

# Brookfield & Elm Grove

## THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 2021

## Come on down: Become the next contestant at Game Show Battle Rooms

Brookfield business offers game show experiences

By Katherine Beck  
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BROOKFIELD — For many people it's been a dream since childhood to hear your name called and told "You're the next contestant on the 'Price is Right.'" While the odds of that happening are still not in your favor, Game Show Battle Rooms is offering people the opportunity to compete in their version of that famous daytime game show, as well as others such as the Brookfield business's versions of "Family Feud" and "Wheel of Fortune."

DJ Castine, manager of Game Show Battle Rooms in Brookfield, said the location at 12565 W. Feerick St. near Capitol Drive and 124th Street draws guests from the greater Milwaukee area, as well as Madison and Chicagoland. There are two other locations in Minneapolis and

Kansas City. The Brookfield location was the second one and it opened in November 2019, after the one in Minneapolis.

"They can expect to have fun and an experience they can have nowhere else in Wisconsin," Castine said.

While contestants don't play for cash prizes or cars like they do on the real game shows, they compete for bragging rights and a trophy, Castine said.

"We play for the love of the game and the love of the game show," he said.

Game Show Battle Rooms is open weekdays for team building events and on weekends for groups of people who want to have some fun. Tickets cost \$29.95 and cover an hour's worth of game time.

Virtual game experiences are also offered, as well as some more active, time-rush games, Castine said.

"It's a unique product that you have to experience for yourself," he said.

For a time Game Show Battle Rooms had to close during the pandemic, but it's been open for a few months again. For those visiting the business, staff wear masks and social distancing is used.



Submitted photo

Game Show Battle Rooms offers contestants the opportunity to play games similar to the ones they watch on TV. The business, opened since 2018, is located at 12565 W. Feerick St. near Capitol Drive and 124th Street in Brookfield.

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## BelAir Cantina debuting Town of Brookfield ice bar

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD — The Corners of Brookfield and the town center's BelAir Cantina restaurant are embracing the cold this winter season and calling Wisconsinites to come "chill out" at a brand-new ice bar that will be constructed in the coming weeks.

The sculpted 19-foot ice bar, featuring photo opportunities and special offerings, was set to open to the public on Jan. 22. The ice bar will be located in Market Square in front of BelAir Cantina, 250 High St.

The Corners of Brookfield announced the news in a press release Friday and said the public is invited to enjoy a specialty cocktail or beverage at the bar and to find a cozy spot with other heated, outdoor seating nooks near the bar and BelAir Cantina. Some specialty drinks offered to the public include the "Iceberg" and the "Icicle," as well as liquors served in solid ice shot glasses.

Partner Art Below Zero will use 10,000 pounds of ice to construct the bar and various

ice-sculpted photo frames, including those for couples, groups and even pets. Also, a 6-foot by 7-foot acrylic etched wall with colored LED lights will illuminate Market Square. Also — hard to miss — will be a giant, custom carved ice bull, representing BelAir Cantina's insignia.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with BelAir Cantina on The Corners' first-ever ice bar," said Chelsea Roessler, director of marketing and

See ICE, PAGE 2A



Photo courtesy of The Corners of Brookfield

BelAir Cantina, 250 High St., will have an ice bar, with Jan. 22 the expected opening date.

