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THIS MONTH

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St. John’s Northwestern Academies ready for fall

Smaller class size, large campus make pandemic precautions more plausible

By Jake Ekdahl
jekdahl@conley.net.com
262-513-2657

DELAFIELD — Although St. John’s Northwestern Academies experienced some disruption at the end of the last academic year, the school is confident about its position going forward.

As a private boarding school with a sizable share of international students, Gov. Tony Evers’ order in the spring to close all public and private schools was a bigger hurdle for St. John’s than most. The academy had already been working on plans to continue instruction with precautions in place, said Headmaster Eric Wozniak, but the order’s wording made that untenable.

St. John’s Northwestern was left with the prospect of navigating the logistics of sending cadets home, some of whom would need to travel to airports and board planes to Mexico, South Korea and China to do so. Wozniak said the school managed to obtain some homestay options for certain cadets.

With St. John’s Northwestern shifting to remote virtual instruction for a time, Chief Marketing Officer Valerie Ward said the discipline and structure that are part of cadets’ daily scheduled lives at the academy served as a useful foundation when they suddenly were expected to manage their own learning experience responsibly. She saw that transition up close with her own son, who graduated this year.

“They have very defined routines,” she said. “Our kids acclimated pretty well because (they’re) independent.”

Finishing out the year

without in-person instruction may not have been ideal, but St. John’s Northwestern officials have been busy planning for a return to on campus class and life for the fall.

Students will be monitored with temperature screenings and symptom checks, required use of facial coverings by teachers and students in certain scenarios is likely, meal times and seating arrangements will be adjusted, cleaning routines have been ramped up, and visitors will be limited. For boarding students, the school is also evaluating the plausibility of going to single occupancy dorm rooms.

“All of those little details are being considered and being developed,” Wozniak said. “Creative use of facilities that we have is definitely in our planning.”

Some of the coronavirus precautions other schools are striving for were already a reality at St. John’s Northwestern, where classes tend to have 12 students and the spacious campus has an on-site infirmary run by Pro-Health Care.

Navigating change is something the more than 130-year-old academy has been managing for a while now. The last three years have seen the academy open its doors to female cadets and begin offering a nonmilitary option called the Leadership Academy.

Both of those pre-pandemic moves have helped with the current set of circumstances, but more importantly, they align with the values of St. John’s Northwestern, Wozniak said.

“The co-ed change for us, yes of course, has expanded our pool of (candidate) possibilities,” he said. “But the



Jake Ekdahl/Freeman Staff

A sign welcomes visitors to the campus of St. John’s Northwestern Academies in Delafield.



Submitted photo

Students make their way across campus at St. John’s Northwestern Military Academy.

idea here is to help young women just as we’re trying to help young men become leaders of tomorrow.”

With 12 girls the first year, then 15, and now more than 20, Wozniak said they’ve proven a “great influence on the campus.” Head of Human Resources Kim Nichols said the Leadership Academy has helped too.

Ward said families take comfort in the planning and structure at St. John’s Northwestern.

“The type of structure the kids experienced before, they’re going to experience when they come back,” she said.

Though there was initial concerns about the pandemic potentially affecting enrollment, Wozniak said it’s steady. In fact, some families who may have already been considering St. John’s Northwestern might be leaning more heavily toward applying if they’re not satisfied with learning arrangements at their current school.

“The kids may have more

free time than the parents really want them to have,” Ward said of the virtual learning model some schools have opted to begin fall instruction with.

The first registration date for St. John’s Northwestern will be Aug. 18, with mostly returning students. The school will have full registration a week later and may bring students and families to campus in batches.

When it comes to dealing with challenging circumstances, Wozniak said current events present an opportunity to showcase the school’s values of being

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Legion Post 196 swings for the fences with fundraiser

Delafield post now responsible for upkeep of baseball fields

By Bella Kostolni
Special to The Freeman

DELAFIELD — On July 9, the Delafield American Legion Post 196 launched a fundraiser to help purchase equipment to maintain the baseball diamond on its property. After 15 years, the post is now responsible for the upkeep of the space and does not yet have the resources to do so. In order to help obtain the proper supplies, the post created a GoFundMe page, where people can submit secure, tax-deductible donations online.

