

# Lake Country

THIS MONTH

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

## Dana Walk loved family, the lake, fixing things

Town of Delafield man died in brewery shooting

By Kelly Smith  
Special to The Freeman

TOWN OF DELAFIELD — Dana Walk, 57, of the Town of Delafield, loved his family, enjoyed spending time on Pewaukee Lake, and was such a skilled machinist that he could fix almost anything, according to friends, until his life abruptly ended in gunshots Feb. 26 at the Molson Coors Brewery where he worked.

He was among six brewery employees working at the “Miller Valley” complex on Milwaukee’s west side when they were shot to death by a fellow employee who then shot himself.

“He was more than just a name on a list. He was a husband, a father, a brother, a friend, a great guy. It is hard to imagine he was gunned down like that,” said Paul Kozlowski.

Kozlowski, the town fire chief, had been buddies with Walk since they were seniors at Kettle Moraine High School in the early 1980s.

Kozlowski and his wife, Suzanne, are friends of the Walks, a family with multiple generations that have spent decades in Lake Country.

Walk is survived by his wife Dori, son Andrew, twin daughters Melanie and Michelle, as well as his parents, Leo and June Walk, and his brothers Dan and Duane. He was preceded



Town of Delafield Fire Chief Paul Kozlowski, left, and longtime friend Dana Walk enjoyed time together on Pewaukee Lake. Walk was one of the five victims in the Molson Coors Brewery shooting last month in Milwaukee.

ed in death by another brother, Dean.

Kozlowski described Walk has a hardworking, talkative guy, who enjoyed fishing and being on the lake, making friends, cheering for the Green Bay Packers, and most of all, loving his family.

“He woke up every morning to go to work to support his family,” Kozlowski said.

During his career, he helped keep the machines running in some of Milwaukee’s most iconic manufacturers: Allen-Bradley, Briggs & Stratton, Miller.

“He could fix anything and whenever he talked about work, it was always in great detail. Whenever he was working on something, if it needed a part, he didn’t go out and buy the part, he would build it,” Kozlowski continued.

He enjoyed his job and made friends while working with the other machinists and electricians at the brewery, Kozlowski said.

Milwaukee police are still investigating why one of Walk’s co-workers shot him and his fellow employees.

The Walk family often gathers on a rustic, wooded parcel of lake property that their grandfather bought four generations ago.

Dana Walk married his high school sweetheart, Dori Denz. They would have celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary this summer.

Next to his family, fishing and being on the lake were Walk’s greatest loves.

“If he was meeting a new friend for the first time, he would often ask if they wanted to go fishing,” explained Suzanne

Kozlowski.

“During the fall when there was a Packers game, he would bring a TV outside and the family would sit around it and watch the game. He got pretty vocal during a Packers game,” she continued.

Walk’s devotion to his family, love for fishing, and skills as a machinist were inherited from his father, Leo, Paul Kozlowski said.

“Dana is the spitting image of his father and Dana’s son, Andy, is the spitting image of him,” Kozlowski concluded.

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### From K3 to Graduation Day - Let Us Be Your Neighborhood School



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# Beers & BBQ in hopes for a bark

## Over \$3,000 raised for therapy dog program



OCONOMOWOC — Those looking to support Western Lakes Fire District and its effort to incorporate a therapy dog into its district flocked to SteelTank Brewing Co. on Feb. 25 to donate money for a chance to win a Taste of Oconomowoc basket and a Drink of Oconomowoc basket. The Taste of Oconomowoc basket was filled with gift certificates for restaurants in Oconomowoc while the Drink of Oconomowoc basket was filled with certificates for bars and other restaurants for beverages. The food basket was worth almost \$500 while the drink basket was worth near \$300. The event was sponsored by Lou Kowieski and Saving Others For Archie. The money raised including the matching donation from SOFA was \$3,000 meeting the goal for the therapy dog. Alderman Lou Kowieski explains to Nancy Yuhas what each of the baskets contains.



Rose Barton smiles while she holds the Taste of Oconomowoc basket she won.



Left: Western Lakes Fire District Assistant Chief Matthew Haerter and SteelTank Brewing Co. owner Dave Baron smile during the event.

Above: The basket full of money people donated for a chance to win one of the baskets.

Alex Nemec/  
Freeman Staff



Cindy Pagenkopf stands with the Drink of Oconomowoc basket she won at the fundraising event for Western Lakes Fire District.

## Duchow to seek re-election

DELAFIELD — Republican state Rep. Cindy Duchow of Delafield, has announced that she will be seeking re-election to the Assembly seat she has held since 2015. Duchow currently represents District 99, which covers all of the city of Delafield, as well as the villages of Hartland, Dousman, Wales and Nashotah. The election for the seat will take place on Nov. 3.



Duchow

In a statement released March 5, the former retail manager and Delafield town supervisor said she was running for re-election to keep the state moving forward.

“It’s been an honor to serve the residents of the 99th Assembly District,” said Duchow. “Since first being elected in 2015, I’ve helped cut taxes, defended our constitutional rights, fought to protect the unborn, and reduced government red tape. Thanks to the common-sense conservative reforms we’ve put into place our state is headed in the right direction.”

“I’m proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish so far, but there’s still more work to do. I am running for re-election to protect all the progress we’ve made,” she added.

## Teriyaki Madness may be coming to Pewaukee

PEWAUKEE — Teriyaki Madness, the fast-casual chain specializing in Asian food, may soon be coming to the village of Pewaukee.

According to an agenda for the March 12 Plan Commission meeting, which is slated to take place at 7 p.m. at 235 Hickory St., Dan Wycklendt is seeking a conditional use permit to open a location of the chain at 13900 Capital Drive.

The agenda item states that the restaurant would take up roughly 1,631 square feet of tenant space in an existing retail strip. There would also be about 182 square feet of outdoor dining seating.

Although there are currently no Teriyaki Madness locations in Wisconsin, media reports indicate that the developer is also making plans to open a location in Wauwatosa.

## Seidel speaks about her journey to Tokyo Olympics

HARTLAND — On March 5, University Lake School alumna Molly Seidel shared her extraordinary journey to qualify for the Olympics in Tokyo this year.

In her first-ever marathon this past weekend, Seidel placed second at the U.S. Olympic Trials and will represent Team USA in the women’s marathon this summer.

