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## LASERS GRAB STATE TITLE

Kettle Moraine senior Nolan Schopp makes a one-handed catch up the middle of the field during the WIAA Division 2 state football championship Nov. 18 at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison. For the first time since 1988, the gold ball is heading back to Kettle Moraine as the Lasers trounced West De Pere 27-10 in the Division 2 state championship game.

Photo by Dave Radcliffe  
Freeman Staff

# Congratulations



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Tim Snopek/Special to The Freeman

The plane that crashed onto Western Lakes Golf Course on Nov. 15 struck trees on the way down, snapping the wings off in the process.

# Crew member: Pilots saved lives with response to airplane malfunction

## Plane with 53 dogs, 3 people crashed at Western Lakes Golf Club Nov. 15

**By Karen Pilarski**  
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WAUKESHA — What started out as a normal flight from New Orleans to Wisconsin turned into a harrowing experience for three people and 53 dogs. Thanks to the quick response from the pilots, lives were saved on Nov. 15. There were no life-threatening injuries sustained. All the animals were triaged at the Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County by staff

veterinarians. The Freeman obtained a copy of the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department incident report of the crash. On Nov. 15 Lake Country Fire & Rescue and the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department responded to Western Lakes Golf Club, W287-N1963 Oakton Road, after the aircraft made a crash landing on the course. Pilot Raymond Pruitt told authorities he took off from Lakefront Airport in New Orleans with his first officer Kuhurram



Courtesy of HAWS

A dog from the transport plane that made an emergency landing on Western Lakes Golf Club gets a bath at HAWS on Nov. 15.



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Hussain and courier Erin Robbins. Pruitt, in his statement, said the preflight check, takeoff and trip were all normal. During the approach to Waukesha County Airport/Crites Field, the plane began turning to the right. “Raymond (Pruitt) and Kuhurram (Hussain) decided to disengage the auto pilot to correct the problem. The plane continued to turn to the right. Raymond added full power and attempted to pull up. The engines didn’t respond as Raymond expected,” according to the report.

### ‘A death dive’

Hussain told authorities the entire flight was “a normal flight” and there were “no issues.” He stated they were just cleared for landing by Crites Field when the autopilot started malfunctioning. Hussain said he could tell it was not working properly and turned it off. Both pilots were fighting the plane to maintain control. Hussain stated the plane then took “a death dive.” Both men noticed the golf course and fought the plane to level out. Hussain said they had “zero visibility and blind landed on the golf course,” the report said. The plane was carrying about 2,500 pounds, which is well under what has carried before — up to 4,000 pounds. Hussain stated the fuel was light due to being at the end of the trip and he believes because of that and the angle of the landing, “the plane did not explode on impact,” the report said. The report said the pilots had enough fuel to get to the airport and they believe

the fuel amount wasn’t the reason for the malfunction. Robbins told authorities the flight was no different from any other flight but they could tell something was wrong when the captains were fighting the plane. “Robbins said the captains saved all their lives with their response to the situation,” the report said. A witness said he observed the plane coming in low over the trees and banking to the right. He noticed the plane graze the trees by golf hole number five before bouncing off the ground. The report said both pilot and co-captain were bleeding from the face but had no other injuries. The aircraft belly landed on the fifth hole of the course and went through multiple trees before stopping several hundred feet after where they originally tried to land the plane. The wings of the plane came off as a result, according to Matthew Haerter, assistant chief with Lake Country Fire & Rescue. Pruitt told authorities the plane was a SA22 AT Metro Liner built in 1985. It held 300 gallons of fuel when the plane landed. “There would have been more if the wings were still attached due to fuel being stored in the wings,” the report said. State troopers, deputies and EMS worked to get the dogs off the plane. “There were several crates that were damaged and broke. We were able to secure the dogs that had broken crates to vehicles,” the report said. The incident remains under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration.



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# It's hoops season, let's all calm down

## Delsman preaches kindness and good cheer toward referees

We're starting to get into the "meat" of the girls and boys basketball season throughout Waukesha County. High school games, grade school games and weekend youth tournaments will fill the calendar the next four months. And that's good news for all of us.

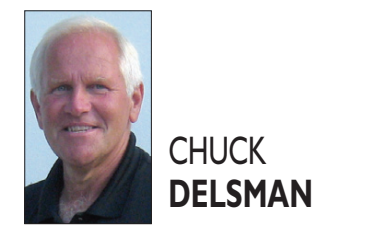
But it's time to lay a little reminder on all fans, coaches and players. Let's show all of the referees the respect they deserve. There were way too many examples of bad behavior toward the officials last season at too many games that I either covered for the Freeman or officiated myself. Yes, I'm one of those guys in stripes. This message means a little more to me than most of you.

