The produce

Celebrate summer with the Aquanuts!

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Serving the Twin Lakes area

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Serving veterans

An open house at the Kenosha County Veterans Service Office earlier this year welcomed a crowd of veterans and supporters. Veterans Service Officer Jennifer Blasi hosted the event as an opportunity for veterans and others to meet the office's staff. **Right:** Vietnam veteran Al Vittori talks with Kenosha County Assistant Veterans Service Officer Robert Swanson and service dog Loki during the event. The Veterans Service Office is located on the north end of the Job Center Building, 8600 Sheridan Rd., Kenosha. For more information visit kenoshacounty.org/veterans

SUBMITTED PHOTOS The Breeze





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Flight of opportunity NEW AVIATION PROGRAM OFFERED TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

By Jason Arndt

STAFF WRITER

Wilmot Union High School students will have an opportunity to explore careers in aviation with a new program set to take flight at the Burlington Municipal Airport.

Eagles Nest Projects Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization, has been instrumental in guiding Westosha Central High School students to high paying jobs including pilots, aircraft mechanics, and general engineering positions.

Westosha Central's STEM Aviation Program, which launched a decade ago on school grounds, has built planes and had 18 students become pilots.

The new program will extend to students attending Wilmot Union, Burlington, Catholic Central and Badger high schools, and take place at the future STEM Aviation Center at the Burlington-based airport. The Center, which officially broke ground April 27, will feature spaces for educational programs, workshops, and interaction with professionals, highlighted by the Career Pathways Program.

Director Jim Senft, of the Westosha Central program, said the curriculum focuses on aviation maintenance.

"This effort is designed to supply local maintenance shops, schools, and commercial flight operators with trained technicians," Senft said. "Our goal is to nurture a workforce of skilled technicians for the aviation industry."

Although students will not build planes at the airport, like the program at Westosha Central does, the initiative looks to help them garner hands-on knowledge of aircraft maintenance and set them on a path for successful careers once they graduate from high school.

Westosha Central High School students have built planes, which are stored at the Burlington Municipal Airport, as part of the school's STEM Aviation Program. The program will expand to include students from Wilmot Union and other local schools and focus on aviation maintenance.

JASON ARNDT The Breeze

"We are going to teach them about aircraft mechanics. It won't certify them as an aircraft mechanic. What it will do is it will get their hands into it," Senft said. "They will start to learn what it takes to work on an aircraft."

Senft said several businesses at the airport – including Spring City Aviation, and Burlington Air Center, Inc. – have



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1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115 (262) 728-3411 signed on to assist students in the innovative program.

The STEM Aviation Center also fosters inclusivity, since the Westosha Central program is only available to its own students, and not other area educational institutions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Editor in Chief: Heather Ruenz Creative Director: Heidi Schulz Advertising Director: Vicki Vanderwerff Page Designer: Jen DeGroot

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on the cover: Members of the Aquanuts form a pyramid in a past show. The team, which calls Twin Lakes home, is ready to make waves once again. SUBMITTED *The Breeze*

The later water shows and the later the later

WATER SHOWS

AQUANUTS WILL ONCE AGAIN 'WOW' CROWDS FROM LAKE MARY

By Sandra Landen Machaj

CORRESPONDENT

By Jason Arndt

STAFF WRITER

For many, sitting along the shore to watch the local, award-winning waterski team perform is a favorite activity. The Aquanuts Water Ski Show team is ready to start its 52nd season, and is heading into it on a high note.

The team, which calls Twin Lakes home, brought home several pieces of hardware and finish third during the Wisconsin State Water Ski Show Championships last summer.

The championships, hosted by the Wisconsin Rapids Aqua Skiers at South Wood County Park along Lake Wazeecha, were held in July.

According to results, the Aquanuts as a team finished third in Division 1 with 1,763.18 total points last year, just behind second place Mad-City at 1,850.18 and winner Rock Aqua Jays at 1,929.46. The team also saw several members of

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

at right: The Aquanuts form a ballet line as they ski in synch across the water. above: The Aquanuts, shown in a team photo from a past year perform at Lance Park on Lake Mary in Twin Lakes on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 6 p.m. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AQUANUTS The Breeze



Area resident part of UW-Parkside service project

Being part of the community and volunteerism are some of the core tenets of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside's Callahan Scholars.

