

DECEMBER 2021

#### The FREEMAN & ENTERPRISE



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

### Love is grown here

Zachariah's Acres celebrates 10 years of serving children, young adults with special needs

fully accessible structures,

including a heated barn and

pavilion with restrooms, two

and a treehouse with

fishing pier for the pond,

fruit orchard, vegetable gar-

dens, 4,000 square feet of

raised gardens, and animal habitats have also been

added and thousands of

that is hosting thousands of

guests per year through the

support of the community.

In the last 10 years we have

the help of 478 dedicated vol-

unteers and 86 community

partners," said Director of

Community Impact Emily

Zachariah's Acres offers

free family events, special

education school field trips,

the Seed to Sale Garden Bas-

ket community supported

**Unexpected impacts** 

grasses cultivated.

Enockson.

By Rebecca Seymour Special to the Freeman

en years ago members of the community were invited during Thanksgiving weekend to a local tree farm in the Town of Oconomowoc to cut down year-round greenhouses, and share resources. The their own Christmas trees.

After driving down a winding dirt path, families had the opportunity to walk through a wonderland of spruce and pine to choose their perfect tree and then sit by a bonfire with hot cocoa and cookies.

The event was a fundraiser to support creating an inclusive haven dedicated to serving children and young adults with special needs and their families. In honor of a boy with physical and cognitive challenges who simply wanted to be included, accepted and loved, Zachariah's Acres sprouted and has been flourishing ever since.

In 2012, work began to transform 48 acres of rolling fields, woods and natural wetlands into a universally designed and nature-based environment where famiorganizations and lies. community members have opportunities to gather in nature to play, relax and

Over the years, the non-

with community partnerships. "Our guests feel accepted profit organization's staff and volunteers have part- and loved and safe to just be nered to design and build themselves. Volunteers use

their gifts to give back to the community and parents and teachers bond and connect sense of community that wildlife observation deck. A happens at Zachariah's has been such an unexpected gift," added Enockson.

Kristi Staus is a teacher in Oconomowoc High the School Transition Program, working with special needs evergreen trees and acres of students ages 18-21. Groups wildflowers and prairie of students and their teachers from several school dis-"We've gone from a farm tricts and other community field to a thriving campus partners visit the campus each week to participate in vocational readiness activities including planting and harvesting vegetables, pickserved 41,000 guests through ing fruit, collecting and washing eggs, learning how to cook and bake using natural ingredients and more.

"Our students are also interacting with others, having fun, and learning it's OK to just be themselves. Just driving into the campus brings a sense of peace. Zachariah's Acres' mission is to help those with disabilities contribute to a meanagricultural (CSA) program, ingful life. I am all about fundraisers, and activities supporting that and love to



Kristi Staus is a teacher in the OHS Transition Program, working with special needs students ages 18-21. She accompanies her students as they participate in activities at Zachariah's Acres a couple of times each month. Pictured are Staus and student Sophia Schmitz helping to harvest carrots from the dardens.

Staus.

Dante Schmeckpeper, 13, and his family have been visiting Zachariah's Acres since it first opened in 2012.

"Dante is able to feel successful and he doesn't feel different than anyone else when he is at Zachariah's

partner with them," said The kids just glow and they know they are accepted and loved. It's wonderful seeing him with the other kids having fun running around outside. It's just so welcoming it's like a big family," said Dante's mom Rachel Teren.

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Sally's Sweet Shoppe closing





after two months membership. Can not combine or use any other discount



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### **Delafield mayor Attwell** seeking re-election

Cites emergency responder support, net new construction goal

DELAFIELD — Delafield "a clear line of sight" to Kent Mayor announced recently he'll be new construction goal he seeking a third two-year set in 2020, with the two term as mayor.

"As mayor, I fully support conservation subdivision and appreciate the men and development under con-Police Department and Delafield Oaks indoor gun Lake Country Fire and Res- range anticipated to start cue. I, as well as our com- construction next year. continue to deliver high new Olive Garden. "The quality services at a fair City of Delafield Economic and reasonable cost to tax- Development-Land payers."

Attwell reach its \$75 million net four-story building develop-"Delafield's future is ment by Hendricks starting bright and is running construction this month or conservative with a busi-strong on all cylinders," next month, the 22-unit ness background, Attwell Attwell said in a statement. Siepmann Hawthorn Farm said he strongly supports women of the Delafield struction now, and the new Legislature to keep the city

munity, will continue to He also cited the new savings both internally and have their backs as they Chick-fil-A and the coming externally with our neigh-Use Focus Project I initiated last about his candidacy, visit

DELAFIELD



gic road map to responsibly maintain this momentum and keep our citizens' property taxes low, Attwell said. As a fiscal

using "the tools provided by the Republican-controlled budget in control by continuing to turn over every rock to find efficiencies and cost boring communities.'

Attwell will appear on the April ballot. To learn more Attwell said the city has year has outlined a long- kentattwell4mayor.com.

