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THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 2020

School resource officers join Elmbrook district

Safety is ‘number one’ in ‘today’s new norm,’ says superintendent

By Nikki Brahm
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BROOKFIELD — The Elmbrook School District is joining surrounding communities in ensuring the safety of students and staff by hiring two new school resource officers.

The SROs started at Brookfield Central and Brookfield East in January and the SRO Program was approved in a school board meeting July 9, 2019. The agreement ends June 30, 2024.

Elmbrook School District Superintendent Mark Hansen said the conversation for SROs has been in the community for a number of years.

“As more tragic incidents unfolded across our country it became increasingly clear that adding school resource officers would be a necessary part of our school safety approach,” Hansen said. “Through a collaboration with the city of Brookfield Police Department, Common Council and the Elmbrook School District Board of Education, we were able to reach an agreement to begin the calendar year in 2020.”

Hansen said incidents in surrounding communities reaffirmed the school’s decision to get SROs.

“Certainly the incidents

that happened in our region did provide us with an opportunity to think more deeply about school safety, and I think any time those incidents occur, whether they’re close or far from us, may cause us to step back and evaluate our safety plan on an ongoing basis,” Hansen said.

Officers were selected for the roles through the Brookfield Police Department. According to the Elmbrook School’s website, Officer Anthony Kader has been selected for Brookfield Central and Stephanie Zartner for Brookfield East, and have a combined 30 years of experience in law enforcement.

Lt. Jason Pfeiffer of the Brookfield Police Department said all patrol officers who were eligible could apply if they had the appropriate amount of time as a police officer, and the qualifying candidates were then interviewed.

“An interview panel was convened with internal and external board members on the panel,” Pfeiffer said. “And then the chief of police makes final selection.”

Pfeiffer said all SROs are sent to the National Association for School Resource Officers.

“That’s a 40-hour long course that they actually attended out of state this past fall,” Pfeiffer said. “In addition

to that, there is ongoing training specific to issues that we see in high schools, adolescent mindset, risk-taking behavior, mentoring, coaching, and certainly protection of all campus, the whole population of people on campus, from active shooters, and stuff like that.”

Hansen said the SROs follow a school-day schedule and will have offices at their assigned high schools.

Hansen said the school district also uses a violence risk assessment process that they have been using since the Parkland tragedy, along with Hamilton and Waukesha.

“The tool was tested over a course of a year last year in a number of different scenarios, both safety risks, self-harm risks, mental health concerns, a number of school districts were involved in that, since that, we’ve made some adjustments on ours,” Hansen said. “So we’ve been at that for over a year. It allows us to collaboratively determine the level of risk as well as response. Sometimes that means that we’re turning matters over directly to the police department.”

Hansen said the risk assessment has been deployed in the Elmbrook school district, and it gives districts a process during a time when emotions are running high.

Another initiative the school has been using is the “see something, say something” message.

“We have eyes and ears all over this community,”



Photo courtesy of the Elmbrook School District

Stephanie Zartner and Anthony Kader started as the Elmbrook School District’s new school resource officers on Jan. 2.

Hansen said. “We just want people, when they hear something or see something that they’re not sure about, to say something.”

Overall, Hansen said this had not been the norm, but it is now.

“When I signed up to be a teacher, I signed up to teach kids, to help dreams come

true,” Hansen said. “At no point in my teacher preparation did I envision the role that we also play in the safety and security now in today’s new norm. It’s not the norm that inspired me to be a teacher, but it is the norm that is our highest priority. Safety will be number one, no matter what.”

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INSIDE

Ex-employees buy a Cousins sub shop

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Eagle population soaring in state

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Bald eagle numbers soar 27% in southeastern Wisconsin

Population increases across majority of state

By Joe Van DeLaarschot
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Bald eagle numbers soared 27 percent in southeastern Wisconsin in 2019, and populations grew in nearly all parts of the state, as citizen reports helped steer Department of Natural Resources planes, pilots and conservation biologists to more nests to check and volunteer monitors added to the tally.

“Bald eagles’ remarkable comeback continues as they expand into unoccupied territories,” said Laura Jaskiewicz, the DNR research scientist coordinating the aerial surveys. “We’re also excited that many of the new nests were reported from the ground by landowners, raptor enthusiasts and volunteers, adding to the information we’re able to collect from the air.”

The DNR has conducted aerial surveys of known nest locations since the 1970s, documenting population trends and providing current information to landowners and forest managers on nest locations so they can avoid disturbing the birds during the breeding season.

Ground reports and DNR aerial surveys found 1,684 occupied eagle nests in 71 of 72 counties in 2019, with all but northwestern and west central Wisconsin experiencing increases. Overall, researchers documented 11 fewer active nests than the record 1,695 in 2018. An occupied nest is a nest with an incubating



Photo from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Bald eagle numbers rose 27 percent in southeastern Wisconsin in 2019, according to the Wisconsin DNR, and populations grew in nearly all parts of the state. Bald eagles were endangered in Wisconsin and nationally in the 1970s when there were only 108 nests known in Wisconsin.

adult, eggs, young or a repaired nest.

“Northwestern Wisconsin, which had the second-highest number of eagle nests in the state (360), is nearing carrying capacity, which could explain the slight decrease in this area,” Jaskiewicz said. Surveyors for west central Wisconsin believe the late harsh winter may have impacted eagle numbers in that area.

As in past years, Vilas and Oneida counties had the most nests at 175 and 150, respectively. These two counties represent most of the Northern Highland Ecological Landscape, which has one of the highest concentrations of freshwater lakes in the world. Bald eagles build their nests near water for ready access to fish, one of their main prey items.

Bald eagles were endan-

gered in Wisconsin and nationally in the 1970s when there were only 108 nests known in Wisconsin. Protections under federal and state endangered species laws, declining levels of the pesticide DDT in the environment coupled with the DNR and partner efforts to help monitor and aid recovery helped bald eagles fly off the state endangered species list in 1997 and the federal list in 2007. Eagles and their nests are still federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Find more information about bald eagles in Wisconsin and opportunities to see them this winter in the wild, including at events also featuring live raptor shows, on DNR’s Bald Eagle Watching webpage.

Winterfest at The Corners



Photos by Ian Bergersen/Special to The Freeman

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD — The Corners of Brookfield hosted its second annual Winterfest Jan 17-19 to provide guests with fun and raise money for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. A live ice sculpture demonstration and a hot cocoa crawl, ice skating and interactive ice sculptures were at the market square all weekend. The synthetic ice rink was similar to a traditional one, but less slippery and more family-friendly.



Angelina Bounyong and Emily Schwab play mini golf during The Corners Winterfest on Jan. 17.

Local eye care specialists offer tips for detecting vision loss

Paid Advertisement

By Cheryl L. Dejowski

“Loss of vision can be less likely to notice than other impairments, such as hearing loss, which has obvious signs like needing to turn up the TV volume or having people repeat things louder. Loss of vision can go unrecognized because it seldom occurs suddenly or dramatically, and the person often adjusts without even noticing it,” says Mark Freedman, MD, of Eye Care Specialists, one of the state’s leading ophthalmology practices.

His partners agree. Brett Rhode, MD, says “Many people simply accept diminished vision as a fact of life. But, in the majority of cases, this thinking is wrong. Issues like cloudy vision and sensitivity to glare don’t have to be an inevitable consequence of growing old. In fact, problems can often be corrected with little disruption to a person’s daily routine, and the only regret is not taking care of it sooner.”

