

EAST TROY NEWS

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Vintage Shop Hop a new level of 'shop local'

Thousands of shoppers will converge on northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin once again for the spring edition of the popular Vintage Shop Hop, Friday and Saturday, March 7-8.

The 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-kind event.

According to the 2024 American Express Shop Small Impact Study, 85% of consumers say they were likely to shop "small" that season.

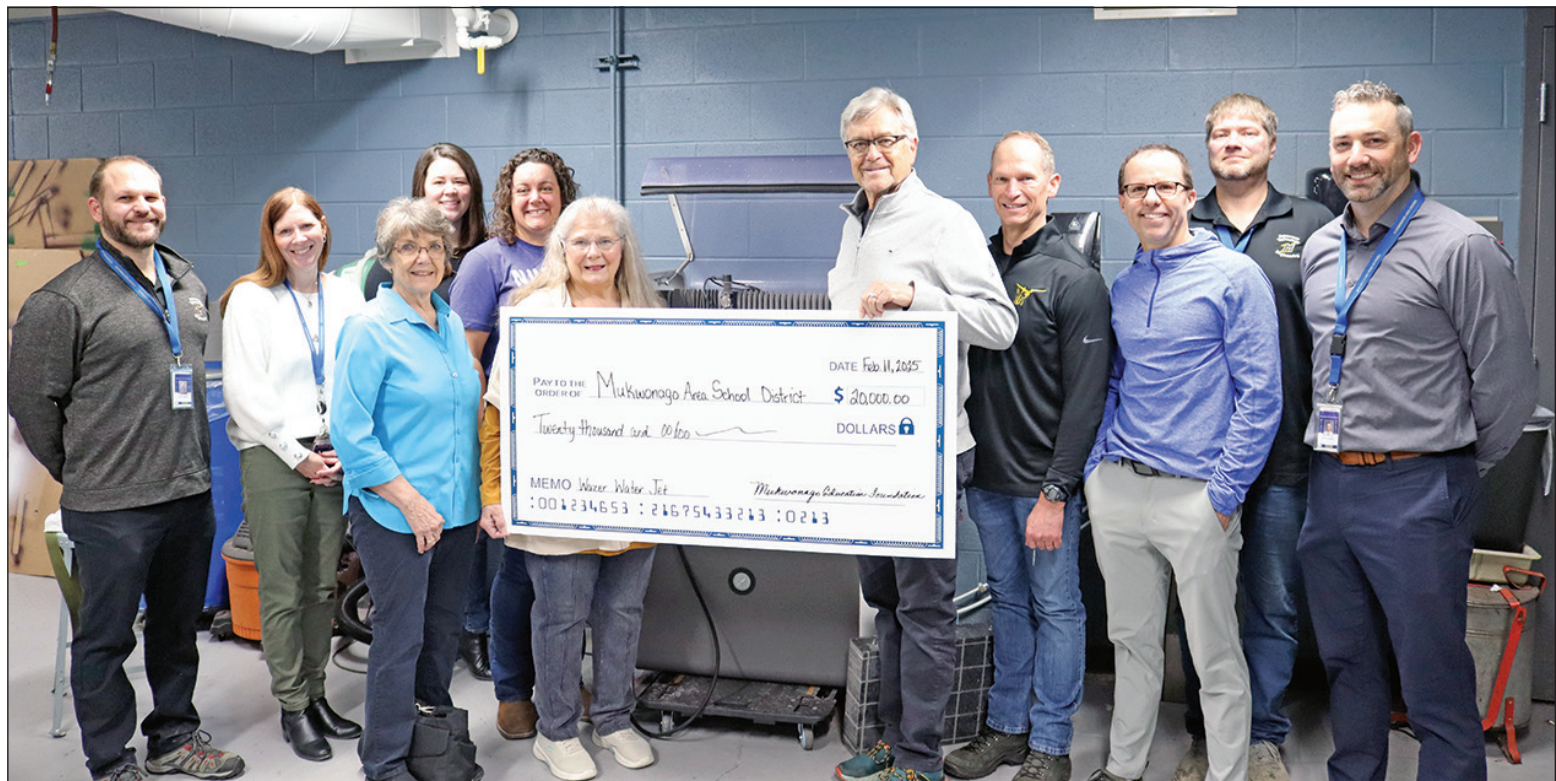
The study goes on to report consumers also say they "shop small" to make an impact locally, with 64% shopping small because they know a portion of their purchase directly impacts the community.

The Vintage Shop Hop would like to see shoppers change their shopping habits year-round. The event is a twice-a-year road trip comprised of nothing but "small businesses."

How it began

Starting with 180 shops

See **SHOP HOP**, Page 5



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From the left: Jason Wienke (Mukwonago High School teacher), Stephanie Blue (MHS principal), Mukwonago Education Foundation board members Jean Cruikshank, Molly Dobberke, Sherry Berg, Mary Coughlin, Jeff Voelkel, Dr. Tom McKeever and Cory Manske, Jason Johnson (MHS teacher) and Dustin Lehman (Mukwonago Area School District coordinator of college and career readiness) gather for the recent donation of \$20,000.

Mukwonago Education Foundation donates \$20K

Investment aims to enhance student career readiness

The Mukwonago Education Foundation has made a significant investment in the future of local students with a generous \$20,000 donation to the Mukwonago Area School District.

This contribution funded the purchase of a WAZER water jet, a high-precision cutting machine that will introduce students to advanced manufacturing techniques and provide hands-on experience with industry-standard technology.

The WAZER water jet uses a powerful stream of water mixed with abrasive particles to precisely cut a variety of materials, including metal, glass, and plastic.

This technology is widely utilized in industries such as aerospace, automotive, and product design, giving students an opportunity to develop technical skills that are directly applicable to high-demand careers.

"This equipment provides cutting

technology is another way Mukwonago High School is adding relevant, transferable skills to our students' experience – skills that are highly sought after in today's job market."

"The Mukwonago Education Foundation is proud to support initiatives that prepare students for successful futures," said Sherry Berg, Mukwonago Education Foundation president. "By funding this technology, we're ensuring that students graduate with hands-on experience

that aligns with the skills employers are looking for."

The Mukwonago Education Foundation has long been a champion of educational excellence, supporting programs that enrich student learning and career readiness.

With this latest investment in cutting-edge technology, Mukwonago students are now better prepared than ever to explore and excel in the growing fields of manufacturing and engineering.

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 \$2,000.

According to the woman, she was contacted by an individual claiming to be a deputy with the Walworth County Sheriff's Department.

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 funds.

"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 failure-to-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 first receive a questionnaire by U.S. 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.

EAST TROY NEWS

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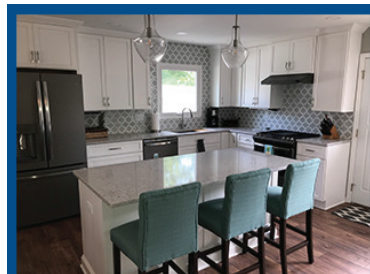
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Joint libraries discussed at legislative meetings

Last week Tuesday, our Facebook followers would have seen a picture of Governor Evers delivering a welcome speech to a room full of librarians. Each year the Wisconsin Library Association organizes Library Legislative Day.

This was my third opportunity to attend, but the first year I've screwed up the courage to do so. Having PLS Trustee/ETLPL Trustee/Village Trustee Mary Hubbard Nugent with me for support helped with that.

The day started at the Best Western Premier Park Hotel right across the street from the Capitol building where Gov. Evers delivered the first



By
TAMI BARTOLI
East Troy Public Library Director

welcome speech followed by Representative Tony Kurtz, State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly, Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Darrell Williams, and Senator Dianne Hesselbein. All the speakers spoke of the value of libraries. More than one also mentioned librarians are the loudest group they usually see at the Capitol. That reassured me that I'm not a misfit after all.

Organizers scheduled appointments for the librarians to meet with their Representative and Senator in small groups. Mary and I met with Nathan Cobb, State Senator Nass's Legislative Aide, and Representative Robin Vos.

At both meetings we spoke about the importance of libraries and specifically addressed proposed statute changes that would facilitate the formation of a joint library.

For perhaps the past decade, the Town of Troy, Town of East Troy, and Village of East Troy have worked to combine resources and make their services more efficient and cost effective.

