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The FREEMAN &amp; ENTERPRISE

# Lake Country

## THIS MONTH

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# Ambition unleashed in pet project

Oconomowoc dog trainers  
in A&E's 'America's Top Dog'

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

**OCONOMOWOC** — Two Oconomowoc dog trainers and their faithful canines will appear on the new A&E show "America's Top Dog" as they compete against police K-9 teams and civilian handlers for \$10,000.

Similar to the widely popular show "American Ninja Warrior," "America's Top Dog" tests the agility and strength of dogs as they dive through obstacles like police cars and pull on ropes to reveal hidden climbing ramps. But where the "American Ninja Warrior" course ends with contestants trying to scale the infamous warped wall, "America's Top Dog" ends with the canine sinking its teeth into a man in a protective body suit.

Otto Sturm and Kristi Kummer, owners of You and Your Dog Canine Behavioral Health and Training in Oconomowoc and dog lovers since they were kids, were more than happy to compete with their pooches on the show.

"It was an opportunity of a lifetime to be able to show the relationship that I have with

my dog," Kummer said. "It was super fun."

Kummer competed with her dog Scrappy, a 3-year-old American Staffordshire terrier that Kummer took in when Scrappy's original family couldn't handle his high energy and drive. Sturm competed with his dog Wolverine, a 2-year-old American pit bull terrier that Sturm raised since Wolverine was a puppy.

They were both among the 10 civilian dog trainers selected by producers out of the 700 people that applied to be on the show. Each week, four police officers with their canines and one civilian trainer with their dog compete in feats of strength, smell detection, agility and apprehension of a "suspect."

Sturm and Kummer are no strangers to dog competitions. They have both competed in monioring, an international protection sport for dogs and their handlers that tests agility, obedience and apprehension. In 2017, Sturm trained the first-ever American pit bull terrier to be on a world championship team in the sport. Kummer's dog Scrappy is the second American Staffordshire terrier in the world to



Photo courtesy of A&amp;E

Kristi Kummer with her dog Scrappy, a 3-year-old American Staffordshire terrier.



Photo courtesy of A&amp;E

Otto Sturm with his dog Wolverine, a 2-year-old American pit bull terrier.

receive a monioring title.

"It prepares them far more than other training methodologies," Sturm said. "No two trials will ever be the same. That variety and versatility preparation gives our dogs more fluent acclimation to changes."

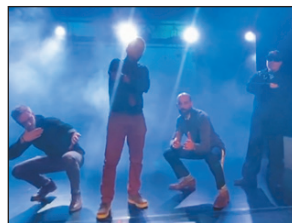
But "America's Top Dog" really knew what the environment and layout would look like.

"The competition itself, before you even get to the task that you have to do, is incredibly imposing," Sturm

See **TOP DOG**, PAGE 2A

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## INSIDE



Teachers have  
rap session  
with students

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Pewaukee  
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retiring

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Classic 8  
up for grabs

SPORTS/4B



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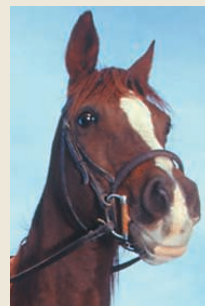


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SECTION B

**Inside**  
 Classic 8  
 Conference  
 up for grabs  
 SPORTS / 4B

# The end of Rosemary's corner: Crossing guard retires at 89

## County, village officials honor Carpenter

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

PEWAUKEE — After working as a crossing guard since around 2001, Rosemary Carpenter will retire at the end of the school year. Carpenter has worked at the intersection of Lake Street and Prospect Avenue at 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. every day. Carpenter is 89 years old and will turn 90 on July 5. She has lived in Pewaukee since 1945.

Police Chief Timothy Heier said Carpenter will be honored by County Executive Paul Farrow, Pewaukee School District Superintendent Mike Cady, state Rep. Adam Neylon and by a representative from Positively Pewaukee. Village President Jeff Knutson and Heier will present Carpenter with the award.

Carpenter said she was surprised to be honored.

"I didn't ever think that anything like that would happen because it was just a job," Carpenter said.

Carpenter said the most rewarding part of her job is communicating with the kids because they can be very polite, which can make her day. She said they often will wave, stop or holler at Carpenter when she is working, even when they are off school.

"You know kids don't have to take time for that because they're in sports and everything else," Carpenter said. "But these kids do. Our kids are good in our district."

"She knows all their names, she takes the time to say hello to everyone. She's got that really warm presence about her that really makes her such an important member of the community,"

— Pewaukee Police Sgt. Nate Wright

Heier said he is happy to present Carpenter with an award.

"The fact that she's been out in the cold weather through rain, snow, for that long of a period, we wanted to honor her with a special ceremony," Heier said.

Police Sgt. Nate Wright said he has gotten to know Carpenter throughout her years as a crossing guard.

"She's a really good crossing guard, but most importantly she's really just an outstanding member of the community," Wright said. "You know it's Rosemary's corner, everyone waves to her, all the buses go by and all the kids wave to her. Everyone knows her. So I think we're going to lose that connection with the community, not just a crossing guard."

Carpenter was hit by a truck while working 10 years ago, when she was 79. Wright said it put her out for a couple of months and required her to wear an arm brace.

"So the accident happened on like the 19th of January," Wright said. "And so she wrote a note or a letter to the Pewaukee School District on January 26, saying she wanted to be back as soon as possible. And she was 79 years old at the time so she's just a really tough old lady."



Nikki Brahm/Freeman Staff

Rosemary Carpenter talks with Mia Ammon, a foreign exchange student from Switzerland, after helping her cross the road recently. Carpenter, a regular fixture at Lake Street and Pewaukee Avenue, is hanging up her stop sign after 18 years.

Carpenter said the accident was traumatic and it took her months to heal.

"But some of the kids know where I live when they come down from school," Carpenter said. "So they kind of checked to see if I was around. Then when I was walking I even had a bus driver stop and ask how I was doing and stuff like that. I mean everybody is just great."

Wright said he is happy she will receive an award because it was

his idea to present one to her.

"So when Rosemary had a medical episode earlier last year she was out of work for quite a while because she had a heart problem and everyone in the community would either call the school district, call the police department, call Village Hall asking where she was, making sure she was OK," Wright said. "We received probably hundreds of phone calls probably over those couple of months asking if she's all right and

how she was."