Daniel Ferguson, MD, recommends, “Make sure you and your loved ones are seeing life to the fullest by scheduling regular, comprehensive, dilated eye examinations. If there are no other concerns or conditions, such as diabetes or glaucoma, these exams should be every 2-4 years from ages 40 to 64, and every 1-2 years after age 65.”

What makes a good eye exam? Daniel Paskowitz, MD, PhD, explains, “A thorough eye exam should check: accommodation capability (ability to switch focus between near and far), pupil reflexes (ability to adjust from light to dark), muscle motility (ability to look to the sides and keep the eyes in alignment), visual acuity (ability to see objects clearly near and far), and visual field (ability to see objects off to the side). It should also examine: the external surface (for infections and inflammations), lens (for cataracts), retina (for macular degeneration, diabetes, etc.), and internal pressure and optic nerve (for glaucoma).”

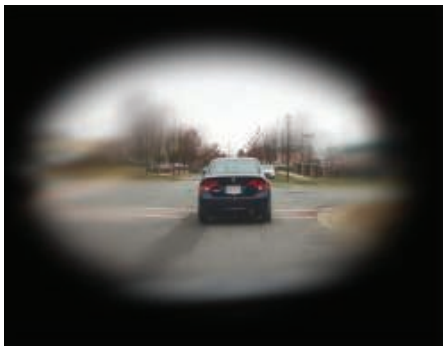
“In between exams, patients and family members should watch for specific visual and non-visual indicators that may signal the need to see an eye care specialist to prevent permanent loss of vision,” notes Michael Raciti, MD.

There are other advantages to detecting and treating eye problems promptly. “Vision improvement has been shown to enhance quality of life, such as the ability to read, write, watch TV, use the telephone, and other tasks,” says David Scheidt, OD. “It also offers psychological and physical benefits by reducing worry, frustration, and depression, as well as the risk of car accidents, falls, and hip fractures.”



Cataracts – Loss of Clear Vision

Symptoms: hazy, blurry vision; dimmed colors; sensitivity to light and glare



Glaucoma – Loss of Side Vision

Symptoms: None, then “tunneling” of vision



Macular Degeneration (AMD) – Loss of Central Vision

Symptoms: difficulty doing close tasks, blind spots, straight lines appear wavy

Visual Indicators That Are Usually Noticed by Patients Themselves:

1. Reduced or fluctuating vision
2. A slowed ability to focus
3. Difficulty reading fine print
4. Distorted depth perception
5. Poorer night vision
6. Increased sensitivity to glare
7. Slower ability to adjust when going from light to dark and vice versa
8. Loss of ability to discriminate colors and/or judge boundaries and edges



Non-Visual Indicators That Are Red Flags for Caregivers, Friends and Relatives:

1. Squinting &/or excessive frowning or blinking
2. Complaints of tired eyes or headaches
3. A shorter attention span
4. Seemingly impaired memory
5. Difficulties with fine motor skills
6. More frequent falls or burns
7. Changes in behavior or mental functioning
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If you don’t have an eye doctor or would like a second opinion, call the offices at right (including one across from Mayfair Mall just minutes away from Brookfield and Elm Grove) to schedule a comprehensive exam, which is typically covered by Medicare and insurance.



Ex-Cousins Subs employees buy restaurant

BROOKFIELD — A couple who fell in love while working at Cousins Subs has now purchased their own franchise location in Brookfield.

Justin McGraw began his career with Cousins Subs in 2001 as a crew member at the sub shop in Hales Corners. During his years of employment, he held a variety of positions including sandwich maker, cashier, baker and shift manager. Laura McGraw was hired by Cousins Subs in 2005. During her four years with the company, she enjoyed building subs, cashiering and baking fresh bread.

After Justin and Laura met and fell in love, they were married in 2014.

For a period, Justin McGraw took a break from working at Cousins

Subs and for 12 years, starting in 2007, he sought professional development opportunities at Stanley Steemer. He began as a technician and worked his way up to become an operations supervisor.

“All of my career decisions were a stepping-stone for us to get to this point,” Justin McGraw said. “My career trajectory has taught me so much about running a business and has set us up for success in our new role as franchisees. Coming home to Cousins Subs has always been my dream, and I am so fortunate to make it a reality as a new business owner.”

Justin and Laura McGraw purchased the Brookfield location from Cousins Subs franchisees

Norm and Mary Jo Lorentz. As new store owners, the McGraws plan to cultivate strong community ties and support hyperlocal organizations that improve youth education, hunger and health and wellness — the three philanthropic pillars of the brand’s Make It Better Foundation, according to the company news release.

“Justin and Laura McGraw will be exemplary Cousins Subs franchise owners,” said Joe Ferguson, vice president of development at Cousins Subs. “They share our belief that quality has no substitute and will treat all guests and employees like family.”

The McGraws’ Cousins Subs store is located at 17495 W. Capitol Drive.



Submitted photo

Justin and Laura McGraw met and fell in love while working at Cousins Subs and now own their own location on Capitol Drive in Brookfield.



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Submitted photo

Tom McCormick, broker/owner of EXIT Realty Horizons, left, with Mo Simmons, the secretary of the Women’s Council of REALTORS Milwaukee Network for 2020.

Simmons named secretary of the Women’s Council of REALTORS Milwaukee Network

WAUWATOSA — EXIT Realty Horizons announced that Mo Simmons has been named secretary of the Women’s Council of REALTORS Milwaukee Network.

“I’m excited to serve as secretary for the Milwaukee Network of the Women’s Council of REALTORS for 2020. Through our influence as successful business professionals, women will affect positive change in the profession and in the broader community,” Simmons said. “We are a network of successful REALTORS, advancing women as business leaders in the industry and in the communities we serve.”

“This achievement demonstrates Mo’s willingness to be involved and help other industry professionals, in addition to serving buyers, sellers and investors in metro Milwaukee,” said Tom McCormick, broker/owner of EXIT Realty Horizons.

EXIT Realty Horizons is located at 6027 W. Vliet St., Wauwatosa.



Submitted photo

Operation Stuffle

BROOKFIELD — Managing Director Steve Cundy of Brookfield-based technology consulting firm Concurrency, Inc. presents stuffed animals donated by the firm’s employees to Healing Hearts of Waukesha County Executive Director Melissa Minkley on Dec. 20 at Concurrency’s office.

This is Concurrency’s third annual “Operation Stuffle” to benefit local nonprofits focused on child well-being.

Brookfield Square losing longtime retailers Hallmark, Lane Bryant

But new tenants on the horizon, officials say

By Dave Fidlin
Special to The Freeman

BROOKFIELD — A card shop and a women’s clothier are the latest tenants to exit Brookfield Square’s roster of retailers, but officials say several new concepts are on the horizon at a time when mall owners across the U.S. continue finding new ways of bringing customers to enclosed spaces.

By month’s end, the gates will be coming down at Amy’s Hallmark and Lane Bryant. The retailers operate near the already shut-

tered anchor store that housed Boston Store through August 2018.

Stacey Keating, a spokeswoman with CBL Properties, the Tennessee-based owner of Brookfield Square, said the closure of Amy’s is the result of shop owners “not renewing their lease at the end of the month.”

Women’s clothier Lane Bryant, which is adjacent to Amy’s, also has announced it will soon cease operations with a closing sale in progress.

Ascena Retail Group, the New Jersey firm that owns

Lane Bryant, shut down all of Dress Barn’s physical locations late last year, including the Brookfield Square store.

