

Lake Country

THIS MONTH

Chenequa • Delafield • Hartland • Merton • Nashotah • Okauchee • Pewaukee

Lake Country high school skiers at The Birkie

Pewaukee coach prepares Peak Nordic team

By Kelly Smith
Special to The Freeman

PEWAUKEE — Mary Eloranta of Pewaukee has abided by the same philosophy in nearly 20 years of coaching hundreds of Lake Country and Waukesha County high school cross country skiers who compete on the Peak Nordic team.

“We do not cut anyone. We are in the business of helping to create outstanding young men and women. If we can teach them to ski faster, that is a bonus,” Eloranta explained.

Nearly three dozen skiers from 11 Lake Country and Waukesha County high schools are among the 150 youngsters and families who are members of the club.

Peak Nordic offers competitive training and racing programs for high school and middle school athletes and beginning programs for skiers in kindergarten through sixth grade.

The high schools include Arrowhead, Brookfield East and Central, Catholic Memorial, Hamilton, Kettle Moraine, Mukwonago, Oconomowoc, University Lake School, Waukesha South and West.

The high school boys team finished third in the state championship in 2018.

Peak Nordic skiers won five of the top 10 positions in the boys and girls events and had 13 athletes among the top 20 boys and girls in the competition.

The middle school boys team won their state championship.

Eloranta attributes the success to “great kids, great

parents, great assistant coaches and great community support.”

“Our coaches place the priority on creating lifelong skiers and instilling a love of the sport,” she added.

More than competing

“She knows how to make sure everyone is having fun,” said Thomas Stuber, an Arrowhead High School counselor and former student of Eloranta.

“She makes every skier feel they are making a contribution to the team regardless of their ability,” added Stuber, an elite amateur skier who lives in the Town of Genesee.

“During the season from November to March, it is a full-time job for her. She is at every practice (four times a week) and is traveling almost every weekend,” he concluded.

Yet, she is a volunteer.

The not-for-profit organization started as a high school ski club in the late 1990s by Lynda Stuber whose three children were attending Waukesha West High School.

In 2000 she enlisted Eloranta to coach and in 2008 they decided to create a regional club.

“There were a lot of skiers and parents from outside Waukesha West wanting to join the club, but we could only accept students who attended West, so we decided to separate,” Eloranta said.

Longtime friendships have developed among skiers and families over the years in the tightly knit community.

Thomas Stuber, one of Linda Stuber’s children, is



Submitted photo

The Peak Nordic ski team was successful at least year’s Wisconsin High School Nordic Ski League State Championship. The middle school team won its division and the high school boys team finished third.

an assistant coach.

Eloranta was encouraged to enter competitive skiing by a close friend, Ann Riendl who now chairs a committee of The Friends of Lapham Peak that helps raise money for snow making on the ski trails of the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Peak Nordic skiers have a competitive advantage because they practice on a snow-covered trail regardless of sometimes unseasonably warm temperatures.

Practice sessions begin late in the afternoon and extend into the chilly, evening darkness with skiers honing their skills on a 1.3 mile-loop at Lapham Peak affectionately dubbed “the hamster wheel.”

Practice makes perfect

The skiers say they sometimes feel like hamsters.

“It can get kind of boring. We are always turning left, and it is just one big loop,”



Submitted photo

Peak Nordic girls team members Isabel Seay, Jana Straka, Avery Tolbert and Shelby Suhr at a ski competition earlier this year.

explained Kaylee Beyer, a Mukwonago High School senior.

Eloranta and her six assistant coaches are preparing the team for a grueling series of weekend competitive events in northern Wisconsin and the Michigan Upper Peninsula.

The culmination of the regular season comes with the state championship on

the Telemark trails in Cable during the second weekend in February.

Two weeks later, about two dozen of the skiers will return to Cable-Hayward region to compete in the events of the 45th Annual Slumberland American Birkebeiner.

“The Birkie” is a cross

See BIRKIE, PAGE 2A

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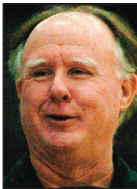
Merton FD gets drone of its own

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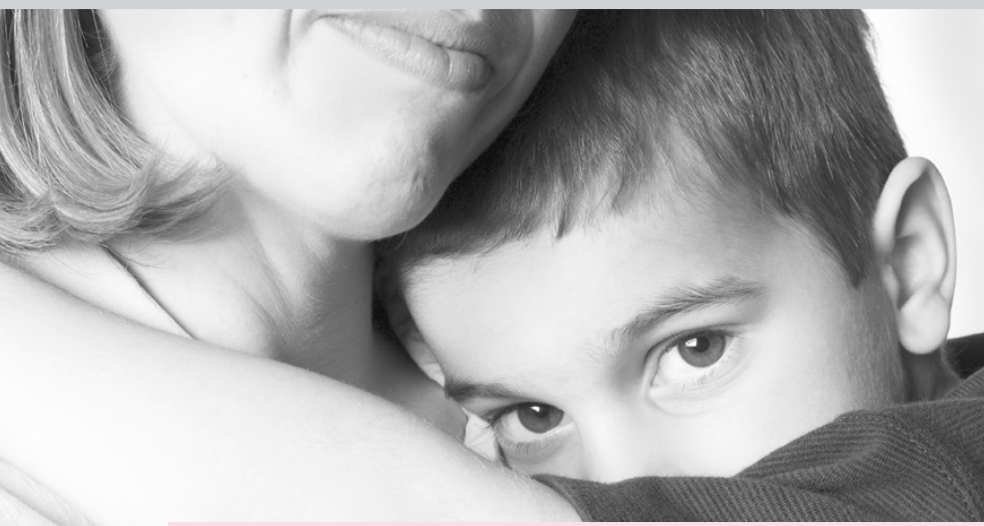
Several area communities among state’s wealthiest