Wright said overall everyone knows who she is and she deserves the award.

"She's 89 years old and she still walks out in the middle of traffic to make sure kids are safe," Wright said. "She knows all their names, she takes the time to say hello to everyone. She's got that really warm presence about her that really makes her such an important member of the community."



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# Rappers on a roll

Pewaukee High teachers rap to kick off finals week, encourages student to attend wrestling match

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

To view the rap event on the Pewaukee Schools Facebook page, visit <https://tinyurl.com/qodcg3g>

PEWAUKEE — Four teachers let their personalities shine through rap lyrics by hosting a rap performance at Pewaukee High School on the morning of Jan. 9 during a resource period.

The performance was spearheaded by Ed Kurth, math teacher and wrestling coach, and was held in order to encourage students to attend a wrestling match later that day. Other rappers included science teachers Kirk Stimpert and Tyler Reed as well as Paul Bursi, associate principal.

Kurth wrote and performed lyrics to a variety of popular raps, such as ‘Fergalicious’ by Fergie:

*“Kurthalicious Math, Kurthalicious Math ... Kurthalicious Mathematician makes the students crazy, They always say they work hard but they know they really lazy Some get 1s, some get 3s but if you’d listen its a breeze, ‘cause can’t know other teacher teach equations like me*

*Kurthalicious My wrestlers stay vicious*

*They be up on the mats just working on they fitness Y’all my witness. I put them boys on the top block And just like algebra class If you work hard, you kick ... butt”*

The rap performance was recorded and posted to the Pewaukee School District’s social media.

District Marketing and Communications Manager Miranda Kozlik said the raps were performed in the auditorium of the high school, where she recorded the event and made the video that was posted online.

“It was very funny,” Kozlik said. “I think they’re going to do multiple, that was like the first of many, but I thought it was a fun spin on kicking off finals week instead of just like ‘good luck students.’”

Bursi said he started writing rap lyrics a long time ago as a teacher.

“I created this stuff 15 years ago probably,” Bursi said. “One of the other teachers created one for class, the other teacher,



Courtesy of Pewaukee School District

Teachers and staff performed during a rap event at Pewaukee High School on Jan. 9 in order to encourage students to attend a wrestling match.

it’s a song that he knew from a long time ago and then Mr. Kurth, I think he created some music a while back as well and just gets into it and has a really good time with it.”

Bursi said the reaction from students was generally very positive and said the event was funny.

“None of us are high-quality performers or anything like that but we’re just trying to give students a little different perspective, again, of who we are so they get to know sort of the human aspect of us as educators,” Bursi said.

“There’s a lot of laughs, some fun, we got a couple of funny emails in response, people say some funny things in the hallway, so in that way I think it accomplished its goal of reaching them in sort of a different light.”

This wasn’t the first time there was a rap performance at Pewaukee High School. Kurth said he also performed at a pep rally in October after he was convinced to do it by students because he did one at a pep rally in 2007.

“I had wrestlers dancing and wrestling in the background to my Kurthalicious rendition before poms came out and danced with me to Vanilla Ice and Justin Timberlake,” Kurth said. “The four-song medley finished with younger math teacher Todd Whelan interrupting my rap and talking about me to the crowd.”

Kurth was interrupted by Whelan to Shawn Mendez’s Treat You Better:

*“I won’t lie to you, I know he’s just not right for you. And you can tell me if I’m off, but I see it on your face, when you tell me he’s the teacher you want ... And your spending all your time in that Algebra 1 class, Let me know if you want it to stop”*

Kurth and Bursi said they could see themselves performing again or doing something similar. Bursi said he would like a focus on fundraising for a good cause.

“That was one of the communications we got from students, to say ‘Hey, is this something we could do in the future, potentially as a fundraiser or something like that?’ and my response to that would be, like the four of us aren’t really talented and there’s tons of talent in the building and in our school community,” Bursi said.

Kurth said the students want the performance to be more like a rap battle, which he was trying to avoid, because that would maybe discourage teacher participation.

“Teachers have a lot to prepare for as it is, much less worry about winning a rap battle,” Kurth said.

Bursi said overall, the performance was a matter of putting yourself out there.

“I think that students see us as their teacher, as their administrator or whatever ... the person doesn’t always shine through like it could, so I think seeing us in a different light is really good,” Bursi said.

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# New life for vacant Pewaukee Pick ’n Save

PEWAUKEE — The vacant Pick ’n Save store at corner of Ryan Street and Highway 16 is about to get a new life as a thrift store.

Commercial Real Estate Company, The Barry Company, announced Tuesday that it has brokered the sale of the entire commercial development, known as Lake Country Commons, to St. Vincent de Paul.

Rod Colburn, director of business operations for St. Vincent de Paul Waukesha County, said the charity plans to open its third store

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occupy the Pick ’n Save space, the charity will own the entire 63,582-sq.-ft. multi-tenant building, which currently houses a handful of smaller shops, including a Cost Cutters, Allstate Insurance office, nail salon and a dry cleaner. Colburn said a Goodwill donation site has opted to leave the development given St. Vincent de Paul’s plans to open a store there.

Colburn said the new store, which he said will be one of the largest thrift stores in the Midwest, would likely open in mid-May.

He said while there are parts of Pewaukee that are affluent, there are also areas of need.

“We are always looking for ways to help people in need,” he added.

## Top Dog

From Page 1A

said. “There was basically no way to replicate or train in advance for this show.”

Flashing lights and hundreds of screaming audience members make for a less-than-ideal environment for an owner to communicate with his or her dog. And on top of all the added distractions, the owner and their dog are racing against the clock.

“It took a super high level of trust from our dogs to be able to be like, ‘Hey, I need you to to all this complicated stuff that we’ve never done ever before,’ and for them to do a good job at it,” Kummer said.

On Jan. 29, how well Sturm and Wolverine performed will be revealed. Then on Feb. 12, Kummer and Scrappy will make their first appearance on the show. They can’t say how it ends, but they can speak on the great experience they had competing.

“It was incredibly positive,” Sturm said. “Everybody involved wanted to see everybody do well, they all wanted to see the dogs do well. It was incredible sportsmanship and camaraderie between the competitors.”

