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The FREEMAN & ENTERPRISE

Lake Country THIS MONTH

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Hartland coffee shop gives people with disabilities an equal shot

Inclusion Coffee Co. now open

By Karen Pilarski
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262-513-2657

HARTLAND — Emma Cuomo, 23, was all smiles as she talked about starting her first job in March.

"I would say maybe I can pour coffee for a customer or make a latte," Cuomo said.

She already has plans for her first paycheck, a special dinner with her parents and possibly her boss. Her new boss, Mackenzie Edinger, is a former Kettle Moraine High School classmate.

Edinger's new business, Inclusion Coffee Co., opened March 28 at 3152 Village Square Drive.

She was inspired by Bitty & Beau's Coffee, a nationwide coffee shop, launched by a couple with children with Down syndrome.

"It's parents that started a business for their kids who have disabilities. I thought it was a super cool idea," Edinger said.

Edinger received her undergraduate degree in early childhood and special education from UW-Whitewater, and is currently studying for her master's in educational leadership and policy analysis at UW-Madison.

The goal for Inclusion Coffee is for 50% of its staff to be people with disabilities.

abilities.

Edinger said she understands there are not a lot of opportunities for people with special needs in the community.

"I wanted to make sure to make that opportunity available for those who would like to work here," she said.

The graduate student has always wanted to have a place where people with disabilities felt equal and valued.

Equal also means giving people a shot at using their strengths and skills that go beyond just stacking trays or cleaning.

"I want them to be able to make coffee and food. A lot of restaurants I've seen has people doing the cleaning and I just feel like they have a ton of other skills," Edinger said.

She added she wants her staff to be able to do everything in the shop that anyone else can do.

Her employees come with varying skills and abilities. She has a number of people with strong customer service skills. Edinger has different areas such as the cash register, beverage machine and food line for people to work at.

She described Cuomo as being very good at talking with everyone and meeting new people.

The shop's employees will be learning on the job instead of training sessions. Edinger said she wants her staff, for example, to make a sandwich



Submitted photos

Emma Cuomo, 23, of Wales, started her new job at Inclusion Coffee Co. in March,

after it is ordered and learn the process.

Cuomo is eager to learn how to make the products as she helps her dad with cooking at home.

The shop is spacious with a bar for people to sit at. There are several tables and on a shelf there will be games and books for customers to enjoy. The shop will offer coffee drinks, juices, smoothies, freshly made bakery, breakfast sandwiches and dishes, sandwiches, panini, and pins.

"It sounds delicious," Cuomo said.

The shop also has a drive-thru for customers who are on the go. The store is now open.

For more information, visit <https://inclusioncoffeecompany.com>.



Inclusion Coffee Co. opened March 28 at 3152 Village Square Drive in Hartland. 50% of the shop's employees will be people with disabilities.

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INSIDE



Local help for Ukraine

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Hartland chamber welcomes new members

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Photo courtesy of Debby White

Members of the Oconomowoc Lake Club with boxes of goods for refugees in Ukraine. They're holding posters that were sent along with each of the 300 bags of donated items.

Lake Country continues to aid Ukrainian refugees

By Dan Colton
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262-513-2661

OCONOMOWOC — When Oconomowoc Lake resident Debby White saw the war in Ukraine unfold on television, she knew she had to take action.

So when she spoke with her friend Anna Wojciak, a Poland native who moved to the U.S. 17 years ago and now lives in the Milwaukee area, the course of action became obvious.

Teamed up with Wojciak, White at first sent a few boxes of goods to Libertow, Poland, where a relative of Wojciak was taking in refugees.

White said her desire to help only increased as a result.

"I sent a few boxes and then (Wojciak)

told me there was another location in her hometown of Rabka Zdroj ... where there were 300 refugee women and children staying," White wrote in an email. "So, I started talking with a few friends who are members with me at the Oconomowoc Lake Club and we thought — how great would it be if we could offer up a way for the club members to assist the immigrants with some of the things they may need."

Recently, members of the club met and organized 300 essentials bags consisting of donated items like diapers, clothes and food. It resulted in 19 boxes being shipped off to Poland.

The initial endeavor led to a snowball effect, White said. She said her sister in Minnesota organized additional assistance for refugees, and another Oconomowoc Lake Club member and business owner, Faye Wetzel, raised more than \$2,000 for

Ukrainian refugee relief over the past weekend.

White said she's proud of the Lake Country community.

"There are so many people who want to be a part of sending supplies over," White said. "We've been able to do a lot."

The aid from Lake Country comes as millions of people — mostly women and children — have been displaced and fled from their homes as a result of the war between Russia and Ukraine. According to the United Nations Refugees Agency, also known as UNHCR, more than 4 million people have fled from Ukraine to Poland.

International leaders are also calling for war crimes investigations in Ukraine as evidence mounts that Russian forces have been intentionally killing civilians and targeting residential areas with artillery and air strikes.

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Thirst Church hosts grand opening after logistical delays

OCONOMOWOC — Thirst Church had its grand opening after several months of "soft opening" services that saw decreased attendance due to supply chain issues, said Michelle Shaw, the church's business director.

