

2023 **our town**

Elkhorn, Wisconsin



ELKHORN GUN BARREL

BUY-SELL-TRADE

\$20

**CRAZY
DEAL**

**INCOMING
TRANSFERS!**

**ALL GUNS!
ALL IN!**

NO HIDDEN FEES!

SHOP ONLINE

www.elkhorngunbarrel.com

9am-7pm

7 days a week

**ON 12 NEXT TO
WORLD FAMOUS**

**Lefty's HOT
DOGS**

Elkhorn continues to be a place to live, work and enjoy in harmony

Celebrating the City of Elkhorn is easy when at the heart of our city you'll find, FUN!

The community's event calendar continues to grow, and the excitement is mounting! 2023 kicks off with the 4th Annual Spring Food Truck Festival on May 20. The festival features 20-plus food trucks, live music, kid's activities, a vendor and craft fair and specials at businesses located downtown.

Saturdays on the Square makes its way back to downtown Elkhorn for the fifth year. This weekend market features a fresh market with seasonal items, crafters, wellness workouts and local food stands gathering on the square, Saturdays starting May 27 and running until Sept 2.

Antique enthusiasts from all over the Midwest will find treasures abound at the largest Antique Flea Market with more than 500 vendors filling the fairgrounds four times throughout the summer.

Elkhorn Ribfest will celebrate its sixth year of good food, good music and good times for five full days, which will run, July 12-16. Admission and parking are free and this year more than 100K visitors are expected to attend and taste the best BBQ in the nation. For more information visit wisconsinribfest.com.

Elkhorn Truck & Shuck to be held on July 29th, with the Elkhorn Chamber providing locally sourced roasted sweet corn, food trucks, craft and commercial vendors, music and entertainment for the entire community to enjoy.

Returning for year three is DAS Fest USA! Landing on the calendar August 4-6, DAS Fest will welcome a three-day festival featuring German cuisine, culture, and music at the Walworth County Fairgrounds. This will be everyone's opportunity to #DiscoverYourDeutsch right in their own



BY **Chris Clapper**

ELKHORN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM CENTER

backyard. The fest's mission focuses on supporting local charities and nonprofits.

Natives and guests from all over will celebrate local agriculture, classic fair fare and grandstand entertainment at the 174th Walworth County Fair, which is held August 30th – Sept 4th with a theme of "There's No Place Like Home".

Elkhorn Oktoberfest continues to be a local favorite and will be celebrating its 18th year on Oct. 21st. Visit the Oktoberfest Tent for a variety of German brews. Stroll through Veterans Park and shop over 100 crafters and vendors. Walk the streets to find a variety of food, listen to live music, a classic car show, kids' activities, and entertainment by community groups and local music talent. Grab your walking map which details downtown business specials & and explore Elkhorn.

The Christmas Card Town and it's Christmas parade will mark the 42nd year with families and friends lining the streets to see the floats, music, novelty acts and, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus, on the first Saturday in December. You can also visit the Clauses the night before the parade at the Town Tree Lighting in the Square, Dec. 1 and at Let It Glow at the Walworth County Fairgrounds following the tree lighting. Let It Glow will celebrate Santa Dec 1-3 with continued drive-thru shows throughout the month of December. Businesses and community groups celebrate with lit displays and festive attire to usher in the holiday spirit.

In the best effort to support one another, the Elkhorn Chamber will host the annual Community Christmas Meal on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Elkhorn is fun and lively. We are also very serious about a strong business sector offering unique shops and quality restaurants for those who live here and for those who visit. Elkhorn not only supports services you'd expect in the county seat but also a thriving business and industrial park with company names many will be sure to recognize.

Visitors to the area quickly discover

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Welcome to our city!

On behalf of the citizens, the City Council and myself, I would like to extend a personal warm welcome to the City of Elkhorn.

Elkhorn has so much to offer. It's located in the center of Walworth County. The population in Elkhorn is a bit over 10,000 people and is growing. It's accessible within reasonable drives to Milwaukee, Madison, Janesville, Racine, Kenosha and Chicago.

When you drive into Elkhorn, one cannot help but feel a very warm welcome. The city is a reflection of traditional hometown values and has a great deal of charm. Our motto is "Living in Harmony." The streets are lined with old-fashioned street lamps and Elkhorn is known as "Christmas Card Town."

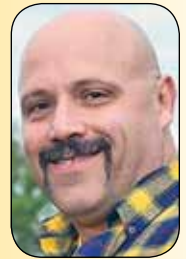
Elkhorn has a small town feel with much to offer. It's a growing community where families as well as businesses can grow and features many restaurants and other businesses owned by local residents. There is a great job market here and it's expected to grow in the next 10 years.

The city also offers wonderful recreational programs for people of all ages. Elkhorn has seven excellent public schools and one private school. Elkhorn Area High School has outstanding, state-of-the-art athletic facilities.

There are plenty of activities to keep you busy throughout all four seasons. From the Chamber of Commerce to the Walworth County Fairgrounds, one can always find an event going on most weekends.

In the summer, Elkhorn hosts farmers markets on Saturday mornings that begin Memorial Weekend and run throughout the summer. The farmers market is held at the beautiful downtown square at Veterans Park.

Don't forget to attend our annual Elkhorn Corn and Brat Days and Oktoberfest festival. And for those looking for a treasure, enjoy the antique flea market held at the Walworth



BY **Bruce Lechner**

CITY OF ELKHORN MAYOR

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

2023 Elkhorn, Wisconsin

our town

An annual publication of
ELKHORN INDEPENDENT &
SOUTHERN LAKES NEWSPAPERS
(262) 723-2250
www.mywalworthcounty.com

GENERAL MANAGER: Sue Z. Lange
EDITOR IN CHIEF: Tracy Ouellette
EDITOR: Jennifer Eisenbart
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Heather Ruenz
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Vicki Vanderwerff
PAGE DESIGN: Jen DeGroot

FOR ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES: call (262) 763-2575

on the cover: The Walworth County Fair provides fun for all. Here, youngsters check out Barnyard Adventure.

PHOTO BY TOM GANSER

WELCOME

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

County Fairgrounds the last Sunday each month from June through September.

Elkhorn is the home of Rib Fest, which takes place in July, has concerts and festivals at the Walworth County Fairgrounds and draws rib cookers and guests from near and far. The city is also the home of the Walworth County Fair that runs for six days just before and over Labor Day weekend.

The old movie theater downtown is where the Lakeland Players group performs plays and musicals. And in the winter months, Elkhorn hosts the annual Christmas parade, plus there's an ice skating rink for all ages to partake in at the Veterans Park grounds sponsored by local businesses.

We are very proud of our city and what it has to offer. Elkhorn is a great place to live, work and play. Come and visit... we will leave the light on.

HARMONY

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

why our residents would not choose to live anywhere else. Elkhorn has outstanding livability coupled with a vibrant business community, excellent public and faith-based learning environments and a post-secondary educational system for students of all ages. Residents have access to quality health care, a variety of housing options and numerous places to worship together.

For our outdoor enthusiasts, Elkhorn has hiking and biking trails, area lakes for fishing and boating, two golf courses and a nearby ski hill. Stop by Sunset Park and visit the local pool, band shell and numerous playgrounds ready for exploring.

Our growing "small-town" community truly is a place to live, work and enjoy in harmony.

For more information about the community and its events, please call the Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Center at 262-723-5788, visit us online at www.elkhornchamber.com, on Facebook or drop by our office at 203 E. Walworth St.

We'll be happy to help.



Chili for a cause

The Elkhorn Autism Awareness team holds a chili cookoff each year in the Elkhorn Middle School cafeteria. There is an all-you-can-eat option, as well as per-cup sales and even hot dogs for sale. Judges tested the chili and soups and awarded prizes. Above: people wait in line for both hot dogs and chili. At right: a large variety of chili and soups were available for the tasting.

DAVE DRESLOW
Our Town

A holly, jolly good time

Each year, Elkhorn kicks off its holiday season with the annual Christmas Card parade. Dozens of floats grace the downtown area for the hours-long parade, with area organizations, high school performance groups and even out-of-town acrobats coming to join in the fun. When the parade is over, the Let It Glow display is available at the Walworth County Fairgrounds.

clockwise from left: Adams Electric added a little inflatable joy to the parade; stiltwalkers from Madison joined in this year's parade; the Elkhorn Lions Club participated with its trick car; Frosty the Snowman didn't melt away; the Sno-Drifters float provided music amidst a candy cane lane or two.

DAVE DRESDOW *Our Town*



WE HELP YOU
MAKE MEMORIES



We create jewelry as unique as the people who inspire it.

- IMPRESSIVE SELECTION • CUSTOM JEWELRY DESIGN
- REPAIRS • APPRAISAL SERVICES



— ADDING SPARKLE SINCE 1945 —

15 S. Wisconsin Street | Elkhorn, WI 53121

www.kullbergjewelers.com

262.723.2246

412133



FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY INC.

Elkhorn

730 N. Wisconsin St.
(262) 723-6390

Genoa City Twin Lakes

113 Freeman St.
(262) 279-5933

620 Legion Drive
(262) 877-3013

www.haaselockwoodfhs.com

337904

The Lake Area's Premier Wedding Facility

Evergreen Room- Evergreen Pavilion - Evergreen Golf Club

Evergreen features exclusive wedding & banquet facilities for up to 250, an outdoor wedding area with waterfall backdrop, the outdoor Evergreen Pavilion and a wedding coordinator to assist you every step of the way.

Allow us to unveil your remarkable wedding and lasting memories...within your budget!



N6246 Hwy 12/67, Elkhorn, WI 53121
(262) 741-6201 • EvergreenGolf.com

432704

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR



Evergreen open outdoors – and in the simulator

With temperatures picking back up and no snow on the ground, Evergreen Golf Club has an unusual offering for winter – outdoor golf.

The Elkhorn golf course, located at N6246 Highway 12 in Elkhorn, had its course open at various times this winter because of the lack of snow. In addition, a new winter golf league played on golf simulators at the venue, began in early January.

“We’ve been doing this for years, always open when we can be,” said general manager Bill Rogers. “People really get a kick out of playing year round. People will come out on a lousy day just to say they played in January.”

Outdoor golfing will remain open as long as the course is playable.

“We’ll be open until the next snowfall,” Rogers said. “You never know.”

But for those looking to escape the dreary winter weather, there is the new option of simulated golf as well. Two, 10-foot high simulators were installed in December, allowing people to play a course indoors.

“We put those in Dec. 17,” Rogers said. “Somebody’s played every day.”

Rogers said that the simulators are currently seeing about 3-4 reservations per day. An hour costs \$35 Monday through Thursday, and \$45 per hour Friday through Sunday.

Typically, an hour is enough for a person to play 18 holes. However, if multiple people want to share an hour, that is allowed.

“It’s based per hour,” Rogers said. “I don’t care if one, three, four people play. You’re paying the one rate.”

The decision to bring the golf simulators in was made by owner Nehang Anand, who purchased the property in March 2022. There are two simulators, which are set up side-by-side in the pro shop.

“It requires a 10-foot ceiling, so you’ve got to have a little bit newer of a building,” Rogers said.

A player actually hits the ball into the screen, and then optical sensors in the floor pick up where and how far the ball will go. The projector screen, which shows the course, then moves to where the ball landed.

The simulator plays like real golf. “If the club face is open or closed, it goes either left or right, just like real golf,”

Rogers said. “Then it calculates how long it takes to reach the screen, which figures out how hard you hit the ball.”

Players then proceed to where the ball landed, and hit a follow-up shot, and putt once the ball is on the green. If more than one player is using the simulator, they follow typical golf rules. There are numerous different scoring options, including best ball, stroke play, scramble play and match play.

“There’s just a lot of things you can do,” Rogers said. Players can also choose to play on a hitting range or on one of 70-plus courses around the world. While some of the more recognized courses – like Augusta or Pebble Beach – aren’t available yet, places like Bay Hill in Florida, Bandon Dunes in Oregon and Torrey Pines in San Diego, where the 2021 U.S. Open was played. For more information, call Evergreen Golf Club at 262-741-6200.

Rob Raczynski, a member of Evergreen Golf Club, hits a ball at one of the two simulators available. The new simulators allow people to play a real golf course indoors.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Our Town

A Blue Ribbon Day

By Jennifer Eisenbart
EDITOR

Tibbets Elementary School earns National Blue Ribbon designation

Forty years ago, Tibbets Elementary School Principal Bryan Frost was a student at the school. Fond memories of his experience followed him and inspired him to become an educator.

“I always thought that, if I could be the principal back at Tibbets, how fortunate would I be?” Frost said.

Frost and the school were honored with an award only 297 schools in the country can claim. Tibbets Elementary was one of eight Wisconsin schools to be named a National Blue Ribbon School – an award instituted in 1982 to honor schools in two different categories, academic excellence and closing the gaps.

The assembly at the school, held last November, highlighted the award. Included among the guests were former principal Greg Wells, Elkhorn K-5 Director of Instruction Amy Gee, Elkhorn Area School District Superintendent Jason Tadlock and State Sen. Steve Nass.

Public schools are nominated by the chief state school officers in all states. Tibbets Elementary was named as a nominee for academic excellence, after finishing the 2020-21 school year, as one of the highest achieving schools in the state, based off the state Forward exams done each year.

In the 2020-21 school year, Tibbets had a rating of 88.8, which ranked as significantly exceeding expectations. The school also had a 91.6 rating out of a possible 100 on the priority area score, which measured basic test performance and awarded extra credit for advanced performance.

Staff from the school and the district then needed to complete the nomination



Tibbets Elementary School was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2022, and celebrated in November. **top:** Elkhorn Area School District Business Manager Bill Trewyn (left) and former principal Greg Wells hold up the Blue Ribbon School banner. **above right:** Tibbets Elementary School Principal Bryan Frost shows off the National Blue Ribbon School plaque. **above left:** Students at Tibbets celebrated the national award with artwork to fill the windows by the gymnasium.

process, which turned out to be a 25-page submission. Included in that process were instructional coach Michelle Schopf and Darcy Gruber, a teacher at Tibbets.

Tibbets found out it earned the designation in September. School and district administration flew to Washington, D.C., earlier this month to accept the award.

At the assembly, Frost introduced the numerous people who came to attend the event. Perhaps one of the most recognizable was Wells, whom Frost credited for setting up Tibbets' success.

Wells joked that he hadn't talked in

front of a group for three years since his retirement and that he was “called to the principal's office” during the summer by Frost.

“I told my wife, ‘I feel like I'm back in school,’” Wells explained. But when he arrived, he was surprised by the news of the Blue Ribbon School award.

“Give yourselves a thumbs up,” Wells said. “A tear came out of my eye. I really know the hard work, on many levels ... who really invested in all of you.”