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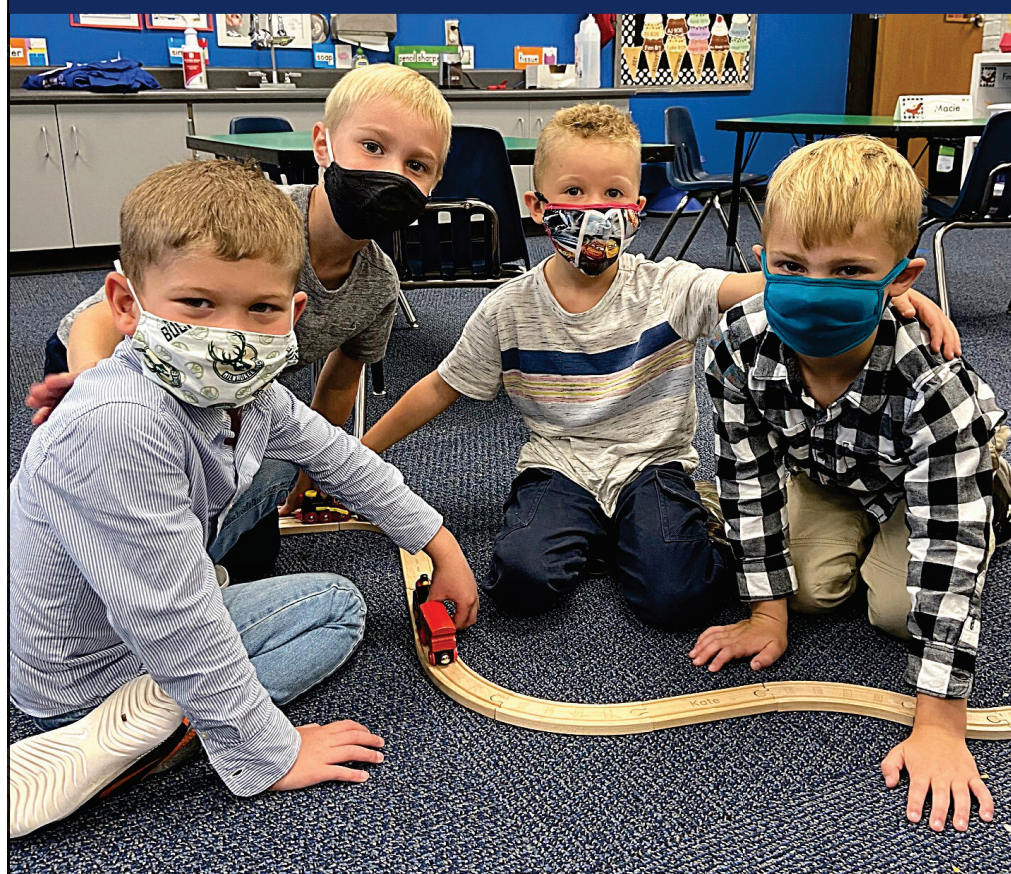
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Submitted photo

Locals enjoy a day of sledding on a hill in Minooka Park.

## Local stores sell out of sleds

### Outdoor winter activity noticeably higher this year

By Jake Ekdahl  
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WAUKESHA — With snow on the ground and families eager to enjoy some fun and safe activities, one winter tradition seems especially popular this year: sledding.

Retailers in Waukesha County including Home Depot and Blain's Farm & Fleet are completely sold out.

"We have been getting calls about sleds like crazy these past few days," said Home Depot Associate Carea Cholka. "I'm sure with COVID being as prominent as it is, a lot of families are looking for something to do."

Cholka said her Home Depot location sold its last sled in January. For some, that might spur a rekindling of sled-making from available materials — an experience that might be a nostalgic one for those that have done it before.

"We've definitely seen an increase in winter park activity," said Emily Heller, Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department public communications coordinator. "We've seen that good snowfall (and) it hasn't been too cold."

Rebecca Mattano, one of the county's park system managers, said the activity is the highest the Parks and Land Use Department has ever seen. On average, there's 20-40% more activity this winter compared to last year, based on sticker sales and other engagement.

"People are just looking for fun things to do in a COVID world, where they can be outside and have proper social distancing while still having fun," Mattano said.

There's more than sledding, too. Waukesha County's parks offer cross country skiing, hiking, dog walking, fat tire biking and more. Mattano's advice was simple: try something new.

The city of Waukesha and the county will coordinate on a jam-boree this year with activities varying from fireworks to frozen foot golf to a beer garden. February will also have candlelight hikes. Activity attendance will be monitored for COVID-19 safety reasons and guidelines must be followed.

Some of Waukesha County's parks require fees for entry or purchased passes. Heller and Mattano encouraged any who are interested to visit [waukesha-countyparks.com](http://waukesha-countyparks.com) to get started.