City Administrator and Public Works Director Tom Hafner said Delafield opted to end its lease of the post's field after noticing a decrease in the popularity of softball. This decision will save the city money, he said.

The Delafield American Legion Post 196 is a part of the larger American Legion organization. It is a nonprofit striving to help veterans and the community through services and support. The post works to accomplish its mission in four ways: through the veterans, Women's

Auxiliary, Boy Scout troop and the Sons of the American Legion.

Vice Commander of the Delafield American Legion Post 196 George Gundlach noticed that the field isn't as popular as it once was. He hopes to change that.

"We have seen a decline in baseball and basic use of it over the last five years," Gundlach explained. "We're doing what we can to bring baseball back into the American Legion, as well as opening it up for other sports and activities."

Once the field is cleaned up and ready for use, the post intends to host sporting events such as softball and adult kickball. The post will also use the field for its annual car show.

But in order to begin arranging these activities, supplies must be purchased. With the donations, the post will buy a zero-turn mower, weed eaters and trimmers, rakes, shovels, and other maintenance equipment. New bases for the field will also be purchased.

The post hopes to raise \$8,000 to assist with this new undertaking. So far \$1,385 has been contributed toward that goal.



Photo courtesy of Delafield American Legion Post 196

The Delafield American Legion Post 196 is now responsible for the upkeep of the baseball diamond on its property at Lapham Peak Road. Previously, the city of Delafield maintained the field as part of its park system.

Those wishing to donate can do so in one of two ways: by visiting charitygofundme.com/o/en/campaign/maintenance-equipment-for-baseball-field and donating online or by visiting the post in person at 333 N. Lapham Peak Road.

The post is open Tuesday through Friday from 4 p.m. to midnight. Inside, there will be boxes and envelopes for people to donate in person. The cause is set up as a 501c3, so all donations are tax-deductible.

Pewaukee Chamber of Commerce to shut down

Cites financial hardships, inability to pay director

By Katherine Beck
kbeck@conley.net.com
262-513-2644

PEWAUKEE — Citing economic hardship and declining membership, on July 31 the Pewaukee Chamber of Commerce announced it would close.

The announcement says the financial struggle has been happening in recent years and the organization has struggled to fund an executive director, which has placed many demands on its board

of directors, all of whom are busy business owners and professionals.

Other financial impacts on the Pewaukee Chamber of Commerce have been increasing expenses, and now main fundraising events such as the golf outing and annual gala being in jeopardy.

"Due to all of these reasons, the Board has made the difficult decision to cease operations," reads the announcement sent via email. "The Chamber of Commerce has a long history of supporting the Pewaukee community. The Board would

not have taken this course of action if it felt that there was any other viable option."

The Pewaukee Chamber of Commerce is ending its operations in the black. It will use those remaining funds available after final expenses for local charitable donations to organizations helping Pewaukee.

The email goes on to say, "We recognize that some of you paid annual membership fees and the benefits will not be able to be fully realized. We are hopeful that you find

our decision to make a charitable donation a worthy final use of those leftover funds."

The Hartland Chamber of Commerce has also shared this summer that it is struggling financially and has sought a \$25,000 grant from the village.

With COVID-19 having forced the cancellation of most of its events during the first quarter of the year, the nonprofit simply hasn't been able to fundraise like it normally would, and it needs some extra cash, said Hartland Chamber President Lynn Minturn in May.

Hartland Chamber not going anywhere, president says

By Cara Spoto
cspoto@conley.net.com
262-902-9082

HARTLAND — The Hartland Chamber of Commerce will be able to make it through the rest of 2020, and possibly beyond that, thanks in part to the support of the community and members new and old.

That was the update delivered Aug. 4 by the organization's president, Lynn Minturn.

Facing the reduced revenue from canceled events, the nonprofit reached out to its members in June looking for some extra financial assistance. The reason for the request, explained

Minturn at that time, was to help the chamber maintain a healthy financial footing in the face of COVID-19.

