

Brookfield & Elm Grove THIS MONTH DECEMBER 2020 DECEMBER 2020

Santa's got a new sleigh

Man refurbishes 129-year-old sleigh to spread Christmas spirit as mom's dying wish

By Alex Nemec anemec@conleynet.com 262-513-2661

ELM GROVE — Bob Fuchs has always been one to reach his hand out to those in need when the hardships of life begin to surface.

Fuchs has been volunteering nearly all of his life including being involved in shows and volunteering at Sunset Playhouse for almost 40 years.

He has been a Santa in southeast Wisconsin for many years.

"I could grow a beard and I'm a big guy and two and two went together and thought it would be fun to dress as Santa for the kids and my family," Fuchs said. "It was just a lot of fun and it made a lot of people (happy) so I invested in the Santa gear and it snowballed over the years.'

struck However, hardship Fuchs' life recently. Bob moved his mother Kay Fuchs into a nursing home in February and due to the pandemic, couldn't see her much at all over the last eight months,

After a fall, Kay was moved into hospice care and his family was able to see her during her final

Fuchs said his mom always loved Christmas and during their last conversation, Kay told Bob not to let the pandemic ruin his passion for being Santa and for

Fuchs said Kay told him "don't let people just sit there during the holidays in a room like I had to. ties," Duncan said. "That's what is Figure out something to still see the people."

Then Kay opened her eyes and told her son Bob to make a mobile

Kay fell asleep shortly after that conversation and wouldn't wake up again. She died two days later on Oct. 9. She was 82.

"It was pretty much her idea and her inspiration," Fuchs said. "I really wanted to make it work of course because it was her last she was happy to see them give

Building the sleigh

Fuchs said he got started on the sleigh almost immediately after his mom's death by calling out to people on Facebook to help him with the project.

As he has done to many others through the years, people came to Fuchs' aid and he said at the end of the week, he had \$2,000 raised and people who were willing to help.

Fuchs and others bought a sleigh from 1891 and an old trailer. People began helping with the project – including volunteers from Sunset Playhouse. The theater also donated its workshop for a place for work on the sleigh to be done.

Former Oconomowoc Arts Center Director Michael Duncan was one of the volunteers. He said he believed it was a nice community project where everyone could be involved.

"When Bob first put the idea out there I just thought it was just worth it," Duncan said. "Obviously because of what is going on in the world right now and first and foremost the pandemic is at the top of it. I think a lot of people are worried about the holidays with people canceling Thanksgiving and probably a lot of families canceling Christmas as well I sus-

Duncan said it was a great project to have people from all over Lake Country and the area come out and help.

"It was a whole bunch of people from a lot of different communineat, there was several people from several communities who thought this was a great idea. That to me is even better than just one community.'

Oconomowoc Artist Terri Field assisted the group with designing the sleigh and the art on it.

Nancy Visintainer-Armstrong, artistic director of the Sunset Playhouse, said a lot of the volunteers came from the theater and



Santa sits on the refurbished sleigh while giving a wave. Bob Fuchs built the sleigh so he could bring cheer to families during Christmas.

their time.

"It's great the volunteers were willing to commit their time to do something like that because we're not just a theater, we're part of the community as a whole," Visintainer-Armstrong said. "So anything we can do to help the community we think is valuable.

Fuchs said he believes people were so eager to help because it was something positive in what has been a frustrating and stressful year.

With everything we've been watching with the election, Trump and Biden, it was kind of getting old for everybody I think. Then all of a sudden everyone had something to jump on to be positive about," Fuchs said. "We had over 50 to 60 people jump on board between their talents of helping and giving money.

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Santa collects presents with a child at the Ronald McDonald House Charities Eastern Wisconsin a couple of weeks ago. Bob Fuchs enjoys playing the role of Santa.

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Enclave Outdoor Structures made by Captivate Systems can be used as a home office or

Captivate Exhibits seeks to capture new market

Pandemic spurs Brookfield company to launch small room kits, speed up rebranding

By Katherine Beck kĎeck@conleynet.com 262-513-2644

BROOKFIELD — When the pandemic hit and the country got put into lockdown mode in March, Captivate Exhibits went from having its best year to having no sales, making it clear something had to be done auickly.