Page 1B

Ex-PHS coach Reuter enjoys view from stands



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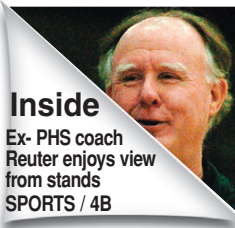
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Waukesha, Ozaukee Co. communities top state’s wealthiest

By Kelly Smith
Special to The Freeman

MERTON — U.S. Census data released recently indicates that several of the state’s wealthiest communities are in Waukesha and Ozaukee counties.

The top spots for both highest household income and home value was Chenequa at \$294,231 and \$881,000, respectively.

Merton officials recently discussed their village’s rank of No. 8 for household income (\$173,145) and No. 7 for home value (\$443,700) during a municipal meeting.

Those figures came as no surprise to Village President Ron Reinowski. “I am not surprised because of the residential growth we experienced in the early 2000s,” Reinowski said.

A small (three square miles), iconic Wisconsin village with schools, churches and taverns on its Main Street, Merton’s population has tripled in the past 20 years from about 1,200 in the late 1990s to more than 3,600 today.

The growth has occurred mostly in high-end residential developments that surround downtown commercial and residential neighborhoods, said Village Administrator Tom Nelson.

“We have worked hard to make the village an attractive place to live so we can maintain those property values,” Village Trustee Mark Baral said.

The U.S. Census data is contained in a report issued by the American Community Survey that was distributed to Village Board members by Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Julie Ofori-Mattmuller.

Highest average home value

The village is one of five Lake Country communities ranking among the top 10 communities in the state with the highest average home value.

They include Chenequa, which is ranked highest in the state with an average home value of \$881,000.

Lac La Belle is second highest with \$861,100 and Oconomowoc Lake is third with \$855,000.

Unincorporated Okauchee is 10th with an average home value of \$387,000.

Other Lake Country communities include Summit with an average of \$377,300, which ranks 12th; Nashotah with \$374,700, which ranks 14th; and Delafield ranking 18th with an average home value of \$353,000.

There is more than a \$500,000 difference between the value of an average home in



Freeman file photo

Downtown businesses along Genesee Street in Delafield.

Chenequa and the value of an average home in North Bay, which ranks 20th with an average home value of \$338,100.

Elm Grove is No. 17 at \$354,600. Waukesha came in at No. 118 with \$199,100. Pewaukee is No. 104 with \$210,400. Muskego is 34th with \$283,700.

Highest household income

Of the 10 communities in the state with the highest household income, four of them are in Lake Country.

Chenequa is No. 1 with an average household income of \$294,231. Oconomowoc Lake is fourth with \$241,525.

Lac La Belle ranks fifth with an average household income of \$206,587 and Merton is eighth with \$173,145. Rounding out the top 10 is Elm Grove at \$167,217.

Other Lake Country communities in the top 20 communities with the highest household income include the Town of Delafield, ranked 12th with \$159,774; and the Town of Merton, ranked 19th with \$139,439.

There is more than a \$350,000 difference in average household income between Chenequa and Brookfield, which ranked

20th with \$138,929.

The average household income in the state is about \$59,305 and the median home value is about \$174,600, according to U.S. Census data.

The Town of Waukesha is No. 61 at \$114,815. Wales is 34th at \$126,418. Delafield is 38th at \$123,651.

Surrounding counties

In Ozaukee County, only two communities broke the top 20 for average household income. Mequon is No. 9 at \$172,120. The Town of Cedarburg came in at No. 15 with an average of \$147,884.

As for home value, Ozaukee County had just one name make the list in the top 20 — Mequon is No. 9 again at \$388,100. Cedarburg ranked No. 31 with an average house value of \$289,900.

No Washington County community made the top 20 list for average home value or average household income.

For the average household income, the first community shows up at No. 36. Richfield’s average is \$125,009. The Town of Erin is No. 51 at \$117,984.

Washington County’s first community on the average home value list is German-town. The village is No. 31 at \$255,700.

Among top 20 household incomes

1. Chenequa, Waukesha County, \$294,231
2. River Hills, Milwaukee County, \$272,166
3. Maple Bluff, Dane County, \$242,115
4. Oconomowoc Lake, Waukesha County, \$241,525
5. Middleton, Dane County, \$224,289
6. Lac La Belle, Waukesha County, \$206,587
7. Shorewood Hills, Dane County, \$193,992
8. Merton, Waukesha County, \$173,145
9. Mequon, Ozaukee County, \$172,120
10. Elm Grove, Waukesha County, \$167,217
11. Troy, St. Croix County, \$160,322
12. Town of Delafield, Waukesha County, \$159,774
13. Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee County, \$154,742
14. Fox Point, Milwaukee County, \$154,357
15. Town of Cedarburg, Ozaukee County, \$147,884
16. Cross Plains, Dane County, \$144,961
17. Wind Point, Racine County, \$144,070
18. McMillan, Marathon County, \$142,449
19. Town of Merton, Waukesha County, \$139,439
20. Brookfield, Waukesha County, \$138,929