With the pandemic having forced the cancellation of many of its events, the nonprofit simply hadn't been able to fundraise like it normally would, she said. Among the casualties was one of the chamber's biggest events, the March Lake Country Community Fest celebration.

The organization gets about 45 percent of its operating budget from membership dues, and 55 percent of it from fundraising, Minturn said.

Two months later, Minturn says that while leaders are still wary of what impacts the pandemic could have on next year's events, the

chamber is currently doing OK, thanks in part to a smaller, but successful Street Dance, and new members.

"We are fine. Street Dance certainly raised some funds, and we actually have existing businesses that are joining the chamber," she said. "We have no reason to believe this chamber won't continue to exist. We are easily able to continue through the end of this year."

Possible loan

The chamber, which was not eligible for grants or loans made available through the federal Paycheck Protection Program, also has access to a federal Economic Injury Disaster Loan should they need it, Minturn said.

The chamber had originally sought a \$25,000 loan from the village of Hartland, but trustees did not act on the request.

Speaking on Aug. 4, Minturn said some trustees and community members misinterpreted the chamber's request for financial assistance, noting that the nonprofit wasn't seeking village tax dollars, but was merely interested in seeing whether the village might have federal relief dollars it could administer.

Minturn also said the chamber hasn't experienced any mismanagement of its revenue.

"When your revenue source is cut off, it is catastrophic," she said. "We all operate on a tight budget. We have reserves in place, but nobody could have foreseen what has happened."

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MANAGEMENT

Bill Yorth - Publisher & Editor-in-Chief.....513-2671
byorth@conley.net.com

Katherine Beck - Managing Editor.....513-2644
kbeck@conley.net.com

Jim Baumgart - Freeman Group Ad Director 513-2621
jbaumgart@conley.net.com

Tim Haffemann - Circulation Director.....513-2640
thaffemann@conley.net.com

Patricia Scheel - Prepress Manager.....513-2690
pscheel@conley.net.com

Joe Rocha - Mailroom Supervisor..... 513-2659
jrocha@conley.net.com

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Local News - Katherine Beck.....513-2644
news@conley.net.com

Sports - Pat Neumuth.....513-2667
pneumuth@conley.net.com

Death Notices - Shana Duffy.....513-2618
obits@conley.net.com

Newsroom Fax.....(262) 542-8259

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IN BRIEF

Ice rink may move from Oakwood Park to downtown Delafield

DELAFIELD — The ice rink at Oakwood Park may have a new home this winter if the Delafield Parks and Recreation Commission decides St. John's Park is an appropriate place to put the rink.

Parks and Recreation Commission Member Jim Reiher said the commissions held a meeting on the subject in July, but that no action was taken.

Reiher said the meeting was to discuss how the commission would do its due diligence prior to next month's meeting to

decide the logistics of the ice rink at St. John's Park.

"Not something that is going to happen right away, requires a pretty good analysis because it's a significant change," Reiher said.

Reiher said the possible change stems from the use of the rink and how it can be more accessible to the public.

If the rink would move, there is already a warming house near the park for which skaters could use, Reiher said.

The talks of moving the portable ice rink are in the early stages, Reiher said, and he wasn't sure if a decision would be made for this coming winter.

2021 Wisconsin State Park admission sticker design unveiled

Arrowhead students comes in second place

MADISON — The 2021 Wisconsin State Park admission sticker will for the first time feature a winter image designed by Emma Dzurbanova, a junior foreign exchange student from the Czech Republic at Rice Lake High School. The winning design will be printed on state park and forest annual vehicle admission stickers and will be displayed on more than 300,000 vehicles.

“Winter sports are a major attraction at our state properties, so it is very fitting that they are being featured on

the 2021 admission sticker,” said Mark Aquino, Wisconsin State Park System acting director. “It’s also a great fit with our OutWiGo initiative that encourages people to take part in winter activities such as skiing and snowshoeing to help improve their overall health and wellness by staying active in the outdoors.”