All employees were asked to brainstorm and they came up with a number of options, including incorporating Captivate Exhibits' technology for building exhibits for trade shows into tiny homes or "she sheds" called Enclave Outdoor Structures, said Captivate Exhibits President Richard L. Magliocco.

From there, the staff at Captivate Exhibits got to work on the creative design and developed eight models that are pre-engineered and come as a kit to a job site. They will typically be installed in one to two days, depending upon complexi-

Magliocco said Enclave Outdoor Structures have been highly popular on the West Coast, as well as attracting overall interest from people looking to establish a home office during the pandemic.

Then. Captive Exhibits created the personal protective equipment supply chain for schools, businesses, government buildings,

"We have supplied equipment to many schools, libraries. businesses throughout Wisconsin. Then one of our strategic partners developed the idea of temporary quarantine rooms which made a lot of sense since not all schools have rooms/space available to quarantine individuals until they can be picked up. We are actually looking into vaccination rooms for large-scale vaccination distribution," Magliocco said. "We also pivoted into interiors and corporate environments and have designed and built a number of inte-

rior projects.' Some of the PPE equip-Exhibits offers includes hygiene barriers, protective masks, hand-sanitizer stations and floor decals.

The temporary quarantine rooms follow CDC more. guidelines and come in five



MADE IN WAUKESHA COUNTY

figurations ranging in price from about \$2,100 to \$2,800. They are marketed as easy to clean and sanitize and are portable and modular to adapt to any environment.

New name

During the period of reinventing its products, the Brookfield company also changed its name from Exhibit Systems to Captivate Exhibits.

Magliocco said the name change had been planned for the second quarter of 2020, but when the lockdown happened it pushed the name change back to September.

"As we experienced our growth, we realized Exhibit Systems' name was not representing the full spectrum of capabilities we provide. So, after some self-reflection and many conversations, we have decided it is the right time to rebrand our company to Captivate Exhibits," reads a letter to clients.

The new name was intended to reflect that the company is more than a systems" display building.

"In fact, we are designing and fabricating more custom exhibits than ever before. Our growth strategy is to involve our clients with greater and enhanced options, more collaboration, expanded capabilities to exceed your needs and with more of the same outstanding customer service you have come to expect," reads the letter.

Captivate Exhibits, according to the letter, is intended to be an extension of a company's marketing, ment options that Captivate sales and event teams by creating a branded experience for trade shows, conferences, product showrooms, corporate interiors, virtual trade shows and

During the pandemic,

Captivate Exhibits did shrink due to financial strain. Magliocco said the company lost about 60% of its business during the pandemic and had 36 full-time employees as of mid-March; however, that number is down to nine employees with a mix of full time and part time.

New marketing

In addition to helping clients market themselves, Captivate Exhibits has found itself needing to market its new line of products, including its Enclaves, which Magliocco says the company views as a whole new division, even if the trade show industry comes

Magliocco said so far the "Pay for Click program has generated unbelievable impressions and a lot of interest in the last two months primarily in southeastern Wisconsin, Madison and northern counties of Illinois. We are just going to begin to enlarge that area to the Nashville, Memphis and St. Louis areas."

The future

Magliocco said believes the trade show industry will come back, but it will take time to return to its pre-COVID lockdown size.

"We anticipate the second half of year to things to pick up significantly. People want to be with people and return to some normalcy," Magliocco said.

He is predicting the trade show industry won't be strong until 2022 or 2023, resulting in the industry being a mix of in-person and virtual trade shows and events for a couple of years.

Captivate Exhibits will continue to promote its corporate interiors and environments, as well as a strong push of its Enclaves going into spring 2021.

"This has been the toughest year in my over 40 years in business. You can budget, manage and lead in a downturn or recession; however, I have never experienced managing when sales go to \$0 in one day. All you can do is keep your head up, see what else you can do with the skills and talents of your employees and stay optimistic," Magliocco said.

Fiserv works with ExxonMobil for Google Pay app

BROOKFIELD — Fiserv, Inc. has worked with ExxonMobil to create a new omnichannel commerce experience within the enhanced Google Pay mobile application.

ExxonMobil has launched a new contactless payment capability that enables consumers to utilize Google Pay to digitally pay at the pump, either by scanning a QR-code on the pump or by activating the pump from within the Google Pay app on iOS or Android. The commerce experience - pump activation, payment tokenization, payment processing, digital receipt delivery - is powered by omnichannel commerce technology from Brookfield-headquartered Fisery, according to the announcement. Payments are

made via a consumer's existing Google Pay account; no additional application download or separate account is required.