“I’m really grateful that I can always call myself a Laker, and come back to see my teachers that I had in kindergarten through 12th grade. It’s a really special moment for me today, and I’m so happy to be here and share this with all you guys,” she said to a group of students. “Go Lakers!”

Seidel discovered her talent for running in physical education class at ULS, then went on to run cross country and track and field for ULS. During that time, she won 12 WIAA state championships in three events.

In 2011, Seidel was named Gatorade Wisconsin Female Cross Country Runner of the Year, as well as the Gatorade National Female Cross Country Runner of the Year. After ULS, she competed for the University of Notre Dame. She is a four-time NCAA champion, four-time ACC champion, and received the 2016 Mary Garber Award for the



Molly Seidel, University Lake School alumna and 2020 Olympic qualifier, speaks at ULS while Tim Horner, interim ULS head of school and head of administration, listens.

top female athlete in the ACC. After college, she became a professional runner for Saucony Freedom Track Club.

“It was such a thrill to have Molly back here on campus to talk to the students,” said Tim Horner, interim head of school and head of administration. “Molly has such an inspirational story of determination and strength. We are so

proud of everything she has accomplished, and it all started here at ULS.”

For now, Seidel will continue to train in Boston where she lives and works. Later in the spring she will train at the U.S. Olympic training center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. About two weeks before the Olympics, she will travel to Japan to train with her Team USA marathon teammates.

Seidel admitted that she didn’t expect to qualify for the Olympic team.

“Going into the trial, I didn’t even have the goal of making the Olympic team. My goal was to run as hard as I could, and try to finish knowing that I left it all out there on the road,” she said. “My next goal is to get in a really good training block before the Olympics and see what I can do.”



OCONOMOWOC

# Council unanimously approves baseball stadium

By Alex Nemec  
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OCONOMOWOC — After another night of long public comment, more discussion with the developer and a slew of amendments to the conditional use permit, the Oconomowoc Common Council voted unanimously to approve a proposed baseball stadium.

The Blue Ribbon Baseball Diamond Club entertainment stadium is planned for 21 acres near the Interstate 94 on-ramp and Wisconsin Harley-Davidson.

Last month the Common Council heard nearly two hours of public comment about the stadium and due to that amount of information, the council decided to table the decision until March 4.

Tim Neubert with Blue Ribbon Baseball Diamond Club Entertainment said he is relieved the project passed and he is thankful for the city's support and willingness to work with his company.

"It's been a long process," he said. "I think at the end of the day it was a function of us working with a community that was willing to have some conversation."

During the discussion about the stadium the council made five amendments to the total conditional use permit, with the three main highlights being:

- The hours of operation for athletic events at the stadium will run from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; while nonathletic events will be restricted from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

- Nonathletic events must obtain a permit from the Common Council if they plan to exceed more than 1,500 people in attendance and/or need additional acoustic equipment.

- Removed the time

restriction on the selling of alcohol — the initial ordinance stopped alcohol sales after the 7th inning. The vote was split among council members with Mayor David Nold voting in favor of removing restrictions to break the tie.

Alderman Lou Kowieski moved for the amendment, arguing the restriction was an overreach by the city and that the developers have to have a responsible alcohol consumption plan in the first place.

"It's already identified in their operation guide and their ability to adjust that," Kowieski said.

During the discussion about alcohol consumption, Alderman Matt Rosek asked why Miller Park can restrict alcohol sales but the city can't.

"Why wouldn't you want to restrict that," Rosek said. "People are going to be driving in and driving out, this isn't a bar you can walk to with your friends after work, you're going there with your families and driving home."

Alderman Charlie Shaw made a point about a situation in which a group goes to the stadium with one driver.

"If me and Tom (Strey) go to the game and he drives, why should I be restricted from having a beer after the 7th inning," Shaw said.

There was extensive conversation about the crumb rubber turf field being used at the park with multiple citizens and aldermen being concerned about the possible health effects it has and how it affects groundwater. However, the Pabst Farms Joint Water District passed the developers' stormwater plan.

Alderman Karen Spiegelberg said she thinks there was a lot of "nasty rhetoric" about the project and it disappointed her.



Nikki Brahm/Freeman Staff

## 'Dabble Time' at Hartland library

HARTLAND — The Hartland Public Library hosted "Dabble Time" on Feb. 6. The event was focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math)-rooted sensory art activities.

The event involved making paper mâché hearts. Future events will include other art activities with other process-based materials, such as paint, slime, sand, water and more.

# Delafield grants gun club permit

## But can the club meet permit conditions?

By Kelly Smith  
Special to The Freeman

DELAFIELD — The Common Council unanimously approved a conditional use permit for the Hartland Sportmen's Club on March 2 but the gun club president would not say whether the club can meet the conditions to reopen its firing ranges that have been closed for a decade.

The permit requires the club to complete within 18 months extensive safety renovations on its five firing ranges and install a fence around the 35-acre complex on Maple Avenue, south of Interstate 94.

Club officers are also required to present to

the Plan Commission within 90 days a plan describing the safety innovations and how they will be installed.

Club President Mike Sitarz answered "no comment" when The Freeman asked if the club had the money and the resources to meet the permit conditions.

Club attorney Stacie H. Rosenzweig has described the permit conditions as "unrealistic" and told The Freeman she would discuss possible future legal action with the club.

According to Rosenzweig, the city has failed to follow the orders of both Waukesha County Circuit Court and the state Court of Appeals when they instructed the city to issue a permit to the club.

Rosenzweig contends the permit issued by the city must be similar to one the gun club applied for in 2011 and was rejected by the city in 2013.

City officials have argued they have complied with the orders of the court by approving a permit that applies reasonable restrictions on the club while protecting the rights of residents, business owners and gun club members.

The club's original permit was revoked by the city in 2010 after residents and business owners living near the club complained of safety violations and a pregnant woman was grazed by a stray, spent bullet that escaped a firing range and struck her as she was sitting on the patio of a nearby restaurant.



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Courtesy of Historical Union House Fine Dining Restaurant

The Historical Union House Fine Dining Restaurant S42-W31320 WI-83 in Genesee Depot, is under new ownership.

# Historical Union House under new ownership

## Lindenberg becomes new owner

By Nikki Brahm  
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GENESEE DEPOT — Historical Union House Fine Dining Restaurant owners have decided to retire, however, the business is already under new ownership since it was taken over on Feb. 18.

