

WEST END

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2022 | lakegenevanews.net | SECTION B

SHOOTING THE (LAKE) BREEZE

Rose-y outlook

Wisconsin native heads up 2023 Rose Parade, Rose Bowl

ERIC A. JOHNSON
ejohnson@lakegenevanews.net

“You’ll be swell, you’ll be great. Gonna have the whole world on the plate. Starting here, starting now. Honey, everything’s coming up roses...” — “Everything’s Coming Up Roses,” Ethel Merman, “Gypsy,” 1959.

Check!

If there would have been such a thing as a bucket list



ERIC JOHNSON

back when she was growing up in Wisconsin’s snowy rural Northwoods, watching the televised New Year’s Day Rose Parade, someday seeing the Rose Parade in person would have

been on Amy Kauzlaric Wainscott’s bucket list.

It all seemed so magical.

“I remember watching the Rose Parade as a child and being completely envious of the sunshine and the warm weather and wished that I could be there ... watching those amazing floats, seeing those horses and listening to those marching bands,” recalled Wainscott, 57. “Watching the Rose Parade and watching the Rose Bowl in Wisconsin, growing up, was a staple of life. It was what you did. It was cold outside, there was snow and there wasn’t a lot to do over the holidays except watch the Rose Parade and the Rose Bowl Game.”

And if you’re wondering, dreams *do* come true — sometimes in spades.

When the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association’s 2023 Rose Parade kicks off on Monday, Jan. 2, in keeping with the organization’s longstanding “Never on Sunday” rule, Wainscott will check the Rose



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Wisconsin Northwoods Marching Band, created in 2018 to appear in the Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 2 in Pasadena, Calif., is seen practicing in November at Northland Pines High School in Eagle River, alma mater and hometown of 2023 Tournament of Roses President Amy Kauzlaric Wainscott. The composite band, numbering nearly 400 students from eight high schools in northern and north central Wisconsin, will be performing “Beautiful Wisconsin,” a combination of “On Wisconsin” and “America, the Beautiful” specially composed for the band by award-winning retired 1969-2019 University of Wisconsin Badgers Marching Band Director Mike Leckrone.

Parade off her bucket list in ways she never could have imagined growing up.

A Class of 1983 graduate of Northland Pines High School in 1,674-resident Eagle River up in Vilas County, Wainscott will be riding in the parade down Colorado Boulevard with her family as the red-jacketed President and Board Chairman of the Tournament of Roses’ 134th Rose Parade and 109th Rose Bowl Game.

Wainscott and her family, drawn by the Express Clydesdales, will be 21st in the parade lineup, followed by the Wisconsin Northwoods Marching Band.

“I want everybody in Wisconsin to watch the Rose Parade,” she said. “I want people to know that when they see me on TV waving, that I’m gonna be waving at them, hoping that they are feeling the joy and the happiness that I’m feeling at that very moment. I’ll be waving to you.”

Wainscott’s one-year tenure to head the 2023 Tournament of Roses was announced last January.

“It’s so exciting,” Wainscott said of her year-long tenure, which will draw to a close shortly after the Jan. 2 Rose Parade and Rose Bowl. “Never in a million years would I have thought that I would one day be standing here, part of this incredible organization and also representing the volunteers as the president of the Tournament of Roses. It’s pretty amazing when I think about it.”

Serendipity comes calling

That Wainscott wound up in southern California — and eventually volunteering 30 years with the Tournament of Roses — is the stuff of pure serendipity.

While envious of the sun and warmth seen on Rose Parade and Rose Bowl telecasts from 138,699-resident Pasadena, a move to California wasn’t part of Wainscott’s plans until a Northland Pines classmate invited her to make the move.

“My best friend was going to be going to school in Pasadena,” she recalled. “One day during a class she asked me if I wanted



PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES ASSOCIATION

Wisconsin native Amy Kauzlaric Wainscott, who grew up at Eagle River in Vilas County in northern Wisconsin, is the 2023 President and Chairman of the Board for the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, which is staging its 134th Rose Parade and the 109th Rose Bowl, on Monday, Jan. 2. A particular source of pride for Wainscott is the scheduled appearance of the nearly 400-member Wisconsin Northwoods Marching Band, collaboratively comprised of eight high school bands from northern and north central Wisconsin.

to move to California with her. I said, ‘Okay!’ We packed up a car and we moved out to California. Really no plan, nothing in particular I had planned out. I was able to find a job, find an apartment and just really life took over and here I am.”

Wainscott, who studied at Pasadena City College and Cal Poly Pomona, would work for a construction management company owned by a Tournament volunteer member.