The combined emergency services may be the ultimate example of their success in doing so. The formation of a joint library was intended to be part of that.

The agreement was written, revised, accepted by relevant governing organizations and ready to sign in August 2022 when funding issues reared their ugly heads.

Library funding is a bit like public school funding; everybody pays it. However, the biggest difference lies in first where it fits in the tax bill and who receives the initial payment. In the case of the Village of East Troy, which houses the ETLPL, library funding is part of

their tax levy and subject to those limits. The monies are collected and put right into our account.

In contrast the Towns do not contain a public library. Their library funding is collected as part of their Walworth County taxes. The county then passes it onto the library system that oversees the libraries their residents frequent. In our case, that would be Prairie Lakes Library System, which later writes out checks for the individual libraries. The county tax is neither part of the Towns' levies nor part of their levy limits. Becoming part of a joint library would change that.

The proposed change in statutes would alter that slightly. In forming a joint library and funding it directly, the change would identify that funding as a transfer of services. It would not increase the levy and is not meant to increase taxes. It simply shifts who receives the check.

Representative Vos was aware of the proposal and has one of his aides researching it looking for any unintended consequences to make certain it isn't as simple as I indicated in the previous paragraph. His main question to me was, "What would you do with the additional funding?"

My internal answer was more sourdough.

Slices of life

Avocados can be tricky, on several levels

I have had luck with avocados.

I just can't seem to keep track of them. I shop for them. I put them in my cart. I pay for them. And then, something goes decidedly – or perhaps magically – wrong.

I leave the store with an avocado in my bag and when I come home, it is gone.

I lose avocados like they are socks on laundry day.

And that isn't exactly the easiest thing to do. Avocados aren't small – as fruits go.

I mean, a person could quite easily lose a grape or a blueberry or even a cherry tomato. But an avocado? One wouldn't think so.

I wouldn't have, had it not



By
JILL PERTLER
Columnist

happened to me personally – on numerous occasions.

It started years ago. Back then, I blamed it on my husband. He and I used to go to the grocery store to acquire provisions for supper. On at least two occasions, our list included an avocado (for guacamole).

In the aftermath of the avocado escape, both he and I remembered (clearly)

choosing the avocado – because choosing an avocado of the correct firmness is tantamount to its inclusion in dinner (and guacamole) on any given night. We remembered removing the avocado from the cart to the conveyor belt of the checkout lane. We even remembered seeing the avocado in our bag as we walked to the car.

And then, everything gets blurry.

Because we arrived at home and unpacked the groceries and didn't notice the errant avocado(s) immediately because who itemizes their grocery acquisitions on such a specific level so soon after returning from the store?

Certainly not us. We didn't notice the avocado's absence until right before dinner – when it was time to prepare the guacamole.

It was at this point it became obvious that the avocado had gone AWOL.

This happened more than once – maybe more than twice, but enough to make me know we were avocado cursed.

And then, unexpectedly, the curse was lifted and my life was filled with avocados anew. Until this week.

When I purchased an avocado for dinner.

And when dinner time came near and it was time to make the guacamole there was no avocado in my kitchen.

It was like history was repeating itself.

I looked in all the usual places and came up avocado empty. We ate supper sans guacamole, and everyone forgot about the lack thereof – except me.

I just couldn't let it go.

But I had to. What recourse does a person have when she can't find her avocado? Not much.

Life went on.

The next day, I followed my normal routine, which included an exercise class in the morning. When I returned to my house around noon, I noticed a weird lumpy shape my driveway. I thought it might be a dead bird. After

driving the car into the garage, I walked out to the driveway to examine the clumpy lump.

You're already two steps ahead of me, aren't you?

And with that, you'd be correct. The lump was a squished avocado. Apparently, it rolled out of my hatchback (or shopping bag) when I unloaded groceries the day before. And then, that morning, I've driven over it with the car. Mystery solved! Give me a Scooby snack.

Or better yet, an avocado

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

community happenings

Free Fitness Classes

Phantom Lake YMCA Camp, S110W30240 YMCA Camp Rd., Mukwonago, offers free adult fitness classes for people 50 years and older. These classes are a community service for Mukwonago and surrounding areas.

Yoga – Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m.; Cardio/Strength Training – Monday and Wednesday at 9:15 a.m.; Pilates – Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 a.m. Please call Ruth at 262-227-3590 for more information.

Village Candidate Forum

The public is invited to a Candidate Forum for Candidates running for the Village of East Troy Board on Thursday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the East Troy Village Hall, 2015 Energy Dr., East Troy.

All Village of East Troy incumbent and write-in candidates have been invited to participate.

The incumbent candidates are: Robert 'Matt' Johnson incumbent president, Mary Hubbard Nugent incumbent trustee and Joe Wisniewski incumbent Trustee.

The write-in candidates, for two open trustee positions are Bryan Harding, Scott Seager and Dustan 'Dusty' Stanford.

For further information see

flyer posted on the Tri-Troy Beacon Facebook page or contact Tri-Troy Beacon at tri.troybeacon@gmail.com.

Please don't forget to vote in the Spring Primary Election on Tuesday, February 18, and Spring Election on Tuesday, April 1.

Town Candidate Forum

The public is invited to a Candidate Forum for candidates running for the Town of East Troy Board on Thursday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mukwonago Baptist Church, 1610 Honeywell Rd., Mukwonago, WI 53149.

All Town of East Troy candidates have been invited to participate.

The candidates are: Joe Jones, for Town Board Chairman, Michele Reyes and Barb Church are both current Supervisors running to continue their current Board positions and have no challengers.

For further information see flyer posted on the Tri-Troy Beacon Facebook page or contact Tri-Troy Beacon at tri.troybeacon@gmail.com.

Please don't forget to vote in the Spring Primary Election on Tuesday, Feb. 18, and Spring Election on Tuesday, April 1.

Strengthening Seniors

This class is held at the East Troy Area Intergenerational Community Center, 2043 Division St. and open to the public Monday and Wednesday,

8 to 9 a.m.

Monday is Tai Chi and Wednesday is chair exercise. Part of the Wednesday program uses a 2 lb. weight, which participants must bring for themselves. There is no charge for these classes.

Scholarship Opportunity

The Walworth County Dairy Promotion Committee will award a \$500 scholarship to a student from Walworth County pursuing a dairy-related degree at a two- or four-year school. The scholarship will be made available for the 2025-26 school year, and past recipients are not eligible to apply. For more information, contact Katy Katzman at katzman@idcnet.com. Application deadline is March 31.

Troy Senior Club

Join in the first and third Mondays of the month for friendship, fun and games. The club plays Bingo and card games. No need to sign up, just show up! The group meets at The Heritage, 3223 North St., East Troy, the first and third Mondays from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Mukwonago Senior Club

The Mukwonago Senior Club meets the second and fourth Monday, from 12:30 to 3 p.m., at the Village Hall, 440 River Crest Ct.

The group holds a very brief

meeting followed by playing bingo and then cards. Open to all; bring your own snacks. Dues are \$15/year. For more information, call Joan at 262-392-2442.

Political Discussion

A group of local Democratic supporters are gathering the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. in the meeting room at the East Troy Intergenerational Community Center, 2043 Division St. Discussions will revolve around what's been accomplished by the Democratic Party as well as its future goals.

Get Covered

Per the Affordable Care Act, people may qualify for a special enrollment period if they experienced a change in their circumstances.

Some of the qualifying events within 60 days are: loss of a job (quit or were laid off), new job-prior to group insurance beginning, early retirement (not Medicare age yet), Social Security disability approved but in the 24-month waiting period, a new family member or death of someone in the household, moved from out of the county (must have had health insurance for one or more days in the prior 60 day period), divorce (and loss of coverage), loss of eligibility of Medicaid or CHIP (must apply within 60 days).

Call the Rock and Walworth County navigator, Kathie, at 608-669-7440 for more information.


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Looking ahead

The Woman's Club of East Troy held its February meeting at the Community Center with the luncheon committee consisting of, from the left: Nancy Dignan, Jackie Gotz and Joyce Rishel. The ladies discussed plans for 2025, which included a Scoopy Night at the East Troy Culver's. They also enjoyed a Put and Take raffle after the meeting, which included donated items. The March 13 meeting will be held at the Pizza Ranch in Elkhorn. All ladies are welcome to join. For more information please call Bette at 262 215-1021.

