owner of Ellie Boutique, which is in the former grayson grape store in Burlington, stands in her shop. It features new and gently used clothing, baby items, toys, books and more. - Section 2

ON STAGE: The Catholic Central Theatre Association will present "Annie" this weekend at the Historic Topper Hall at Catholic Central High School. The show premieres on Thursday and runs through Sunday. The production features a mix of ages with students from **Burlington Catholic School** also participating.

Board of Education at the Burlington Area School District recently discussed the district's long-term capital planning plan at a meeting.

## PACT APPROVED: The

Common Council on Tuesday endorsed a memorandum of understanding between the City of Burlington and Burlington Jamboree outlining responsibilities of the festival

**VINTAGE HOP:** Scores of businesses in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois will be participating in the Vintage Shop Hop.

- Page 4

ON THE MAT: More than a dozen athletes from the Burlington High School wrestling program qualified for individual sectionals set for this week, for both the boys and girls teams.

**DEATHS:** The following local

- death notices appear inside: • JAMES R. BRADEN, 69
- GERALD J. CRAMER, 86 • MARY L. LOIS, 84
- ROBERT N. MACKEY JR. 82 ROSEMARY RIGGS, 92
- JAMES JOHN VEREGA, 79 -Page 5



JE VENUE: Boxed and Burlap, Delavan, is a unique wedding venue featuring a large barn as well as outdoor sites, offering couples plenty of options for celebrating their big day. Section 2

# **INSIDE:**

Courts	Page 2
Community	Page 3
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Sports	Pages 7 & 8
Business	Section 2
Real Estate	Section 2



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# Burlington Standard Press

Published weekly • Burlington, WI 53105

**THURSDAY, FEB. 20, 2025** 

Our 159th year • No. 8

myracinecounty.com

**Hintz Sports** 

**Complex** 

slated for

upgrades

The Hintz Sports Complex along

Maryland Avenue will undergo

some lighting improvements under

a resolution endorsed by the Com-

budget estimate of \$290,000, but

the city will likely see some offset-

ting expenses through a cost-share agreement with Burlington Little

bid came in at \$326,145," said Pub-

lic Works Director Howard Moser.

memorandum of understanding pro-

posal set for Common Council next

month, the city would pay for 75%

of the total cost while the League

"That would mean they pay \$81,536.25, which would bring

the city's total cost down to

for proposals to upgrade the light-

ing infrastructure of the complex,

particularly targeting the Ebbers and Caliva fields, and looks to mod-

ernize outdated lighting systems

through a transition to energy-effi-

Students can join

the next Wisconsin

Current high school juniors can

The Wisconsin Department of

"Farmers and agriculture have

apply now for the next Wisconsin

Agriculture, Trade and Consumer

Protection will accept council appli-

been the backbone of our state for

generations. We must continue to

bolster this industry so that it re-

mains a central part of our state's fu-

ture, and that means preparing new

generations of farmers, producers, and agricultural leaders," said Gov.

Tony Evers. "2025 is the Year of the

Kid in Wisconsin, so I'm encour-

aging students to participate in the

Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Coun-

cil, which provides a great opportu-

nity for young people to be a part of

Council meets virtually each month

of the school year to listen to pre-

sentations, engage in discussions, and connect with professionals

across the agriculture industry. Students who will be seniors during the 2025 - 2026 school year are encour-

"I am proud the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council will begin its sixth year in the fall," said DATCP

Secretary Randy Romanski. "The council is a great opportunity for young people who are enthusiastic

about agriculture to connect with

DATCP staff and industry leaders."

bers with at least one member from

each of the nine council districts.

The remaining seats will be filled with at-large members. A map and

listing of which counties are located in each of the nine districts is available at AgYouthCouncil.wi.gov. "Being part of the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council has allowed me to expand my knowledge and interest in agricultural policy," shared Makayla Staudinger, a council member from De Pere. "The council has played a significant role in my

career exploration, and I would encourage any senior interested in ag The goals of the council are to

DATCP seeks to have 15 mem-

The Wisconsin Agriculture Youth

building that future."

aged to apply.

Agriculture Youth Council.

cations through March 31.

**Agriculture Youth** 

See SPORTS COMPLEX, Page 2

He said the city issued requests

\$241,681.75," Moser explained.

would donate 25%.

cient LED lighting.

Council

However, under the tentative

We had a budget of \$290,000 for this project, the lowest responsible

The resolution calls for a \$326,145 contract with Pieper Electric Inc., well above the original

mon Council on Tuesday.

League.

lighting

Burlington's Mike Austin fine tunes his ice sculpture featuring a turtle during the Feb. 15 Wisconsin State Ice Carving Championship at Wehmhoff Square Park in Burlington.

# Marvelous masterpieces

Ice Carving Championship draws a crowd

By Jason Arndt

Layla Kaplan marveled at the accomplishments of sculptors creating works of art on massive blocks of ice at the Wisconsin State Ice Carving Championship in Bur-Kaplan, of Orlando, Florida, at-

tended the Feb. 15 event at Wehmhoff Square Park with her boyfriend and didn't think the artists would achieve such masterpieces.

"How can they do it? How is this even possible?" Kaplan asked rhetorically. "I have taken ice cream outside in Florida for five minutes and it rapidly melts. Here, you have ice blocks sitting here for hours. I think it is super cool."

The Wisconsin State Ice Carving Championship featured some of the best sculptors in the state. It was previously held in December before new organizer Experience Burlington decided to change it to February.

Bob Lechtenberg, of Hartland, assisted Experience Burlington in bringing in competitors and the massive 300-pound blocks of ice used as a canvas for the artists.

"We have one of the best groups of sculptors that you could ever have for an ice sculpting event," said Lechtenberg, who performed sculpting demonstrations. 'There are really talented artists here working hard.

He noted a slight hiccup in acquiring the ice blocks for this

year's event. The championship previously used a distributor from Menomonee Falls until another company purchased that distributor.

After reviewing other suppliers, including one in Canada, Lechtenberg found a new company in Osh-

kosh manufacturing the ice blocks. Josh Jakubowski, of Juneau, won the championship with cre-

ation called "Laugh now, cry later."



JASON ARNDT Southern Lakes Newspapers on his ice sculpture

Burlington's Mike Austin finished second with a "Love Turtle" creation while Neal Vogt notched third. Vogt, who hails from Waukesha County, carved "The Lone Swimmer" sculpture.

# Sponsor changes

Spearheaded by former Burlington Mayor Jeannie Hefty, the City of Burlington served as coordinator of the event for several years until officials decided not to organize special events, including the Wisconsin State Ice Carving Champi-

Experience Burlington, formerly the Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce, took on the task of approving special events and or-

ganizing the Feb. 15 exhibition in conjunction with the group's annual Hot Cocoa Walk featuring dozens of participating downtown businesses.

'The Wisconsin State Ice Carving Championship was really started by Jeannie Hefty," said Executive Director M.T. Boyle, of Experience Burlington. "It is really because of her hard work and pas-

Experience Burlington opted to move the championship from December to February when the weather is more favorable – for the ice sculptors and the downtown re-

See ICE CARVING, Back Page



JASON ARNDT Southern Lakes Newspapers

Bob Lechtenberg, of Hartford, finishes an ice carving demonstration with Layla Kaplan from Orlando, Florida.





See YOUTH COUNCIL, Page 2

Racine County Senior Nutrition Program is looking for help of Racine County

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# California man pleads not guilty in gaming grooming case

A California man accused of grooming a 13-year-old Union Grove girl on a gaming app pleaded not guilty in Racine County Circuit

Spencer Ybarra, 33, of Chico, was initially charged with use of a computer to facilitate a child sex crime, a Class C felony; causing a child 13 or older to view sexual activity; and exposing a child to harmful material.



Since his arraignment, the charges were dropped to less severe felonies but increased in number. Those replaced charges include causing a child to view or listen to a sex act, a Class F felony, and nine Class I felonies – seven for exposing a child to harmful descriptions and two for exposing a child to harmful

According to the criminal complaint, on Oct. 3, 2024, Racine County sheriff's deputies were called to a Union Grove home for a report from a mother who stated her daughter, 12 at the time, was communicating inappropriately with a 32-year-old man on the Discord gaming app.

The sheriff's office obtained a search warrant to investigate the exchanges with Ybarra on the girl's app. Ybarra initially began following the girl's Instagram account and then her Discord profile, which states in the "About Me" link that she "need(s) an older guy to take care of (her) (red bow emoji) DMs are always open!!"

In August, Ybarra began communicating with the girl in the app and calling her "baby." They discussed age, with Ybarra saying "I'm too old." He asked her if she wants to stop talking, and the girl says "no," before he further stated he hopes no other men are grooming her.

The two discuss gaming, cats and Ybarra mentions they could get married, and stated, "I'll treat you good baby," and telling her it would please him if she does "good girl things and mak(e) me proud."

Eventually they agree to date, and he requested they call each other "baby" and "daddy." Ybarra instructed the girl to pleasure herself and told her he would "guide" her. She then sent him a picture of her private

From there, Ybarra began sending numerous animated sex images, and his messages got more sexually graphic and even violent, discussing an assortment of sex toys and what he would like her to do and what he would like to do to her sexually. When he first brought up "toys" the girl asked if he was talking about toys, "like Monster High dolls?"

She sent him two different images of her body after he told her about one toy and he asked her to send "daddy vids" and "daddy moaning audios," and frequently talked about taking her virginity, even telling her he wants to "hold (her) down and rape

Throughout their communication, Ybarra told the girl to keep their relationship secret and at one point discussed running away together, where police and parents would not find her, and would leave no trial of

If convicted of all counts, he faces up to 44 years in prison and \$115,000 in lines.

He is scheduled next in court on March 11 for a status conference.

Calls and an email sent to the Racine County District Attorney's Office seeking information about the less severe but increased charges were not returned

# Youth council

(Continued from front page)

highlight agricultural-related careers, share resources available for farmers, provide insight in agricultural policy development, and increase networking opportunities for participants. Members serve a one-year term on the council.
"The former and current

council members are outstanding representatives of the agricultural industry," added Romanski. "The council members provide valuable perspective about Wisconsin agriculture to me and the DATCP team in each ses-

New in 2025, the application form is now electronic to streamline the process for students. Through a brief essay and one-minute video, appli-

Chief Financial Officer ...... Sue Z. Lange

General Manager...

cants must share information

"The Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council has been an amazing way to learn more about Wisconsin agriculture, DATCP, and myself," concluded Jordan Berg, a council member from Neillsville. "I highly recommend applying to be on the council to anyone interested in pursuing a career in agriculture. No matter what your interests are, there is something for everyone."

Council members receive a certificate at the completion of their term. To access the application and additional information, visit AgYouthCouncil.wi.gov.

(Kenosha/Racine/Walworth/Waukesha/Jefferson/Milwaukee counties

about their current involvement in agriculture and their future education or career plans.

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NewsDept@StandardPress.com

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..David Habrat



# **Court news**

# Waterford man strangles wife in drunken rage

scheduled Wednesday in Racine County Circuit Court

for a Waterford man accused of strangling his wife in a drunken Joseph L.

Berrios, 25, charged with strangulation



and suffocation, a Class H felony; misdemeanor battery, disorderly conduct and misdemeanor bail jumping - all with domestic abuse modifiers. He is also charged with three additional misdemeanor bail jumping offenses.

According to the criminal complaint, sheriff's deputies were called to the 600 block of Cornerstone Crossing in the Village of Waterford Feb. 9 at 12:10 a.m. for a report of a temporary restraining order

On arrival, a deputy spoke with Berrios' wife, who said he was at her residence and highly intoxicated. She said when she was upstairs bathing her baby and toddler, Berrios came into the bathroom, yelled at her and called her a "nasty whore."

She said during the yelling, she moved into the bedroom and tried to exit, but Berrios grabbed her by the throat and squeezed with his hand, impeding her breath for a few seconds. He then used his hand that was on her throat

A preliminary hearing was to push her into the door jam, complaint, which left red marks and abrasions along her back. Her neck also had red marks around it because of the assault. After the assault, Berrios

left on foot with a garbage bin from the house.

Berrios was released on bond Jan. 7 for threatening to cause harm to the woman and was ordered not to have any contact with her.

The woman told deputies she knows about the no-contact order but allows him to stay in the home because he pays the rent, and she doesn't want to risk being evicted. The couple has a pending divorce action in Waukesha County, online court records

During a jail call, Berrios is heard talking about his wife and asking the person on the line to call her to find out "what the (expletive) she has to say," which was also in violation of his no-contact order.

If convicted of the Class H felony, Berrios faces up to six years in prison and \$10,000 in

## **Union Grove man faces** child pornography

A preliminary hearing is scheduled Feb. 27 in Racine County Circuit Court for a Union Grove man accused of possessing child pornography.

Devin William Katzman, 27, is charged with four counts of possession of child pornography.

According to the criminal

County Sheriff's ceived a cyber tip from the National Center Missing and

Exploited

Children

Devin Katzman

identifying several images as CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) associated with Katzman's Discord account.

On Jan. 22, a search war-

rant was executed at his

Kiddle Lane residence while Katzman was in Florida. Florida authorities seized Katzman's cell phone at the request of local investigators. On Jan. 23, a review of

Katzman's phone produced four images of nude girls between the ages of 8 and 14 years in sexually suggestive poses, with their buttocks and vaginas exposed.

Each of the Class D felonies Katzman is facing is punishable by up to 25 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

### Eau Claire man refuses blood test in drunken driving case

A preliminary hearing was scheduled Wednesday in Racine County Circuit Court for an Eau Claire man accused of fourth-offense drunken driv-

Clint Joseph Norval, 43, is charged with fourth offense operating a motor vehicle to six years in prison and

According to the criminal complaint, on Feb. 11 at 11:04 p.m., a sheriff's deputy observed a truck traveling on Highway 36 in the Village of Rochester approach an intersection at Highway 20 and abruptly stop about 30 feet from the intersection on a green light.