Besides the show, working with dogs takes up most of their time. Together they do training across the nation and around the world. Kummer and Sturm recently came back from Costa Rica after training sporting dogs there.

At their Oconomowoc business You and Your Dog, Sturm and Kummer work with owners and dogs to accomplish any goal they may have. They train service and hunting dogs, and they often work with cops and their K-9s to prepare them for working together in the world of law enforcement.

Kummer and Sturm work with dogs on everything from minor behavioral issues like leash pulling to more serious aggression issues like fighting with other dogs or getting hostile around strangers. They often work with dogs that some think are beyond hope.

“A lot of the times we’re the last stop before euthanasia,” Sturm said. “People feel desperate when they haven’t had success with veterinarian assistance and when they haven’t had success with trainers.”

Their business allows them to follow their passion and show how clever, compassionate and loyal dogs can be.

“Our goal is to build the best possible relationship between dog and owner,” Kummer said.

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Photo courtesy of Steve Bleck

Jocelyn Cox, Calder Williams, Landon Becker, Shelby Artru, Broderick Bleck and Clark Tegeder present the demo of their crosswalk project idea.

# Are you smarter than a fifth-grader?

## Robotics club advances to sectional competition with 3D crosswalk project

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

HARTLAND — A team of six 5th graders at Divine Redeemer Lutheran School have developed an idea to create safer crosswalks in the community through their robotics club, “Doric Order.”

Doric Order head coach and mentor Steve Bleck said they have been competing in competitions for about three years. The teams participate in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a global robotics community, and the teams compete in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL).

FLL has 39,000-plus teams globally, 377 of those teams in Wisconsin.

The students are given a theme each year. This year the theme is city-shaper.

“The students were challenged to take a building or public space in their community, find a problem and create a solution,” Bleck said.

A group of 5th grade students on the team came up with the project idea. Team members include Shelby Artru, Landon Becker, Broderick Bleck, Jocelyn Cox,

Clark Tegeder and Calder Williams.

The idea the team came up with is a pedestrian crosswalk that appears to be 3D, creating an optical illusion to look as if it is floating in the air.

“And they found that they installed one of these in northern Minnesota in December of this year and it was like a 96 percent yield rate that people would actually react and yield when they saw the 3D crosswalk,” Bleck said.

The team talked to local businesses that said people drive too fast through their parking lots and on streets where they ignore pedestrian yield signs.

“They just had this year the highest rate of pedestrians killed in the United States since 1990,” Bleck said. “So to counter that, they did some research on 3D walkways, which are currently being used in other countries like Iceland, India, France, and they wanted to take that idea.”

The students went to five or six local businesses where they shared their idea and later refined their solution. After further research, the team discovered that 75% of pedestrian

fatalities occur in the dark. The students then came up with the idea of using glow-in-the-dark paint. The students partnered with D&R Painting and created a demo for their regional competition.

This year, Doric Order competed in a regional competition on Dec. 8 and advanced to the sectional competition, which was held in Watertown on Jan. 5. A total of 36 students make up five teams at the school. The competition was open to 4th-8th graders who all competed against each other.

“They actually put up the 5th best score out of 40 teams at the tournament,” Bleck said. “And their project actually won the Innovation Project Research Award.”

Doric Order became the youngest team in Divine Redeemer’s robotics program history to advance to the FLL sectional tournament.

Bleck said he is excited because their idea could have an impact and be used in the community. He added the students are also interested in using a similar concept for road markings as well.

# Fire mergers coming in new decade

## Delafield, Lisbon, Merton in talks

**By Kelly Smith**  
Special to The Freeman  
kellysmithlakecountrynews@gmail.com

DOUSMAN — The dawning of a new decade may usher in a new era in the consolidation of local government fire and emergency medical services in Lake Country.

Fire chiefs may play more of a leading role in future consolidations than in the past when elected officials played the dominant role in creating consolidated fire departments.

Because of rapidly increasing labor costs to provide emergency services, and state-imposed limits on raising taxes to pay for those services, there will be increased pressure on local governments to merge emergency service departments, according to local officials.

About 80 to 85 percent of the service calls are for medical emergencies resulting from sudden illness or accidents at home, on the job, or on the road.

The remaining 15 to 20 percent are fire calls.

“If done right, consolidations can save money and improve emergency services,” explained Dousman Village President Jack Nissen, a veteran of two successful consolidation negotiations in the past 10 years.

However, he added, consolidations are complicated. They require the support of multiple elected local boards, as well as the creation of a governing board to oversee operations, and a commission to hire and promote first responders, in a newly consolidated department.

Nashotah Village President Rich Lartz, one of the founding fathers of Lake Country Fire & Rescue, once believed that elected officials had to take the lead in consolidating fire departments because they represented the taxpayers who

pay for the services.

However, he has changed his mind and says chiefs should play a leading role.

“They know their budgets. They know their equipment. They know what will be acceptable to the people in their department,” Lartz told The Freeman.

**Six consolidations during 2010s**

During the past decade, there were six consolidations in Lake Country.

Lake Country Fire & Rescue was created by consolidating the Delafield Fire Department with Lake Country Fire Department, which served Chenequa and Nashotah.

The Dousman Fire District was created by consolidating departments serving Dousman, Summit and the Town of Ottawa.

The Western Lakes Fire District was created by merging the Oconomowoc Fire Department into the Dousman Fire District. And later the Okauchee and Stone Bank fire departments were added into the district.

The Merton Community Fire Department was created by merging the Merton Fire Department, which served the village and a portion of the Town of Merton, with the North Lake Fire Department, which also served a portion of the town.

Elected officials led the discussions, with the chiefs providing a supporting role, in most of those consolidations.

The chiefs are expected to play a large role in future negotiations.

**Current negotiations**

The chiefs and municipal administrators in the Town of Lisbon and the village of Merton, with the blessings of the village president and town chairman, have led negotiations in the potential consolidation of the

“If done right, consolidations can save money and improve emergency services.”

— Dousman Village President Jack Nissen

Town of Lisbon and Merton Community fire departments.

Lisbon Fire Chief Doug Brahm said he anticipates the village and town boards will be presented with a consolidation proposal within about 90 days.

There is a tentative agreement on how the consolidated department would be funded by the two municipalities, Brahm said.

However, he said there are ongoing discussions about the governance structure of the consolidated department.