“I was familiar with the Tournament of Roses, listening to his stories, and leading up to the parade he would have different parade duties he was involved in,” Wainscott recalled. “I saw what he was doing. In the early 1990s we were the construction management firm for the Rose Bowl press box renovation project ... During that time I got to meet people from the City of

Pasadena and the Rose Bowl stadium, and Tournament members who were very involved in this project. So when the project was completed in 1992, they encouraged me to join the Tournament of Roses. They were looking for more women to join Tournament and they were looking for people with enthusiasm and some time to commit to helping the parade and the game happen every year, so I applied for membership and was accepted.”

Joining the Association in 1992, Wainscott worked her first parade in 1993.

The upcoming Jan. 2 Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game are the culminating highlights of Wainscott’s three decade all-volunteer career as a member of the nonprofit Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association.

Please see **OUTLOOK**, Page B2

EDUCATION

School report cards out

County school districts meet, exceed expectations

ERIC A. JOHNSON
ejohnson@lakegenevanews.net

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in November released its public and choice school and district report cards for the 2021-22 school year, which showed all Walworth County school districts either meeting or exceeding state performance expectations, with a few local districts significantly exceeding benchmarks.

The DPI reported that a majority of public school districts, schools, and choice schools met or exceeded expectations and have maintained the same rating compared to the previous year.

The DPI creates school and district report cards and pub-

lishes them annually as required by Wisconsin Statute 115.385. Report cards include data on multiple indicators for multiple school years across four priority areas: Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes, and On-Track to Graduation. The Achievement and Growth priority areas are weighted based on a district or schools’ percentage of economically disadvantaged pupils, as required by state law.

Achievement measures how students perform on state assessments, while growth measures year-to-year student progress on tests. Target group outcomes examine test outcomes for students that received the lowest scores on state tests. On-track to graduation measures how successfully students are progressing toward graduating from high school.

A school or district’s overall accountability score places the school or district into one of

five overall accountability ratings: Significantly Exceeds Expectations (five stars), Exceeds Expectations (four stars), Meets Expectations (three stars), Meets Few Expectations (two stars), and Fails to Meet Expectations (one star). Report cards use up to three years of data, including achievement data from 2018-19, 2020-21, and 2021-22. Requirements were waived for the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and report cards were not produced. The DPI urges caution when interpreting scores and ratings due to impacts resulting from the pandemic.

Of 377 public school districts receiving report cards for 2021-22, a total of 358 met, exceeded or significantly exceeded expectations (95% of districts). Compared to 2020-21 district report cards, 269 districts experienced no change, 24 districts moved up at least one category, and 84 districts moved



ERIC A. JOHNSON, EJOHNSON@LAKEGENEVANEWS.NET

Walworth County’s top-achieving school district on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction’s recently-released school report cards for the 2021-2022 school year was Grades 4K-8 Geneva Joint 4 School District (Woods School), N2575 Snake Rd. in the Town of Geneva, with an 86.4 score that ranks in the Significantly Exceeds Expectations performance category. Woods School was established in 1858.

down at least one category. District report cards are not produced for districts that represent a single school. In these cases, school report cards are produced.

There were 2,104 report cards

produced for public schools for 2021-22. Among public schools, 184 (9%) were unable to be scored and are rated using alternate

Please see **CARDS**, Page B4

These CD rates are *snow joke*

13 Month CD: 3.75% APY* | 26 Month CD: 4.00% APY*

FDIC 800-224-2324 | greenwoods.bank | f i

*Annual Percentage Yield accurate as of 12/20/2022. \$5,000 minimum to open and earn APY. Fees may reduce earnings. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. 13-Month CD will automatically renew into a non-special 12-month CD term. 26-Month CD must be opened with funds not currently on deposit at Greenwoods State Bank, or the account holder must have or open a checking account with GSB. 26-Month CD will automatically renew to a non-special 24-month CD term. This is a limited-time promotional offer and subject to change at any time without notice. No institutional funds. Personal account only. Additional information is required for IRAs.

Fontana Public Library to host Jan. 17 local history program

Learn about the history of the Belfry Music Theatre

ERIC A. JOHNSON
ejohnson@lakegenevanews.net

Those with an interest in the area's rich local music and theatre history will want to mark Tuesday, Jan. 17, on their calendar, as the Fontana Public Library hosts a program on the history, origins and ongoing programming of the storied Belfry Music Theatre, 3601 State Highway 67, in the Town of Delavan, near Williams Bay.

The free program will be held at 11 a.m. in the meeting room upstairs from the library at Fontana Village Hall, 175 Valley View Dr.