The driver then made a right-hand turn, driving over the curb on the westside of the

The deputy stopped the vehicle, which was operated by Norval, who showed signs of impairment and had an open EarthQuake - an alcoholic

beverage in the center console. Another Earth-Ouake can was crushed on the passenger side floor.

Norval told the deputy he was in Caledonia and there



Norval

to meet his wife, who he just met online. When the deputy began to question him, Norval stated his story was "bullshit" and admitted to drinking "two beers" about four hours prior to the stop. Norval did not consent to

a blood test, so a warrant was obtained, and he was taken to a nearby hospital where a blood draw was taken. Results are pending. If convicted, he faces up

\$10,000 in fines.

# **Trial set for Union Grove man** accused of sexual assault home in Union Grove some of her, and she told him that

A jury trial has been sched- Caledonia uled in Racine County Circuit Court for a Union Grove man accused of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl one year

Trevor R. Crosby, 18, is charged with second-degree sexual assault with use of force, a Class C felony. He pled not guilty to the charge during his Sept. 5, 2024, arraignment, online court records show.

According to the criminal

police gan a sexual assault investigation after cine County Child Protective Services reported a possisexual ble

assault involving the girl, now



time in February. She said she knows Crosby and has hung out with him in the past, because of the friendship between the two families. When he contacted her to hang out on that day, she asked if she should invite her brother too, and he told her no.

a movie in his room and he offered her alcohol several times, but she declined. She The girl said she was as-said he leaned over to kiss her years in prison and a \$100,000 complaint, on May 22, 2024 saulted at Crosby's parents' and eventually climbed on top fine.

she was not interested.

She said she tried pushing him off her and was scared during the assault. She further stated that Crosby told her multiple times she could not tell anyone, especially her

A jury trial is scheduled on The two of them watched June 10, with a final pretrial on May 9.

If convicted of the Class C felony, Crosby faces up to 40

# Walworth County Clerk warns of jury duty scam

Walworth County Clerk of Circuit Court Michele Jacobs is alerting residents about a telephone scam that recently defrauded a local woman of The woman reported that she was

contacted by an individual claiming to be a Walworth County Sheriff's Deputy. The woman's age was not revealed,

and Walworth County Communications Manager Jenny Quill cautioned that people of all ages can fall victim to these scams.

The caller falsely stated that she had failed to report for jury service and needed to pay a \$2,000 fine immediately to avoid arrest. The scammers then instructed her to wire them money. After she complied, they called again, claiming they spoke with the clerk, confirmed that her fine had increased, and demanded additional

"These calls are fraudulent and should be ignored," said Jacobs. "The Clerk of Circuit Court's office will never call and demand immediate payment for a jury duty-related fine. Official jury summonses and failureto-appear notices are sent via first-class mail. Court officials and officers do not make phone calls to threaten arrest or demand payments."

Residents who receive such calls and are unsure of their legitimacy should hang up immediately and contact the Clerk of Circuit Court's office at 262-741-7012.

Individuals summoned for jury duty

mail, followed by a summons with instructions on how and when to report.

Those who fail to complete and return their questionnaire, or who fail to appear for jury duty, will receive a written notification of their failure to comply, which may include notification of a hearing scheduled before a judge. But they will never receive a phone call demanding money.

The Clerk of Circuit Court's office may issue a fine for failure to appear, but notification will always be sent via an official letter.

For more information about the Clerk of Circuit Court's office and the Walworth County Circuit Court system, visit www.co.walworth. wi.us/151/Clerk-of-Circuit-Court.

# • Sports complex (Continued from front page)

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While the city received six proposals, officials narrowed the field of contractors to three, including the lowest proposal from Pieper Electric at \$326,145.

Other proposals received were from Rewald Electric (\$354,000) and Qualite (\$345,061).

"Pieper Electric Inc. emerged as the most suitable choice, offering the best balance of affordability and proven expertise," Moser wrote in posal meets all technical and regulatory requirements and also presents the most competitive pricing."

Additionally, according to Moser, Pieper Electric has a positive relationship with the city, including a history of completing similar projects.

One project includes lighting installation of Beaumont Field along Milwaukee Avenue, Moser said.

Department Manager Dale Breien, of New Berlin-based a memorandum. "Their pro- Pieper, touted the firm's exfield upgrades in a letter addressed to the city. "With 25 years of ex-

tensive experience in athletic

perience in Athletic Field Lighting, our team possesses specialized experience and proven track record necessary to successfully deliver a high-quality installation that aligns perfectly with your project goals and requirements," Breien wrote.

Pieper Electric has installed lighting at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater softball field, the East Troy Community School District, Buchner Field in the City of Waukesha and Malone Park in the City of New Berlin.

As part of the contract, the city received two pricing options, including one with Control-Link.

Control-Link allows remote scheduling, operation, and oversight through a mobile app, website, or direct communication with a 24/7 tech support team, Moser said.

"This system enhances efficiency by automatically scheduling, reducing energy consumption, and providing detailed usage reports for financial planning," Moser wrote. "Additionally, the Control-Link option includes a 25year warranty, ensuring longterm reliability and cost savings on future maintenance."

The Common Council, which held a first read of the proposal on Tuesday, approved the contract on the same night because of time constraints related to shipping

Additionally, the approval allows the finished product to be available when baseball season begins on May 1, according to Moser.

Moser said he envisions the memorandum of understanding would be presented for Common Council review in The city plans to secure

funding for the project through 2025 borrowing.

**Work on BASD** 

improvement

CORRESPONDENT

Board meeting.

the various items.

Development of a new

capital improvement plan,

stretching out to the next five

to 10 years, is underway in

the Burlington Area School

along with cost estimates for

Roseanne Hahn, chair of

the district's Buildings and

Grounds Committee, provid-

ed a brief report on the work

underway at the full School

Hahn indicated Jess War-

ren, BASD's buildings and

grounds director, has been pro-

viding the committee with up-

dates on the plan as it is being

developed. Further details are

"Our next (committee)

anticipated in the near future.

meeting is going to be when there's more information on

what Jess learns," Hahn said.

"As soon as he has more in-

the meeting date."

Board's Feb. 10 meeting.

School Board member

# CCHS to premiere 'Annie' this week at Topper Hall

By Jason Arndt **EDITOR** 

The Catholic Central Theatre Association plans to showcase "Annie" at the Historic Topper Hall in Burlington with the first presentation set for Thursday.

Production show times are 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, along with 2 p.m. matinee performances Saturday and Sunday.

According to the synopsis, the production is based on the popular comic strip by Harold Gray, who highlights little orphan Annie as she charms everyone's hearts despite growing up in unfavorable conditions in 1930s New York City.

Determined to find her parents, who abandoned her years earlier, Annie arrives at the doorsteps of a New York City orphanage run by a cruel and embittered Miss Hannigan.

Eventually, Annie escapes the orphanage with assistance from other orphans and finds a new family.

Show director Jenny Hoffman said the production features a multigenerational cast, including students from Burlington Catholic School, dozens of Catholic Central High School students, and some adults for a total ensemble of more than 40

Hoffman noted the cast of mixedage groups has not been a concern. In fact, the chemistry has been strong,

'We honestly haven't had any problems with it," she said. "It is a wonderful cast full of respectful

Lottie Naber, a youngster from Burlington Catholic School, plays the role of Annie.

### 'A beautiful message'

Junior Lily Nickolai, of Catholic Central, fills the role of protagonist Grace Farrell in the show.

Growing up, Nickolai has grown accustomed to "Annie" and said she is thrilled to present the production to the audience at Topper Hall.

Annie has always been one of my favorite movies ever since I was kid," Nickolai said. "I am just really excited to work on this production.

Farrell acts as a surrogate mother for Annie and is the love interest of Oliver Warbucks (played by Liam Cummings).

Nickolai, who has several siblings, found getting into character a seamless transition because of her experience with children and was able to use her skills to work with younger cast members.

"I really like working with kids,"



Lottie Naber, playing the role of Annie, looks to Clare Yopp (Miss Hannigan) the rehearsal of "Annie" presented by the Catholic Central Theatre Association on Feb. 13 in Topper Hall.



JASON ARNDT Southern Lakes Newspapers

Students from Burlington Catholic School, Inc. play the role of orphans in the Catholic Central Theatre Association's presentation of

in five productions at Catholic

As for the story itself, Nickolai said the tale should pull at the heartstrings of audience members.

"The audience should expect a beautiful show, a beautiful message and wonderful music," she said.

Clare Yopp, also a junior, depicts Miss Hannigan.

Unlike Nickolai, Yopp discovered some challenges with the character because it's in contrast to her normal

"As Miss Hannigan, I am the owner of the orphanage. Basically, my job is to make the orphans' lives

it's the Great Depression and is the only way I am making money," Yopp said. "I wasn't sure how to act this character out but through time I figured it out."

She also had some initial apprehension about working with younger students.

"I was a bit worried at first. With many of the kids, I wasn't sure how they would feel about acting," she said "Luckily, they jumped right into it and are doing a great job.'

For more information, including how to purchase tickets, visit the Catholic Central High School Facebook page or go online to https://

Center of Wisconsin.

plan underway BASD's potential capital improvement project items have cropped up at various points in the last calendar In November, for instance,

preliminary information was

District, based on informashared that revealed an estimated \$450,000 worth of tion shared at a recent School work is needed to realize the Once completed, the plan list of improvements that had will delve into some of the been identified at the time. short- and long-range facil-With current fiscal restraints in play, district offiities needs at each building within BASD's footprint,

cials indicated BASD only had the means to realize about \$250,000 worth of the proj-Roof repairs have been identified as one of the biggest ticket items on the list of long-

range improvements, and the

work reportedly applies to each building across BASD's footprint. In her recent committee-level report, Hahn also indicated she and other panelists had an opportunity to meet with Becky Sagedal,

munity education department. "We're very lucky in Burlington to have such an active group," Hahn said. "So many things are offered to so formation on that, we'll set many people in the communi-

who heads up BASD's com-

# **Red Cross of Wisconsin** welcomes new officer

The American Red Cross of Wisconsin has announced that Melinda Lanham has been named Regional Chief Development Officer. In this role, Melinda will work with external partners - including local businesses and business leaders, individual donors, board members, and volunteers - to advance the Red Cross mission by raising funds to support the organiza-

"We are delighted to welcome Melinda to the American Red Cross of Wisconsin,' said Mark Thomas, Regional Executive and CEO of the Red Cross of Wisconsin. "Melinda brings a wealth of fundraising fort, compassion, and hope experience to the Red Cross mission, having served in leadership and volunteer roles for over 20 years which will undoubtedly strengthen our ability to deliver aid, support communities, and fulfill our mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering."

Prior to joining the American Red Cross, Melinda served as Sales Manager at Proctor & Gamble, as a recruiter for Pinstripe Talent Inc., and as the Director of Development at Versiti Blood Research Institute Foundation. Most recently, Melinda was the Senior Director of Development, Major Gifts, at Vivent Health, formerly known as the AIDS Resource

Committed to supporting her community, Melinda has been a long-time member of the Board of Directors for St. Anthony on the Lake. Past volunteer and board commitments also include Junior ganization on social media.



of Indiana, Melinda holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Ball State University in Muncie, Indi-

"I am honored to join the American Red Cross, an organization with such a noble history of delivering comin the face of disasters," said Melinda. "I look forward to leveraging my fundraising experience and working sideby-side with the extraordinary volunteers, donors, and staff to advance the Red Cross mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering in

times of crisis.' The American Red Cross of Wisconsin works from five state chapters and proudly serves 68 counties in Wisconsin and eight counties in the U.P., delivering disaster care, veteran support, blood services, and health/safety classes to 5.8 million people. In fiscal year 2023, Red Cross volunteers provided care, food, hope, and shelter to more than 3,874 people following local disasters. Volunteers helped install nearly 3,153 smoke alarms throughout the Wis-

consin Region. For more information, visit redcross.org or follow the or-

# Council endorses agreement with Burlington Jamboree

Common Council on Tuesday formally adopted a memorandum of understanding between the City of Burlington and the Burlington Jamboree that de-

ties for the festival grounds. The agreement, which came as part of a large consent agenda process, allows the Burlington Jamboree to use the festival grounds from May 1 through June 30 annu-

fines roles and responsibili-

Outside the two-month period, the city will be responsible for the cost of any utilities and property maintenance expenses incurred for the rest of the year, according to the approved resolution.

City Administrator Carina Walters said the city's costs are minimal and will be included in the annual budget. The memorandum of un-

the 10-bay garage owned by the Burlington Jamboree. "Both the City and Jam-

boree agree that (the) Jamboree is the owner of the 10bay garage for exclusive use throughout the year and responsible for all maintenance and security of the building," Walters wrote in a memoran-

a termination policy, if the

Burlington Jamboree decides

to dissolve, disband or dis-

continue the annual event.

new on Jan. 1 every year.

Walters noted while the Jamboree owns structure, the city owns the parcel of land beneath the garage.

The Hintz Sports Complex

derstanding also includes a and its parking lot is not part ters of the wastewater system series of caveats, including of the agreement based on needs." city documents.

# **Council endorses truck**

The Common Council also Additionally, barring an early notice of termination approved the purchase of a from either party, the agreenew 2025 Chevy Silverado ment will automatically re-3500 HD Reg Cab and Chassis from Ewald Automotive, and body from Northland Other points covered include clarifying ownership of Equipment, for a total cost of \$69,339.

Howard Moser, Public Works Director, indicated the new truck would replace a vehicle that has more than

130,000 miles. "This wastewater truck is utilized for various work-related tasks. This vehicle requires specialized outfitting of an onboard crane, lift gates, toolboxes, and storage," Moser wrote in a memorandum. "These features are necessary for effective and timely response to all mat-

officials solicited City proposals from multiple dealerships, including VendorNet, and recommended purchasing the components from Ewald and Northland because of pricing and avail-

ability. Moser said the city plans to retain the existing crane and reinstall the fixture onto the new vehicle.

