have not dealt with us fairly have merit," said Maggie Cook, an attorney for the Marcus Corporation, in a written statement. "We look forward to litigating this matter further."

Other elements

In other items related to the case, Bohren rejected the town's claim that it enjoys immunity under the law for acts done in legislative or judicial functions synonymous with discretionary acts.

He also denied The Corners' request to discharge a "lis pendens" in the case, saying the development of the theater does affect the interests of the Marcus Corporation.

The court is slated to meet again in the case on Feb. 6, for a scheduling conference.



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Meeting Mr. Claus

BROOKFIELD — Enthusiastic 4-year-old McCoy Moore and a not-so-enthusiastic 2-year-old Mariah Moore of Waukesha pose for a photo with Santa at Brookfield Square Mall on Dec. 18.



Mary Catanese/Special to The Freeman

German Christmas at the Inn

BROOKFIELD — The Elmbrook Historical Society sponsored German Christmas at the Inn in the Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum on Dec. 2. Barbara Vail listens as her husband Bill, a first-generation American, tells the story of approximately 20 families who, prompted by religious persecution in their homeland of Pomerania, Germany, settled in Freistadt.

Landmark Credit Union wants to move HQ to Brookfield

Plans seek 150,000-square-foot building near I-94

BROOKFIELD — Landmark Credit Union is looking to relocate its company headquarters from New Berlin to a 19.5-acre site on Executive Drive in Brookfield, although it will maintain a strong presence in New Berlin.

The plans will be discussed at Monday's Brookfield Plan Commission meeting. They call for the construction of a 150,000-square-foot to 160,000-square-foot office building at 555 S. Executive Drive that would include the company's home office, as well as training facilities. The site, which contains a building that would be torn down, also offers the possibility for future expansion, according to Friday's announcement.

"This new headquarters is a direct reflection of our great Landmark Credit Union team and our wonderful growing membership base," said Jay Magulski, president and chief

executive officer, in a statement. "For 85 years we have consistently helped our members meet their everyday financial needs and achieve their long-term financial goals. As we look to the future, we know we need a home for our dedicated associates that can grow with us."

Landmark Credit Union is working with Eppstein Uhen Architects to explore possible designs for the site that maximize the location's potential, which can be seen from the Interstate 94 corridor.

"We look forward to working with Landmark Credit Union on this project and ultimately to welcoming them to the city of Brookfield," said Mayor Steven Ponto in a statement. "Landmark's commitment not only to serving their members, but to creating strong, healthy communities makes them a neighbor Brookfield can be proud to have as part of

our city."

According to the announcement, the development of the new facility would focus on providing a modern workplace that promotes collaboration and would be expandable to meet the credit union's future needs.

The initial plans for the new headquarters anticipated more than 300 employees will relocate to it from the existing administrative office location in the Westridge Business Park in New Berlin and other local facilities.

Landmark will also continue to maintain a strong presence in the New Berlin community from its three-story, 35,000-square-foot office building near the corner of South Moorland Road and West Cleveland Avenue. This location includes a full-service branch with multiple drive-up lanes, Landmark's Business Lending team, Landmark Investment Center team members, and a full complement of mortgage professionals who can assist members with all their mortgage needs.

Laacke & Joys closing after 170 years in business

BROOKFIELD — After more than 170 years of selling goods, Laacke & Joys will close its doors.

The outdoor outfitter announced its pending store closure at 19233 W. Bluemound Road in November.

"Our store is closing and we are in our final weeks of selling. We have kayaks, outdoor patio furniture,

clothing, footwear, skis and snowboards!" reads a Facebook post on Dec. 20. "All product is marked down to rock bottom clearance prices with an additional discount taken on top of that! We would love to see you one last time! Thank you from the team at Laacke & Joys for supporting our store for all these years. We will miss you all."

A call placed to the store Wednesday afternoon for further comment about the decision to close was not returned before deadline.