Among top 20 home values

1. Chenequa, Waukesha County, \$881,000
2. Lac La Belle, Waukesha County, \$861,100
3. Oconomowoc Lake, Waukesha County, \$855,000
4. Shorewood Hills, Dane County, \$643,700
5. River Hills, Milwaukee County, \$629,100
6. Maple Bluff, Dane County, \$493,000
7. Merton, Waukesha County, \$443,700
8. Chain O’ Lakes CDP, Waupaca County, \$417,500
9. Mequon, Ozaukee County, \$388,100
10. Okauchee Lake CDP, Waukesha County, \$387,000
11. Ephraim Village, Door County, \$378,100
12. Summit, Waukesha County, \$377,300
13. Bayside, Milwaukee County, \$375,100
14. Nashotah, Waukesha County, \$374,700
15. Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee County, \$374,600
16. Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, Walworth County, \$359,300
17. Elm Grove, Waukesha County, \$354,600
18. Delafield, Waukesha County, \$353,000
19. Shorewood, Milwaukee County, \$344,100
20. North Bay, Racine County, \$388,100

Source: U.S. Census



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Merton fire department obtains drone

By Kelly Smith
Special to The Freeman

MERTON — The Village Board has approved temporarily taking over the operations of a drone purchased by the Merton Community Fire Department.

The recently consolidated fire department was created by combining the North Lake Fire Department and the Merton Village Fire Department.

Village Administrator/Clerk Tom Nelson explained to the Village Board that in order to operate the drone, the fire department would have to acquire a license from the federal government.

Nelson said Fire Chief Josh Paral has learned that it would be easier for the village to obtain the permit than the fire department, which is a private, not-for-profit corporation.

It is more difficult for private corporations to obtain the license than governmental bodies, according to Nelson.

The board unanimously accepted Nelson's recommendation that the village lease the drone from the fire department, acquire the permit to license the drone, and then lease it back to the fire department.

Nelson also provided the village trustees during the Dec. 20 meeting with a report on the proposed residential development on 135 acres of land owned by the four grandsons of Albin "Stoney" Halquist, the founder of Halquist Stone Company.

The acreage is located along Highway KE (Winkelman Road) and Ainsworth Road on the village's eastern and southern



Kelly Smith/Special to The Freeman

Merton Community Fire Department Chief Josh Paral points out the thermal imaging camera mounted to the \$13,000 drone recently purchased by the fire department. The drone, paid for by private donations, will have "multiple uses" for the department including assisting in search and rescue and firefighting operations, according to the chief.

boundary with the Town of Lisbon.

The land will be annexed into the village in accordance with a border agreement between the town and village.

Albin "Chip" Halquist presented conceptual plans for 68 lots ranging from one to three acres during an October Plan Commission meeting.

Nelson told the trustees he

anticipates Halquist will be presenting more detailed site plans to the Plan Commission within two or three months.

Village President Ron Reinowski told the trustees that he has discussed with Lisbon Town Chairman Joe Osterman the potential impact the development will have on the region.

The development site is located near the boundaries of the vil-

lages of Hartland and Merton as well as the Town of Lisbon.

There is another large residential development proposed in Hartland north and west of the Halquist development.

Lisbon and Merton officials have expressed concern about the impact the new developments will have on traffic and vehicle safety on Ainsworth and Winkelman roads.

Birkie

From Page 1A

country ski race of about 34 miles that twists, turns, and weaves through the Chequamegon National Forest along U.S. Highway 63 between Cable and Hayward.

The only North American event on the professional WorldLoppet international tour of 20 cross country races in Europe and Asia, it is considered one of the most challenging courses on the circuit.

However, it is not a Peak Nordic sanctioned event and not included on the team's regular schedule.

Yet, Peak Nordic skiers and parents make the six-hour drive to Cable for four days of skiing and camaraderie.

Often two or three families will share a summer rental home or vacation cabin with kids and sky equipment "stacked in the rooms like cord wood," Eloranta said.

They are among the 25,000 to 30,000 spectators and participants who consume nearly every motel room, resort, rental cabin and lodge within a half hour's drive of Hayward, a Sawyer County city of about 2,300 settled by a lumber baron in the 1870s.

Eloranta, 64, has com-

peted in 24 Birkies.

During the mid- and late-1990s, she was considered an elite skier who often finished in top three in her age group.

"They call it Birkie Fever. It is a disease. It must be something to make you want to come 24 consecutive years. It is more than just a race, it is an event," she explained.

However, The Birkie is restricted to skiers 18 years and older, consequently most of the Peak Nordic skiers will compete, along with an estimated 3,000 other skiers, in the Kortelopet race, or "The Kortie."

It is 29 kilometers that

covers the southern half of The Birkie course, beginning at the Highway 00 trailhead nearly Seeley and finishing in downtown Hayward.

Local competitors

About 100 skiers from Lake Country and Waukesha and Washington counties participated in The Kortie in 2018.

Noah Straka of Wales won his 13- to 14-year-old age class.

Joan Mitchell of Delafield was second in her 70- to 74-year-old age class.

Robb Johnson of West Bend was third in his 50- to 54-year-old age class.