The city already included the purchase in the 2025 sewer utility budget.

# Other business

The Common Council also endorsed the following items: • An update to the petty

- cash amount for City Hall, the Police Department and the Fire Department.
- Fee assessments for weights and measures license holders for fiscal year July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

# **College news**

**ACADEMIC HONORS** 

**Drake University** Graelen Kwiatkowski, Dean's List

# Village of Waterford tentatively OKs alcohol license for new wine bar

CORRESPONDENT

While there are still more steps in the process, a local entrepreneur's planned opening of a wine bar in Waterford's downtown corridor moved closer to reality after a vote from village officials.

The Village Board on Feb. 12 issued a "Class B" liquor license to applicant JRP Properties LLC, contingent on securing an occupancy permit at 308 E. Main St.

Last year, John Palmer and Rebecca Vanwormer, who are the people behind JRP Properties LLC, announced

their plans for their wine bar, ed. It doesn't give them the Oak, at the Main Street storefront. The historic building has housed a number of occupants throughout its history, including the Waterford Family Medical practice.

Village Administrator Zeke Jackson explained the various intricacies at play as Palmer and Vanwormer move forward in their busi- night is, 'Hey, we're not isness plan as 2025 continues to unfold.

Speaking to the board's vote at the Feb. 12 meeting, Jackson said, "It gets the Village Board's original approval process complet-

license; it's merely directing the clerk to issue the license, contingent upon the occupancy permit."

While there are a number of moving pieces to the puzzle, Jackson said the board's vote is designed to "speed the process up.

What you're saying tosuing it conditionally; we're issuing it contingently, those being two different things," Jackson said.

Once the occupancy permit process is completed, Jackson said the board's vote

will go into motion and begin the legal requirements, outlined in state statute, associated with procuring a "Class B" liquor license, which will include a formal notice in the Waterford Post, the village's official newspaper.

Palmer and Vanwormer's plans have been under the microscope in the past within the village. Last summer, for instance, the village's Plan Commission reviewed architectural materials for the business façade. Reviews are more intense along Main Street since properties fall within the village's Heritage District.

The applicants last summer also had implored village officials to make accommodations for a lower-cost

'Class B" license. The village currently has one quota license (based on the municipality's population) available at a cost of \$300; additionally, two reserve licenses available at \$10,000 each are also in the offering.

indicated last Palmer summer the Oak project was a "north of a half of a million building and the purchase for special events.

of a \$10,000 license would make the project cost prohib-

Based on Palmer and Vanwormer's conceptual plans, the core drink menu at Oak is intended to include a range of wines, bourbons, tap beers and canned beers. Appetizers would include such fare as flatbreads and pretzels.

Amenities at the refurbished Main Street site would include outdoor patio seating space in the warm weathered months and semi-private rooms to mesh with the busidollar investment" for the ness plan of offering a space

# Vintage Shop Hop brings 'shopping local' to a new level

Thousands of shoppers will converge on northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin once again for the spring edition of the popular Vintage Shop Hop on Friday and Saturday, The event is a self-

guided road trip for vintage and antique lovers in the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin region to satisfy their "vintage" addiction and support small business at the same time. Typically, between 350 to

400 locally-owned vintage shops, antique malls, women's boutiques, occasional and pop-up shops, home decor stores, upscale consignment shops and vintage barn sales in the two-state region participate in this one-of-a-According to the 2024

American Express Shop Small Impact Study, 85% of consumers say they were likely to shop "small" that season. The study goes on to re-

port consumers also say they "shop small" to make an impact locally, with 64% shopping small because they know a portion of their purchase directly impacts the community. The Vintage Shop Hop would like to see shoppers

change their shopping habits vear-round. The event is a twice-a-year road trip comprised of nothing but "small businesses." What started with 180

shops 12 years ago, the Vintage Shop Hop has increased in popularity every year.

"In the spring, shop owners sometimes need an economic shot in the arm to boost their sales in what is traditionally slow retail season, not to mention the competition of the online shopping craze," says Ann Campos, founder of the event. "This event gives the shopper a reason to leave the house to shop small and support their local businesses."

The idea came to Cam-



pos over a decade ago after talking with a handful of shop owners in her town who had experienced slow sales during the then harsh winter. "After spending several

vears producing large vintage markets, I decided to marry my love of vintage decor with my background in tourism promotion, event planning and marketing to come up with a way to reach out and do something for local small business," Campos said. "The result is the Vintage Shop The event is only open

to locally-owned, for-profit shops. There are no big box stores, franchises or chain stores allowed. Social media has played a huge role in the rapid growth of the shopping extravaganza. "The event was destined

to grow quickly," Campos explained, "between the shop owners looking for a unique, low-cost way to promote not only their shop but their town too, and shoppers who are excited to have a list of hundreds of fun shops dropped in their lap. The result? You can't hold them back!" The two-state event has

grown organically over the past 12 years and now stretches from the Mississippi River on the west to Lake Michigan on the east, and goes north to the Wausau and Green Bay in Wisconsin and south to I-80 "We encourage the shops

to create an in-store promotion – a day unlike the other 363 days of the year," says Campos. As a result, shoppers will find fun promotions like "pop a balloon" or "spin the wheel" to determine their discount, door prizes, meetmusic, food trucks and free swag bags just for stopping in. Others create punch cards

the-maker, paint demos, live VintageShopHopEvent.

promotions to get people moving around their region, or hire live music and invite food trucks to park in their "The participating shop

owners are very passionate about the history of their antiques as well as their buildings. To compete with big box stores, small business owners have to be creative in their marketing efforts and work extra hard to get noticed," Campos said. "I'm just happy I can help them out by using my experience to bring customers to their doorstep with this fun shopping event. To my knowledge, it's the biggest event of its kind in the Midwest." Many shops are set in historic and unique buildings in

downtowns, villages, and the countryside, brimming with history, which sets them apart from their competitors in big shopping malls. Shoppers will find stores located inside century-old

barns, historic schoolhouses,

banks, and churches all mak-

ing the shopping experience memorable. Shop owners who are interested in participating in this affordable event just need to send a private message on

the event's Facebook page. For shoppers, the road trip planning for the Vintage Shop Hop is made easy with an interactive GoogleMap and master list of shops. The event's GoogleMap includes all shop details that can be accessed on mobile devices while shoppers are traveling the area. The list and map are both found on the event's blog page at all times and have become a "road trip bible" for shoppers. Find both at vintageshophop.blogspot.com or follow the event's Facebook

page at www.facebook.com/

**Area Wisconsin** 

### shops participating • Home Decor & Gifts, 316 W. State St., Beloit, 10 a.m. to

5 p.m. both days • Vintage Bliss, 3100 S. Riverside Drive, Beloit, 10 a.m. to

5 p.m. both days Vintage Etcetera, 2526 S.

Riverside Drive, Beloit, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• Gunny & Co, 914 Exchange St., Brodhead, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days • Harvest Moon, 929 W. Ex-

change St., Brodhead, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

Sawdust & Iron, 207 Allen

St., Clinton, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Antique Farmer, LLC, N6041 WI-89, Delavan, 8 a.m.

• Feels Like Home, 18 W Fulton St., Edgerton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

to 5 p.m. both days

• M's on Main, 522 N. Main St., Edgerton, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, additionally 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 9 · Hen House Thrift Bou-

tique, 7 E. Main St., Evansville, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both • The Vintage Roost, 228

W. Main St., Evansville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days · Copper Creek Resale and Discount Center, 422 W. High-

way 11, Footville, 10 a.m. to 5 • 608 Vintage, 34 S. Main

St., Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. both days • Best of Janesville Vintage

Mall, 3138 S. Highway 51, Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days · Chicken Coop Collectibles, 6507 W. Hwy 14, Janes-

• Frayed Edges Boutique, 3719 S. County Rd. G, Janesville, Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both

J&B Outlet & Resale, 2342 Center Ave., Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

and Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• Property Pickers Estate Sales and Shoppable Ware-

W. Hwy 14, Janesville, Friday

house, 770 S. Main St., Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both

• The Creative Corner De-

cor and Gifts, 2624 E. Milwaukee St., Janesville, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days Vintage Market, 8301 E.

Hwy 14, Janesville, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days 2nd Time Around Resale

Shoppe, 34 Merchant Row, Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both

· Ar Home by Artful Retiques, 229 Parkview Drive, Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Goodrich Antiques and

ison Ave., Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both davs Hattie and Elsie, 650 Col-

Vintage Uniques, 742 E. Mad-

lege St., Milton, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days • Red Rooster, 613 W Mad-

ison Ave., Milton, 10 a.m. to 5

p.m. both days Monroe Antiques Mall. 1003 16th Ave., Monroe, 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. both days • Lollygag Antiques, 16 6th Ave., New Glarus, 10 a.m. to 5

p.m. both days Cool School Antique Mall 7427 156th Ave., Bristol, 10

a.m. to 6 p.m. both days · Flippin' Fabulous LLC, 448 S. Pine St., Burlington, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days

• Josette Boutique, 573 N Pine St., Burlington, 10 a.m. to

5 p.m. both days • The Rustic Barrel, 7135 McHenry St., Burlington, Fri-

day 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 • Wilted Rose Resale &

Gifts, 2931 Union St., East Troy, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

• Home Decor & Vintage, 41 S. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

J&M Vintage Finds, 3832 County Road O, Elkhorn, 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. both days Fontana Home West End.

158 Fontana Blvd., Fontana, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

· A Summer's Garden Florist and Gifts. 5617 6th Ave.. Kenosha, Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5

 Authentique, 625 57th St... Kenosha, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

· EQUINOX botanical boutique, 5901 6th Ave. A. Kenosha, Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

· Latibule, 4906 7th Ave., Kenosha, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

· Serendipity on 7th, 4706 7th Ave., Kenosha, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days Vintage Underground,

5817 6th Ave., Kenosha, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wooden Chair Antiques,

5710 4th Ave., Kenosha, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. · Lake Geneva Antique Mall, 829 Williams, Lake Ge-

neva, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both • The Rabbit Hole, 264 Center St., Lake Geneva, 9

a.m. to 6 p.m. both days • Fox And Fork LLC, 203 W Main St., Rochester, 10 a.m.

to 5 p.m. both days • A Trew Find, 336 E Main St., Twin Lakes, 10 a.m. to 5

p.m. both days · Restoration Reserve, 1201 Main St., Union Grove, Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat-

urday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Second Street Stuff, 107 N Second St., Waterford, Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5

Market, 318 E. Main St., Waterford, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both • Real Deal Vintage, 30702

p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Waterford Unique Antique

113th St., Wilmot, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days • The Fuzzy Pig, N8660

• The Grainery (at Duester- Clover Valley Rd., Whitewater, beck's Brewing Co.), N5543 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

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Born in Ohio on Nov. 8, 1942, he was the son of Robert and Mary (nee Fontana) Mackey Sr. His early life was spent in Ohio. He was a Burlington resident since 2000. Together with his partner, Josef Freuchtel, he owned Josef/Anthony Hairdressers in Milwaukee. His life partner, Josef, preceded him in death in 1998.

Anthony was a wigmas-

ROSEMARY RIGGS

on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025.

Rosemary Riggs,

passed away peacefully at

Oak Park Place in Burlington

Chicago on March 24, 1932,

the daughter of Frank Sr. and Rose (Svec) Straka. She

spent her early life working

with her parents and broth-

er, Frank Jr., at their family

grocery store. The family

later moved to their home on

Eagle Lake in Kansasville,

where she made many friends

throughout her years living

on the lake. Eventually, she

met and then married Irving

Riggs Jr. on May 30, 1953,

at St. Mary's Church in Do-

Rosemary was born in



ter for the Milwaukee Ballet, as well as theaters high schools in Southeast-Wis-

married 65

"Junior'

passed on

Rosemary

and sister-in-law, Frank Jr. Riggs family.

vears fore Irving

2018.

is survived by her daughter

Karen (Chuck) Kayser; sons,

Rich (Amy) Riggs, Andy

(Sue) Riggs, Bob (Jackie)

Riggs, and Tom (Kay) Riggs;

11 grandchildren, and 26

great-grandchildren. She was

preceded in death by her hus-

band, Irving Jr.; parents, Frank

Northern Illinois. He performed ballet in New York and loved to entertain. He was known for his lavish parties, earning write-ups in the Milwaukee Journal. He was also an avid collector of Lalique Crystal, Waterford Crystal, art and sculptures.

Anthony was preceded in **JAMES R. BRADEN** death by his parents and life partner of 42 years, Josef.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Haylofters Community Theatre.

Services for Anthony will be held Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at 6 p.m. at Schuette-Daniels Funeral Home. A visitation will be held at the funeral home from 4 until 6 p.m. Burial will take place at Burlington Cemetery on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, at 11

Well-wishers may visit www.danielsfamilyfuneral.

and JoAnn Straka; father-in

law and mother-in law, Irving

Sr. and Cleo Riggs; broth-

er-in-law and sister-in-law,

Edward and Henrietta Mill-

er; along with nephew Larry

like to extend a very sincere

thank you to the entire Oak

Park Place staff and volun-

teers, along with the staff

from St. Croix Hospice for

their continued kindness and

support throughout Rose-

vate ceremony at a later date.

Mealy-Stencel

The family will hold a pri-

Funeral

mary's stay.