"Laacke & Joys is thankful for the opportunity to serve the surrounding communities for more than 170 years!" reads another Facebook post.

Gift cards expired Dec. 31.



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Finding a second chance in the pages of a book

Bridges Library System donates reading materials to jails, centers

By Jill Fuller

Each July and December, hundreds of new textbooks, novels, movies, and more are sorted and packed into cardboard boxes. No, this isn't Santa's workshop. The books and materials are donations from the Bridges Library System for use at the Waukesha County Jail. While stacks of Harry Potter books, dictionaries, and nature documentaries might seem pretty ordinary, these materials change lives through an adult education partnership between the library system, the jail, and the Waukesha County Tech-

nical College.

According to the Department of Justice, "The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure." Through WCTC's literacy education programs at the jail, inmates have the opportunity to attend classes where they build "vocabulary, knowledge, and a greater appreciation for the world of books," said Susan Taylor, adult basic education instructor with WCTC. She continues, "Increasing literacy has the potential to increase employment, aspirations, physical and men-

tal health, and thereby aid in the crime prevention strategy.” It also reduces recidivism, which is the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend. A 2009 study from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice found that “correctional education improves the chances that inmates who are released from prison will not return.”

WCTC has offered classes for nearly 30 years with the support of the county jail, and for more than five years, the Bridges Library System has donated books and other learning materials for use in the classroom and in the jail's housing units. Both WCTC instructors and inmates put in requests for specific materials, including the "Lord of the Rings" series, thesauri,

spiritual self-help books, presidential biographies, and popular novels by

each year to make this happen. "As a librarian," Meyers says, "I want the inmates to know that there is a whole world of books outside the walls of a jail."

Besides the adult education materials offered, the Bridges Library System also provides children's books for the parenting program at the jail. To keep incarcerated children and their parents connected, program participants read a children's book aloud while being recorded. The DVD and book are then sent to their child. So far, 14 women and 16 men have participated.

The partnership continues to flourish due to the popularity of the books and materials donated. "There are daily requests by students in the WCTC class-

room for books that interest them," Taylor says.

Of 84 inmates surveyed, 88 percent said they regularly use the book cart. On average, the inmates said they read about 20 hours a week.

"Because of the Bridges program, a whole new world has opened for many students," says Taylor. "Students long to fill the time served with productive activities such as reading. For many, reading may have been the furthest thing from their mind in the past." Sometimes a second chance, and hope of a better life, is right there in the pages of a book.

(Jill Fuller is the coordinator of Marketing & Communications for the Bridges Library System.)



Submitted photos

A messy Monday

BROOKFIELD — Swanson Elementary School second-grade students doused Principal Kori Hartman in chocolate sauce Dec. 3. Students had a messy but fun time as part of an all-school reward stemming from a Fun Run the school hosted this fall. Students from each grade level covered her in strawberry, chocolate, and caramel sauce, as well as sprinkles, whipped cream and cherries.



Submitted photo

Ultra Scary LLC celebrates first year in business

BROOKFIELD — Ultra Scary LLC, a division of Sensible Gurus, Brookfield, recently celebrated its first anniversary with a ribbon-cutting by the Greater Brookfield Chamber of Commerce, and a reception at its newly remodeled offices.

Ultra Scary specializes in four areas: dark web monitoring, phishing engagements, non-destructive vulnerability assessments, and Canary honeypot services.

aggressive vulnerability assessments, and security monitoring services. Gjerstad Stein, president and owner of Ultra Scan, said, "Small and medium-sized businesses are the prime targets for attackers because they tend to be easier targets. They're often less secure and unprepared for attack. With more cybercrime automation and the rise of hacking kits, the cost and time it takes to launch a successful attack on a company has decreased, increasing the amount of cyber-attacks executed."

Stein continued, "We work with your tech provider to get you the protection you need. Because we don't compete with your IT staff, we have the unique ability to bring in our outside eyes and specialized tools to find vulnerabilities and recommended remediation."