High school varsity games in Waukesha County are blessed with the fact that there are a ton of top quality, highly knowledgeable officials that work games each and every week. I'd put a lot of these guys and women,

and I mean a lot, up against the best officials not only in the state but in the entire Midwest of the country.

But yet, at the same time, I see and unfortunately hear some fans, mostly a small minority, berating officials after calls, ones they think are terribly wrong. Even though probably 99% of these people, both men and women, have never officiated a game or would fail the WIAA officials exam badly.

First, fans in our wonderful and highly successful sports county, should realize that in the last couple of years, there is a serious shortage of referees to work these games. The WIAA, the governing body of Wisconsin High School sports, is losing officials each season at sometimes alarming rates. Basketball is still not too bad. But baseball and girls fast-pitch softball is losing officials at a rate that last spring forced many games to be cancelled or played as an exhibi-



CHUCK DELSMAN

tion with just one umpire.

There's several reasons why there are fewer and fewer officials and umpires each year. First and perhaps foremost, many have been doing it for many, many years (up to 40 and 50 years in some cases) and are simply getting too old to continue at a quality level. And for whatever reason, younger men and women do not want to officiate.

One of those reasons why younger people are not getting involved is that they don't want to put up with the verbal abuse they get at all levels, from varsity high school games all the way down to the grade school levels. This abuse comes almost equally from coaches and fans, and unfortunately, some times, unbelievably, from the players themselves.

For whatever reason, the sport of basketball, from the NBA all the way down to grade school play, has become way too physical. Players these days are bigger, stronger and faster than they've ever been. And that creates more physical play, which makes the games all that much more difficult to officiate.

Why the increased rougher play? Again, there are numerous reasons for it. The players are stronger, faster and bigger, some coaches teach a more aggressive style of defense and yes, some officials have slowly let that happen over the years. But to their credit, that's the direction the sport, all all levels, has headed over the years.

And remember this, at just about all varsity level games, there are three referees working the games. That's helped in most cases. But yet that still means there are just three sets of eyes watching 10 players on a big court with players spread out from sideline to sideline and from one end of the court to the other. Even with the three officials, it's not guaranteed they see everything all the time.

It gets more concerning when

just two officials are scheduled to work the freshmen and junior varsity high school games and all grade school games. Now it becomes even a bigger challenge for the officials to work the game as well as the varsity game might be. That's just simple math.

By now you get my drift. Because you pay a very nominal admission fee to get into the game, it doesn't give you any kind of right to verbally berate game officials who are doing their best to make sure your son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter or other has a great high school experience that will last them a lifetime.

As a guy who has been doing this job for 53 years, let me give all of you a tip. Buy a bag of popcorn, sit back and enjoy the game and watch some outstanding county players perform at their best in a highly competitive atmosphere. It will be the best night you can spend.

And oh, by the way, don't embarrass yourself, your family or your friends sitting around you, or even worse, your son or daughter. by berating the officials. Just keep your mouth shut.

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## Christmas Train rides rails to area

OCONOMOWOC — A snowstorm early in the day couldn't derail dozens of families and their friends from gathering in Oconomowoc for the arrival of the Christmas Train on Dec. 9.

At left, train and holiday enthusiasts get a closer look at the Canadian Pacific train engine.

Sue Boyer/Special to The Freeman

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# Arrowhead girls win state swimming championship



Arrowhead senior Hailey Tierney (right) shares an embrace with Brookfield East senior Lucy Thomas after both broke the previous state record in the 50-yard freestyle during the WIAA Girls State Swimming and Diving Championships at Waukesha South.



Arrowhead's girls swimming and diving team poses with the first-place trophy after winning the Division 1 team title during the WIAA Girls State Swimming and Diving Championships on Nov. 12 at Waukesha South.



Arrowhead senior Campbell Stoll looks at her cheering section in shock after breaking the state record in the 200-yard individual medley during the WIAA Girls State Swimming and Diving Championships at Waukesha South.



Arrowhead's girls swimming and diving team poses with the first-place trophy after winning the Division 1 team title during the WIAA Girls State Swimming and Diving Championships Nov. 12 at Waukesha South. The Warhawks put an end to Brookfield East's reign as Division 1 state champions.

Photos by Dave Radcliffe, Freeman Staff



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