In that spirit, 10 of UW-Parkside's Callahan Scholars volunteered to build beds for kids through Sleep in Heavenly Peace's Racine/Kenosha chapter.

In collaboration with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, the Callahan Scholars volunteered to help build beds for children in need. The students contributed with hands-on work including sanding, sawing, drilling, and painting all wood material for the beds.

Judea Mahboub, a freshman from Kenosha majoring in psychology, learned the importance of volunteering and giving back to those who are less fortunate.

"My favorite part of the project was getting to see everyone come together and work to make beds for others," Judea explains.

He believes that being a Callahan Scholar means being involved and giving back within the community.

UW-Parkside's Callahan Scholars program coordinates support services, provides financial assistance, and fosters community and a sense of belonging to help students with high financial needs with the ultimate goal of graduation.

Callahan Scholars must be graduates of a Kenosha County high school.

Callahan Scholar students receive \$5,000 in scholarships annually for up to four years, a value of \$20,000 per student. Forty scholarships are available, with 10 specifically designated for new freshmen.

Callahan Scholars are also encouraged to be part of the community. They gain valuable leadership and teamwork skills by getting involved on campus and serving in the community including participating in local clean-ups and volunteer service. They are encouraged to live on campus where they will continue to get involved in the campus community through the benefits Housing and Residence Life provides and to participate in hands-on learning experiences.

Victor Vargas, a sophomore music major from Kenosha, learned about the power of collaboration and coordination.

"I learned about how efficient a workshop can be when everyone has a specific role," he said.

Vargas believes that being a Callahan Scholar means staying active in your community and using your abilities to help others.



Callahan scholars Maddie Lallo (left) and Judea Mahboub help build beds for kids. They were part of a group of 10 University of Wisconsin-Parkside students involved, which included Alexis Kleihauer, of Salem Lakes.

CASSY VILLEGAS/UW-PARKSIDE PHOTO The Breeze

Alexis Kleihauer is a psychology major and studio art minor from Salem Lakes.

Kleihauer learned that helping others is a collaborative effort and seeing others volunteer their time and resources made her believe that there are good people in the world.

She is grateful for the opportunity to gain these experiences as well.

"Being a Callahan Scholar has brought many opportunities to the forefront for me. From volunteer opportunities to pumpkin patch field trips, the program has so much to offer," she explains.

As part of the program, students have their own personal Success Coach throughout their time at UW-Parkside. A Success Coach is a "go-to" person to help students navigate high school to college through graduation.

Cassy Villegas is the Success Coach for Callahan Scholars and established the partnership.

Kleihauer credits Villegas and the Callahan Scholars program for challenging her and empowering her to succeed academically as well. "The requirements provide motivation and keep me on the straight and narrow. With the exception of 2 B's I have been a straight A student. I've faced many challenges and obstacles so far in my nearly two years at UW-Parkside and my Callahan advisor, Cassy, has been there through nearly all of it. She has pushed me, encouraged me, and has also talked me off many metaphorical ledges."

Villegas explains that this volunteer opportunity allowed the students to give back to the community and consider things from a different perspective.

"This project gave the students the opportunity to make a good contribution to their community by helping those in need and also made them reflect on the things they should feel grateful for that sometimes we humans take for granted, such as a bed and other basic necessities," she said.

The collaboration was also beneficial to Sleep in Heavenly Peace's mission to serve the community and provide for those in need. "It has a great impact in providing the child with a comfortable and safe place to rest for them to have better living conditions," Villegas said.

For the Callahan Scholars, the opportunity allowed them to learn the power of collaboration and gave them a sense of accomplishment knowing that they made a difference in the lives of others. Villegas praises the students' work ethic and enthusiasm.

"We worked there for a total of five hours, so students were tired by the end of it and it made them be grateful to have the things and opportunities that they do, while also feeling awesome in being able to help other human beings and accomplishing something great as a team. The students were very positive throughout the experience and enjoyed learning how to do the work and engaging with the rest of the volunteers there," Villegas recounts.

Kleihauer asserts that the Callahan Scholars program was not only instrumental in being able to continue her education but has also provided invaluable personal growth and networking opportunities.

"The scholarship itself has made going to school possible in the first place. I am an independent student and I don't make enough to put myself through school. I rely solely on financial aid and scholarships in order to succeed. The Callahan Family is the gift the keeps on giving. Not only am I financially taken care of, but the experiences and the connections will be mine forever," she said.