From left in the front row are: Tom Hagie, Town of Brookfield administrator, Sonja Stein, Magnus Stein, Gjeret Stein, Cari Stein, Gwen Stein and Carol White, president and CEO, Greater Brookfield Chamber of Commerce.



Photo courtesy of the Greater Brookfield Chamber of Commerce

Shred415 joins chamber

BROOKFIELD — The Brookfield Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for new business Shred415 on Oct. 26. Shred415 is a new workout concept to the area located at 12910 West Bluemound Road. For more information, visit <https://shred415.com/locations/elmgrove>. In the front row, from left, are: Lori Choiniski, Gerald Nell and Brookfield Chamber board member; Carol White, Brookfield Chamber president; Domenic Poeta, Becca Poeta, Sara Goldberg and Brittany Schroeder — all from Shred415; Judi Murphy, Murphy Associates; and John Ollenberger, HRS.



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Christmas wish book: The Montgomery Ward catalog

Railroads and mail service were crucial during the population expansion in the years following the Civil War. The federal postal system would deliver catalogs at a penny a pound, including newly developed rural areas. A young Chicago businessman, Aaron Montgomery Ward, saw an opportunity and initially sent out a single-sheet catalog listing only 163 items. Most of his colleagues considered this venture to border on folly. Ward's tenacious efforts triumphed and his merchandising empire grew and lasted his lifetime and beyond. In 1930, intense competition brought a merger proposal from Sears Roebuck & Company; it was declined.

Here are excerpts from the fragile, 850-page 1914 Montgomery Ward catalog.

■ “Guaranteed safe delivery ... just give your money to the rural letter carrier”

■ Feather pillows: \$.45 for turkey, \$.20 for goose, guaranteed fresh plucked

■ Typewriter, 14 pounds, \$40 cash, or \$45 time-payment plan

■ Solid porcelain high-back kitchen sink, extra long drain-board \$15.35

■ Treadle sewing machines, 21 cabinet models, prices range from \$13 to \$22

■ Single spring, cutter sleigh, \$19, double spring \$30, also available: heater and coal

■ Cast-iron cook stoves, 42 choices, best model could burn corn cobs, \$40

■ Over 100 men's hats to choose from, Stetson's best, \$5

■ Medical and pharmacy supplies for your family and livestock

■ Church and school bells, the largest, 48-inch diameter, \$112.50 weight of 1,430 pounds.

■ How to order eye glasses: “Take your own eye exam from our catalog to order eyeglasses”: Based on the self-administered eye exam, customers could follow the direction sheet and order prescription eye glasses with a “guaranteed fit.”

A few other offerings: musical instruments, fire arms, tombstones, baby bot-



BARBARA EASH

Antiques Appraised

ties to baby chicks, blacksmith's tools, windmills and bridal veils (brides made their own dress). Large items were shipped direct freight to the nearest railroad station for pick up. Santa didn't deliver!

Postcards: “Happy New Year To You and Yours”

When postcards were introduced in late 19th century, the public was apprehensive about using them and having strangers read their personal messages. The federal postal system won the public over by charging only one penny to buy and one penny to send. The “Golden Age of American Postcards” was between 1907 and 1910, when souvenir and greeting postcards of every description were at their highest usage.

These little treasures became an early form of social media and encompassed more than a piece of mail. People couldn't bare to discard a sentimental gift of humorous greetings or images from faraway places. The practice of pasting postcards into albums makes them nearly worthless today. These examples pictured here have no paste residue, a one-cent canceled stamp and were written using a fountain pen — value of \$3-\$5 each. These cards have crisscrossed America through time and arrive today with the same greetings to you, our readers.

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



Top: A Montgomery Ward section devoted to selling eyeglasses, with a self-administered test. Above: Postcards have long been used to send holiday wishes.

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.)



This 104-year-old Montgomery Ward Catalog has a value of \$100.

Start the New Year right. Focus on protecting your sight.