Marvelous masterpieces

Ice Carving Championship draws a crowd

By Jason Arndt
STAFF WRITER

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 Burlington.

Kaplan, of Orlando, Florida, attended 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 ice sculpting demonstrations. "There are really talented artists here working hard."

Spearheaded by former Burlington Mayor Jeannie Hefty, the City of Burlington

served as coordinator of the event for several years.

Experience Burlington, formerly the Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce, took on the task of approving special events and organizing 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 passion."

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

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



JASON ARNDT PHOTOS Southern Lakes Newspapers

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



Dan Ingrebrigtsen, of Franklin, chisels away on his creation.

both events with some establishments exhausting their supplies.

Ideal conditions

Returning ice sculptors, including Burlington's Mike 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.

"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 Ingrebrigtsen, of 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."

Red Cross of Wisconsin welcomes new officer

The American Red Cross of Wisconsin is pleased to announce 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 organization's work.

"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 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 Center of Wisconsin.

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



Melinda Lanham

also include Junior Achievement Women's Association Board of Directors and Kathy's House Board of Directors.

A native of Indiana, Melinda holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

"I am honored to join the American Red Cross, an organization with such a noble history of delivering comfort, compassion, and hope in the face of disasters," said Melinda. "I look forward to leveraging my fundraising experience and working side-by-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 Wisconsin Region.

For more information, visit redcross.org or follow the organization on social media.

Those 50-plus seeking a job change increases

A recent AARP survey of people 50 and older revealed that 24% of are planning to make a job change this year, a 10% increase from last year, when just 14% indicated they were looking for new employment.

These findings are consistent with recent research showing more Americans are looking to switch jobs than at any point in the past decade.

Of workers 50 and older planning to make a change, 40% said they are planning to get a new job, but 16% said plan to start their own business, an increase over the 9% who said the same last year.

Making more money is the main reason people said they want a job change, followed by wanting to make a difference and wanting flexible work options.

"Today, roughly 38 million older adults are working; that's more than two and a half times the number of older adults working 40 years ago," said Carly Roszkowski, Vice President of Financial Resilience Programming at AARP.

"With high prices and inflation continuing to impact everything from housing costs to groceries, it's no surprise older adults are looking to increase their income," she added.

Age discrimination is a concern among older Americans considering a job change.

About 74% of older adults believe their age will be a barrier to getting hired. And AARP research consistently shows that 64% of workers 50-plus have reported seeing or experiencing age discrimination in the workplace.

The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) is also a concern,

with around one third (34%) worried that it could impact their job security.

"Many older workers face age discrimination and are often overlooked for jobs they are qualified for, even though they bring expertise, maturity and perspective to the job," Roszkowski said. "This should not be the case. Employers need talent, and it makes great business sense to hire experienced workers."

The results revealed 84% of prospective job seekers said they will need assistance in making a job change, a sharp increase from the 69% who said so last year.

Learning to apply their current skills to a new role or job tops the list of issues people feel they need help with, followed by how to update a resume, prepare for a job interview and negotiate a job offer, according to the AARP.

Methodology

Survey interviews were conducted online and via telephone last October and November with 3,580 U.S. employed adults 50 or older of numerous races. The sample was sourced from the AmeriSpeak panel and Prodege's non-probability panel.

Funded and operated by NORC at the University of Chicago, the AmeriSpeak panel is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. Interviews were conducted online and via telephone.

All data are weighted to the latest Current Population Survey benchmarks developed by the U.S. Census Bureau and are balanced by gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, and region.



Juneau's Josh Jakubowski concentrates on his piece of art.

Local teams sending wrestlers to sectionals

By Jennifer Eisenbart
STAFF WRITER

How close was it at the top of the leaderboard Saturday at the WIAA Division 2 wrestling sectional held at Delavan-Darien High School?

Rock Valley Conference champion Jefferson was almost unseated in a bid to make it to state as a team.

The Eagles eked out the team victory at the regional with 220.5, just edging the host Comets, who scored 213 points.

Whitewater, which qualified for team sectionals the last two years, finished fourth with 167 points, East Troy was fifth (148) and Big Foot/Williams Bay eighth (117).

The girls regional was held separately at Mukwonago Feb. 14, with several area teams advancing.

The top four wrestlers in each weight class advance to this weekend's sectional meets, where the top two individuals will move on to state.

The WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament will take place Feb. 27 through March 1 at the Kohl Center in Madison.

East Troy

The Trojans earned titles from Landen Bogard (126) and Brady Collins – who reached the 132 final without having to wrestle more than a minute in any of his previous rounds.

Bogard, meanwhile, had a first-round bye, then advanced by pin in the quarters and semis.

In the final, Bogard won by tech fall in 2:30 over Aiden DeBlare of Jefferson, 18-1.

Owen Feucht added a second-place finish at 113 pounds, losing by fall in the final before defeating Delavan-Darien's Vaughn 6-0 in the second-place match.

Sean Cain finished third at 106 and Hunter Rehfeldt fourth at 285 to qualify for sectionals.

Mukwonago

The Mukwonago boys finished third at their respective WIAA Wrestling Regionals last week.

On Feb. 15, Mukwonago finished third in the boys meet, behind Waukesha West and Burlington, and qualified seven wrestlers for sectionals.

Mukwonago had five wrestlers finish in the top two, with three winning titles.

The first title came from Colton Katzfey at 132, where after a pair of falls, he earned a 20-13 decision over ben Spalla of Wilmot for the title.

Adam Whittier then added a title at 150, receiving a bye in the first round, winning by pin in the semis and picking up a 17-0 tech fall over Jason Patterson of Wilmot in the championship.

Hunter Szyszkiewicz added the final title at 285, going through the day mostly unchallenged. After a first-round bye, he earned a pin in the semifinals and then didn't allow a point to be scored in the final, a 7-0 decision over Austin Walda of Union Grove.

Connor Kreger made the final at 215 pounds, advancing with a major decision and a pin. In the final, he dropped a close 15-12 decision to Brock Griffin over Wilmot, but came back to pin Isaiah Kooiman of Waukesha West in less than a minute in the second-place match.

Gavin Meinecke had to wrestle through the consolation round after falling in the semifinals at 120. He picked up a tech fall in the third-place match and then won the second-place match by medical forfeit.

Chace Nehls (113) and Seth Krause (175) took third, while Gabe Erdmann (126) was fourth to round out the sectional qualifiers.

Girls sectional

On Feb. 14, the Mukwonago girls hosted a regional, finishing second behind Badger



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Southern Lakes Newspapers

Mukwonago had seven boys qualify for sectionals, three of which won titles at the Feb. 15 regional, from the left: Adam Whittier (150), Hunter Szyszkiewicz (285) and Colton Katzfey (132.) On the girls side, a trio of wrestlers advanced to sectionals with Cailyn Whittier (120) earning a regional title.

and advancing four wrestlers to sectionals.

Big Foot/Williams Bay, Delavan-Darien, East Troy, Mukwonago – which finished fourth as a team, and Whitewater all had wrestlers make it to the finals.

For Big Foot/Williams Bay, Chloe Pearce won the title at 145 pounds, downing Serenity Salas of Westosha Central by pin in 2:14 in the championship match.

Natalia Jesberger of Delavan-Darien added a title at the girls 165-pound weight class. There, she won by pin in the final in 5:27 over Mckenzie Healy of Mukwonago.

Helaina Sprager of East

Troy won her 185-pound semifinal by pin, but was injured in the process. She was unable to contest the final against Marianna Kubicz of Whitewater, who added the final area title by injury default.

Sprager took second by virtue of her semifinal pin over Carly Corelli of Westosha Central.

For Mukwonago, Cailyn Whittier (120), Sam Wiebelhaus (132) and Healy (165) made finals, with Whittier winning.

Whittier had a first-round bye, then won her next three matches by pin, including a pin in 2 minutes in the final over Mckenzie Coplien of Jef-

erson.

Wiebelhaus pinned Lilly Holden of Badger in 2:47 to make the final, before being pinned by Fort Atkinson's Hayli Fletcher in 48 seconds in the final.

She didn't need to wrestle in the second-place match, having defeated Holden earlier in the day.