Hacker

Drake Hacker of the Town of Lisbon finished second in his 15- to 16-year-old age class.

In 2020, he will be old enough to compete in the Birkie.

"It is a rite of passage. My dad has done it for years," he explained.

"It is amazing that here in Wisconsin is an international skiing event that gives you an opportunity to compete with skiers from around the world. It is pretty insane," he added.

Two county schools earn a place on AP Honor Roll

WAUKESHA — Two Waukesha County school districts have been recognized for their achievement in expanding access for students to take Advanced Placement testing while making sure those students earn passing grades on their exams.

Both the Pewaukee and Hamilton school districts have been placed on the AP Honor Roll; both have received the recognition multiple years in a row.

The recognition goes to school districts that have simultaneously increased access to Advanced Placement courses for a broader number of students and also maintained or improved the rate at which their AP students earned scores of 3 or higher on an AP Exam.

Hamilton High School Principal Candis Mongan credited staff members and students for the school's success.

"This recognition demon-

strates that students continue to maintain or improve in areas that are essential for their success after high school," Mongan said. In the Pewaukee School District, Superintendent Mike Cady applauded the students' dedication to taking rigorous coursework.

"We are extremely proud of our efforts and commitment to consistently increase student participation in the Advanced Placement Program," he said.

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Brookfield & Elm Grove THIS MONTH

Lake Country THIS MONTH

The art of gathering

Local women connect through their passion for art

By Rebecca Seymour
Special to The Freeman

OCONOMOWOC — For more than a year, a group of women artists have been gathering together weekly to share their passions for living and loving art.

Abigail Engstrand, Terri Field, Anne Raskopf, and Jamie Stevens of Oconomowoc are often joined by Laura Bennett of Shorewood and Maggie Herbst of Milwaukee as they collaborate on projects, brainstorm through ideas and support and celebrate each other through a special bond that has grown deeper than they first imagined it would.

They refer to their intimate art connection as “A.L.L. in A.W.E.” — Artists Love Life in Art Women Excel.

“We discovered this common desire as small town artists to get together around our art,” explained Engstrand. “We need to make time to encourage each other as we explore and share our artistic experi-

ences.”

Sharing their immeasurable passion for art with those around them is not a new concept for this group of gifted women. Their stories of time and talents donated make up a rich tapestry woven for the community they live in.

Their artistic endeavors can be found in and around Oconomowoc’s galleries, schools, the library, outdoor gathering places like the Imagination Station playground, City Beach, Oconomowoc Festival of the Arts and throughout the Lake Country area.

They’ve also inspired young students as artists-in-residence and through the annual Imagine a Day Foundation event at Lapham Peak State Park.

“It’s important for us to give back to our community, but we also need to be able to support ourselves as artists. This group works through those struggles as we all seek a balance with our art and our personal lives. We really feed off of each other’s excitement,” Raskopf

said.

Currently the group is in search of an accessible space where they can gather to create collectively, as well and inspire others.

“It’s easy to forget yourself as an artist. Getting together gets us thinking differently and out of our comfort zone,” Field said.

Art exhibit

The group of six artists joined their artistic talents in a free art exhibit titled “All Kinds of People,” which will be featured in the Oconomowoc Arts Center’s lobby art gallery through Feb. 2.

More than 80 original works of art are included in this multi-faceted exhibit, which explores the relationships of people as they connect through family, work, and in their communities. According to their artist statement, “viewers will see our thoughts and emotions in faces of cultures, familiar and strange, that reveal our individual humanity and our busy lives.”

“This show has provided



Rebecca Seymour/Special to The Freeman

A group of six artists joined their artistic talents in a free art exhibit titled “All Kinds of People,” featured in the Oconomowoc Arts Center’s lobby art gallery through Feb. 2. The women gather every week to collaborate on projects, brainstorm through ideas, and support and celebrate each other. Pictured from left are Oconomowoc artists Jamie Stevens, Abigail Engstrand, Anne Raskopf, and Terri Fields.

an opportunity for me to try new techniques and ideas and ways of exploring my art. I’ve learned so much and I want to keep going,” Field said.

Through the use of acrylics, watercolors, line drawings and smudges of charcoal, felt, intricately mastered twigs and other materials, the pieces are as eclectic and imaginative as the stories behind the artists and the people they illuminate through their work.

“I adore trees and when I go out in nature I can feel the life. Everything I’ve ever done is coming out in my art

right now — working with jewelry, illustrating, painting — it’s two and three dimensions together,” Stevens said of her Twig-gans wooden sculptures.

For more information, call the OAC box office at 262-560-3172 or visit it at www.theoac.net.