By Cheryl L. Dejewski

“As each year passes, your risk for developing a sight-stealing eye condition increases,” states Mark Freedman, MD, senior partner at Eye Care Specialists, a nationally recognized ophthalmology practice with a location just minutes from Elm Grove/Brookfield on Mayfair Road.

Decreased vision is linked to an increased risk of falling, which leads to more serious concerns, including hip fractures, the need for canes, walkers and/or nursing home care, and complication-related death. Decreased vision also increases the risk of car accidents and can have a devastating effect on quality of life in terms of limiting daily tasks, independence, social interaction, overall health, etc.

Loss of Sharp Vision



Cataract surgery can restore vision and reduce the risk of falls, car accidents, and depression related to poor sight.

“Decreased vision, however, is not a fact of life as you grow older. If your eyesight is getting worse, you need to schedule a comprehensive, dilated eye exam to rule out causes,” advises Brett Rhode, MD, Head of Ophthalmology at a Milwaukee-area hospital and a partner at Eye Care Specialists. “Upon examination, we often find that cataracts (age-related clouding of the natural lens inside the eye) are the cause of the problem and,

in most cases, a 15-20 minute outpatient surgery procedure to remove and replace the cataract with a customized lens implant is a relatively easy and painless solution. Early detection and removal can prevent needless pain, suffering and cost. I can't tell you how many cataract patients say that they wish they had done it sooner.”

Loss of Central Vision



Medication injections can help stop loss of central vision to macular degeneration (AMD).

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of central vision impairment in Americans over age 50—impacting the ability to drive, read, see faces, etc.

“If dry-type AMD is diagnosed (the more common but less severe form), we usually recommend vitamin supplements, sun protection, and not smoking, to prevent or slow progression. If wet AMD is diagnosed (the less common but much more severe form), we review the risks, benefits and candidacy for injections of special medications, such as Avastin and Eylea, which inhibit the growth of the abnormal blood vessels that cause wet AMD,” explains Daniel Ferguson, MD, a leading ophthalmologist who has treated thousands of AMD patients.

“In the past, nothing could be done, but now we are seeing remarkable results with injections, including stopping the progression of wet AMD in 90 percent of patients, and having up to 30 percent

gain improvement in vision,” adds Daniel Paskowitz, MD, PhD, an ophthalmologist with credentials from Harvard and Johns Hopkins.

Loss of Side Vision



Prescription drops and laser and surgery procedures can protect against permanent “tunneled” vision loss from glaucoma.

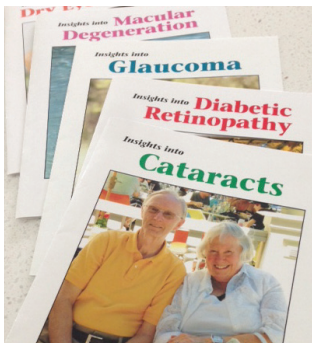
“Glaucoma is a sight-robbing eye disease (often related to increased fluid pressure in the eye) that causes progressive damage to the optic nerve, which carries visual information from the retina to the brain. Left untreated, glaucoma can cause permanent loss of side vision

and eventually all sight,” explains Michael Raciti, MD, an eye care specialist who uses OCT laser scanning technology to detect and track glaucoma. “Since glaucoma usually doesn't present symptoms until very late in its course, the earlier it's detected, the greater the chances for preventing vision loss. That's why regular comprehensive eye exams are important for everyone after age 35, especially if you are black or have a family history of glaucoma.”

Optometrist David Scheidt, OD, reports, “Glaucoma is usually treated with daily use of prescription drops to lower fluid pressure in the eye. In some cases, laser or minimally invasive outpatient surgical procedures may be an alternative. These are typically covered by Medicare and most insurances. If successful, they can reduce the burden of buying, using and tracking daily glaucoma drops.”