Wells said the reason the school

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

We believe...

The Elkhorn Area Public School District strives on a daily basis to fulfill our district's Statement of Beliefs.

Our beliefs are guiding standards that help shape our decisions and day-to-day operations and we've developed them in cooperation with the community.

I would like to take a moment and share these fundamental beliefs with you.

We believe all children can learn, every student learns differently and all children are valued and respected.

We believe effort, motivation, and challenge are essential to learning and taking an active role in the learning process is every student's responsibility. Helping children realize their potential is our foremost priority.

We believe learning is a life-long process that takes place in the home, school and community.

We believe schools foster students' abilities to make decisions, cooperate and accept responsibility, and that a diverse community contributes to educational growth.

We believe open communication is essential to the school, parent and community partnership.

We believe schools and communities help students prepare for career success in a competitive global society and schools model and teach good citizenship skills.

We believe a quality education depends upon dedicated, well-trained staff and that safe, healthful, up-to-date facilities enhance the learning process.

We believe continuous improvement leads to excellence.

In addition to our beliefs we are striving to be in the "Top Ten Percent in all we do."

It is our belief that if each and everyone of us can perform at the top ten percent, then as a district we will have no problem fulfilling our goals and living up to our Statements of Belief.

We recognize that on a day-to-day basis we will not always perform at that level, but it is our hope that as we strive to be in the "Top Ten Percent In All We Do," we will elevate our performance and thus the service to our parents, students and the community.

This target applies to all of us, as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Whatever your life's work is, do it well."

"A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better."

By striving to meet this target, we know that we will succeed in maximizing student growth and academic achievement for all of our students.



BY **Jason Tadlock**

ELKHORN AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATOR

OUR SCHOOLS

ELKHORN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Service Center
(1887 Building)
3 N. Jackson St.
(262) 723-3160

District Superintendent
Jason Tadlock
(262) 723-3160 ext. 1401

Directors of Instruction
Amy Gee, grades K-5
(262) 723-3160, ext. 1408
Sarah Bosch, grades 6-12
(262) 723-3160, ext. 1421

Director of Pupil Services
Emily Lynd
(262) 723-3160 ext. 1424

Business Manager
William Trewyn
(262) 723-3160 ext. 1406

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Matt O'Donell, president
matt.odonell@elkhorn.k12.wi.us

Julia Ingersoll, treasurer
julia.ingersoll@elkhorn.k12.wi.us

Jenny Ray, clerk
jenny.ray@elkhorn.k12.wi.us

Ed Scaro, deputy clerk
ed.scaro@elkhorn.k12.wi.us

Paul Martell
paul.martell@elkhorn.k12.wi.us

Kevin Gahart
kevin.gahart@elkhorn.k12.wi.us

• *Note: Adam Andre and Heather Recklies are running unopposed this April. One spot on the board is currently open.*

SCHOOLS

Elkhorn Area High School
482 E. Geneva St.
(262) 723-4920
Principal
Dan Kiel, ext. 1601
Associate principals
Ellen Blair-Stobber, ext. 1602
Jamie Saunders, ext. 1702

Elkhorn Area Middle School
627 E. Court St.
(262) 723-6800
Principal
Ryan McBurney, ext. 1501
Associate principal

The Elkhorn Area School District Board of Education meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 6 p.m. in the Susan Tully Leibsle Board Room at the 1887 Building. For more information about the district, visit elkhorn.k12.wi.us.

Jessica Rima, ext. 1507
Assistant principal
Shannon Izquierdo

Jackson Elementary
3 N. Jackson St.
Principal Tammy Fisher
(262) 723-1200

Tibbets Elementary
W5218 County A
Principal Bryan Frost
(262) 742-2585

West Side Elementary
222 Sunset Drive
Principal Ben Kitslaar
(262) 723-3297 ext. 1301

Options Virtual Charter School
(262) 723-1696
Director
Trisha Spende
spentr@elkhorn.k12.wi.us

CAREER & COLLEGE ACADEMY

400 County Road H
262-564-2970
cca.elkhornschoools.org
Principal Kelly Demerath
demerath@gtc.edu
Director of School-to-Work
opportunities Chris Trottier
trotch@elkhorn.k12.wi.us

PAROCHIAL

First Evangelical Lutheran School
415 S. Devendorf St.
(262) 723-1091
Principal Michael Falk
mrfalk@firstatthecross.com
firstatthecross.com

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Lakeland School of Walworth
County
W3905 County NN
(262) 741-4118
Director Matthew Huettl
mhuettl@lakelandschool-walco.org
Principal Trish McCullough
tmccullough@lakelandschool-walco.org

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Gateway Technical College
400 County Road H
(262) 741-8538
Terry Simmons, dean

STOP IN AND SEE OUR *Smart Home* Showroom



BLUESTAR
Unleash Your Inner Chef



Since
1956



Lyle's TV
& Appliance
ELKHORN, WI
262-723-3477

17 S. Washington
Elkhorn
(262) 723-3477

www.lylestv.com • Online Parts & Service

The Appliance Store with So Much More

Stop in &
Shop Our
Fully
Stocked Beautyrest
SHOWROOM



OUR CHURCHES

BAPTIST

Emmanuel Baptist Church
 920 Highway H, Elkhorn
 (262) 723-4387
www.ebcelkhorn.com

CATHOLIC

St. Patrick Parish
 107 W. Walworth St.
 Elkhorn
 (262) 723-5565
www.stpatrickselkhorn.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ
 100 W. Court St., Elkhorn
 (262) 723-5079

CONGREGATIONAL

**First Congregational
 United Church of Christ**
 76 S. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn
 (262) 723-3246
www.elkhornucc.org

EPISCOPAL

**St. John in the
 Wilderness Church**
 13 S. Church St., Elkhorn
 (262) 723-4229
 Email: info@stjohnepiscopal.org

EVANGELICAL FREE

**Briggs Road Evangelical
 Free Church**
 4654 Briggs Rd., Elkhorn
 (262) 728-8925
 Email: dottie.briggsrdefc@gmail.com

**Southern Lakes Evangelical
 Free Church**
 N6686 Highway 12, Elkhorn
 (262) 742-2366
www.slefc.org

LUTHERAN

**First Evangelical
 Lutheran Church**
 415 Devendorf St., Elkhorn
 (262) 723-4191
www.firstatthecross.com

St. John's Lutheran Church

104 S. Broad St., Elkhorn
 (262) 723-2901
www.stjohnselkhorn.com

Sugar Creek Lutheran Church

N5690 Cobblestone Rd.
 Elkhorn
 (262) 728-2222
www.sugarcreeklutheran.com

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Millard Community Covenant Church

N6713 County O, Elkhorn
 (262) 742-3457
www.millardchurch.com

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

**Unitarian Universalist
 Church of the Lakes**
 319 N. Broad St., Elkhorn
 (262) 723-7440
www.uuchurchofthelakes.org

UNITED METHODIST

**Bethel United
 Methodist Church**
 W5110 Highway A, Elkhorn
 (262) 742-3507
 Email: bethelumc@elknet.net

**First United
 Methodist Church**
 111 N. Broad St., Elkhorn
 (262) 723-2629
www.elkhornfumc.com

WORD OF FAITH

Christian Life Church
 4521 County F, Delavan
 (262) 728-1463
www.clcdelavan.org

top: With the Easter holidays comes egg hunts, which are numerous throughout the area. Here, First Lutheran Church and School held its egg hunt last year right before Easter.

DAVE DRESADOW *Our Town*

J. Roberts changes owners, not style

For more than a century, J. Roberts has stood as the symbol of quality and customer service in Elkhorn.

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

After all, the menswear store is famous for this quote: “Customer service is an attitude, not a department.”

But although long-time owners Jim and Marilyn Schoberg retired last year after more than 38 years, Jim said he was more than satisfied as the business gets handed off to Kyle Deschner. Deschner has purchased the business, and took over in early April of last year.

His girlfriend, Signe Bennett, is being added to the staff doing in-house alterations for the store.

Jim Schoberg and Deschner are friends, mentor and mentee – and also fellow musicians. In fact, music is how the two became friends.

“Our friendship blossomed because of the music, getting to jam together,” Kyle explained, adding that the two would go to each other’s gigs.

But last spring, as Jim and Marilyn began contemplating the next step in their life, they reached out to Kyle in another matter. At that point, Deschner had been the food and beverage manager at Lake Lawn Resort for the past few years.

“I just needed help,” Jim Schoberg explained, saying he offered Deschner options of part-time, full-time, manager and even owner. Deschner wasn’t sure whether or not the business would be for him, but decided to give part-time a try.

“I fell in love and decided to purchase,” Deschner explained. “It’s been great.”

Deschner said the decision was made easier because of the mentorship provided by the Schobergs – and the couple’s dedication to the business over the years.

“The working dynamic ... they really work so well together,” said Deschner, who added that he’s dedicated to keeping the best elements of the store and its place in the community.

“I’m not going to be the one to let the ball drop,” he added. Deschner said that the



J. Roberts, a menswear store in Elkhorn, changed ownership in 2022. Shown top, from left, are: former owners Marilyn and Jim Schoberg, and Kyle Deschner, who purchased the business. Next to Deschner is his girlfriend, Signe Bennett, who helps with alterations at the store.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

DAVE DRESADOW *Our Town*

store would remain basically the same, including the same lines, the same Big and Tall offerings, and the same dedication to providing the best quality for a fair price.

The store is likely to undergo some remodeling at some point, but that will be aesthetics – not something that changes what the Schobergs remained dedicated to for 38 years.

“The business has been very good to us,” Jim Schoberg explained. “It’s been just great being such a part of the community. A lot of our customers, we’re on the third generation of the same family.”

One of those families includes Deschner, whose father brought him to J. Roberts for his first suit in fifth grade after his grandfather had shopped there as well.

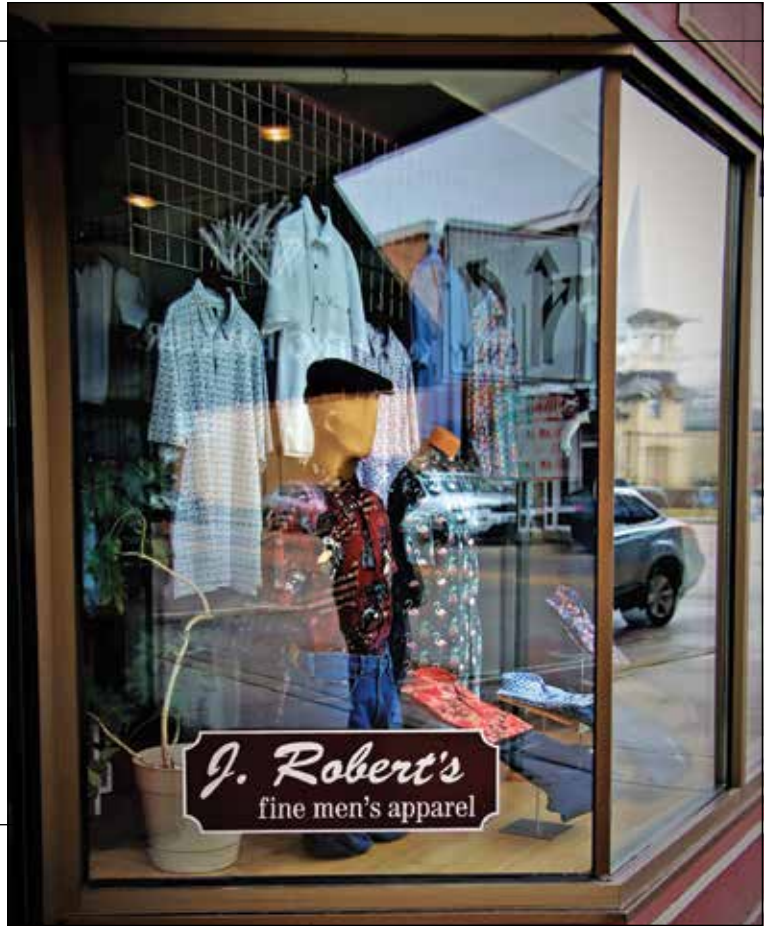
He remembers the trip well – and he also knows the value of the business he’s stepping into and his relationship with the Schobergs.

“We’ve really grown a great relationship,” Descher explained, adding that he felt ready to take over the business.

“We made a really seamless working relationship,” he added. “It was really a perfect marriage, work-wise.”

Jim agreed.

“Marilyn and my goal was to make this as seamless as possible,” he said.



J. Roberts has been a menswear store in Elkhorn for more than a century.

DAVE DRESLOW *Our Town*

Wilson's Whistle Stop

262-379-1577
Call For Catering

We bring the finest quality farm-fresh meats to your table

USDA

For Weekly Specials on Your Inbox
TEXT WILSON to 42828

Across the Street from **WILSON FARM MEATS**,
Corner of **Clark** and **Wisconsin Streets**

406 S. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121
(262) 723-2919 • www.wilsonfarmmeats.com

Clark St
S Wisconsin St

432578

10 S. WASHINGTON STREET, ELKHORN, WI 53121

BOXDROP ELKHORN MATTRESS & FURNITURE DIRECT IS FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

We work with a national wholesaler to clear out wholesale, overstock and closeout mattress and furniture

EVERYTHING IS BRAND NEW AND 30 TO 80% BELOW RETAIL

Bedroom • Living Room • Dining Room • Adjustable Bases

MATTRESSES

Including: Memory Foam, Pillowtops, Firm, Hybrids and the New Smart Bed

262-233-0124

Elkhorn

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AND GOOGLE

432120

“I CHOOSE MUTUAL INSURANCE BECAUSE I KNOW WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER”

Policyholders who work with mutual insurance company have a shared purpose: getting the best coverage and protection available. And mutual insurance delivers because mutuals serve policyholders, not shareholders. Our decisions are always based on what’s best for you. Plus local agents offer customized solutions for all your insurance needs. Find out how mutual insurance can work for you.



Sugar Creek Mutual Insurance Company

www.sugarcreekmutual.com

262.723.3244

Member of the National Association
of Mutual Insurance Companies

“SHARED PURPOSE. MUTUAL VALUES.”™ is a registered trademark of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies. All rights reserved. © 2012 National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies.



SHARED PURPOSE. MUTUAL VALUES.™

194515

FIRST CITIZENS STATE BANK



SINCE 1863

West Side Office

1058 West Main Street
Whitewater
(262) 473-3666

Main Office

207 West Main Street
Whitewater
(262) 473-2112

East Troy Office

2546 East Main Street
East Troy
(262) 642-2530

Palmyra Office

111 East Main Street
Palmyra
(262) 495-2101



firstcitizensww.com



432705



GERMAN HOSPITALITY

As United Way of Walworth County held its second annual DasFest in August of 2022, tens of thousands of people braved the hot weather to take advantage of the food, beverages and activities at the Walworth County Fairgrounds. The event features German food and entertainment, plenty of souvenir shopping and, of course, beer. **above:** German alphorns were among the large variety of music played at the event. **top left:** Flowered headbands, pins, authentic German clothing and more were on sale at the grounds. **at left:** Teddy, cheered on here by the crowd, was the only corgi to finish his heat in the dog races.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*

ARROW SEWING

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

262-724-8822

Find your dream sewing studio!