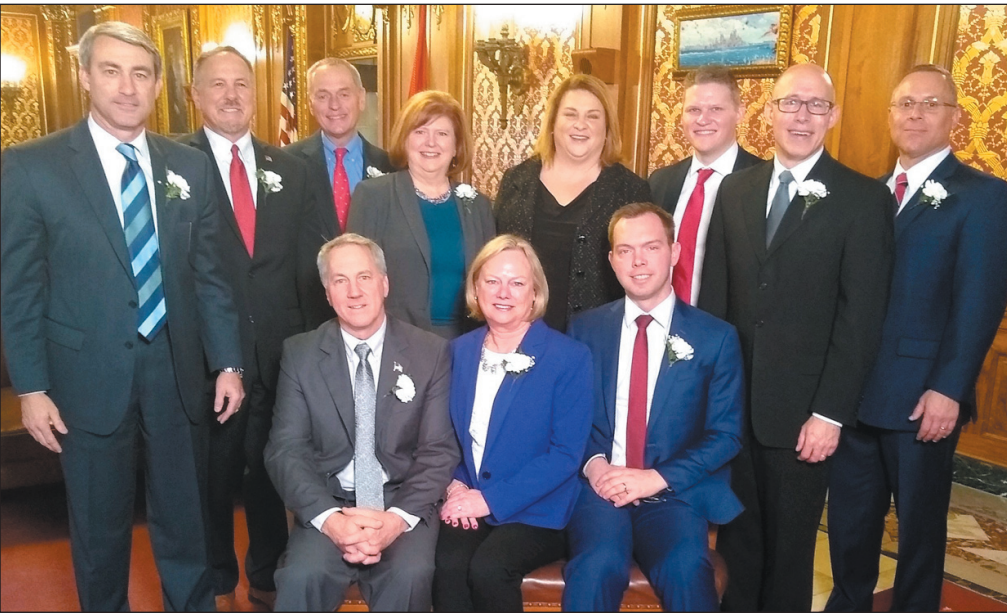


Photo courtesy of Scott Allen

Waukesha-area legislators inaugurated

MADISON — These Waukesha-area legislators were inaugurated into the Wisconsin Assembly at the Capitol in Madison on Jan. 7. Back row, left to right: State Reps. Rob Hutton, R-Brookfield; Mike Kuglitsch, R-New Berlin; Joe Sanfelippo, R-New Berlin; Barbara Dittrich, R-Oconomowoc; Janel Brandtjen, R-Menomonee Falls; Cody Horlacher, R-Mukwonago; Scott Allen, R-Waukesha; and Chuck Wichgers, R-Muskego. Front row, left to right: Reps. Dan Knodl, R-Germantown; Cindi Duchow, R-Town of Delafield; and Adam Neylon, R-Pewaukee.

CITY OF PEWAUKEE

Former American TV warehouses sold for \$14.3M

By Brandon Anderegg
banderegg@conleynet.com
262-513-2657

CITY OF PEWAUKEE — A real estate investment trust out of Boston purchased a parcel of land in the city with two warehouse buildings on the property for \$14.3 million, according to state records.

Boston-based Stag Industrial Management LLC purchased the 24 acres of land at W227-N2837 and W228-N2801 Duplainville Road. State records indicate the company made the acquisition through a subsidiary.

The land is assessed at \$12.7 million with an estimated fair market value of

\$14.1 million, according to Waukesha County property records.

The two warehouses are approximately 288,000 square feet — both were previously occupied by American TV & Appliance before the company closed several locations across the state in February 2014. Quad/Graphics Inc. occupies the 100,000 square foot building while Zero Zone Inc., headquarters in North Prairie, is leasing the approximately 188,000-square foot building.

The more iconic City of Pewaukee American TV & Appliance buildings at W229-N1400 Westwood Drive were converted into Point Burger Bar, Veloce

Indoor Speedway, SABR Laser Tag Pizzeria & Pub and Sky Zone Trampoline Park.

According to its website, Stag Industrial Management acquires and operates single-tenant industrial properties throughout the U.S. As of Sept. 30, the company is valued at \$4.5 billion, owning 381 buildings in 37 states. A company representative did not respond to a request for comment.

Stag Industrial Management purchased the property from Westmoreland Co. Inc., a Huntsville, Alabama-based company. A company representative did not respond to a request for comment.

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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, \$2.20 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, firearms, 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.

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Hope Church donates \$60K to community organizations

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

OCONOMOWOC — Hope Church in Oconomowoc donated \$60,000 to four area organizations for its fifth annual Christmas offering.

The community organizations that received donations include Lake Country Free Clinic, Oconomowoc Food Pantry, Lighthouse Youth Center and Family Promise of Waukesha County, according to a press release.

“It’s really through the amazing generosity of the families in Lake Country who call Hope their church that we’re able to financially support these organizations in such a big way,” said the Rev. Jason Ewart, pastor at Hope Church. “God calls us to be generous with those in need, and our

church is a church that cares about all people — not just those within our walls.”

Hope Church has given away more than \$176,000 to Lake Country charities and nonprofit organizations that address issues such as homelessness, health care, hunger and education.

According to a press release, this year’s Christmas offering was part of the 2nd Stage initiative at Hope Church, which was officially kicked off this month with the primary goals of helping the church elevate its ministry, mission and impact in Lake Country and beyond.

Megan Welsh of Lake Area Free Clinic praised the church and its members for their generous contributions in a press release.

“Your members will be remembered by their kind acts by people who they

have met, and people who they will never meet,” Welsh said. “You have allowed us to keep doing what we already know is working, allowing us to continue to provide the services for this underserved population.”

Ewart added that Hope’s mission has always been to engage those in the community who have given up on the church.

“Through the Christmas Offering, and now our 2nd Stage initiative, we will take a step forward in our faith, both as individuals and as a church, and in doing so, impact our community for generations to come,” Ewart said.

Members of Hope Church meet at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sundays inside Silver Lake Intermediate School, 555 Oconomowoc Parkway in Oconomowoc.