This is the 30th year the Wisconsin state park and forest annual vehicle admission sticker has been designed by a high school student whose artwork is chosen through a

statewide contest. The design contest, sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, is open to all high school age students attending public, private or parochial schools or home schooled in Wisconsin.

Dzurbanova’s design features a cross-country skier heading down a trail. She will receive an engraved plaque and a 2021 annual vehicle admission sticker featuring her design when stickers become available in December.

Second place was won by



Rice Lake High School foreign exchange student Emma Dzurbanova from the Czech Republic is the winner of the 2021 Wisconsin State Park admission sticker design contest.



Abigail Tessmer, an Arrowhead High School student, earned second place for this design, which she submitted to be considered as the 2021 Wisconsin State Park admission sticker.



Images courtesy of the Wisconsin DNR

Kate Seymour of Oconomowoc High School earned Honorable Mention for her design in the 2021 Wisconsin State Park admission sticker design contest.

Village paves way for some lower speed vehicles

Trustees could consider allowing ATV, UXVs in the coming months

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

WAUKESHA — Owners of some low-speed vehicles will now be able to tool around on the village thanks to a measure approved by the Pewaukee Village Board.

Trustees voted unanimously to allow licensed low-speed vehicles (LSVs) on local roadways with posted speed limits of 35 miles per hour or less.

They were forced to deny an ordinance giving golf carts a similar range, as state law bars the use of golf carts on roadways unless they are being driven within a mile of a golf course. There are no golf courses in the village of Pewaukee.

What are LSVs?

The state Department of Transportation defines LSVs, also referred to as neighborhood electric vehicles or NEVs as four-wheeled vehicles that have a top attainable speed of not more than 25 mph on a paved level surface, and weight less than 3,000 pounds. They may be self-propelled by gas or electric power, are exempt from emissions testing, and are not required to display a slow-moving vehicle sign. They must also have seatbelts.

Anyone driving an LSV must have driver’s license, however, car insurance and the vehicle itself must be titled and registered through the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

The vehicles typically range in price from \$4,000 to \$7,000. One popular manufacturer of LSVs is Polaris, which sells a lot of its GEM brand LSVs to college campuses and resorts.

Why now?

Village President Jeff Knutson said that trustees decided to consider allowing LSVs after initially getting a request from some village residents interested in using their golf carts and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the village. Despite learning that the village couldn’t permit golf carts, they were still able to give the go ahead to other LSVs.

“There are a lot of people who use these vehicles to go to the lake and the back. If you are going to the lake and back that’s fine, but they wanted to be able to use them around the village,” Knutson said. “The golf cart ordinance was shut down, mainly because the state says they can only be used within a mile of golf course. The slow-moving vehicles will be allowed as long as they follow the state rules.”

ATVs and UXVs?

The village has yet to consider giving ATVs and ultimate expedition vehicles (UXVs) the same permissions. While LSVs are licensed by the DMV, ATVs and UXVs are regulated by the state Department of Natural Resources.

“A lot of these ATVs and UXVs — UXVs are for two and four passengers — are pretty well equipped for the road. They have headlights and stoplights. They are all governed by the DNR and you have to use them on specifically marked trails,” Knutson said. “The proposal on that is possibly going to be brought by to the Public Safety Committee at their first meeting in August.”

IN BRIEF

Pavilion to be built at Cushing Elementary

DELAFIELD — A new pavilion will be built at Cushing Elementary, after a generous donation from the Cushing Elementary PTO, Principal Susan Rach said.

Rach said the PTO has been interested in building the

pavilion for about a year and a half, but got placed on hold during the pandemic.

“Nicely enough it’s going to be a great outdoor learning space for us as we try to spend more of our time as a school and with our learners outside and physically distanced in a safe way,” Rach said.

The pavilion will be located

near the school’s nature path, she said.

“It will be a really nice outdoor space for our kids to use,” Rach said.

With the building and grounds crew busy helping getting school ready for the fall, Rach said the hope is to have it built in the fall after school starts.