## Questions raised about Elmbrook School Board appointment

### Apparent discrepancy between vote totals, president's remarks

By Jake Ekdahl  
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BROOKFIELD — When the Elmbrook School Board met virtually May 12 to fill a vacancy, they expressed preferences between candidates through multiple rounds of voting.

The candidate selected that day was Mushir Hassan, but there is an apparent discrepancy between his appointment and the actual vote totals shown in district documents, which The Freeman acquired through a Freedom of Information Act request.

The candidates that day were Leanne Wied, Mushir Hassan, Maria Paglianti and Dj Richlen. In the first round, board members expressed their preferences by assigning two points to their first pick candidate and one to their second pick for a total of three points — board member Glen Allgaier divided his for 1.5 each.

After the first round of voting, Wied led with a total of 7.5 votes followed by Hassan at 6, Paglianti at 3 and Richlen at 1.5.

After a second round of voting between just Wied and Hassan, votes came to a 3-3 tie. According to district documents, the third

round of voting achieved the same result.

However, during the video recording of the meeting, School Board President Scott Wheeler announced results that were not a tie.

"We've got four votes for Mushir and two votes for Leanne," he said. "That's enough for a motion, that's consensus. If we don't have a motion I would suggest that we adjourn, but again we do have four."

A motion to appoint Hassan was made, seconded and approved by the board. Board member Linda Boucher abstained from the vote.

A post on Elmbrook's website says Hassan was appointed May 12, and an email sent at about 7 p.m. that day from a district account to Hassan also congratulates him on being appointed to the board. He currently serves on the board.

The Freeman has not seen evidence indicating Hassan was aware of the apparent discrepancy. Wied is running against Hassan, the incumbent, and James Thomas Gunsalus, another candidate, in the Feb. 16 election.

Elmbrook officials told The Freeman the district has a policy of not commenting on ongoing or potential litigation.

## Elmbrook district adds 4K for 2021-22 school year

BROOKFIELD — The Elmbrook School Board voted Tuesday to approve adding 4K for the 2021-22 school year in a 5-2 vote. The 4K offering will be tuition free and hosted at each Elmbrook elementary school.

Previously, the district was one of only five in Wisconsin not to offer such a half-day educational program.

"There are many reasons to support this program," said Superintendent Mark Hansen. "It responds to data that demonstrates a four-year-old school experience has a statistically significant impact on student achievement, it may help qualify the district for additional state aid, and it stabilizes enrollment growth and our operating budget as we exit the pandemic."

School Board President Scott

Wheeler voiced support for the program.

"Four-year-old kindergarten will help us achieve our early literacy goals and provide equitable access to an early childhood learning experience for all students and families in our community," he said.

While the district currently offers a private, tuition-based, four-year-old preschool program, that program will be replaced this fall by a universal 4K program available to all 4-year-old community residents. This half-day program will include transportation to and from school, and will offer a private, fee-based wraparound childcare service at each elementary school. Details about Elmbrook's 4K offering were to be posted to the district's website.

## Local candidates file for 2021 elections

WAUKESHA — With the spring elections approaching, candidates for local office in Waukesha County have filed their paperwork to run for election or re-election. The listings of candidates representing Brookfield and Elm Grove are below.

**February 16 Primary**  
**Elmbrook School Board**  
■ Mushir Hassan (I)  
■ Leanne Wied  
■ James Thomas Gunsalus

**Wisconsin State Superintendent**  
■ Jill Underly  
■ Deborah Kerr  
■ Steve Krull

■ Shandowlyn Hendricks-Williams  
■ Troy Gunderson  
■ Joe Fenrick  
■ Sheila Briggs

### April 6 General Election

**Elm Grove Village President**  
■ Mary Inden  
■ Neil Palmer (I)

**Elm Grove Village Trustee**  
■ Thomas Michalski (I)  
■ Jennifer Stuckert  
■ Katy Cornell (I)  
■ Ted Wentzel  
■ Kristina Sayas

## WhirlyBall temporarily closes all locations

BROOKFIELD — After reopening for a few months during the COVID-19 pandemic, WhirlyBall at Brookfield Square mall has temporarily closed again, along with all other WhirlyBall locations.