Sr. and Rose Straka; brother Home is proudly serving the

Rosemary's family would

James R. Braden, 69, of Burlington, passed away Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, at Aurora Medical Center in Burlington. Born in Waukegan, Illinois,

on Aug. 4, 1955, he was the son of William and Lorraine (nee Lange) Braden. He grew up in Arbor Vista and Warren Township in Illinois, graduating from Warren High School. After high school he continued his education by studying accounting. Jim met his future wife in 1992 at Wickes Lumber Company in Vernon Hills, Illinois, while they were working together. They resided in Honey Lake for six years before buying a house in Burlington. Jim was united in marriage to Karen Grube on Dec. 15, 2001, at the Lincoln House in Burlington, and they have enjoyed 29 beautiful years together; forever Honey and Sweetie.

as a merchandise coordinator in Vernon Hills before changing to working as a forklift driver for

Chaney Instruments in Lake Geneva. He had a love of nature, always enjoyed being outdoors and loved archery. He was a member of Waukegan Bowman and Buck Trail Archers in Burlington. He enjoyed going on motorcycle rides, and he was a real "people person." Everywhere he went, he would find someone he knew or someone to talk to. He was always friendly with everyone. Jim had unconditional love for his family and all of his fur children. He is survived by his lov-

ing wife, Karen; stepson, Brian Aleckson; brother, Robert

Cami Park-

dison Knap-

kiewicz.

She is also

survived

by her sis-

ters Marge

Schultz and

Jim worked "Doug" (Charlene) Braden; sister-in-law Laura Thomas; and nieces and nephews, William, Daniel, Steven, Zoe, Darryl, Christina, Rachel, Jennifer, Adam, Robert, and Joe. Jim is further survived by many great nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Lorraine Braden; parents-in-law, Clifford and Mary Ann; Grube; stepdaughter, Kristin Aleckson; brothers, William, Thomas, and Mark; his only sister, Karen (nee Braden) Wetmore; as well as his brother-in-law Gregory Grube.

A Funeral Service for Jim will take place on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, at 7 p.m. at Schuette-Daniels Funeral Home. Relatives and friends may visit with the family on Monday, Feb. 24, from 4 until

For on-line condolences, please visit www.danielsfamilyfuneral.com.

## MARY L. LOIS

Mary L. Lois died at the age of 84 on Feb. 13, 2025.

Mary was the daughter of Werner and Hazel (nee Bodden) Remer. On June 6, 1959, in Elkhorn, she was united in marriage to Marcellus Lois. Mary was mom to Sandra (Randy) Francois and Debra (Tom) Wachholder; grandmother to Ashley Francois, Jared Francois, Jessica Owens, Eric (Amber) Owens, Matthew (Jenny) Owens and Caitlyn Owens; great-grandmother to Braden Bieneman, Brianna Owens. Aubree Mason Meisner, Owens,



Barbara Remer. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Marc; grandson Mitchell Owens; sister Marlene Gardinier; and brothers, Edward, John, Roger and Ronald Remer.

Mary worked in the food service for the Burlington School District. She loved

playing cards, going to the casinos, bowling, and watching the Brewers and Packers on TV. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family, especially the grandchildren.

A funeral service for Mary will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Schuette-Daniels Funeral Home. Relatives and friends may visit with the family from 11 a.m. until the time of service. A private family burial will take place at St. Mary's

Well-wishers may visit www.danielsfamilyfuneral.

# The time is now to help

# Single mom struggles with mother, expenses

My mother and I moved in together last year because we thought it would help both our circumstances. My mother needed some

caregiving after having her knee replaced and I needed help with watching my 8-year-old son after school. I am a single mother and do not receive any help from my ex-husband.

Unfortunately, my mother's health has not improved, and I have become her caregiver until she improves. I have missed so much work due to her many medical appointments and with all the driving my car has needed repairs. My son needed another

pair of glasses after his were broken beyond repair, so that was paid out of pocket. I had to pay for one of the car repairs so I could continue to get to work and the doctor's offices, but there is more work that needs to be done that I cannot afford.

of less time at work have caused us to fall behind in our rent. I don't know how we will get through the next few months without falling behind in everything. I am trying to keep it together so as to not worry my mom and son, but it is getting more and more difficult every day.

These expenses, on top

I do not see a light at the end of the tunnel until my mom improves, so I am humbly begging for help out of this situation I find myself

Dear Readers, I am often amazed by

what most single mothers accomplish every day. Being both mother and father to a young son, and a caring daughter to a mother in need, on top of financially supporting everyone and completing household tasks usually completed by two adults, is more than most people undertake in a day.

Add in the stress of unpaid bills, worrying about becoming homeless, and you get an idea of what this single mother was experiencing.

When I contacted this

single mother, I found a woman who was strong and capable. When she began to tell me everything she had been going through, the tough exterior was soon shed, and the tears began to flow. She apologized for crying but I assured her she was safe shedding those tears with me. Who else did she have to share with how

overwhelmed and stressed

she felt? After learning additional facts about her situation that were not included in her letter, and more about her mother's health - including an extensive infection she contracted due to the surgery – we talked about



DIMICELI

her job and their budget. It was a blessing that her employer was understanding about what she was going through. In a normal month, this mother would get by with very little to spare, but they got by. With the extraordinary expenses over the past six weeks, and the reduction in income due to missed days at work, it would become more difficult to catch up with each passing week.

I learned in addition to paying for her son's glasses, she had also had to take him to the emergency room when he had come down with the flu. Her car needed new tires and an additional repair she could not afford.

I immediately arranged for her car to go in for service and new tires. We also would pay for three months' rent, her outstanding utility bill, and provided gift cards for gas and food.

The mother again began to cry, as she felt the stress of poverty being lifted from her shoulders. The mother humbly tried to deny she needed additional help but when I explained she would need this to help her get through the next few months, she accepted graciously.

Thanks to our support this single mother, her son and her mother are all safe from the possibility of becoming homeless, utility disconnection and even hunger. Our assistance has provided the safety net that caught them just in time, thanks to "you" and the Family Foundation 2025

\$40,000 Matching Grant. We hope you will take advantage of the Family Foundation 2025 \$40,000 Matching Grant as your donations will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling your donation and the assistance we will be able to provide. Thank you!

Health & Happiness, Love and God bless everyone, Sal

Please help: There are many coming to us in desperation. Our good fellow creations need our compassion. Together we make a big difference. Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 1, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. The Time Is Now to Help is a federally recognized 501(c)3 charitable organization. You will receive a tax deductible, itemized thank you receipt showing how 100% of your donation was used for providing poverty relief.

Please visit our website for more information, to read more columns and/or to make a donation.

A very special thank you: Family Foundation, Carolyn J. Gable Foundation, Kunes Family Foundation, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Paul Ziegler, Paper Dolls, Timothy and Brenda Wegge, Bonnie Glennon, Anderson Moran Construction, Michael and Mary Alice Deutsch, HomeTown Auto Exchange, Steven and Deidred Trumble, Barbara and Lee Zuzanek. Kathryn Drexler, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Lake Geneva Economic Development Corporation, Gregory and Jean Marie Dexter, Mitchell and Nancy Venema, John Oregan, Roy and Vickie Terracina, Carol Feist, Mary Jane Feist, Tim and Margaret Kumbier, Karen Aasen, Kenneth Kelley, James Dyer, John and Cindy Schmidt, Francis Fish, Gregory and Pamela Peterson, Michael and Kathe Beach, Wiliam Antti, Aileen Hodges, John and Rita Race, Doris Wiechmann, Dennis and Carol Gilhooley, Delavan United Methodist Church, Russ Perkins, Alan and Constance Henninger, Duane and June DeYoung, St. James United Methodist Church Women in Ministry, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, all of our anonymous donors and ALL of you who support The Time Is Now to Help donation boxes. Anyone who would like a donation box in their

business, call 262-249-7000. **Praver chain:** Please pray for healing for the following people: Bill, Brian, Mike, Sylvia, Megan, Kayla, Maria C., Judy, Scott, Annie, Marilyn, Brandon, Helen, Dennis, Mary, Joseph, Jordan, Jean, Tom L., Dr. Peter, Matthew, Pam E., Jenene B., John S., Patricia H., Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, Bryan E., Betty, Ellie, Concetta, Cheryl, Kirubel M., Wanda

L., Joan, Bruce and Andy. For more information, visit timeisnowtohelp.org.

# JAMES JOHN VEREGA

James John Verega, 79, of Burlington, died Feb. 10, 2025, at his residence. He was born on Sept. 29, 1945, in Chicago, to John and Julia (Leknick) Verega.

James married Peggy Dodge on April 20, 1964, in Shawneetown, Illinois. After living in Cicero, Illinois, they moved to Burlington in 1979, when he took a job at Precise Corporation in Racine. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1983, after attending evening college for 14 years.

You could find him on the golf course, fishing, or doing home improvement projects when not working. He also enjoyed watching his grandchildren play sports.

James is survived by his wife Peggy; his four children, Christine Johnson of Burlington, Jean Schuerman of Broomfield, Colorado, Dawn (Rob) Sobbe of Burlington, and John (Chris) Verega of Burlington; ten grandchildren, Karly, Jared, Kolin, Todd, Stephanie, Kenny, Austin, Ethan, Gavin, and Ellie. He also had ten

great-grandchildren.

A memorial gathering to honor James's life will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Integrity Celebration Center, 2789 Browns Lake Dr., Burlington, from 2 p.m. until the time of service at 3:50 p.m. A time of fellowship will The family would like to

thank Amedisys Hospice for his care over the last year. Services have been entrusted to Integrity Funeral

Services. For on-line condolences, please visit www.integrityfunerals.net.

## GERALD J. CRAMER

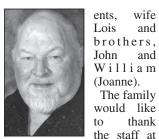
Gerald J. Cramer, 86, of Burlington, passed away Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, at Aurora Medical Center in Burlington.

Born on Nov. 24, 1938 in Burlington, he was the son of William and Anna (nee Bieneman) Cramer. His early life was spent in Burlington, where he graduated from St. Mary High School.

On June 18, 1960 at St. was united in marriage to Lois Vos. They resided in Burlington until 1997, when they moved to Camp Douglas. They returned to Burlington in 2018.

Gerald was a carpenter and co-owner of C & B Construction and later owner of Cramer Construction. He also worked for American Motors. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church, the Town of Cutler Fire Department for 11 years, Bucktrail Archery and Knights of Columbus in Burlington. He was a member of multiple bowling leagues and enjoyed fishing in Canada, along with hunting in Wisconsin, Colorado and Alaska. He also always enjoyed a good game of Sheepshead, Eucher and Cribbage.

Gerald is survived by his children, Dawn Jahns, Jeff (Mary Birren) Cramer, Penny Calmes, Steve (Yvette) Cramer, Craig (Jill) Cramer and Jerald (Kami Miller) Cramer; grandchildren, Chelsey (Nick) Fritchen, Tyler Calmes, Hannah (Jesse Burns) Calmes, Brooke Collins, Trenton (Megan) Cramer, Michael (Emily) Fallon, Derrick (Shannon) Fallon, Kelly (Chais) Parkos, Claudia Cramer and Carson Cramer; eighteen great-grandchildren; siblings, Kenneth, James (Millie) and Ruth (Bob) Diehl; and sisterin-law, Fern Cramer. He was preceded in death by his par-



during this time.

In lieu of flowers, memori-Mary Catholic Church, he als may be made to the Town www.danielsfamilyfuneral. of Cutler Volunteer Fire De- com.

The family

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held for Gerald on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church. Relatives and friends may visit with the family on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, from 2 until 5 p.m. at Schuette-Daniels Funeral Home. Burial will Oak Park Place for their care follow Mass at St. Mary Cem-

Well-wishers may visit

# If You Aren't Buying "Smart Glasses", At Least Be Smart **About Where You Buy Them...**



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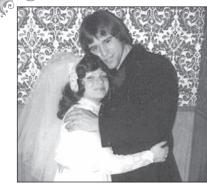


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**RON & DEBBIE HELD WILL CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE FEBRUARY 22, 2025** 



Proud retired parents of our two daughters and grandparents of three girls and one boy. Ron, a graduate of Triton College Radiography and University Illinois Chicago Bachelors Management

and Deb Held (Crement) a graduate of East Leyden High School and Niles Beauty School Cosmetology Diploma license.

# **JPINION**

# Capitol report

# Top court unites in Wolfe-Elections Commission case

The often-divided state Supreme Court the other day issued a unanimous decision on a controversial case. Such unity is worth

noting in these days of bitter partisanship and an April state Supreme Court race that will cost tens of millions of dollars to determine ideological control of the high court.

The case centers

on Meagan Wolfe, the administrator of the bipartisan Elections Commission. The ruling will allow her to continue serving in the role indefinitely. And it brings to an end an effort by GOP lawmakers to remove Wolfe from the post, spurred on by complaints over how the 2020 election was conducted.

Wolfe in reacting gave no indication how long she plans to continue serving as the Elections Commission administrator. She only focused on the upcoming spring election and the work of the state's local clerks. "Serving beside them is

an honor, and Wisconsinites are lucky to have them," Wolfe said in a statement. "I have every confidence that our clerks will continue to deliver fair and accurate elections to all Wisconsin communities.

Senate Majority

Leader Devin LeMahieu, R-Oostburg, and Senate President Mary Felzkowski, R-Tomahawk, in a joint statement said they were disappointed with the court's ruling. They also took a shot at the three Dem appointees to the Elections Commission, saying they "have decided that Wisconsinites do not get a say in who administers our elections." "Senate Republicans will

continue to do everything we can to ensure that Wisconsin has free and fair elections and restore integrity to the process," they said. The political and legal

background is extensive. Seven years ago, Wolfe

was elevated from assistant administrator to interim leader after the GOPcontrolled state Senate voted to reject the nomination of her predecessor Mike Haas over his work for the former Government Accountability Board and its connection to the John Doe probe of former

GOP Gov. Scott Walker. A year later, the Senate unanimously confirmed her for a four-year term. But since the 2020 election, some GOP lawmakers have been looking for a way to replace her. That includes a vote to fire her in 2023 that Republican lawmakers later acknowledged was symbolic. Later came a push to impeach her from the post. In 2023, the three

GOP appointees on the six-member Elections Commission voted to reappoint Wolfe as they hoped to then submit the nomination to the Republican-controlled state Senate for confirmation. But the three Dem

commissioners abstained, arguing the body needed at least four members to support an appointment and Wolfe could serve in the job indefinitely. That prompted the legal skirmish over her status as the agency administrator.

