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SKY HIGH



OKAUCHEE — Pete Ripp demonstrates his prowess as a flyboarder on Okauchee Lake near the boat launch at Weissgerber's Golden Mast on Aug. 4. Ripp has enjoyed the sport for over five years, soaring as high as 30 feet. Some maneuvers even provided a rainbow for the audience.

Sue Boyer/Special to The Freeman



Coming up in The FREEMAN

- ▶ Continuing coverage of development plans on St. John's property in the City of Delafield
- ▶ Coverage of plans for Thomas Farm in the Town of Delafield
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SCENES FROM THE PAST

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The caption on this Aug. 1, 1951, photo read: “Forest R. Poe, Oconomowoc, learned the taxidermy trade while employed at the Milwaukee museum for 20 years. There he learned to do only the best work making exact replicas of the animals as they appear in their natural habitat. Poe often paints painstakingly accurate backgrounds on the plaques on which the animal is mounted. ... Shown above he is working on a 42 inch great northern pike he is stuffing for Edward Nelson of Oconomowoc. Nelson caught the fish in the Rock river three miles west of Ashippun. Poe charges \$1.50 an inch. The plaque is extra. He stuffs any type (of) game animal in season. In the picture he is shown removing a cardboard sleeve which held the fish’s fin in place as it dried. Above his head is an albacore caught by Svern Mattsen, superintendent at the Oconomowoc disposal plant and Truman Stone in Key West. When he finishes the pike, he will begin work on the huge Atlantic ocean eel caught at Nemahbin lake last May. The conservation department gave him the commission.”



From the Freeman negatives at the Waukesha County Museum



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THIS MONTH

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Inflation impacting child care facility owners, parents

Increasing teachers’ pay leads to rising tuition prices

By Faith Rae
frae@conley.net
262-513-2644

OCONOMOWOC — Child care is a proven necessity in society. Parents across the country rely on the care from teachers and facilities to assist them while they attend their full or part-time jobs. However, concerns regarding teacher pay and rising tuition prices as a result of inflation have affected parents who have no choice but to send their children to child care facilities.

Teachers at these facilities assist in the care, nurturing and sometimes education of children. However, the lack of teachers receiving enough pay to meet the demands of their job is a problem in child care and education.

Little Dumplings Early Learning Center in Oconomowoc is anticipating a tuition increase to accommodate the economy and effects of inflation. Director and owner Wendy Haerterich said their costs have gone up from food bills, workman’s comp, employee wages, gas for local school transportation and field trip costs.

“What we paid 10 years ago and what we need to pay employees now to retain them is significantly more than it was,” said Haerterich who added that a majority of the tuition increase is going towards her teachers.

Haerterich emphasized that teachers in her child care facility are not just babysitters. The facility runs an educational program requiring lesson plans to work towards accreditation on top of classroom maintenance and care of the children.

The topic of teachers’ pay is still an issue. “If teachers don’t make higher amounts of money, then we are not going to have teachers and then there won’t be child care,” said Haerterich. “That’s the bottom line.”

Among other things, Haerterich noted that though they are fully staffed, their waiting list is long like many other child care facilities in Waukesha Country from what she’s heard. In the cases of other day cares, a consistent problem is lack of staff. Without enough teachers to assist the children, facilities may have no choice but to close classrooms, leading to less room and larger waiting lists.

With a majority of the tuition increase going toward employees, another portion is going toward classroom improvements and buying new toys at Little Dumplings Early Learning Center. The facility likes to keep things fresh for the children who spend hours every day there.

Parents’ perspective

Working parents Abby Brown and her husband pay for child care two times a week and rely on family members to watch their child for free the other three days.

“If we didn’t have family who was available to watch our child, one of us would have to quit our jobs to stay home with the baby,”

said Brown. “But then the lost income would mean we’d be in negative cash flow, living off of savings until we can send our child to public school.”

Like many other parents, Brown believes child care employees deserve higher pay as they are being trusted with the lives of young children. But finding a solution to expensive child care while paying teachers higher rates proves to be challenging.

Tracey Kisch-Stanislawski believes child care teachers are and always have been undervalued by society, even though they are responsible for caring for “our littlest citizens.”