According to the company's website, "We are pressing pause! Fol-

lowing the guidance of local government and health officials, we have temporarily closed our locations so we can prioritize the health and safety of our team, guests and community. We will continue to monitor the situation and reopen when we feel we safely can.

## Ice

From Page 1A

events at The Corners of Brookfield. "This is yet another way for our community to feel comfortable gathering with family and friends, while having fun and enjoying the outdoors. We're inviting everyone to bundle up and come chill out with us."

"This is the perfect outdoor, fun activity for the community to experience good food, drink and times while embracing the cold with us," said Matt Roman Lopez, director of operations at BelAir Cantina.

The duration of the ice bar experience will be weather dependent, but organizers expect it to last a few weeks. Additional information can be found at [www.thecornersofbrookfield.com](http://www.thecornersofbrookfield.com).



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## Ponto shares hopes for 2021

### Mayor looks forward to return to normalcy

Brookfield Mayor Steve Ponto recently shared with The Freeman his hopes for 2021.

"With the new vaccines to combat the coronavirus, I deeply hope that 2021 will be the year that allows us a gradual return to normalcy. I really enjoy meeting with people at city events, making presentations about Brookfield to groups of people, attending ribbon-cuttings and groundbreakings, and just talking to people in the grocery store and church. While I have made a number of Zoom presentations to Brookfield groups during this pandemic, and I appreciate the technology, it isn't the same as actually being there. A major goal of mine is to more fully engage with Brookfield residents as the pandemic recedes and circumstances permit," he said.

"I also want to actively promote our beautiful new Brookfield Conference Center in 2021.



Ponto

The Conference Center was completed on time and under budget, and was ready to open last April when the pandemic hit. The Conference Center is a tremendous resource for our city and the whole area. I hope a lot of people get to see and utilize this new state of the art facility in the coming year," Ponto went on to say.

"I hope 2021 will see the return of city events so many of us enjoy — particularly the July 4th events including Brookfield's Independence Day Parade, the ice cream social in the Civic Plaza, and Family Fest and the Fireworks in Mitchell Park.

"Here's looking forward to 2021 with hope and anticipation!"



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# Parks, campsites getting more use

Winter weather doesn't dampen enthusiasm for outdoors

By Jake Ekdahl  
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WAUKESHA — Parks and campsites throughout Wisconsin are receiving higher than usual levels of engagement as the COVID-19 pandemic continues and winter weather sets in.

"Last year we had record numbers of people for attendance throughout the park system and we also saw an increase in our camping numbers from previous years," said Chris Pedretti, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Operations Section Chief for the State Park System.

Pedretti said camping numbers were up from 2019 despite parks being closed for April, May and part of June.

The trend appears to be continuing. Pedretti said parks have sold significantly more stickers so far in 2021 than this time last year. "The increase (of) interest in outdoor recreation seems to be (there) in winter months," he said. "We're seeing a lot more traffic, a lot more advance reservations this year than we have in the past."

One thing that could be driving such an increased interest is the relative safety of outdoor activities during COVID-19 and state residents simply having more time on their hands with many planned events not taking place. Industry metrics like camper sales and sales for outdoor recreation supply sales show interest is up across the board, Pedretti said.



Photo courtesy of Tom Davenport

A trio enjoys some time on skis at Lapham Peak State Park.

Activities being rediscovered or tried for the first time include hiking, camping, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and more.

Some campsites are even being booked up at this point, but Pedretti said there are plenty of opportunities available to enjoy Wisconsin's natural amenities. Also, cancellations happen regularly, which opens windows for new reservations.

In Waukesha County, Pedretti said Lapham Peak State Park in Delafield has been popular with its cross country ski trails. "They've

seen huge numbers for usage at Lapham Peak," he said. "It's always been known for great cross country (activity)."

Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department Public Communications Coordinator Emily Heller said the fresh snowfall and mild weather have helped bring people out.

"The parks are reporting a lot of users out there," she said. "That's great, we love having busy parks... We're using a lot of new users on snowshoes (and) cross country skiing."

