



Raccoons prevail in season debut

>> 1B SPORTS



OCONOMOWOC ENTERPRISE

\$2

Thursday, August 24, 2023

gmtoday.com

FANTASTIC FESTIVAL

Featuring over 100 artists, three performance stages and a variety of food choices, the Oconomowoc Festival of the Arts continued its tradition of hosting talented artists and hard-working volunteers over the weekend. Sunny skies and super summer temperatures provided opportunities for area families to enjoy a special walk in the spacious Fowler Park.



Festival Board of Directors President Betsy Bleck seems to disappear in the Glass Garden works of Rhode Island artist Christopher Belleau.



Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus enjoy their summer vacation emceeing the children's stage at the festival on Sunday. The two pose for a picture with Sofia Phillips, left, and her sisters Elena and Kiara on Sunday morning.

Superintendent eager to welcome students, teachers back to school

Focus will be on literacy, delivering on approved referendum

By Katherine Beck
kbeck@conley.net.com



OCONOMOWOC — In a little less than two weeks students will be walking through the doors of Oconomowoc schools and Superintendent Michael Sereno is eager to welcome them.

Sereno, who is starting his second school year as head of the Oconomowoc Area School District, said he wants students to come to school and find a place where they feel comfortable and are able to grow and learn.

"I feel really blessed to have landed in a community that is so supportive of the schools," Sereno said.

He started his tenure as superintendent on July 1, 2022, replacing Roger Rindo, who left in 2021. Previously, Sereno was assistant superintendent of teaching and learning at Elmbrook Schools.

A focus for the 2023-24 school year across the district will be on literacy, which has been a priority of the district already. Recent state assessments of literacy in the OASD have been strong and Sereno wants that progress to continue.

See OASD, PAGE 8A

New competitive swim team emerges in the wake of discontinued team

British Swim School steps forward to create Barracudas Swim Team

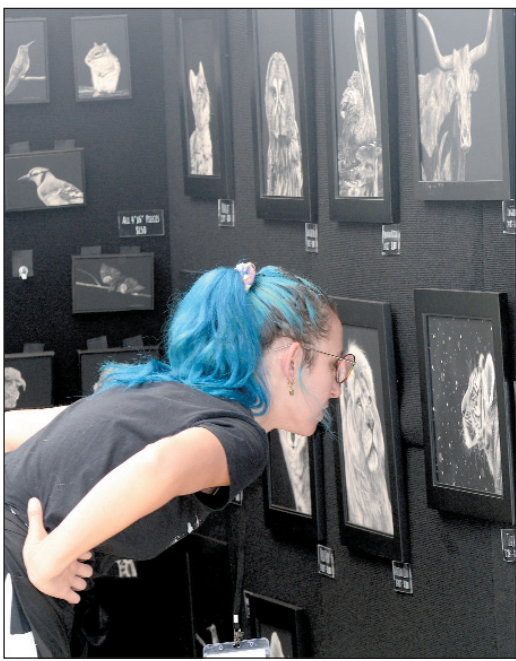
By Katherine Beck
kbeck@conley.net.com

DELAFIELD — After members of the Piranhas Competitive Swim Team were left treading water when the YMCA at Pabst Farms announced the team had been discontinued, they now have a new option thanks to British Swim School and Carroll University.

Joel and Marnie Gannon, who operate a British Swim School franchise at St. John's Northwestern Academies, stepped forward to create the Barracudas Swim team, along with a Division 3 college coach.

"We are excited because the timing feels right for us at the British Swim School," Joel Gannon said. The partnership also includes Carroll University, where practices will be held for the competitive swim team. Novice practices and lessons will be held in St. John's pool.

See TEAM, PAGE 7A



Taylor Schiffer-Jander takes a closer look at the pet portraits by artist Melissa Helene Bossenbroek of Silver Cliff, Wisconsin.



Mixed media artist Doug Adams discusses a piece of his 3-dimensional work with customer Nancy Daase of Ixonia on Sunday morning at the annual Festival of the Arts in Oconomowoc.

Photos by Sue Boyer, Special to the Enterprise

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WEATHER

Friday forecast:
Partly Cloudy
High 82 / Low 60

See weather statistics on Page 7A.

Fun Things To Do

Badgerland Water Ski Show Team, 6:30 p.m. today, Fowler Park, Oconomowoc. <https://badgerland.org/schedule>

"The Sandlot" Movie Night after Dockhounds Game, 9:05 p.m. Friday, Wisconsin Brewing Company Park, 1011 Blue Ribbon Circle N, Oconomowoc. Free post-game ticket. Game at 6:30 p.m. <https://wbcpark.com/family-movie-nights/>.

Donna Lexa Memorial Art Fair, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Wales Community Park, 500 S. Brandybrook Road, Wales. Fine arts and crafts, live music, kids activities, food for sale. Free admission. Sponsored by Jerusalem Presbyterian Church. www.donnalexamemorialartfair.org, 262-968-3408

Festival of Food & Art, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Okauchee Lions Club Pavilion, N49-W34400 E. Wisconsin Ave.,

Oconomowoc. Free admission.