The high court found state law requires the six-member Elections Commission to appoint a new administrator only if a vacancy occurs. It also ruled there is no vacancy with Wolfe continuing to serve in the role even though the original four-year appointment expired in 2023.

In doing so, the court cited a previous ruling in a similar case that allowed one of Walker's appointees to continue serving on the Natural Resources Board even after his term expired.

Citing that decision, conservative Chief Justice Annette Ziegler wrote for the unanimous court that, "WEC does not have a duty to appoint a new administrator to replace Wolfe simply

because her term has ended." That 2022 decision found an appointee could continue serving on the Natural Resources Board even though his term had expired in May 2021.

The state Department of Justice under Dem Attorney General Josh Kaul filed suit seeking to force Wausau dentist Fred Prehn off the board after he declined to step down once his six-year appointment had expired.

The Walker appointee cited past court precedent that an appointee could continue serving in a role until the Senate confirmed a replacement.

Three liberal justices still on the court from that case dissented in that 4-3 ruling. In the Wolfe ruling, liberal Justice Ann Walsh Bradley wrote a concurring opinion that she still disagreed with the Prehn decision.

Joined by colleagues

Rebecca Dallet and Jill Karfosky, Bradley wrote "it may behoove us" to give that decision a second look, though no parties asked the court to overturn that decision in the Wolfe case.

Ann Walsh Bradley cited Dallet's dissent in that 2022 case that the majority opinion rested "on shaky ground" and the possibility it could lead to "absurd results' such as Prehn serving as long as he wanted, so long as the

state Senate didn't confirm a successor nominated by the The Capitol Report is

written by the editorial staff at WisPolitics.com, a nonpartisan, Madisonbased news service that specializes in coverage of government and politics and is distributed for publication by members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. For more, go to www. wispolitics.com.

# **Know your legal rights**

# Life after divorce: How to modify, enforce, and navigate court orders

Even after a Wisconsin court finalizes your divorce, issues like changing circumstances, custody disputes or noncompliance with court orders may require legal action. Here's what you need to know about common postdivorce legal issues and how to address them.

### How to modify court orders when circumstances change

Life is unpredictable, and the terms of your divorce may not always fit your changing situation. Wisconsin law allows you to request a modification of court orders related to child custody, placement, or financial matters if there is a substantial change

For example, if you lose your job or experience a significant reduction in income, you may need to seek a modification of child support or spousal maintenance. Changes in your child's life, like starting school or needing nonemergency medical care, or changes in your job, may require adjustments to custody

If you and your ex-spouse agree to changes, you don't



**KELLY** DODD Contributor

need to go back to court, but the changes must be submitted in writing for court approval. If you disagree, you can file a motion, and the court will hold a hearing to decide whether the changes should be made.

### **Enforcing court orders** when your ex-spouse doesn't comply

Unfortunately, not everyone follows court orders. If your former spouse refuses to comply with the terms of your divorce judgment, legal action may be necessary.

Common enforcement issues include unpaid child support, violating custody and placement agreements or refusing to divide assets. In some cases, enforcement may involve filing a motion with the court to require the other party to comply.

Courts can enforce orders through wage garnishment, tax refund seizures and make-up parenting time. You have a

right to expect that court orders will be followed and that violations will be addressed.

Sometimes unanticipated events make it difficult or impossible for you to follow court orders. If this happens, you can file a motion to modify orders that no longer apply or seek relief from orders you are unable to follow.

### **Contempt of Court:** Consequences of willfully ignoring orders

If your ex-spouse willfully disobevs a court order. you may need to request that the court hold them in contempt. accidental or unavoidable noncompliance, contempt is the intentional violation of a court order. It is a serious legal matter with significant consequences.

Examples of contempt include refusing to provide required financial information, failing to make support payments without a valid reason, or making major decisions for a child (such as schooling or healthcare) without the other parent's

If you file a motion for contempt, the court will hold a hearing where both parties can finds contempt, it may impose sanctions such as fines, jail time, make-up parenting time or other measures to enforce compliance

present their case. If the court

### Take Action: When to seek legal help

If you need to modify or enforce a court order, it's crucial to seek legal advice. An experienced family law attorney can explain your options and guide you through the process.

Post-divorce legal issues can be complex and emotionally charged, especially when children are involved. Addressing them quickly with legal help protects your rights and improves outcomes. You're not alone – laws exist to help you adapt, enforce your rights, and ensure compliance with court orders. Acting sooner can make all the difference.

Know Your Legal Rights is a bi-monthly column distributed by the State Bar of Wisconsin. Kelly M. Dodd is the Chief Operating Officer of Karp & Iancu S.C. where she oversees their Family Law and Appellate Practice teams. To find an attorney near you, visit wislaw.org.

## **ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

City of Burlington Burlington, WI 53105

Sealed Bids, for the City of Burlington (Owner) "2025 Burlington (Owner) "2025 Burlington Sidewalk Pro-Burlington gram" contract, will be received by the City of Burlington, Wisconsin, until Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., CDT. Bids are **REQUIRED** to be **SUB- MITTED ELECTRONICALLY** through www.QuestCDN.com. Bids will be opened and read aloud via a Microsoft Teams conference call at the above time and date, with results posted online shortly thereafter. Instructions to join the Teams conference call are as follows:

Join Teams Meeting by Web Browser: Meeting ID: 289 296 231 826 Passcode: vh2Jo6kd

Or call in and join Teams meeting by mobile (audio only) 1-414-662-4839 Phone Conference ID: 273 045

430#

The work includes furnishing of all materials and equipment and performance of the following work, according to the Plans, Specifications and Contract Documents (PS & CD).

The Base Bid work for the above contract includes removal and replacement of sidewalk in the respective locations throughout the City of Burlington. Major items of work and approximate quantities for which bids are requested include: 5200 SF Concrete Sidewalk 4-Inch, 550 SF Concrete Sidewalk 6-Inch, and

10 SY Asphalt Patching. The Bidding Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders, General Conditions, Supplementary Conditions, Bid Bond, Agreement, Drawings and Specifications, may be examined at QuestCDN.com by inputting Quest project #9531328 on the

website's Project Search page. A Bidders qualification statement form will be issued with the Bid Documents and must be completed and submitted online along with the bid submittal.

No Bid will be accepted from any Bidder who has not submitted a Bidders Qualification Statement form. Contractors who have submitted a prequalification statement to the Owner, for this calendar year and for the work specific to this project, shall state this on their Bidders
Qualification Statement form. These qualification forms, and

prequalification forms, will be re-

viewed; however, updated proof

of qualification may be request-

ed by the Owner prior to accep-

reserves the right to reject the Bid of any Bidder who has been determined to be unqualified.

As a part of their Bids, Bidders shall submit a full and complete list of all their proposed Subcontractors, and the class of work which each will perform. The selected Contractor shall not alter this list without the written consent of the Owner. The PS & CD require that the selected Contractor and Subcontractor(s) furnish a Certificate of Insurance.

All Bids shall be accompanied by Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond, bank money order, or a qualified certified check, payable to the Owner, in the amount equal to five percent of the Bid. This requirement serves to guarantee that, if the Owner accepts the Bid, the selected Contractor will execute and deliver the proper Contract Agreement and Bonds within 15 calendar days after the Notice of Award by the Owner. Failure to return these documents within this prescribed time will result in forfeiture, to the Owner, of the select-ed Contractor's Bid Security, as liquidated damages. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for Bids to be accepted. Bidders may not withdraw their Bid within the 90-day period after the date of the bid opening.

Complete digital project bidding documents (PS & CD) will only be available at www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$22.00 (non-refundable) by inputting Quest project #9531328 on the website's Project Search page Please cented. ect Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

Bidding documents will be available on or before Thursday, February 13, 2025.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive or not waive any informality in the bids received and to accept any proposal, which they deem most favorable to the interests of the

> City of Burlington Diahnn Halbach, City Člerk

(Published in Standard Press Feb. 13 & 20, 2025 WNAXLP - 467753)

NOTICE OF HEARING VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER MARCH 10, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Village Board of the Village of Rochester, Racine County, Wisconsin, of a public hearing on Ordinance No. 2025-1:

"An Ordinance Amending Certain Sections of the Village of Rochester Zoning Code to Correct and Clarify Minor Errors"

to be held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in the Roches-ter Village Hall, 300 West Spring Street, Rochester, Wisconsin. This location is handicap accessible. If you have any other special needs, please contact the Rochester Village Clerk at (262)

# THE ORDINANCE CORRECTS MINOR ERRORS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER ZONING CODE:

SECTION 1: The proposed adds the R-10 Residential Farming District and the B-7 Mixed-Business Use District to the list of zoning districts located within Section 35-29, entitled "Zoning Districts," of the Village of Rochester Municipal Code.

SECTION 2: The proposed or-dinance repeals and recreates Section 35-34 entitled "R-4 Multiple-Family Residential District," Subsection A. entitled "Uses." Paragraph 1. entitled "Permitted Principal Uses," and removes an unnecessary reference within that section.

SECTION 3: The proposed ordinance repeals and recreates Section 36-500 entitled "Viola-tions and Penalties," Subsection C. entitled "Penalties," Paragraph 2. entitled "Double Fees, Injunctions and Suspension or Revocation," and corrects a reference to the penalty provision located in Section 35-100(K).

The complete text of the or-dinance is available upon request at the Rochester Village Hall, 300 W. Spring Street, Rochester, Wisconsin, or by emailing the village clerk: emailing the village dcolwell@rochesterwi.gov

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that at said hearing, opportunity will be given to any person or persons, whether or not represented by agent or attorney, to be heard either for or against the proposed ordinance. Written comments may be submitted at the above address or by email to dcolwell@rochesterwi.gov.

Dated at Rochester, Wisconsin. this 12th day of February, 2025.

> BY ORDER OF THE VILLAGE BOARD

> > **Daniel Colwell** Village Clerk

(Published in Standard Press Feb. 20 & 27, 2025 WNAXLP - 468065)

**NOTICE OF HEARING** on Proposed Conditional Use Permit

# Q-1, Quarry/Extractive District THE PLAN COMMISSION

**BURLINGTON** TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Plan Commission of the City of Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin, will conduct a hearing to discuss the proposed amendment to the Conditional Use Permit for:

Owner: Cretex Materials Inc. (C. J. Kress – manager) Applicant: Jonathan Schattner Location: 500 W. Market Street Zoning: Q-1, Quarry/Extractive

Use: To allow for a zero-foot setback on the south portion of the

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN

that a hearing on the above-men-

tioned Conditional Use Permit will be held by City Plan Commission in Council Chambers located in the Police Department, 224 E. Jefferson Street, in the City of Burlington on:

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 DURING THE MEETING OF THE PLAN COMMISSION SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M. OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER

Remote Meeting Log-In Information: Webinar Link: https://zoom.us/join Webinar ID: 821 2784 4977 Password: 441655 Telephone Dial: US: (312) 626-6799

To consider the above Conditional Use Permit and to hear persons in support thereof or opposition thereto.

CITY OF BURLINGTON PLAN COMMISSION

Dated at Burlington, Wisconsin, 17th day of February, 2025.

Diahnn Halbach, City Clerk

(Published in Standard Press Feb. 20 & 27, 2025 WNAXLP - 468190)

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT RACINE COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE

**Notice to Creditors** (Informal Administration) Case No. 2025PR27

**ESTATE OF** 

Harry N. Drechsler

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth January 23, 1933 and date of death October 22, 2024 was domiciled in Racine Coun-

ty, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 781 Chicory Road, Burlington, WI 53105.

All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a

claim against the decedent's estate is May 12, 2025.

5. A claim may be filed at the Racine County Courthouse, 730 Wisconsin Ave., Racine, Wisconsin Room. consin, Room.

> Electronically signed by Teresa Hill Probate Registrar January 27, 2025

Richard Scholze Ludwig, Gruhn & Scholze. Wishau SC P.O. Box 717 Burlington, WI 53105 262-763-8185 Bar Number 1003740

(Published in Standard Press Feb. 6, 13, & 20, 2025 WNAXLP - 467441)

# **LIEN SALE**

NOTICE: There will be a sale at our facility "YOUR STOR ALL," located at 421 N. Milwaukee St., Waterford, WI. Items for sale will include the personal items stored by David Day. If payments for back rent are not paid in full by 2/21/25, a sale date will be scheduled to help pay for the delinquent payments due. Items will be sold AFTER 2/21/25. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 534-6779

Your Stor All

(Published in Standard Press Feb. 13 & 20, 2025 WNAXLP - 467792)

## **INVITATION TO BID** Town of Spring Prairie Walworth County

**OWNER:** Town of Spring Prairie, Walworth County, Wisconsin hereby gives notice that they will receive sealed bids for sealcoating of town roads. Sealed bids shall be in a separate envelope and shall be clearly labeled.

"2025 Town of Spring Prairie Sealcoating - Sealed Bid En-

BID DEADLINE: Sealed bids will be received by the Town of Spring Prairie until 6:45 p.m. CDT, on Monday, March 10th, 2025, at the Town of Spring Prairie Town Hall, N6097 State Road 120, Burlington, Wiscon-

BID OPENING: Sealed Bids will be opening publicly and read aloud at a special Town Board meeting on Monday, March 10th, 2025, at the Town of Spring Prairie Town Hall, N6097 State Road 120, Burlington, Wisconsin, **CONTRACT AWARD:** Award will be made at the bid opening or by the next town board meeting Monday April 14th, 2025. All bids will be reviewed for accuracy and completeness before an award is made. Owner reserves the right to postpone the award of the Contract for a period not exceeding 60 days from the date

PROJECT: The work, officially known as "2025 Town Road Sealcoating – Town of Spring Prairie" consists of the following:

of the bid opening Bids shall re-

main firm for that period of time.

Sealcoating and mastic patching of the following Town Roads or portions thereof:

The bid shall include the follow-1. HFRS2 or equivalent liquid

asphalt furnished, heated, and applied at a rate of .28 gallons per square yard. Sealcoating to be done with

½" black granite.3. All surfaces swept prior to

chip sealing.