Waukesha County parks don't have winter camping, but reservations for post-winter months opened Jan. 1. Heller said there's still plenty of availability for those interested.

Heller and Pedretti both said they feel the increased interest in the outdoors will continue even past COVID-19.

# Crowley stepping down as Habitat CEO

Will become CEO of National Kidney Foundation of WI; Clark becomes Habitat's acting CEO

By Nikki Brahm  
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WAUKESHA — Habitat for Humanity (HFH) of Waukesha County Chief Executive Officer Mike Crowley has announced he is resigning from his Habitat position and the news of a new opportunity — becoming CEO of the National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin (NKF) based in West Allis.

Crowley has been CEO of Habitat Waukesha for two years and his last day was Jan. 15. Operations Manager Sara Clark has been promoted as the director of operations, acting CEO, effective Jan. 18.

While Crowley said the move is bittersweet for him, as he will miss working for Habitat, he is thrilled to begin this new and unique opportunity with the NKF, which also aligns with his passion to help people.

Crowley has been involved in leadership and volunteer work with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) since his son was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. He has spent years as the president of the JDRF Board of Directors and as the JDRF state leader-government relations.

Crowley said his involvement has exposed him to a wide network of people dedicated to finding a cure.

"Complications of Type 1 diabetes include kidney disease and kidney failure... The mission of the NKF is to prevent kidney disease and improve health of those affected by kidney disease and increase availability of all organs for transplantation," Crowley said. "The National Kidney Foundation and JDRF are near and dear to my heart, and I thrive on helping the well-being of all people and families."

Crowley will continue serving his fifth term as Waukesha County Board supervisor of District 16; vice chairman of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; chairman of the Waukesha County Airport Operations Commission; and chairman of the Waukesha Community Development Block Grant Committee.

"We are all confident that Mike is the ideal candidate to lead this great organization into the next chapter of growth and success because of his passion for the health and wellness of all people," Kathleen Sprenger, NKF board chair, said in a statement. "We have all been impressed with his kind and approachable demeanor along with his



Crowley

strong track record of innovation, strategic operational excellence, professional execution and development of teams that drive results through an all-hands-on-deck approach."

## Habitat

Aaron Melnarik, president of the HFH Waukesha County Board of Directors, said in a press release he is fortunate for Crowley's time with the organization.

"Over the past two years, Mike has worked hard to strengthen our affiliate and help us fulfill our mission of providing affordable homeownership in Waukesha County," he said. "He leaves our affiliate in the strongest and capable hands of Sara Clark, who we are confident will build upon that success."

Clark has served the affiliate since 2019 and will oversee operations as the affiliate commences a CEO search.

"I'm honored and excited for the opportunity to help Habitat Waukesha become a household name in the community," Clark said. "As a homeowner myself, I understand the urgent need for affordable housing in Waukesha County. Using the strong foundation that Mike has laid down, along with our amazing team, I am passionate about leading Habitat Waukesha into a bright and promising future."

# Waukesha County Center for Growth names new executive director

WAUKESHA — The Waukesha County Center for Growth has announced Judie Taylor as executive director of economic development. Taylor has been interim director since last November.

"Judie Taylor shares our passion for Waukesha County's business community and has already proven to be a valuable asset to the Center for Growth," said Tom Finco, Board Chair of Waukesha County Center for Growth, in a statement. "Under her leadership, we are confident the Center for Growth will continue to be a key resource to assist our

local communities with their economic development needs and help businesses locate and expand in our county."

Taylor brings more than 28 years of business leadership experience and knowledge of management, sales, marketing, finance, human resources, operations and customer service to the role. She currently various board positions within Mount Mary University, Waukesha County Community Foundation, ProHealth Care, St. Camillus Retirement Community, and is chair of the Utility Equipment Holding Corp Board of Directors.

Taylor was president and CEO of DUECO from 2009 to 2015, when the company was purchased by Terex Corporation, before going on to become vice president of North American sales for Terex.

"I am excited for the opportunity to lead the Waukesha County Center for Growth," Taylor said. "I believe we have a solid foundation in place to continue supporting economic development efforts in Waukesha County and I look forward to bringing new strategic ways to support our businesses and communities during a time of rebuilding."