Attendees will learn about the remarkable history of this Walworth County cultural treasure, including its rich arts history dating back to 1934 and its present status as a multi-use entertainment, lodging and dining complex encompassing the Belfry Music Theatre, The Belfry House, and luxury dining restaurant Opus, a Paris-inspired French restaurant located at The Belfry House.

"I've been there a couple times," said Fontana Public Library Adult Program Coordinator Sally Lee. "I wonder sometimes if people, even though they drive by it, just don't know a lot about it. It's a little gem here in Walworth County and they've done such a nice job renovating it, and now their hotel part as well. I thought people might be interested what's going on there."

Housed in a historic circa-1888 former Mormon meeting house, Belfry Music Theatre, formerly known as the Belfry Theater, The Belfry Players and Wisconsin Summerstock, is widely feted as the first summer stock theater in Wisconsin, providing formative early acting experiences for such



ERIC A. JOHNSON, EJOHNSON@LAKEGENEVANEWS.NET

The Fontana Public Library will host a Tuesday, Jan. 17 program on the rich cultural history of the Belfry Music Theatre, 3601 State Hwy. 67 in the Town of Delavan, near Williams Bay. The free local history program will be held at 11 a.m. in the meeting room upstairs from the library at Fontana Village Hall, 175 Valley View Dr. (State Hwy. 67). There will be a door prize drawing.

Hollywood stars as Paul Newman, Harrison Ford and Gary Burghoff of "M*A*S*H" fame as Radar O'Reilly.

Adjacent Crane Hall, now home to The Belfry House and Opus at The Belfry House, served as a dormitory for resident company members.

The current mission of Belfry Music Theatre, belfrymusictheatre.com, now part of Transformative Arts, Inc., is to present high quality, professional tribute bands and original recording artists from around the globe in a lively, family-friendly environment.

Belfry has won numerous accolades, including Best of Walworth No. 1 Place for Live Music honors and multiple recommendations from online travel website and mobile app Tripadvisor, Inc. including No. 1 Thing to Do in Delavan, Top 10% of Worldwide Attractions, and 2017-2022

recognition as a Travelers Choice pick.

There will be a door prize drawing held in conjunction with the program.

For more information about the program, call the Fontana Public Library at 262-275-5107 or visit fontana.lib.wi.us.

Outlook

From B1

"Apparently somebody saw something in me and they thought I should be in a leadership position," Wainscott said.

Throughout her extensive Tournament career, Wainscott has served on a wide variety of committees. The first woman to chair Parade Operations, Wainscott was elected a Tournament Director in 2011 and to the Executive Committee in 2014, which put her on the eight-year leadership track to her current role as President and Board Chairman.

"It's one of the craziest hobbies you could possibly have," said Wainscott of her volunteer position on the Executive Committee. "It's quite a commitment. It's been a full-time job for the last eight years. There's a lot of meetings. There's a lot of business to be conducted."

Wisconsin native Wainscott is the fourth woman as to serve as Tournament president, following in the footsteps of Libby Evans Wright (2005-06), Sally Bixby (2012-13) and Laura Farber (2019-20).

"It's an incredible honor whether you're a man or a woman," she said of being named president. "To have the organization, the volunteers, trust you to represent them worldwide ... is very humbling. I had three incredibly strong women that came before me as president of the organization. It's because of their grit and their tenacity and their vision that I'm standing here today, and I am hoping that I'm going to motivate more women within the organization that they can be in leadership, that they can be president. There are leadership opportunities and I'm hoping that I'm motivating more women to take on that challenge."

A Midwestern touch

While a longtime Californian, Wainscott hasn't forgotten her Midwestern and Wisconsin roots.

Wainscott and her husband, Tim, are frequent visitors to northern Wisconsin, where they've had a vacation home for the past 15-plus years on Buck Lake in Rhinelander, a convenient home-away-from-home base for visiting Amy's family — mom Arlene Kauzlaric and brother Jim Kauzlaric in hometown Eagle River, sister Diana Wright in Rhinelander, and brother Dale Kauzlaric in Rothschild, along with various nieces and nephews. Another brother, Jeff Kauzlaric, lives on the west coast in Vancou-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 32-student Northland Pines High School Band in Eagle River, under the direction of Forrest Mann, is one of eight northern and north central Wisconsin high school bands collaboratively comprising the nearly 400-member Wisconsin Northwoods Marching Band, slated to perform in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif. on Monday, Jan. 2. Northland Pines and Eagle River are the alma mater and hometown of 2023 Tournament of Roses Association President Amy Kauzlaric Wainscott, who is heading this year's Rose Parade and Rose Bowl. Said Mann of the Wisconsin Northwoods Marching Band's once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform in the Rose Parade, "These students are making a remarkable commitment to represent their communities on the national stage."