We designed Google Pay to help consumers and merchants engage and transact more conveniently and securely," said Josh Woodward, director of Google Pay. "The new Google Pay platform gives consumers a way to pay easily at their favorite merchants and it creates opportunities for merchants to deepen customer engagement in creative ways with offers, rewards, and customized, dynamic content.'

Fiserv already offers account processing and digital banking solutions, among others, for a variety of brick-and-mortar clients.

"With consumers increasingly turning to contact less payment, we're excited to offer yet another convenient, secure way to pay at Exxon and Mobil stations," said Eric Carmichael, Americas fuels marketing manager at ExxonMobil. "As more people get back on the road, we're offering a variety of ways to pay at the pump while reducing contact, and ultimately providing a better fueling experi-

Santa plans Christmas visits to Brookfield Square; other usual holiday events canceled

Break out those stockings, Christmas trees and red or green masks – it's time to enjoy a festive yet socially distanced holiday season at Brookfield Square. The

BROOKFIELD

mall announced Santa Claus is planning his trip down from the North Pole with different visits than those in past years. This year, Santa will arrive with his team of

elves on Black Friday, Nov. 27, and visit through Christmas Eve. They will meet with families at Center Court within Brookfield Square.

Santa will be available photos Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. However, he will not be available Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. On Christ- Brookfield Square hopes mas Eve, he will be available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Visits will be contactless, with families sitting brookfieldsquaremall. 6 feet away to ensure com/content/santa.

Santa Claus will be waiting, excited to hear what's on Christmas lists with his elves-in-training. All visitors must wear masks before, during and after photos. All guests must sched-

proper social distancing.

ule their visit using an online reservation platform. On the platform, visitors can select a date and time and purchase a photo package so they are prepared for their unique photo experience. Walk-ups are allowed during the first and last hours of the day, time permitting. Other usual holiday

events are canceled this year, including the Santa arrival party, pet photos and Santa Cares, according to the press release. to bring these events back in 2021

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"It gave me hope that people still really believe in community, want to do the right thing and they're looking for something positive."

All in all, Fuchs said the sleigh was completed in about a month and a half and that the project surrounded him with people that had have one common goal of spreading Christmas spirit through the communi-

ty.
"Just creating something from a concept and an idea, to actually making it a reality and rolling it out (two weeks ago) was very fulfilling," he said.

and attached to the trailer Fuchs has already been out and about in the community spreading the holiday spirit.

Fuchs and company debuted the sleigh and trailer at the Ronald McDonald House in Wauwatosa on Nov. 14 and 15, where children and parents were surprised to see

Fuchs said the plan was to have kids bring presents to donate to other children in need because their parents told them the best part about Christmas was giving — but Santa showing up was a secret.

"They never promoted that Santa was going to be there and the look on their faces when I was able to say to them 'thanks for giving, With the sleigh finished now we'll come back and see

you," Fuchs said. "Parents were so happy their kids could see Santa.'

While at the Ronald McDonald House, Fuchs and the rest of the people were wearing masks collecting their presents. Fuchs said he saw one child who asked "Santa, you wear a mask too?" and quickly retrieved theirs to put it on too.

"It's kinda of way to educate kids to and motivate them to wear their masks,' Fuchs said.

Visintainer-Armstrong said she has known Fuchs for over 20 years and that projects like this make up the fabric of who Bob is as a person. "Bob loves the community

and he does whatever he can to help people.'



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'New heart, new start'

Cardiac nurse receives heart transplant during pandemic

By Nikki Brahm nbrahm@conleynet.com 262-513-2651

WAUWATOSA — A cardiac nurse who has had experience treating patients with heart conditions didn't think a few years ago she would be the one receiving a heart transplant; however, that's exactly what happened in the middle of the COVID-19 pan-

Lauryl Schaffer is a nurse who works in Froedtert's cardiology department at its main campus in Wauwatosa. She got into nursing because it is a common profession in her family — with her greatgrandmother, great-aunt, mother and aunt all once nurses.

Schaffer has been a nurse since she graduated in 1983 and she's been at Froedtert for 16 years, starting in cardiology.