Upcoming events

WATER SKI SHOWS

Aquanut Water Ski Shows will kick-off the season on Saturday, May 25 at 6 p.m. Shows are held Wednesday and Saturdays at 6 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day (except when they're competing.) See the season schedule on page 4.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

On Monday, May 27, the annual American Legion Memorial Day Parade will travel from Lance Park to Legion Park, stepping off at 11 a.m.

ROCK THE LAKE

Kick off the summer season with food, beverages, live music, and fun at Rock the Lake. It will be held at Lance Park on Saturday, June 15, and feature local bands and waterski performances.

FIREWORKS RAFFLE

The Twin Lakes Area Chamber & Business Association will be selling raffle tickets to help fund the annual fireworks display. The drawing will be held at 7 p.m., July 6, at Lance Park before the fireworks.

Tickets are available from the Chamber Office, Board Members, and local businesses. This raffle is open to the public.

LIBERTYFEST

Celebrate Independence Day at Libertyfest, on July 6, in Twin Lakes.

Festivities begin Saturday morning at 11 a.m. with the annual parade from St. John's to Lance Park. The chamber encourages community participation in the parade including floats in honor of our independence – contact the chamber office staff or visit the website for details.

At Lance Park beginning at 4 p.m., there will be DJ music (before and after the Aquanut Water Ski Show), as well as a variety of food, beer amd soft drinks available for purchase.

At dusk, the fireworks display will light up the sky over Lake Mary.

COUNTRY THUNDER

The Country Thunder Music Festival will make its way to the Twin Lakes area July 18-21.

SCAVENGER HUNT

The Chamber plans to continue its tradition of scavenger hunts to give residents and visitors a chance to get to know local businesses and have fun at the same time.

On July 20, a Monkey Around Town Summer Scavenger Hunt will take place. For details, contact the chamber or visit the website.



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Local teen aspires to become a pilot

Zubor, of Twin Lakes, savors Civil Air Patrol experience

By Jason Arndt

STAFF WRITER

Penny Zubor, of Twin Lakes, always had an interest in flying an aircraft.

However, as a youngster, the Wilmot Union High

Penny Zubor, of Twin Lakes, takes an orientation flight with the Walworth County Civil Air Patrol in early 2023. SUBMITTED PHOTO The Breeze

School student and two-sport athlete had limited options to pursue her objective until she joined the Walworth County Civil Air Patrol.

The Walworth County Civil Air Patrol, which meets regularly at the Wisconsin National Guard Armory in Elkhorn, has a rich history dating back decades.

An official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, the Civil Air Patrol began one week before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which sparked the U.S.'s entry into World War II.

Since then, the volunteer group has evolved, with many new missions, including search and

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PILOT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

rescue, emergency services, humanitarian relief, youth development and aerospace education for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Zubor, a member of Wilmot co-op gymnastics, which includes Union Grove and Williams Bay high schools, said she learned about the Civil Air Patrol through her mom, who sought new opportunities for her daughter.

"I really want to become a pilot. I like the travel aspect of it and I really don't want to be in an office," Zubor, a Cadet Senior Master Sergeant with the Air Patrol said in an interview last year. "My mom was looking up things to do when you are younger ... and we found Civil Air Patrol."



In her first meeting in Elkhorn, she remembered playing laser tag with other members, and soon became hooked on the organization because it offered many learning opportunities not available anywhere else.

Zubor, then 15, daughter of Holly and Bob, and older sister to Lillian, took an orientation flight as a member of the organization also became involved in several initiatives and events.

She assisted the Civil Air Patrol during the annual Burlington fly-in last year at the Burlington Municipal Airport, where aircraft and classic Porsches sat on display for local residents and out-of-town visitors. She helped in Burlington but said her

most memorable moment came in Oshkosh, where she assisted at the prominent EAA flyin and convention.

"I really enjoyed the EAA and working up at the EAA," Zubor said. "You get to spend the day at the air show and you get to spend the night at the armory."

Balancing act

Zubor finished fifth in the floor exercise for Wilmot at the Division 1 Mukwonago Sectional, advancing her to the WIAA State Gymnastics Tournament in Wisconsin Rapids.

She also lettered in track and field during 2023 the spring sports season.