What to Do

Protect your vision for this year and beyond. Call 414-321-7035 for free booklets (shown below) and visit www.eyecarespecialists.net to educate yourself about common eye concerns. Then, **get out your calendar and schedule an eye appointment. Comprehensive, dilated eye exams are typically recommended every two years.** If you don't have an eye care specialist or would like a second opinion, contact one of the offices below (including across the street from Mayfair Mall) to schedule a complete exam, which is typically covered by Medicare and insurance.



WARNING SIGNS

Poor vision or changes to your sight should not be dismissed. Follow guidelines for having an eye exam every two years and schedule an appointment right away if you notice any specific concerns, including:

- Foggy, fuzzy, double or blurred vision
- Sensitivity to light and glare
- “Starbursts” around lights
- Holding items closer to view
- Needing brighter light to read
- Fading or yellowing of colors
- Difficulty judging stairs/curbs
- Difficulty with seeing to drive at night
- Vision affects daily tasks
- Vertical lines appear wavy
- Dark or blind spots in vision
- Glasses/prescription changes don't help to improve vision

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Eye Care Specialists

Are you putting your vision at risk?

Most people aren't motivated to make an eye appointment unless they notice a problem—and often not even then. What they don't realize is that many sight-threatening conditions have no warning signs. But, if you know the risks, symptoms, tests and treatment options for common eye concerns, you're more likely to take action. We can help. Call **414-321-7035** for detailed free booklets on cataracts, glaucoma, AMD, and diabetes. Then, consider: When was your last eye exam? If it was more than a year ago, call today to protect your vision for tomorrow.

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Brookfield Central girls Shootout a special event

Eighth annual tournament included 31 schools

It was back in 2010 when then Brookfield Central girls basketball coach Dan Wandrey had a vision. Wandrey had an idea that his school could host a Thanksgiving weekend holiday girls invitational for not only a bunch of local teams but also schools from the around the state.

He set his sights high. He envisioned some day to have more than 30 teams come to Central to play in a two-day event on Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. While he knew it wasn't going to be easy getting such a big event off the ground, he was confident it could be successful. Failure wasn't going to be an option.

Well, Wandrey's determination nine years ago has paid some terrific dividends. When the final games finally finished around 9:15 p.m. last Saturday, the eighth annual Brookfield Central Thanksgiving Shootout was another huge success. The 31 schools from not only Wisconsin but also from northern Illinois had played a total of 18 varsity games and 18 more junior varsity games in a span of 32 hours. Once again it was a special two days and the best run girls basketball event in the state.

The BC Shootout has turned into a classic event. Some of the best girls basketball teams, coaches and players in the state take part every year in two days of highly competitive action played before big crowds. And this year was no exception.

So, how did the Shootout come to be? Wandrey said that part was simple.

"We had been playing the same two days for a couple of years at Milwaukee Pius as they hosted an invitational for both boys and girls teams," Wandrey said, now the Central head boys basketball coach. "I got thinking that we could do the same thing at Central just for girls teams. There was nothing like it anywhere that I knew of. So in 2010 I sent out a mass email to all kinds of teams from around the state and hoped there would be some interest. Well, things came together quickly. We had our first Shootout in 2011 and a total of 14 schools took part and we played 14 varsity games in the main gym. The JV teams played in our auxiliary gym. We must have done something right because from there it just took off and kept getting bigger and better each year."

Wandrey said none of it would have happened without the full support of the administration at Central and then athletic director Todd Sobrilsky. After Wandrey resigned as the girls coach after 16 seasons, the



CHUCK DELSMAN

torch was carried on by current AD Don Kurth and present girls basketball coach Mallory Liebl.

"When we started the Shootout we needed the school's administration, Todd Sobrilsky the AD and the parents and volunteers to all be on the same page and give us the support it takes to run a big event like this," Wandrey said. "And we got that. The support we got was great. It's turned into a community and school event. I know I was proud of what we got done and I'm sure Mallory feels the same way. It's turned into the best girls basketball event in the state. I've had people tell me they enjoy our Shootout more than they do the state tournament."