However, there are many factors that play into one another. “Child care is expensive, but so is running our public schools. Parents should not have to pay tens of thousands of dollars for that,” said Kisch-Stanislawski. “Nor should they have to pay for child care should they need to work. We should value the cost of early education as much as that of public education.”

Haerterich added that nearly everything has inflated and with that comes child care inflation. “Sometimes child care expenses are as much as people’s mortgages,” said Haerterich.

Some parents don’t see a problem in the prices increasing as they support increasing teachers’ wages. “When my child is hurt or is sad, I’m counting on them (the teachers) to do my job for me since I’m not there,” said Katalina Hannon. “I think the rates go up and I’m fine with that, as long as their wages do to.”



Courtesy of Little Dumplings Early Learning Center
Landon Roloff, Emma Dial, Liam Montiel and McKenna Harris make art at Little Dumplings Early Learning Center in Oconomowoc.

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What do all of these people have in common? They suffer from **peripheral neuropathy**. It's estimated that more than 20 million people in the United States have peripheral neuropathy. Unfortunately, this figure may be significantly higher as the disease is often misdiagnosed because of its wide array of symptoms.

Alison Ali of Ali Ali Healing in Pewaukee shares this belief. "I've been treating neuropathy and all its various forms for over 5 years and so often my patients come to me because of the symptoms, not because of a diagnosis. They read a testimonial from another patient and say to themselves, 'hey, I feel the same thing!'"

Sally L. of Delafield testified to this. "I remember my husband driving me to my consultation and I saw a woman running just outside our neighborhood. I was so envious - I just kept thinking 'I would give anything just to walk again'. My primary care doctor told me my troubles with pain and balance were just symptoms of old age and gave me a prescription. I was so depressed."

Fortunately Sally would eventually find Alison Ali talking about similar symptoms and how she offers a real solution at Ali Ali Healing. "I just knew I had to see her. She was my last hope."

Almost all of our patients come to us with a story similar to Sally's. They've been everywhere else. They've been told there's no hope. They've been told 'it's just part of getting older.'" shares Kelly, a Patient Care Coordinator at Ali Ali Healing. "It just breaks my heart but I know how much we can help people like Frankie so I'm always so happy when they walk through the door."

Those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy often face a very grim reality; Western medicine declares that there is no solution while most alternative therapies carry large price tags and offer little to no resolve. Which is why Alison Ali and the staff at Ali Ali Healing pride themselves on being 'the last resort with the best results'.

Peripheral neuropathy is the result of damage to the nerves and this damage is commonly caused by lack of blood flow in the hands and feet. A lack of blood flow results in a lack of nutrients; the nerves then begin to degenerate and die which causes pain ranging from discomfort to debilitating. Because neuropathy is a degenerative condition, once those nerves begin to deteriorate they will continue to do so until they are completely expired, leaving those suffering with crippling balance issues. "In this case, the absence of pain is not necessarily a good thing," shares Alison Ali. "This usually indicates that your nerves are hanging on by a fragile thread."

So how exactly is Alison Ali able to reverse the effects of degenerative disease? "Acupuncture has been used to increase blood flow for thousands of years which helps to get the necessary nutrients to the affected nerves. But the real magic happens when I integrate ATP Resonance Biotherapy™. This is tech that was originally developed by NASA to expedite recovery and healing."

"I just can't say enough about Ali Ali Healing," Sally shared through tears of joy. "My husband and I moved here 3 years ago and he's gone to the golf course almost everyday. I always stayed home because of the pain and discomfort. Yesterday I walked on the course with him! And next week I'm starting golf lessons. I'm truly living life these days."

According to Sally's test results, she has seen a 74% improvement with pain and functionality, which is on par with a majority of our patients, " shares Kelly.

"But more important than those test results is the joy she's expressed being here and hearing about all the amazing things she's able to do because she feels great!"

By seamlessly blending the ancient science of acupuncture with modern medical solutions Alison Ali has achieved a 90% success rate in reversing the affects of neuropathy. She starts each patient with an initial consultation during which a sensory exam is performed. "This not only aids in making a proper diagnosis but it helps to define just how much nerve damage has occurred" tells the Practitioner. "This is important because if a patient has suffered more than 95% damage, there is little that I can do to help them. I'm familiar with the medical miracle but I know my limits as a practitioner and the limits of my medicine."

When it comes to treating peripheral neuropathy, regardless of it's origin, early detection greatly improves your chances of a full recovery.