4. Sweeping of excess aggregate with a pick-up broom to be completed within two to seven (2-7) days after appli-

The road list is as follows:

Hargraves Rd - Potter Rd to Hwy D approx. 1.9mi Spring Prairie Rd - Johnson Rd to Hwy DD approx. 1.0mi Johnson Rd - Spring Prairie Rd to Potter Rd approx. 1.0mi

The length and widths of the road are approximate. Road lengths and widths are to be verified by the contractor. Bid prices for each road shall be complete prices. No estimates will be ac-

For more information, please contact Jeff Siegler at 262-949-1674 for additional detail or reach out to the Town Hall at 262-642-7477, via cell 262-441-1721 or clerk@townofspringprairiewi.

REJECTIONS/ACCEP-TANCE: Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informalities in bidding, or to accept the bid or bids which best serve the interests of the Town.

BID WITHDRAWL: No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of 15 days after the scheduled open-ing of the bids without the consent of the Owner.

(Published in Elkhorn Independent and Standard Press Feb. 20, 27, & March 6 and East Troy News Feb. 21, 28, & March 7, 2025 WNAXLP - 468176) **WRESTLING** 

# **Burlington advances 11 boys, two** girls to sectional competition

The Burlington High School boys wrestling team had four regional title winners and advanced a total of 11 athletes to the WIAA Division 1 sectional meet set for Saturday at Wilmot Union High

The 11 total qualifiers moved to the sectional from a Feb. 15 regional meet at Wil-

At the regional meet, Patrick Skrundz (126 pounds), Landon Jacobs (138), Kade Boyd (165) and Elijah Myers (190) each won titles.

Skrundz (36-7) went 3-0 and beat Kettle Moraine's Spencer Prado (37-6) 6-4 for

Jacobs (34-10) also finished 3-0 and won by technical fall (15-0) in 3:48 against Westosha Central's Alex Martinez (32-6).

Boyd (39-4) went 2-0 and pinned Union Grove's Evan Petrick (32-11) in 1:04 in the championship match and Myers (30-11) won twice and beat Waterford's Camden Shaw (27-15) 5-4 for the

At 113, Evan Gill (29-8) lost 14-11 to Wilmot's William DuChemin (39-4) in the title match and came in second. Gill won three matches.

Ben Guerra (35-4) at 144 went 3-1 and lost by technical fall (15-0) in 4:14 to Waukesha West's Torin Kuokkanen to finish second.

Cash Vanderwerff (32-8) at 106 and Mason Koldeway (28-19) at 150 finished third and Carson Cramer (34-13) at 157, Porter Tiedt (33-11) at 175 and Kyle Czaplewski (14-21) at 215 each came in

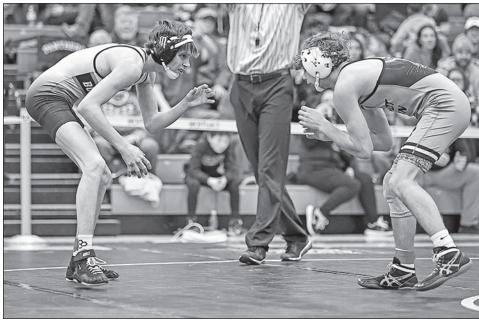
The Demons finished second to Waukesha West for the regional title by four points - 203 to West's 207. Eight teams competed.

"I was happy with the effort and how we wrestled at regionals for both the boys and girls teams," Demons coach Jade Gribble said. "On the boys side, Landon Jacobs and Elijah Myers both had great days and are wrestling the best they have all season.

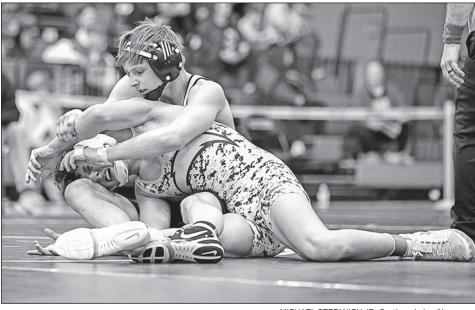
I think on the girls side Lauren Haase had a great day and is just starting to wrestle her best."

### Two girls advance to sectionals

On Feb. 14 at Mukwonago High School, Maggie Hansen (138) and Lauren Haase (152) both finished among the top four in regional competition



Burlington's Evan Gill (left) prepares to battle William DuChemin from Wilmot in the 113-pound title match on Feb. 15 at Wilmot Union High School.



Burlington's Patrick Skrundz attempts to control Spencer Prado from Kettle Moraine during the 126-pound regional title match.

and advanced to Friday's sectional competition at Whitewater High School. Haase (16-9) went 3-1 and

finished second in her weight Badger's Olivia Sheldon

(26-11) pinned Haase (0:35) in the first-place match. Hasse pinned Mukwo-

nago's Zoe Krause (23-10) in 3:25 in the second-place Maggie Hansen (26-6)

on three matches ar in second at 138.

Badger's Carley Ceshker (29-0) pinned Hansen (0:45) in the title match.

Ruby Gould (11-12) fin-

ished fifth at 165. The Demons also had sixth-place finishes from Madison Bertrang (9-11) at 185 and Gina Dagostino (20-15) at 126.



MICHAEL STEFANICH JB. Southern Lakes Newspapers

Landon Jacobs, of Burlington, cradles Westosha Central's Alex Martinez during the first-place match at 138 pounds at the regional meet.

## **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

# Schmidt's game-high not enough in loss to Martin Luther

By Chris Bennett CORRESPONDENT

Whitney Schmidt scored a game-high 17 points for the Burlington High School girls basketball team in a Feb. 14 non-conference contest at Martin Luther in

However, Schmidt's top performance wasn't enough as the Demons lost 46-42 and dropped to 10-12 overall and remained 6-6 in Southern Lakes Conference play.

Burlington coach Jack Schmidt said the team struggled offensively but defended well against Martin

In addition to Whitney Schmidt, Tatijana Ninkovic scored 14 points and grabbed a team-leading 12 rebounds, while Aubrey Reesman added 11 points.

"She is playing her best basketball over the past few weeks," Schmidt said of Reesman. "She has had some huge baskets and has raised her defensive level of play. I'm really proud of her."

Camryn Lau led Martin Luther (10-12) with 11 points.

## Westosha Central 66, Burlington 57

On Feb. 13 in Burlington, the Demons trailed by double digits at halftime and lost 66-57 to visiting Westosha Central in a conference contest.

"We struggled in the first half and had numerous girls in foul trouble," Jack Schmidt said. "It was a super physical game, and we were down close to 20 at

The Demons trailed 34-18 at halftime.

Burlington outscored Central 39-32 in the second "We made a run at them in the second half and got

(the deficit) to, I believe seven points," Jack Schmidt said. "The hill was too high to climb." Ninkovic scored a game-high 26 points and

grabbed 10 rebounds. Jenna Weis scored 11 points. Keara Griffin led Central (12-9, 8-4 SLC) with 21

See GIRLS BASKETBALL, Back Page

## **BOYS SWIMMING**

# **Swim team advances** Smith to state meet

By Chris Bennett CORRESPONDENT

Smith of the Burlington Co-op boys high school swim team qualified for state in two events out of the Feb. 15 WIAA Division 1 sectional meet at the Racine Unified Aquatic Center.

Burlington Co-op consists of swimmers from Burlington, Catholic Central, East Troy, Union Grove and Polster came in third in the Waterford high schools. The WIAA Division 1

State Boys Swimming and relay (1:43.80). Diving Championships are South High School Natatori-

Smith, a senior, attends East Troy and will swim for the University of South Dakota next year.

At the sectional tournaevent plus the next 18 fastest individuals/relay teams the sectional title (356).

statewide, not including the sectional winners, advance to state. There are six Division 1 sectional meets

Smith won the 100-yard backstroke in 50.40 seconds and finished second in the 200-yard individual medley in 1:54.96 and qualified for state in each event.

Smith, Parker Rydelski, Nathan Hynes and Paxton 400 freestyle relay (3:28.36) and sixth in the 200 medley

Rydelski came in fifth in Saturday at the Waukesha the 500 freestyle (5:08.63) and Polster finished ninth in the 100 freestyle (54.69).

Isaiah Rosa, Samuel Beaudette, Cody Nelson and Elliot Pedersen finished ninth in the 20 freestyle relay (1:48.98).

The Demons finished sixth ment, the winner in each in the 11-team meet with 172 points. Badger Co-op won

**BOYS BASKETBALL** 

# Missed opportunities

# Demons fall to Falcons in SLC meeting

By Chris Bennett CORRESPONDENT

Burlington School boys basketball team experienced missed opportunities in a Feb. 14 Southern Lakes Conference loss to visiting Westosha Central. Westosha Central, which

led 27-23 at halftime, outscored the Demons 31-26 in the second half en route to a

Burlington dropped to 8-12 overall and 4-7 in the SLC following the loss to Westosha Central (15-7, 11-1 SLC). Burlington co-coach Kyle

Scott said his squad missed too many easy shots against the Falcons. "We work really hard to

get quality shots," Scott said. "When they present themselves, we have to make them. Our effort is always there." Cole Walby led the De-

mons with 18 points. Grant Sulik scored 15 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Elijah Griffin finished with a game-high 19 points for Central, one of four Falcons to score in double figures.

"The baseline for us is to play hard, always," Scott said. We need to learn to finish

See DEMONS, Back Page





Above: The Burlington **High School Athletic** Wall of Fame welcomed three new members to its group and received a halftime introduction during the Burlington and Westosha Central boys basketball game. Shown, from left, are: Rosemary Dolatowski, Ellie Grandi, and Matt Kuchenbecker. At left: Burlington's **Grant Sulik finishes** off a layup during the team's Southern **Lakes Conference** loss on Feb. 14 against visiting Westosha Central.

JOHN FISHER PHOTOS Southern Lakes Newspapers

# **BOYS BASKETBALL**

# Toppers fall to Kingdom Prep Lutheran in MCC contest

The Catholic Central High School boys basketball team experienced some turbulence in recent games with injuries and illnesses.

However, after a difficult stretch of games, the Hilltoppers regained some momentum in a Midwest Classic Conference loss on Monday to visiting Kingdom Prep Lutheran.

The Hilltoppers, who trailed 49-36 at halftime, responded with a 41-35 second half before losing 84-

Catholic Central coach Steve Smith noted the team endured some hiccups and bounced back. "We rebounded with a good game against a mid-tier

conference opponent," he said. After allowing 10 offensive rebounds and

committing 11 turnovers in the first half, the Hilltoppers performed better in the second half, according to Smith. "We were able to cut the 13-point halftime deficit

to tying the game up at 64 with 6:24 left in the second half," Smith said. "We spent a lot of energy and effort trying to come back and simply ran out of time." Sam Fait registered a game-high 47 points and

collected nine rebounds for the Hilltoppers.

Catholic Central received additional contributions from Quinn Graf (nine points), Wyatt Leiting (seven points), and Nate Rohner (seven points).

"Defensively, Quin and Wyatt guarded KPL's primary scorer and did an excellent job particularly in the second half," Smith said.

Kingdom Prep Lutheran (8-11, 6-7 MCC) scorers consisted of Myles Zawacki (28 points), Ladarius Finkley (22 points), Josh Fumbanks (12 points), and Amadi Crowder (10 points).

Catholic Central dropped to 5-17 overall and 2-12 in MCC play following the loss.

"The experience of playing in a close game is important and I think will help as playoffs approach," Smith said. "Nate Robson contributed seven rebounds

See BOYS BASKETBALL, Back Page

# **BUW Gymnastics** notches fourth in competitive Nordy Invite

By Chris Bennett CORRESPONDENT

Page 8

The Burlington/Badger/Union Grove/Wilmot/ Williams Bay high school gymnastics team posted several season bests and finished fourth in a strong field in the Feb. 15 Nordy Invite at Mukwonago High BUW competes in the Southern Lakes Conference

meet Friday at Waterford. Coach Andrea Chart said five of the eight schools in BUW's sectional competed at the Nordy. "The meet is a great preview to where we stand as

we head into the postseason," Chart said. "The girls did great overall and we were able to achieve several season highs.'

Delaney Nottestad tied for fourth in the floor exercise (9.25) for BUW's best individual finish. Penny Zubor finished 10th (8.85). Janesville Craig's Rya Arreazola won the event (9.6). Kayden Jarvis came in eighth on the uneven bars

(8.675). Nottestad finished 10th (8.55). Waukesha West/South's Lexi Hummer came in first (9.325). Kayden Jarvis finished 14th on beam (8.725).

Kenosha Combined's Jayda Riley finished first (9.5). Zubor tied for 16th in the vault (8.4). Arrowhead's Payton Eicher came in first (9.25).

Maryn Jarvis finished 12th in the all-around (34.025). Hummer came in first (36.325).

Chart said BUW dealt with a lot of small mistakes during the meet, which she said is a reminder to remain vigilant in practice and not be complacent as the postseason draws near.

Not only does every tenth count on the road to state, but we are in such a difficult sectional that truly every half of a tenth counts," Chart said. "Hitting routines and skills but not being "perfect" at this meet is more motivation to fix it for conference and

BUW scored 134.9 points at the Nordy. Arrowhead won the 12-team meet (142.3). Chart said the team is in a good place following a tough test.

We feel really great with where we are with several girls and their chances of making it to state," Chart said. "We are battling some injuries and body aches but, overall, the girls are in a really good headspace and motivated to push themselves in the coming weeks.'

# Girls basketball

(Continued from page 7)

### Burlington 39, Waterford 33

The Demons outscored the Wolverines 29-15 in the second half and won 39-33 Feb. 11 at Waterford in a SLC game.

Jack Schmidt said Burlington struggled in the first half. The Demons trailed 19-10 at halftime.