Todd Hansen, the head coach and Kettle Moraine and the former longtime head coach of the Pewaukee girls team, has played in the Shootout as coach of two different teams. Hansen has nothing but praise for what Central has done with the event.

"It's just a great event, two days of outstanding girls basketball," Hansen said. "Plus, they do everything right. What makes the Shootout so unique is there are teams from around the entire state and even Illinois that come every year. It's good to play teams that you don't normally see. When I was at Pewaukee we played Oshkosh West, De Pere and Appleton Xavier to name a few. It's truly amazing the amount of volunteers they get each year to make it such a good event. It's a great two days."

This year a total of 18 varsity games were played on Friday and Saturday in two gyms and once again the competition was outstanding. Nine of those games were decided by six points or less and six of those games were won or lost by three points or less. The best game was the Saturday afternoon clash of No. 1 ranked Mukwonago and No. 2 ranked Milwaukee King. The game lived up to that top billing as King rallied back from a 52-41 deficit in the final eight minutes to edge the Indians, 59-58 with a basket in the final five seconds.

In 2015 the Shootout had its biggest event. That year a total of 26 varsity games were played in the two days, playing from morning to night.

So here's the bottom line. The Brookfield Central Thanksgiving Shootout is the best basketball event Waukesha County and the state has to offer. It's a classy event run by a bunch of classy and dedicated people.

Here's a pat on the back for a job well done at Central. And keep up the good work. We're all looking forward to next year already.

Hockey co-ops put players on move

Several players flip teams between Wings, Stars

By Dave Radcliffe
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WAUKESHA — There was once a time when cooperative teams, or co-ops, did not exist.

They are now prevalent in most high school sports, whether it be football, golf, swimming, gymnastics or hockey. Some view this as a toxic trend. But many more are aware why they're a necessity.

The final aforementioned sport has dealt with perhaps the most fluidity in terms of co-op programs and which schools belong where. That was evidenced this past off-season when the Waukesha Wings and Brookfield Stars made a trade, of sorts, with Catholic Memorial coming to the Wings and the Stars adding St. John's Northwestern Military Academy.

"There's some regionality to it of course," Wings coach Raja Aylsworth said. "Generally it's going to be schools in close proximity, but you also have to find good matches from a numbers standpoint. If there's one school that has a decent amount of skaters, you don't really need that many players added to program, and vice versa. I guess it's case by case, with some regionality involved with it."

Along with CMH, Waukesha currently consists of its three directional schools (North, West, South) and Pewaukee. For Brookfield, St. John's Northwestern joins East, Central, Brookfield Academy, Hamilton, Menomonee Falls, Wauwatosa East, Wauwatosa West and University Lake School.

Catholic Memorial used to be its own program before Pius came on board, but a few years later when the Popes didn't have any skaters, the Crusaders teamed up with Brookfield.

"I think it was more timing thing than anything where Brookfield happened to be looking for a school to co-op with," Aylsworth said. "At the time that all happened, our team wasn't necessarily looking for additional teams."

Among other Waukesha County schools, Kettle Moraine, Mukwonago and Oconomowoc form KMMO, New Berlin West and Eisenhower are conjoined with seven other high schools as part of Ice Force Hockey, and Arrowhead is a standalone program.

Before the 2016-17 season, Brookfield's co-op only consisted of the Brookfield high schools. That's when Greg Copeland took over as head coach, and along with it, on several new skaters.

"The initial number situation for the Germantown/West Bend co-op that they had, they had too many kids," Copeland said. "They had to break off a couple schools or else they were going to have four JV teams which is not productive when developing high school athletes, especially hockey where you need to play and

train with your skills. A lot of decisions and reorganizing happened before I was part of it."

Aside from a numbers standpoint, the drastic shift made sense in terms of continuity. The Elmbrook Youth Hockey Association consists of players from Menomonee Falls, Sussex, Wauwatosa, Brookfield and New Berlin.