Curt and Patty Robinson have sold their business at S42-W31320 WI-83 in Genesee Depot.

The business comes under the ownership of Jim Lindenberg, who is an entrepreneur and philanthropist in the area.

Lindenberg is the owner and president of Lindy Enterprises, small business consulting, owner and president of JML Holdings, property management, past owner of the Milwaukee Wave, Master Z's, Legends of the Field and more.

The restaurant will also be run by Chef Lissie Vorberg and her husband, Nick. Vorberg is now the executive chef and general manager and previously worked at Coquette Cafe and Barlot's Lake Park Bistro.

Lindenberg said he is excited to have Vorberg in her role because of her previous experience.

"She's got some great dishes she'll be adding onto the menu and coming up with some new appetizers and small plates, so I'm very excited with how the touch is that she's going to put on the menu," Lindenberg said.

Lindenberg said he can foresee other changes in the restaurant, but fundamentally, not too many.

"There's a room upstairs that could be finished for bigger groups and events, we could possibly have outdoor seating, so I'm excited about the future, we definitely can grow it in sales and hire people down the road," Lindenberg said.

Curt Robinson said he is also happy to have Vorberg take over, since she has worked with them for a few years.

"They want to continue doing just what we were doing, and so they're well suited because (Lissie) was already familiar with what we did," Robinson said.

"She's going to be running the kitchen and the restaurant. She's kind of turning into Patty and her husband Nick is turning into me, but much younger, both of them."

Robinson said the transition will be a little strange, since he and Patty Robinson have been working around 80 hours a week for 30 years at the restaurant.

"It will be fun to get to know my wife again, even though we worked on other sides of the same door," Robinson said.

Robinson said for now, he and his wife are working with the new owners to help with the transition, describing himself as an employee in his own restaurant.

"I'm so happy for them because they caught me going into the enterprise and if it wouldn't have been them, we wouldn't have sold, that was pretty much the bottom line, we needed someone with that attitude," Robinson said. "Being familiar with Liz and I know she's more than capable, Nick is personable, he'll be a fine asset."



# Study: Brewers’ stadium generated \$2.5B for state

## Sales tax set to expire after 20 years

MILWAUKEE — In its 20 years, Milwaukee Brewers’ Miller Park has generated \$2.5 billion in economic output, according to a study released by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce.

MMAC President Tim Sheehy said the study’s findings are validation that the public-private partnership was successful. Miller Park was made possible by a 0.1% sales tax levied in a five-county region including Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha and Racine counties. That tax is expected to end during the first part of 2020.

“Twenty years ago, MMAC made the case to our members and to state policymakers that keeping Milwaukee a major-league city was a wise investment,” Sheehy said in a statement. “This independent study shows that the actual return on that investment has exceeded our expectations.”

The study was conducted by Convention, Sports and Leisure International, an advisory firm specializing in sports and entertainment industries. It shows that the construction and operation of Miller Park has generated thousands of jobs, billions in direct spending and personal earnings and hundreds of millions in tax revenue from 1999 to 2019.

The \$2.5 billion cited by the study represents the “cumulative net new impacts” — benefits to the city of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County and Wisconsin that would not have been realized without the existence of the Brewers and Miller Park, according to the announcement.

Other key findings in the study include:

In the first year in the ballpark, Brewers attendance increased by nearly 80% from the team’s final year at Milwaukee County Stadium.

Since opening in 2001, despite operating in the smallest market in Major League Baseball, the ballpark has provided the region with a modern sports and entertainment venue, drawing an average of 2.7 million paid attendees per year (3.1 million in the last two seasons, including 2.9 million Brewers game attendees, which ranked eighth-highest in MLB in 2019 and 10th in MLB in 2018.)

Based on historical Brewers attendance data, approximately 22% of ballpark event attendees are estimated to live within Milwaukee, 38% within Milwaukee County, and 86% within Wisconsin. The remaining 14 percent of attendees live outside Wisconsin.

The Brewers echoed the report’s finding on the value of Miller Park.

“We are proud to call Miller Park home every day and feel privileged to operate in one of the finest facilities in Major League Baseball,” said Rick Schlesinger, president of Business Operations for the Milwaukee Brewers. “The impact that Miller Park has on our local community and regional economy only adds to that pride, and the Brewers will do all we can to continue to provide a great fan experience and economic opportunity for Wisconsin families.”



Submitted photo

Pictured from left to right are: Mishaal Omer, Ziyan Wu, Serena Suson, Emmalyn Bergman, Leah Johnson, and Ruthie Yu.

# Brookfield Academy students win Scholastic writing awards

BROOKFIELD — Brookfield Academy announced that six Upper School students are regional award recipients of the 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

The following students earned more than 20 writing awards in a variety of categories: Emmalyn Bergman, Oconomowoc, Gold Key (Short Story); Leah Johnson, Pewaukee, five Gold Keys (Poetry), two Silver Keys (Poetry), Honorable Mention (Memoir);

Mishaal Omer, Brookfield, Gold Key, Silver Key (Poetry);

Serena Suson, Pewaukee, three Gold Keys (Script, Poetry, Memoir), two Silver Keys (Short Story, Poetry), Honorable Mention (Poetry); Ziyan Wu, Brookfield, Gold Key (Memoir); Ruthie Yu, Brookfield, Gold Key (Flash Fiction), two Silver Keys (Science Fiction/Fantasy, Short Story).

All six Brookfield Academy students who earned a Gold Key will compete for

Gold Medals at the national level. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards program is considered the country’s most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative students in grades 7-12. The regional awards ceremony will be held Saturday, May 9, 1 pm, at University of Wisconsin – Parkside in Kenosha. National Gold Medalists will be announced in March and honored at a ceremony in New York City in June.



Submitted photo

## Rotary honors OHS senior

OCONOMOWOC — Oconomowoc Rotary honored OHS senior Korinne Spencer Feb. 17 at its regular noon meeting at the Oconomowoc Community Center. School staff Lauren Black and Carrie Schultz said Spencer had improved self-confidence and is on track to complete the IB career-related program in biomedical sciences. Staff said Spencer “is not afraid to take risks,” and is most at home riding her Saddlebred horses. Rotary honors students throughout the year, providing funding for continuing education. Pictured from left, Superintendent of Schools Roger Rindo, Black, Spencer, Schultz and Rotary Foundation President Paula Jacobs.