Healy, meanwhile, earned a bye in the first round and then won her quarterfinal and semifinal by pin before being pinned in the finals by DDHS's Jesberger in the third period.

Healy's pin in the semis ensured she did not have to wrestle for second, given it

was the same opponent.

The other sectional qualifiers for Mukwonago were third-place finishers Gabby Hartman (100) and Zoe Krause (152).

Also qualifying for sectionals were Delavan-Darien's Gracie Blue (fourth at 152), and Whitewater's A'Lani Ross (fourth at 126) and Payton Taylor (third at 165).

Other area teams

Delavan-Darien

The Comets had 10 of its wrestlers finish in the top six in their weight classes at the meet, with Joe Ketterhagen

See WRESTLERS, Page 5



BOB MISCHKA Southern Lakes Newspapers

East Troy had several wrestlers do well at the boys WIAA Regionals at Delavan-Darien on Feb. 15. From the left: Landen Bogard (126) and Brady Collins (132) earned regional titles.

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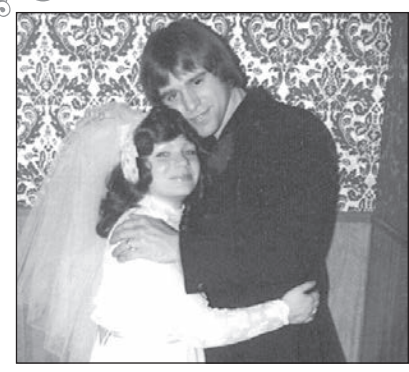
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FEBRUARY 22, 2025**



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.

Opting for coexistence with beavers

Some Wisconsin landowners use non-lethal ways to manage nuisance animals

By Bennet Goldstein
WISCONSIN WATCH
This story was produced and originally published by Wisconsin Watch, a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom. It was made possible by donors like you.

Katie McCullough moved to Wisconsin in 2021. Her COVID pandemic purchase of 36 acres near the village of Rio in the south-central part of the state was exactly what she was looking for.

She had purchased the property, sight unseen.

“I don’t regret it at all,” McCullough, 56, said with a laugh.

She soon met the neighbors — about 10 furry lodge dwellers.

McCullough realized she had a beaver problem that made several acres of her property inaccessible.

They live atop a small muddy island and constructed a dam roughly a decade ago. Cattails grow across its 20-foot breadth. The dam left a once-lovely creek bone dry.

Backed-up water enlarged the surrounding marsh and pond, where sandhill cranes, geese and ducks meander.

Rooted in sodden ground, tall oaks — some more than 100 years old — withered and topped.

Friends, family and locals recommended trapping the rodents and blowing the dam sky-high with Tannerite.

The solution seemed dramatic and destructive.

“We’re all here for a purpose, right? To think that beavers are just born a nuisance,” McCullough said. “It’s tough because some populations do have to be controlled if there aren’t natural predators. But I’m not good at being a natural predator.”

Surely, other options besides trapping or bystanding existed.

Damming behavior

Beavers once numbered between 60 million and 400 million across North America, but development and unregulated hunting nearly decimated them. Twentieth-century conservation efforts helped beavers recover somewhat — to a fraction of their historical population.

Conflicts with humans ensued as beavers returned to their former ranges: chewing trees, plugging culverts, flooding roads and farm fields.

Few studies quantify the costs of beaver damage, and the limited data are decades old. One pinned annual timber losses in Mississippi at \$621 million, adjusted for inflation.

Traditional responses involve trapping and dam breaching, but generally, these interventions require regular enforcement because new beavers move in.

And an expanding body of research showcasing beavers’ ecosystem and economic benefits is drawing attention to the drawbacks of removal.

When beavers remain on the landscape, they create wetlands, which mitigate climate change impacts like drought, wildfires and flooding — problems increasingly seen in the Midwest. Other wildlife also depends on the habitat.

Advocates and ecological consultants are popularizing flow control devices, a solution to beaver flooding problems. They limit beavers’ damming behavior and reduce impacts on human infrastructure.

Hand-constructed with flexible plastic pipes and wire fencing, several types exist: pond levelers, culvert fences and decoy dams. Some bear trademarks like Beaver Deceiver and Castor Master.

They aim to reduce the desirability of potential dam sites, redirect beavers’ attention or “sneak” pond water away unnoticed.

McCullough opted for coexistence.

State wildlife agencies generally regulate a trapping season to manage beaver populations and minimize property damage. Wisconsin’s forestry and fisheries divisions, dozens of municipalities, railroad companies and some tribal governments also contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to remove beavers and dams from designated lands and waters.

The state imposes few restrictions for handling nuisance beavers on private property.

People may hunt or trap beavers and remove their dams on their property without obtaining a license.

If a beaver dam causes damage to a neighboring property, the injured party may legally enter the property where the dam lies and remove it.

There also are risks to ignoring one’s beavers.

People who own or lease beaver-occupied land and don’t allow their neighbors to remove them are liable for damages.

Ditching dynamite

But Wisconsin wildlife managers recommend people consider alternatives before killing the animals, including flow devices like pond levelers.

They date to at least the 1920s when USDA Chief Field Naturalist Vernon Bailey proposed using an “entirely successful” drainage pipe constructed with logs and threaded through the dam.

Subsequent testing indicated that early levelers sometimes failed, but the concept has

evolved.

Modern devices control water height using a flexible plastic tube resting on a pond’s bottom. A cage surrounds the intake and prevents beavers from swimming close enough to detect flowing water, which researchers believe triggers their building itch. The other end of the tube passes through the dam, forming a permanent leak.

Installers say levelers, which cost \$2,000 to \$4,000, function for about 10 years and require little maintenance. They can modify setups to accommodate fish passage, narrow and shallow streams, large ponds and downstream beaver dams.

“The best solutions obviously are going to be ones that work for the beavers and that work for us,” said Massachusetts-based Beaver Solutions owner Mike Callahan, who has installed more than 2,000 flow devices and trains consultants.

States throughout the Mississippi River basin, including Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota and Missouri, recommend flow devices, but with varying awareness of best practices.

Pond levelers relatively uncommon in Wisconsin

Wisconsin residents have constructed beaver pond levelers, as have the Department of Natural Resources and USDA. But state natural resources staff say they rarely receive inquiries.

Despite their simple design, obtaining state authorization to install a flow device often takes longer than other activities like small-scale dredging and riprap installation because Wisconsin lacks a standard pond leveler permit.

Projects can vary across designs, siting and placement, with potentially significant impacts to where and how pond water flows, said Crystal von-Holdt, department waterways policy coordinator.

The law requires employees to evaluate impacts to water quality, navigation, wildlife, scenic beauty and public access to boating and fishing.

A department staff member told McCullough’s contractor and restoration ecologist Clay Frazer — who has overseen multiple beaver-related projects in Wisconsin like mock beaver dams — that many landowners opt not to install them after learning of the challenges.

Hiring a consultant to navigate the process can be cost-prohibitive.

McCullough’s bill exceeded \$10,000, but a grant offset it.

Proponents say the requirements usher landowners toward a lethal resolution, which Wisconsin’s beaver trapping rules seemingly favor.

Community levels with beavers

Billerica, Massachusetts, had a flooding problem.

The town’s troubles followed a 1996 statewide voter referendum that banned foot-hold traps. Conflicts increased as the beavers expanded into the community, home to more than 42,000 residents along with wetlands, streams and two rivers. Prime habitat.

Things came to a head in 2000, and the town contracted with Callahan to address the problem non-lethally. At 43 locations where the town traditionally utilized trapping, he installed flow devices.



JOE TIMMERMAN FOR WISCONSIN WATCH *Southern Lakes Newspapers*
Katie McCullough, 56, paddles across a pond on her property with her dog, Ky, on Oct. 18, 2024, near Rio. McCullough installed a pond leveler on her property after discovering an active beaver lodge and dam.

“They’re kind of instrumental in preventing certain culverts and major roads here in town from getting flooded,” said Isabel Tourkantonis, the town’s director of environmental affairs.

Trapping continued at another 12 sites because the devices either failed or the landscape made their use untenable.

Non-lethal management saved Billerica taxpayers \$7,740 annually in avoided trapping and dam removal costs, according to a town analysis. The number of beavers killed dropped more than five-fold.