Visit our Elkhorn showroom.

#1 SEWING FURNITURE MANUFACTURER IN U.S.



www.arrowsewing.com
208 E Morrissy Dr.
Elkhorn, WI 53121

PROVIDING QUALITY SEWING AND CRAFTING FURNITURE SINCE 1943

432890

Wishing Well
FLORIST



We Deliver Daily!!

Flowers
For all Occassions!

- Birthday
- Get Well
- Sympathy
- Wedding

Jerry Rahn

(262) 723-6677 • www.flowerswishingwell.com

26 South Wisconsin Street, Elkhorn, WI 53121

412117

Chiropractic Center of Elkhorn

Kenneth W. Schenk, D.C., D.A.C.R.B.

415 E. Geneva St.
Elkhorn, WI 53121

Phone: 262-723-2792
Fax: 262-723-2892

kschenk69@charter.net

307500



The old fashioned drive-in experience, complete with carhops

Annie's Burger Town offers nostalgia, large menu

When people think of some of the classics from the 1950s and 1960s, it's not confined to music and movies.

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

Drive-in restaurants have along history in the area, especially in Elkhorn. Since 1968, a drive-in has called 645 N. Lincoln St, Elkhorn, home – first as a Dog and Suds. Now, for as long as most can remember, the drive-in has been Annie's Burger Town.

Owned by Jeff and Maria Halpin for the last 29 years, Annie's opens in the spring and closes at the start of winter. In the months in between, the couple offers a large and varied menu with everything from traditional fast-food favorites to nostalgic touches like pizza burgers and homemade root beer.

Annie's remains unique as one of, if not the only, place in Walworth County with carhop service.

"We have always tried to do our best with food quality and service and make

many of our items from scratch," Maria Halpin explained. "Many customers enjoy the nostalgia of coming to a drive-in and getting served in their car, or just relaxing outside at one of our picnic tables.

"We love what we do," she added.

After starting life as a Dog and Suds, Halpin said she thinks the second owners changed the name to Burger Town. The third owner, Ann Harkness, added "Annie's" – and the Halpins purchased the business from Harkness in 1993.

Halpin said they remained committed to the large menu, which includes the expected hamburgers, cheeseburgers and fries, and hot dogs. But it also features Coney dogs and pizza burgers, a long list of appetizers and salads and wraps.

"We originally inherited a large menu, as there were not a lot of other fast-food options until the 90s," Halpin said. "We added a few others items over the years, such as Gyros, Italian beef, salads and wraps.

"Tastes and eating habits change and we

try to be conscious of that," she added.

There's also the matter of the homemade root beer, a recipe Halpin said they inherited from the previous owners.

"It is our most popular beverage by far," she explained, adding that they sell it by the gallon.

And on top of the seasonal business, Annie's now has a catering business – one born by accident as Annie's provided food for an employee who was graduating.

"Word of mouth over the years has made it an integral part of our business now," said Halpin, adding that most items are made from scratch. Annie's caters through the holidays, so the only real downtime is in January.

But she added that while finding employees can be a challenge, the business is blessed with being able to hire students.

"We hire a lot of students who like fewer hours during the school year and more hours in the summer," Halpin explained. She added that the couple's children are also a huge help with the business.

"We try to keep it a fun atmosphere, especially with such a young staff," she said. "For many it is their first job. We want it to be as enjoyable while teaching them skills they can use forward in life."

For all that Annie's offers, though, Halpin did make clear one thing – a certain standard that most think of with drive-ins is gone forever.

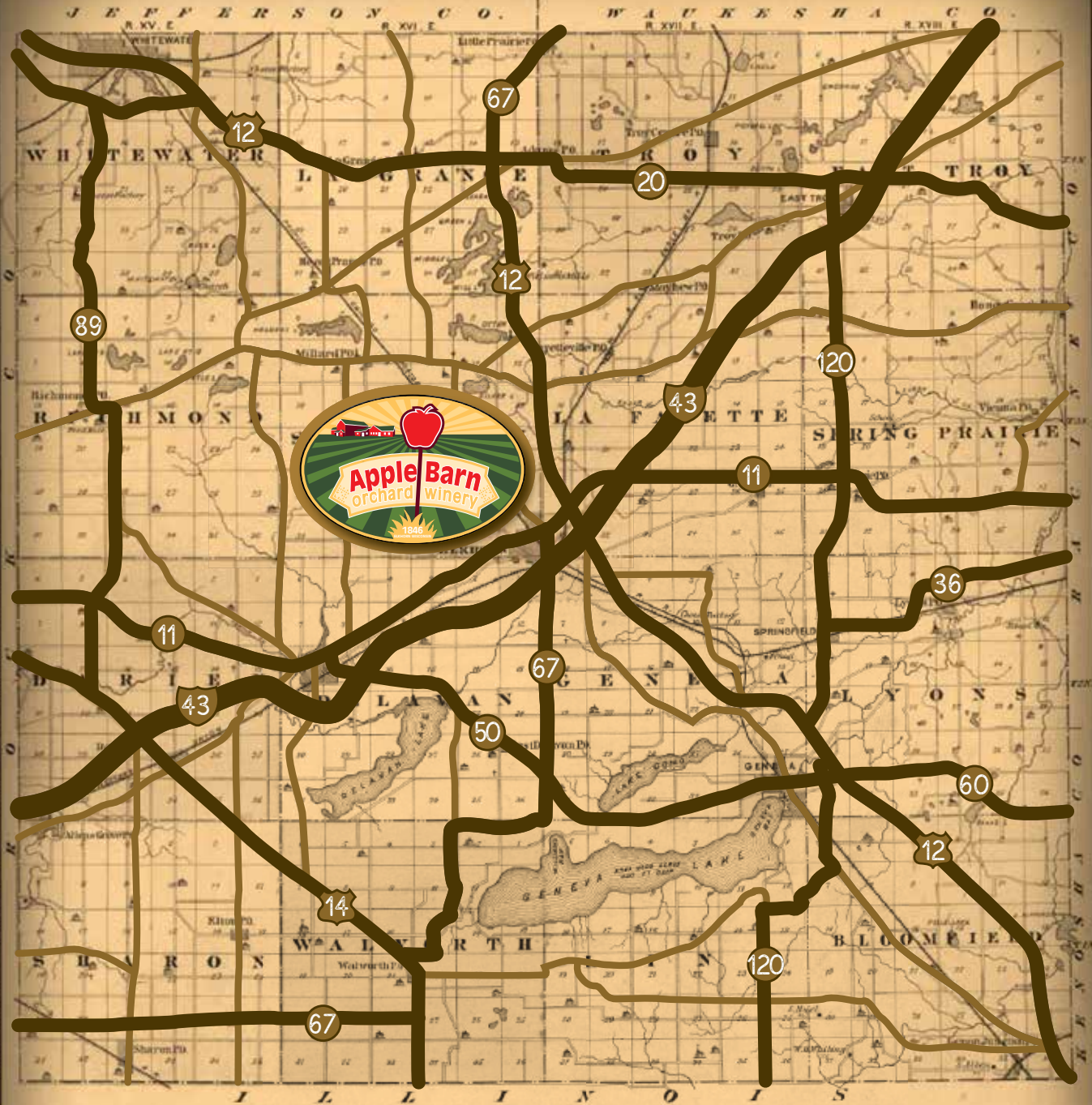
"They never wore roller skates to my knowledge," said Halpin. "Our carhops have made it clear that we're not about to start now."

Annie's is open Monday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Annie's Burgertown, an old-time drive-in restaurant, is open 10 out of 12 months a year and offers a wide variety of favorites. The restaurant, located at 645 N. Lincoln St., has been around since the 1960s.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*

MAP OF WALWORTH COUNTY



Explore
 WALWORTH COUNTY
 Experience

APPLE BARN
 ORCHARD & WINERY

BUY NOW

www.AppleBarnOrchardAndWinery.com

262-728-3266

16384 SUGAR CREEK RD. ELKHORN, WI. 53121

All sold out

Baker Meister opened in Elkhorn to huge sales

It didn't take Baker Meister long to make a hit in Elkhorn when it opened.

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

The bakery, which had moved from Okauchee this year because of a fire, opened at 6 a.m. on a Saturday in October to an apparently primed audience. The bakery was sold out by 1:03 p.m., according to a Facebook post by an Elkhorn resident.

Actually, the bakery had run out of items not once, not twice, but three times that day.

"By the third time doing that, the guys were so tired," said Gwendolyn Schuerstedt, co-owner of the bakery with her husband Michael. The couple and their sons brought the new bakery to life this week, bringing back a welcome option for devoted followers.

"We're a damned good bakery," she said Friday before the opening.

She had expected the bakery's following to travel to Elkhorn, which is roughly an hour from the couple's previous location in Okauchee (near Oconomowoc).

"The customers that we had? We tried our best to remember their names," Gwendolyn said.

After a fire March 1, Gwendolyn and Michael were left without their family business. Ironically, they were making paczkis for Fat Tuesday when the fire happened. It left the couple without a place of business, as repairs and renovation would take time.

Gwendolyn praised property owner Hans Weissgerber for helping them get their start in Okauchee, as he helped promote them in the community and support them with orders. But the could had to look for a new home.

Gwendolyn said she was reminded of an old saying when the couple was out driving in the area, looking for an RV.

"When one door closes, another door opens," she said.

She and Michael happened to be traveling through Elkhorn when they saw the "for sale" sign in front of the old Lakeland Bakery building, located at 421 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn. The former



Co-owner Michael Schuerstedt shows off the handmade Bavarian pretzels that the store is famous for.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

bakery, open for 63 years, was a victim of the COVID-19 pandemic, closing in May of 2020.

It turned out to be a near-perfect location, though, for Baker Meister, which was unable to reopen any time soon at the previous location.

"It's huge in here," Gwendolyn said. "We fell in love with it right away."

She added that when they called the number on the "for sale" sign, "light bulbs went off."

Judging by the weekend's turnout, it was a bright bulb. The couple offers everything from savory Bavarian pretzels – in two sizes, regular and the oversized "fun" size – to everyday cookies and breads.

The pretzels, though, have a reputation for being the best. The Schuerstedts use handmade dough, dipped and shaped by

hand, in a secret "sauce" before baking.

"You can dip it in cheese, or whatever," Gwendolyn explained, adding that in-shop dips for the pretzels will be coming.

The bakery will also be offering Bienenstich torte cake, Black Forest cake and a large variety of puff pastries. Those include apple and cherry turnovers, cream horns, elephant ears, cinnamon twists and cherry cheese pockets, as well as coffee cakes, streusel and kringle.

"We're going to add to it as we go," Gwendolyn said. "Those are our best sellers."

Baker Meister Bakery, located at 421 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, is open from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call 262-379-1463.



Ready for your next step?
Give me a call.

"Rob Edwards is not only very professional and knowledgeable about real estate in the area, but also very easy to work with.

We would highly recommend Rob to anyone seeking a highly qualified, professional real estate agent."

John H

Rob Edwards
COMPASS

HONESTY. INTEGRITY. RELIABILITY.

262.903.0566
r.edwards@compass.com
robedwards-compass.com



432035

Do you have a disability?

We can help increase your independence at home and in the community with these services.

- Advocacy • Assistive Technology
- Benefits Counseling • Daily Living Skills
- Home & Vehicle Modifications • Aging in Place
- Avoiding the Nursing Home
- Peer Support • Life After High School

Are you helping someone who is on Medicaid? Or could be?

We train and pay you to be an in-home caregiver as part of our Familiar Faces, Familiar Places program.



Call us. 800-378-9128



www.societysassets.org
A resource for people with disabilities
431845



Cafe • Specialty Coffee & Tea • Ice Cream • Gift Shop



UPTOWN @FRIENDS



Private Rental Space!

Upstairs at Friends on the Square. Wedding Reception, Baby Shower, Birthday Parties and more.



16+ Flavors Scoop Ice Cream!

Shakes, malts, sundaes and smoothies.

ODLING PLUMBING and Mechanical

Reasonable, Reliable, Honest

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

- Sump & Well Pumps • Water Heaters & Softeners
- Septic Systems • All Aspects of Plumbing

262.215.9464 • 262.728.8626
odlingplumbing@gmail.com

41 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn • 262.723.2909 • FriendsOnTheSquare.com

Find us on Facebook: FriendsOnTheSquare & UptownAtFriends

431755

GRATEFUL TO BE ...

By Jennifer Eisenbart
EDITOR

Getting back to normal

In any small town in America, some of the most identifiable figures tend to be your high school sports coaches.

Add in a state title, and well, at least a little bit of star status is mixed in with the deal.

Jim Henriott, the former girls basketball coach at Elkhorn Area High School, understood what leading his team to a state title in 1997 meant.

Perhaps what he didn't know was how it would come back to him in the future. After a series of health issues this past year that started with heart problems and led to triple bypass surgery and then an odyssey of rehabilitation (with COVID-19 thrown in for good measure), Jim was left in a wheelchair as his body attempts to heal.

On Dec. 4, though, friends and family of Jim and his wife, Darcie, gathered at Delavan Lanes for a nine-pin tap fundraiser to help address the numerous bills the two have been left with.

While the fundraiser brought in a significant amount of money to address those bills, for Jim, it was the chance to reconnect with former players, friends and family after six months of isolation that truly meant the most to the recovering former coach.

"Once I got there and saw the people there, the people who came, it was overwhelming," Jim said.