Right: Wisconsin native Amy Kauzlaric Wainscott, 2023 President and Board Chairman of the nonprofit Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation, chose "Turning the Corner" as the theme for the Jan. 2 Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif. Said Wainscott, who grew up in Eagle River in Vilas County, of the 2023 parade theme, "The 2023 theme celebrates turning a corner. Whether that corner is actual or figurative, like the unlimited potential that each new year brings, we all enjoy the opportunity of a fresh start. Turning a corner means rising above — alone, or with family, friends and community. This year, as we turn the corner together, we share in the hope, beauty and joy of what 2023 will bring."

PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES

ver, Wash.

The upcoming Rose Parade will have a definite Midwestern presence, with marching bands from Pella, Iowa; Rosemount, Minnesota; Rockford, Michigan; and northern Wisconsin among the 21 bands performing.

Near and dear to Wainscott's heart is the Wisconsin Northwoods Marching Band, a nearly 400-student collaboration band drawn from Wainscott's alma mater, Northland Pines High School, as well as Lakeland Union High School in Minocqua, Three Lakes High School, Antigo High School, Merrill High School, Mosinee High School, Wausau East High School, and D.C. Everest High School in Schofield.

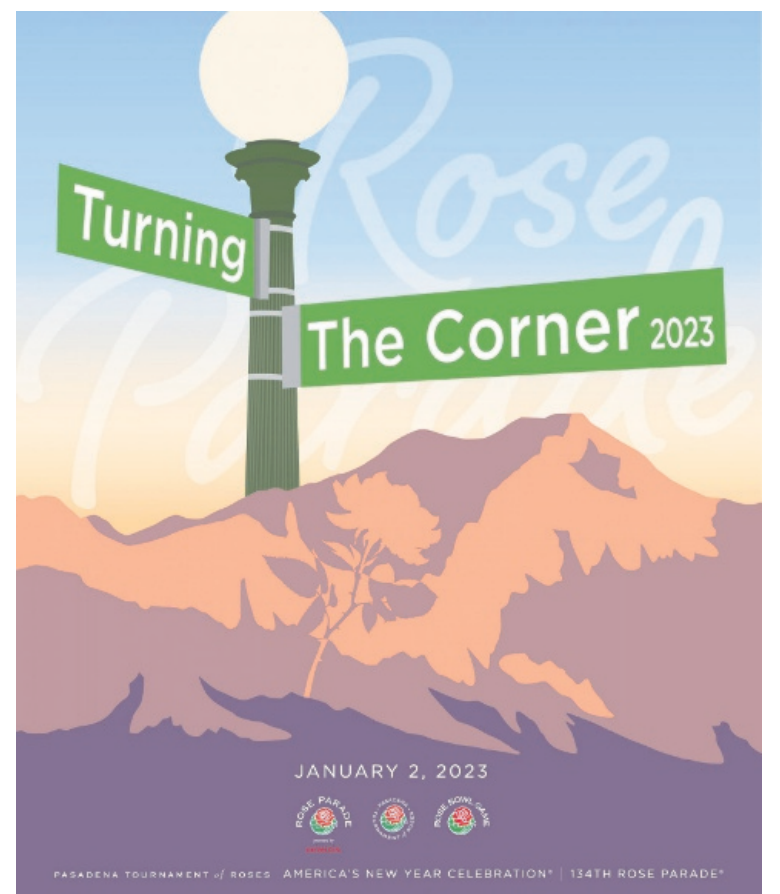
"It's gonna be a terrific event for those kids Up North — and for the whole state," Wainscott said. "I think it's great. It's so exciting. When I first started this initia-

tive, focusing on the Northwoods and north central Wisconsin, my stomping grounds, I was hoping for maybe 150, 175 members. To hear that they're bringing so many students makes my heart happy."

The Wisconsin Northwoods Marching Band will be playing "Beautiful Wisconsin," a combination of "On Wisconsin" and "America, the Beautiful" specially composed for the band by award-winning 1969-2019 University of Wisconsin Badgers Marching Band Director Mike Leckrone.

"When he heard about it, he offered to compose a song for the band to play," Wainscott said. "That is very, very cool."

In addition to the Rose Parade, the Wisconsin Northwoods Marching Band will be performing at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., and at the Tournament's Band



Fest at Pasadena City College.

"They've been practicing hard, they've really been working hard to condition for this," Wainscott said. "To play and to march for

5-1/2 miles — these are athletes as well as musicians. The whole state of Wisconsin should be proud of these kids and their communities and their parents."