# Miniature theaters on display at North Lake library

NORTH LAKE — Escape into the world of theater — in miniature form — at Town Hall Library in North Lake.

On display through March is a miniature theater model collection created by Douglas F. Sutter of Milwaukee.

Sutter, the father of deceased patron Carole Merath, hand-built these theaters in the 1940s and 1950s. Models are of famous theaters and feature removable roofs, fronts, and side pieces that allow viewers to peek inside to see theater seats, stages, lobbies and even bathrooms. Sutter added electric wiring to light them, although the library is refraining from testing it out 70 years later.

Famous theaters represented among the 14 models on display include an old Roman colosseum, Ford’s Theatre (where President Lincoln was shot), the River Queen showboat, the Globe (which presented Shakespeare’s plays), and Milwaukee’s The Butterfly.

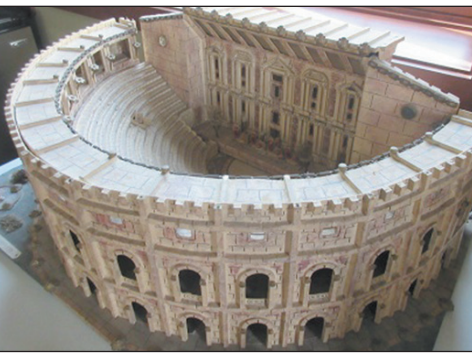
Sutter was featured in the Milwaukee Journal on July 28, 1950, along with his young daughter, Carole.

The Town Hall Library is located at N76-W31429 Highway VV, North Lake.



Submitted photos

The Globe theater in London is depicted in miniature.



On display at the North Lake Library through March is a miniature theater model collection created by Douglas F. Sutter of Milwaukee, including this model of a Roman colosseum.

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## Helping homeless veterans

HARTLAND — The Stone Bank Lions Club supported the Hartland American Legion Post 294 in their “painful” sleep out in cardboard boxes Feb. 14 to Feb. 16. They collected nonperishable food and cash to raise awareness of the plight of homeless veterans. Pictured from left to right are: Debbie Buchanan, NHVI director, John Mesich, Treva Davis, Terry Casper, Roberta Thompson, Brenda Woodward and Legion Squad 294 member.



## Showing the love

STONE BANK — The Stone Bank Lions Club annually visits with and delivers flowering plants to shut-ins on or near Valentine’s Day to show that the group cares, including this year’s Valentine’s Day. Pictured from left to right are: Veola Hogen, Roberta Thompson, Lois Spilger and Dick Spilger.

Submitted photo



# Lisbon-Merton fire consolidation near Town, village approval expected in June

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

MERTON — The Merton Community and Lisbon fire departments are expected to consolidate and create the new Bark River Fire Department by mid-year, according to local officials.

Lisbon Fire Chief Doug Brahm told The Freeman he expects the municipal agreement between the town and village creating the consolidated department will be presented to the municipal governing boards “within a couple of months.”

Merton Community Fire Chief Josh Paral is optimistic that the final approvals for the consolidation will be completed by June.

“We are finishing up a fourth draft of the agreement now,” Paral said.

“The town and village administrators, the village president and the town chairman will look it over before we get it to the lawyers before presenting it to the town and village boards,” Paral explained.

“It is an agreement that is

fair to both communities and will let us create a larger regional fire department,” said Village President Ron Reinowski.

The agreement will call for the creation of a five-member governing board, three representatives from Lisbon and two from Merton, which will oversee department operations, according to Brahm.

There will be a similarly structured commission responsible for the recruitment, promotion and discipline of firefighters, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics, Brahm continued.

The town and village will share the costs of operating the department through a formula based on the population and number of calls for each community.

Paral explained the formula is being adjusted so during the first year the cost of fire and emergency medical services for the two communities will not be increased.

The Town of Lisbon annually budgets about \$1.2 million to operate the department that includes six full-time emergency responders and 46 others who are paid

either based on the calls to which they respond or an hourly part-time wage.

The village of Sussex pays about \$140,000 for fire and emergency medical services to the Merton Community Fire Department (MCFD) that has a roster of about 45 fire emergency responders, all of whom are either paid per call or on a part-time basis.

## History of consortium, consolidation discussions

The MCFD is owned and operated by a private, not-for-profit corporation that will be dissolved, according to Brahm.

The MCFD was created in 2015 when the North Lake Fire Department and the Merton Fire Departments were consolidated.

The Merton, Lisbon and Hartland fire departments are members of the Bark River Consortium, which was created via municipal agreements in 2007 to provide area fire departments with shared training, equipment and resources.

Fire chiefs and municipal administrators from Lisbon, Hartland, Stone Bank, and the town and village of Merton began meeting in late 2018 to discuss how to strengthen the consortium, including the possibility of



Kelly Smith/Special to The Freeman

The Merton Village Hall Fire Station will become one of three fire stations for the Bark River Fire Department when it is created later this year by merging the Lisbon and Merton Community fire departments.

consolidating some of the departments.

Stone Bank and Hartland later dropped out of the talks.

The Stone Bank Department, also a private, not-for-profit corporation, was eventually taken over by the Western Lakes Fire District.

A combination of factors led to the Hartland Village Board opting out of the talks, according to Fire Chief Dave Dean and Village Finance Director Ryan Bailey, both who represented the village

during the discussions.

“The Village Board did not feel it had enough information at the time,” Bailey explained.

However, both Bailey and Dean did not rule out the possibility that Hartland might join the Bark River Fire Department in the future.

The discussions accelerated during the past few months when it became apparent to Merton trustees they needed to find long-term, sustainable fire and emergency medical services

for the village, according to Village Administrator Tom Nelson.

About half of the MCFD revenues came from a \$225,000 service contract with the Town of Merton, which town supervisors were considering replacing with a contract from either Lake Country Fire & Rescue or Western Lakes Fire District. Town officials later decided to extend the MCFD contract, which will be taken over by the Bark River department, for another year.

# Wisconsin moves to make it easier for military families to find work through licensing reform

**By Benjamin Yount**  
The Center Square

Military families should have an easier time finding a job in Wisconsin.

Gov.Tony Evers signed a new law that rolls back some of the occupational licensing requirements for current or retired military members and their husbands or wives.

The legislation, Assembly Bill 731, was sponsored by Rep. Nancy VanderMeer, R-Tomah.