# Don't let icicles damage your roof this winter

By Quinn Clark  
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — As ice and snow drips off your roof, you may have noticed icicles lining your gutters. Other than the risk of getting hit by some falling ice, there are dangers to having ice and snow on houses that you should be aware of.

Alex Knight, manager of TNT Ace Hardware in Waukesha, 212 E. Sunset Drive, weighed in on the harmful effects of snow and ice on roofs, and how to brace for upcoming heavy snowfall.

"Two of the biggest issues is the weight of ice and icicles on the gutters causing them to pull away from the fascia of the house, causing leaks in the future, as well as possible damage," Knight said. "Another issue is the excess water and moisture being held near or against shingles and siding with the possibility of water getting behind either item, causing leaks and damage."

Over the next couple days, there's expected to be 1 to 3 inches of snowfall. Knight said that with the recent warmer weather, snow on roofs has partially thawed and refrozen in gutters, downspouts and low spots. Snow on the way will only add to the buildup.



Quinn Clark/Special to The Freeman

Icicles hang from a Wisconsin homeowner's roof.

"With the snow to rain mix coming, this can cause additional build-ups, followed by the fact that water runoff will not be able to flow easily off the roof, leading to possible water standing, causing damage and leaks," Knight said.

Knight said the best thing you can do to prevent damage to your roof is to prepare ahead of time before icicles can form.

"As soon as the snow falls, the best thing is to get a roof rake and remove as much snow as you can from your roofs. This will ultimately prevent 90% of the issues an average homeowner will run

into," Knight said. "Second will be, as an issue appears, recognize that it will not melt on its own until March, so you need to get a product like Roof Melt."

Knight also recommends applying pelletized calcium or magnesium chloride into gutters to melt and open up passages for water to escape properly. "If you are having consistent issues year to year, it is best to look into a longer term prevention like heat cables that are stapled to the roof, and, like their name, they heat up, causing the snow and ice to continue to melt to keep the area above your gutters clear," he said.

# 2020 home sales break records in metro Milwaukee

Sales see increase of 25.9% for December

By Katherine Beck  
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Home sales for the four-county metro Milwaukee area ended on a high note in 2020 — a very high note — with the most sales ever recorded for a year.

According to data released Jan. 12 by the Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors, the four-county metro Milwaukee market had 22,445 units sold in 2020. In 2019, the region saw 21,133 units sold.

Adding to the report created by GMAR President Mike Ruzicka, "Homeownership is security. In a year marked by an ongoing pandemic, political strife, and a myriad of other trials consumers 'fled to safety' by purchasing real estate."

He wrote that with so many people working from home, as well as doing remote school learning, the view of homes changed.

"It no longer was simply a place to go to each night, but a place to stay all day long," Ruzicka wrote.

"As consumers realized they could not control the world around them, they decided to take charge of what they could and purchase a home."

The bulk of 2020 home sales were in Milwaukee County with 12,327 units sold in 2020, a 5.5% increase.

In Waukesha County, 6,445 units sold (6.8% increase); in Washington County 2,173 units sold (5.7% increase) and in Ozaukee County, 1,500 units sold (10.3%).

Home sales started slowly in 2020 because of the pandemic, but when the lockdown ended they regained momentum, according to the report.

December was a strong month for the four-county region for home sales with a 25.9% increase. Leading the way was Milwaukee County with an increase of 31.9%. Waukesha County had the second most increase in sales at 23.6%, followed by Ozaukee County at 14.9% and Washington County at 7.5%.

Average sale prices for all four counties also changed in 2020 — up 6.8% to \$325,309.

# Waukesha County ranked fifth for lowest credit card debt

WAUKESHA — Waukesha County has been ranked among the best in Wisconsin for locals with low credit card debt. According to SmartAsset financial advisors, Waukesha ranks fifth in the state.

"Paying off credit card debt isn't just a smart financial move," SmartAsset said. "Research shows

that carrying debt can be bad for our physical and mental health. Paying off your credit card debt will lower your stress levels significantly. Plus, the sooner you pay off your credit card debt, the sooner you can focus on saving for retirement and other financial goals."