For years there have been informal discussions among fire chiefs about the potential for consolidation of the Lake Country Fire & Rescue and the Town of Delafield fire departments, according to town Fire Chief Paul Kozlowski.

However, those talks had not reached the municipal board level until last month when Mayor Kent Attwell and Town Chairman Ron Troy met with representatives of Lake Country Fire & Rescue.

Troy described the meeting as informative and productive, but added he still has concerns about the role the town would play in the governance of the consolidated department and whether consolidation can help reduce town emergency service costs in the future.

Troy said the talks will continue and he anticipates Kozlowski will have a role in those discussions.

When he asked whether elected officials or the fire chiefs should play the leading role in those discussions, he replied, “We need both.”

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Submitted photo

Lisa Geason-Bauer, president of Evolution Marketing LLC at the 2018 Wisconsin Sustainable Business Conference in Madison.

# Profiting and protecting the Earth

Area company at the forefront of sustainable business methods

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt  
Special to The Freeman

NASHOTAH — An Oconomowoc-area business is taking the lead on sustainable practices.

Evolution Marketing, LLC recently committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030, twenty years ahead of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Evolution Marketing was the only Wisconsin business that is also a Certified B Corporation to publicly commit to the goal, along with over 500 global businesses, according to a company press release.

Certified B Corporations are those who meet “the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose,” according to the nonprofit B Lab website, which administers verified performance on its B Impact Assessment.

It is a goal that Evolution Marketing had actually already achieved, having previously partnered with Carbonfund.org to offset all or a specific portion of the estimated annual carbon footprint of their operations, according to the company press release.

Last June, the company became a Carbonfree Small Business Partner by neutralizing more than its calculated annual operating emissions.

“We offset more carbon than we needed so we can say we’re offering services in a carbon neutral manner,” said Lisa Geason-Bauer, company president.

Evolution Marketing, based in Nashotah, is a woman-owned business and its pursuit of sustainable practices has been part of

the business strategy for the past decade, Geason-Bauer said.

She grew up on a farm in Waukesha County and is trained in sustainable agriculture.

“I’ve always been aware of it,” said Geason-Bauer, discussing current efforts like the recent COP 25 Talk at the U.N. Climate Change Conference.

“We talk about climate change now,” she said. “When I started, there wasn’t really a national or international game plan for addressing carbon.”

But Geason-Bauer has always sought to operate her business in an environmentally responsible manner.

“For me, it was always important because of my background and understanding of agriculture,” she said.

Evolution Marketing, LLC specializes in global sustainability storytelling, along with environmentally responsible creative design and marketing. The firm also offers a variety of consulting services within the fields of sustainability, supply chain management, organic and natural food farming and third-party responsible business certifications, according to the release.

For the first ten years of operation, Geason-Bauer said her goal was to “show it could be done” to operate in a sustainable manner and make a profit.

She said the business’ aim has been to live responsibly, work by example, lead by design and educate through action.

“Everything we’ve done comes back to climate,” she said.

In 2017, the business joined ‘1% for the Planet,’ movement by pledging to give one percent of overall profit to

an environmental nonprofit.

The following year, Evolution Marketing earned Certified B Corporation status, making the business one of 13 such businesses statewide.

Geason-Bauer said she understands that taking such steps may seem intimidating to other businesses, but she gave examples of the steps businesses can take, like purchasing all Forest Stewardship Council certified paper, wood and tissue products.

“All you’re doing is changing how you’re buying things,” she said, of the policy. “There’s a lot of stuff we can do.”

She also mentioned a green energy program offered by We Energies, the use of Energy Star rated equipment and using carbon calculators like those offered by the Nature Conservancy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

“There are some really great tools out there,” Geason-Bauer said.

Asked about the politics surrounding sustainability, Geason-Bauer said her involvement predates any such debates.

“At some point it became partisan, which is a shame,” she said, adding that she sees the need for pursuing sustainable practices as transcending any politics.

It is something that Geason-Bauer believes more businesses are now aware of.

“We realize that carbon pricing is coming. It’s coming down the pike,” she said, noting that there have been several proposals in the U.S. House concerning such a policy.

Businesses “know if they’re going to be competitive in the global marketplace, they’re going to need to do this,” Geason-Bauer said.

# Friends of Lapham Peak raising money for new ski trail groomer

By Alex Nemec  
anemec@conley.net.com  
262-513-2661

TOWN OF DELAFIELD — After one of the first significant snowfalls since Halloween covered southeastern Wisconsin overnight New Year’s Eve, Keith “Beattle” Adelmeyer was out grooming the trails at Lapham Peak State Park so skiers could enjoy their favorite hobby.

As skiers flew on past him as he was getting ready to do some skiing of his own, multiple people told him how nice the trails were.

That’s because Beattle was demoing a new snowcat — a machine used to groom the trails to make skiing possible.

Beattle said he along with groomers Mark Janis, Rick Hase and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, as well as all the

snowmakers at Lapham Peak, put in a lot of hours to make the trail ready for skiers.

“Right now we have a 40-year-old machine,” Beattle said. “Over the last few years we probably invested over \$40,000 just in mechanicals. I started it up this year and the mice are chewing all the wires up ‘cause it sits outside and it has become unreliable.”

Over the course of this season, Beattle said he and the Friends of Lapham Peak are going to be patient in their decision on what snowcat they wish to purchase.

The new snowcat will be a nordic machine, meaning when snow falls overnight and melts to become a solid layer of ice, the machine can groom the trail despite the snow being frozen, Beattle said.

Beattle said so far the

money raised has been enough for a down payment on a machine.

“We are going to keep demoing through the rest of the season and we hope to have a new one ready to go by Thanksgiving this year,” he said.

The skiing at Lapham Peak is no doubt popular as on New Year’s Eve the parking lot was full of cars from people skiing for the last time in 2019 and Beattle said on New Year’s Day that the lot was full as well as the overflow parking.

“It took one hour to get into the park,” Beattle said. “The traffic was backed up on Highway C, from noon to 3 p.m., that’s how popular it is.”

If you’d like to donate to the purchase of the new snowcat and a shed for the machine, visit [www.laphampeaksnowmaking.org/support-us/donate](http://www.laphampeaksnowmaking.org/support-us/donate).