Tomah is home to one of Wisconsin’s largest veterans’ hospitals and is not far from Camp Douglas and Fort McCoy, the largest military

spots in the state.

“Occupational licensing and license reciprocity is a tremendous issue for military members and their families,” VanderMeer told The Center Square. “Given how often service members and their spouses relocate, state-by-state occupational licensing laws can often act as unnecessary barriers to employment.”

She added that states have been working on rolling back licensing requirements since President Barack Obama challenged states to do so back in 2012. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed a similar measure in January.

“I’m of a mindset that, as a legislative body, we should do whatever we can to allow service members and their spouses the opportunity to work in their chosen profession with as few bureaucratic and administrative hurdles as possible, and I think this proposal meets that ideal,” VanderMeer added.

Her legislation recognizes licenses for a series of professions that military families obtained in other states.

State Sen. Andre Jacque, R-De-Depere, co-sponsored the legislation.

“You want people to work to their highest and best potential,” Jacque said.

“Certainly there is a number of ways that we can reduce barriers to be able to get people into very good family supporting jobs. Because they certainly are available throughout the state.”

Jacque said employers in Wisconsin will benefit from the new law, as will the state as a whole.

“When we’re on military bases we can tell people who are leaving the service, You get your one move, make it to Wisconsin,” Jacque said. “This is just one more way that we can be friendly to folks who want to come to Wisconsin and work and start a family.”



Peter L. Gould/Shutterstock.com

A Tomah legislator has proposed an Assembly bill that would make it easier for military family members to find a job.

# Paul Mitchell School to relocate from Pewaukee to Wauwatosa

**By Katherine Beck**  
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PEWAUKEE — Paul Mitchell The School Milwaukee will relocate its campus from its longtime location on Silvernail Road in Pewaukee to a building on Burleigh Road in Wauwatosa, which is set to open this summer.

The Paul Mitchell Beauty School has offered cosmetology courses at its Pewaukee location for seven years. According to Monday’s announcement, the school will move to an 8,434-square-foot space at 11415 W. Burleigh St., opposite The Mayfair Collection’s main entrance in Wauwatosa.

The new Paul Mitchell

The School Milwaukee will be an open, spacious facility featuring licensed instructors who offer students an educational experience in cosmetology and barbering. The campus will include a 28-chair clinic classroom, 12-chair barbering clinic classroom and five large classroom spaces for additional training. In addition to its educational programs, Paul Mitchell The School Milwaukee offers salon services to the public, including haircuts and styling, coloring and more.

“We’re thrilled that Paul Mitchell – a brand with tremendous cachet and history – made the strategic decision to locate its Milwaukee school near The Mayfair Collection,” said

Tim Blum, executive vice president with HSA Commercial Real Estate, in a statement. HSA Commercial Real Estate developed The Mayfair Collection.

“We believe this new location will help introduce Paul Mitchell The School to potential new students as well as salon guests who shop, eat and live in this vibrant mixed-use community,” Blum said.

The Mayfair Collection includes more than 400,000 square feet of retail anchored by Whole Foods Market and Nordstrom Rack, numerous local restaurants including local favorites Pizza Man and AJ Bombers, Hilton Homewood Suites, and Synergy, a luxury rental community.

# Lake Country Lions become Stone Bank Lions

## Name change follows club’s taking over park

**By Ian Bergersen**  
Special to The Freeman

TOWN OF MERTON — The Lake Country Lions Club is now officially known as the Stone Bank Lions Club following its approval by the Town of Merton to take over management of the Stone Bank Community Park.

The name change reflects the Stone Bank Lions Club’s renewed commitment to expanding its role in the Stone Bank community and improving the park’s facilities.

“Stone Bank is supporting us, and we are supporting them,” said Treva Davis, membership chair of the Stone Bank Lions Club. “It’s not that we don’t do anything beyond Stone Bank, but we’re trying to make the town stronger and the park stronger.”

The Town of Merton handed over management of the Stone Bank Community Park about a month ago after the

club’s park committee presented its plans for the park.

“Not only are we going to run it, but we are going to improve it,” Davis said. “It needs updating.”

Davis said that the ultimate goal is for the park to be a better environment for family activities and community events. The plan is to eventually make the park self-sustaining by renting it out for special events and celebrations and then putting all the money made directly back into the park to fund maintenance and renovations.

With the new responsibility of managing the park and a desire to increase its presence in Stone Bank, the Stone Bank Lions Club is seeking new members.

The club recently welcomed into its ranks seven new members in the fall and four new members in February. Members come from different backgrounds and have different skills, but they’re all united by a common desire to

serve.

“We all have servants’ hearts,” said Davis. “All of us do things to help people in need.”

Potential Lions Club members are given an application and interviewed by current members before a vote is taken to decide on their admittance.

“We basically want to know that you have a caring heart and that you want to help other people,” Davis said.

How the Stone Bank Lions Club helps people and the community includes food drives for homeless veterans, fundraisers for charities, collecting school supplies for families who can’t afford them and serving hot meals to the homeless during the holidays. Many of the club’s pursuits are geared toward improving the lives of the visually impaired by donating glasses and running events like BOLD, which stands for Blind Outdoor Leisure Development.

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Submitted photo

Whittier students help unveil the “Streets of Oconomowoc” mosaic.

# Intergenerational arts adventure

## Whittier students create mosaic mural at Shorehaven in Oconomowoc

Submitted to The Freeman

OCONOMOWOC — It was about more than shattered pieces of costume jewelry at Shorehaven’s community room Feb. 26. The picture was larger than life, when Waukesha Whittier School fifth-graders joined with Shorehaven independent, assisted, skilled and memory care residents to unveil their own 4-foot by 8-foot mural titled “The Streets of Oconomowoc.”

The SHARP Literacy’s Intergenerational Program project took three months to complete under the creative direction of artist Sally Duback. She led the 60 students and residents in the project, glazing lake-themed ceramic tiles and gluing them to the mural backing, adorning them with pieces of jewelry, shells, beads and glitter.

The mural features a colorful landscape of Oconomowoc and its popular landmarks, including the Strand Theater, Lac La Belle, Fowler Lake and Shorehaven, as well as the City Band Shell, City Hall and clock tower and Yellow Brick Road.

Whittier students researched Oconomowoc histo-

ry, sketched historical compositions, and Duback integrated materials for placement.