Waukesha County landed a fifth-place slot with

an index score of 93.38, due to its reported income of \$44,301 and credit card debt as percentage of income of 8.8%.

Ozaukee County also ranked in the top 10 at sixth, with an index score of 93.27.

Kewaunee County ranked first in the state with an index score of 94.90.

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PLAYER PROFILE

# East’s Doyle rules on the court

## Senior reaping rewards after rough freshman campaign

By Dave Radcliffe  
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BROOKFIELD — Hayden Doyle rules.

That partial reference from the 1995 film “Billy Madison” may outdate the Brookfield East senior stand-out, who wouldn’t be caught dead chucking a dodgeball at an unsuspecting classmate’s face, shoving someone in a garbage bin or filling up a locker with manure. Doyle is above all that, although that’s not to say he didn’t have some growing up to do at one point and time.

Flash back to Doyle’s freshman season when he looked to continue his stellar athletic career as a member of the Spartans’ varsity boys basketball team, and it wasn’t exactly all sunshine and rainbows under then-second-year head coach Joe Rux.

“I was a freshman and really young and kind of immature,” Doyle said. “Throughout the year I didn’t play much and just kind of had to keep sticking with it. I had a short leash so I couldn’t really mess up because the guys ahead of me were really good. When I came in I had to really bring something, otherwise I wouldn’t have played.”

Rux chuckled when he recalled Doyle’s freshman season.

“I think Hayden obviously had the mentality of being a scorer and that’s how he came into Brookfield East,” Rux said. “When you walk in as a freshman you’re no longer the biggest kid on the floor. It takes a little bit to learn the speed of the varsity game and developing physically to do the same things you once did.”

So Doyle took his licks, stuck with it and by the end of the season, he was playing a major role on a team that wound up finishing runner-up in the WIAA Division 1 state tournament, scoring 11 points in a semifinal victory over Sun Prairie that infamously ended with a Patrick

Cartier buzzer-beater.

“It was really special,” Doyle said. “To try to stick with it the whole year even though there were some really low points — I probably played like two minutes some games — to end up having a really good game on the biggest stage was really rewarding for me. It was such a great group of seniors we had. Doing that for them that year, it was a really special group.”

Since then, the 6-foot-1 guard has never looked back.

He became the fourth player in program history to reach 1,000 career points on Dec. 19 against Wauwatosa East and on Jan. 22, he became the school’s all-time scoring leader. None of this would have been made possible without a trying freshman season and a breakout junior campaign in which Doyle emerged as one of the area’s best players.

“Once he progressed from his freshman year on, one, he became faster, and two, he became stronger, and he also developed his game enough where he could play on all three levels, and that’s really what we’re seeing this year is he’s in that last mode of developing his athleticism one more step,” Rux said.

Doyle became a starter his sophomore season, increasing his average to 9.4 points per game as it was Riley LeTourneau who garnered the bulk of the scoring. But it was during the 2019-20 campaign where Doyle put himself on the map, posting 21 points a contest as he became the Spartans’ bona fide leader.

“My first two years I just kind of let the game come to me and we had two really good scorers in Patrick and Riley and Thomas Francken as well, so I just kind of played my role and tried to help us whatever way it was,” Doyle said. “But then last year we lost Riley and Tom, so I knew I kind of needed to step up in regards to scoring and being more aggressive. I took that upon

myself in the offseason to work really hard on my game and make sure I was ready when the season came along.”

He proved to do just that, and having been through that experience as a freshman, Doyle can pass along what he’s learned to some of the Spartans’ emerging underclassmen.

“His leadership is obviously exceptional, but Hayden wants to win,” Rux said. “At the end of the day he wants to be successful, whatever that role may be, whether it’s playing defense or passing or scoring, he’s going to do it to the best of his ability. When people look at what he’s doing, it’s hard to say Hayden’s not our main guy. He shoots 60% from the field, he’s high production, he’s going to get the focus of defenses based on the points he puts up and how efficiently he does it.

“It’s a good example to the other guys that if you work hard, good things will come to you.”