In a statement released on the cusp of the holiday season, Gary Muto, CEO of Ascena, said the firm continues to examine its portfolio of stores and undertake pruning when necessary. Lane Bryant stores at Bayshore and Southridge malls continue normal operations, as does a location in Johnson Creek.

“While we are encouraged by the progress we are making, we know there is more work to be done,” Muto said in a statement, outlining the company’s go-forward strategy.

The upcoming closures

come on the heels of another exit that came at year’s end. Jason’s Deli, which opened several years ago with an out-facing entrance on the mall’s east side, closed Dec. 31.

An email sent to customers alerting the closure said company management was “deeply saddened” to make the announcement and described their time at the mall as one “we’ve greatly enjoyed.”

Jason’s Deli’s other Wisconsin location, in Madison, remains open. The company, which has more than 280 eateries across the U.S., also has a number of locations in and near Chicago.

Two other tenants within the mall also are temporarily closed or have been running intermittent operations.

Signs stated short staffing resulted in closed doors at Regis Hairstylists and a Sprint store during regular mall hours. However, Keating said both tenants remain active on the

mall roster.

“Regis and Sprint are working through management changes, and we were told their staffing complications should be resolved,” Keating said.

In with the new

As 2020 picks up steam, Keating said she can confirm two tenants are expected to join the mall.

Lou Malnati’s, a pizzeria with roots in suburban Chicago, is slated to open in “late spring 2020,” Keating said. The eatery made its entry into the Milwaukee market last fall in Fox Point.

Also on the horizon without a confirmed opening date, Keating said, is Three Square Self-Pay Market, a growing business described as a self-contained convenience store. According to Three Square’s website, technology serves as an important backbone to its business plan.

The ever-changing array of shops and services at Brookfield Square comes at

a time of widespread challenges for mall owners. Last fall, CBL ushered in WhirlyBall and the Marcus Movie Tavern as new anchors to the mall’s south end, replacing longtime department store Sears.

Looking forward

In a year-end statement, CBL CEO Stephen Lebovitz singled out Brookfield Square as an example of how the company is trying new, innovative approaches to freshen up its portfolio of mall properties.

“Through the first three quarters of 2019, 74 percent of our new leasing activity has been with non-apparel tenants, further demonstrating our ability to diversify our tenant mix and reinvent our properties,” Lebovitz said in the statement.

“Brookfield Square is a prime example of our vision, successfully combining retail, entertainment, fitness, dining and a future hotel and conference center,” he said.



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Farrow attends U.S.-China trade bill signing

County exec is member of national trade committee

By Cara Spoto
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262-513-2653

WAUKESHA — Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow had a front seat to history in the making on Wednesday, when he attended the signing of the new U.S.-China trade agreement in Washington D.C.

Farrow was invited to the signing as part of his role as a member of the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee (IGPAC).

The panel is made up of local officials from across the country and helps to shape trade policy matters that impact state and local governments. Farrow was appointed to the committee in April 2017, and as part of his work was able to influence elements of the deal that could impact farmers and manufacturers in Wisconsin.

“This was a historic day. It was exciting to be in the room, and listen to the conversations taking place,” Farrow said Wednesday afternoon. “This deal is going to be a game changer. The agreement is going to help us really make a change for not



Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow got to chat with Vice President Mike Pence on Jan. 15 while in Washington, D.C., for the signing for the U.S.-China trade deal.

only the U.S. and China but other agreements we will be working on.”

At the signing Farrow got a chance to chat with Vice President Mike Pence. While Farrow has met Pence before, he said, it was the first chance he got to really have a one-on-one conversation with him.

Among other things, they talked about the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

“He talked about the importance of Waukesha County in the race,” Farrow said.

Farrow said that while in D.C. he also planned to meet with Wisconsin congressmen on trade issues.

Filament sold; Brookfield store closing

BROOKFIELD — After 45 years in business, lighting retailer Filament will close its doors in Brookfield.

Owner Donna Johnson, who purchased Filament when it was named Lighting Accessories, has accepted a position with Wired Custom Lighting based in Los Angeles, as its Chicago manager.

The hiring of Johnson also includes the purchase of the Filament brand, according to the release. All fixtures, lamps, lamp

shades, lamp parts and store displays will be sold at a discount through Feb. 15, or while supplies last, at the store, 13855 W. North Ave.

The team at Filament is proud to be signing off on a high note, according to the news release.

“We are extremely grateful to have so many loyal and lovely clients all over the state. We survived some severe downturns and continued to recreate ourselves to keep it fresh,”

reads the press release.

A few of the projects Johnson is most proud of include being on the vendor list for The Kohler Co., which involved renovating all of the lighting fixtures at River Bend and designing custom lampshades for multiple remodels of The American Club.

Another loyal local fan was Joe Bartolotta, who employed Filament to create shades and lighting fixtures for several restaurants.



Ali Khanmohammadi, bartender at People's Park in Waukesha, mixes drinks at the restaurant recently. The average state worker spends almost \$3,000 on after-work drinks annually, a recent study found.

Study finds steep price tag for after-work drinks in Wisconsin

Average state worker spends nearly \$3,000 on them in 2019

By Nikki Brahm
nbrahm@conley.net
262-513-2651

WAUKESHA — A 2019 study found that the average Wisconsin worker each spends an average of \$2,829 on after-work drinks — an equivalent of more than 650 beers.

The study was done by Alcohol.org, which surveyed 3,000 workers asking how often they go out for after-work drinks and what they spend on average. The Wisconsin average is below the national average of \$3,035.

The study also found that Kentuckians spend the most on after-work drinks, with an average of over \$5,530 per year, while workers in Maine spent the least, with an average of \$1,415.

Ali Khanmohammadi, a

bartender at People's Park, said that he personally could not relate to the Wisconsin average. Khanmohammadi said he sometimes will get free drinks from costumers or discounted drinks when working, but also has a commute which discourages him from drinking more.

“We're allowed to indulge a little, not to the point of being wasted,” Khanmohammadi said. “That (number) is way too high. I mean we do get a lot of regulars here, but I don't (drink that much).”

The study also found that a third of workers think after-work drinks are good for team bonding and 1 in 10 workers have shots during after-work drinks.

“It's often a relief to knock back a drink or two after a long day at work, and as an added incentive, happy hour is usually from 4-6 p.m., coinciding perfectly with the end of the workday,” the Alcohol.org press release said. “... and now that Christmas party season is in full swing, one drink leads to two or three, and before you know it, you've bought a couple rounds for the entire

office.”

The research also found 15 percent of employees have no fear about getting drunk in front of their bosses and 11 percent of bosses said they would get drunk in front of their employees. It was also found that after-work drinking sessions last an average of 1.8 hours for Wisconsin employees.

Fourteen percent of the overall respondents also admitted that, on at least one occasion, they've acted inappropriately during after-work drinks.

Joy Sutton, spokesperson for Alcohol.org, said it's important to ensure that you're not becoming dependent on alcohol use.

“Alcohol use disorder is more common than people realize,” Sutton said. “It's the No. 1 reason people seek treatment at American addiction centers. To evaluate if you or a loved one may have a problem, there is a free online assessment. We encourage people to reach out for help.”

“Alcohol use disorder is treatable, but left untreated, will most likely get worse.”

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SC: HouseAd RC: 6x6

Heirloom furniture truly gifts from past generations

Q.: Would you consider valuing two pieces of furniture that were passed down from our great-great-grandparents? They are a table model music box and sewing table.