Paws for a Cause Run/Walk, 8:45 a.m. kiddos 1K, 9 a.m. 5K run, 9:05 a.m. 2-mile walk, Sunday, Fowler Park, 438 N. Oakwood Ave., Oconomowoc. Benefits Oconomowoc Police Department K-9 unit. <https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Oconomowoc/OconomowocK9>.

Senior Center 35th Anniversary Car Show, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Roosevelt Park, 630 S. Main St., Oconomowoc. Brat fry and DJ.



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Development of new indoor golf bar IN FULL SWING



Rebecca Seymour/Special to the Enterprise

With renovations in full swing, Karissa and Scott Paar of Oconomowoc take turns celebrating their new business, Links and Drinks Indoor Golf Bar, co-owners Kris and Paul Liebe of Oconomowoc with a sledgehammer (and golf club) ceremony on April 14.

Links and Drinks Indoor Golf Bar set to open this summer

By Rebecca Seymour
Special to the Enterprise

OCONOMOWOC — For golf enthusiasts, Wisconsin's fair weather seasons are all too fleeting. Soon, there will be a way for golfers of all skill levels to work on their game year-round and have some fun along the way.

Slated to open in Oconomowoc during mid to late summer, Links and Drinks Indoor Golf Bar will feature state-of-the-art indoor golf simulators, a full-service, 40-foot bar to help celebrate the 19th hole, and a menu offering pizzas and more.

Co-owners Kris and Paul Liebe and Karissa and Scott Paar of

Oconomowoc met while watching their daughters play soccer. As their friendship grew over the years, they started dreaming of opening a local establishment where friends could gather to play golf, socialize, and watch their favorite sporting events.

See **SWING**, PAGE 8A

OCONOMOWOC COMMON COUNCIL

City adopts resolution deeming golf course, ski chalet sites blighted

Declaration a pivotal part of redeveloping area adjacent to Olympia Fields

By Dave Fidlin
Special to the Enterprise

OCONOMOWOC — With the era of a golf course and ski chalet far in the rear view mirror, Oconomowoc officials took an additional step Tuesday in declaring an 88-acre site blighted and ripe for future redevelopment.

The Community Development Authority reviewed and gave a favorable recommendation in deeming the land that once housed the Olde Highlander golf course and Olympia ski resorts blighted property.

The Common Council, on a 7-1 vote, followed a similar course with the designation at Tuesday's meeting in deeming the high-profile land on the west side of State Highway 67 an ideal area for redevelopment.

Bob Duffy, economic development director, reviewed with the council a report that outlined why the land meets the statutory definition of "blighted."

See **COUNCIL**, PAGE 2A

Family gives back after loss of child

Donates gift baskets to Wisconsin hospitals for mothers

By Chris Barlow
Special to the Enterprise

OCONOMOWOC — Losing a child is a traumatic event for anyone to endure. When Kristen Flanagan lost a daughter during childbirth, she turned to a support group for help coping with the trauma she was experiencing.

"It was really hard to take in," Flanagan said. "It was a very sad

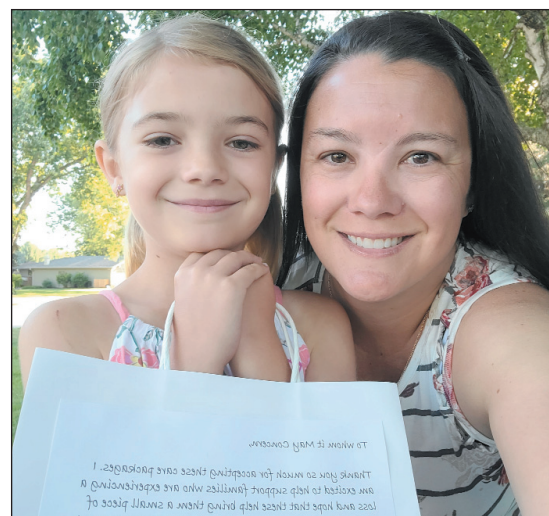
thing and we decided to turn it into something good."

After experiencing the much-needed assistance from the support group, Kristen and her eight-year-old daughter Addy wanted to help other grieving mothers in similar situations. With the emotions from their loss still fresh the pair decided to put together baskets of helpful items.

"Addy has been an active part of the whole process," Flanagan said.

"Not only did we grieve, so did Addy. It was her little sister."

Flanagan knew that to accomplish she and her daughter's goals they needed to raise some funds and began by naming the program after her late baby Emmy. She posted a fundraiser on Facebook, and Emmy's Enchantments was off and running.

See **BASKETS**, PAGE 8A

Addy and Kristen Flanagan with a gift basket to be delivered to a grieving mother.