Submitted photo

Schoolhouse Players plan for a new season

HARTLAND — Schoolhouse Players of Waukesha County gathered Dec. 4 for their annual Christmas luncheon hosted by Judi Bell and Andy Gratke. Current members, supporters and sustainers attended and shared the holiday spirit.

During the luncheon, members socialized and conversed about previous plays and looked forward to the 2019 performance of “The Great Alphabet Adventure” by Julia Flood. This play is a fresh energetic adventure into the fantasy of stories and discovery that is unlocked through reading and learning.

“The Great Alphabet Adventure” will be presented to early elementary students in and around Waukesha County. The public and home schooled children are invited to a free Community Performance at Lake Country Elementary School in Hartland at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10.

SHP, a nonprofit theater group, welcomes new members at any time. Volunteer opportunities exist in costuming, scenery design, scenery construction, performing and crewing. Schoolhouse Players meetings are held the first Tuesday morning every month September through December and March through May. Learn more about SHP, by visiting Schoolhouse Players on Facebook; contacting Membership Chairperson Deb Nollen at 262-369-5340 or e-mail SHP at schoolhouseplayers@yahoo.com.

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—Jo Peterson - Oconomowoc

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symptoms associated with Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson’s Disease, strokes, insomnia, and slow-healing wounds.

How does it work? Simply put, the cells of your body are much like your car’s battery. Over time the cells in your body lose their electrical charge, due to age, sickness, and trauma. PEMF therapy recharges your cells, much like re-charging or jumping your car battery. Re-charging your cells helps to bring oxygen and nutrients into the cells, and pumps waste and toxins out of the cells. This will allow the body to heal faster and more efficiently. When your body is healthy, you sleep better, experience more energy, and are less likely to experience pain and inflammation. PEMFs deliver beneficial, health-enhancing electromagnetic fields and frequencies to the cells which promotes the healing process in damaged and painful tissue.

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

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Photo courtesy of Hartland Chamber of Commerce

Waukesha Physical Therapy Clinics joins chamber

HARTLAND — The Hartland Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed Waukesha Physical Therapy Clinics as a new member.

Ambassador Deb Nollen of Area Welcome and a Mary Kay beauty consultant, left, presents Gabriele Langan of Waukesha Physical Therapy Clinics, center, with a membership plaque from the chamber. They are joined by chamber board member and ambassador Matt Gaulke of Great Midwest Bank.

Waukesha Physical Therapy Clinic is an outpatient physical therapy clinic which has been in business over 30 years and is located at 600 Hartbrook Drive, Suite 111, in Hartland. Services include spinal treatment, custom orthotics, sports recovery programs, TMJ, post-surgical rehab and vestibular treatment. They accept all insurances.



Photo courtesy of the Delafield Chamber of Commerce

Bark River CrossFit joins chamber

DELAFIELD — Bark River CrossFit recently became a member of the Delafield Chamber of Commerce. The almost 5,000-square-foot gym has easy access to area running paths, weightlifting equipment from Rogue Fitness and programming for all ages and fitness levels. From left are: Erin McDonald of The Delafield Hotel; Bark River CrossFit’s Katrina Hasanoglu; Sylvia Laughrin; Danielle Melotte; and General Manager Abby Jung; Manley Haines of Home-Service Lending; Dr. Brandon Meyers of Lake Country Health Center; Ryan Woods of Corkill Insurance Agency, Inc.; Megan Braatz of Delafield Chamber of Commerce; and Cameron McFarland of MSI General.

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Halquist sells Lisbon quarry to Lannon Stone

Purchase will help Lannon serve larger projects

By Kelly Smith
Special to The Freeman

TOWN OF LISBON — Lannon Stone Incorporated has purchased from Halquist Stone Company the approximately 300-acre Lisbon limestone quarry at the intersection of Highway K (Lisbon Road) and Highway F on the Lisbon-Sussex border. Although it was Halquist's largest local quarry, it represented only about 10 percent of the company's overall operations, said Vice President Tom Halquist. Halquist emphasized the family-owned company will continue to offer a variety of landscape stones, pavers, cut stones, granite and marble and will continue to own and operate the company office and store located near the quarry on Lisbon Road.

Representatives of the stone companies declined to reveal the price of the acquisition. Hans Dawson, president of Lannon Stone, said the acquisition provides his company with an opportunity to continue expanding its resources to better serve large construction projects. Dawson said the approximately 20 former Halquist employees affected by the transaction will be offered an opportunity to work for Lannon Stone. In 2013, Lannon Stone purchased the 400-acre Vulcan Quarry in Sussex, immediately east of the Lisbon quarry. Lannon Stone produces about 4 to 6 million tons of limestone and gravel annually, most of it in the Lisbon, Lannon and Sussex communities, Dawson said.



Hartland chamber presents Golden Hammer Award

HARTLAND — JD McCormick Development & Property Management of Madison was recently presented with the Golden Hammer Award by the Hartland Chamber of Commerce in recognition of exemplary property improvements. JD McCormick, founded in 2007, develops, builds, and manages apartment and commercial buildings throughout Wisconsin. They recently developed Hartland Riverwalk, a 70-plus unit residential facility and commercial store front complex in downtown Hartland. The intent of the Golden Hammer Award is to further encourage property owners and businesses to invest in improvements which ultimately make Hartland a better place to work and live. Pictured from left to right are: Karmin Temple, property manager, Matt Szentes, assistant manager; Ryne Hodgson, director of real estate and Joe McCormick, president, all of JD McCormick; and chamber board representatives Krista Morrissey, CHOICES Coaching + Consulting, LLC; Donna Dorau, village of Hartland; Deb Nollen, Area Welcome and a Mary Kay Beauty consultant; Lynn Minturn, Hartland Chamber president; Jessie Puzach, Birch & Banyan Coffee; Lisa Holahan, Kaiser Holahan, LLC and Ryan Bailey, Hartland.