— M.M., Oconomowoc



BARBARA EASH

Antiques Appraised

A.: Since precise examination was needed, the owners allowed me to visually inspect the heirlooms.

In the 19th century, Switzerland exported a wide range of styles and qualities of interchangeable-cylinder music boxes. Each cylinder was very labor intensive with hand sharpening. A small box could be purchased with one music cylinder while some buyers invested in a matched furniture pair. People from all walks of life were enthralled with music being generated from rotating steel rollers covered with sharp teeth.

Among other selections, your example of music includes waltz music by Strauss and the Funeral March by Chopin. Any additional cylinders would be safeguarded in the specialized table drawer. The Toupie table leg style is from a previous period, meaning spinning top. The printed program retains vivid color, exquisite calligraphy and pictorial scenes. Always credit is due to the past workmanship and family caretakers. With the history of private ownership and complete working order, insurance value is **\$6,000.**

Sewing table

In the 18th and 19th centuries, specialized work tables elevated textile professionals. A flap-drop table provided more work surface then customary, lift-top tables. The upswing of these elaborately designed work stations had a utilitarian purpose, but also became a status symbol in homes and shops. No longer would the sewing table be relegated to a back room but would be displayed as a fine piece of furniture.

Features:

- Although there is damage on a top corner, wood surface retains the original patina.

- Wood knobs are early replacements but rounded drawer fronts have locking mechanisms.
 - The ruched, silk bag was reluctantly nicknamed “possum belly” and hid unfinished sewing projects.
 - Fitted interior drawer compartments held thread, needles, thimbles etc.
- Your hand-written document stored in a drawer records the chain of custody and charts the first entry date of “June 25, 1876.” This information is verified by the handwriting on the underside of the drawer. The sewing station should be insured for **\$5,500**, but the bidding could go higher at an antique textile auction.

Sewing trivia: Have you ever seen a thimble slightly flattened (bent out of round)? It’s very likely it was pinched purposely. Young girls were required to practice using a beginner-adjusted thimble. When they were proficient enough, they earned a personalized, rounded thimble.

Have an item for appraisal?

If you have an item you’d like to be appraised, mail entries to Waukesha Antique Shop, 1427 E. Racine Ave., Unit E-2, Waukesha, WI 53186. Send sharp, well-lit photos of front, back and underside of your item, and measurements are important. List any known history or even hearsay, length of ownership and all markings, even partial ones. Include your name, address and phone number. No photos can be returned and no purchase of antiques 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.)



Orthopaedic Associates proposes Brookfield clinic

BROOKFIELD — Orthopaedic Associates of Wisconsin is proposing an 18,600-square-foot medical clinic near the new convention center next to Brookfield Square mall.

The organization said in a letter to the Brookfield Plan Commission that it wants to build a two-story orthopedic medical clinic at 117 S. Moorland Road that would contain ortho exam rooms and pre- and post-recovery bays, offer diagnostic X-ray and MRI services and have staff support spaces.

In the letter, Orthopaedic Associates of Wisconsin says it has been looking for a location in the Waukesha area for about a year to complement its main facility in the Town of Delafield, which was built about 2016 off Golf Road.

During a year, Orthopaedic Associates of Wisconsin says its patient clinic visits, inclusive of physical and occupation therapy, MRI and therapy



Submitted rendering

Orthopaedic Associates of Wisconsin is proposing an 18,600-square-foot medical clinic near Brookfield Square mall.

services, exceeds 90,000.

“It is our goal to be the leader in cost-effective high-quality orthopedic care. With more and more employers becoming self-insured and patients dealing with higher deductible and co-pays for services, this will be a welcomed alternative,” reads the letter. “The potential not only offers our organization, but

the surrounding communities and businesses an influx of increased dollars. The patient visits I mentioned earlier, coupled with any growth that will occur, will now be in the area spending their money for food, retail, gas and the like in the Brookfield Square area.”

It will require Common Council approval.

Technology to allow people to pay for gas with Alexa

Fiserv works with ExxonMobil to make service available

BROOKFIELD — Paying for gas at the pump is about to get much easier as Brookfield-based Fiserv, Inc. works with ExxonMobil to allow for customers to pay for their gas purchase with Amazon’s Alexa.

Later this year, Alexa-enabled vehicles, Echo Auto, and other Alexa-enabled mobility devices will be able to say, “Alexa, pay for gas” when they pull up to

the pump.

In the beginning the new way to pay will be available at more than 11,500 Exxon and Mobil stations in the U.S.

Transactions will be processed using Amazon Pay, allowing consumers to securely use the payment information stored in their Amazon account, and powered by digital commerce technology from Fiserv.

“We’re excited to bring new technology and better experiences to the gas station,” said Eric Carmichael, Americas fuels marketing manager at ExxonMobil, in a statement. “We build and seek out technology that will wow our consumers, providing both ease of use and

security.”

Devin McGranahan, senior group president of Global Business Solutions at Fiserv, said people are expecting more ways for digital to make their lives easier.

“As consumer expectations change, there is growing demand for frictionless interactions that span the digital and physical worlds,” he said in a statement. “The age of connected commerce is here, and voice-activated smart devices will play a pivotal role in the future of payments by streamlining the way consumers make purchases every day.”

View the “Alexa, pay for gas” experience at <https://bit.ly/2t9D5dI>.

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Former classmates reconnect over lifesaving kidney

One 2003 Waukesha North grad donates organ for another

By Ian Bergersen
262-513-2654
ibergersen@conley.net

WAUKESHA — Most people reconnect with old high school friends by inviting them to grab a cup of coffee or talk over a glass of beer. But Jed Hale and Kyle Kleinbeck reconnected over a life-saving kidney.

In 2016, Hale was diagnosed with vasculitis after noticing inflammation in his leg. Treatment was going well until 2018 when he started to have chronic headaches and felt constantly dehydrated. It soon became clear to doctors that the disease had moved into his kidneys and had caused them to fail.

After starting dialysis, Hale searched for a kidney donor. Some of Hale's friends and family offered to donate, but they were all unable to due to various complications. But then an old friend that Hale hadn't seen in years, Kyle Kleinbeck, answered the call.

"We were very close in high school," Hale said.

Hale and Kleinbeck became friends while attending Waukesha North High School. They played football and studied together, and they bonded over their shared love of fishing.

"Two or three days a week, Jed and I would get in his old Toyota after school and head out to Saylesville and just toss the sinker out until we caught a catfish or something," Kleinbeck said. "We were good friends back in those days."

They went separate ways after graduating in 2003 and saw each other less and less,

but their bond never faded. Eventually, Kleinbeck saw a Facebook post from Hale explaining his situation.

"And he basically just said, 'Let's go,'" Hale said. "I was overcome with gratitude."

After going through various screens at UW Health Clinic to make sure that Hale's body wouldn't reject Kleinbeck's kidney, it seemed that they would be compatible until the last step in the screening process revealed that they weren't a perfect match.

Doctors decided to use the National Kidney Registry to find a perfect donor for Hale and to find a recipient for Kleinbeck's kidney. Because Kleinbeck was donating his kidney for Hale's sake, Hale would get a kidney from the registry immediately without having to wait, and Kleinbeck would also be helping someone else in need.

Chain of support

Because the Paired Kidney Exchange program allows for more than two exchanges, Kleinbeck's donation completed a chain of at least five people waiting to receive a kidney.

"It was already intensely emotional and I was already committed," Kleinbeck said "But it was extremely moving to find out that doing it through the network results in six surgeries in a week. It was really, really cool."

In March 2019, Jed went in for the transplant operation and received his lifesaving kidney.