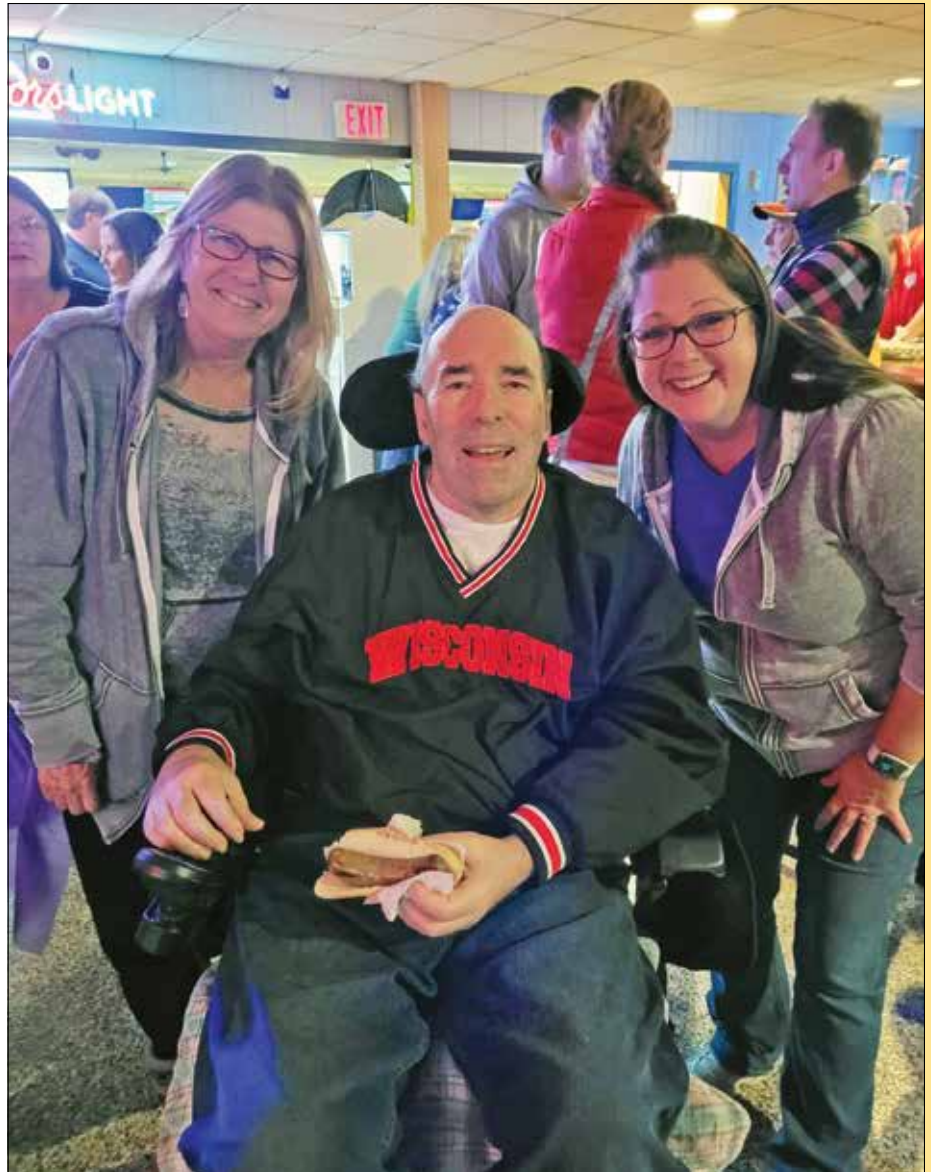
Health issues

Jim retired from basketball coaching in 2015 – about three years before he would also retire from his full-time job at the Walworth County Jail. By 2018, he needed back surgery, which precipitated his retirement. Around that time, he was also diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease – a progressive disorder of the central nervous system that can be treated but not cured. He is also diabetic.

Recovery from the back surgery was slow, both Jim and Darcie explained.

"I would get on the treadmill, I'd go two to three minutes at a crack and then I'd get tired," Jim said. He also said his legs sometimes gave out and he would fall on and off.

The fatigue really began to weigh on Jim, but it wasn't until March of 2021 that things hit a crisis level. On March 17, Jim discovered that that he could not support his weight or even get back out of bed following another fall. This time,



The year 2021 will go down as being seemingly endless for the Henriott family, after Jim Henriott (center) had numerous health issues, including heart problems and COVID-19. The former Elkhorn girls basketball coach is shown here with friends at a fundraiser for him in 2021.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

Darcie needed to call for help to get him back up.

The next morning, "he couldn't even get out of bed," Darcie said. Looking back, Darcie said she and Jim should have put "two and two together" sooner, but Jim's diabetes had clouded the issue.

He was taken to Mercy Walworth County Urgent Care, but then was transferred to Javon Bea Hospital Riverside (Mercy's hospital in Rockford,

Illinois), where he was diagnosed with significant heart issues. One artery was 80% blocked, while two other arteries had partial blockages.

"They had to find a place for us," Darcie said. "They tried to do the stents." But the hospital didn't feel capable of dealing with the triple bypass surgery, and he was transferred to Edwards Heart

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

SERVING THE BEGINNER TO PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN SINCE 1945

GEO R. BREBER MUSIC CO. INC.

Selmer, Getzen, Blessing
Bach, Armstrong & Buffet
Instruments

Alvarez Guitars
Peavy Electronics
& Sound Systems,
Casio Keyboards &
Digital Pianos
PA & PIANO RENTAL



Pearl, Ludwig
& Dixon
Percussion

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!

- New & Used Instruments ▪ Rentals ▪ Sheet Music
- In House Repairs ▪ Private Music Lessons

801 E. Geneva Street, P.O. Box 206
Elkhorn, WI 53121
(262) 723-2233
or **(800) 686-8737**

www.brebermusic.com

390195



Kevin C. Monty



Monty Insurance Solutions

*Auto, Home, Life,
Business Insurance*

W5241 Plantation Road
Elkhorn, WI 53121
Phone: (262) 742-2400
Cellular: (414) 243-3819
Fax (866) 312-6383



MontyInsurance@gmail.com
www.MontyInsurance.com

411402

ELKHORN-SALOON

9 East Walworth Street
Elkhorn, Wis.
(262) 723-9997

339002

“

Everyone is always willing to go the extra mile to answer questions and help us make decisions that work best for us!”
– **Kenneth B.**

Together, we can achieve more.

Membership is open to anyone who lives or works in our 11-county service area, **including Walworth County.**



Join today by scanning the code or visiting us at ecu.com.

Insured by NCUA



Educators
CREDIT UNION®

432729

Hospital in Naperville, Illinois – a suburb of Chicago. From there, he went to Van Matre Health Rehabilitation in Rockford.

He had just been transferred to Holton Manor in Elkhorn when he tested positive for COVID-19. That was the beginning of a medical odyssey of grand proportions, which saw Jim in the hospital for COVID-related pneumonia, complications with his diabetes, intestinal blockages and a UTI.

It was also a struggle trying to find a balance between Jim's treatments for Parkinson's and diabetes. Jim and Darcie both said that he was finally taken off all his medication. Doctors then began adding back medications they felt he needed most. They also tried new medications and changed Jim's diet.

The end result? Six months later, Jim still could not move his left leg and was confined to a motorized wheelchair. His overall health is finally good, so long as his Parkinson's and diabetes are monitored and his medications given properly.

The big day in both Jim and Darcie's life was the day Jim was finally able to come home. Both hope he is there to stay for a good long while.

"As long as I can physically take care of him," Darcie said.

Moving forward

The long-term ramifications of Jim's illness mean that he will require treatment at home. As a result, he and Darcie are facing an ever-increasing number of bills for everything from an electric wheelchair to a hospital bed to lift equipment since Jim is still rehabilitating. Darcie also needed to get a wheelchair van.

But while the bills and medical issues are ongoing, the six-month stretch was also difficult emotionally.

"Your visits were through the windows of your hospital room," Jim said. "I couldn't even get the (vaccine) shot to get things started."

Darcie added, "I couldn't get down there every day. We've been married 29 years and been together 31. Overall, we're together quite a bit. I was like, 'oh, I get the house to myself.'"

"I didn't like it."

The couple is starting to pay off the large number of bills – which are extensive. As Darcie explained, each ambulance ride (and there were many) was over \$1,000. She has taken to balancing her work with coming home to check on Jim at lunch and making sure he has all he needs.

Jim, meanwhile, can work in the kitchen with the electric wheelchair and out to the mailbox to get the mail. Physically, he has a long way to go, "but



Delavan Lanes served as host for a fundraiser for Jim Henriott in December of 2021. Shown here is one of the people serving food and drinks during the event.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Our Town

mentally, I can still function."

He's also making progress physically. He is able to move his right leg, and he is undergoing occupational and physical therapy each week. He's now gotten some movement back, where seven weeks ago, he had none.

"Everything is going to be in tiny, tiny steps," Jim said. "Some is better than none. The goal is to get to a walker."

But with the cost of the equipment, friends and family started working on ways to help the couple pay off the bills. A GoFundMe page was established (Jim's Journey) – and then came the idea of the fundraiser.

People signed up in teams to bowl, and there were silent auctions throughout the day. There were also raffles – both of the regular and 50/50 variety – food and the opportunity to just be together. The event drew a large crowd, including some of the nurses that helped Jim throughout his ordeal. One even brought him a Milwaukee Bucks' T-shirt.

But overwhelmingly – and overwhelmingly for Jim – was the presence

of all the people he had missed seeing. It wasn't just the last six months for Jim. It was also the isolation due to the pandemic.

"I told a lot of people, 'I don't care if you bowl. I don't care if you make a donation,'" Jim said. "I'm just happy to see people I haven't seen in two years."

"The outpouring was unbelievable," he added.

Jim didn't know everyone. Darcie explained that people knew Jim, or knew the family's story. Jim also spent time as the swine superintendent for the Walworth County Fair. Darcie said families that are normally showing at the fair made two "gorgeous" baskets for the fundraising efforts.

"I've got a list of people who contributed," she said. "(People) did every kind of thing. They were there for us."

Her gratitude – along with Jim's – is clear.

"I just think our community is wonderful," Darcie said. "I've seen it work. I just can't believe the support."

Dan Johnson, a native of Arkansas and resident of Virginia, was one of the entrants at the 2022 Ribfest in Elkhorn. He's been cooking ribs for decades after a long career in the U.S. Army led him to make barbecue a serious hobby.

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR



Slow & slow,

Cooking the best ribs comes with years of experience for Johnson

As Elkhorn's Ribfest hit the Walworth County Fairgrounds last week – bringing upwards of 100,000 visitors ready to try the best the barbecue world has to offer – a legend in competition world was ready to make his mark.

Dan Johnson, who owns Johnson's BBQ out of Virginia Beach, Virginia, made his second appearance at Ribfest. While results from this year's competition were not available by deadline, Johnson has numerous national awards and honors from barbecue events across the country – and he expected to be competitive.

"I could lose," Johnson said. "They are competitive. You have some of the best barbecue in the world."

It's Johnson's second year at Ribfest, after competing around the country and picking up awards for best ribs, best sauce and various other honors in places like Long Beach, California, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and St. Augustine, Florida.

All this from comes an Arkansas man who got into barbecue because it's what he ate growing up in a small town without fast-food chains.

"It's a lot of fun," Johnson said. "It's a challenge, too."

Growing up

Originally from Arkansas, Johnson explained that he grew up in a small town without such staples as Burger King,

McDonald's, Pizza Hut and the like. There was a Dairy Queen on the other side of town, but that was about it.

"There was fish on Friday, which was almost mandatory," Johnson explained. "And there was barbecue. I grew up on barbecue."

When Johnson graduated from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. After serving a tour in Vietnam and being promoted as far as staff sergeant, he came back to attend Officer Candidate School. He would go on to attain the rank of colonel before he retired in 1989.

But while at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, he found himself in the middle of four different bases – none of which offered barbecue.

“I just thought that, with all those people from all over the country, there’d be a desire for barbecue,” Johnson said.

He was right. He opened his first restaurant in 1987 and has grilled ever since. He said he should have, at one point, franchised the restaurant, but never did. Now he owns Johnson BBQ, located in Chesapeake, Virginia.

It’s worked out for Johnson, who spends five months of the year traveling the country, competing in barbecue competitions.

“I just basically decided to do the competition, to achieve what I wanted to achieve,” he said. “When I get home, I have something to do to stay busy with.”

On the competition road

For someone like Johnson, who believed the Army when they told him to believe in himself and that he could do anything, there’s nothing like the challenge of competition.

“Honestly, I love competing,” he said. “You get almost instant feedback on your product.

“When people eat your food, they tend to give you feedback,” he added.

Competition also gave him an outlet once he retired from the military.

“I believe in staying active. I don’t think retirement is very good for you, at all,” he said. He then quipped, “I don’t do peppermint, retirement or internment. None of the ‘ments.’”

Like any good pit master seems to say, Johnson believes in “low and slow” for his ribs, putting them on the grill at a lower temperature and then letting them cook for 4 to 5 hours.

“I sit there and we slowly cook it,” he said.

He also swears by using wood to smoke the meat, using mostly hickory but also oak.

And then there’s the sauce. His mild sauce – the standard sauce – has served him well over the years. He called it a Texas/Tennessee-style red sauce, and people “love it, they truly do,” Johnson said.

But for the adventurous, there is also the “thermonuclear sauce.”

“Guaranteed to clear out your cardiovascular system, your sinuses, your pancreas and your colon in 30 seconds,” he said. “If it gets too hot, I’ve got a fire extinguisher you can use.”

Having been in competition now for about 36 years, Johnson said there are numerous challenges – and not just those related to how best to barbecue his ribs.



Like many of the entries at Elkhorn’s Ribfest, Dan Johnson’s booth proclaims the many honors he’s picked up after decades of cooking ribs.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*

“You’ve got to guess who’s coming in,” said Johnson. “You’ve got to prepare.”

And preparing means more than just the ribs. His wife, Geraldine – who Johnson joked is named “Boss” – handles the sides, which include baked beans, collard greens, coleslaw, mac and cheese, potato salad, homemade cornbread and bread pudding.

After that, he said, he just hopes people like what he makes.

“Most people are competitive,” he said. “They want to be the best. It gives me the opportunity to prove it.”

Part of Ribfest

Johnson’s first year at Elkhorn’s event in 2021 did not go as planned. He came in with high expectations, but didn’t make the competition deadline after not being able to find the entry area.

“I didn’t make the time. My fault,” he said. “I should’ve been there on time and I wasn’t.”

In spite of the confusion on where his entry needed to be, though, Johnson had nothing but praise for Elkhorn’s Ribfest and Larry Gaffey, the general manager at the Walworth County Fairgrounds.

“I heard it was a great show,” Johnson said. “Mr. Gaffey puts on a great show there. He’s mastered something I’ve seen very few people master.”

That, Johnson said, is just getting people to come in for the event.

“It’s one of the best shows in the country,” Johnson explained. “I can truthfully say that, because so many people show up. He brings a crowd every year.”

Johnson said he was prepared this year – hopefully enough to win. But regardless of the results, it is the competition he truly craves.

“It’s a passion. It’s something I love to do,” Johnson said. “They let you know if they like it, and so far, we’ve been pretty well blessed.”



— BUYING OR SELLING A HOME?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

Buying or selling a home can be a stressful process if you don't have the right real estate agent. With 34+ years of experience, you can rely on us to get you the best possible result.