That’s something Doyle is trying to portray with his actions and his words.

“It’s a younger group who is a lot more athletic than we’ve had in past years,” Doyle said. “There is a lot of potential and we need to reach it if we want to reach the goals we have set. I’m just trying to be vocal and bring energy every day to practice to help the younger guys because it’s new to them, so just trying to be that rock.”

Doyle’s athleticism transcends the hardwood. Not only is he an avid golfer, but he was a starting defensive back for the Brookfield East football team when it brought home its second WIAA Division 2 state championship in four years just over a year ago. Doyle had a team-best seven interceptions his junior season after picking off four passes as as sophomore. But he made the difficult choice to hang up his cleats in order to focus on hoops his senior year.

“It was a tough decision because I loved all the senior football guys, I like the coaching staff, so it just kind of came down to where I saw



Dave Radcliffe/Freeman Staff

Brookfield East’s Hayden Doyle goes up for a shot against Brookfield East during a game this season.

myself going in the future as far as which sport I had the most passion for and what sport I wanted to dial in on, so that was basketball for me,” Doyle said.

But Doyle will never forget the feeling of hoisting the gold at Camp Randall Stadium after a thrilling 31-30 victory over Waunakee.

“The run we had last year was pretty awesome,” Doyle said. “I was really close with all the seniors. Most were basketball players, too. Most were two- or three-sport athletes, so I kind of grew up with those guys. When I was in fourth grade I played up with the fifth-grade guys. A bunch of our families are really close, so it was awe-

some to see them go out on top like that.”

Doyle’s focus on basketball has paid off in the form of a commitment to NCAA Division III’s Washington University in St. Louis. It happens to be a total coincidence that Washington U head coach Pat Juckem preceded Rux as head coach at Manitowoc Roncalli High School.

“It was really just the education for me,” Doyle said. “It’s a really highly-regarded school. I went to a camp at Wash U going into my junior year summer and I really loved it when I went. I went back during the winter last season and I liked how they played. I just kind of kept building that relationship

with coach for about a year. Ultimately it came down to education, how I fit in and my relationship with the coaching staff and players.”

Rux knows Washington U is getting a great person and a tremendous player with a relentless work ethic.

“Hayden is high academic and he turned down scholarships elsewhere to play at Wash U, which speaks volumes about what he wants out of life,” Rux said.

“Hayden has been a privilege to coach. His passion is in basketball and he’s put a lot into developing his skill level, and you can see that he’s experiencing the fruits of that labor this year. He’s a great kid.”

Get to know ... HAYDEN DOYLE

School/Sport

Brookfield East/Basketball

Coach

Joe Rux

Class In School/Age

Senior/17

**Also In My Family Are:** my mom, Katie; my dad, Ken; and my sister, Addison

**The Athletic Accomplishment I Am Most Proud Of Is:** finishing runner-up at state my freshman year

**My Favorite Subject In School Is:** English

**My Favorite Teacher Is:** Mr. Ritter and Mr. Zeidler

**My Favorite Movie Is:** “Elf”

**My Favorite TV Show Is:** “The Flash”

**My Favorite Recording Artist Is:** Drake

**The Best Meal My Mother Makes Is:** steak and potatoes

**A Bad Habit I Have Is:** since virtual school started I nap too much

**A Pet Peeve I Have Is:** when people lick their fingers

**The Thing I Do Best Outside Of Athletics Is:** being social, helping people when they need help

**The Person I’d Most Like To Meet Is:** Kobe Bryant

**My Favorite Application On My Phone Is:** TikTok

**Nobody Ever Says I’m:** quiet

**My Most Memorable Experience Is:** playing with my AAU basketball team, Ray Allen Select, for eight years

**My Most Prized Possession Is:** my 1,000-point ball

**One Thing People Might Not Know About Me Is:** that I golf

**One Thing I Would Change About Myself Is:** give me three inches of height

**One Thing At My School I Would Change Is:** all sports working out together

**I See Myself In 10 Years Being:** the Milwaukee Bucks play-by-play man

**I Wish Coach Rux Would:** draw me a lob play

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