



Wonders

of RACINE COUNTY



Summer
2022



Finding her balance

Burlington's Eve Dahl travels road from OI to ParaDancer

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

When Eve Dahl was 5 years old, she had her first taste of fame – at least of the local variety, her picture on the front page of the local paper for a balloon release she and her family did to raise awareness for osteogenesis imperfecta.

“That, I remember,” said Eve, now 14 and a teenager ready to start high school. “I remember being in the paper, but that’s all I remember.”

Nine years later, Eve has been on quite the journey with OI, also known as brittle bone disease. She has suffered so many breaks of various bones in her body that she and her mom, Deb, really can’t keep track any more, though the situation has improved with surgeries to place rods in all of her long bones – those in her legs and arms.

There are bones that can’t be rodded, though – like her pelvis and hips. Because of the deformities in the bones and poor bone quality, Eve will likely travel by wheelchair for the rest of her life.

“I’m probably not going to walk,” Eve explained. “And I don’t really want to. It’s just too hard.”

That being said, Eve has made her wheelchair her artform. Originally, she started taking dance classes through camps at Riverwood Church’s “Moved by Grace” program.

Those classes evolved when the teacher, Emily Moorefield, opened Midwest Dance Center – a family-oriented dance studio for children.

Now Eve takes lessons twice a week, using her wheelchair to “ParaDance” – formerly wheelchair dancing. The chair becomes the legs of her dance while she maneuvers the wheels and uses her arms

to express the music.

She competed in her first ballroom event, the Milwaukee Classic in May at the Brookfield Conference Center. She came away with strong scores, but was one of only two ParaDancers at the event – and both were in different classes.

Eve used the event to gain experience for an even bigger competition – a planned trip to the first U.S. ParaDance competition, set for July in Detroit. She is currently raising money to cover the costs of travel and entry fees.

Eve said she has always felt music and dance give her an escape.

“I feel like I stop being a human in society and become a person who is dancing,” she explained. “It’s just something I do. I like the movement and I like the music.”

Eve started taking classes every week when Moorefield moved and started Midwest Dance Center in Burlington five years ago. She took mostly lyrical dance classes, though she’s added hip-hop and ballroom since.

Moorefield said that Eve has a special quality.

“I love Eve’s musicality and expression when she dances,” Moorefield said. “She really pulls you in and makes you feel something. Which is what dance is all about – conveying a story or emotion to the audience.”

As Eve grew, so did the opportunities for wheelchair dancers around the world. As ballroom dancing is popular in Latin American countries and in Europe, so is ParaDancing.

But the work of Cheryl Angelelli – a para athlete who started as a competitive swimmer before switching to dancing – is starting to bring the sport to the U.S. through a program called Dance Mobility. It’s a wheelchair

ballroom dance program at Fred Astaire Dance Studios in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, funded by a grant from the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan Foundation.

Working with the ballroom dance provider, Dance Mobility has given dancers like Eve, all over the country, a chance to try ballroom. The program travels to other FADS studios around the country to teach partnering with ParaDancers.

“ParaDancing is just kind of hitting the U.S. in general,” Deb Dahl said, noting Eve took her first class in May of 2019.

Eve went to the class on the recommendation of a friend, and said she didn’t “think I really expected to like it that much.”

Now she has a partner through FADS, Ernesto Olivas, and the two have started to put together traditional dances like the cha-cha, the rumba and the bolero. But they also debuted their “solo” number at the recent Milwaukee Classic, which will be used again this summer at the July event.

The competitive opportunities have only provided more fuel for Eve, who while still at the beginning of her ParaDance journey, is still one of only seven registered ParaDancers in the U.S.

“It’s kind of more of an opportunity to be kind of a pioneer,” Eve said. “To me, it feels really good. I’m not only at the start of something, but I can kind of improve the dance world for ParaDancers.”

The Milwaukee Classic was a good place to test out her dances, though she was surprised that she didn’t have her usual case of the nerves.