“Amidst the bling and the mess, the students learned about the historic components of Oconomowoc,” Duback said. “They started working with the seniors, and set to work with an ‘I can do anything’ attitude. It was liberating for the seniors, too. They stuck with the project with the students beside them.”

“We involved our residents every step of the way,” Shorehaven staff member Kathleen Dunn said. “Whatever they were capable of doing, we encouraged them to do it. They took ownership of the project. They knew the students were counting on them.”

From stringing beads to painting and placing tiles, molding clay and deciding color schemes, residents served as the “success factor,” SHARP Literacy’s Tamela Smith said. “The seniors shared stories of growing up in Oconomowoc,” Smith said. “It made the town come alive for the youth. The storytelling, and serious, meaningful conversations that took place

created this piece. What students and residents shared became the essence of what this endeavor is all about. Together, the creators produced a sense of community and belonging through the arts.”

Duback has created other murals with students, including topics of urban agriculture, transportation, and equity. But this particular mural evoked a sense of neighborhood, nostalgia and love, portraying the residents’ home at Shorehaven with the koi ponds, lakefront, loving hearts, and welcoming thresholds.

“The students learned to stay bold, to push the envelope, to relate to and trust the seniors, and to be fearless in their creation — very important traits,” Duback said.

Student Jeremiah M. reached out for resident Dick Iglar’s hand after the unveiling. Iglar had served as educator and principal, and related especially to the children when they arrived twice monthly. “I didn’t know before the adventures these people had as kids,” Jeremiah said. “When you work together, you succeed for life.”

# Study: Green New Deal would cost state families at least \$40,000 a year

By Benjamin Yount  
The Center Square

For \$40,000 you can buy a three-bedroom home in Two Rivers, or a 19-foot bass boat in Princeton, or season tickets for four of the best seats in Miller Park to watch the Brewers all season.

Or you could simply pay to live under the requirements of the Green New Deal, according to a new study.

The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty and the Competitive Enterprise Institute on Wednesday released a study that looks at the real-world costs of the plan to make the United States more environmentally friendly within 10 years.

“When you boil it down to the household level, the impacts are staggering,” Will Flanders with WILL told The Center Square on Wednesday. “In Wisconsin, we’re at a cost of over \$40,000 per household. And that’s a few years out. The initial cost is even more, about \$70,000 per household.”

Flanders said that includes the cost to change to renewable power sources, to switch from gas- and diesel-burning engines, to upgrade all public and mass transit in the state, and to retrofit buildings to new environmental standards.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has trumpeted the Green New Deal as necessary to save the planet, regardless of the costs.

Flanders said that \$40,000 price tag is just for people to live in their homes. The cost of the Green New Deal skyrockets when you look to Wisconsin’s farms.

“We looked at two aspects of the agricultural costs. The first is in crop productivity reduction,” Flanders said. “The Green New Deal requires a conversion to organic and ‘sustainable’ farming methods. And we know those methods tend to have a lower crop yield.”

Flanders said that switch would cost corn and soybean farmers in the state, and people who buy groceries about \$200 billion in either lost production or

higher costs. And that is just corn and beans, not any of Wisconsin’s other crops, according to the study.

Flanders said the costs are just as high for dairy farmers in the state.

“The second thing we look at is agricultural emissions. The cow farts thing that’s been so famous for the last few years,” Flanders said. “We got a couple of estimates as to what it would cost to purchase carbon offsets for cows. Those estimates range from \$633 million to \$2.5 billion based on the large number of cows we have in Wisconsin.”

Flanders said those costs would only add to the difficulties that Wisconsin farmers are seeing in low milk prices and higher production costs.

“While the Green New Deal may play well in Washington D.C., in Midwestern states like Wisconsin, families, businesses, and farms depend on affordable, reliable energy. The Green New Deal would drive middle-class families into poverty,” Flanders added.



James Meyer/Shutterstock.com

An aerial view of a Whitefish Bay neighborhood.

# Report: Wisconsin homeowners pay nation’s 5th-highest property taxes

By Dan McCaleb  
The Center Square

Wisconsin homeowners pay some of the highest property taxes when compared to the rest of the country, a new report by the personal finance website WalletHub shows.

Wisconsin residents pay the fifth highest property taxes in the U.S., according to the report — 2020’s Property Taxes by State. The annual tax on a \$205,000 home, the median home value in the U.S. in 2018, is an estimated \$3,904 in Iowa.

The median home value in Wisconsin is \$173,600. The tax on a Wisconsin home at that value is an estimated \$3,308, the report

said.

WalletHub compared U.S. Census Bureau data for the 50 states and Washington, D.C., to determine the property tax rankings. It divided the median real estate tax payment by the median home price in each state to produce an effective real estate tax rate. It used the resulting rates to determine the amount paid as real estate tax on a house worth \$204,900, the median value for a home in the U.S. as of 2018, according to the Census Bureau.

“Depending on where you live, property taxes can be a small inconvenience or a major burden,” Wallethub Managing Editor John S. Kiernan writes. The average American

household spends \$2,375 on property taxes for their homes each year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and residents of the 27 states with vehicle property taxes shell out another \$441. Considering these figures and the rising amount of debt in America, it should come as no surprise that more than \$14 billion in property taxes go unpaid each year, the National Tax Lien Association has found.

Hawaii has the lowest property taxes in the U.S., while New Jersey has the highest, the report said. The tax on a \$205,000 home in Hawaii is an estimated \$560. The tax on a home of the same value in New Jersey is an estimated \$5,064.



Photo courtesy of Hartland Chamber of Commerce

## Hartland chamber announces board of directors

HARTLAND — The Hartland Chamber of Commerce recently announced its 2020 board of directors. Pictured from left to right are: front row, Cindy Bong, Global Financial Group; Kinsey Detert, village of Hartland; Jessie Puzach, Birch & Banyan Coffee; Krista Morrissey, CHOICES Coaching + Consulting, LLC; Chamber President Lynn Minturn; and Joe Glomski, First Bank Financial Centre; and back row, Scott Meyers, Battery Products, Inc.; board Chairman Matt Gaulke, Great Midwest Bank; past board Chairman Karl Scheife, Competitor Awards & Engraving; Donna Dorau, Evancer Resource Group; Nick Miller, Lake Country Bed Barn; Dr. Mike Merkt, The Specific Chiropractic Center; Treasurer Mark Hayes, H+P, CPA’s; and Pat Endter, Endter’s Sports Grill. Not pictured is Deb Nollen, Area Welcome and a Mary Kay beauty consultant.