Zubor acknowledged balancing two sports, studies at Wilmot and participation in the Civil Air Patrol presents a balancing act.

However, through the challenges, Zubor said she has learned time management skills, taking advantage of every opportunity to study and/or practice.

"I am okay with it. I have a study hall in school, so I take advantage of that," Zubor said.

She said participating in gymnastics has brought many benefits with skills transferring over to other sports and activities.

Zubor began in gymnastics when her parents enrolled her in the sport more than a decade ago. "When I was younger, my parents put me in gymnastics so that I could have all-around body strength, so if I ever wanted to go a different route, it would transfer," Zubor recalled.

The experience, she added, paid off when she started with the Civil Air Patrol.

"With the Civil Air Patrol, you need to pass a physical fitness test, and (gymnastics) helped immensely," Zubor said. "It became easy because of the strength I got from gymnastics."

Zubor said she has no plans to leave the Civil Air Patrol, noting she still has more to learn, and even recruited a friend who attends Westosha Central.

"I would definitely like to continue. I think I can get experience and get many scholarships that I couldn't get anywhere else," said Zubor, who joined around the time she began at Wilmot.

She said the Civil Air Patrol helps area youth bolster their skills, while picking up new interests, including search and rescue and building leadership qualities.

For more information about the Civil Air Patrol, including how to join, visit www. gocivilairpatrol.com.



at left: Sophomore Penny Zubor, of the Wilmot co-op gymnastics team, balances sports and participation in the Civil Air Patrol. SUBMITTED PHOTO The Breeze

above: Zubor, of Twin Lakes and a member of the Walworth County Civil Air Patrol, stands beside an aircraft while CAP was assisting visitors with parking and other needs during last fall's Burlington fly-in. JASON ARNDT *The Breeze*



AQUANUTS · CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the team have strong showings at state last summer, including Ethan Shulda.

Shulda earned the highest scoring jump act, was awarded the Most Outstanding Trick Skier Award, and picked up the Outstanding Male Skier Award at the state competition.

Kailey Koehler and Carter Boerman of the Aquanuts tied with a Rock Aqua Jays duo for the highest scoring barefoot act while presenting the Best Comedy Act called "Men in Tights."

Top three finishers for members of the team included Maggie Kelly (open swivel, second place), Makayla Bazeley and Zeke Tiedt (strap doubles, third place), Kelly and Delaney Emering (swivel pairs, third place) and Shulda (freestyle jump, second place).

The Aquanuts perform twice weekly at Lance Park Beach on the shores of Lake Mary in the Village of Twin Lakes.

Senior shows are at 6 p.m., Wednesday and Saturday – other than when the team is at a competition, with the season concluding on Labor Day weekend. There are a trio of junior shows as well.

History of the Aquanuts

Fifty-one years ago, a group of water skiers gathered and formed the Aquanuts. Little did they know that this tightly knit group would band together and become a premier waterskiing group, participating in a variety of competitions and winning hundreds of awards 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. In 2022, the Aquanuts finished off its 50th anniversary season by winning the 47th annual Indmar Marine Ski Show National Championship in Loves Park, Illinois. Last year, the team earned third in Division 1 at the state championships.

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.

Weekly shows

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 have a strong partnership with the Village of Twin Lakes, which allows Lance Park to be their home.

Practice each year begins long before the skiers are ready to hit the water. Members

of the team work on the three-, four- and even five-high pyramids – and numerous other formations – on dry ground first.

The Aquantus have two 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, make up the junior team They train to learn the more intricate moves and formations and sometimes a younger skier will advance to the senior team if they have the skills required. Members of the senior team are 15 years old to skiers in their 50s.

The weekly programs, which are open to the public, begin on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, are presented Saturdays and Wednesdays each week through Labor Day, other than weekends when they're at competitions.

Admission and parking are free and while there are some seats, there is also room to accommodate attendees who bring lawn chairs and blankets.

There is a snack shop on site that opens about an hour before the show starts and has a variety of items available for purchase.

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.

Aquanuts 2024 schedule

The Aquanuts perform on Lake Mary at Lance Park, 55 Lance Dr., Twin Lakes.

For more information, call 866-SKI-SHOW or visit aquanutwatershows.com.

Shows take place Wednesday and Saturdays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. All shows are at 6 p.m., free of charge and are senior team shows unless noted otherwise.