Maintaining 380 acres of beaver-created wetlands provided an estimated \$2 million of free services each year, including water filtration, flood reduction and plant and wildlife habitat.

“If there’s a way to co-exist with an important animal population, that’s, I would think, the goal,” Tourkantonis said.

Massachusetts landowners navigate a different permitting process for flow devices.

They only need to obtain approval from a local health board or conservation commission — generally at little cost. It takes a few days.

Tourkantonis said such procedures cut “through the red tape and make it a little bit easier for folks to address an immediate public safety hazard.”

Flow devices have limits

Scientists have conducted virtually no peer-reviewed research evaluating the effectiveness of flow devices.

But studies supporting their use documented financial savings, high customer satisfaction and trapping reduction.

Callahan analyzed 482 sites where he added flow devices or trapped and found only 13% of pond levelers failed within two years compared to 72% of trapping sites to which beavers returned.

Yet flow devices aren’t silver bullets.

A study conducted by the USDA’s wildlife control agency in Mississippi indicated that half of levelers failed to meet landowners’ goals — although the participants didn’t always maintain them.

Callahan, like many coexistence proponents, attributes device ineffectiveness to the faulty installation of outdated models. They say this can confirm preexisting beliefs that flow devices are ineffective, or



JOE TIMMERMAN FOR WISCONSIN WATCH *Southern Lakes Newspapers*
Dan Fuhs, co-owner of Native Range Ecological, installs a pond leveler in October 2023, near the village of Rio.

at best, temporary solutions.

“If you have a crappy design, yeah, it’s not going to work.”

But Callahan estimates one in four beaver showdowns in Massachusetts require trapping.

Levelers aren’t effective in high-flow streams or developed floodplains, he said, where even a foot of water could swamp a home or neighborhood.

Drainage and irrigation ditches also aren’t ideal sites nor locations where water must be lowered to a depth in which beavers can’t live.

Jimmy Taylor, assistant director of the USDA’s National Wildlife Research Center, said flow devices have their uses but aren’t a beaver control substitute.

Damage control can alternatively involve removing dams, lodges and the plants beavers eat; installing fences or scary props and noisemakers; applying spicy or bitter repellants to food sources; and shooting.

People tolerate beavers until conflict reaches a threshold.

One survey found that most landowners were open to beavers remaining on their property when they were offered incentives — a finding that could bolster support for investing in non-lethal techniques.

Previous efforts in Congress to appropriate several million dollars toward those efforts have proven unsuccessful.

Seeking to change ‘hearts and minds’

Frazer and McCullough hope to streamline Wisconsin permitting, making their case “one good flow device at a time.”

“It’s statutes. It’s permit-

ting,” Frazer said. “But it’s also just hearts and minds. It’s people changing the culture of how they think about beaver.”

Their ponds look messy — dead trees and all — but to beaver backers, their value rivals rainforests or coral reefs.

A smiling, buck-toothed beaver statue sits on the gravel driveway outside her home. Its concrete paws grasp a skinny tree stump, chewed to a sharp point.

McCullough’s sister, who lives in North Carolina, located the cartoonish creature on Facebook and gave it a fresh paint job — a family rib over McCullough’s beaver troubles.

Too heavy to mail, the 50-pound figurine hitched rides to weddings and socials, crawling its way north to Wisconsin like a baton handoff in a relay.

After a year, it finally arrived.

This story was produced in partnership with the Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk, an editorially independent reporting network, of which Wisconsin Watch is a member. It was also reported with support from the Solutions Journalism Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rigorous and compelling reporting about responses to social problems.

The nonprofit Wisconsin Watch (WisconsinWatch.org) collaborates with WPR, PBS Wisconsin, other news media and the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication. All works created, published, posted or disseminated by Wisconsin Watch do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of Southern Lakes Newspapers or any of its affiliates.



JOE TIMMERMAN FOR WISCONSIN WATCH *Southern Lakes Newspapers*
A beaver swims across a pond on Katie McCullough’s property on Oct. 23, 2024, near Rio.

Obituary

TIMOTHY NOETHEN

Timothy “Tim” Noethen, 68, of East Troy and more recently of Stevens Point, passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 8, 2025, after many years of fighting multiple medical conditions.

Tim was born July 21, 1956, in East Lansing, Michigan, at Michigan State University Hospital, to the late Robert and Wilma (Scheffert) Noethen. He grew up in Bolingbrook, Illinois, and graduated from Naperville Central High School in 1974. While in high school, Tim was on the gymnastics team and participated in plays and musicals.

On June 14, 1980, Tim married Colleen Murphy. Together, they built a beautiful life together, welcoming a daughter, Tiffany. When Tiffany had children of her own, their family grew with the addition of two granddaughters, Riley and Ruby. In their early years of marriage, Tim worked hard to obtain a Bachelor Degree in Education from Carroll College in Waukesha, graduating in 1986. From there, he also obtained a Master’s of Education and Administration degree. In 1986, Tim began working at East Troy High School where he taught Spanish for 25 years, until his retirement in 2011. In addition



to teaching, he also dedicated time to coaching high school girl’s basketball, softball, and golf, as well as directing

and building sets for numerous high school plays and musicals.

When Tim found himself with some spare time, he enjoyed fishing, wood working, and digging into his family’s genealogy. More recently, he found fulfillment in volunteering at the Walworth County Historical Society twice a week.

Tim is survived by his beloved wife, Colleen; his daughter, Tiffany Miskowski; his granddaughters, Riley and Ruby Miskowski; and his sister, Melinda Evers.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Wilma.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Tim’s honor on March 22, 2025, from 1 until 4 p.m. at the East Troy House; Back Stage - 2093 Division Street, East Troy.

Shuda Funeral Chapel is honored to be assisting the family. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.shudafuneral.com.

The time is now to help

Elderly woman able to avoid homelessness



By **SAL DIMICELI**
Columnist

homeless at 79 years old. You are my only hope to keep that from happening.

Dear readers,

We have seen our fair share of senior citizens who were taken advantage of due to home repair scams. How anyone could take advantage of a widowed older woman is hard to comprehend, but sadly, that is the world we live in.

Since she had already sold her home by the time she had written her letter to The Time is Now to Help, I was concerned where she was living.

When I contacted the woman, I found she had been forced to move into a motel. Even the sale of her home had not been handled properly to allow the woman

time to find a solution to her homelessness. All her belongings had been packed or thrown out and what little was left was in a small storage unit. With the cost of a motel room adding up daily she would soon lose those belongings when she could no longer afford to pay for a storage unit.

The elderly woman was clearly distressed when I spoke to her. She also was distrustful and suspicious about speaking with me after all the people that had taken advantage of her trusting demeanor. After we spoke for a long time, she began to trust and even hope again. Tears of fear soon turned into tears of relief from the fear she was living in.

We were then able to work on getting her out of the motel and into the apartment she had found. The rent was reasonable, and the apartment was accessible for her arthritic knees and hips. We spoke about what she would need for her apartment – a much hoped for new bed, several household necessities

to replace what had been lost during her move, and a payment on her utilities to give her a head start on that expense.

We also paid for her motel room for two weeks, the time the landlord needed until her apartment would be ready. This assistance would allow the woman to escape the stress of poverty she was falling further into every day.

Once the woman was moved into her apartment, I called to check on her. No longer did I hear distrust and fear. This time it sounded like a completely different woman as she spoke with excitement about her new apartment, sleeping in her new bed, and her ability to purchase food without running out of money by the end of the month.

After reviewing her budget one more time, we both laughed when she said, “I guess this means I graduated from The Time is Now.” I answered, “I think you graduated with honors.”

Thank you to the Family

See **TIME IS NOW**, Back Page

LEGAL NOTICES

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 Enclosed”

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, Wisconsin 53105.

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, 53105.

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 of the bid opening Bids shall remain firm for that period of time.

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

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

The bid shall include the following:

1. HFRS2 or equivalent liquid asphalt furnished, heated, and applied at a rate of .28 gallons per square yard.
2. Sealcoating to be done with ¼” 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 application

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 accepted.

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.gov.