Donations provide Tinker Totes to library

HARTLAND — The Hartland Public Library announced its new collection of Tinker Totes made possible in part with a grant from the Woman's Club of Hartland and the Blood Center of Wisconsin. The 16 totes are a variety of STEAM kits available for checkout with a library card. The diverse collection ranges from Fairy Tale STEM kits, a ukulele, Ozobots, and calligraphy writing kit. They can be checked out for a week at a time. Pictured holding some of the Tinker Totes are, from left to right, President Renee Rasmussen, Woman's Club of Hartland; Director Laura Gest, Hartland Public Library; Program Coordinator Heidi Hassel, Blood Center of Wisconsin; and Blood Drive Coordinator Jo Pederson, Woman's Club of Hartland.



St. John Chrysostom Church joins chamber

DELAFIELD — The Delafield Area Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed St. John Chrysostom Church to the chamber. St. John Chrysostom Church, also known as the Little Red Church on the Hill, is a historic wooden Episcopal church built in 1853 and located at 1111 Genesee St. in Delafield with services at 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Sunday. Pictured from left to right are: Megan Braatz of Delafield Area Chamber of Commerce; Nick Sanders of Revere's Wells Street Tavern; the Rev. Phillip Cunningham St. John Chrysostom Church; Clark Chiaverotti of State Farm; Cameron McFarland of MSI General; and Jeff Gross of the Kettle Moraine School District.



Business Alliance welcomes Bronfman Rothschild

DELAFIELD — The Waukesha County Business Alliance recently welcomed Bronfman Rothschild as a new member. Located in Delafield, Bronfman Rothschild provides wealth management and retirement services. From left are: front row, Brion S. Collins, Julie Williams, Josh Frank, Lynn Greenway and Jay M. Frank; and back row, John Dobson, Razi Hecht and Wendy S. Peperkorn, all of Bronfman Rothschild.

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Reuter enjoys sitting in stands nowadays

Legendary high school coach watching son lead Pirates

After 41 consecutive years of sitting on the bench, coaching four different basketball teams, you couldn't blame Tim Reuter if he didn't know where to sit when he went to his first Pewaukee girls basketball game this season on Nov. 20.

By habit, you would have thought he would have walked into the Wauwatosa East gymnasium and immediately headed for the Pewaukee bench.

But no, on this night, for the first time since 1976, Reuter was not going to coach a basketball team. He was going to sit in the stands with his wife, Marie, and proudly watch his son Jim coach his second game as the new Pewaukee girls head coach.

And by the way, both Reuters did just fine. Jim led his team to an impressive 55-37 victory over the Red Raiders and dad Tim survived in the stands.

So, how is the 30-year former Pewaukee varsity boys basketball coach doing as a fan and spectator? He said so far being away from the sidelines is just fine.

"After I resigned from my assistant's job with the Pewaukee boys team last year I was a little worried that I might miss it a lot and not be able to get back in again," Reuter said. "But I just told myself to let it happen. And so far, I'm enjoying just being a fan. Plus, it's been fun for me and my wife to go to Jim's games and not have any pressure or stress.

I loved coaching a lot all of those years but I'm enjoying this."

Reuter, 65, said he also had a good time at both Thanksgiving and Christmas this year for the first time in a long period.

"When you're a head coach or an assistant you're always thinking about practice or your next game even though it's the holidays," Reuter said. "This year I could just sit back, enjoy the holidays, have fun with the grandchildren and relax. I didn't have to worry about a thing. When you're coaching there's always something in the back of your mind. So it was nice this year."

The highly successful coach who turned a struggling Pewaukee boys hoops program into a Waukesha County, regional and sectional powerhouse, said he's not totally removed from the game.

"I still do some scouting with Jim and we talk basketball a fair amount," Reuter said. "I like scouting with him and I toss some suggestions his way. I give him some of my ideas. He's doing a nice job. I'm happy for him. The game has changed a lot since I started back in the 1970s. But I still enjoy watching the games, whether it's the Pewaukee boys or girls teams or some other area big game."

Basketball has been a big part of his entire life. He played high school and college basketball and got his



CHUCK DELSMAN

first coaching job at Prairie du Chien in 1976 when he was the boys junior varsity coach for three seasons. From there he took the varsity girls job at La Crosse Logan for one year.

When he accepted a teaching position at Pewaukee High School in 1980, he instantly became the boys JV coach. One year later, he was named the Pirates' varsity head coach and he went on to coach there for 30 years, winning numerous conference championships and leading the team to its lone WIAA state tournament in 2001. That year the Pirates advanced to the Division 2 championship game, falling to perennial powerhouse Seymour, 54-45.

He resigned from the head coaching position at the end of his 30th season but wasn't gone for long. When his former JV coach Mike Basile was named the new head coach, he wasted no time asking Reuter to return to the bench as one of his assistants. Reuter needed only seconds to accept the offer. He spent six years with Basile before he resigned after last season. That's when Reuter decided to call it a career.