“I was stressed out that I wasn’t stressed,” she said with a smile. “Once I

stepped on the floor, it was just me, my partner and the dance. I think it went pretty well.”

Deb Dahl said she was proud of how Eve adapted throughout the event. For the first time, she was on a dance floor with many other couples – able-bodied and ParaDancers alike. There were a lot of people moving around, and Deb said Eve had to change up her dances for the space they had.

“She hasn’t really practiced that,” Deb said. “This first competition was very much a learning experience.”

Moorefield said that Eve’s dancing has grown since she first came to Moorefield as a toddler. Moorefield has choreographed most of Eve’s numbers, including her freestyle solos and duets.

“To see how far she’s come in her dance ability is amazing, and it’s so much fun choreographing for her,” Moorefield said. “I can see her passion and love for dance in her movement, her work ethic and her drive – and it’s pretty awesome.”

That drive is something Eve feels as well, even as she acknowledges both her abilities and disability.

“The breaking bones stuff and the not walking much stuff doesn’t bother me,” said Eve, who went on to explain that OI has given her opportunities she wouldn’t have had otherwise.

On the other hand, she points out, rather painfully, that she’s “super short.”

“It limits my ability to do things, it limits how in shape I am,” she said of OI. And, she added, “it gives me body image issues, like every other teenager.”

But all things being equal, she is a normal teenager with her own special challenges and activities.

“I wouldn’t be the person I am (without OI),” she said.

Dahl performs in March at the United We Dance event at Elkhorn Area High School. Dahl, who has osteogenesis imperfecta – or brittle bone disease – has begun competing in ParaDance competitions.

Who's the fairest of them all?

Waterford's Bosch named Racine County Fair's ambassador

By Jason Arndt
STAFF WRITER

Kennedy Bosch said she was humbled and honored to receive the Racine County Fairest of the Fair crown from predecessor Kynzi Cole.

Bosch, a recent graduate of Waterford Union High School, became Fairest of the Fair during a June 3 ceremony in the Expo building on the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove.

The panel judges of selected Bosch among three finalists, including 2020 Burlington High School graduate and former Racine County Agriculture Ambassador Chase Pirocanac, along with 2019 Racine Case graduate Alyson Buchholz, who served as Racine County 4-H Outstanding Teen.

"To be honest, I really wasn't expecting it," Bosch said. "Chase and Alyson, they are wonderful competitors, they are amazing women in agriculture and I really thought that either one of them could have easily been Fairest of the Fair."

Bosch, a three-year Waterford FFA member, has also been involved with Raymond 4-H Club while showing exhibits at the Racine County Fair ranging from cake-decorating to raising pigs on her grandparents' farm.

She said she felt honored, especially since she selected by a panel judges, who needed to consider the other two finalists.

"I was quite shocked and honored that the judges thought I would be the best ambassador for the Racine County Fair, so there is a lot of honor there," she said.

Bosch, meanwhile, said the crown carries special meaning because the Racine County Fair will celebrate its 100th anniversary from July 27-Aug. 1.

While Bosch enjoys all aspects of the Racine County Fair, she anticipates some new features for the 100th anniversary, including a fireworks show set for Saturday evening on the Fairgrounds.

"This is our 100th annual Racine County Fair, so I am really, really looking forward to it," she said.

For Bosch, the Racine County Fair has had a lasting impact on her life, which she noted is more than just a one-week event.

The daughter of Theresa Baumann and Kyle Bosch is the older sister of Keegan and spends a year preparing for the Racine County Fair.

"We show swine. All year round we are working with our pigs in our barn," said Bosch, who raises her show pigs on her grandparents' farm. "It is really a family affair and us working together all year round to make it happen."

Bosch plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in the fall.

She intends to major in animal science focused on pre-veterinary medicine with hopes of becoming a small and large animal veterinarian.

Growing up around animals, she has come to love caring for animals, Bosch said.