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Hanel to return to active ministry

Diocese releases statement on dismissal of sexual assault charge

By Cara Spoto
cspoto@conleynet.com
262-513-2653

CITY OF PEWAUKEE — Two months after a felony sexual assault charge against him was dismissed on a prosecutor’s motion, the Rev. Charles Hanel is slated to resume his ministerial role at Queen of Apostles Church.

In a press release issued to the public Aug. 1, Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi informed parishioners that Hanel would be returning to his duties as pastor on Aug. 3 — more than two years after being placed on administrative leave by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

“Thank you for your patience and prayers these past two-plus years as the allegation against your pastor, Father Chuck Hanel, has been investigated and pursued, first by civil authorities and then by the archdiocese’s own independent investigation,” ListECKi writes. “I am happy to let you know the (archdiocese’s) investigation has been completed, and the report against Father Hanel has been considered not only unsubstantiated, but also false.”

ListECKi added that the diocese takes any report of “clergy sexual abuse of a minor very seriously” and thanked Hanel for his patience throughout the “long process.”

“The investigation that is conducted is thorough and professional, as there should be no doubt remaining when a conclusion is reached,” ListECKi noted.

A call to Queen of Apostles seeking comment on Hanel’s reinstatement was not returned Monday.

Criminal case

Hanel was removed from his active role as pastor and placed on administrative leave in May 2018, shortly after the diocese was notified of an allegation that he had inappropriate contact with a minor.

A letter to the congregation did not detail the allegations, but on Sept. 5, 2018, the Waukesha County District Attorney’s Office filed a criminal complaint against Hanel, accusing him of sexually assaulting a child under 16.

According to the complaint, a 14-year-old girl had reportedly told her parents in April 2018 that Hanel had touched her breast over her clothes in December 2017, when she, then 13, was at a children’s confession.

Hanel and his attorney, Jerome Buting, vigorously denied the allegations, with Buting stating that the girl’s claim amounted to a “single accusation of an adolescent girl against a priest who has faithfully served the people of this archdiocese for 35 years without a hint of any inappropriate conduct with a minor.”

Dismissal

The case against Hanel was dismissed in June, about two months after a mistrial was granted by Waukesha County Judge Michael P. Maxwell.

The defense requested the mistrial after they learned that the mother of the accuser was an undocumented immigrant. The defense was not aware of the mother’s immigration status during questioning, and Maxwell argued that her status, as well as a previous conviction of misdemeanor theft, cast doubt on her credibility as a witness.

Several documents in the case remain sealed.



Submitted photo

Barkin’ Up breaks ground in Delafield

DELAFIELD — The Waukesha County Center for Growth along with Barkin’ Up, a doggy daycare and boarding facility, broke ground on their new location in Delafield, 402 Kettle Drive. It is Barkin’ Up’s second location with its first location being in Pewaukee. Owner Ben Nader said he thinks the new location will be open around Thanksgiving.

From left to right are: Brian Verheyen, Dave Nader, Pam Nader, owner Ben Nader, Sarina and Theo Nader, Waukesha County Center for Growth Director of Economic Development Tim Casey, Delafield Mayor Kent Attwell and Tim Knepprath with Wellspring Construction.

New charter school planned in Lake Country area

School authorized by Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College

By Jake Ek Dahl
Jekdahl@conleynet.com
262-513-2657

DELAFIELD — Families searching for new educational options will soon have another school to consider: Lake Country Classical Academy.

The public, tuition-free charter school will be open to all students and is planned to open September 2021. The location of the future school is currently being negotiated and kept confidential, but it will be somewhere within northwestern Waukesha County.

The LCO Ojibwe College is one of several institutions identified by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction that has the authority to authorize independent charter schools statewide.

“We are grateful that the LCO Ojibwe College supports LCCA’s mission and vision, recognizing the value of classical education,” said Kristina Vourax, LCCA board president and founder. “Lake Country Classical Academy is a wonderful option for families seeking a content-rich curriculum with rigor for their children in a teacher-led, traditional learning environment. LCCA students will navigate the vast areas of human knowledge essential to their intellectual, moral, economic, and civic well-being, and they will graduate as highly literate and ethical citizens, well-prepared to advance into any life endeavor.”