Shaw said about 600 people attended Sunday's two services on April 3 at the former Tobin's pharmacy and gift store at 1260 Brown St. She said that's up from about 400 people per Sunday since the church had its soft opening in December.

According to Shaw, there were issues getting enough furniture to accommodate a full service until recently. But now the church is once again operating at full capacity, she said.

"There was a lot of excitement in the air," Shaw said of April 3's services.

The 27,000-square-foot building is intended to also serve as a community gathering point, and Shaw said it will accommodate weddings, birthday parties, baby showers and other similar events.

There is also an indoor play structure and plans for a coffee shop to open hopefully by summer, Shaw said.

Shaw said the church has operated at four different locations over the past three years, most recently in the former Meadow View Elementary School in Oconomowoc.

The FREEMAN & ENTERPRISE Lake Country THIS MONTH

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Transforming lemons into sweet aid for Ukrainian refugees

Oconomowoc’s Debbink family raises funds for World Central Kitchen

By Rebecca Seymour
Special to The Freeman

OCONOMOWOC — We’ve all heard the proverbial phrase, “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” Recently, in sunny Coronado, California, Dirk and Terry Debbink’s grandsons Oliver and Axel Langenkamp took the advice up a notch, with a lemonade and cookie stand for raising funds to help displaced Ukrainians in refugee camps along the border in Poland.

With help from their grandparents and friends in the neighborhood, the boys raised \$4,724.88 for World Central Kitchen (WCK), a humanitarian organization helping to feed refugees fleeing Ukraine as Russia invades their country.

“I feel really good about being able to help others while my brother, friends and I were also having fun,” said Axel, 8.

For nearly two years, Oliver and Axel and their parents Sarah and Dan Langenkamp lived in Kyiv, Ukraine. Sarah — an Oconomowoc High School graduate — is the head of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine, and Dan is a press attaché for the U.S. State Department assigned to the U.S. Embassy, Kyiv.

When dependents of U.S. Embassy personnel were evacuated in late January, Sarah flew with Oliver and Axel to California to drop them off at her parents’ home in Coronado where the boys are currently living and attending school.

Sarah and Dan are among the essential staff remaining at the embassy, which was relocated to eastern Poland right before the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

When Axel and Oliver expressed their interest in helping the people of Ukraine, their dad suggested sending the funds raised through their lemonade stand to World Central Kitchen.

“They were one of the very first

organizations on the ground inside Ukraine actually feeding people after the bombing started, and in the refugee camps in Poland, they are using restaurant volunteers to feed tens of thousands of people every day, right this minute!” wrote Dan.

Oconomowoc connection

Dirk and Terry Debbink raised their family in Oconomowoc and still call the community home.

Their daughter, Sarah, graduated from Oconomowoc High School in 1998.

Sarah’s sons Oliver and Axel often visit their grandparents, great-grandparents Jo and Pete Debbink, and other extended family living in Oconomowoc, especially during the summer.

The Debbinks’ grandsons fundraising efforts and special connections to their parents working in the U.S. Embassy in Poland caught the attention of the national news covering the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

On Monday, CBS News sent a camera crew to the Debbinks’ home in Coronado to facilitate a 45-minute interview with the boys via Zoom with a news reporter on the border in Poland. The segment will air sometime this week.

“I felt super good about helping others in need in Poland and Ukraine, and even better knowing we maybe could have inspired others to do the same. After all, if we can do this, anyone can,” added Oliver, 9.

Since 2010, World Central Kitchen has been responding in times of crisis and humanitarian emergencies around the world by offering meals to people who need them most. The nonprofit’s #ChefsForUkraine has served more than a million meals to refugees fleeing Ukraine into neighboring countries, including along the border in Poland.

For more information, visit www.wck.org.



Photo courtesy of Terry Debbink

Oliver Langenkamp, 9, helps squeeze lemons for the lemonade stand that he and his brother Axel, 8, ran to raise funds to help displaced Ukrainians in refugee camps in Poland. The grandsons of Dirk and Terry Debbink of Oconomowoc raised \$4,724.88 for World Central Kitchen, a humanitarian organization helping to feed refugees fleeing Ukraine as Russia invades their country.



Photo Submitted by Terry Debbink

Axel, 8, (left) and Oliver Langenkamp, 9, with the help of family and neighbors raised \$4,724.88 for World Central Kitchen, a humanitarian organization helping to feed refugees fleeing Ukraine as Russia invades their country. The grandsons of Dirk and Terry Debbink are staying with the Oconomowoc residents in their home in Coronado while their parents Sarah and Dan Langenkamp continue their work at the U.S. Embassy, which was relocated from Kyiv, Ukraine to eastern Poland right before the Russian invasion.