"I was quite shocked and honored that the judges thought I would be the best ambassador for the Racine County Fair, so there is a lot of honor there."

- Kennedy Bosch



above: Waterford High School student Kennedy Bosch is crowned 2022 Racine County Fairest of the Fair by her predecessor Kynzi Cole June 3. **below:** Fairest of the Fair finalists Chase Pirocanac (from left), Alyson Buchholz, and Kennedy Bosch pose for a photo during the ceremony at the fairgrounds in Union Grove.

CHAD HENSIK WONDERS OF RACINE COUNTY

Strong competition

Pirocanac, who attends UW-Whitewater, is studying to earn a degree

in elementary education with a minor in special education.

She has been involved with the Racine County Fair for many years including exhibiting through the Burlington Back 40 4-H Club and Burlington FFA Chapter.

Pirocanac has volunteered for the auctions and youth building judging and served as Fair Board Representative for Racine County 4-H.

"Chase is no stranger to the community as she stays involved as a Racine County 4-H Adult leader and is a collegiate shotgun athlete and coach," the Racine County Fair wrote on its Facebook page. "In the future, she hopes to become an excellent Elementary School teacher by drawing on her

experiences from 4-H and FFA leadership positions."

Buchholz attends UW-Madison, where she is studying to earn a degree in agricultural economics with certificates in sustainability and agricultural business management.

"Some of Alyson's favorite involvements in the Racine County Fair include serving as Racine County 4-H Outstanding Teen, competing in the Sue Isaacson Master Showmanship, volunteering at the Case IH Booth last year," fair officials wrote on the Facebook page. "She credits the Racine County Fair for pushing her to grow as a leader and inspiring her to pursue a career in the agricultural sector."



Wonders of Racine County

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On the cover: Lifting a partner high above while maintaining balance requires skill on the part of both participants, including this duo from the Aquaducks. See more on the Aquaducks and other area water ski teams inside.

SUBMITTED PHOTO WONDERS OF RACINE COUNTY

B-Town Sounds returns for 10th season

B-Town Sounds opened its 10th season with a performance by Blues Disciples on June 9. The series continues every other Thursday Through Aug. 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Concertgoers are invited to bring lawn chairs, blankets and their own food and drink, however, food and beverages will also be sold during the concerts.

The lineup for 2022 includes:

- June 23: Twang Dragons;
- July 7: Hungry Williams;
- July 21: Weird Science;
- Aug. 4: Josh Hoyer and Soul Colossal; and
- Aug. 18: Arm Chair Boogie.



The bluegrass group American Folk performs during the B-Town Sounds summer concert series in 2017 in Burlington's Echo Park. The 2022 season opened June 9 with a performance by Blues Disciples.

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Aquaducks in action

Area waterski shows celebrate anniversaries

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

The Southern Lakes Area comes by its moniker for good reason. The multitude of lakes and rivers provide residents and visitors the chance to enjoy fishing, boating and watersports during the summer months.

For many, sitting along the shore to watch the local, award-winning waterski team exhibitions are a favorite activity. From the Burlington Aquaducks to the Twin Lakes Aquanuts to the Southern Wakes United Water Ski Team in Walworth County, there's no shortage of performances on area lakes.

Waterskiing was invented by Ralph Willard Samuelson of Lake City, Minnesota, in 1922. One-hundred years ago, Samuelson strapped wooden boards to the bottom of his feet, used a clothesline as a towrope attached to a boat, and attempted to travel across the water on Lake Pepin. He experimented with various sizes of boards and tried many different positions on the "skis" before successfully navigating Lake Pepin's waters and inventing a new sport.

Since then waterskiing has grown from a fledgling activity to a top-line competitive sport with worldwide competitions. Individual waterskiing teams compete in local, state and national levels. Sometimes, as they progress, they even compete in international competitions.

Local teams, including the Aquanuts, Aquaducks and the Southern Wakes United, have been very successful in competition at all levels.