She's spent a lot of time educating people on defibril-

"Because I, at the time, had a defibrillator, or ICD, I would get tapped by either physicians or other nurses to go and talk to patients, especially young females, to let them know what it was like,

Schaffer's defibrillator was put in in 2001. She found out she had a heart condition that was idiopathic - they didn't know the cause. However, it was diagnosed after her second son was born.

"Finding out I had a heart condition, I was terrified, because at the time I was 25, almost 26, and I wanted five children and I wanted a big family ... I knew all the downsides of cardiac issues and it scared me to death, to know that I was not going to potentially be around to see my children graduate from high school, get married, that kind of thing," she said.

However, Schaffer's experience in cardiology helped her process things. She said she was able to "remove the emotion (and) process it logically" with research.

In March, a doctor at the hospital told her she should see him in the clinic when he heard her short of breath. She was listed for a heart transplant in the beginning of June. What normally takes years only took Schaffer one month.

"I was planning years and that's very normal ... but it just happened that night that, there were people ahead of me but they needed heart and lungs, and the donor couldn't donate lungs, I don't know why, and I came up as needing a heart," she ing. said,

don't know why I answered my phone because it said 'unknown caller' but I did," she said.



Lauryl Schaffer poses in the T-shirt her niece designed, which reads "new heart, new start." Schaffer had a heart transplant in July.

new heart beat in her chest.

"The transplant staff I can reach out at any time," she said. "If it's urgent, I can get a response back within moments. It's been my family, it's been friends, my husband, my sons, their wives, and then my grandchildren, are a source of light in my day.'

At the time of the transplant, she was allowed only one visitor due to COVID-19 precautions. Her son and husband alternated days.

Since then, she's been heal-

ing.
"COVID has made it more complicated because of the immunosuppression I'm on, I have to be very, very careful," she said. "Besides seeing my children or my husband, everything I do is via telephone or FaceTime."

The hardest part, Schaffer said, isn't the physical part of the surgery. It's actually been adjusting to the antirejection medications and their side effects, as well as the emotions she's been feel-

'Someone had to make the choice to donate organs so that I could get a heart," she said. "As the holidays are members' door steps the day

On July 26 at 4:23 p.m. the their first holiday without the loved one, and that breaks my heart."

In October, Schaffer returned to work.

"The biggest thing that I tell patients is don't let the disease control you, continue to live your life," she said. ' ... otherwise you literally become a cardiac cripple."

She said her job gets her up in the morning, and she is now able to share a new perspective with her patients. She can't believe she has a new heart because it happened so fast.

She said overall, she's incredibly grateful to the donor family, her family and the transplant team.

"When I got a heart transplant the perspective (of life) changed, (it) is very fragile,' she said.

She said she doesn't think of her experience as a neardeath experience, but rather a blessing.

What Schaffer is looking forward to now is a 5k, which she hopes to run on her transplant anniversary. July 26, with her family. Her niece designed T-shirts that read "new heart, new start," which arrived on family

54 movie theater operators will receive \$10 million in state aid

MADISON — Movie the- locations around the state. aters around Wisconsin are about to get an infusion of cash from the state to help them endure the ongoing coronavirus.

release from the Evers administration on Tuesday, 54 movie theater operators across the state will receive a portion of \$10 million from the COVID-19 Movie Theater Grant Program. The program is funded by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds and administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

Recipients range from single-theater operators such as Theatre Ringling Friends, Inc. in Baraboo and

"Wisconsin businesses across industries and communities have felt the strains of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and According to a news movie theaters have been particularly hard as they also battle stalled movie production," Governor Tony Evers said in a statement. "Movie theaters are often a cornerstone of our Main Street businesses, and I am glad we were able to get these funds out the door to help them keep theirs open."

The COVID-19 Movie Theater Grant program provides eligible grantees average awards of \$14,600 per eligible movie theater screen in Wisconsin. Grant funds can be applied towards pandemic-related operational such as

improvements to provide appropriate social distancing, cleaning and sanitizing, and personnel costs necessary to provide appropriate COVID-19 safeguards.