"They put the kidney in and had me up walking the



Submitted photo

Kyle Kleinbeck one week after donating his kidney to his friend Jed Hale.



Submitted photo

Jed Hale received a new kidney in 2019 after a friend, Kyle Kleinbeck, donated his to the National Registry.

Federal ID requirements fast approaching

Starting Oct. 1, you'll need a federally approved driver's license to fly

By Cara Spoto
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262-513-2653

WAUKESHA — It's been nearly 15 years since U.S. lawmakers passed legislation calling for the creation of a federally recognized ID.

But while the law itself — crafted following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks — may seem like ancient history, one of its biggest requirements is set to go into effect in roughly 10 months when enforcement of the REAL ID Act officially begins.

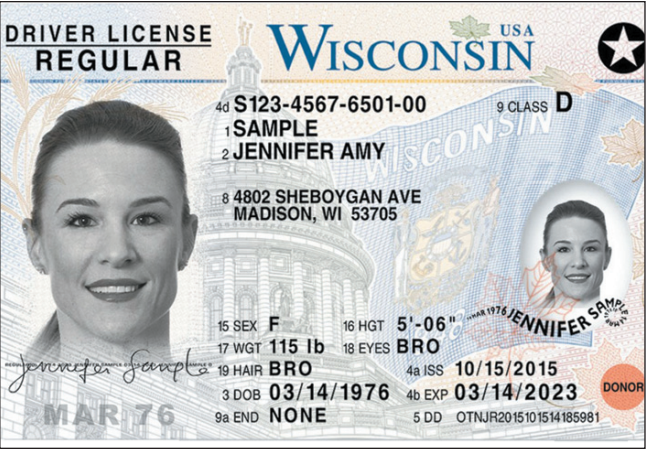
Starting Oct. 1, anyone wishing to fly commercially within the U.S. will either need a current passport or REAL ID-compliant driver's license or state ID to make it through security and board the plane.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, nearly 40 percent of all Wisconsin driver license or ID card holders are already REAL ID compliant.

If you don't know if your driver's license or state ID is compliant, just take a quick look at the upper right-hand corner. If there is a star there, you're fine. If it says "not for federal purposes," you'll need to get a REAL ID or get or renew a U.S. passport if you want to fly or enter a federal building on or after Oct. 1.

Taking notice

People who don't yet have a REAL ID are apparently



Courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation

A sample made by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation shows what the Wisconsin version of a REAL ID driver's license looks like. The main difference in appearance between the REAL ID (federal) driver's license and other state driver's licenses is the star in the upper right-hand corner. The REAL ID has it. Other state driver's licenses do not.

taking notice, according to WisDOT. Enrollment in REAL ID program is up 22 percent from 2018, an agency press release states, and in 2019 roughly 54 percent of all driver's licenses and IDs issued by the state were REAL ID compliant.

Still, officials are urging those who know they will need a REAL ID-compliant card not to procrastinate, noting that those who wait too long could face longer lines at the Department of Motor Vehicles as the deadline gets closer.

"Our customers are encouraged to visit the DMV sooner rather than later. No one wants to miss their flight or meeting because they don't have the

proper identification," Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles Administrator Kristina Boardman said. "2020 will be an exceptionally busy year. We urge anyone who plans to fly domestically or visit a federal building or military base to make plans to enroll in REAL ID well ahead of the October 1, 2020 deadline."

The Wisconsin DMV has more information on REAL ID, including what documents are required, costs, and the handy interactive Driver Licensing Guide, which helps customers develop a personalized checklist of the required documents needed to bring to the DMV, at wisconsin.dmv.gov/REALID.

Waukesha bus driver who helped lost children to appear on 'Kelly Clarkson Show'

Chamberlain honored by mayor after November incident

By Nikki Brahm
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WAUKESHA — The Waukesha bus driver who stopped her bus on a morning route to help two lost children walking in the cold has been receiving a lot of media attention — something she said she isn't used to.

Since then, Nicole Chamberlain said she has received a lot of attention from local media, and now, national media.

In November, Chamberlain said she was working a shift when she noticed a young boy and girl walking down the sidewalk while the wind chill factor was three degrees. They both did not have coats on and the little girl was wearing only a T-shirt and a diaper. After helping the children onto her bus and calling 911, Chamberlain learned that the kids had left their home to search for their grandma, who had briefly gone into the basement.

"I'm a mother and there are so many bad things that can happen to little kids, and I hate to go there, but they were headed towards Sunset, which is at the intersection, and it was freezing outside, it was a really dangerous situation all around," Chamberlain said.

Since that day, bus footage from the event has been on news stations and Chamberlain said she has interviewed by almost every local news outlet.

"It was crazy, my mind was just spinning because it just seemed like it was a kind, right thing to do and I couldn't believe all of the people that were interested in the story, but a lot of people said to me, 'The world is looking for good stories ... a happy story,'" Chamberlain said.

Chamberlain said while she was in Los Angeles she was interviewed on "Inside Edition," "Good Morning America," "E&E" and Time magazine. Chamberlain also



Photo courtesy of Nicole Chamberlain

Nicole Chamberlain continues to drive her bus route after flying to Los Angeles for interviews where she spoke about her story on "The Kelly Clarkson Show." The show featuring Chamberlain is scheduled to air Feb. 12.

went on "The Kelly Clarkson Show, where she was presented with a proclamation from Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly.

Chamberlain said she doesn't travel a lot but used to live in St. Louis and has traveled to Florida, but never to LA.

"It was really nice," Chamberlain said. "They flew me out early, I have a friend that lives out there, I enjoyed the whole day, got out of the snow. I was able to relax for a little bit and really enjoy the experience."

Chamberlain said she's blown away by how much kindness she has received.

"People have been sending me cards, thanking me for doing what I did," she said. "People are proud, people I don't even know."

Chamberlain also said she's often recognized when she is out in public, which is worth it if it encourages someone to do a good act.

"It's amazing, I was in Walmart the other day ... and a lady said 'aren't you that bus driver?'" and it just blows my mind," Chamberlain said.

Waukesha Metro Transit Supervisor Brian Engelking said Chamberlain's bus route was running about five minutes early that morning, so it was fate for Chamberlain to come across the two children.

"We had some early snow,

so when you watch the video it's pretty clear that the visibility was pretty bad that morning and she still was able to see those kids," Engelking said. "So number one, she's being extremely observant and number two, our main thing is you see something, you say something, you report it to authorities. But she took it to a whole other level, stopped her bus, got the kids out of the cold and into safety."

Engelking said Nicole is a relatively new employee.

"She did an outstanding job and you can't say enough, she's just a sweet person, a very kind, caring individual, so the recognition couldn't be to a better person," Engelking said.

Chamberlain said she teaches her kids, who are now 14 and 15 years old, to do one kind act a day, such as assist the elderly with their groceries.

"A lot of people who drive by don't want to get involved and just doing one act, one kind act a day can make a difference in someone's life, no matter how small it is, it will impact someone's life and this is an example of that."

"The Kelly Clarkson Show" featuring Chamberlain's story and proclamation from the mayor is scheduled to air Feb. 12.

Eagle Park Brewing Brew pub, to open this May in Muskego

By Darryl Enriquez
Special to Freeman
denriquez@wi.rr.com

MUSKEGO — A new 21,600-square-foot, two-level brewery and distillery, complete with restaurant and brew pub, is scheduled to open in May at S64-W15640 Commerce Center Parkway.