Check the schedule of the team close by, gather family or friends, a folding chair or a blanket and make head out to the waterfront to take in a show. The whole group will enjoy watching the skill and gracefulness of the skiers.

The local teams present shows at their home venues weekly during the summer for the enjoyment of the community. They do not charge to view their performances but all do accept donations to help them with the cost of producing the performance.

Browns Lake Aquaducks

Forty-six years ago, a group of local waterskiers gathered together on Browns Lake and formed the Aquaducks, a volunteer, family-oriented group that began to ski for fun, but went on to compete in both local and national competitions with great success.

In 2019 they became the Division 2 State Champions. In 2021 they moved up to Division 1 in state competition and finished in seventh place while finishing 14th in nationals that same year.

"We have about 100 members in our skiing club," said Monica Shultiis, who provides whatever help the team needs. "They range in age from 8 years to 67 years. Our oldest member at 67 continues to barefoot water ski, that is he skis on the water without skis just using his feet."

The team began on Browns Lake and continues to make Fisher Park their home.

While the team receives a lot of support from the community and local business, they also give back in various ways. One



above: Known as the Hot Pickup, this event is a favorite of watchers and performers. Some of the girls are skiing attached to the boat while another group is picked up from the pier and a third group of skiers join the boat from a barge. This event requires not only the skill of the skiers but also the skill of the boat driver as he winds his way between the pier and the barge with some skiers already connected to the boat.

below: For this Aquaduck ski line it is not all eyes forward as the 14 members of the line are facing alternate directions while skiing on one ski.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AQUADUCKS Wonder of Racine County



such way is the adaptive-skiing program started by Rick and Denise Legios in honor of their daughter.

The program allows those with disabilities to experience the joy of waterskiing. Using special adaptive equipment and the support of a skier on either side for balance it is possible for people with disabilities to have a waterskiing experience. The Aquaducks host the free program several times a year.

Honoring the 100 years of waterskiing, the Aquaducks began their season with their first ever blessing at Fisher Park on May 21.

The boats, including the water-patrol boat, and the police watercraft were be blessed in a non-denominational service led by officiant Tom Ripple.

The May 21 program not only commemorated the 100 years of waterskiing but also honored all branches of the military since it was also Armed Forces weekend. Flags of all branches of the military were seen flying in all the Aquaducks vessels.

A highlight of the day was the introduction of the Aquaducks new mascot. Fittingly it is a big blue duck.

The team offers free shows to the public from Memorial Day weekend to Labor



The Aquaducks perform a four-high pyramid to the delight of their fans.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AQUADUCKS Wonder of Racine County

Day on Thursday evenings in Fisher Park at 6:30 p.m. weekly. Starting June 23, the team will be joined by a junior show at 5 p.m.

Check the website, www.aquaducks.org, for updated information on shows and special events.

Happy birthday, Aquanuts!

Fifty years ago, in the small town of Twin Lakes, a group of water skiers gathered and formed the Aquanuts. Little did they know that this tightly knit group would band together and become one of the premier waterskiing groups, competing in a variety of competitions and winning more than 100 awards for first-, second- and third-place finishes over the years.

In 2021, the team won the Wisconsin state title for the first time in 35 years and finished second in national competition.

The Aquanuts are known for their daring stunts, ballet lines and innovative show themes. Each year more difficult and daring stunts are added to their routines. The clowns were introduced in the early days and have remained a symbol of the Aquaducks, even earning a place on their logo.

While the skiers are the showpiece, they alone are not responsible for the success of the team. The boat drivers, spotters, equipment managers, marketing managers and the local businesses, especially the marinas, which help support them are as necessary as the skiers for success.

The Aquanuts say they are extremely thankful for their partnership with the Village of Twin Lakes, which allows for Lance Park to be their home.

“We are truly a team,” said Heather Buelow, who began attending waterski shows as a spectator in 1994 when she and her husband were dating. “Now our whole family is immersed in the team.”