JERRY KROUPA
BROKER/CONSULTANT

CONTACT:

- ✉ JERRYKROUPA@ATPROPERTIES.COM
- 📞 262-949-3618
- ❤️ @LAKEHOMESWI.COM



Looking for the **BEAST** of BRAY ROAD

Paranormal investigators study local lore

By Sandra Landen Machaj

CORRESPONDENT

Residents in the East Troy/Elkhorn area (and beyond), have for years, told tales of strange howls in the night, rustling sounds when no one is seen, mists coming and going on a bright and sunny day, white orbs in the sky, strange footprints, eyes shining up in the trees and deer carcasses from roadkill disappearing.

Add to that the reported sightings of a “beast,” covered with long hair and walking on two legs, and you have the local legend of the Beast of Bray Road.

The beast is described as a humanoid wolf-like creature about 7-feet tall. It was given the name of Beast of Bray Road because of the many sightings of it in that area, going back as far as 1936. The sightings grew more prevalent in the 1970s and 1980s.

At the time, there was so much interest that a local writer, Linda Godfrey, began to research the sightings and combined them in a book titled “The Bray Road Beast.” A movie was also produced about the sightings in 2005.

The beast has been seen more frequently again in recent years.

On the night of Oct. 3, 2021, the Bucks County Paranormal Investigation team from Pennsylvania, led by Eric Mintel, was in Elkhorn for a program about the Beast of Bray Road. Afterward they were invited to the farm of Lee Hampel, near Elkhorn, where a lot of unusual activity has been noted in his fields including some possible sightings of the beast.

“We decided to take a trip to the area to learn more about the Beast of Bray Road, so the group attended the conference,” Mintel said. “Afterwards



top: The Bucks County Paranormal Investigation team from Pennsylvania is led by Eric Mintel (right) and has been investigating events related to the Beast of Bray Road at Lee Hampel's farm near Elkhorn. Pictured with Mintel is Dominic Sattelle. **above:** Eric Mintel (left), paranormal investigator spends time with Lee Hampel, the owner of a farm near Elkhorn, discussing what they believe is paranormal activity that has occurred on Hampel's farm for a number of years.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

PHOTO COURTESY PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS Our Town

2023
WALWORTH COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
 • HOME OF WALWORTH COUNTY'S LARGEST EVENTS •

MAY 21 • JUNE 25
 AUG. 13 • SEPT. 24 **ELKHORN FLEA MARKET**

JUNE 17 **DAIRY BREAKFAST TRUCK & TRACTOR PULLS**

JUNE 21 **PORK CHOP COOKOUT**

JUNE 30-JULY 1 **PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDING**

JULY 12-16 **ELKHORN RIBFEST**

JULY 19 **STEAK COOKOUT**

AUG. 4-6 **DAS FEST**

AUG. 30-SEPT. 4 **WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR**

OCT. 7 **ELKHORN HOLIDAY CRAFT BASH**

WWW.WALWORTHCOUNTYFAIR.COM
 262-723-3228 | ELKHORN, WI

WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE FAIRGROUNDS!

432373

Donation tax receipts available!



Proudly supported by United Way of Walworth County

Circle of Friends Mission Thrift Shop
 A 501c3 Nonprofit Organization

FURNITURE PICKUPS AVAILABLE!

Text pictures to 262-325-2851 with your furniture donations.

Elkhorn Store
 630 E. Court St., Elkhorn, WI 53121 ~ 262-723-8177
WED-THUR 10am-5pm FRI 10am-4pm SAT 9am-1pm

Mukwonago Store
 831 Greenridge Center, Mukwonago, WI 53149 ~ 262-378-3181
MON-THUR 9am-6pm FRI 9am-5pm SAT 9am-4pm SUN 9am-1pm

Learn more at www.circleoffriends.love

We are so much more than just your local thrift store!

Our mission is to help individuals, families, & the community through affordable necessities and donations.

432758



KindredHearts of Elkhorn offers the quality and customizable assisted living care you have been searching for

Amenities Include:

- Medication management and personal cares if needed
- Nutritious homemade meals
- Physician Medical Director
- Health monitoring by licensed nurse
- Friendly community

www.khearts.com

Call our Senior Living Advisor for more information, to set up a tour, or to request an E-Brochure at **262-723-8400**

KindredHearts of Elkhorn
 450 East Geneva Street
 Elkhorn, WI 53121



367276

we were invited to Lee Hampel's farm where there has been reported a lot of paranormal activity. We thought we would hear a story about the activities but certainly didn't expect to have the experience we had."

Hampel said he purchased the farm in 2007 to grow hay for his animals unaware of the farm's history. By 2011, neighbors told him stories about the beast and that it was frequently seen on Bray Road eating road kill. They also shared information about strange things happening in the area such as their tractors would quit running for no reason and then just as quickly restart. Some reported hearing unnatural howling sounds and seeing what they thought might be the beast

Hampel began to look for the beast, baiting areas along the field originally with roadkill deer. He placed motion sensitive cameras in the area to see what would eat the deer.

"I was surprised to return the next day and find the deer gone and that the

cameras had not recorded anything in the area," Hampel said. "There was no sign of anyone walking on the grass or dragging the deer carcasses."

Over time Hampel said he saw a variety of paranormal activity including orbs and bright lights, and a creature with large orange eyes that jumped 15 feet into the air. Additionally, he says a strange mist has surrounded him on a bright and sunny day and he has found footprints with five toes and an additional two pads on the foot portion, giving seven pads in all, which is something he has not seen before.

"Dominic Sattelle the medium in our group, Ellen Collins, Beast of Bray Road researcher, along with Ellen's son, Scott, and I headed out to the field," Mintel said. "Dominic looked up and was shocked to see a solid white orb over the field. It dipped to a 45-degree angle and disappeared."

They had baited the area with steak bones, left over from their dinner, hoping

to attract the beast and it seems they did.

"As we gathered on the property, we began to hear a strange howl in the distance. Then another, which sounded closer, and all seemed to be behind us, encircling us. Then another howl, very guttural, and frightening, as if a man was screaming," Mintel said.

In the field, they also noticed eyes shining high up in the trees, he added.

Mintel said they began to wonder whether there was more than one beast and whether the field was a portal for the beasts to enter our world.

The paranormal investigators took a number of photos and video and now analyzing what they saw. And they will prepare some videos using some of the material they collected for the April conference.

Mintel and his Bucks County Paranormal Group returned to the area April 28 to present their findings from the visit to Hampel's farm at a town meeting at the Matheson Library in Elkhorn.



Above: According to Lee Hampel, footprints such as these will appear in the fields and are believed to be from the beast. Note that they begin as a single line then morph into two sets of prints. Above left: The distance between the footprints is measured at 48 inches. The footprints are unique in that they have five toe pads and two foot pads, not seen in any known species. Left: On a bright and sunny day, mists will reportedly occur out of nowhere, seen here enveloping Lee Hampel.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEE HAMPEL *Our Town*

“As we gathered on the property, we began to hear a strange howl in the distance. Then another, which sounded closer, and all seemed to be behind us, encircling us. Then another howl, very guttural, and frightening, as if a man was screaming.”

- Eric Mintel, Bucks County Paranormal Investigation

OUR CITY GOVERNMENT

CITY HALL

9 S. Broad St., Elkhorn
(262) 723-2219
www.cityofelkhorn.org
Hours: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Bruce Lechner
(262) 741-5117
blechner@cityofelkhorn.org

ALDERMEN

District 1*
Tim Shiroda
(262) 723-7557
tshiroda@cityofelkhorn.org

District 2*

Gary Payson Jr.
(262) 215-1989
gpayson@cityofelkhorn.org

District 3

Ronald Dunwiddie
(262) 723-3107
rdunwiddie@cityofelkhorn.org

District 4

Scott McClory
(262) 903-9811
smcclory@cityofelkhorn.org

District 5*

Ken Meinel
(262) 723-4425
kmeinel@cityofelkhorn.org

District 6

Karel Young
(262) 723-3054
kyoung@cityofelkhorn.org
** The terms for aldermanic districts 1, 2 and 5 expire in April.*

CITY STAFF

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

James Heilman
(262) 723-2219
jheilman@cityofelkhorn.org

CITY CLERK

Lacey Reynolds
(262) 723-2219
cityclerk@cityofelkhorn.org

POLICE CHIEF

Joel Christensen
100 W. Walworth St.
(262) 723-2210
info@elkhornpd.org

CITY ATTORNEY

Ward Phillips
6 West St., Elkhorn
(262) 723-7040

CITY ENGINEER

Mike Timmers
(262) 767-2747
mtimmers@kapurinc.com

CITY TREASURER

Jessie Bartmann
(262) 723-2219
gbartmann@cityofelkhorn.org

The City of Elkhorn Common Council meets the first and third Mondays of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 9 S. Broad St. The Plan Commission meets the first and third Thursday of the month as needed. The Financial & Judicial Committee generally meets the second and fourth Mondays at 4:30 p.m. The Municipal Services & Utilities Committee generally meets the second and fourth Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Other committees meet on an as needed basis. The meetings are open to the public. For more information, visit cityofelkhorn.org.

CITY ASSESSOR

Accurate Appraisal LLC
Addie Ebert
(800) 770-3927
info@accurateassessor.com

MUNICIPAL COURT

James Duquette, judge
Claudia Last, clerk
(262) 723-2340
elkmunicourt@cityofelkhorn.org

FIRE CHIEF

Rod Smith
(262) 723-2277
rsmith@cityofelkhorn.org

AMBULANCE CLERK

Andrea Ransom
(262) 723-5080
elkhornems@cityofelkhorn.org

RECREATION DIRECTOR

Karl Sorvick
(262) 741-5114 (Rec. center)
elkhornparkdir@cityofelkhorn.org

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Chad Robinson
(262) 723-2678
crobinson@elkhorn.lib.wi.us

PUBLIC WORKS

Matthew Lindstrom
Operations Manager
(262) 723-2223
mlindstrom@cityofelkhorn.org

UTILITIES

Dawn Gall
Utility Field Office Coordinator
(262) 723-3138
dgall@cityofelkhorn.org

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building inspector
Joe Mesler
(262) 741-5115
binspector@cityofelkhorn.org

Zoning administrator

Bonnie Schaeffer
zoning@cityofelkhorn.org
(262) 741-5124



A memorial to Joe Kirkpatrick – an Elkhorn Area High School school resource officer who died in 2020 – now stands at the base of the flagpole in front of the school's main entrance.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*



BALESTRIERI[™]
AN INDUSTRIAL SERVICE COMPANY

"I like working in construction because I do something different every day, and I'm always learning new things. It's fun to tear something down and build something new."

- Ty Garlock, Balestrieri Environmental Logistics Coordinator and Elkhorn Area High School Graduate

Balestrieri Supports EAHS's Youth Apprenticeship and State Certified Co-op Programs

Explore Your Chosen Career While Still a Student in High School

"Some students excel in the field, but not in a school setting. Students and parents are starting to see that college isn't the only career avenue."

- JoAnne Pella, EAHS Career and Technical Education Coordinator

800.453.2965

WWW.BALESTRIERIGROUP.COM



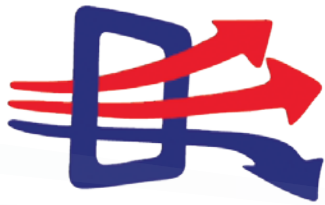
BALESTRIERI[™]
AN INDUSTRIAL SERVICE COMPANY

Balestrieri team members work for a local, family-owned business committed to the Elkhorn community. Our projects bring our team to a variety of industry sectors including commercial properties, historical landmarks, religious institutions, and schools. Ready to ditch your desk job? Learn more about Balestrieri's employment opportunities at BalestrieriGroup.com



800.453.2965

WWW.BALESTRIERIGROUP.COM



WESTENN

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

PROFESSIONAL. HONEST. VALUE.



Ray Alberth, Owner

Service on all brands 24/7
100% Service Guarantee

- RESIDENTIAL
- Replacement • Remodel
New Construction*
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL



Free Estimates!

990 Koopman Lane, Elkhorn | 262-723-4955 | www.WestennHeatandAir.com

412112

palmer HAMILTON

Do More with Your Space

A BETTER JOB IS WAITING

Predictable hours • GOOD pay
No experience preferred • Earn while you learn



Manufacturer of quality furniture
Located in Elkhorn
Text "Job" to 262-325-1264 or call 262-723-8200

431774

OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Walworth County Board of Supervisors meets the second Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Walworth County Government Center, 100 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. Meeting dates and times may vary therefore, it's advised to contact the County Clerk's Office at (262) 741-4241 to confirm meetings. For more information about county government, visit co.walworth.wi.us

WALWORTH COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

100 W. Walworth St.
Elkhorn

County Administrator
Mark Luberd
(262) 741-4357
mluberd@co.walworth.wi.us

County Clerk
Susi Pike
(262) 741-4241
Deputy County Clerk
Susi Pike

County Treasurer
Valerie Etzel
(262) 741-4251
treasurer@co.walworth.wi.us

Child Support Services
Supervisor
Marylee Richmond
(262) 741-7100

Property Listing
Susan Finster
(262) 741-4255

Register of Deeds
Michele Jacobs
(262) 741-4233

Finance Department
Director
Jessica Conley
(262) 741-4242
walcofn@co.walworth.wi.us

Human Resources
Kate Bishop
Director
(262) 741-7950
walcobr@co.walworth.wi.us

County Surveyor
Rob Merry
(262) 574-6721, ext. 289
rmerry@sewrpc.org

UW-Extension
(262) 741-4951
walworth.extension.wisc.edu

JUDICIAL BUILDING

1800 County Trunk NN
Elkhorn
Clerk of Circuit Court
(262) 741-7012

District Attorney
Zeke Wiedenfeld
(262) 741-7198
walworthda@da.wi.gov

Walworth County Circuit
Court Judges
Branch I

Hon. Phillip A. Koss
Branch II
Hon. Daniel S. Johnson
Branch III
Hon. Kristine E. Drettwan
Branch IV
Hon. David M. Reddy
Family Court Commissioner
Hon. Kelly Iselin
Circuit Court Commissioner
Hon. Peter Navis

Clerk of Circuit Court
Kristy Secord
(262) 741-7012

Treatment Court
Coordinator
Sheri Skomski
262-741-3247

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

1770 County NN
P.O. Box 1004
Elkhorn
Sheriff Dave Gerber
Undersheriff Tom Hausner
(262) 741-4400

MEDICAL EXAMINER

1770 County Rd. NN
(262) 741-4729
Medical Examiner
Gina Carver
Chief Deputy M.E.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

1910 County Rd. NN
Elkhorn
(262) 741-3200
walcohhs@co.walworth.wi.us
Director
Carlo Nevicosi
Deputy Director
Trista Piccola
Public Health Officer
Erica Bergstrom