Called Eagle Park Brewing, its three owners have brewed beer together professionally for three years, said partner Jake Schinker. The other owners include brothers Max and Jackson Borgardt.

The trio operates an Eagle Park brew pub on Milwaukee's East Side at 823 E. Hamilton St. It will remain open after the launch of the Muskego business, Schinker said.

Natives of New Berlin, the three got to know each other at a New Berlin tavern that's not far from the location of their new brew pub. That's where they discovered their mutual passion for brewing beer, Schinker said.

The trio shared ideas about the art of home brewing and decided to open

their first professional location in Bay View. Eagle Park will expand to a brew pub that seats 150 on the first floor and more on a mezzanine, he said.

The 20,000-square foot first floor will house the pub room, kitchen, a party room and brewing and distilling location. A 1,600-square-foot mezzanine will overlook the pub floor.

Owners plan to brew of 9,600 barrels of beer yearly at the Muskego site. They brew 1,600 barrels annually at East Side location, Schinker said.



Submitted photo

Pictured from left, front row: Karina Rodriguez, Safa Jan, Yige Gu, McKenna Nagy, Maggie Kosidowski, Mira Santo Tomas, and Serena Richardson; middle row, Amanda Roessler, Reena Singhal, Emma Osborne, Cormac Malloy, Julia Jensen, Genevieve Kopp, and Bridgette Youso; and back row, Ryan Beckley Justyn Anderson, Katherine Shalyaev, Anneke Zaiser, Christopher Jasinski, Leonardo Astorga, and Emma Hindle. Not pictured: Hannah Kludt, Neha Kurpad, and Alex Star.)

Brookfield Academy students win Scholastic Art Awards

BROOKFIELD — Brookfield Academy announced that 24 Upper School art students were recognized for their artistic talents by Scholastic Art Awards-Wisconsin. The following students earned 33 awards in a wide variety of categories: Justyn Anderson, Milwaukee, Silver Key (Drawing and Illustration); Leonardo Astorga, Milwaukee, Honorable Mention (Drawing and Illustration); Ryan Beckley, Elm Grove, Silver Keys (Drawing and Illustration, Mixed Media); Yige Gu, Wauwatosa, Honorable Mention (Drawing and Illustration); Emma Hindle, Delafield, Silver Key (Sculpture); Safa Jan, Muskego, Gold Key (Sculpture); Christopher Jasinski, Pewaukee, Gold Key (Painting); Julia Jensen, Brookfield, Gold Key, Honorable Mention (Drawing and Illustration); Hannah Kludt, Mequon,

Silver Key (Sculpture); Genevieve Kopp, Brookfield, Honorable Mention (Mixed Media); Maggie Kosidowski, Menomonee Falls, Silver Key (Sculpture); Neha Kurpad, Brookfield, Honorable Mentions (Digital Art, Sculpture); Cormac Malloy, Lisbon, Honorable Mention (Drawing and Illustration); McKenna Nagy, Pewaukee, Gold Key (Digital Art); Emma Osborne, Mequon, two Honorable Mentions (Drawing and Illustration); Serena Richardson, Wauwatosa, Honorable Mention (Drawing and Illustration); Karina Rodriguez, Milwaukee, Honorable Mention (Design); Amanda Roessler, Brookfield, Honorable Mention, Silver Key, Gold Key (Fashion) and Gold Key (Art Portfolio); Mira Santo Tomas, Wauwatosa, Honorable Mention (Printmaking); Katherine Shalyaev,

Brookfield, Silver Key (Painting); Reena Singhal, Menomonee Falls, Honorable Mention (Digital Art), Silver Keys (Mixed Media, Fashion); Alex Star, Brookfield, Silver Key (Digital Art); Bridgette Youso, Elm Grove, Honorable Mention (Drawing and Illustration); Anneke Zaiser, Elm Grove, Honorable Mention (Drawing and Illustration). Five Brookfield Academy students who earned a Gold Key will compete for Silver and Gold Medals at the national level. The Scholastic Art Awards program acknowledges excellence in the visual arts and encourages the artistic endeavors of young people throughout the United States. The annual awards ceremony will be held at the Milwaukee Art Museum, Saturday, Feb. 8. The Scholastic Art Awards - Wisconsin Exhibition is featured at the museum Feb. 1 through March 15.

Vrakas hires manager, associates and professional clerical staff

BROOKFIELD — The public accounting and business advisory firm of Vrakas S.C. announced the addition of Michael Thornton, CPA, tax manager; Britley Diermeier, audit associate; Lydia Glatzel, audit associate and Raini Helm, professional clerical staff.

Thornton joins Vrakas with over 15 years of experience. As a tax manager his responsibilities include tax consulting, compliance and planning, as well as reviewing complex corporate, partnership and individual tax returns for closely held businesses and their shareholders. He currently resides in Colgate with his wife.

Diermeier joins Vrakas as an audit associate after graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran College with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting. Prior to coming on full-time, she interned with Vrakas in the



Thornton



Diermeier



Glatzel



Helm

spring of 2019. Diermeier's responsibilities include performing audits and other assurance engagements for closely-held businesses. She is a member of the Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants and resides in Waukesha with her husband, Tyler.

Glatzel joins Vrakas as an audit associate after graduating from Wisconsin Lutheran College with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting. Prior to coming on full time, Glatzel interned with Vrakas in the spring of 2019. Her responsibilities include perform-

ing audits and other assurance engagements for closely-held businesses. She is a member of the WICPA and lives in Menomonee Falls.

Helm joins Vrakas' Kenosha office in the role of professional clerical staff. Her responsibilities include processing of individual and corporate tax returns and audit and review reports. She also assists the small-business accounting department. Helm holds an Associates of Applied Science degree from Gateway Technical College. She lives in Burlington with her husband and their child.

Good Land Wing Co. coming in spring

Restaurant offers healthier chicken wing options

By Katherine Beck
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262-513-2644

BROOKFIELD — Good Land Wing Co. announced plans to open a new location in Brookfield in early 2020, which will be its third site.

Good Land Wing Co. slow-roasts and then oven-bakes its wings to order. They come in more than 10 sauces.

The Brookfield restaurant will be located at 15375 W. Bluemound Road, at Moorland and Bluemound roads in the Shoppes at Brookfield Commons.

Its two existing locations are at 2911 N. Oakland Ave. in Milwaukee and 620 W. Grand Ave. in Port Washington, its first location.

Good Land Wing Co. promotes itself as making a



Submitted photo

Good Land Wing Co. promotes itself as making a "favorite food healthier."

"favorite food healthier."

"How do we get people to enjoy the food they love, as healthy as possible, without sacrificing quality and flavor?" said Good Land owner Josh Brown in a press release. "Through a lot of trial and error and some industry expert input, we've landed on the perfect balance ... Our emphasis is on food that's made fresh from

carefully selected ingredients that are purchased locally whenever possible. Brookfield has a vibrant restaurant scene and we're looking forward to being part of that."

Good Land Wing Co. sells boneless and classic chicken wings, as well as vegetarian options — breaded cauliflower wings and "UnChicken Meatless Wings."

All the chicken is hormone- and antibiotic-free. The menu of healthier eats includes Good Land Wing Co.'s wraps, sandwiches, salads and skilletts. Select varieties of local craft beers and sodas are available. The menu is rounded out with appetizers that include giant pretzels from Milwaukee Pretzel Company. And for guests who would like to indulge just a bit, desserts include beignets and S'Mores Campfire Waffles.