Two of their daughters will be singing in this year’s show, which is based on Mary Poppins. Buelow’s husband drives a boat and she is involved in marketing.

Practice begins each year before the skiers are ready to hit the water. They work on the exciting three-, four- or even five-high pyramids on dry ground before ever trying to build one on the water.

The Aquanuts have two separate teams – a Junior Team and a Senior Team – but at times they overlap. The younger skiers, who range in age from 8 to 14 years old, are on the Junior Team as they train to learn the more intricate moves and formations. Sometimes a younger skier may advance to the Senior Team if they have particularly good skills.

“The Senior Team members range from 15 years to in their 50s,” said Mark Gurda, who is the announcer for the team’s shows.

Every two years there is a World Championship Competition where Team USA picks from the best skiers to represent the United States as members of Team USA. This year Aquanuts, Cody Coffey, Kalia Coffey, Kailey Koehler, Bob Koehler and Ethan Shulda have been chosen for Team USA for 2022.

This year, in celebration of 100 years of waterskiing and 50 years of waterskiing for the Aquanuts, there will be multiple celebrations and special programs.

The weekly programs, which are open to the public, are at Lance Park at 6 p.m. Shows are presented Saturdays and Wednesdays each week through Labor Day.

A special Fourth of July weekend celebration will be at Lance Park on July 2 with festivities beginning around 6 p.m. The national anthem, “The Star-Spangled



above: Skiing backwards while barefoot in the 2021 National competition, these skiers perform beautifully. The spray of water adds to the beauty of their skiing. **below top:** One of the many tricks the advanced skiers can perform on the Aquaducks. This skier turns upside down while attached to a ski board. **below:** The Aquanuts form a 28-skier ballet line in brightly colored costumes and ski in synch across the water.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AQUANUTS Wonders of Racine County

Banner,” will be sung by world-famous anthem singer Jim Cornelison who will open the show. Cornelison is well known for his singing of the anthem at Chicago Blackhawks home games. The Aquanuts will present a special ski show, which will end with the traditional Independence Day fireworks.

As always there is free admission and parking. Food and beer will be available for sale.

“With support from the city, Munson Marine, Dr. Pepper, Mercury Marine and others, the team progressed,” Gurda said. “We were the first team to utilize a background music soundtrack in 1975, which was quickly copied by other teams.”

Each year there is a theme for the show often based on past popular movies, this year it is Mary Poppins.

Along with providing shows for the public, each year the team supports an adaptive skiing program to bring the sport to those with disabilities.

For more information visit www.aquanutswatershows.com.

Southern Wakes United

In the 1950s, the Lauderdale Lakes Aqua Skiers were formed by a group of young skiers who wanted to perform. They produced a single show each year on Regatta Day in front of the Sterlingworth Motor Hotel and were given dinner for their performance. By the 1980s they were competing in the state tournament with some success.

The Whitewater Lake Sports Club named its ski team the Minneiska Water Ski Team. The team organized and presented its first show in July of 1974 for the Lions Club and began competing in tournaments in 1975.

The Southern Wakes United Ski Team is a merger of the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers and the Whitewater Lake Sports Club (Minneiska) team, and are the only waterski team in Walworth County.

The team’s goal is to encourage both young and young at heart to work together to build confidence, while learning new skills. The team also encourages leadership development, water safety and sportsmanship as noted on their website.

Southern Wakes United competed in the 2021 Wisconsin State Tournament and placed third in Division III.

The team encourages skiers and those who want to be skiers to join the team. New members are always welcome. The



team is a family-oriented group who work together for the benefit of all.

For those not ready or able to commit to a full membership with the team, they offer a pay-to-play option. Individuals who must be a member of the USA Water Ski org. and love to ski can pay a daily \$5 fee to ski with the team.

The show schedule for Southern Wakes United is a bit more complicated

than that for the other teams because they present shows at three different locations – Whitewater Lake at Scenic Ridge Campground, Lauderdale Lakes at Lauderdale Landing in Elkhorn and the Elkhorn Lake show at Babe Mann Park.