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

1910 County Rd. NN
Elkhorn
(262) 741-3400
walcoadrc@co.walworth.wi.us

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

(262) 741-3200
walcohhs@co.walworth.wi.us

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

(262) 741-3200
walcoph@co.walworth.wi.us

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Director, Jackie Giller
(262) 741-7800

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



The Walworth County Fair offers a little something for everyone, from milk-chugging contests to carnival rides to fair food to entertainment. The 2023 Walworth County Fair takes place the week leading up to Labor Day, and will run from Aug. 30 through Sept. 4 this year. For more information, go to www.walworthcountyfairgrounds.com.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*

LAKELAND HEALTH CARE CENTER

1922 County Rd. NN
Elkhorn
(262) 741-3600
Nursing Home Administrator
Denise Johnson

LAKELAND SCHOOL

W3905 County Rd. NN
(262) 741-4118
Director, Special Education
Matthew Huettl
mhuettl@lakelandschool-walco.org

LAND USE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

100 W. Walworth St. #222
Elkhorn
(262) 741-4972
Director
Michael Cotter,
Deputy Director/
County Conservationist
Vacant
Senior Sanitation Officer
Rick Dorgay
Senior Zoning Officer

Nick Sigmund
Senior Conservation
Technician
Vacant

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

W4097 County Rd. NN
Elkhorn
(262) 741-3114
Director
Richard Hough
rrough@co.walworth.wi.us

County Engineer
Joe Kroll
(262) 741-3441
pbishop@co.walworth.wi.us

Finance Manager
Penny Bishop
(262) 741-3105
jwhite@co.walworth.wi.us

Facilities & Parks Foreman
Brent Brooks
(262) 741-3103
bbrooks@co.walworth.wi.us

Deputy County Highway

Commissioner
Barry Pierce
(262) 741-3799
bpierce@co.walworth.wi.us

Superintendents
Highway (county)
Dale Poggensee
(262) 741-3152
dpoggensee@col.walworth.wi.us

Highway (state)
David Woodhouse
(262) 741-3112
dwoodhouse@co.walworth.wi.us

Highway (support)
Mike Lois
(262) 741-3131
mlois@co.walworth.wi.us

Senior project managers
Steve Nichols
(262) 741-3442
snichols@co.walworth.wi.us

John Miller
(262) 741-3106
jmiller@co.walworth.wi.us

Deputy Director – Asset

Management
Matt Mortwedt
(262) 741-3114
DPWGeneral@co.walworth.wi.us

Asset Manager/operations
Analyst
Sarah Arndt
(262) 741-7262

COUNTY SURVEYOR

Rob Merry
(262) 547-6721, ext. 289
rmerry@sewrpc.org

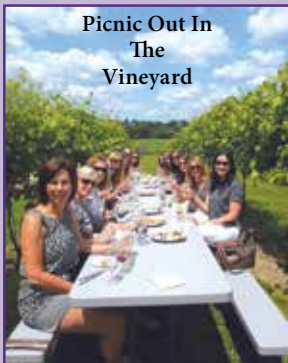
VETERAN'S SERVICES

Nathan Bond
Service Officer
(262) 741-4222
veterans@co.walworth.wi.us
nbond@co.walworth.wi.us

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Colleen Lesniak
Coordinator
(262) 741-4223
clesniak@co.walworth.wi.us

STALLER ESTATE WINERY



Picnic Out In
The
Vineyard

RELAX
in our gazebo and sunroom
with some friends and a glass
of Award Winning
Staller Estate Wine



Enjoy a beautiful view
of the vineyard

W8896 County Hwy. A
Delavan, WI
(608) 883-2100
www.stallerestate.com

*Gift Giving
Made Easier*

- Wine Flights
- Bachelorette Parties
- Glass Painting Parties
- Special Packages
- Delicious Picnic Platters
- Wine & Chocolate Pairings
- Ultimate Wine Flights
- Charcuterie Boards
- Barrel Cellar Tastings
- NEW Bourbon Barrelaged Wines

OPEN

June-August: Daily 11 a.m.-6 p.m.;
September-May: Wed.-Sun. 11 a.m.-6p.m.

Bachelorette • Weddings • Engagements • Birthdays

431628

Our goal is to help you meet your goals.

Financial Professionals providing:

- Education Funding • Financial Planning • Mutual Funds
- Retirement Planning • Variable Life Insurance



J. Javan Wehmeier RICP® Financial Advisor

15 South Lincoln Street
Suite 3
Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121-1793
p. (262) 723-6278 f. (262) 723-8728
www.equitable.com javan.wehmeier@equitable.com



EQUITABLE

Securities offered through Equitable Advisors, LLC (NY, NY (212) 314-4600), member FINRA, SIPC (Equitable Financial Advisors in MI & TN). Investment advisory products and services offered through Equitable Advisors, LLC, an SEC-registered investment advisor. Annuity and insurance products offered through Equitable Network, LLC. Equitable Advisors and Equitable Network are affiliated companies and do not provide tax or legal advice.

390132

Featuring: Dansko
New Balance • Merrell
Birkenstock • Keen • Red Wing
Brooks • Rockport • SAS • Earth • Chaco • Taos

Professional Shoe Fitting • Shoe Modifications & Repairs
GREAT SHOES! EXCELLENT SERVICE
MEN'S SIZES TO 15 • WOMEN'S SIZES TO 12
NARROW THROUGH EXTRA WIDE

Monday – Friday 9 to 5:30
Saturday 9 to 5

DALES BOOTERY
DOWNTOWN WHITEWATER
(262) 473-4093
www.dalesbootery.com

390146

OUR SERVICE CLUBS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

At the hub of any great city are the service clubs and organizations that host fun events and worthy fundraisers, or offer support to those in need, positively impacting the people of the greater community. Here are some of those located in the area:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 45

Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at the Walworth County Veterans Museum. Commander Mark Gajewski, (719) 238-6653

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

1545 Hobbs Dr., Delavan. Info: (262) 728-8865 or visit bbb4kids.org

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE

Cycling Without Age aims to bring joy and vitality to non-driving, older adults and those with differing abilities via a trishaw, a three-wheel, pedal-assist cargo bike.

The Dementia Friendly Community Initiative of Walworth County (see below) is bringing the program to the area. Two bikes have already been purchased but there are ongoing fundraising efforts for additional bikes and maintenance as well as training sessions for volunteers to pilot the bikes.

For more information about or to help with the Cycling Without Age program, visit dfcwalworth.org, send an email to dfcwalworth@gmail.com or call 262-320-7325.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

The Dementia Friendly Community Initiative of Walworth County is a non-profit group of volunteers that aims to insure all county businesses, faith communities, organizations and service providers are equipped to serve individuals affected by Alzheimer's/dementia.

The group meets at 8:30 a.m., the second Thursday of the even months (Feb., April, June, etc.) at Health & Human Services, 1910 County Rd NN, Elkhorn in the Kettle Moraine Trail Room on the first floor.

For more information call 262-320-7325, follow the group on Facebook, email dfcwalworth@gmail.com or visit dfcwalworth.org.

ELKHORN AREA WOMEN'S CLUB

A fellowship-oriented club since 1926 with a main goal of raising money for local charities and college scholarships. Info: Elkhorn Area Women's Club on Facebook or call Donna Felland at (262) 312-0838.

ELKHORN ARTS FOUNDATION

Mission to support, develop and promote all arts as an essential and integral part of the revitalization and growth for Elkhorn and surrounding communities. Info: elkhornartsfoundation.com

ELKHORN FOOD PANTRY

14 W. Geneva St., Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 to 11 a.m. Info: (262) 723-6359

ELKHORN FUND

The Elkhorn Fund is a group of volunteers working together for Elkhorn's present and future by raising money and investing it in an endowment fund. Each year, they award grants to nonprofits in the community. Info: (608) 758-0883 or cfsw.org

ELKHORN KIWANIS

The Elkhorn Kiwanis Club meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at noon at Associated Bank, 10 N. Lincoln St., Elkhorn. Information: P.O. Box 553, Elkhorn, WI. Call (262) 728-3711 or visit elkhornkiwanis.org

ELKHORN LIONS

The Elkhorn Lions Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at different locations in Elkhorn (see the calendar online for meeting locations.) Info: e-clubhouse.org, click on "Other clubhouses" on the left and then select Elkhorn Lions Club, Wisconsin, email toelkhornlions@gmail.com or like and follow Elkhorn Lions Club, Elkhorn, WI on Facebook

ELKHORN PENGUINS SWIM TEAM

A youth recreational swim team. Info: visit elkhornpenguins.com, email elkhornpenguins@gmail.com or like and follow Elkhorn Penguins on Facebook

ELKHORN ROTARY

P.O. Box 915, Elkhorn. The Rotary Club of Elkhorn meets Wednesdays at noon in the Community Room in the Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N. Wisconsin St. Info: (414) 333-1261, Elkhorn Rotary Club on Facebook or elkhornrotary.org

ELKHORN SNO DRIFTERS INC.

A non-profit club that promotes the sport of snowmobiling for the general public and installs and maintains a section of the Walworth County snowmobile trail. Info: (262) 215-0926 or email elkhornsnodrifters@gmail.com.

ELKHORN VFW MEMORIAL POST 6375

16 S. Broad St. Meetings are the second and fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Info: (262) 723-4979

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN WALWORTH COUNTY

P.O. Box 174, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. Info: (262) 949-0542 (please leave a message), visit habitatwalworth.org or like and follow Habitat for Humanity in Walworth County on Facebook.

HOPE NOW, INC.

107 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. A nonprofit organization that raises charitable funds to help local families in need. Info: call (262) 723-4711 or like and follow HOPE NOW, Inc. on Facebook.

KETTLE MORAINES LAND TRUST

Contact Greg Rajskey, executive director or Sue Heffron, program manager, at (262) 949-7211, at the office, N7511 Sterlingworth Dr., Elkhorn or by visiting kmlandtrust.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Patrick's, 107 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. Info: (262) 723-4998, stpatrickselkhorn.org.

LAKELAND ANIMAL SHELTER

3615 Highway 67, Delavan, P.O. Box 1000, Elkhorn. Open Monday-Friday from noon-6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: (262) 723-1000, lakelandanimalshelter.org

LAKELAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Meets September through March (excluding December) at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Lions Fieldhouse, Highway 67 and Stark St., Williams Bay. Info: (262) 248-4535 or lakelandaudubon.com.

LAKELAND PLAYERS

15 W. Walworth St., P.O. Box 234. Providing enjoyable entertainment, a creative home and volunteer opportunities. Info: follow Lakeland Players on Facebook, call (262) 728-5578 or visit lakeland-players.org

NEW BEGINNINGS APFV

20 N. Church St., Elkhorn. Support and advocacy for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and sexual abuse.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

Key goals include awareness, education, support groups and prevention. Info: 24-hour helpline at (262) 723-4653, or email newbeginningswalworth@gmail.com or visit newbeginningswalworth.com

OPEN ARMS FREE CLINIC

205 E. Commerce Ct. (Dental Clinic, 209 E. Commerce Ct.), Elkhorn. One hundred percent supported by grants and donations, Open Arms is the only free medical and supportive care clinic in Walworth County serving low-income and uninsured residents with primary medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, lab and pharmaceutical assistance. Hours vary with volunteer providers availability but are generally 9 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Info: (262) 379-1401, openarmsfreeclinic.org

PREGNANCY HELPLINE WALWORTH COUNTY

28 S. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m. 24-hour helpline at (800) 712-4357. Info: (262) 723-2020, phlwalworthco.org

S.M.I.L.E.S.

N2666 Highway K, Darien. Helping

to improve the lives of those living with disabilities through a partnership with horses. Info: (262) 882-3470, smiletherapeuticriding.org

TREE HOUSE CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER

W4063 Highway NN, Elkhorn. The nonprofit organization advocates for children and their families who are the victims of abuse and neglect through community outreach. The alliance's Tree House provides a safe place for abused children and their families to turn to for help. Info: (262) 755-8733 or visit treehouseforkids.net.

UW-EXTENSION

The University of Wisconsin-Extension teaches, learns, leads and serves while connecting people with the university and engaging them in transforming lives. A variety of programs and resources are available from horticulture to health, families and finance to nutrition education. Info: (262) 741-4961, walworth.extension.wisc.edu.

SOUTHERN WAKES UNITED WATER SKI SHOW TEAM

P.O. Box 434, Whitewater. The team is a

merger of the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers and Whitewater Lake Sports Club (Minneiska.) A non-profit water skiing organization that performs on lakes in the area in addition to tournaments. Info: southernwakesunited.com

UNITED WAY OF WALWORTH COUNTY

203 E. Walworth St., Elkhorn. Info: (262) 374-4474, uw-wc.org

VIP SERVICES, INC.

811 E. Geneva St., Elkhorn. Info: (262) 723-4043, vipservices-inc.org

WALWORTH COUNTY CIVIL AIR PATROL

401 E. Fair Ave., Elkhorn. Info: (414) 588-2053, gocivilairpatrol.com

WALWORTH COUNTY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Providing a safe supervised, educational and fun environment for children and teens. Info: (262) 745-2153 or bgcwalco.org

WALWORTH COUNTY FARM BUREAU

President: Terry Papcke. 119 S. Broad St. Info: (262) 723-2613, www.wfbf.com



WEDIGE Automotive

Celebrating **59 Yrs.**

Services

- Suspension
- Exhaust
- Tune Ups
- Tires
- Brakes
- Oil Changes
- Heating & Cooling Systems

(262) 723-2971
224 S. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, Wis.
www.Wedigeauto.com
Monday-Friday 7:30a.m.-5 p.m. 431626



NGB LEASING LLC.
262-379-1376

Rental Properties

Call us at 262-379-1376 for information on our LOW income properties located in Elkhorn and Delavan.

ELKHORN COMMONS APARTMENTS
925 GORMAN STREET

DELAVAN COURT APARTMENTS
700 & 710 FAYRL AVE.

432140

WALWORTH COUNTY FOOD PANTRY & DIAPER BANK

205 E. Commerce Ct., Elkhorn. Hours are Fridays, 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 to 11 a.m. Info: (262) 723-4488 or walworthcountyfoodpantry.org

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

President, Karen Weston. P.O. Box 159, Delavan 53115. Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the community center at Matheson Memorial Library. The

society's library in the Mary Bray Room at Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, is open and staffed from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays (until 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday) of each month. Info: walworthcgs.com or (262) 723-9150

WALWORTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

9 E. Rockwell St. P.O. Box 273, Elkhorn. Facilities include the Civil War era Webster House Museum, Doris M. Reinke Resource Center and Heritage Hall, which features the Walworth County

Veterans museum. Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and by appointment. For information call (262) 723-7848, visit walcohistory.org, email walcohistory@tds.net or follow the Society on Facebook.