BID REJECTIONS/ACCEPTANCE: 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 WITHDRAWAL: No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of 15 days after the scheduled opening 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)

PUBLIC HEARING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Please take notice that a public hearing will be held by the Walworth County Board of Adjustment on March 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. and decisions on March 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room (Room 114) in the Government Center (formerly known as the Courthouse), 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin to consider the following:

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, February 12 & 13, 2025
5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Variance Petitions

1. Lauderdale Residence Trust, owner / Aiden Stevens, applicant – Section(s) 26 – La Grange Township
Applicants are requesting a variance from Section(s) 74-174 /

74-181 of Walworth County’s Code of Ordinances – Shoreland Zoning to construct a residence. The Ordinance requires a 75 foot shore yard setback. The applicants are requesting shore yard setbacks of 65 feet for the residence and 30.3 feet for the driveway. The property is zoned R-1, Single-Family Residence District (unsewered). The property is described as Tax Parcel(s) H LG2600027 and is located at N7688 West Shore Drive, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

2. Barbara A. Touchett & James E. Walsh Jr., owners / Barb Touchett & Jim Walsh, applicants – Section(s) 21 – Delavan Township

Applicants are requesting a variance from Section(s) 74-181 / 74-219 / 74-221 of Walworth County’s Code of Ordinances – Shoreland Zoning to construct additions to a residence. The Ordinance requires a 25 foot rear yard setback and a 5 foot side yard setback. The applicants are requesting a 23.5 foot rear yard and a 3.9 foot side yard. The property is zoned R-2A, Single-Family Residence District (sewered). The property is described as Tax Parcel(s) FDLA 00174 and is located at 1502 State Street, Delavan, Wisconsin.

3. Dennis L. & Laurie A. Gaszak Sr., owners / Dennis & Laurie Gaszak, applicants – Section(s) 10 – East Troy Township

Applicants are requesting a variance from Section(s) 74-165 / 74-181 / 74-221 of Walworth County’s Code of Ordinances – Shoreland Zoning to construct an accessory structure. The Ordinance requires a 25 foot street yard setback and 25 foot rear yard setback. The applicants are requesting a 16.6 foot street yard and 3 foot rear yard. The property is zoned R-2, Single-Family Residence District (sewered). The property is described as Tax Parcel(s) PMR 00102E and is located at N9110 Ash Street, East Troy, Wisconsin.

4. Kyle P. & Kelly M. Salek, owners / Kyle Salek, applicant – Section(s) 26 – La Grange Township

Applicants are requesting a variance from Section(s) 74-181 / 74-201 / 74-221 of Walworth County’s Code of Ordinances – Shoreland Zoning to construct additions to a residence. The Ordinance requires a 25 foot street yard setback and prohibits the addition from being in the 50 foot vision triangle of an inter-

section. The applicants are requesting 15 foot street yards and an addition within the 50 foot vision triangle of an intersection. The property is zoned R-1, Single-Family Residence District (unsewered). The property is described as Tax Parcel(s) HFP 00016 and is located at W5566 Wren Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. STAFF REPORTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Adjustment takes testimony and will then recess for the purpose of viewing properties if needed, thereafter, will reconvene into open session to deliberate and make decisions on March 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Rose Smith-Miller, Secretary

If uncertain of the location of the Government Center, contact the Land Management Office at (262) 741-4972. Requests and arrangements for handicapped access, sign language interpreter, or other assistance; please call our offices at (262) 741-4972 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ORDINANCE AMENDING WALWORTH COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS the Walworth County Board of Supervisors has heretofore been petitioned to amend the Walworth County Code of Ordinances, and

WHEREAS the petition has been referred to the County Zoning Agency for public hearing, and

WHEREAS the County Zoning Agency, on due notice, conducted a public hearing on the proposed amendment, and filed their recommendation with the Board, and

WHEREAS the proposed

amendment has been given due consideration by the Board in open session,

NOW THEREFORE, THE County Board of Supervisors of the County of Walworth do ordain as follows:

The Walworth County Code of Ordinances, Zoning and Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (and accompanying Zoning Map) is amended in the following respects:

1. West Rod Cottage Industries, Town of East Troy – Filed a petition to amend SAID ZONING MAPS FROM C-4 LOWLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO C-2 UPLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LANDS:

Tax parcel # P ET1800006A, Section 18, East Troy Township.

2. Big Foot Holdings, LLC, Town of Linn – Filed a petition to amend SAID ZONING MAPS FROM R-4 MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT (SEWERED OR UNSEWERED) AND B-3 WATERFRONT BUSINESS DISTRICT TO R-1 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT (UNSEWERED) THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LANDS:

Tax parcel # I L 1200005F, Section 12, Linn Township.

All lands on tax parcel I L 1200005F to be rezoned to R-1.

ATTEST this 14th day of January, 2025.
Rick Stacey
County Board Chair

ATTEST this 14th day of January, 2025.
Susi Pike
County Clerk

(Published in Elkhorn Independent, Delavan Enterprise and Whitewater Register Feb. 20 and East Troy News, Walworth/Fontana/Williams Bay Times, and Sharon Reporter Feb. 21, 2025
WNAXLP - 468043)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENT OF A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP FOR WALWORTH COUNTY 2050 WITH UPDATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a public hearing will be held by the County Zoning Agency in the County Board Meeting Room of the Government Center located at 100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin on **Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.** covering proposed amendment to the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Map for Walworth County 2050.

Amendments to Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Map for Walworth County 2050

Joan Coehoorn – Owner, Section 27, Darien Township. The property owner is requesting to amend approximately 40 acres shown on the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan from (AP) Prime Agricultural to the (I) Industrial land use category, and a determination that such request meets the “extraordinary circumstances” standard due to this request being outside of the annual Land Use Map Amendment timeframe. The requested amendment is to allow the property owner to seek a future rezone from the A-1 Prime Agricultural Land District to M-1 Industrial District for a principal use for warehousing facility. The property of concern is located on the west side of Old Highway 89, approximately 310 feet north of the intersection of Old Highway 89 and Rolling Meadow Drive, identified as the western half of Tax Parcel B D 2700008.

Pursuant to Section 66.1001(4) Wis. Stats.

The petitions to amend said comprehensive plan map are on file at the Land Use and Resource Management Department, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Dated this 14th day of February, 2025.

Walworth County Zoning Agency requests any arrangements for handicapped access, sign language interpreter, or other assistance; please call our Offices at 262-741-4972 at least 48 hours prior to the Meeting.

(Published in Elkhorn Independent, Delavan Enterprise and Whitewater Register Feb. 20 and East Troy News, Walworth/Fontana/Williams Bay Times, and Sharon Reporter Feb. 21, 2025
WNAXLP - 468171)

Foundation for providing a \$40,000 matching grant. We hope you will take advantage of this 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. Please visit our website for more information, to read more columns and/or to make a donation.

Prayer chain: 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.



Three Locations

Milwaukee	NEW Mukwonago
Funeral & Cremation Services 703 W. Lincoln and 4309 S 20th www.rozgafuneral.com	Funeral & Cremation Services 225 Eagle Lake Ave 262.661.5213

Grand Opening Celebration

MUKWONAGO OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY MARCH 1, 2025
NOON - 5PM



System to help communities track and respond to overdose

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has launched an innovative new online tool for people working in overdose spike response, substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

The Wisconsin Suspected Overdose Alerts for Rapid Response (WiSOARR) system will provide near real-time data on when and where suspected overdoses may have occurred to inform immediate actions to address drug overdoses.

“WiSOARR gives our substance use partners a faster and clearer understanding of when and where suspected overdoses are occurring in their communities,” said Michelle Haese, DHS director of substance use initiatives. “This system is a step forward in our ongoing

work to better understand and respond to the ever-evolving drug overdose epidemic with the right strategies at the right time.”

Using data that includes suspected overdose data from ambulance runs and emergency department visits, the system allows users to monitor local trends, set and receive alerts around community-specific thresholds, and connect to essential spike response resources.

The WiSOARR system is not available to the public.

Publicly available, anonymous data on confirmed drug overdoses and other substance use data will remain available on the DHS website.

The launch of the system follows reports from across the nation that suspected overdose

deaths are trending down for the first time since 2018.

In addition to data tracking tools like WiSOARR, the DHS response to the drug overdose epidemic includes public education on how to talk about substance use to build supportive communities; free distribution of naloxone, the opioid overdose reversal medication, and drug-checking supplies like fentanyl test strips; as well as investments in harm reduction response programs, additional treatment and recovery supports like mobile clinics, and programs that connect people who have experienced an overdose with people in recovery from a substance use disorder who support and guide the overdose survivor to better health and wellness.