Courtesy of Kristen Flanagan

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Mostly Cloudy
High 52 / Low 47

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Fun Things To Do

"A Wrinkle In Time," 7 p.m. today and Friday, 2 p.m. 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, Lake Country Playhouse, 221 E. Capitol Drive, Hartland. www.lakecountry-playhousewi.org

Art in Bloom, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive, Milwaukee. Annual celebration of art, flowers and spring. <https://mam.org/>

Electric Outdoors Mobility Expo, 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oconomowoc Community Center, 220 W. Wisconsin Ave. Learn about and shop expo for great brands on land or water. Presented by moboevo. <https://www.moboevo.com/>

Price A Memory - An Appraisal Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oconomowoc Historical Society & Museum, 103 W. Jefferson St. 10 antique and collectables experts to give appraisals. \$10 donation for each item's verbal appraisal. Cash or

check only. <https://www.oconomowochistoricalsociety.org/>

Rock 'n Roll Trivia Bingo, 5 p.m. Saturday, Okauchee American Legion Post 399, N50-W34750 E. Wisconsin Ave., Okauchee. \$5 registration includes two cards. Additional cards \$10.

4th Annual Sweets and Treats Fest, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Waukesha County Expo Center, 1000 Northview Road, Waukesha. \$14 regular admission, \$20 at the door. www.facebook.com/sweet-sandtreats



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SPORTS
OHS Athletic Hall of Fame to add 10 members
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LOCAL
Getting in the Homecoming groove
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Thursday, September 22, 2022

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Trying to stay afloat



Photos by Sue Boyer/Special to the Enterprise

The crew of the Oconomowoc cheer team and their entry find the going a bit wet as they struggle from the start line. Making a bit of a splash are Tayler Bscherer, in back, and Ella Pakenham.

OCONOMOWOC — Engineers of all ages tested their ideas and creative efforts during the 2nd annual Cardboard Regatta held Sunday afternoon at City Beach in Oconomowoc. There were plenty of smiles and even more miles of duct tape for a large crowd to enjoy.



The Ewald crew struggles to stay upright as the Five O's entry paddles past them in the 2nd annual Cardboard Regatta held at City Beach on Sunday afternoon. Trying to stay afloat are Austin Devivo, left, and Trevor Zane.



Jessica Laughlin, in back, and Cami Bacik team up to paddle their Tiki Barge toward the finish line in the 2nd annual Cardboard Regatta Sunday at Oconomowoc City Beach.

>> More photos from the Cardboard Regatta on Page 6A

OCONOMOWOC COMMON COUNCIL

Council confirms Herzog as DPW director

Also approves repealing overlay districts

By Dave Fidlin
 Special to the Enterprise

OCONOMOWOC — After a lengthy search process, a new head of the Public Works Department was officially named at the culmination of a confirmation hearing Tuesday.

The Common Council appointed Jason Herzog to the position during the regular meeting. Mayor Robert Magnus presented Herzog to the council with a favorable recommendation.

"He brings to the position a wealth of experience," Magnus said. "We're thrilled that he had submitted for the job. He fits everything that we're looking for."

Herzog currently is in Brookfield's employ, working as a project manager of construction and roads in the engineering department. His resume also includes a stint working for Racine.

In presenting Herzog to the council for confirmation, Magnus said his engineering background is a strong asset. Oconomowoc currently out-sources for much of its engineering work, and officials have been seeking candidates to bring some of those duties in-house.

"We felt that Jason is the perfect person for this position," Magnus said.

Alderman Charles Schellpeper was among the council members who spoke favorably of adding Herzog to the municipal payroll.

"You found us, and we found you," Schellpeper said to Herzog. "I look forward to you being a part of the community."

Herzog, who brings two decades of experience to Oconomowoc, said he was drawn to working in the community because he, his wife and four children call the city home.

"We're excited to be here and to be a part of the community," Herzog said.

Herzog's start date with Oconomowoc is slated for Oct. 10.

See **COUNCIL**, PAGE 8A

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WEATHER

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 Mostly Cloudy
 High 62 / Low 50
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Fun Things To Do

Oconomowoc Homecoming celebrations, parade at 5:15 p.m. Friday in downtown, and game at 7 p.m. Friday at Oconomowoc High School, 641 E. Forest St., Oconomowoc.

Mac & Cheese Fest, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, (VIP early access at 3 p.m.), Wisconsin Brewing Company Park, 1011 Blue Ribbon Circle N, Oconomowoc. Hosted by Outlier Events

and the Lake Country DockHounds.

7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oconomowoc Arts Center, 641 E. Forest St., Oconomowoc. www.TheOAC.net, 262-560-3172.

Gospel Music Time Concert at the Bandshell — Featuring the Siegmann Family, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sun-

day, Oconomowoc City Beach Bandshell, 324 W. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc.

Enjoy a free Gospel music concert on the lake. Bring your lawn chair or blanket. Food and coffee trucks on site starting at 11:30 a.m.

Oktoberfest, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, Frame Park, Waukesha.



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