

Lake Country

THIS MONTH

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Taraska left mark at Arrowhead

Longtime P.E. teacher, coach died in car accident

By Chuck Delsman
Freeman Correspondent

Arrowhead High School and its proud academic and athletic programs lost a great friend and ambassador on Oct. 15 with the unexpected passing of longtime physical education teacher and Hall of Fame football coach Tom Taraska, 71.

Taraska was reportedly killed in a one-vehicle car accident. The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department was notified at 4:41 p.m. of the crash on Rybeck Road near Woodfield Court. The vehicle was traveling eastbound when it left the roadway and struck a tree. The 71-year-old driver was pronounced deceased on scene, the sheriff's department said.

Taraska made his high school coaching mark at Arrowhead shortly after being named the school's head coach on May 10, 1982. He previously was the varsity head coach at Franklin before taking the Arrowhead job.

He coached the Warhawks for 29 consecutive years and turned the once average AHS program into the premier football program in Wisconsin.

Before he retired on May 10, 2010, he led Arrowhead to a remarkable four state championships (1993, 1994, 1996, 2007) and five second-place finishes (2000, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2008). One season in that run his program had 250 kids playing high school football.

"Tom was a great football coach, leader and teacher," said his best friend, Jim LaVoi, who played quarterback for Taraska in 1986, 1987 and 1988 and then joined his staff as an assistant in 1993. "He was a great community leader and person. He encouraged kids to play multiple sports, and at one time went to 29 straight conference track meets as a spectator. He was just an incredible leader. Not everyone liked Tom but everyone respected him."



Courtesy of the Arrowhead School District

Tom Taraska inspired and motivated hundreds of student-athletes during his time at AHS. His contributions to Arrowhead and the Hartland area were immense. He will be missed by all, the Arrowhead School District said of the former coach.

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Courtesy of Cheri Enters
Bill Rheingans, left, Kathy Hartman, center, and Howard Hadley at the Pewaukee Kiwanis Village Park. Hartman presented a check for \$25,000 from HubKconnect to Bell Tower Memorial for the construction of a veteran memorial in the park.

Bell Tower Memorial receives \$25,000 for veteran memorial

PEWAUKEE — Christmas came early for the Bell Tower Memorial board, as they received a check for \$25,000 from HubKconnect, a Pewaukee-based local store marketing software company. Board member and Air Force veteran Bill Rheingans and volunteer and Air Force veteran Howard Hadley accepted the check from HubKconnect co-founder and chief operating officer Kathy Hartman.

The Bell Tower Memorial is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving history, promoting learning and constructing a community memorial in Kiwanis Village Park. The memorial will serve as a place where the community can pay tribute to loved ones and honor all veterans. HubKconnect is one of many donors supporting the goal of \$240,000.

The organization is planning to have the memorial built in fall of 2024.

Arrowhead High School student wins Wisconsin Business World essay contest

MADISON — Several Arrowhead High School students were recognized for their entries into the Wisconsin Business World essay contest with a theme of “Business is a Force for Good.” Students were asked to answer the question: “Why Wisconsin?”

In their essays, students were asked why they love living in Wisconsin and to discuss at least one business that shapes their community and that embodies the message that Business is a Force for Good.

Olivia Kutzner, a 12th grade student at Arrowhead, was named one of the three winners of the contest sponsored by ITU AbsorbTech.

Several AHS students were also included in the honorable mentions: Lucas Gibbs-Pearl, 11th grade; Sloan Zsohar, 12th grade; Ann-Kathrin Ernst, 12th grade; Abby Hendricks, 11th grade; and Khadija El-Refaie, 11th grade.

Each of the winning essay writers was awarded \$500; the honorable mention essay writers were awarded \$100. Wisconsin Business World will host a similar essay contest this fall.

The FREEMAN & ENTERPRISE Lake Country THIS MONTH

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Holiday Train to return to Hartland

OCONOMOWOC — The CPKC Holiday Train will bring seasonal cheer with it as it glides into Hartland on Dec. 4. It is scheduled to stop at the railway crossing at Cottonwood Avenue at 5:30 p.m. It will remain in place so spectators can listen to live music from Tenile Townes and Brendland from 5:45 p.m. until 6:15 p.m.

It will then cruise down the tracks to Oconomowoc, where it will stop at the South Silver Lake Street railway crossing around 6:40 p.m. The event will run from 6:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. before it continues on to Watertown.

Cash and food will be collected to be donated to area food pantries.



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Is there still money in your bank?



BARBARA EASH

Antiques

In the early 20th century, American banks wanted to build consumers' trust in financial institutions and recruit additional customers. One technique used for newly opened accounts, the depositor would receive a "Still Penny Bank" as an advertising gift. Parents used this promotional opportunity as a teaching tool for their children and banking executives recruited many more clients.

Interest in coin banks became so popular that department stores and tourist attractions designed and sold their own models. Foundries supplied the demand using leftover cast-iron offcuts for these new product lines. The smallest scraps become toy soldiers and Boy Scout figurines etc. **Photo 1 current fair market value in good condition is \$65.**

A different kind of bank was used for prizes at early carnivals. This parrot, in photo 2, is chalk and it is a survivor! These fragile banks had only one slot to insert coins (no exit hole). They often broke when people tried to retrieve their money. **Current fair market value in good condition is \$25.**

Eventually, shapes of penny banks varied from buildings, to clocks, cars, animals and more. **The value of the train station bank, in photo 3, is \$55.**

Photo 4 is an example of another bank promotional item. These are more common and their design mimicked the "new" transistor radio. **A current fair market value in good condition is about \$50.**

Whatever type of penny bank you might have, if it is in good condition, the value is most likely worth more than the amount of pennies it can hold.

To schedule an appraisal appointment at my office in the Waukesha Antique Mall or at your location, email Barbara J. Eash: beap-praisals@gmail.com (fees vary).





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