"We played really hard in the second half, and Jenna Weis made some big Schmidt said. "We were then able to pull it out down the stretch."

three 3-point field goals. Reesman finished with nine rebounds and Ninkovic and Dakota Taylor each tallied

McKinley Karpinski led the Wolverines (9-13, 4-8

shots to keep us in it," Jack

SLC) with 13 points.

# Weis scored a game-high 14 points and finished with

# WELCOME TO THE CITY OF BURLINGTON ICE TESTIVAL HOME OF THE WISCONSIN STATE ICE CARVING CHAMPIONSHIP Motorists and pedestrians along Pine Street receive a welcome message announcing the City of Burlington as

the home of the Wisconsin State Ice Carving Championship.

(Continued from front page)

# Ice carving

Boyle said their planning for the annual Christmas parade also played a role in the schedule change.

Based on early observations, she said she has heard nothing but positive reviews from visitors and businesses alike about the change.

"The feedback we have gotten has been super positive in that it brings a bunch of people to downtown that maybe don't normally go downtown in the middle of February," Boyle said. "Usually after the holidays, there is a little bit of a slow time downtown for retailers."

Boyle estimates hundreds of cups of hot cocoa have been distributed to patrons attending both events with some establishments exhausting their supplies.

## Ideal conditions

Returning ice sculptors, including Burlington's Austin, noted weather conditions on Feb. 15 were complementary to their mission of creating works of art.

"The weather is perfect. There is no sun and it's not too cold. It is cold enough to keep the ice in a solid form. But it's not so cold that I am freezing and dying out here,' Austin said.

In recent years, December was unpredictable, including sunny weather that expedited the melting of ice blocks.

JASON ARNDT Southern Lakes Newspapers

Dan Ingrebrigtson, of Franklin, chisels away to create his ice sculpture.

"The sun is our enemy," Austin said.

The Burlington area and beyond received substantial snowfall leading up the event, which saw overcast skies and ideal temperatures.

Dan Ingebrigtson, Franklin, acknowledged Wisconsin's unpredictable winter season and always returns to

the exhibition because of the people and competition.

"It brings the crowd out. It is a perfect day," he said. "(The weather) is always a crapshoot. You never know what weather you are going to get here."

Kaplan, who met her boyfriend through the U.S. Air Force, delivered a seal of approval to the Burlington community and event.

"I think this is really special. It's a good way to get people out and connected to the community," Kaplan said. "I have seen so many people being so kind and welcoming to each other, liking holding open doors and passing around hot chocolate.'

# Boys basketball

(Continued from page 7) and excellent defense."

Smith also commended Rohner's effort and ball handling against Kingdom Prep's full-court press.

### Watertown Luther Prep 85, Catholic Central 52

Watertown Luther Prep used a 54-30 first half to defeat host Catholic Central 85-52 on Feb. 13 in Burlington.

Fait contributed 28 points, five rebounds and four assists for the Hilltoppers.

Graf scored 13 points and had four rebounds.

Gabe Nottling (21 points), Michel Krebs (15 points), Sam Splinter (14 points), and Levi Nottling (10 points) contributed for Watertown Luther Prep (8-10, 6-7 MCC).

# **Demons** (Continued from page 7)

end."

Westosha Central coach James Hyllberg said the Demons, who defeated the Falcons earlier in the season, hard." always presents a challenge when playing in Burlington.

"We were able to make some key free throws and secure some huge rebounds which is what you need to do to win close games. I'm proud

games now on the offensive and finished the game. Winning at Burlington is never easy as Kyle Scott and Steve Berezowitz always have their

### Burlington 70, Waterford 52

On Feb. 11 in Waterford, the Demons lost 70-52 to the state-ranked Wolverines.

Waterford (18-3, 11-1 of the way we kept our poise SLC), ranked eighth in the Di- ply ran out of gas down the

Choice of 8-12oz

Green Beans with

vision 2 WisSports.net Boys Basketball Coaches Poll, led and outscored the Demons 38-31 in the second half.

trailed by 12 points midway through the second half and rallied to take a two-point lead with eight minutes left in regulation.

"We played hard, that's for sure," Scott said. "We sim-

Scott said Burlington de-

Burlington 32-21 at halftime fended well and at a high level against the Wolverines, but fell victim to too many mis-Scott said the Demons takes at the wrong time.

Sulik scored 15 points and tallied five rebounds and five assists. Mason Tomczyk finished with 12 points, five rebounds and five assists.

Caden Gustafson scored a game-high 33 points for the Wolverines.

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SECTION TWO /FEB. 20-21, 2025

# A UNIQUE WEDDING VENUE

# Barn, outdoor sites offer many options to couples

By Sandra Landen Machaj

CORRESPONDENT

hose seeking a unique bridal and event venue may want to consider Boxed and Burlap, on Highway 67 near Highway 50, Delavan, which has been transformed into an elegant space. The property, originally a one-building, two-bedroom farmhouse, was purchased by Lindsay and John Neighbors in 2016 and transformed into a coffee house. It's easy to spot, with "COFFEE" in large letters along the building, encouraging drivers to stop for a cup of quality, self-roasted coffee. The store also carries tea and pastries.

John began renovating the property when the couple purchased it, turning the house into the coffee shop and adding a greenhouse. The garage was transformed into Batten House, which today is used as a bride's room for weddings

In addition, he built a large barn, capable of holding up to 250 guests at any event. Originally built to hold boats, the couple ran a small garden shop on the property. At Christmas time, John and Lindsay sold Christmas trees and wreaths in the parking lot for a few years.

It didn't take long for the space to grow into a wedding and event venue. The first wedding was held there in 2018.

"They were all family weddings," said Megan Garcia, sales manager for Boxed and Burlap. In 2020, the space officially became a wedding and event venue, and about 55 couples now tie the knot there each year.

While barn weddings have become popular over recent years, there is a difference between the barn at Boxed and Burlap and many others. Unlike many barns, formerly used to house animals and hay, this venue's barn is new with large, windowed doors and skylights to allow natural light to shine in.

Bright clear decorative lights are hung near the ceiling, adding to the ambiance. A built-in bar is at one end of the building, with a separate building for caterers to assemble the food they will be serving.

There are two outdoor ceremony sites, each beautiful in its own way," shared Garcia. "One has a background of trees and the other is more of a garden space. And if the weather doesn't

cooperate, the ceremony can be moved indoors. "By holding it in front of one of the large glass doors, the same beautiful forest background is still seen," she explained. Rental for a wedding includes the barn as well as Batten

House, traditionally used by the bridal party for preparing makeup and hair. It's a place to relax as wedding festivities begin.

'While the bride and her attendants have a place to enjoy and prepare, we have not forgotten the groom and the groomsmen," said Garcia, adding that an Airstream was purchased and is being transformed into a groom's space.

Rental begins at 8 a.m. the day of the event to allow ample time to decorate for it. The rental of the space includes round tables and white plastic chairs, but the design of the space and setting it up is the responsibility of the renters. Renters can

See BOXED & BURLAP, Page 3



COURTESY WANDERLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY Southern Lakes Newspapers The large white barn at Boxed and Burlap features a large open space inside allowing for nearly any setup desired, for weddings as well as other gatherings.



COURTESY WANDERLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY Southern Lakes Newspapers

Inside Boxed and Burlap's barn, the space is elegantly prepared for a reception. With lighting from chandeliers and plenty of room, it's an ideal space for a wedding or other group gathering.

# owntown location has offee, art classes and more

In 2023, a second Boxed and Burlap location opened, this one in downtown Delavan.

The large coffee shop and luncheon venue features plenty of space to visit with friends while enjoying the quality coffee roasted there and used at both locations.

This space is a large venue that has a long history in Delavan, located on the famous Brick Street (East Walworth Avenue), named such from the bricks that were used to pave the street that date back to when the circus wintered in

The building was first used as Schulz's Five and Dime and later was part of a clothing store. Today, the multi-use space incorporates a coffee shop, coffee roasting area, rental space for groups, an art gallery and a speakeasy.

Lindsay Neighbors was an art teacher and dreamed of bringing an art space to downtown Delavan. On the first floor, a studio is used by Shannon Osbourne and Rachel Catlett to teach painting classes for people of different ages and abilities.

"We hope to add ceramics and pottery classes in the near future to fully extend the arts experience," Garcia said.

The lower level of the downtown store also serves as an event space, decorated by a

Chicago graffiti artist Lindsay brought in. Additionally downstairs features the speakeasy, called Bar 119. Just as in the days of prohibition, it's a private space that requires a password to access through the secret entrance. There are people who have paid memberships to Bar 119 and may enter at any time the bar is open. Special events require a ticket be purchased.

Non-members may still visit Bar 119 by



COURTESY BOXED AND BURLAP Southern Lakes Newspapers Boxed and Burlap in downtown Delavan is a beautiful and relaxing space.

asking a member of the staff for the password and being directed to the secret entry. There is a cover charge for non-members.

Boxed and Burlap is at 230 E. Walworth St., Delavan. The hours are Sunday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Friday and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to midnight. To learn more, visit boxedandburlap.com.



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# money sense

# Moves to consider during a career transition

# Look at options in advance

If you are navigating a career transition, what financial moves should you consider? Here are five things you need to know before making a move.

• Know the money involved. If your transition is due to a layoff or early retirement package, you need to understand how much money you'll receive and for how long. Will the money stop if you accept a new role, will you accrue sick leave and vacation time during your transition and will you be paid for unused leave at your final resignation date? You should also investigate if you qualify for any programs that would support you during your transition.

 Know your benefits package. Many companies and organizations offer extended benefit packages for those transitioning into retirement or being laid off. For example, the Federal government may offer coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program, or you can research programs like the Temporary Continuation of Coverage, which can last up to 18 months for separating employees. Regardless of your situation, doing your research and asking questions about understanding what programs and support is available to you is key.

• Know your retirement plan options. Many Americans have retirement savings in 401Ks and similar programs. Government employees use the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). You should work with a financial professional who can explain how you'll be taxed on withdrawals from these accounts, should you need them. In some cases, you can qualify for early retirement and can avoid the 10% early withdrawal penalties. If you're transitioning to a new role, you may have the option to transfer past accounts like your TSP to a new employer's 401(k) if the plan accepts transfers. Finally, you could roll over your existing savings plan into an IRA allowing you to avoid immediate taxes and potentially providing you with some attractive investment options.

 Review your finances and budget. What sources of income can you count on during this transition? If you have built an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, you may need to tap into it. If you were already nearing retirement age, you might start drawing on Social Security, even if it's earlier than you planned. If you aren't near retirement age, you may be able to find some part-time work until you land your next full-time job. At the same time, you may want to closely examine your budget to find areas in which you can cut back. One of the many free budgeting apps available online can prove useful in this area.

• Get some answers – and some help. You may want to consult with a financial professional, who can provide advice and guidance and help you work toward your short- and long-term

This can unquestionably be a challenging time for you. But by looking at all your options, drawing on all your resources and getting some financial advice and guidance, you can make decisions that can help you be prepared for whatever life throws at you.

This article was written by Edward Jones.

business



Sydney Huisinga, owner of Ellie Bean Boutique, stands near just a few of the many items available at her store in Burlington.

# Kids consignment store under new ownership

Ellie Bean Boutique, Burlington, offers affordable prices





Ellie Bean Boutique, 265 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington features hundreds of children's consigners. Owner Huisinga instills her passion for outfit arrangements, decorating and children's products at her business.

PILATES REFORMED

A children's consignment store in Burlington recently underwent an ownership and name change.

Previously known as grayson grape & co, 265 Milwaukee Ave., first-time mother Sydney Huisinga and fiancé Caleb Kresken bought the establishment from owner Dana Erickson and transformed the business into "Ellie Bean Boutique" in honor of their

Huisinga, a 2020 Burlington High School graduate, officially reopened the business on Jan. 16 after she spent time working with

"I was already working here and had already been doing a lot of it for a while," she said. "It is pretty much the same shop. We did change a little bit in the shop to make it more of our own. But other than that, it is pretty much the same.'

its predecessor, features new and gently worn clothing, toys, baby items, books, and many other products from hundreds of consigners.

Ellie Bean Boutique, like

Huisinga said Ellie Bean Boutique touts diverse product offerings at affordable prices.

"We have a lot of baby items and we carry up to like an adult extra small, so a lot of clothing and a lot

of bamboo," she said, adding that they also have maternity clothing available as well, also at discounted prices.

"Our consigners that were with grayson grape got transferred to us, so we kept building up what we already had.'

### Finding a purpose

Originally from Lake Geneva, Huisinga attended Badger High School as a freshman before moving to Burlington, where she completed the last three years at Burlington High School.

Around the time she gave birth to Ellie, who is now 2 years old, Huisinga discovered grayson grape and immediately fell in love with

"It was perfect because I had a place to go for all of my baby stuff and I saved money," Huisinga said. "It was really nice to have."

As a stay-at-home mother, Huisinga said she wanted to reconnect with the community and began helping Erickson at grayson grape.

"I was looking for something to help me get out of the house and back into the community, and helping Dana a couple of days a week was exactly what I needed," Huisinga wrote in her introductory announcement late in 2024.

# 'Reformed' look at mobility, fitness

Everyone can benefit from Pilates at new studio in Whitewater

By Jennifer Eisenbart STAFF WRITER

After Mariah Lohff had her first child in January of 2023, she noticed something.

Her normally fit body didn't exactly do what she wanted it to anymore. A life-long dancer who turned to weightlifting as she got older, Lohff said she suddenly couldn't even lift an "easy" weight 90 pounds.

The pelvic floor, it's completely torn apart," she said of giving birth.

What Lohff discovered in her aim to become better educated about exercise was Pilates. Now, roughly two years later, she is opening her own studio, Pilates Reformed,

in Whitewater – a city that has become home to her after both she and her husband graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Pilates is not only for everyone – and I truly mean for anyone – I can work with any mobility level," Lohff explained. The studio officially opened

Monday, with a ribbon cutting at 131 W. Center St., Whitewater. Following the ribbon cutting was a mini-class and demonstration of the key piece of equipment Lohff uses the Reformer. Pilates, she explained, offers a

little something for everyone. While Lohff worked on Pilates with her mother-in-law to help with range of motion in the woman's shoulder, Pilates can be used at whatever level it needs to be.