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WIAA INDIVIDUAL STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Arrowhead junior Mason Diel takes down Baraboo junior John Gunderson in the 182-pound final during the WIAA Division 1 Individual Wrestling State Tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

# Mesenbrink, Diel take home first state titles

Arrowhead wrestlers both win in final by two points

By Dave Radcliffe  
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MADISON — Mitchell Mesenbrink started it off for the Arrowhead wrestling team with a dramatic victory, and Mason Diel finished it emphatically to give the Warhawks their third championship at the WIAA Individual Wrestling State Tournament on Feb. 29 at the Kohl Center.

It was the first state title for both, and each took their own, unique path to Championship Saturday.

For Diel (38-2), the 182-pound junior who was making his third trip to Madison in as many years, it was simply a matter of will power as he faced off against undefeated Baraboo junior John Gunderson, who had knocked off top-ranked Sam Skillings of Menomonie in the Feb. 28 semifinal.

"I was thinking the entire match, this is my title. Nobody's going to take it away from me," Diel said. "I could see him getting tired, feeling that he had nothing left."

Down 5-2 entering the third period, Diel quickly turned the tide. He'd get an escape point and a takedown to suddenly even the score, and after Gunderson got away to briefly take a 6-5 lead, Diel brought him down again.

"Keeping the same mentality the entire match that if I keep my flow and I keep my pace, nobody can stop me," Diel said. "It's what I kept replaying in my head the entire match. I think that's what kept me alive."

Gunderson was able to escape again to make it 7-7 with 45 seconds remaining. But 13 seconds later, Diel was on top again, and he held on from there for a 9-7 decision.

Early on, Diel had senior teammate Keegan O'Toole — fresh off winning his fourth state title — feeding him advice in his corner before a WIAA official politely asked O'Toole to leave the premises.

"Yeah I did (see him)," Diel said. "It's nice to have him in your corner because you know he views you as his brother. You know he has your back and you have his."

Due to an injury to a teammate, Diel and O'Toole ended up as practice partners during the season.

"I think just that high level, for me, I think my flow, my emotion, and fakes and re-attacks have pushed another level working out with the best of the best," Diel said.

Diel noted that Gunderson's undefeated record didn't add any extra motivation, nor concern him. Diel's only two losses of the season came against Neenah senior Marshall Kools — the undefeated 195-pound state champion — as he purposely wrestled up a weight class to face him at a pair of tournaments.

"I know my losses were better than any of (Gunderson's) wins," Diel said. "I bumped up to 95 to help the team because Kools is one of my buddies and I just love competition. Life's about having fun and you've got to



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Arrowhead sophomore Mitchell Mesenbrink celebrates after winning the 138-pound championship during the WIAA Division 1 Individual Wrestling State Tournament Saturday at the Kohl Center in Madison.

have fun and do what you love."

Mesenbrink's sophomore season was anything but fun, at least until the very end.

A concussion suffered on Dec. 7 kept Mesenbrink on the sideline for two months, but he was able to return for the postseason and cruised into state with an unblemished 8-0 record.

That may have led some to question what Mesenbrink (12-0) brought to the table. But he didn't question his abilities thanks to a strong support system and focus that was evident in the closing moments of his 138-pound final against defending state champion Jalen Spuhler of Hartford.

Mesenbrink earned his first point of the match with 1 minute, 42 seconds left in the third period, tying the score. Then with about 30 seconds to go, Mesenbrink brought down Spuhler, only to be ruled out of the circle as the score remained deadlocked.

"Everyone was getting flustered when I wasn't getting those takedowns, but in reality I knew I was going to get it," Mesenbrink said. "I could see him fading and I knew everything that I've done the last two months on my recovery back, I knew it would pay off."

It did.

With barely any time to spare, Mesenbrink finally got his two points, resulting in a 3-1 decision as he held up one finger and reveled in the crowd reaction before having his hand raised.

"I have complete confidence that if someone touches my leg, I score, if I touch their leg, I score," Mesenbrink said. "It's just work, consistency. Adversity is great. I took a lot of it, a lot of obstacles, not even these past two weeks, but the entire three months, huge obstacles and I was able to overcome them."

Mesenbrink was the first of five Warhawks to take the mat on Feb. 29, and one of three to bring home championship gold.

"All of us are pretty excited," Mesenbrink said. "I actually wasn't really thinking about it, kick-starting, because we all know that if the guy before us wins or losses, it doesn't really matter. We're still going to go out there and perform. But if it kick-started something, that would be good."

Unfortunately, the next two Arrowhead wrestlers came up just short. Junior Jack Ganos, competing in the finals for the second time in three years, fell 2-0 to Burlington senior Max Ehlen due to a reversal 12 seconds into the third period. Ganos (44-4) has now finished second (113), fifth (138) and second (145) in his three trips to state.

Freshman Noah Mulvaney (38-5), who improbably reached the 152-pound championship match with a late flurry against Stoughton's Luke Mechler in the semifinals, couldn't keep the magic going against Madison Memorial senior Kaden Reese.

Mulvaney led 7-6 heading into the third, but allowed an escape, takedown and near-fall to go down by five and never recovered from there, falling 14-8.

Still, it was a remarkable three-day stretch for the Warhawks and they hoped to carry that momentum into team state March 6-7 at the UW Field House.

"I think that's incredible. Five in the finals, three state champs," Diel said. "It's something special that doesn't happen very often with anyone, including Arrowhead, with all the great athletics we have, it doesn't happen very often. You've just got to cherish it while it lasts."

# O'Toole's dream becomes reality

Arrowhead senior becomes state's 18th 4-time champ, first in county

By Dave Radcliffe  
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MADISON — After more than a decade of blood, sweat and tears, Keegan O'Toole could finally take a moment to let it all sink in.

And let a few more tears out.

The Arrowhead senior completed the inevitable task of becoming the 18th wrestler in state history — and Waukesha County's first — to become a four-time state champion on Feb. 29 at the WIAA Individual Wrestling State Tournament, pinning Elkhorn Area/Faith Christian senior Colman Karl in 2 minutes, 49 seconds to win the 160-pound title.