Ski show times vary depending on the location. Check the website, www.southernwakesunited.com for the current schedule.



Live music was among the highlights during the second annual Loop Day in downtown Burlington. The event is designed to bring people downtown for a day of fun in the Chestnut Street Loop.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Wonders of Racine County

Loop Day '22 tops inaugural event

Organizer touts 30% increase in sales, attendance

By **Mike Ramczyk**

CORRESPONDENT

“It’s showmanship, you gotta go get ‘em.”

That slept-on, yet very smart line from the movie “Black Sheep” came from the mouth of late comedic legend and Madison native Chris Farley.

The lovable big guy that could portray physical comedy as good as anyone that has ever been in movies was doing cartwheels, dancing and putting on a show for prospective voters because his brother Mike was running for governor. Farley even scared one old lady so badly, she hit him with her cane.

OK, downtown Burlington business owners Bevin Dawson, Jon Thorngate, Jon Hainstock and Ross Wiemer may not have gone to the extreme of cartwheels or funny hats with catchy phrases, but they took the concept of showmanship to heart at last Saturday’s Loop Day – the second annual event that features downtown Burlington businesses in the Chestnut Street Loop in an attempt to bring crowds of people out for food, fun, drinks and dancing.

The four men, all in their 30s, are owners or play a major role in Burlington Coffee Co., a local coffee business, and apparently a band.

The fearsome quartet rocked out for the crowd of hundreds that came downtown.

Dawson, who owns the Loop Commons, sells their coffee in the Loop Commons kitchen for visitors. The cup of Joe comes in light and dark roasts, it’s free and it’s good.

Performing for the masses is the kind of showmanship that Loop business owners used to keep it light and fun, and the numbers showed an improvement from last year’s inaugural event.

“We were dealing with some rain, but Loop Day went great overall,” said MPC and Runaway Brewery owner Bernard Peterson.

“The attendance and sales numbers were 30% higher than last year. I think there was a lot of word of mouth. There were some new businesses that participated, like Cafe B and The Bike Shop.”

Peterson said the Bike Shop was giving away helmets for kids, there was a petting zoo and the large stage facing away from

Milwaukee Avenue was a big hit.

“They were definitely into the music, the beers, the food, you had a lot of kids running around playing,” Peterson added. “It was a real nice community event.”

The all-day event, organized by Peterson along with Loop Commons owner Dawson and Kitty Cisler of Kitty Anne Creative Photography, is one of downtown Burlington’s biggest events, according to Peterson.

“Our goal is to get the Loop shut down at least once a month for community events,” Peterson said. “Loop Day is one of our bigger ones, and then we’re doing some Friday night concerts.”

“We did one last month, and it turned out really well.”

For Loop Day, Cisler planned a lot of it and created a photo contest, which was popular, Peterson said.

“My favorite part was organizing the music lineup,” Peterson added. “And we had three special beers just for Loop Day. We brewed ‘Red Corvette’ for Lynch and ‘Victory Lap’ for Bassett Racing Wheel.”

Along with Loop Day, Peterson is excited about what’s happening this summer.

He already thinks Buzzed Wine Bar will help make more people want to come downtown, and it puts the city on the map.

Also, the Loop will be shut down July 15 for a pop-up concert by a jam band. On July 30, Maxwell Street Days returns to the Loop.

Peterson said those are the next two big events.

So why should folks check out the Loop and downtown Burlington?

“It’s really important for people to come downtown because it’s the heart of the city,” Peterson said. “They can see a lot of the new businesses and the fun that’s going on, and be part of the community.”

At Loop Day, The Runaway provided the crowd with local brats, Hometown Sausage from East Troy, and Cafe B did well selling cupcakes and other sweets.

People also enjoyed pizza by the slice from Zumpano’s and ice cream from Hansen’s.

Loop Day was just the beginning, as people can expect plenty more fun, food and music in downtown Burlington this summer.

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