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# Mementos of Christmases past

Hooligan ornament will keep you Happy, but chalkware value fades



**Q.** My father told me he never liked this ornament on Grandmother's Christmas tree in the 1940s. I considered it so fascinating and was allowed to hang it on the back of our tree. Any thought on value or history?  
— Margaret, North Prairie

**A.** From 1900-1932 Fredrick B. Oppen created a newspaper comic strip for Hearst's New York Journal called "Happy Hooligan." Often called the laugh maker, Oppen's reputation heightened via the use of a hobo figure. During presidential election campaigns, biting caricatures were hurled weekly. Your example's colors are red, white and blue; it was no surprise when President Hoover and former President Coolidge attended the Happy Hooligan 30th birthday celebration. Even famous doll companies like Steiff and Schoenhut sold hobo dolls. There are earlier versions of Happy Hooligan with far less detailing, smaller sized, but with extended annealed glass limbs. For an added layer of protection, blown-glass ornaments often were wrapped with fine, curly wire. Your 9-inch ornament with rich paint color, in near mint condition, has an estimated value of **\$350** and could be much higher in an antique Christmas collectibles auction. I think Happy Hooligan had a protected place on the back side of the tree!

\*\*\*

**Q.** My grandmother was born in 1880. At some point this 13-inch tall Santa belonged to her. Can you tell me more about it?  
— Phyllis, Waukesha

**A.** Often called chalkware, plaster composition figures of every description were molded and hand-decorated. Thousands were made in early 20th century and given away (or won) at county fairs and carnivals. Chalk will disintegrate when washed, often will chip or break, and paint wears off easily. The jolly and plump Santa that we know today was created in the 1950s as an advertising gimmick. Vintage chalkware items are always highly sentimental but sadly retain little value. Estimate for your grandmoth-



BARBARA EASH

Antiques Appraised

er's Santa: **\$25.00**

### Packing Christmas memories

In the early 20th century, most tree ornaments were imported and then purchased from the local dime store. However, care instructions were never included.

To keep your antique and vintage items in the best possible condition, avoid these five common mistakes:

■ Attic storage: Temperatures fluctuate, especially in cardboard boxes.

■ Damp basements or a garage: Pests and mildew destroy keepsakes.

■ Rough cleaning: Use only a soft baby toothbrush.

■ No newspaper: Wrap in white tissue paper or archival paper.

■ Avoid direct contact with plastic baggies, tape, rubber bands or paper clips.

### 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.)*



## REAL ID coming soon

By Cara Spoto  
cspoto@conley.net.com  
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 com-

pliant.

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 US 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 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 (DMV) 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.

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**Gallagher Lake Country**  
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**N55W34673 County Rd E, Okauchee Lake**  
Welcome to Lake Living! This beautiful home offers everything you need to enjoy life on the lake. Large open concept kitchen leads to living room with fireplace and large windows looking out to the lake. Den/Office space on main level. Upstairs you will find a recently updated full bath, Master bedroom, additional bedroom with walk in closet and second floor laundry. The 3rd floor offers a large bedroom with ample closet space. Outside offers plenty of green space to sit back and enjoy entertaining.



**Connie Cumming**  
414-350-4866  
ccummings@kw.com

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**\$449,700**

**400 N Broadway 803, Milwaukee**  
Historic Commission House corner unit on the 8th floor with amazing city views. This central location in the Third Ward is one of Milwaukee's most desirable neighborhoods! This open concept condo has a neutral palette, high ceilings, gas fireplace, custom built bookshelf, & Brazilian cherry wood floor. Large Master Bedroom with walnut flooring features an ensuite. Master Bathroom has whirlpool tub, mosaic stone wall. California walk-in closet. Sit on your private balcony and enjoy great views of the city. Walkable distances to popular restaurants, galleries and locally owned boutiques. Take the "Hop" around Milwaukee which has a stop across the street. Secure entry, 10th floor party room with deck. TWO garage parking spaces and storage unit included.



**Catherine Corrao**  
414-732-0198  
ccorrao@kw.com

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**911 Woods Dr, Hartland**  
Stunning Kings Way home in highly sought after River Reserve Subdivision. This home offers both an open concept as well as private space ideal for today's lifestyles. The light filled foyer opens to a formal dining room, living room and den. The heart of the home is a kitchen, dinette and family room over looking a park like rear yard. Upstairs are Four spacious bedrooms with walk in closets. The large master suite would be a great escape! A finished lower level features an exercise room, a tv room, a small kitchenette and play area. The professionally landscaped yard makes this home a complete package for a discriminating buyer!



**Lisa Erdmann**  
262-224-4341  
lisaerdmann@kw.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$150,000**

**344 Estberg Ave Waukesha**  
Wonderful 2 BR home featuring an updated bath, spacious kitchen & a finished lower level. This home offers a newer furnace, new carpet and all appliances are included. Private fenced yard - convenient location.



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262-893-2421  
j.thornton@kw.com

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**\$285,000**

**1838 Jeffery Ln, Waukesha**  
Wonderfully maintained home in a fantastic location in Waukesha! A welcoming brick paver driveway leads to the 2 car garage with storage. Through the front door you are welcomed by the family/great room that leads into the dining room. An equipped galley kitchen faces the fully fenced in backyard with beautiful brick paver patio and manicured landscaping. Also, there is laundry and a half bath on the main floor. Bonus! Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms with ample closet space and a full bath to complete this full package. Full clean basement for storage or finish it to your liking! Many updates have been done recently including Roof, Furnace, A/C, Patio Doors all within the last 5 years!



**Griffin Peterson**  
262-893-0768  
gpeterson@kw.com

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**\$1,175,000**

**216 Augusta Ct, North Prairie**  
This magnificent Regency built home with a huge addition by Bartlett occupies 2 lots along the 14 hole of the Broadlands Golf Club. Open concept, featuring an absolutely marvelous chef's kitchen with all the amenities. The great room's towering stone fireplace rises almost 20 feet to the upper level's vaulted ceiling. How does an almost 2000 sq ft attached free-span garage sound? That's big enough to drive in circles inside or park 8+ cars! There is an office upstairs and a huge office area downstairs, main floor laundry, walk-in dog bath, home theater, game room, craft rooms, 4 fireplaces, there are so many rooms and special amenities throughout this house that the 360 photo tour link is the only way to begin to appreciate it, but a personal tour is really necessary to take it all in.