"There were schools like Tosa East and West that weren't part of any co-op," Copeland said. "Then kids from Menomonee Falls and Sussex played their entire career together, then when they get to high school it splits off. We want to give kids the opportunity to play."

The downside of the constant game of ring-around the Rosie is that players must bid farewell to a team they previously played on, in some instances for multiple years, and adjust to a new team.

Former teammates were turned opponents when Waukesha and Brookfield squared off on Dec. 7, with senior Douglas Kirkhofer out of St. John's Northwestern now with the Stars and several members from CMH playing for the Wings.

"That's the sad part about that, because we had some players like Brendan McKnight, Riley Cassada and Kelan Short now on Waukesha," Copeland said. "You build a little bit of a relationship with players and they're good kids. With Douglas coming over, when the co-op decision was made in early April or May after the WIAA meetings, we reached out to Douglas, we started communicating with him and his family to make sure they knew what was going on. Our captains I believe included him on their team messaging just to make sure they were communicating all summer. It really provided an opportunity for them to bond a little bit because it is tough. I played hockey growing up in Canada and moved a bunch of times."

"Douglas is a rare breed of a kid. He's a good kid. He was very good at coming in and being a team player. There are a lot of qualities in Doug that you want in all your players."

Kirkhofer, a defenseman, was seventh in scoring for the state-semifinalist Wings last season, but didn't score a goal. Ironically enough, he was the one to put home the equalizer against the Wings as their game eventually resulted in a 1-1 tie.

"That was difficult to see him go away from the program," Aylsworth said. "When looking from an organizational perspective, my lens can get very biased very quickly because I have a relationship with these kids, and of course it's hard when a kid you have a lot of respect for and enjoy a lot leaves the program."

"But at the same time, when you make those types of decisions around a co-op, long term you have to make sure what's most beneficial for your program."



Russ Pulvermacher/Special to The Freeman

Brookfield Stars' Doug Kirkhofer brings the puck up ice against the Waukesha Wings on Dec. 7 in Brookfield. Kirkhofer played for the Wings last year but due to a change, his school of St. John's Northwestern switched to co-op with the Stars.

Kirkhofer said the transition wasn't easy at first, and efforts were made to keep him with the team he'd played with for the first three years of his high school career.

"My former coaches did all they could and even the WIAA thought it was an unfortunate situation, but since then I've moved on," Kirkhofer said. "There was quite an adjustment, learning how to play within the systems and learning the styles of players and what-not."

But Kirkhofer has made the best of a tough situation and settled into his new role nicely, as evidenced by his key goal against his former squad.

"I like the group of guys, the coaches have done a huge amount to make sure I felt welcome and were very understanding," Kirkhofer said. "I think overall the change is positive, not exactly what I had been planning, but not the worst situation in the world, and certainly one I hope to see become very positive as the team progresses and grows."

Two years ago, co-ops were on a two-year basis but have since become a one-year agreement, meaning organizational changes can now be made season to season.

"I'm actually more of a fan of long-term agreements with an amendment that it's all numbers-based," Copeland said. "We know we're attached to youth hockey numbers that come from Brookfield so we can gauge what our numbers will look like. Having that structure allows you to be proactive. What should we do now to make sure all those kids have the opportunity to play in high school? It gives you more flexibility to make decisions. That's the reason I'm a fan of longer term is you want to build up that team culture."

As with high school gymnastics — which is set to

undergo changes of its own in 2019 — hockey has come under scrutiny due to the perception that co-ops have an unfair competitive advantage. That being said, an argument can also be made that standalone programs have it better.

"Ideally you want to have kids in the youth program filter into the high school program," Aylsworth said. "Arrowhead is the best example. Kids skate together all the way up and then you have the high school program, so coaches from Arrowhead have an advantage as far as watching those kids develop and have more influence I guess with their progression coming out. With Waukesha, it's a little bit different with the factors involved."