Beginners work with a far different set of exercises than the advanced level, but Pilates has also become a popular workout for professional and high-level athletes.

'You'd be hard-pressed to find a professional athlete that hasn't tried Pilates," Lohff explained. NBA great LeBron James does the exercise, but so does golfer Tiger Woods.

It's also popular among Olympians – gold medalists Kerri Walsh-Jennings (volleyball) and Missy Franklin (swimming) have tried it as well. Even gold-medal gymnast Simone Biles has tried Pilates – though, in her case, it's one of the few things she found difficult and won't be going back to.

As Lohff explains, once she got into Pilates, she discovered how much it toned the entire body -

something that creator Joseph Pilates intended when he started the exercise practice during World War I while interned in a British camp. Lohff prefers

exercise - using the Reformer, but Pilates can be performed on a mat as well. Mat work and early Reformer work both provide a base for those performing the exercises to move up to more advanced moves.

Currently, Lohff offers only Reformer Pilates. With the Reformer basically a platform with a sliding carriage allowing resistance exercises using loops and springs - beginners start out on their backs and engage their core while also working specific muscle groups.

Each workout at Lohff's studio is 50 minutes long. As people progress from the beginner levels into intermediate and advanced, workouts can go from one a week to two or perhaps even three - and exercises progress from not just on the back but in kneeling and standing positions as well.

Lohff is certified to teach Reformer 1 and 2, as well as prenatal and post-natal Pilates. She also now owns a triangle wedge, which allows pregnant women to work in positions other than on their side once they are past 16 weeks in the

pregnancy. "I highly recommend Pilates if



SUBMITTED PHOTO Southern Lakes Newspape

Earlier this week, Pilates Reformed owner Mariah Lohff celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting for her new business, at 131 W. Center in Whitewater. Behind her are the Reformer machines she uses in her studio.

anyone is pregnant, as a way for preparing the body for childbirth," Lohff said. "But I also recommend it for post-natal recovery. Pilates is a game-changer.'

She is currently staffing the studio with herself and one other employee but is still looking for at least one other teacher who can potentially handle early morning classes.

As Lohff's career progressed from human resources to owning this studio, one important thing has

remained constant. "It's helping people," she said, adding that she also volunteers in

the Whitewater community. "It's what's been consistent in my career.

"It's just the next endeavor for me - how I give back. I'll never stop learning about how to be better at this," she said.

Classes and costs for Lohff's studio can be found at pilatesreformedww.com.

For more information, contact Lohff by calling 715-571-2202 or by sending an email to pilates reformed ww@gmail.com.

She can also be found on Facebook and Instagram, under pilatesreformedww.

You can have a beautiful, productive garden while working with nature to manage insect pests. As you incorporate various ecofriendly pest management strategies, you will encourage songbirds, beneficial insects, and pollinators to visit your gardens.

You will find slight variations of definitions, but most organic gardeners agree the focus is on cultivating a system that supports and sustains all its members. This includes plants, soil microbes, and other beneficial organisms.

As with any garden, it starts with creating a healthy soil foundation, selecting the plants best suited to the growing conditions, and providing them with proper



**MELINDA** 

things, you will be able to grow healthier plants that are more tolerant of pest attacks and more resilient when damaged.

Removing weeds from garden beds is an important pest management strategy. These uninvited plants compete with your desirable plants for water and nutrients. Many also attract and harbor plant-damaging insect pests and disease organisms in the garden.

No matter how well you plan, plant, and care for your gardens, insect pest problems can arise. Include nature's pest managers in your organic garden approach. Ninety-six percent of terrestrial North American birds rely on insects for part of their diet. They also add color, motion, and entertainment to our landscapes.

Many beneficial insects eat or parasitize insects. Lady beetles, green lacewings, young and old, eat hundreds of aphids a day. Parasitic wasps, depending on the species, can attack specific or a variety of insects including caterpillars like the tomato hornworm, aphids, leafhoppers, scale, beetles, and true bugs.

Attract more beneficial

insects, both pollinators and pest managers, to your gardens with plants. Grow plants like sweet alyssum, columbine, thyme, lavender, goldenrod, sedum, asters. and other plants that attract beneficial insects to your garden.

Be proactive by regularly monitoring your gardens. Look for emerging pest problems and the good guys stopping by to dine on them. You will need to tolerate some damage so there will be food to attract and feed the predators in the garden. If intervention is needed,

look for the most eco-friendly control options. Barriers of lightweight floating row covers protect against cabbage worms, Japanese and bean beetles, cucumber beetles, squash bugs, and squash vine borers on susceptible plants. Just cover the plantings with row covers immediately after seeding. Since basil and beans do not need to be pollinated to produce the harvest, leave them covered for the season. Uncover squash, pumpkins, melons, and cucumbers when they begin flowering so pollinators have access to the blossoms. Research found vine crops in this manner limited damage by squash bugs, squash vine borer, and the cucumber beetles that can infect and kill cucumber plants with bacterial wilt.



PLANET NATURAL PHOTO Southern Lakes Newspape

A cabbage worm is shown feeding. There are ways to attract more beneficial insects – both pollinators and pest managers - to your gardens with plants.

If you forget to cover your cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts, enlist the help of a naturally occurring soil bacterial called Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (Btk) found in Summit Biological Caterpillar and Webworm (SummitResponsible Solutions.com). It only kills true caterpillars and webworms and can be applied to edible plants right up to harvest.

A strong blast of water is a great first step in managing mites and aphids. It knocks them off the plant, helping minimize the damage. If needed, apply lightweight horticulture oils, like organic Summit Year-Round Spray Oil according to label directions. It kills a wide variety of soft-bodied insects in all stages (including eggs)

on contact and poses few risks to beneficial insects that land on the treated plant. Over time these eco-

friendly strategies become part of your gardening routine. And the more we work with nature, the better it is for you, your plants, and the environment.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Revised Edition, and Small Space Gardening.

She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program.

Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' website is www. MelindaMyers.com.

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**Bloomfield** 

Lt21 Charles Young Dr Lt27 ....\$22,000

Delavan

Lt18 Cochrane St Blk 10 ......\$47,500

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Salem Lakes

Randall

• 308 Windmill Ln.....\$464,458

# • Ellie Bean (Continued from page 2)

An advocate for small businesses, Huisinga said the opportunity ignited her already existing passion for thrifting, taking photographs, and shopping, among other pursuits.

"I love to take pictures. I love to put outfits together and get cute little new toys for babies," she said. "I just realized that it made perfect sense for me to do this."

When Erickson decided to sell the business, citing other obligations, Huisinga immediately jumped at the opportunity. "It wasn't long before I

realized that my heart truly belonged to the consignment and thrifting world," she wrote. "The connections I made with other families who also loved thrifting and supporting small businesses inspired me to take the leap and start my own venture.

She also jumped in because grayson grape served a vital niche to the

community.

"Honestly, I was going to be so sad if I wasn't going to be able to shop here anymore and I knew a lot of our consigners would feel that way, too," Huisinga said. "We don't really have a kids store in Burlington or a store that just accommodates little babies.'

At Ellie Bean Boutique, most of the items she receives have a shelf life of about 120

If an item doesn't sell within the allotted amount of time, Huisinga donates it to local organizations, such as Love, Inc. and the Transitional Living Center.

In retrospect, Huisinga never envisioned having her own store, especially since she was undecided on her future after graduating from high school in 2020.

"I never expected myself to have a brick-and-mortar store," she said. "I always liked thrifting and I always

liked reselling my clothes online. I thought that was

## Young entrepreneurship

Huisinga, 22, follows a recent business trend in the Burlington area with several people younger than 25 years old taking ownership of brick-and-mortar stores.

In addition to Huisinga, Morgan Cole, who is 19, owns Morgan's She Shed and Noah Brague serves as the proprietor of KenoKicks262.

Ĥuisinga said she believes the trends serve as inspiration. "I really think a lot of us

younger people are saying this is something we can do," Huisinga said. Ellie Bean Boutique is

typically open Wednesdays through Sundays. For more information,

including hours of operations and items available for sale, visit the Ellie Bean Boutique Facebook page.

# real estate

# home & property sales

Here is a listing of recent single-family home, condominium and vacant land sales in Kenosha, Racine and Walworth counties. The information is provided through the Multiple Listing Service.

COURTESY WANDERLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY Southern Lakes Newspapers An outside wedding ceremony incorporates a nature background, adding to the

# • Boxed & Burlap (Continued from front page)

upgrade to brown, crossback folding chairs for an additional fee.

Each table seats eight guests, and a handful of square tables can be used as a head table, gift table and/or welcome table. Linens are not included in the rental.

Most weddings include dancing, and a dance floor may be brought in by the renters. The type, size, and placement are decided by the couple to fit in with their room design. One of the special bonuses

of having a wedding at Boxed and Burlap is the use of the coffee shop. Throughout the day, free coffee is available for the wedding party. Once the coffee shop closes, the building itself may still be used, along with the outdoor

The patio is often used as a place for cocktail hour or as the ceremony site. Later in the evening, the greenhouse attached to the coffee shop may be transformed into a treats table for guests to pick up a bite when they stop by for coffee.

### Help with planning, making connections

When a couple is planning a wedding, they can make an appointment with Garcia, who will take them on a tour of the venue and go through the contract.

Only one wedding is held per day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Prices vary on the day, and if a couple chooses to serve alcohol. a bar package needs to be purchased. No outside liquor is allowed.

Food must be ordered from an outside caterer, which must be a state-licensed kitchen and have insurance. Boxed and Burlap can recommend one of its preferred caterers, with options available in all

price and service ranges. "If you are using food trucks, consider a grazing table as lines usually are long for service," Garcia

recommends. And as we know, when people are hungry they often get impatient.' She advises couples reserve the space at least a year and a half before the

wedding, especially if a Saturday is the day of choice. There is a little more leeway for Fridays and Sundays. The venue does not provide a day-of-event coordinator, but a wedding

planner can be recommended,

and there is Boxed and Burlap

staff on site throughout the day of an event. Those seeking a beautiful, unique place to hold a wedding can contact Boxed and Burlap, 2935 State Rd. 67, Delavan at 262-374-5497 or by visiting the website at

www.boxedand burlap.com.



COURTESY LUSIA STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY

Exchanging vows whether inside or outside of the building, allows the beauty of the trees outdoors to serve as a back-

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### **SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES** Burlington 8832 Pheasant Run .....\$410,000

**Racine County** 

265	Schemmer St	.\$225,000
516	E State St	.\$182,000
201	Mainwright Ava	000 000

Waterford • 803 River Ridge Cir.....\$469,358

• 6425 N Tichigan Rd.....\$765,000

# • 7609 N Tichigan Rd.....\$765,000

Yorkville		
• 1116 63rd Dr	\$1,850,000	
• 15600 County Line Rd	\$451.000	

# • 14922 Washington Ave......\$1,230,000

### Waterford • 314 S. Jefferson St.C.

011000000000000000000000000000000000000	ι οφ_οσ,σσσ
<ul> <li>640 Trailview Xing</li> </ul>	1\$340,000

# **Walworth County**

# **SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES**

# **East Troy**

V1069 Spleas Skoney	Rd\$1,055,00
830 Thomas Dr	\$455.00

•	1830 Thor	nas Dr	\$455,00	)
•	N9254 Wc	odfield C	t \$322.00	)

### Elkhorn • 1209 Oakwood Ln .....\$440,000

# • 220 W Rockwell St .....\$333,000

# • 39 E Sedgemeadow St.....\$291,300

# Lake Geneva

### • 121 Maestro Cir.....\$518,610 • 314 Ridge Rd .....\$409,000

# • 1478 Rock Ridge Ln.....\$635,000

## • 101 Tenor Ct.....\$615,766 Linn

# • N2466 Elgin Club Rd.....\$450,000

# W3833 Lakeview Park Dr ......\$475,000

# • W4357 Laurel St.....\$490,000

# • Lt12 Troy Hill Ct ......\$76,000 Kenosha County **SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES** • 11331 272nd Ave .....\$275,000 • 11415 274th Ave .....\$295,000

**CONDOS** 

**VACANT LAND** 

• 127 E Chestnut St .....\$265,000 **VACANT LAND** 

\$256,000

# • 34000 Bassett Rd.....\$170,000

# Twin Lakes

## Lt3 93rd St.....\$37,000 3024 Richmond Park Dr.....\$40,000

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Tuesday, March 11, 2025 6:00 p.m. The Club at Strawberry Creek 14810-72nd Street

Thursday, March 20, 2025 6:00 p.m. Waterfront Warehouse

Kenosha, WI

3322 Sheridan Road Kenosha, WI

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CHRYSLER LIMITED Mechanically sound with documents. No rust. 141,000 miles, \$6,000. Call 262-379-4161.

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wi.rr.com or mail both to PO Box

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262-725-7704.

help wanted

### **Burial Needs**

7 CEMETERY PLOTS Willing to sell as a group or individually. Located at Roselawn Memory Gardens 3045 WI-67, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. This is a private sale. Contact Randy, the seller at randy@slpublishers.com.

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- · Good communication skills
- Knowledge of Adobe InDesign, Microsoft Word,

Excel, and/or Filemaker Pro is a plus Daytime hours (M,T,W,F) in our Delavan office No nights or weekends Please send a resume, questions or to request

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Continued growth within our group of weekly newspapers and shoppers has caused the need for an additional graphic designer at our Delavan, Wis. facility. This position includes ad design, including web ads, and page design of our weekly publications. Part or full-time position available. Proficiency in Adobe InDesign and Photoshop necessary; prior newspaper experience preferred but not required.

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Food Service Floater

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