FRIENDS OF THE WHITE RIVER STATE TRAIL

White River State Trail bicycle club; note that there is a trailhead in Elkhorn. Info: follow Friends of The White River State Trail on Facebook.



Walworth County Cycling Without Age pilot Chad Sutkay with Touching Hearts give a ride to a couple during the Elkhorn Christmas parade in December. The Dementia Friendly Community Initiative in Walworth County recently purchased two new trishaw bikes for the successful program.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Our Town

TIBBETS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

succeeds is because everyone is focused on the students, from teachers to administration to parents.

"We are better collectively than we are individually," said Wells, who added that it was an honor to be invited back. "This is a great day for Tibbets School."

Frost then explained how the teachers, staff and administration worked through the nomination process. The eight schools who ended up earning the designation in Wisconsin included Sullivan Elementary in Jefferson and Bayside Middle School in Milwaukee. The other six were scattered around the state.

Tadlock then got up to speak. He admitted he was a little lost as to how to further honor Tibbets.

"The only thing I can think of is, the first snow day this year gets named in honor of Tibbets Elementary," said

Tadlock, which drew a huge roar from the assembled students. "This is a memory you will have, even 50 to 60 years down the road. You will remember you went to one of the best elementary schools in the nation."

Tadlock thanked the students and staff, acknowledging that so much of the work that Tibbets was being honored for happened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"To keep the doors open and that you had a place for learning," Tadlock said, thanking everyone. "Keep up the good work."

Administration then showed off both the National Blue Ribbon School flag and plaque Tibbets received, and Frost mentioned the badge that had also been put up that morning. He then acknowledged what made Tibbets so special – the people who worked with and around the school,

and the positive attitude from everyone involved.

"It is so nice to have, as a principal, students that are excited to be at school," Frost said. "We have students that work hard. They work together. They persevere."

He then pointed out that the staff at the school has more than 500 years combined experience, and thanked the support staff and the community as well.

"We love our staff and we hope that it shows," Frost said. Adding about the community, "They donated their time to make sure our staff and students get what they need."

After the ceremony was dismissed, State Sen. Nass offered a simple but effective comment on Tibbets' award.

"It's an outstanding award for a job well done in education," he said.



Hitting the grill with the right meats

Wilson Farm Meats aims to provide quality grilling choices

If grilling has become more varied as specialized grills hit the mark, so has the meat being placed on those grills.

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

While local grocery stores and “big box” stores can provide plenty of bang for your bucks, there are also specialty stores where grillers can find everything from locally ground chuck to flavored sausages – all designed to provide a tasty experience for the palate.

Wilson Farm Meats, which has existed in its current form since 2004 in Elkhorn, offers just that kind of experience. Justin Corman, the general manager, said the priority is “high quality and selection, as well as the knowledge and experience.”

By experience, both shops offer a staff that knows how to blend sausage and chuck, as well as other cuts of meat. But they also offer custom processing of animals – which can range

Komfort

Heating & Cooling Inc.



“YOUR COMFORT IS OUR TOP PRIORITY”

47
YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE
1976-2023



SALES & SERVICE

Heating • Air Conditioning • Sheet Metal Work • *Now Offering Duct Cleaning!*

**RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL**



**FREE
ESTIMATES**



5384 State Road 11 • Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121
723-2662 • (800) 295-6363

431627



from in-season deer processing to private individuals processing a farm animal – and thoughts on how to best prepare what you purchase.

“The stuff you’re going to get from our store and from our restaurant here is going to be all about quality, and all in-house,” Corman said.

Located a short jog from downtown Elkhorn, Wilson Farm Meats not only offers custom flavors, on-site processing and experience, but a restaurant across the street from the store that serves lunch Wednesday through Saturday.

“Basically, if it’s meats, we have it,” Corman explained.

Wilson Farm Meats has length at its

current location, albeit it under the name of Elkhorn Locker. Scott Wilson, a fifth-generation pig farmer, purchased the store in 2004, and everything has been done in house under his ownership.

Said Mark Tamblyn, who runs the retail store, “we can have an animal come in our building and be out on the counter within a week. Some days, it’s days.”

Custom processing accounts for about 30-40% of the sales, with most of the rest coming from the store sales. The retail business offers a wide variety of meats, everything from custom sausages ground beef. There are 21 different flavors of brats, including a “Brat of the Month,”

which is southwest fajita with pepperjack cheese for June.

Wilson Farm Meats recently won Grand Champion at the Wisconsin Association of Meat Producers for its Philly Cheesesteak brat as well.

Tamblyn said the focus remains on “freshness, quality, consistency.” The four butchers at the store have 150 years of experience between them, and handle everything from sausage to chicken to pork to ground beef.

The restaurant also gives the site a bit of an added boost as a destination place.

“We take pride in what we do,” Tamblyn said. “That’s the only way to build business in this day and age.”

If you are going to grill this summer, you need not only the right equipment, but quality meat to put on the grill. **above:** Wilson Farm Meats store manager Mark Tamblyn shows off what’s available at Wilson’s. **opposite:** The sign outside Wilson Farm Meats shares a message about how fresh its offerings are.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*



Elkhorn Area High School's esports teams recently competed in the state championships. **opposite:** The Elkhorn Area High School SMITE esports team recently edged out Random Lake to claim the WISHEA SMITE championship title. The championship run marked the icing on the cake of a perfect season, with the team running undefeated throughout the entire 8-week season and ensuing playoffs. Pictured here, the SMITE team includes (from left) Trenton Hodges, Ben Harvey, Adam Nicewarner, Riley Novotny-Martin, Jaylyn Palenshus and William Terlunen. **at left:** The district's Smash Bros. team also fared well this season, taking second place in its division at the state championship. The team fell to rivals Fort Atkinson, which the team actually defeated last year for its previous Smash Bros. championship title. The Smash Bros. team, pictured here with coaches Mike Dahle (far left) and Jerry Iserloth (far right), included (from left) John Adkins, Michael Culp, Kellen Paprocki, Logan Zipp and Riley Robinson.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *Our Town*

According to Dahle, the team had actually played a few scrimmage matches this season against its SMITE championship rival, Random Lake, dropping just one out of the three games.

Dahle said this offered them an opportunity to learn from their mistakes before going into the playoffs and finals.

With the SMITE teams having picks and bans in regards to what characters can and cannot be played, Dahle said the team had put together a sort of road map of three different character compositions they wanted to run in competition.

However, knowing Random Lake would have its eyes locked on what the EAHS team was doing, Dahle said they kept that third composition a secret.

"We only practiced it kind of in-house, so we had a composition that they weren't ready for," he said. "The players, they executed it flawlessly. They were so well in sync in communications and coordinating plays around the map that there was nothing that Random Lake could do.

"It was one of those things that we were trying to drive home for three months of practices: you've got to do this, you've got to do it together, and it only works if everybody's in. In the finals, everything totally clicked and they just gelled super well. It was perfect."

In Smash Bros., he said the team claimed the No. 2 seed, behind No. 1 seed Fort Atkinson, which the team beat last year to win the Smash Bros. championship.

"We were looking forward to a rematch in the finals, and that's what we got," he said. "Unfortunately, Fort bested us this time, so the final record is 1-1. So, we've got to rubber match it next year."

Next steps

Looking toward the future for EAHS esports, Dahle said it's on to the new winter season, added this year to better mirror traditional athletics.

For the winter season, the games played will include Fortnite and Rocket League, with the spring season focusing on League of Legends and Valorant.

"Now we get to shift over to Fortnite, that's the one our students are interested in, and that season starts up right after winter break," he said.

Dahle, who also runs the WISHEA, will be running the online stream for the state and will unfortunately be unable to coach the Fortnite team this season.

According to Dahle, Fortnite remains an incredibly popular game, with 251 million active players every 30 days.

"That's basically 2/3 of the United States in one month playing Fortnite," he said. "It's a lot of the younger demographic that's coming up, that's the game that they like to play. So, we always have to try to shift, sometimes, the things that we offer to pair with the interests of students."

Growing esports

Dahle said interest in esports here in Wisconsin only continues to grow.

For example, he noted all of Milwaukee Public Schools is now getting onboard the esports train, now having equipment for 24 of the schools, all of which should be ready to compete by the spring season.

On top of that, Dahle noted they've seen 15-20 new schools showing interest around the state as well, just in September. In addition, he said the state has about 160-170 schools on its email list, both those that are currently playing and those that are interested or might be temporarily inactive while they sort through staffing changes.

"We're starting to see a pickup at more schools," he said. "A lot of rural schools as well are picking this up, but even as large of schools as Middleton."

According to Dahle, Middleton, for example, was playing at the national level, as they didn't realize there was a state association and thought that was their only choice.

Outside of high schools, Dahle said esports are even gaining more steam in Wisconsin at the college level.

"Whitewater's looking to establish, I saw Madison's hiring a full-time person," he said.

Dahle also noted that at this year's state championship, it was the first year that the colleges attending to recruit for their esports programs were all from Wisconsin.

"It was all Wisconsin colleges that were at the state championship looking to recruit, which last year was almost the complete opposite," he said.



Pumped up

By **Kellen Olshefski**
CORRESPONDENT

Elkhorn powerlifters find success at home meet and beyond

Starting with just four lifters four years ago, the Elkhorn Area High School Powerlifting team has made some serious gains since, as evidenced by the recent regional meet the team hosted at Elkhorn Area High School.

According to Head Coach Chad Stoltz, the regional meet held on Jan. 14 played host to 20 powerlifting teams throughout the region with 337 total registered lifters, a hefty 54 of which were representing Elkhorn. And represent Elkhorn they did, with both the men's and women's varsity teams bringing home their respective team trophies at only the second meet Elkhorn has hosted in the history of its powerlifting program.

To put the growth into perspective, the high school started its powerlifting program four years ago with just four students: Jake Mogenson, Jake Rockweiler, Maddie Stoltz and Mariana Axtman. The only four-year

lifter on the team today, Axtman claimed third in her weight class at the Jan. 14 meet and has qualified for the state competition this year.

"It's great for her, because she's been working so hard to do it and was able to do that this year," he said. "She had to work pretty hard in the weight room for four years to accomplish what she's at, so it's fantastic for her."

Last year, Stoltz said the high school hosted its first powerlifting meet, with about 12 Elkhorn lifters competing and about 160 students across all schools at the event.

"It was a great jump in the sheer number of kids participating, which is what it's about," he said about this year's event.

"It was definitely a lot bigger than we ever expected. The coaches down here who have never been doing this a long time said they don't even remember it being this big."

While there are some growing pains with hosting a timely meet with that many competitors, Stoltz said what matters is really that it's good for not only the sport, but the students who compete.

With the first two meets out of the way, Elkhorn's powerlifting program has already seen 11 lifters qualify for the state meet,

which is scheduled to take place in Appleton this March.

Stoltz said lifters are qualified based on hitting a target combined total weight across three lifts: the squat, deadlift and bench press. Those numbers reset every three years, dependent on the number of participating lifters.

This year, Stoltz said the numbers were up in a lot of the weight classes, making it an even more impressive feat for those who have qualified for the state meet already.

"The kids have been working hard, so it's great to see," he said.

State qualifiers thus far include: Abby Kiel, Hannah Person, Mariana Axtman, Jessica Haggerty, Alexis Fechter, Addi Baker, Addi Griffiths, Luke Dahlgren, Van Kopfer, Travis Luth and Aiden Olsen.

However, the state qualifiers aren't the only powerlifting students who have seen success, with numerous students medaling in their weight class at the recent Elkhorn meet.

In their respective weight classes, the following students claimed:

Women's Raw JV:
- CJ Palmer, first

Elkhorn Area High School hosted its second annual powerlifting competition in January at the high school. The event drew schools from around southeast Wisconsin, with 337 registered lifters competing across four divisions. Of those lifters, 54 were Elkhorn competitors, including Hannah Person (shown on opposite page).

DAVE DRESHOW *Our Town*

- Leah Johnson, second
- Paola Huerta Lopez, third

Women’s Raw Varsity:

- Jessica Haggerty, first
- Abby Kiel, first
- Hannah Person, second
- Addi Griffiths, second
- Marianna Axtman, third

Men’s Raw JV:

- Jacob Pody, first
- Collin Richter, second

Men’s Raw Varsity:

- Blake Brendel, first
- Travis Luth, first
- Cullen Gahart, third

In addition to winning her weight class, Jessica Haggerty also claimed the Women’s Raw Best Lifter title at the meet.

“We had a great number of medalists in the meet, along with many lifters, both boys and girls, placing in the Top 10 to score us some points,” Stoltz said. “It was a great example of everyone doing their best for the team.

“Our students are buying into themselves and seeing what they can actually do if they practice hard daily.”

Competitive powerlifting

When it comes to competitive powerlifting, Stoltz said students get three attempts at each of the three lifts, squat, bench press and deadlift, with their highest lifts from each of the three being combined for their total score. That total score is then compared with others in the competitor’s weight class to determine who comes out on top.

Across both boys and girls varsity and junior varsity, as well as both equipped and raw lifting, students are separated into 11 different weight classes. Elkhorn doesn’t compete in equipped lifting at this time, though Stoltz said he personally prefers raw lifting anyways.

“It’s just a weight belt and you,” he said. “I like it, personally, because it’s more true to what you can do.”

Stoltz said the first meets of the powerlifting season take place in December, with just a single meet each month, which he said is intended to allow the lifter’s body to cycle through and allow the lifter to make the most gains as possible. Meets are held each month prior to the state meet at the beginning of March.

“We start lifting in November, and for kids that are going to state, we’ll keep lifting until the first weekend in March,” he said.

Stoltz said Elkhorn’s team is comprised of a broad spectrum of students, ranging from the super athletic and those participating in multiple sports, to those whose only sport is powerlifting. Regardless, Stoltz said the message for students is always to keep working and keep pushing yourself to see



what you’re capable of.

“Some of these kids, just from our December meet to our January meet, they’ve increased like 100 pounds total between those,” he said. “It’s just a matter of finding themselves. Don’t think that it’s heavy. Trust yourself and work hard. The message to the kids is to just keep working hard, keep pushing yourself and try to reach for another goal.”

Progress is always the the most important goal, and Stoltz said they try to push the students a little bit harder at the meet as well, as it’s something that can be quite exciting when students realize just what they’re truly capable of.

“The adrenaline and the game readiness kicks in, and a lot of these kids are really, really enjoying it,” he said. “We had a couple kids who improved by 20 or 30 pounds just at competition alone. That’s a lot, when you think about it, compared to what they’re normally lifting. That’s what we’re trying to do.”

It takes a team

Stoltz said the success of not only Elkhorn’s powerlifting team, but the high school’s weight room in general, is really the result of efforts by numerous individuals within the school and coaching staff who dedicate their time to help the students both progress in their weightlifting journey and succeed in meeting their goals.