Some Greater Milwaukeearea movie theaters to

receive funding will be: ■ Brookfield Cinema LLC, Brookfield, \$131.578.95

Schuberts Theatres Hartford, South \$87,719.30

■ Highway 18 Outdoor Jefferson. Theatre, \$14,619.88

■ Milwaukee Film Inc., Milwaukee, \$43,859.65

■ Marcus Cinemas of Wisconsin, multiple locations, \$4,020,467.84

■ Towne Cinemas LLC, Watertown, \$43,859.65

■ BOPPA LTD LLC, West

Milwaukee-Waukesha metro area ranks high for millennial pay

in country

MILWAUKEE — The pay that millennials earn in the Milwaukee-Waukesha metro area makes it rank 13th in the country among large metro areas.

To find the best-paying cities for millennials, researchers at HireAHelper analyzed the latest data on income and home prices from the U.S. Census Bureau and Zillow. The researchers ranked metro areas according to the costof-living adjusted median income for full-time workmillennials.

Researchers also calculated the unadjusted median

price, and the millennial homeownership rate.

Millennials, defined by the Pew Research Center as people born between as 100,000-349,999 people, 1981–1996, now number 72 million in the United States.

According to the data, the median income for full-time millennials (cost-of-living adjusted) is \$47,489 for the

Median income for fulltime millennials (unadjusted) is \$45,020 while the median home price is \$200,213. In the Milwaukee-Waukesha metro area, homeownership for millennials is 35.4% while the cost of living is 5.2% below the national average.

The top large metro area a home.

Wisconsin is 7th income for full-time millenis San Jose-Sunnyvalenials, the median home Santa Clara, California.

For small metro areas, Racine made the list at No. 6 with an income of \$48,701.

Small metros are defined metros midsize 350,000–999,999 people and large metros are 1,000,000 or more people. In Wisconsin, millennials

earn a cost-of-living adjusted median income of \$46,790. Out of all states, Wisconsin is the 7th bestpaying for millennials.

According to the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau, median annual income for full-time working millennials was \$42,000 in 2019, leaving many millennials struggling to afford

Ohio man charged in \$7 million Brookfield jewelry heist

BROOKFIELD — A man announced was arrested four years after \$7 million worth of jewelry Ohio was arrested and a fedwas stolen from a vault eral grand jury returned a inside a Brookfield store.

Matthew D. Krueger, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern ly among three disguised District of

James Patrick Quinn of three-count indictment against him. He was alleged-

55-year-old broke into Treiber & Straub Jewelers in Brookfield on July 12, 2016, breached the store's vault, and took a large quantity of goods and merchandise. The three burglars were captured on Wisconsin, individuals people who surveillance video.



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East chases down another state title

Spartans break three state records

By Dave Radcliffe dradcliffe@conleynet.com 262-513-2655

WAUKESHA — Once again, Brookfield East was chasing points at the WIAA Division 1 State Girls Swimming and Diving Championships.

Rinse, repeat.

For the second consecutive Brookfield East claimed the team state title with a remarkable performance at the Waukesha South Natatorium on Nov. 14, shattering three state records and posting a meet-best 340 points. That left Arrowhead settling for the silver trophy for the second time in as many years, as the Warhawks finished 17 points back of the Spartans.

Last season, East bested Arrowhead by 23 to win its first state championship in program history. With both teams returning nearly all their heavy hitters, it was bound to go down to the wire yet again, and the Spartans rose to the challenge under longtime head coach Mike Rose.

"This was fantastic," Rose said. "Arrowhead is a very talented team and we were going from a pretty sizable deficit coming in. It really had to go perfect to win and it really did. The kids just stepped up in event after event and they swam great."

The Spartans not only repeated as state champs, but kicked things off just as they did last year, setting the state record in the 200-yard medley relay as freshman Maggie Wanezek, sophomore Lucy Thomas, senior Reilly Tiltmann and junior Abby Wanezek clocked in at 1 minute, 38.36 seconds — a mere .23 off the national record.

"Trying to take a shot at the national high school record in the 200 medley relay and just missed," Rose said. "It was four seconds faster than we went last year, which is pretty

Tiltmann didn't have much



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Brookfield East's girls swimming and diving team poses with the gold trophy after winning the WIAA Division 1 state title on Nov. 14 at Waukesha South.

second race of the day, finishing in 1:47.60 to knock off last year's champion in the event, Waukesha South/Mukwonago senior Abby Carlson, by nearly 11/2 seconds.

"It was so fast, the turnaround," Tiltmann said. 'At sectionals I had probably 10-15 minutes, but today I had five or 10. It was so fast. But it worked out fine."