The school will initially open serving grades K-9, but expand by one grade each year until fully serving

grades K-12 by 2024. “Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College is committed to partnering with LCCA and supports its approach to education,” said Dr. Russell Swagger, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College president, in a statement. “There is great synergy between our missions. Like LCCA, we believe in importance of developing students in mind and character, as well as the value of educational sovereignty. We also appreciate LCCA’s commitment to providing culturally responsive education, including learning opportunities that focus on Native American history and culture.”

LCCA is working toward recognition as an affiliate school of the Barney Charter School Initiative, an outreach of Hillsdale College. It will be the first BCSI school in Wisconsin and the only K-12 public classical charter school in the state by 2024.

“The real goal of classical education is to educate the whole person,” Vourax said, so they can be successful “in any endeavor they choose (and) become lifelong learners.”

Vourax said the school was born from a need felt by local parents, like her, who wanted an alternative to digitally-focused education. “We really wanted a more traditional, teacher-led approach,” she said.

Searching for principal administrator

The school is in the process of searching for its first principal administrator, who will in turn lead the way in hiring the rest of LCCA’s

staff. Vourax said that although the number of seats at the school is not finalized, she expects an initial student body of about 325-350, which will expand to about 650 by the time LCAA is offering classes to all grades. Classes will be no larger than 25 students.

“Anybody has equal chances of being admitted into the school, as long as seats are available,” Vourax said. Should there be more prospective students than seats, the school would have to move to a lottery system, but it’s not clear at this point if that will be necessary.

Vourax said because LCCA will not receive state funding as a public school until it becomes operational in 2021, donations are needed now for start up costs. “We need the community’s support to make our dream of LCCA a reality,” she said. “There are many items that need to be paid for prior to opening our doors, including funding for our school location, start-up salaries, and classroom furniture and supplies such as desks and textbooks.” Donations, which are tax deductible, can be made online at lakecountryclassical.org, or by mailing a check made out to “LCCA” to P.O. Box 252, Wales, WI 53118.

Informational meetings will be held in the fall, where prospective families may meet the newly-hired principal and learn more about the school. Vourax said she expects the campus location to be determined by then.

Enrollment is tentatively scheduled to begin in November.

Genesee board to vote on new Montessori school

To open Sept. 8

By Jake Ek Dahl
Jekdahl@conleynet.com
262-513-2657

TOWN OF GENESSEE — A new Montessori school looks set to be coming to the area. The Genesee Town Board will vote today on a resolution to approve a conditional use for Adeline Montessori School on 2.4 acres on the south side of Sunset Drive at S31-W29553.

The school’s director, Emily Rodriguez, is a third-generation Montessorian herself. Her grandmother was a founder of the Montessori School of Waukesha, of which her father later became director and where she taught for five years.

“Now I’ve decided to start a new journey (and) expand

Montessori even further in our community,” Rodriguez said, adding the Genesee property has plenty of green space and will allow for social distancing-friendly activities.

Rodriguez said the property was formerly a day care and learning center and before that was a different Montessori school. Montessori education focuses on individualized learning for each student, with educators making adjustments to curriculum as needed.

Rodriguez said Adeline Montessori School is set to open Sept. 8 and will offer various options to accommodate families, including online only and hybrid models. The school is offering a 10% discount for families of health and safety workers.

Adeline is aiming for about 48 students, and is

already about a third of the way there. The school will offer programming from infant and toddler aged children through eighth grade.

Rodriguez said with many families evaluating their education options due to the coronavirus circumstances, considering Montessori may be worthwhile, with its smaller class sizes. The more flexible approach to instruction models may also be appealing to families with uncertain schedules.

The Genesee Town Board has not yet voted on whether to approve the conditional use of the land for Adeline Montessori School, but Rodriguez said she feels good about the odds. “We’re very optimistic,” she said.

Anyone interested in learning more about the school can visit adelinemontessori.com.

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