After the referee slapped his hand down, O'Toole knelt on the mat, removed his headgear and looked around as he received a standing ovation from the appreciative Kohl Center crowd.

"It's amazing," said O'Toole, who finished with a 47-0 record on the season. "That standing ovation, I broke down. I couldn't handle that. I've been dreaming of that for so long."

He had been dreaming of it ever since he started watching high school wrestling, when he was merely a grade-schooler.

"This is the biggest thing, in my opinion, I've ever accomplished," O'Toole said. "I don't know what to say. It's just amazing. I wouldn't be here without my coaches, my wrestle partners and my family. I've got a lot of them here tonight, so it makes it a lot more special. I'm starstruck right now."

That's coming from a guy who won Who's Number 1 back in October, making him the top-ranked 160-pounder in the nation. The University of Missouri commit finishes his career with a 157-5 record, having never lost to a wrestler from the state of Wisconsin.

His last loss? Jan. 6, 2018, against Gabe Hixenbaugh of Alabama at the Cheesehead Invitational. That's 109 straight victories to close out his high school career; his last 19 coming by way of pin.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see someone do that, let alone one of your best friends," said Arrowhead junior Mason Diel, O'Toole's practice partner. "That's something special that you've got to cherish."

Already up 4-0 in the second period, O'Toole used his patented move to finish off Karl.

"I locked up that cradle," O'Toole said. "I've pinned so many people doing that swim move all year, just go behind to a cradle, they turn in. I knew once I had that cra-

dle I'm going to end my career at the Kohl Center right here with a fourth pin. I set out that goal and I got it. Just throw my headgear off and take a moment to look at everything that I've done and all the people that have helped me, it's so amazing."

O'Toole was visibly upset even after winning his third state title last February when he didn't go 4-for-4 on pins during the three-day tournament. He needed less than 11 minutes to pin his four opponents this time around.

"Last year I think I might have been a little bit too tunnel-visioned," O'Toole said. "But this year I just made sure of everything. This is my last time being here. I'm thankful for the opportunity that God has given me to compete and my family has done everything me. My coaches, just everyone on the Arrowhead coaching staff and the Askren Wrestling Academy coaching staff, they've helped me so much and I wouldn't be where I am at all without them."

O'Toole said the Kohl Center would always hold a huge piece of his heart, calling it his favorite venue in which to compete. But he had one more week left as a high school wrestler, as Arrowhead qualified for team state, set to take place March 6-7 at the UW Field House.

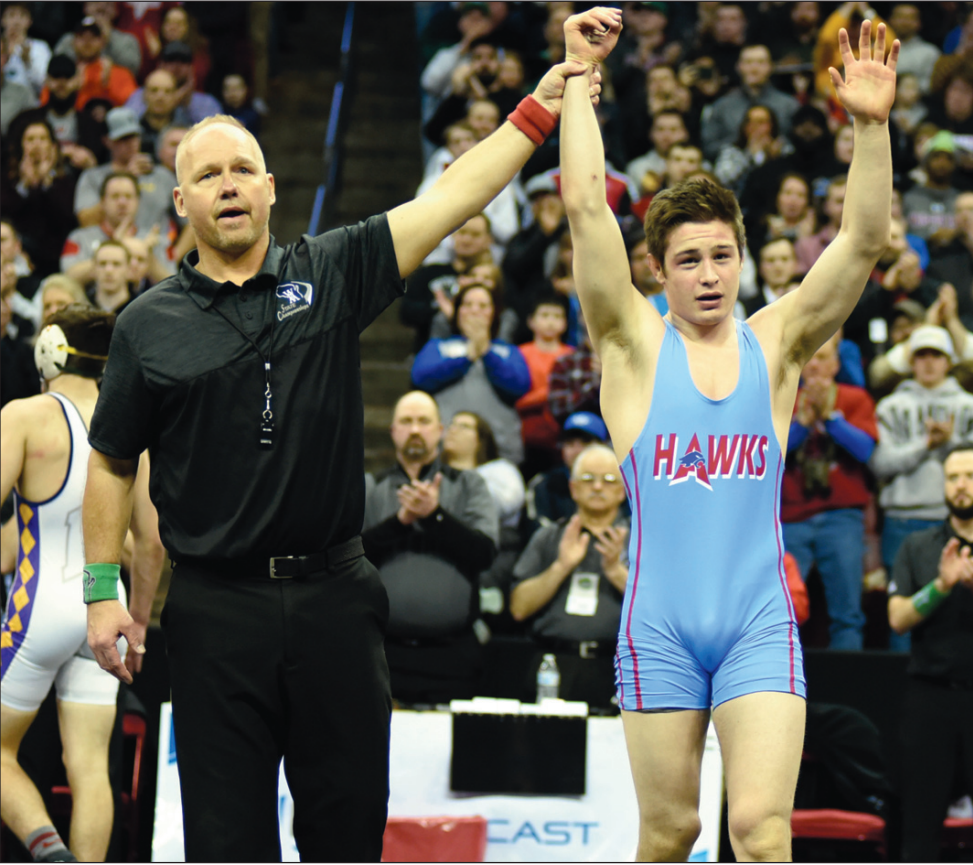
"It would mean the world to me, even better than the four-time state championship, to win a team title because team is so much more fun than individual," said O'Toole, previously a state champion at 120, 132 and 145 pounds. "When I'm with the team I'm having so much more fun and I have so much more joy for the sport of wrestling."

It'll be the third time O'Toole gets to compete at team state, and there's no one more demonstrative on the sideline than the Arrowhead senior when rooting on his teammates. But when he's on the mat, it's all business, and that was on display in Madison.

O'Toole never could have imagined how much work it would take to get here, and now that it's over, he can't believe the moment has already passed.

"I always envisioned this moment coming so soon," O'Toole said. "It came fast, but man, it was a long four years. After freshman year, I'm like, 'Damn, I want to win a fourth one.' But I need to take it one match at a time, one day, one second, one practice. I need to just make sure I enjoy it. This year has really made me realize that, not only because it's my senior year, but because I've looked so much more at the bigger picture."

"It's enjoying everything. It's having fun with it and loving the sport of wrestling."



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Arrowhead senior Keegan O'Toole gets his hand raised after winning the 160-pound championship, the fourth state title of his career, during the WIAA Division 1 Individual Wrestling State Tournament on Feb. 29 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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