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Photo courtesy of the Hartland Chamber of Commerce

Evancer Resource Group joins chamber

HARTLAND — Evancer Resource Group recently joined the Hartland Chamber of Commerce as a new member. Chamber Ambassador Nick Jensen of Keller Williams Lake Country, bottom right, presents Donna Dorau of Evancer Resource Group with a plaque from the chamber. Also pictured are chamber board members and ambassadors. Evancer Resource Group is a manufacturer’s rep, representing manufacturers of high-quality architectural products. They sell their products to architects, design firms and office furniture dealers as well as selling directly to end users. Evancer Resource Group can be reached at 262-244-1070. For more information visit www.evancer.com.



Photo courtesy of the Hartland Chamber of Commerce

Hartland chamber welcomes new businesses

HARTLAND — The Hartland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 15 at two Hartland Chamber businesses, inVantage, LLC and Rosenberg Consulting Services, to acknowledge their successful opening in Hartland. Chamber board member Sara Rennekamp of Wisconsin Athletic Club (WAC) officially cuts the ribbon being held by Kelly Renz, inVantage CEO and Cindy Schroeder RCS, Inc. Visual Designer. They are joined by, from left to right, chamber board member Krista Morrissey, CHOICES Coaching + Counseling; inVantage client Animix, LLC employees Agnieszka Kazimierowski, Ronelle Blome, Greg Foltz, Erin Brewer, Randy Boldt and chamber ambassador Nick Jensen – Keller Williams Lake Country. Not pictured is Robert Rosenberg of Rosenberg Consulting Services. Kelly Renz is a professional EOS implementer (entrepreneurial operating system). EOS is a holistic business management approach that combines timeless, proven business principles with a set of simple, practical, real-world tools to help entrepreneurs get more of what they want from their business. Rosenberg Consulting Services provides visual strategy and courtroom presentation services to law firms and corporations nationwide. inVantage, LLC is located at 925 Walnut Ridge Drive, Suite 175, Hartland, and can be reached at 414- 758-0269. Rosenberg Consulting Services is located at the same address and can be reached at 262-533-3501.

Nissan dealership to be built on former Lakeland site
\$3 million development expected to bring 35 jobs

TOWN OF OCONOMOWOC — The former Lakeland Auto Group car dealership located at N48-W36216 Wisconsin Ave. is being redeveloped into a Nissan dealership, according to Waukesha County officials. Jake Heermans, senior land use specialist at the Waukesha County Department of Parks

and Land Use, said the property was purchased by Boucher Auto Group after Lakeland shuttered the doors in 2017. The property's new 18,469 square-foot plan include 185 display spaces for new and used car sales plus a service garage, Heermans said. He said 35 employees are expected to

work at the location from Mondays through Saturdays, but an opening date is not yet known. According to Heermans, the new site plan includes \$3 million in development costs. Heermans said there may also be a storm water management plan associated with the project. The site is currently being prepared for construction.



Dan Colton/Freeman Staff

The former Lakeland Auto location at N48-W36216 Wisconsin Ave. has been razed in preparation for a Nissan dealership.

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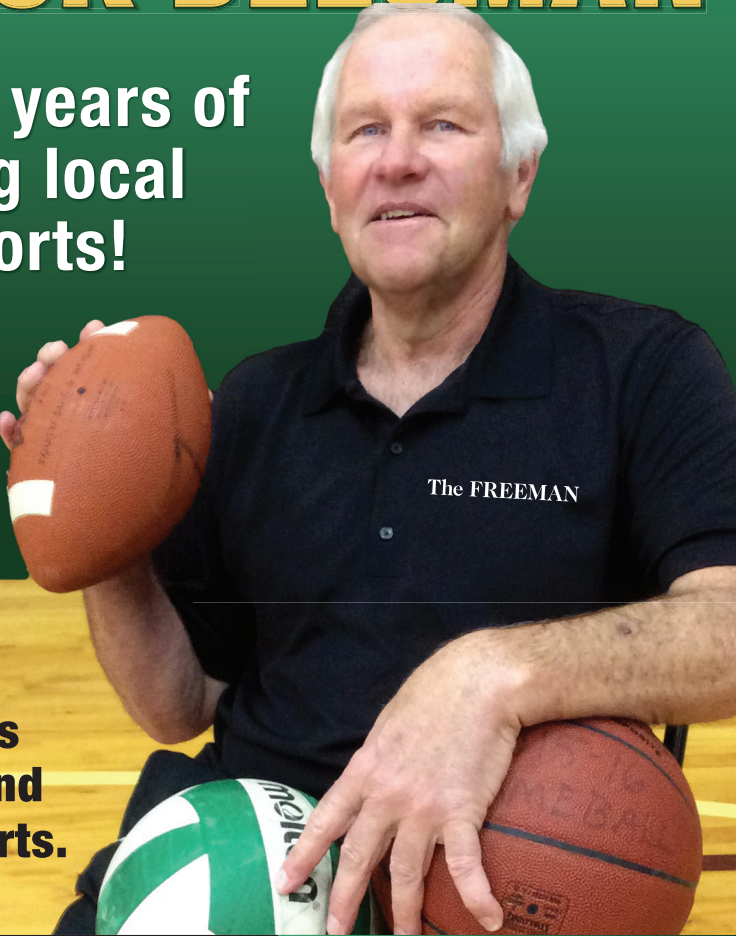
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