The Wings have still handled it well, reaching state each of the past three years. But that task could be made more difficult based on the WIAA approving a two-year experiment that will sponsor two divisions for the state tournament beginning in the 2019-20 season. Four teams will represent each division at state, with the smallest 32 teams being slotted in D2.

Regardless of how the post-season experiment works out, or any other reshuffling that takes place, what's important above all else is that youths who want to play hockey have an opportunity to do just that.

"In my mind what has happened in Brookfield, the families that moved in, they had children, now we're waiting for the rotation of homesales to come in and replenish numbers," Copeland said. "I think in the future, schools will be able to do what they did 25 years ago. The flip side of the coin is what do you do when you don't have enough numbers? You could go to a private school but you don't want to have to make a financial choice just to play a sport. Co-ops have given kids the opportunity to play the sport."

PREP FOOTBALL

Kennedy steps down at Brookfield Central

Football coach to become DC at Alabama HS

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BROOKFIELD — Jed Kennedy informed administration and his team that he is stepping down as head football coach at Brookfield Central on Dec. 10 after five seasons.

Kennedy, who is also resigning as a physical education teacher at the school, accepted the position as assistant head coach and defensive coordinator at Enterprise High School in Alabama, which he will assume on Jan. 3.

"It's never easy telling the players or assistant coaches that you've taken another position, but ultimately it was too good of a situation to pass up," Kennedy said in a press release. "Even though you leave jobs and communities, you don't leave people. I'm thankful for the lifelong friendships I have developed with players, parents, assistant coaches and members of the Brookfield community."

"I would like to thank (district administrator Dr. Mark Hansen), Principal (Brett Gruetzmacher) and my AD Don Kurth for not only their support in this situation, but their unwavering support of the football program at BC."

Kennedy led the Lancers to their most successful stint in program history, including most recently back-to-back appearances in the WIAA Division 2 state championship game. He compiled a 49-12 record and led BC to three Greater Metro Conference titles, while making the playoffs in each of his five seasons as head coach.

"We will miss coach Kennedy and the dedication, leadership and passion he displayed for all of our students at Brookfield Central," Kurth said. "He worked tirelessly to build a culture of success here, and I appreciate everything he has done for us. I wish him nothing but success on this next challenge."

Kennedy was brought on board at BC by current Waukesha South athletic



Freeman file photo

Brookfield Central coach Jed Kennedy talks to a player during the WIAA Division 2 state title game against Waunakee in 2017. Kennedy resigned as the Lancers' football coach Dec. 10.

director Todd Sobrilsky. He had spent the previous season as the head football coach at Edgewater High School in Florida.

Kennedy will head south again to Enterprise, who recently hired Rick Darlington to lead the football pro-

gram. Darlington was previously the head coach at Apopka (Fla.), where he won three state championships at one of the most highly regarded programs in the country.

"Ultimately, the job at Enterprise was too good of a situation for my family to

pass up," Kennedy said. "It's a great place to live, has a top-notch school system, gives my wife a chance to chase her professional goals and lastly gives me the chance to follow my dreams in the coaching profession."

In his 14 years as a head

coach, Kennedy has a 115-47 record. He most notably led Kenosha Bradford to a state title in 2011, when he was named WIFCA/Green Bay Packer and Associated Press State Coach of the Year.

"I am grateful for Jed's work over the past five years," Gruetzmacher said. "In addition to elevating our football program and increasing all athletes' access to the strength and conditioning program, we will greatly miss Jed's ability to connect with our students. I wish him and his family great success in their next chapter in life."

Kennedy said he hadn't looked into any other opportunities since taking over at Brookfield Central, but was enticed when Darlington reached out to him with this opportunity.

"In my opinion, coach Darlington is one of the best head coaches in the country, and I was excited that our philosophy, goals and visions couldn't be more similar. I am humbled and honored to offered this position from him."

"Brookfield Central is a great place that has tremendous support and awesome kids. It's truly one of the best jobs in the state and things are in place to build on the recent run of success."