Performance dates

Saturday, May 25 Wednesday, May 29 Saturday, June 1 Wednesday, June 5 Saturday, June 8 Wednesday, June 12 Saturday, June 15 Wednesday, June 19 Saturday, June 22 Wednesday, June 26 Friday, June 28 -Junior team show Saturday, June 29 Saturday, June 29 -Night show, 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 3 Saturday, July 6 Wednesday, July 10 Friday, July 12 -Junior team benefit show Saturday, July 13 Wednesday, July 17 Wednesday, July 24 Friday, July 26 -Junior team tournament Saturday, July 27 Wednesday, July 31 Saturday, Aug. 3 Sunday, Aug. 4 -Junior team show Wednesday, Aug. 7 Wednesday, Aug. 14 Saturday, Aug, 17 Wednesday, Aug. 21 Saturday, Aug. 24 Wednesday, Aug. 28 Saturday, Aug. 31

Aquanuts skiers Will and Danielle Baezley perform a duet during last summer's season opener on Lake Mary.

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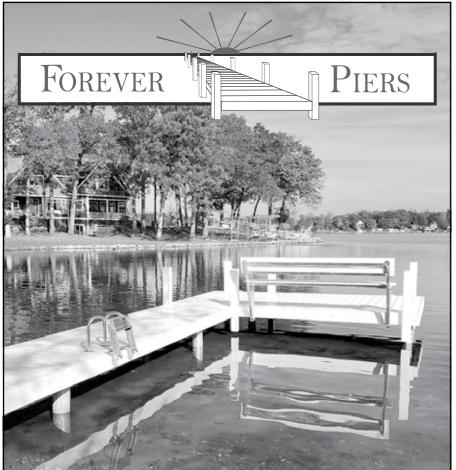
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"Many students have contacted me, sometimes weekly, asking if they could participate in the Westosha Central High School program. Unfortunately, that program is locked down to Westosha Central, but this program opens that door and allows those other students to come in and participate."

Officials impressed

Greenwoods State Bank, of Burlington, is financing construction of the STEM Aviation Center through a loan.

Barbara Bakshis, senior vice president of business banking at Greenwoods, said the bank proudly approved financing after learning about Westosha Central's success.

"(The achievements) were pretty impressive in a 10-year time frame, so Greenwoods is very excited to help them," Bakshis said. "We have done other projects out here at the airport. But this one is very unique in that it's for students to help educate them and get them into good paying jobs after high school."

Bakshis, who has deep involvement in the community, said she believes students will see benefits.

"I do anticipate other school districts will be involved in this program," she said. Burlington Municipal Airport Manager

Paul Aydt supports the STEM Aviation Center because of the new opportunities it presented to students. "They have stored their airplanes in a couple of hangars that they rented, so I know they have trained pilots in the past," Aydt said. "Now, they are adding the maintenance side of it, which is very exciting."

Breaking barriers

The STEM Aviation Center looks to help students overcome obstacles, primarily education costs, while drawing increased interest from youth in aviation.

"It's often highlighted that aviation faces challenges due to limited interest among youth and the high costs associated with entering the field," Senft said at the groundbreaking. "However, Eagles Nest Project Wisconsin has proven, through perseverance and commitment, that we can overcome these barriers and open new doors for students in aviation."

Senft said the program has created other opportunities as well.

"We have gotten 18 pilots, about 50% female to male, and we have three pilots that are flying commercially for different airlines," Senft said. "We have had many go into engineering from our program."

Nicole Murphy, then known as Nicole Jackson, graduated from Westosha Central in 2016 and became one of the first students to earn a pilot's license through the program.

She said the program changed her life, as it allowed her opportunities to network



with industry professionals, including one event at a Women in Aviation Conference in Orlando when she was a student.

Murphy urges students at the other schools eligible to participate in the future program.

"I think we are so lucky to have this close to our backdoor. I think they have a huge opportunity that has been presented to them," she said.

Murphy, who went on to earn a bachelor's degree, has been working as an electrical engineering team leader at Milwaukee Tool.

above: Barbara Bakshis, of Greenwoods State Bank, shakes Jim Senft's hand at the groundbreaking. Senft is the program director of the Westosha Central STEM Aviation Program. **left:** Burlington Municipal Airport Manager Paul Aydt was one of several officials who participated in the ceremonial groundbreaking in April for the new STEM Aviation Center to take hold.

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