If you or someone you love are suffering with chronic pain that presents as burning, tingling or 'pins or needles' or you've recently been diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy, it's important to know that there are options. There is hope.

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Nothing like the good old days

I'm almost broken hearted every time I drive by a public park where there's a little league baseball field. And the reason is simple. I never see a pickup baseball game going on.

I know times have changed since I was a young baseball player in the mid- to late 1950s. These days there are cellphones, select teams and summer basketball games being played, even though it's late July. When I was growing up, we played baseball in the summer, football in the fall and basketball in winter, not in summer. Never.

Even though I'm now 73 years old, I still remember the pickup baseball games at the small field at Nixon Park in Hartland, right next to the tennis courts. Some days we'd have 10 guys, five players on each team. You could only hit on one side of second base, which ever side you picked. And of course, it was pitcher's hand out. We'd play seven inning games, many times playing double-headers.

The first game would start around 10 a.m. and the second game around 1 p.m. Once in a while we'd lose a player because he had to go home. Otherwise, we were at the park all day.

I'd ride my bike from my house to the park, putting my glove on the handlebars and balancing a bat between them. The hardball would be in my pocket.

We'd play with as few as six guys, three on each team. A pitcher, infielder and outfielder. Some times it was three against four, or four against five. While that sounds unfair, we'd always make it happen.

Of course, when you hit on only one side of the field, we'd have arguments about whether the ball hit on the right side of the field or the wrong side. But those arguments lasted about 10 seconds. We just wanted to play.

One of my lifelong friends, Bob Mallow, was the only left-handed hitter. So every time he came up, the infielders and outfielders had to switch sides of the field. Once again, not perfect, but we made it work. We could never convince Bob to become a right-handed hitter. His dad, Ted, was a huge man who hit left-handed as well. Over the years Ted, a Land O' Lakes Hall of Famer, hit a lot of long home runs to right field for the Hartland LOL team.

Junior Klink from the Lakes team always gave us baseballs when we needed them. I put white shoe polish on them to make them look brand new. And our bats, a lot of times they would crack and we'd take them to the gas station or carpenter shop to have a couple of screws put in them so we could keep using them.

We'd have these games maybe four, five times a week. We were always outside on the baseball diamond. Because that's what we did in the summer.

If we weren't playing a baseball game, we'd be playing whiffle ball or strikeout. Most kids now probably have never heard of either one of those games.

We played whiffle ball at my house all the



CHUCK DELSMAN

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time. My mom even put in two spotlights so we could play at night. And it only took two guys to have a game. And wow, I could really throw some nasty curveballs with those whiffle balls. Corbin Burnes had nothing on my breaking pitches.

My house was perfect. My neighbors to the outfield side of the yard had a hedge and we used that as the home run fence. Shorter to center field, longer to right and left. And those light, plastic bats had plenty of punch to hit the ball out of the yard.

If no baseball or Whiffle Ball games, then it was time to play strikeout against the brick wall of Hartland Grade School, which used to be across the street from Mike Badani's Citgo station at the corner of Maple Avenue and Capitol Drive.

We'd draw a strike zone against the wall with white chalk and played with tennis balls and wooden bats. The strike zone was the same for everyone, really good for the taller guys and really unfair for the short guys. Nobody ever said life was fair, especially in strikeout.

I can remember being 10 to 12 years old and playing with guys like Clem Fetkenhauer, who was more than twice our age and a great pitcher and hitter for the Hartland Lakes team. Us young guys never had a chance against the left-handed Fetkenhauer.

We usually had four or five guys on a team. First bounce or a caught flyball was always an out. Charlie Lippert, who lived right next to the school, was always one of the best hitters. A couple of years older than me, he could even hit Clem.

I sure wish those days were still here. Today's young baseball players are too busy on their phones, playing travel baseball or sleeping till noon. Maybe they should give a game of strikeout a try. Maybe a little Whiffle ball.

These young players today don't know what they're missing. They were some of the best days of my life.

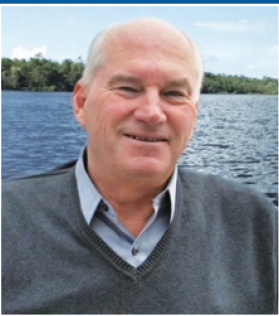
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