Basketball also has been a family sport for the Reuters. Both of his sons, Jim and Rick, played for their dad at Pewaukee and his two daughters, Maria and Bethany, also played in the



Former Pewaukee basketball coaches Michael Basile, left, and Jim Reuter share a moment before a game.

girls program.

"Right now I like the freedom I have not coaching," Reuter said. "I can watch the boys team play or go to Jim's game. But if there's another big game in the area I can go to that game. Or just take a night off. But I still

love high school basketball."

As for not knowing where to sit, I saw Tim and his wife in the stands when the PHS girls scored an impressive come-from-behind 69-63 victory over talented Brookfield Central at home recently.

He looked really comfortable sitting 10 rows up, on the aisle seat, behind the Pewaukee bench. But then again, he always seemed at home in any gym.

That's who Tim Reuter is. And always will be.

Area athletic directors adjusting to new jobs

Behrens, Tomczyk have taken over at Pewaukee, KM

By Chuck Delsman
Freeman Correspondent

WAUKESHA — Starting a new job can be a trying experience. Sometimes it works. Other times it doesn't.

And that challenge gets even more difficult when the person you're replacing has been a popular local figure for more than 20 years.

Enter Jeff Behrens and Ryan Tomczyk. Those are the two guys at the forefront of being the new athletic directors at Pewaukee and Kettle Moraine High Schools, respectively.

You see, Behrens and Tomczyk were not just taking over new jobs at the two schools. They were replacing the two most popular athletic directors in school history at both schools and guys who not only grew up in their school districts, but were outstanding athletes at their two schools.

Behrens was replacing John Maltsch, who grew up in Pewaukee, went to high school there and took part in four sports for the Pirates. He held the AD job at PHS for the last 19 years before retiring this past spring. His kids also played sports at Pewaukee and he graduated from the school in 1979.

Tomczyk faced a similar challenge. He was taking over for Mike Fink, who was the Kettle Moraine AD for the last 18 years. Fink was a

standout competitor for the Lasers, still ranking as one of the best all-around athletes ever to play for KM.

Fink grew up in Dousman and later became the head coach of both the football team and the girls softball team. Like Maltsch, he also graduated in 1979.

Both Behrens and Tomczyk faced the daunting task of taking over for a pair of local legends.

"So far it's been a blast," said the 42-year old Behrens. "John has helped make the transition very easy. He's always there to answer my calls or help in any way he can. It's been amazing the support I've received from everyone, from the coaches, the players and the entire community. Everyone in the building has been outstanding."

Behrens also came in as a new face to the Pewaukee community. He's a lifelong resident of Whitewater and went to high school and college there. He played baseball and wrestled at UW-Whitewater and still makes the 50-minute commute every day.

Before taking the Pewaukee job, he was the AD at Whitewater High School for the last eight years.

"I spent my entire life at Whitewater so it wasn't an easy decision to come to Pewaukee," Behrens said. "I spent a lot of time there but



Behrens



Tomczyk

it was just time to move on. When the Pewaukee job opened up, I jumped at it. Pewaukee not only is a strong school athletically but also academically. I was excited to take the job."

Almost instantly, Behrens faced the difficult task of replacing both his boys and girls varsity head basketball coaches. That had never happened before in the history of Pewaukee High School.

"That was a challenge right away," Behrens added. "Both Mike Basile (boys) and Todd Hansen (girls) had built two of the best programs around. Under those two, the schools won an incredible number of games over the years. But Mike is still in the building teaching and I know he's been a big help, and with Jim Reuter (girls coach) we have a guy who not only went to school here but watched as his father, Tim, coached the boys team for more than 30 years. Dave Burkemper has done a great job with the boys program. That transition went a lot easier than expected."

Tomczyk faced similar challenges as Behrens did. Fink not only was the AD for



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman
Kettle Moraine quarterback Hunter Denor makes a pass during a Classic 8 Conference football game in Muskego on Sept. 14.

the last 18 years but also worked in the school system for the past 28 years.

However, while Behrens was coming in completely new to Pewaukee, Tomczyk was the associate principal

last year before being named the new KM athletic director last summer.

"When Mike made his decision to leave, I worked with him and Principal Jeff Walters to make the transition as easy and smooth as possible," Tomczyk said. "I was excited about taking the new job. We compete in one of the best conferences in the state in the Classic 8 and Mike has put together an outstanding staff of coaches. Our philosophy hasn't changed much. We agreed on a lot of things."

Tomczyk previously taught physical education in the West Bend High School system and was the boys basketball coach at West Bend East for five seasons before coming to Kettle Moraine.

But Tomczyk is very familiar with the Classic 8 Conference.

He graduated from rival Mukwonago in 1998 and competed against the Lasers many times.

"Having went to high school at Mukwonago and playing in the Classic 8 years ago has helped me a lot," Tomczyk said. "It just made things a lot easier. Plus, Mike has been a mentor to me and left his legacy. He'll always be a Laser. The big difference has been when Mike needed to raise some money or get a project done, he'd get on the phone and make two or three calls and get it done. With me sometimes it takes going to 10 or more meetings with several different groups. He had a good infrastructure here and I want to build on that."

Two old schools. Two new athletic directors. Let the new eras begin.

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