**Jeff Nickey**  
414-531-9342  
jnickey@kw.com

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**\$379,900**

**N8W31757 Huckleberry Way, Delafield**  
BEAUTIFULLY updated, meticulously maintained 4 BR, 1.5 BA Colonial. Amazing location with walking trails leading to Lapham Peak State Park! Tastefully updated with hand scraped hickory flooring throughout entire main level, 6 panel doors throughout entire home, and remodeled kitchen and baths. Formal living and dining rooms w/French doors. The kitchen/dinette flows into the family room w/dual fireplace and built-in cabinets which opens to the huge four seasons room flanked by windows to enjoy the beautiful, serene views. The upper level features four spacious bedrooms and remodeled full bath. The lovely landscaped backyard offers two brick patios, new large pergola, fenced-in garden, and large storage shed. Updates: roof & radon system in 2019; water htr 2 yrs; windows & siding 10 yrs.



**Sue & Bosko Nikolic of the Nikolic Group**  
414-759-1850  
boskosue@nikolicgroup.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$299,900**

**965 Arlon Ct, Belgium**  
Beautiful 4 bedroom 2.5 bath home in quiet and convenient location. 35 minutes to downtown MKE, a couple miles from Lake Michigan and in a great school district. Stretch out and make memories both inside and out with a large floor plan, finished lower level and nicely landscaped yard. One year home warranty included and \$2500 flooring allowance.



**John Lorenz**  
262-894-3996  
lorenzhomes9@kw.com

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**L12 Paradise Valley Ct, Delafield**  
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**Robin McCormick**  
262-366-5969  
rjmcc@kw.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$295,000**

**W169N19742 Georgetown Dr, Jackson**  
Spacious side-by-side ranch condo situated close to shops and restaurants. Open concept provides for a roomy feel, yet corner fireplace add a touch of cozy. Huge kitchen includes eat-in dinette and a large center island perfect for entertaining. Pull up a stool to high countertops for additional seating. Large master suite with tray ceilings incorporates a walk-in closet and a double sink full bath. Guest wing also has walk-in closet and full bath. Monthly fees include access to clubhouse, exercise room, and large patio for entertaining or grilling!



**Nicole Kunick**  
262-388-1072  
nkunick@kw.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$324,900**

**W197N16883 Stonewall Dr, Jackson**  
Spacious side-by-side ranch condo dripping with sunlight situated close to shops and restaurants. Open concept provides a roomy feel, yet corner fireplaces add a touch of cozy. Large kitchen includes an eat-in dinette. Pull up a stool to high countertops for additional seating. Large master suite with tray ceilings incorporates a walk-in closet and a double sink full bath. Guest wing also has a walk-in closet and full bath. Basement is plumbed for the third bath and has the option to be finished. Monthly fees include access to the clubhouse, exercise room, and large patio for entertaining or grilling!



**Nicole Kunick**  
262-388-1072  
nkunick@kw.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$999,000**

**W311N6988 Club Circle W, Merton**  
Wow! absolutely gorgeous custom 6,000+ sq. ft. 5 bedroom, 5 bath home. Located on Chenequa Country Club golf course, it has been refreshed with painted woodwork throughout, white kitchen cabinetry and new carpeting, and beautifully balanced with neutral colors and rich dark stained floors. The master retreat on the main with laminar stone fireplace, large walk in closets, spa-like bath and private doors to the patio offers a welcoming place to relax and unwind! You'll be delighted to find that all the bedrooms are spacious and feature en suite bathrooms, hallways are super wide and have study nooks, and the wall of windows off the family and sunroom lets the light pour in and gives view to the fabulous pool and 2+ acre grounds. A truly special home!



**Team Trimble**  
262-271-3621  
ktrimble@kw.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$915,000**

**N17W30687 Woodland Hill, Delafield**  
Welcome to this classically appointed home offering the ultimate setting for luxury living w/ 3 levels of entertaining w/ a full kitchen in upper level family rm and views of the lake. Custom features & finishes adorn every room and an expertly designed floorplan features a central gourmet kitchen open to the great room, serving as the heart of the home. A main level master suite offers a tranquil retreat with soaking tub, large walk-in closet and executive office w/ peaceful views of a backyard paradise. You'll be delighted that 3 of the bedrooms have private baths and can easily imagine the cherished memories to be made in the UL family room and exposed LL with rec room, game room and exercise room. For your convenience, a 4 car garage has LL access and the 5th garage stores even more.



**Team Trimble**  
262-271-3621  
ktrimble@kw.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$995,000**

**3211 N Dekoven Dr, Lower Nashotah Lake**  
What a glorious opportunity to own a little slice of heaven on one of Lake Country's most desirable lakes, Lower Nashotah. An idyllic setting with a generous 200 ft of frontage, with western views to bask in breathtaking sunsets. The lakeside area features a large grassy lawn to play host for all your outdoor activities. The historic home strikes just the right balance of old world charm with perfectly appointed luxury updates and additions. Heated 4 car garage adds great storage options for lake living as well as 2 large sheds.



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262-271-3621  
ktrimble@kw.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$1,175,000**

**1807 E Bristlecone Dr, Hartland**  
Every square inch of this Regency built home has been thoughtfully designed and dressed to the nines! Located in the desirable Bristlecone Pines neighborhood, the entry warmly invites you in to experience this fabulous custom home. It shines just the right balance of room sizes and graceful connections between the many living and entertaining spaces. The luxury details like archedways, high and moldings, flooring, and specialty finishes and features will delight you at every turn. You'll enjoy the custom kitchen and great room, as well as the bright sunroom that overlooks and connects to the private patio and backyard terrace including pool and hot tub. The lower level hosts many with ease with its two en suite bedrooms, in addition to the full kitchen, family room, home theater and game rooms. And you'll relax time spent in the master suite with private sitting room, fireplace and generous walk-in closet. The privacy and access of this stunning golf course home is a rare opportunity for your next home in Lake Country.