The new restaurant will create jobs for 20-25 people in and around Brookfield.

Pieces of the past

New Brookfield memory care facility plans to keep vestiges of old farmstead

By Dave Fidlin
Special to The Freeman

BROOKFIELD — A barn and produce stand might seem out of sync with a new four-building memory care and assisted living facility under construction on Brookfield's north side.

But from the standpoint of staffers at Azura Memory Care, the two features are a very natural fit for their latest project, which is slated to open in a series of phases, beginning in the fall.

A year and a half ago, Azura executives pitched Brookfield officials with their latest concept, an 80-unit facility on a former 8.25-acre farmstead near Pilgrim Road and Capitol Drive.

While the Mierow Farm at 16030 W. Capitol Drive will no longer function as a traditional agriculture site, vestiges of its past are being incorporated into Azura's plans for the property.

"People know it; people love it," said Paula Gibson, regional director of communications and engagement at Azura. "It feels like home to them."

Once Azura's newest facility is up and running, Gibson said the touches that remain from the property's prior years will provide unique opportunities for residents, including a concept known as horticulture therapy.

Gibson said plans also are in the works to incorporate a small garden into the site, which will provide an opportunity to serve up fresh produce within the Azura kitchen as meals are prepared for residents.

While the barn will largely function as a storage facility, Gibson said Azura intends to spruce up the building and maintain it. Tours of the piece of Brookfield's history, she said, also are part of the itinerary.

"We're excited about what's to come," Gibson said. "We know that work-



Dave Fidlin/Special to The Freeman

The former Mierow Farm at 16030 W. Capitol Drive will become home to Azura Memory Care for people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The facility will retain elements of the site's farming past to be adapted for therapeutic uses.

"People know it; people love it. It feels like home to them."

— Paula Gibson,
Azura spokeswoman

the next three decades.

At the time of Azura's initial presentation, Lyons said the estimated population of U.S. residents diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease hovered around 5 million people. By 2050, Lyons said it was expected to jump to 16 million people.

Whenever possible, Gibson said one of the philosophies within Azura is to reach beyond its own walls and engage in outreach so people are more informed about memory care and what can be done to slow some of the effects of Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

"We want to partner with the community," Gibson said. "And we want to keep our residents connected to the community in any way possible."

One of Azura's first visible presences in Brookfield will take place this spring. The company is hosting a Dementia Symposium on May 20 at the Brookfield Convention Center, which will have opened its doors not long before the date. Further details on the symposium will be available at www.azuramemory.com/events.

ing those old memories can make for some really wonderful connections."

Meeting growing needs

Azura operates more than a dozen other facilities across Wisconsin geared toward persons diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

While Brookfield has other multitenant housing developments for the aging population, Gibson said the company's research revealed there is — and will continue to be — a need for specialty services in the community.

When Azura representatives first pitched their idea to Brookfield officials in fall 2018, Matthew Lyons, director of development, said needs such as the ones Azura addresses are projected to more than triple in

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Majeskie always loved Brookfield baseball

LOL Hall of Famer dies at 86

By Chuck Delsman
Freeman Correspondent

BROOKFIELD — He was the Godfather of Brookfield Land O’ Lakes baseball. Nobody cared more about the Bulldogs than Bill Majeskie.

And when the 2020 LOL Western Division season begins in May, his presence both on and off the field will be dearly missed.

Majeskie, who spent more than 60 years playing, managing or being a director in the league, passed away on Dec. 23 at home with his family by his side. His funeral was held at Queen of Apostles Catholic Church in Pewaukee on Dec. 28.

“At his funeral some of his children and grandchildren talked about how much the Brookfield Bulldogs meant to him,” said Jason Booth, who formed, managed and played for the Bulldogs since the team was started in 1998. “Just to hear those things they were saying were very humbling to both myself and all of the guys who attended his funeral. I knew he loved Bulldogs baseball but I never knew he loved us and

the team as much as he did. That’s the kind of guy Bill was. He didn’t need the spotlight. He was always there when we needed him.”

Majeskie’s LOL career in Brookfield started as soon as he was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant from the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. And once he showed up for that first Brookfield team, he was hooked on LOL baseball.

He played many years for the Lakers before starting his long reign as manager. He was an all-star as a player and won several Grand Championships in his career. He won several Life-long Service awards for Brookfield and earned his ultimate honor in 2000 when he was inducted into the prestigious Land O’ Lakes Old Timers Association’s Hall of Fame.

“I never played with him, but played against him a long time and I don’t think anyone ever loved baseball more than Bill did,” said Waukesha Hall of Famer Glenn Moerschel. “Plus, he was a great guy.”

Booth decided to start the Bulldogs for the 1998 season



Submitted photo

Bill Majeskie, second from left, stands with the Brookfield Bulldogs during the national anthem before the Grand Championship game against West Bend 7 Up in August. Majeskie, who passed away at 86 on Dec. 23, spent more than 60 years playing, managing or being the director of the Land O’ Lakes baseball league.

and he knew it was going to take a lot of work to get things started. And he said nobody helped him and the team more than Majeskie.

“He taught us a lot of things but most important he taught us we had to be a tight-knit family,” Booth

said. “He made us a family. I think his leadership and his value to us taught us we could be a championship-level team. All the years I was involved all the guys had a ton of respect for him. When he came to the games, all the players made sure

they walked up to him and made sure to say hi. Our guys did a great job of that and I knew Bill really enjoyed that.”

No matter what the weather, it was rare when Majeskie missed a Bulldogs game on a Sunday after-

noon. He might stay five innings, seven innings or the entire game. And he made more than his share of road games as well. He loved talking LOL baseball to whoever would listen to him.

Bob Groth, the longtime secretary-treasurer of the Land O’ Lakes Old Timers Association, said Majeskie was a very valuable member of the board of directors for a long, long time.

“Bill was definitely the backbone of Brookfield baseball,” Groth said. “But he also did a lot of work for the Old Timers Association. When we started our golf outing years ago he got us a lot of golfers and did a lot of things to help make the outing a success. He was always there when we needed him.”

Rather ironically, Majeskie, at 86, had a part in the final game of the season last August for the Bulldogs when they played visiting West Bend 7-Up in a playoff game.

That day he was honored by the team as they had him throw out the ceremonial first pitch, proudly wearing his Bulldogs cap with all of the Bulldogs lined on up the first base line.

What a great way for a great guy to close out his LOL career.

PREP FOOTBALL

Gumm takes over at Hamilton

New coach spent three years at KM

By Dave Radcliffe
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TOWN OF LISBON — It’s time for Hamilton to “Chop the Wood.”

It was announced recently that Justin Gumm will be the next head football coach of the Chargers after the decision was approved by the school board.

Gumm, who was previously an assistant at Grafton and head coach at Kettle Moraine, replaces longtime coach John Damato, who stepped down from the position in December after 16 years.

“It was a job that my wife and I thought about through discussion,” Gumm said. “There were two jobs in the state that really attracted me. Everyone wants to talk about the facilities, but it was the growth that drew me the most, the growth of the community. And then (Hamilton superintendent Paul Mielke) having a background in athletics, football especially, I was always hearing good things about Mike Gosz, the athletic director. Personalitywise, he’s very similar to Mike Fink at Kettle Moraine, who was phenomenal to me. So it was a combination of those things.”

Following a three-year stint at Kettle Moraine, the 32-year-old Gumm spent last season as the offensive coordinator at Grafton, a move he made to be closer to family with a 4-month-old child.