Tiltmann and Abby Wanezek had an outside shot at going 4for-4. The elder Wanezek would pick off her second event in the 50 free and did so in record-setting fashion, her time of 22.63 seconds setting the new bar in the state of Wisconsin.

Not only that, but her younger sister, Maggie, touched second at 23.01 as the two embraced in the pool after looking up at the scoreboard.

"Obviously it's great to be with my sister," Abby Wanezek said. "She's my best friend. It's so nice to be able to be around her and race her. medley. "I know everyone

time to rest before diving in a bit unexpected. I was super for the 200 freestyle. But it surprised seeing the state didn't show as she won her record up on the board, which was awesome."

> Two events later, Abby once again took care of business in the 100 free, winning by over a second with a time of 49.48 seconds. Then in the 500 free, Reese Tiltmann moved up from her fifth-place qualifying time to finish runner-up to Carlson in 4:58.18, netting East 17 more valuable points.

But perhaps the biggest sur-Coming in to Saturday, both prise of the afternoon was the Spartans' 200 freestyle relay

> Entering with the fourthfastest time, Thomas, freshman Audrey Olen, junior Callie Gregg and Reese Tiltmann out-swam their seed time by nearly four seconds, touching in 1:34.46 to claim first.

> "We knew we potentially had the speed but I didn't know we had that speed," Rose said. "That was much, much faster than I had thought we would go.

> Thomas concurred. "That was surprising," said Thomas, who also finished second in the 200 individual

and at meets and I really wanted to make it worth our while. I thought it was a really great moment.'

Reilly won her third event of the day, achieving a threepeat in the 100 backstroke and nearly setting a state record of her own in the process at 52.14 seconds. That was just .01 behind the mark set in 2015 by Beata Nelson of Verona Area/Mount Horeb, who has since gone on to win NCAA national titles in the 100 and 200 back at Wiscon-

Not far behind Reilly was Maggie Wanezek, piling on another 17 points by finishing runner-up at 52.47 seconds.

After Thomas repeated as the state champion in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.87), all the Spartans had to do was finish among the top four in the 400 free relay to assure themselves the gold trophy.

They had their sights set higher than that, achieving their third state record of the day as the Wanezek and Thomas sisters easily beat the previous mark set in 2013 by Waukesha South/Muk-



Brookfield East junior Abby Wanezek swims the 100-yard freestyle during the WIAA Division 1 State Swimming and Diving Championships on Nov. 14 at Waukesha South.



From left to right, Brookfield East freshman Maggie Wanezek, junior Abby Wanezek and sophomore Reese Tiltmann celebrate after setting the state record in the 400-yard freestyle relay along with senior Reilly Tiltmann during the WIAA Division 1 State Swimming and Diving Championships on Nov. 14 at Waukesha South.

Wanezek and Reilly Tiltmann Thomas said. "Everybody became four-time state champions. Tiltmann, heading to the University of Virginia next fall, goes out as the most accomplished swimmer in program history with eight

state titles in all. "It's amazing," Reilly Tilt-mann said. "This year we knew it was going to be hard because everyone scores, so points meant a lot for everyone in the pool. But for me individually, I went into the 200 freestyle and the 100 fly, which, I've never done that before, but I was so happy with how they turned out."

In all, Brookfield East won an unprecedented eight of 11 races on Saturday.

"It's been a wild ride and wonago with a time of 3:20.92. I'm really happy to be a part With that, both Abby of this amazing team,"

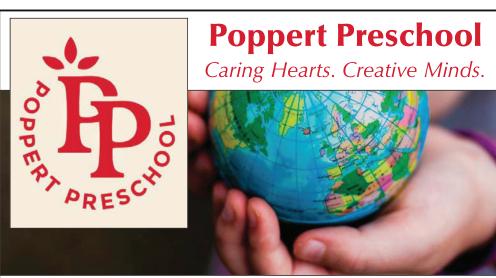
worked so hard and I'm so proud of what everyone did

Despite Reilly moving on to the next level, the Spartans will have an immense amount of talent in the cupboard next season and beyond. But for now, they'll enjoy a bright spot that didn't look like a possibility when the season began.

"All things considered ... we stayed healthy," Rose said. "They worked hard. They were careful about things. We made it through and I'm really, really glad that it worked out the way it did.

"It's a great group of kids. They're hard working and smart and talented and it all showed here. I'm just super proud of them."





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