**Team Trimble**  
262-271-3621  
ktrimble@kw.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$1156 Mary Hill Cir, Hartland**  
Such a treat to find this classically designed custom home in Mary Hill neighborhood w/ amazing curb appeal and the most beautiful backyard! The quality of the finishes is evident in every element throughout this home, including a lower level finished to perfection with full masonry stone walls, fireplace and custom bar & wine cellar to make all your guests envious. A Mirror TV caps off this entertaining environment. Discriminating buyers are looking for! A welcoming two story entry open to an expertly designed main level includes a lush kitchen w/ large island to gather around. Updated light fixtures, new carpeting, & neutral paint create a fresh perspective for this family home. And for added appeal, it boasts great storage and functional space w/ private access to mechanicals.



**Team Trimble**  
414-881-8586  
ktrimble@kw.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$366,900**

**431 Thurow Dr, Oconomowoc**  
Ideally located Thiuros Golden View home! Walk to downtown Oconomowoc and Fowler Lake. A large foyer welcomes you into this spacious home with an open concept great room featuring a gas fireplace. Kitchen with stainless steel appliances, an office with french doors. Split bedroom design features a master bedroom with bath and walk in closet. Two additional bedrooms share another bathroom. Laundry on main level. There is a huge lower level with full sized windows just waiting to be finished! Well manicured lawn and private backyard with jacuzzi.



**Cindy Kuhs**  
414-333-7212  
cindykuhs@kw.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$450,000**

**1045 St Augustine Rd, Hubertus**  
Inspired combination of original 1948 log cabin and 2006 farmhouse addition. If you appreciate character and authentic materials and design, look no further! Highly acclaimed award-winning architect Ross Chapin designed the addition; great use of space and light and views galore! The best of natural surroundings that Erin is known for, this location offers easy access to Low Lake trails, stunning vistas and wildlife and nature. The original cabin houses the living room with fieldstone fireplace and the 3rd bedroom/family room above. Newer eat-in kitchen with wood, stone, large farmhouse windows and stainless appliances. Easy access to the large screen porch and deck. Second floor master and 2nd bedroom, with vaulted ceilings and private master deck. Gorgeous property and amazing house!



**Gallagher Lake Country**  
414-881-8586  
bruce@kellerwilliams.com

**OPEN JAN 26TH 11AM TO 1PM**



**\$995,000**

**N56W39214 Lakeview Ln, Lac La Belle**  
Live on an island! This fun lake house has a 4 car garage on the "mainland", then walk across your private bridge to this chalet-style home. 4 bedrooms (2 on the main floor and 2 upstairs), eat-in kitchen, fantastic lake views from almost every room! Great, level lot to the lake for easy entertaining, games, accessibility and fun! Swim, paddle, fish, sail or ski from your private get-away which features sandy bottom swimming frontage and a small sand beach area. Bring your decorating style and make this house your own. Current owners have loved living here full time for years; would also be a great second home or build your dream lake home here. So many possibilities! Close to the rejuvenated downtown area of Oconomowoc, but far enough from the busy-life of the lake best of both worlds.



**Gallagher Lake Country**  
414-881-8586  
bruce@kellerwilliams.com

**CALL FOR INFO**



**\$1,795,000**

**W1116 County Rd F, Campbellsport, Kettle Moraine Lake**  
Luxury home on 5.7 acres, 414' of great frontage on Kettle Moraine Lake. Vacation at home! This simply amazing, 4 bedroom custom-built masterpiece with many amenities and recent updates; super high end kitchen opens to the great room with floor to ceiling stone fireplace, vaulted beamed ceilings, stone floors. Main floor master suite. Custom everything, decks and covered patios, plus sport court, playground, permanent pier and 2 large extra garages. Incredible lake views and tons of privacy. Close to Kettle Moraine State Forest.



**Gallagher Lake Country**  
414-881-8586  
bruce@kellerwilliams.com



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PREP BOYS HOCKEY

# A family affair at Mullett Ice Center

Brothers  
Jace, Hunter  
playing  
together on  
varsity

By Chuck Delsman  
Freeman Correspondent

TOWN OF MERTON — When brothers Jace Mullett and Hunter Mullett take to the ice for the Arrowhead boys hockey team this season, they experience something perhaps no other high school hockey players ever have in Wisconsin. It's a special feeling for both.

And the reason for that excitement is simple. They are part of a fourth generation of Mulletts that have made the 21-year-old Howard G. Mullett Ice Center on the grounds of Arrowhead High School perhaps the best high school hockey rink in the state.

The Mullett ice hockey story is a good one. Unmatched not only in Wisconsin but maybe in the entire country.

And the story had a simple beginning but has turned into a storybook finish, thanks to Jace and Hunter's grandfather Don.

Don got the ball rolling when his son Christopher was playing hockey in the Waukesha Youth Program. And when his older son Brian started coaching his younger brother, a light turned on in Don's head.

"Christopher and Brian were traveling all the time to go to games or practices and that's when I thought we should have our own rink at Arrowhead," Don

said. "From there things happened fast. I went to the school board and told them that I'd like to build a rink right on the Arrowhead grounds. I showed them my plans and told them that I would build it and donate the rink to the school. It wasn't long that the board said yes and construction began."

The construction was completed 21 years ago and Don built the rink in his father's name, Howard B. Mullett. Howard became generation No. 1 and Don became generation No. 2. And that's not bad for two guys who couldn't skate.

"I can't even skate," Don joked. "I don't think my dad did either. But once Christopher and Brian got involved with the sport of hockey, things took off. Now, here I am, sitting in the stands watching Brian coach and Jace and Hunter playing. Watching my sons play and then now my two grandsons, it's a great feeling. And this year both are on the same varsity team and are on the ice at times together. Seeing Brian on the bench as an assistant coach makes it even more special. You can't imagine just how proud I am of my sons and grandsons and just how well the rink has turned out."

Carl Valimont, in his 16th year coaching the Warhawks, is proud to be part of the entire Mullett and Arrowhead combination.

"You can't meet better people than the Mulletts," said Valimont, a former player for the Milwaukee Admirals. "Don got it all started when he stepped up and built the rink in honor of his father and then gave it to the school. Now, 21 years later, the rink still looks brand-new. The Mullett Ice Center is the Taj

Mahal of hockey rinks in Wisconsin. It's the best high school hockey rink in the state. Our players are spoiled to have such a beautiful rink to practice and play games at."

Brian Mullett also wasn't a hockey player either when he went to college to ski at Rocky Mountain University in Montana. But after a few months he picked up on the sport and came back to Wisconsin and enrolled at UW-Whitewater.