#### From Page 1A "My heart feels excited and amazing when I am there. I love fishing and going on tractor rides and Commissioners back zoning code playing games. My heart depends on me to go there so that I get to see my friends and make s'mores in changes for indoor firing ranges the firepit," added Dante. On November 4, Zachariah's Acres was recog-

Gun club site, business plans to be reviewed next month

#### By Dave Fidlin Special to The Freeman

DELAFIELD — Plans to entire community. breathe new life into the long-dormant Hartland that this is a citywide ordi- area, he added. Sportsmen's Club site nance," Barrows said. moved one step closer to reality last month after a municipal zoning code.

code that would add indoor ing range. firing ranges to the list of designation.

801 Maple Ave., which is to sits on the commission.

be renamed Delafield Oaks Dorow, who attended the Range under plans retired meeting, indicated building educator and former Home- materials for the indoor land Security official Brian range would be constructed Dorow submitted, falls to safeguard against stray within the commercial bullets leaving the buildholding district status.

olding district status. ing. While Dorow's plans have Most indoor ranges, spurred the consideration, Dorow said, are made of City Planner Amy Barrows concrete and have minimal said the changes under doors, which typically are review actually have a made of heavy steel. Other broader impact on the features, such as windows,

Nonetheless sioners looked at Dorow's sets of plans for the newly city panel approved several existing plans and consid-named Delafield Oaks technical changes to the ered how the zoning code Range, including the delecould best be applied to tion of an outdoor range -The Plan Commission ensure safety measures a feature he initially protentatively approved a text will prevent stray bullets posed in his presentation amendment to the zoning from leaving the indoor fir- this past spring.

"We're going to have a Dorow's project includes permitted uses within site plan review ... but the potential action from the areas zoned with a com- simple definition of what Common Council and a mercial holding district an indoor range is has to be review of site and business buttoned down," said operation plans within the The former club's site at Alderman Tim Aicher, who Plan Commission in Jan-

are commonly absent in the "It is important to note immediate shooting range

In October, commissioncommis- ers reviewed Dorow's latest

The tentative timeline for uary



Dante Schmeckpeper, 13, and his family have been

visiting Zachariah's Acres since they first opened 10

years ago. The 8th grader says that his heart depends

on him to go there because it makes him so happy.

Pictured having fun during a snowshoeing event at

Zachariah's Ares are Jason and Rachel and their kids

nized by the Oconomowoc Area Chamber of Com-

merce as the 2021 Nonprofit Organization of the

10 years. It has been a lot of hard work and the

support of hundreds of people," said Enockson.

"Anyone who sets foot on our campus is graced by

God's artistry and knows there is something big-

For more information, visit www.zachariahs

Ten years ago Zachariah's Acres started as an idea

and has been flourishing ever since. Pictured is one

of the first events that happened in 2012 before any

buildings were constructed and the property was just

'We are very humbled and grateful for the past

Mea, 8, and Dante, 13.

ger happening here."

Acres

Year.

acres.org

a farm field.

Submitted photo

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# The View at Johnson Creek

# The View at **Pine Ridge**

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### Sally's Sweet Shoppe closing Delafield location Store closing effective Dec. 23

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

Sweet Shoppe at 810 N. Genesee St. — will be closing at Dec. 23, owner Tracey Catarozoli said.

been running the Delafield career comes to an end." location in conjunction with the Genesee location for the stretched too thin to contin- point both locations will ue operating both locations.

"I am a working leader," Catarozoli said. "…Your they have a good leader and holidays. I've been stretched way too thin the last six years. The ly opened her Delafield locathought it was going to be.

how overworked I'd be and not be able to do it all," she head kids graduate, we wantsaid. "It was too much."

DELAFIELD — Sally's zoli was her mother getting want to drive 15 more min-Sweet Shoppe Too — the sick earlier this year and her utes to Genesee Depot. Fif-Delafield location of Sally's being unable to help due to teen minutes can matter. I having to work so much.

"It's just not how you sion for me and it's really the end of its baking year on should live your life," Cataro- hard to be a good leader zoli said. "Especially when when you're spread so thin I'm 55 years old, I have to tail in two different places.' Catarozoli said she has off a little bit as my working

As a result, Sally's Sweet said she will be expanding Shoppe Too will be open the Genesee store's hours to last six years and has been through Dec. 23, at which be open during the evening. close for two weeks — as try and get folks from Waukethey do every year, she said sha and Mukwonago and - and only the Genesee hopefully we'll get our employees work better when location will reopen after the Delafield and Lake Country

Catarozoli said she initial- said. success has been amazing tion because she wanted to cakes, cupcakes, doughnuts and everything I ever expand her customer base and other baked goods. into Lake Country for the "What I didn't know was dessert and cake business.

"When Hartland-Arrowed those orders," she said. "I The last straw for Cataro- understand if they don't have to make the right deci-

> To make up for closing the Delafield store, Catarozoli

"We're going to do that to people back," Catarozoli

Sally's Sweet Shoppe sells

For more information, visit sallyssweetshoppe.com.

Submitted photo Cookies in a display case at Sally's Sweet Shoppe. Sally's Sweet Shoppe Too in Delafield will be closed come Dec. 23. The Genesee location will remain open.

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