Rotary Club to host special guest

‘John McGivern – The Stories Continue’ to be featured Feb. 22

The Rotary Club of Mukwonago will present “John McGivern – The Stories Continue” on Saturday, Feb. 22, with two shows at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Greenwald Foundation Performing Arts Center, which is at Mukwonago High School.

McGivern is a Wisconsin legend, known for his work on the PBS show “Around the Corner, with John McGivern.” He currently can be seen on “John McGivern’s Main Streets” television show.

During his presentation in Mukwonago, McGivern will share humorous and personal stories of his

growing up in Milwaukee and being part of a large, working-class Irish Catholic family.

Tickets are \$35 for reserved seating and \$60 for VIP seating. There is a limited number of VIP seats, which will include preferred seating and a post-show “meet and greet” reception with McGivern.

Light refreshments will be served during intermission.

Tickets are on sale now exclusively online at <http://gfpac.booktix.com>.

Questions can be addressed to mukwonagorotary@gmail.com.

“Your support and sponsorship of this Rotary Club of Mukwonago fundraising event is greatly appreciated. All show proceeds will directly benefit non-profit and charitable organizations, activities, and services,” Rotary representatives said.

LEGAL NOTICE

WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING JANUARY 14, 2025

The Walworth County Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Stacey at 5:00 p.m. in the County Board Room at the Walworth County Government Center, 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Roll call was conducted and the following Supervisors were present: Chair Rick Stacey; Vice-Chair Sheila T. Reiff; Supervisors Brian Holt, Dennis G. Karbowski, Joanne Laufenberg, Kenneth H. Monroe, Susan M. Pruessing, Joseph H. Schaefer, and Bud Wojcik. Supervisors Kathy Ingersoll and Al Stanek were remote. A quorum was established.

Others in attendance: Walworth County Administrator Mark W. Luberda; and Corporation Counsel/Director-Land Use Resource Management Michael Cotter.

Joseph H. Schaefer, Walworth County Board Supervisor, District #2, delivered the invocation.

Amendments, Withdrawals, and Approval of Agenda On motion by Supervisor Karbowski, second by Supervisor Schaefer, the agenda was approved by voice vote with no withdrawals.

Approval of the Minutes On motion by Supervisor Holt, second by Vice-Chair Reiff, the December 10, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes and the December 10, 2024 County Board of Supervisors Meeting minutes were approved by voice vote.

Comment Period by Members of the Public Concerning Items on the Agenda There was none.

Appointments/Elections There were none.

Communications and Matters

to Be Referred

Chair Stacey announced that unless there was a request for an individual communication to be discussed, the Clerk would dispense with the reading of each title and the Chair would direct that all communications be referred or placed on file as indicated on the agenda.

1. Claims Received After Agenda Mailing
2. Claims: a) Petition for Writ of Certiorari and Claim for Relief – Delavan Lake Sanitary District, Petitioner v. Walworth County Board of Adjustment and Walworth County, Respondents (To be referred to the Executive Committee)
3. Jackson County Res. No. 57-12-2024; Town of Curran Res. No. 2024-1; Town of Hixton Res. No. 2024-02; Town of Knapp Res. No. 1-2024; Village of Melrose Res. No. 4-2024; Village of Merrilan Res. No. 21-2024; Town of Adams Res. No. 2024-01; Town of Bear Bluff Res. No. 24-1; Town of Manchester Res. No. 2024-03 regarding the request for help and assistance to decrease the continuing negative impact the elk are having on affected citizens and their property in Jackson County (To be placed on file)
4. Correspondence from County Clerk Susi Pike regarding Walworth County Elected Officials Bond (To be placed on file)
5. Correspondence from United Way of Walworth County Board of Directors and Executive Director Brian Holt Re: Allocation of ARPA Grant Funding for 2024 (To be placed on file)
6. Report of the County Clerk Regarding Communications Received by the Board and Recommended to be Placed on File
 - None
7. Report of the County Clerk Regarding Communications Received by the Board After Agenda Mailing
 - Claims: a) Claim for Damaged Property – Isaiah Garcia; b) Notice of Injury and Claim – Jayden Paul (To be referred to the Executive Committee)
 - Chippewa County Res. No. 53-24 – Resolution to Formally Support the Creation of an Inpatient Psychiatric Treatment Facility in Northern Wisconsin – Tim Easker (To be referred to the Health and Human Services

Board)

8. Report of the County Clerk Regarding Zoning Petitions (To be referred to the County Zoning Agency)
 - Lake Beulah Holdings LLC C/O Chris Trebatowski, East Troy Township. Rezone approximately 1.1 acres of B-3 Waterfront Business District to R-1 Single-Family Residence District.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Reports of Standing Committees

County Zoning Agency Report of Proposed Zoning Amendments

1. West Rod Cottage Industries C/O John Stoss – Owner, Section 18, East Troy Township. Rezone approximately 0.37 acres of C-4 to C-2 – Approved 6-0 (Supervisor Stacey recused himself) (December 19, 2024 County Zoning Agency Public Hearing) Chair Stacey relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Reiff and recused himself due to a conflict of interest at 5:05 p.m. Stacey noted the petitioner for Item #1, West Rod Cottage Industries, is a direct neighbor of his and is seated on the Lake District board. On motion by Supervisor Pruessing, second by Supervisor Karbowski, Item #1 of the County Zoning Agency Report of Proposed Zoning Amendments was approved as recommended by the County Zoning Agency by voice vote. Chair Stacey resumed as Chair at 5:06 p.m.

2. Big Foot Holdings LLC – Owner, David Schawk – Applicant, Section 12, Linn Township. Rezone approximately 0.58 acres of R-4 and B-3 to R-1 – Approved 7-0 (December 19, 2024 County Zoning Agency Public Hearing) On motion by Supervisor Schaefer, second by Supervisor Pruessing, Item #2 of the County Zoning Agency Report of Proposed Zoning Amendments was approved as recommended by the County Zoning Agency by voice vote.

Executive Committee

1. Ord. No. 1360-01/25 – Amending Section 2-134 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances Relating to Children with Disabilities Education Board – Vote Required: Majority (Recommended by the Executive Committee 5-0 and the Children with Disabilities Education Board 5-0) On motion by Supervisor Holt, second by Supervisor Monroe, Item #1, Ord. No. 1360-01/25, was approved by voice vote.

Finance Committee

1. Res. No. 63-01/25 – Authorizing a Budget Amendment of \$325,000 in the Walworth County Sheriff’s Office Budget for Patrol Overtime and Associated Fringe Benefits for the Year Ended December 31, 2024 – Vote Required: Two-thirds (Recommended by the Executive Committee 5-0 and the Finance Committee 4-0)

2. Res. No. 64-01/25 – Authorizing the Closure of Highway Project CTH C USH 14 to USH 14 and Transferring Remaining Funds to the Road and Bridge Construction Committed Fund Balance for the Year Ended December 31, 2024 – Vote Required: Two-thirds (Recommended by the Public Works Committee 5-0 and the Finance Committee 4-0)

3. Res. No. 65-01/25 – Authorizing the Closure of Two Capital Projects Completed During 2024 and Transferring Remaining Funds to the General Fund Building/Equipment Reserve Committed Fund Balance for the Year Ended December 31, 2024 – Vote Required: Two-thirds (Recommended by the Public Works Committee 5-0 and the Finance Committee 4-0)

4. Res. No. 66-01/25 – Authorizing the Application and Acceptance of the Office of Crime Victim Services Victim Waiting and Comfort Room Enhancements Grant and Establishing a Budget – Vote Required: Two-thirds (Recommended by the Finance Committee 4-0)

5. Res. No. 67-01/25 – Authorizing the Acceptance of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Modernization Project Grant and Establishing a 2025 Budget – Vote Required: Two-thirds (Recommended by the

Health and Human Services Board 9-0 and the Finance Committee 4-0)

Supervisor Karbowski offered a motion, second by Vice-Chair Reiff, to approve Item #1, Res. No. 63-01/25. A roll call vote was conducted. Total votes: 11; Ayes: 11 – Holt, Ingersoll, Karbowski, Laufenberg, Monroe, Pruessing, Reiff, Schaefer, Stacey, Stanek, and Wojcik; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. **Res. No. 63-01/25** was approved by roll call vote.