"Once I got to Whitewater I started coaching Chris at the youth levels," Brian said. "I really fell in love with the sport. And when Carl took over coaching the team, I joined his staff as an assistant coach. I left the program when Carl left and now with my two sons playing, he asked me to come back. To be coaching my two sons has been a great experience this season. I'm kind of speechless when I think about it. And to be doing it at the rink named after my grandfather, it's really special."

That involvement made Brian generation No. 3. And now Jace (a senior) and Hunter (a sophomore) are generation No. 4.

Both Mullett brothers helped the Warhawks win the Mullett Cup championship on Dec. 28 over Oregon, 2-1. The Warhawks are now 11-0-1 on the season, the best start in school history.

So, what's it like for Jace to be playing his senior season with his younger brother and at the rink named after his grandfather?

"When I think about it it's just unbelievable what's going on," Jace said. "It's kind of remarkable. When I'm on the ice, there is my dad on the bench being an assistant coach, my younger brother on the same team and my grandfather in the



Submitted by Arrowhead hockey

The Mullett family has been a part of the Arrowhead boys hockey program for four generations. Pictured from left are Hunter Mullett, Brian Mullett, Don Mullett and Jace Mullett.

stands. And we're all inside the rink named after my great-grandfather. It's amazing how this has all come together this year." And for the Mulletts, you might say it's a story for all generations. Four, to say the least.

# Classic 8 Conference basketball races up for grabs



Kenny Yoo/Special to The Freeman

Chris Burg of Arrowhead jumps for two as he's surrounded by Waukesha West players during a game at Waukesha West earlier this season.



Sue Boyer/Special to The Freeman

Oconomowoc senior Olivia Sobczak dribbles around the defense of Catholic Memorial freshman Audrey Fryda during a Classic 8 Conference game earlier this season.

## Wolverines, Indians are defending champs for boys, girls



CHUCK  
DELSMAN

The year has changed. So has the decade.

But one thing that never seems to change is the highly competitive basketball races in the Classic 8 Conference. Even though the season is just four weeks old, it looks like the 2019-20 season will once again go down to the wire.

So who will win championships this winter when the seasons wind to a close the third week of February? A bunch of schools could be in the thick of the battles. The next few weeks should shine a little more light on how things will play out this season.

**Boys basketball race**

Waukesha West is the defending champion and the Wolverines have a lot of talent to replace. It's not going to be easy for West to claim a second straight title.

Oconomowoc is the somewhat surprise near the top with a 5-2 mark, while the talented Arrowhead (7-0) leads the conference. Then upstart Kettle Moraine (5-2) and Muskego (4-3) are also in the hunt.

The Warhawks used their height advantage to give Oconomowoc its second conference loss (77-56) of the season on Jan. 10. The Raccoons and Kettle Moraine were to play each other Jan. 17 to close out the first half of the conference season. The Warhawks still have to play Mukwonago (3-3), also on Jan. 17.

OHS, coached by Jay Benish, has a solid seven-man rotation, led by the trio of Caleb Flaten-Moore, Drew Fisher and Greg Galloway. This looks like the best OHS team in quite a few years.

Arrowhead has the upper hand in the race to the championship. Led by talented Carter Gilmore, the best player in the conference, the Warhawks are off to a good start both in the league and overall (10-1). Their only loss came to super-talented and No. 2-ranked Brookfield Central in a nonconference game. The Warhawks defeated No. 5-ranked Kimberly, a team that lost to No. 1-ranked Sussex by two points. Coach Craig Haase's plan of playing the toughest non-league schedule he can each year always seems to pay dividends in the conference and postseason.

Kettle Moraine has been playing well in the early going. It has outstanding balance on both sides of the court, using as many as nine guys in their rotation. The Lasers' half-court trapping defense has been their calling card so far.

Muskego has played Arrowhead the toughest so far during the conference season, losing 56-52 on Dec. 3. But the Warriors went through a tough stretch of losing four straight, including losses

against Kettle Moraine (63-56) and Mukwonago (57-41). But the Warriors ended their losing streak with a 51-47 victory over Oconomowoc on Jan. 3.

West is led by talented Cam Palesse, a three-year starter, and Mukwonago has shown signs of coming around recently. Catholic Memorial (2-5), Waukesha North (2-5) and Waukesha South (0-7) have plenty of upset potential.

**Girls basketball race**

It's hard not to bring up Mukwonago when talking about the best teams in the conference year after year. The Indians are off to another fast start, leading the way with a 7-0 record. Oconomowoc (6-1) and surprising Kettle Moraine (4-2) are close behind. And still very much in the race are Muskego and Arrowhead, both at 4-3.

Rather quietly, Mukwonago has won 32 consecutive league games after falling to Arrowhead two years ago, 49-47. Dru Henning and Angie Cera lead the Indians but their supporting cast is getting better with each week. They've already handed Oconomowoc and KM losses — OHS by one point and KM by eight.

Oconomowoc is off to great start in league play. The Raccoons are led by talented post Olivia Sobczak, who recently surpassed 1,000 career points. Cooney beat Arrowhead at home 60-53 for its first win over the Warhawks since 2009.

Kettle Moraine has opened some eyes so far this season, going 4-2 in league play and 10-2 overall. The Lasers, coached by Todd Hansen, have a very young team but a talented one. Five of their top players are just freshmen or sophomores. Freshman Grace Grocholski, coming off an outstanding volleyball season, is the team's top scorer.

KM doesn't have much size, though, and that hurt in a 52-38 loss against Arrowhead on Jan. 3. Plus, the team is very young with just three seniors and two juniors on the 14-player roster.

Arrowhead has plenty of size which allows them to be a tough matchup for any team on defense. Once again the key for the Warhawks will be making baskets consistently. The Warhawks have lost to Muskego and Waukesha West at home and on the road at Oconomowoc. Arrowhead was to play Mukwonago next on Jan. 17.

Muskego is loaded with outstanding athletes, led by senior Savannah Balcerak. The Warriors figure to be dangerous all season.

West (3-4), like KM, is loaded with youth. Four freshmen play a lot along with a couple of sophomores. The Wolverines scored a huge win several weeks ago when they upset the Warhawks. That win put the rest of the conference on notice.

West and Muskego just played a thrilling overtime game with the Warriors pulling out the 65-58 victory.