The Black Hawks went 7-4, including 6-3 in the North Shore Conference, reaching the second round of the WIAA Division 3 playoffs. The Hamilton job became vacant soon thereafter, and it was an opportunity Gumm couldn’t pass up.

“Through different avenues, the job just kind of came up,” Gumm said. “I wasn’t necessarily looking but it was too good not to throw my hat in. Through the interview process, I said, holy cow, this place has the chance to be really special. Let’s go all in on this thing and see if we can make it happen.”

It’s Gumm’s third head coaching job, his first coming in Illinois before he made the move to Wisconsin in his late 20s to take over a middling Kettle Moraine program in 2016.

It only took Gumm two years to lead the Lasers to the postseason, ending a 10-year drought. He went 17-14 over three seasons at KM, who also got past the opening round of the D1 playoffs in 2018.

“Some of the reasons that maybe we didn’t get to the next level at KM, there’s not maybe that excuse at Sussex,” Gumm said. “There are definitely some similarities, demographically with the type of people, the community still being in Waukesha County. Having worked in the Classic 8, it’s probably the greatest conference in the state, but the Greater Metro Conference is pretty well respected as well. Just having that background, coaching with good coaches, coaching against good coaches. The youth program and rejuvenating and restructuring the whole thing there at KM, it got me excited to do something very similar at Hamilton. There’s a chance for some major growth there. I think all those experiences are something that can help with future



Gumm

success.”

Gumm then stepped down from the Kettle Moraine position on June 1 to take a physical education and strength and conditioning job at Grafton, where he also became offensive coordinator. He said he learned a lot from and couldn’t have worked for a better head coach in Jim Norris, and hopes to bring some of those qualities with him to Hamilton.

“Not just from a football standpoint, but from a culture standpoint and a structuring standpoint,” Gumm said. “Obviously we had a pretty special year. I did some things differently offensively that I hadn’t done in the past because of the personnel we had. That was fun and different, and made me professionally grow.”

But when it came down to it, Gumm said the biggest thing he learned as an assistant was that he was meant to be a head coach.

“And that’s nothing against (Norris),” Gumm said. “Sometimes you don’t know until you’re in different situations. But it just made me realize, hey, I need to be running my own program. And at the same time, my hours didn’t change a ton.

Early on a little bit but it got to the point where I’d be doing the same thing anyways if I was a head coach. It helped me realize the value in family because those are hours you can’t get back. But I also think it will be good for me in terms of giving me balance in life and to make sure my assistants have balance. In the past I’ve been a person that’s been pretty demanding of my assistants, so being an assistant allowed me to open eyes to having more balance.”

The Chargers finished 3-6 overall and 3-5 in GMC play last season, finishing sixth in the nine-team league. Hamilton’s best season under Damato came in 2008 when it reached the Division 1 state semifinals. It owns one state-final berth in program history (2000).

The Mequon resident hopes to lead Hamilton to greener pastures under his “Chop the Wood” mantra, and that’s where it begins for Gumm — culture.

“Our culture is our No. 1 priority,” Gumm said. “We probably won’t talk anything X’s and O’s maybe for a couple months. Going back to KM, I was hired at the beginning of the summer, so I had very, very little time to make that a priority and then having to jump into X’s and O’s and teach the kids that type of stuff. So Year 2 was when we made the big jump. It’ll be nice to have couple months to instill the culture before we focus on anything footballwise.”

PREP GIRLS SOCCER

Burke gets national recognition

CMH coach named MaxPreps’ girls soccer Coach of the Decade

By Dave Radcliffe
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WAUKESHA — Just like anyone else, John Burke was scrolling through Twitter recently, getting caught up on the latest news — perhaps reading some inspiring New Year’s resolutions — when he saw his name pop up on the screen.

“I remember seeing my name and thinking, ‘Oh, there’s someone else named John Burke,’” Burke said. “It didn’t even register as me, so I went back and looked at it again and realized, ‘Oh, it’s talking about CMH soccer.’”

The Catholic Memorial girls soccer coach couldn’t believe it at first. The tweet read that he was named the MaxPreps National Coach of the Decade for girls soccer.

Not a bad way to kick off 2020.

“It took me completely by surprise,” Burke said. “I was just so overwhelmed by it, so it’s really neat. It didn’t register to me that it was a national award. I was thinking more locally when I first read it, but then I saw coaches from all the different states, California, Texas, that’s when it started to settle in.”

Burke may have found the news hard to believe, but the winningest coach in the history of Wisconsin girls high school soccer has the accolades to back up such a prestigious honor.

From 2010-19, Burke compiled a 221-72-22 record and eight state

titles to go along with 10 academic All-American team awards and the USC Pinnacle Award for sportsmanship, academics and performance in a decade.

“I have a lot of good kids. They just perpetuate the culture,” Burke said. “It’s really about those senior captains every year, teaching that culture to the new group. That’s really the secret behind it. The strength of their leadership each year.”

That leadership had to be stronger than ever last year when Burke had just three seniors on his roster — Abby Piette, Shannon McWilliams and Izzy Doucas. But it resulted in Burke’s 14th state title with the Crusaders when they defeated Madison Edgewood 1-0 in the WIAA Division 3 final last June.

It’s been a remarkable run over his 25-year career at CMH. No one has won more gold balls in Wisconsin’s history than the high school English teacher. The Saint John’s (Minn.) graduate has an .873 winning percentage (540-59-45), which is also tops in state history, and won his 500th career game in 2018.

Despite the annual pressure to win it all, the Crusaders more often than not deliver.

“I think the key to it is that the girls are interested in things in addition to winning championships,” Burke said. “We have such a devotion to children with special needs with the TOPSoccer program. The kids take a lot of pride in having an average GPA of over 4.0 on the team. We



Burke

win of lot of sportsmanship awards. I think that takes a lot of pressure away.

“We don’t have all our eggs in the winning a state championship basket. Ironically that leads to more consistent success.”

Success the Crusaders hope to keep building on this spring. They won six consecutive state titles from 2012-17 and feature a talented senior class led by Ohio State commit Lauren Brown.

“This team is exciting,” Burke said. “We have seven remarkable seniors who will all contribute in a big way. We have Emma Kober coming back, she scored the game winner at state last year, Lauren Brown, Emma Westrick, Allie Bonner, Jenny Fuller, Kaylee Weaver and Jade Winkoski, just so many great seniors. We also have a freshman goalkeeper who’s now going to be a sophomore (Marina Evert), she’ll have a lot more experience in goal, so she’s going to be 100 percent better.”

And despite being a D3 program, Burke has once again put together what can be argued as the toughest schedule in the

state — just another piece to the puzzle that makes his program one of the most respected in the country.

“We’re looking to challenge the team,” Burke said. “For the fourth time in the time I’ve been coaching we’re going to be playing the defending national champions (Vestavia Hills in Alabama on April 18). I got our senior captains together and said let’s challenge ourselves at the highest level.”

When it comes to high school girls soccer, there’s no one on Burke’s level.

“I got to talk to a lot of my players today, it was their first day back in school, they were pretty excited about the award,” Burke said. “I said this is an award we earned as a program. You can win a state championship or two or maybe even three by getting a great group of players, and then that goes away.

I said I’m really proud because we’ve created a culture that leads to consistent success. You’re not going to win a state title every year, but we’re always consistently in the mix, and that’s a real credit to their leadership.”



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Catholic Memorial girls soccer coach John Burke hoists the WIAA Division 3 state championship trophy last spring. Burke was named the MaxPreps National Coach of the Decade for girls soccer.