Supervisor Monroe offered a motion, second by Supervisor Schaefer, to approve Item #2, Res. No. 64-01/25. A roll call vote was conducted. Total votes: 11; Ayes: 11 – Holt, Ingersoll, Karbowski, Laufenberg, Monroe, Pruessing, Reiff, Schaefer, Stacey, Stanek, and Wojcik; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. **Res. No. 64-01/25** was approved by roll call vote.

Supervisor Stanek offered a motion, second by Vice-Chair Reiff to approve Item #3, Res. No. 65-01/25. A roll call vote was conducted. Total votes: 11; Ayes: 11 – Holt, Ingersoll, Karbowski, Laufenberg, Monroe, Pruessing, Reiff, Schaefer, Stacey, Stanek, and Wojcik; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. **Res. No. 65-01/25** was approved by roll call vote.

Vice-Chair Reiff offered a motion, second by Supervisor Karbowski to approve Item #4, Res. No. 66-01/25. A roll call vote was conducted. Total votes: 11; Ayes: 11 – Holt, Ingersoll, Karbowski, Laufenberg, Monroe, Pruessing, Reiff, Schaefer, Stacey, Stanek, and Wojcik; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. **Res. No. 66-01/25** was approved by roll call vote.

Supervisor Holt offered a motion, second by Supervisor Ingersoll, to approve Item #5, Res. No. 67-01/25. A roll call vote was conducted. Total votes: 11; Ayes: 11 – Holt, Ingersoll, Karbowski, Laufenberg, Monroe, Pruessing, Reiff, Schaefer, Stacey, Stanek, and Wojcik; Noes: 0; Absent: 0. **Res. No. 67-01/25** was approved by roll call vote.

Transportation Coordinating Committee

1. Res. No. 68-01/25 – Authoriz-

ing the Rebranding of the Transportation Programs – Vote Required: Majority (Recommended by the Transportation Coordinating Committee 5-0) On motion by Supervisor Monroe, second by Supervisor Stanek, Item #1, **Res. No. 68-01/25**, was approved by voice vote.

Reports of Special Committees

There were none.

Comment Period by Members of the Public Concerning Items Not on the Agenda

Eryca Card of Elkhorn, Wisconsin, a teacher for the Elkhorn Area School District, presented a project involving Middle School 6th-grade students who wish to create picnic tables for the Veteran’s Park. Card requested approval to be placed on the next County Board Agenda for the students to present their proposal.

Chairperson’s Report

There was none.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Monroe, second by Supervisor Schaefer, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Prepared By: Kathleen Aukland, Administrative Assistant
Submitted By: Susi Pike, County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
COUNTY OF WALWORTH) SS

I, Susi Pike, County Clerk in and for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors for the January 14, 2025 meeting.

(Published in Elkhorn Independent, Delavan Enterprise and Whitewater Register Feb. 20 and East Troy News, Walworth/Fontana/Williams Bay Times, and Sharon Reporter Feb. 21, 2025
WNAXLP - 468042)

Boxed & Burlap

A UNIQUE WEDDING VENUE

Barn, outdoor sites offer many options to couples

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Those 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



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.

Downtown location has coffee, 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 Delavan.

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.



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.



business

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 programs and support is available to you is key.

- Know your retirement plans. 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 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 goals.

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.



JASON ARNDT Southern Lakes Newspapers

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



JASON ARNDT PHOTOS Southern Lakes Newspapers

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.

By Jason Arndt
STAFF WRITER

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 daughter.

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

"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."

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

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 Huisa, who is now 2 years old, Huisinga discovered grayson grape and immediately fell in love with the store.

"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.

See ELLIE BEAN, Page 3

'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 to teach – and 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 pre-natal 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 Newspapers

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 progresses 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 pilatesreformed ww@gmail.com.

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

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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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Special Events

59th ANNUAL GREATER MILWAUKEE INDOOR WINTER Automotive and Vintage Bicycle Swap Meet. Car and bicycle parts, all makes, collectibles, car related items. Sunday February 23, 2025. 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM. \$10 General admission. Heated indoor event. Free Parking, food available. Event held at Washington County Fairgrounds 3000 Cty Hwy PV West Bend, WI 53095. Hosted by WI. Chapter Model A Ford Club of America. WWW.wichaptermafca.com

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

Southern Lakes Newspapers, your hometown newspapers serving Walworth, Racine, & Kenosha Counties, has an opening for an experienced Media Sales Representative to call on current and new accounts in a protected sales territory.

Growing area with many new businesses, this is a great opportunity for the right applicant.

We publish newspapers, shoppers and niche publications throughout the area. You have the opportunity to sell into all Southern Lakes Newspapers, L.L.C. publications, making your paycheck much larger!

For immediate consideration send resume/job history to:

Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising

Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com

Fax: (262) 725-6844

Inside Sales

Part Time – 3 Days/Week – 9-5

Duties Include:

Inbound & Outbound Telemarketing

Data Entry

Must have:

- Accurate Computer Skills
- Pleasant Phone Manners
- Must Be Dependable

Apply in Person at **Southern Lakes Newspapers LLC**

1102 Ann St., Delavan, Wis.

or email:

vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com

help wanted

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: WAREHOUSE LIGHT MANAGER, MAILINGS, INKJET. WILL TRAIN THE BEST CANDIDATE. 3 DAYS PER WEEK. 18-26 HOURS. MON/TUES/WED. CALL TO INQUIRE 262-725-7704.

TOWN OF WHEATLAND Looking for Municipal Clerk and Municipal Treasurer. Seeking applications for both appointed positions. Please send cover letter and resume to kwilson23@wi.rr.com or mail both to PO Box 797 New Munster, WI 53152. Job descriptions can be found at www.townwheatland.com

Managerial

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT MANAGER 4 DAYS PER WEEK. DELAVAN LOCATION. PUBLISHERS OF WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS & TMC PRODUCTS. CALL TO INQUIRE 262-725-7704 OR SEND RESUME TO lsweet@rvpublishing.com

Part Time Help Wanted

DATA ENTRY, MAILROOM PREPARATIONS FLEXIBLE HOURS. PLEASE APPLY AT 1102 ANN ST. DELAVAN, WI OR CALL 262-725-7704 TO INQUIRE

real estate

Other Real Estate

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial/ status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free tele phone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

YOUR AD HERE! **262.728.3411**



**EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
OPEN POSITIONS**

- Food Service Cook - Little Prairie Primary
- Food Service Cook - Prairie View Elementary
- Food Service Cook - East Troy Middle School
- Food Service Floater

Part Time School Year Positions Pay Rate Is \$17.54

For more information, or to apply, visit
<https://www.eastroy.k12.wi.us/district/employment.cfm> or call the district office at 262-642-6710



**EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
OPEN POSITIONS**

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

The East Troy Community School District has a need for confident, reliable, dedicated bus drivers to fill morning and afternoon routes for the year. This is the perfect part-time work for retirees, parents (even those with preschoolers-bring them along!), or anyone looking to help the community and make a little money on the side. We offer a competitive hiring bonus of \$750-\$1,000 for bus drivers. We provide paid training to obtain your CDL and our trainers are excited to help. New bus drivers are also eligible for additional bonuses during and at the end of the school year.

For more information, or to apply, visit
<https://www.eastroy.k12.wi.us/district/employment.cfm>
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Please apply at

mgacareers.mgaresearch.com



mga research corporation

MGA Research is an equal opportunity employer.

DATA ENTRY CLERK

This individual will be inputting information from a variety of sources into documents as well as performing other clerical functions in our Creative Department. The 25-30 hour/week flexible position is available now. The successful Data Entry Clerk applicant will possess the following:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Data entry experience
- Knowledge of correct spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Ability to be detail-oriented while working under a deadline
- 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 an interview time to Heidi Schulz at:

hschulz@southernlakesnewspapers.com

**Southern Lakes
Newspapers LLC**

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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.

Daytime hours (M,T,W,F). No nights or weekends.

Email resume with salary requirements to

hschulz@southernlakesnewspapers.com

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