Take for example Strength and Conditioning Coordinator Cody Christensen, who Stoltz said does a lot of work to get more students in the weight room and participating.

“The number of kids that we have in the weight room at night between all the sports

teams, the powerlifting team and the kids that just come in and lift, it’s kind of crazy,” he said. “We push a lot of kids through that weight room every night, and that’s the kind of atmosphere that we’re trying to create.”

Stoltz also noted the powerlifting coaching staff, including Courtney Corrao, Bryan Mann and Kenzie Calvillo.

“They’re putting the time in every night with this many kids,” he said.

Stoltz said Corrao has been coaching with him for two years, and Calvillo was actually a lifter on the powerlifting team just last year.

“Those three, along with myself, spend a lot of time with these kids in the weight room,” he said. “You build up trust, you push them, you do all that stuff. That’s kind of an important thing. They’ve got to have that person that they can trust and work with.”

Weight lifting

Stoltz said creating a positive weightlifting atmosphere has been a key focus at the high school, offering students a way to stay active and push themselves.

“We’re trying to give these kids a way to take care of themselves,” he said.

Unlike some team sports that require more than one athlete, Stoltz said weight lifting is something that students don’t necessarily need another person to join them.

“There’s always going to be a place to work out and train,” he said.

Stoltz said another key component is making sure students feel more comfortable in the weight room, regardless of their ability, and helping them to overcome that initial intimidation they might experience.

“We tell the kids, when you walk into the



Quality Eye Care & Eye Wear

We offer the latest in technology to better care for your eyes
SPECIALIZED CONTACT LENSES
LASER VISION CARE • SUNGLASSES

Dr. John E. Hall
Optometry



419 N. WISCONSIN STREET
ELKHORN, WI 53121
262-723-2234

432394

POWERLIFTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

weight room for the first time, all of us were in the same shoes as you at one point or another,” he said. “So, you might as well get in here and be a part of the process, and don’t get intimidated by it; just take advantage of it and have fun with it.”

Stoltz said it’s really about individuals learning that they can push their limits and knowing that they can accomplish things they don’t always think they can.

“It goes beyond the competition itself,” he said. “It’s more to the individual, the student, the person; it makes them a more confident kid. I’ve seen some of these kids that came out super shy as can be, and now, two, three months later, they walk around the weight room with their head high.

“It’s a great feeling and it’s great to see. That’s what we kind of hope for these kids: to come in and realize that they can do something that looks difficult but is achievable.”



Karen Ostermeier
Lauderdale Lakes Resident & Specialist



Realtor® Associate
630.373.6005
karen.o@compass.com
EscapeToWI.com

Happy to help with **ALL** of your **Real Estate** needs!

Your referral is my finest compliment!

Karen Ostermeier is a real estate licensee affiliated with Compass, a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws.

COMPASS

431929

Is pain keeping you from
doing what you love?



Don’t put off surgery any longer.

At Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth, we offer a wide range of minimally invasive surgical services, for less pain and a faster return to normal daily activities. We’ll do whatever it takes to get you back to doing what you love.

We offer expert surgical services in:

- Ear, nose and throat
- Gastroenterology
- General surgery
- Gynecology
- Mohs surgery (skin cancer treatment)
- Obstetrics
- Orthopedics
- Pain management

Mercyhealth Hospital and Medical Center–Walworth

N2950 State Rd. 67
Lake Geneva
(262) 245-0535



431876

For the *love* of the *game*



Former Elkhorn tennis coach, pro honored with bench

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**

STAFF WRITER

In so many ways, the morning of Sept. 10 was just like any other late summer day at Elkhorn Area High School.

The Elks were hosting a girls tennis quad, with teams arriving one by one. A junior high football game brought whistles and cheers from the nearby field. In the parking lot, adjacent to the courts, there was a car show.

But as the tennis finally got underway, the top singles players toiling on the hardcourts under the warm morning sun, a few feet away a very different moment was taking place.

It was only fitting, of course, that former Elkhorn tennis coach Mark Mergener was being honored – friends, family, fans and former players all gathering to memorialize a man whose love of the game of tennis was second to his love of working with athletes.

A bench was dedicated in Mergener's name that day, with the inscription by Frank Sinatra: "I did it my way."

"If you look behind you, you see people playing tennis," said Aaron Gottschalk, a former player for Mergener at Elkhorn. "That's Mark."

Mergener died unexpectedly in 2017,

leaving behind family and friends – and another family of tennis players and coaches who both respected him as a coach and understood what he did for junior tennis in the area.

Everyone who spoke of him mentioned his love for the game – and his love of working to develop talent.

Rose Dolatowski, the long-time coach at Burlington High School who retired this fall, remembered Mark as being "passionate" about tennis – but mainly passionate about coaching the next generation of tennis players.

"I think he liked coaching. He liked coaching the kids," Dolatowski said, who added that Mergener was "honest and fair" when he began coaching Elkhorn in 2012.

"He wouldn't stack lineups," she said. "He treated kids fairly. He played kids where they earned their positions."

"He was just kind of fun," Dolatowski added. "He kind of always had a smile on his face, was always friendly."

Donna Neshek, former girls tennis head coach at Elkhorn, remembers clearly when Mergener first came into the program. His first year, he was recovering from a stroke, she said, and had trouble speaking.

However, he could still serve the ball, still coach and still teach. She said the players gravitated toward him and learned – without inserting pity for their coach into

the equation.

"It was truly something special," explained Neshek, who worked with Mergener as an assistant for the boys team and he as her assistant for the girls team.

She explained that having a true professional – someone who spent time working with youngsters, holding camps and working for a living as a tennis teacher – was something new for Elkhorn, and also something very special.

"To have a man come and be in the Elkhorn area tennis program, it's just remarkable," Neshek said. "It's not something that happens every day."

What was even more amazing, she said, was the bond that was created between the players and coaches. Neshek equated it to a second family for everyone involved. She, Nancy White and Mergener all worked together with the two teams.

"We had our own little world, the tennis world," Neshek said. "I think having Mark at the helm made it really feel like family."

Mergener, she said, created an

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

Elkhorn Area High School recently honored former coach Mark Mergener, with a bench and nameplate at the tennis courts. Mergener was coaching at the high school when he died unexpectedly in 2017.

environment the kids wanted to be a part of.

“They really knew that he cared about them,” Neshek explained. “He just really had a way with kids. He had incredible tennis savvy, his history for teaching tennis and playing tennis his whole life. He was just really honest, he really loved the game – and the kids knew that. He made it fun, he made it real.”

Mergener had immediate success. His first season, he took a pair of new tennis players – Drew Kamenick and Adam Skoczylas – to state in doubles. While the pair lost in the first round, the standard was set. Mergener taught his players well.

As important as results can be, though, there was also an atmosphere of fun. An example shared by many at the Sept. 10

cutouts: Mark Mergener was a coach at EAHS until the time of his death. He touched the lives of many young tennis players, teaching the game as well as how to have fun and move forward in life.

dedication was the story of what music Mergener would allow on the courts. The players approached him to allow music, but Mergener put a condition on his reply.

“You can have all the music you want, but it has to be Frank Sinatra,” Neshek recalled. Others verified the story, and Neshek remembered seeing something incredible come out of that decision.

“I would see kids dancing at the net and doing the two-step,” Neshek recalled about what Mergener’s students incorporated into their tennis work.

That atmosphere drew players in who were originally just following the sport at Elkhorn. Aaron Gottschalk was the editor of the yearbook when a friend of his convinced him to join the tennis team.

“My best friend, Adam, encouraged me to join the team,” Gottschalk said, adding that he enjoyed being around the team and thought that playing would help his health.

“He gave me the opportunity to make new friends, improve my tennis skills and feel included,” Gottschalk said. “The thing that made him so special was that he cared so much for every player and always wanted us to succeed.”

But there was more to Mergener than tennis. To Julian Kerbis – a fellow tennis player, teaching tennis professional and friend – Mergener was so much more than a tennis coach. He was the best friend who would, quite literally, give the shirt off his back or the last \$5 in his pocket.

“Before we sat down, he had his money on the table. He wouldn’t let you pay,” explained Kerbis, who met Mergener in the late 1970s, where the two worked together at Kerbis’ parents’ tennis camp in Michigan.

Kerbis also pointed out that with Mergener, what you saw was what you got.

“You either liked him or you didn’t,” Kerbis said.

Money was never important to him, Kerbis stressed, pointing out that Mergener would coach players for free, if needed or not.

“He was just so passionate about teaching,” said Kerbis.

That passion had Mergener teaching at Lake Geneva Country Club – he graduated from Badger High School in 1973 – and numerous other places. While he may be famous in southeast Wisconsin for coaching local players, he also had a handful of professional players make the main draws at the Grand Slam level, including the French Open and Wimbledon.

Players like Michelle Torres and Maeve Quinlan may not have turned into top-level professionals, but they learned the game from a man who also taught them to love the sport.

“It was really Mark who discovered me,” said Quinlan, now an actress in Hollywood, who grew up in Illinois. “My mom had put me into tennis and I was just in some classes.”

Her mother saw an ad in the paper – two lessons for the price of one. By the end of the second lesson, Mergener saw such talent in Quinlan that he offered to teach her for \$1 a lesson, if her mother paid for the court time.

“He took me from being nothing to ... well, I was one in state for years, and I got a full ride to Northwestern,” Quinlan added. “I got myself to 105 in the world.”

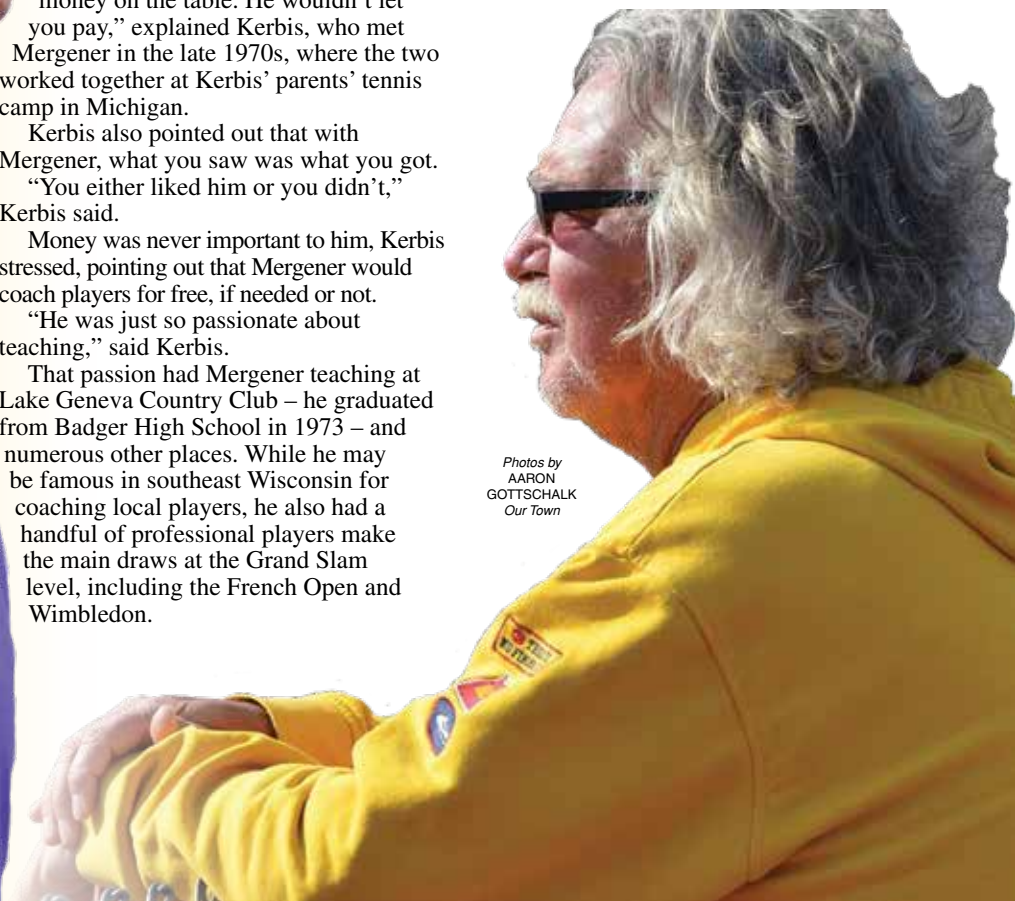
“If it weren’t for Mark, none of that would have happened,” she added.

Mergener was also loved by his family, who continue to miss him deeply. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, his son Mark Jr., as well as a brother and two sisters.

Mark Jr. spoke passionately about his father at the dedication, saying he had a “knack” for working with youngsters, identifying talent and developing it – and a love of the game.

“All of my memories of my father are of being on a tennis court,” he said.

“All the things he taught me, on and off the court. He taught me money isn’t everything. He was more in it for the love of the game,” Mark Jr. added.



Photos by
AARON
GOTTSCHALK
Our Town

Planning an Outdoor Reception?

We'll provide the comfort and reassurance your guests deserve!

- ❖ Portable Restroom & Sink Rental for Any Occasion
- ❖ Holding Tank Pumping
- ❖ Septic Tank Cleaning
- ❖ Prompt, Professional Service



38331 60th St., Burlington, Wis.
 Call (262) **537-4988**
www.patsservice.com

431752



A comprehensive option when deciding on your retirement living. A move to a Fairhaven senior apartment or Prairie Village and you're assured access to care levels as you need them in your future. Multiple care levels includes supportive living, assisted living and memory care.

Senior Apartments
 Supportive Living | Assisted Living
 Hearthstone Memory Care | Therapy Services



Prairie Village
 by Fairhaven

Enjoy the freedom and carefree lifestyle of Prairie Village. Custom built 2 bedroom, 2 bath duplex homes. Interior & exterior maintenance included. A Life Lease community.

prairie-village.org



435 West Starin Road - Whitewater
 262-473-2140 | fairhaven.org



432372

BURTNES

Chevrolet
BUICK
GMC

1389 West Main Street
 Whitewater, WI 53190



For the Best Deals in Walworth County
Driveburtness.com



Jeep 
RAM
CHRYSLER

DODGE 

1421 West Main Street
 Whitewater, WI 53190



WHEN THE PRODUCTS ARE SIMILAR IT'S THE DEALER THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

262-473-2522 • 262-473-3072 • www.driveburtness.com

431822

ADAMS

ELECTRIC • GENERATORS • SMARTTECH
HEATING & COOLING • SOLAR • PLUMBING

Partner effectively.

Run efficiently.

Grow successfully.



Adams Power has been providing industry-leading, electric, generator, heating and cooling, smart home, solar and plumbing solutions design for homes and business since 1988.

(262) 723-6565

801 N. Wisconsin Street | Elkhorn, WI 53121 | www.adamspower.com

ESTABLISHED 1988

432178