



The Stoughton Courier Hub

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Answering the call of the wild

Few contested races for local spring election

Stoughton City Council has no candidates for District 1, 4 alder races

While most municipalities are holding elections, only a few races in the Stoughton area will be up for grabs in the spring election, set for April 4.

Masa-Myers

Dec. 1 marked the first day aspiring candidates could start circulating nomination papers and collecting signatures, which had to be fully completed and turned in to each respective organization clerk or agency by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3 (with the exception of one Stoughton district).

If needed for state contests, a spring primary

election will be held on Feb. 21, though no local elections will require a primary this year.

Stoughton City Council

Four aldermanic seats will be up for election in April - Joyce Tikalsky (District 1), Lisa Reeves (District 2), Greg Jenson (District 3) and Fred Hundt (District 4), though only Reeves and Jenson are running again. Tikalsky announced in December she would not seek re-election, and no one returned nomination papers for District 4 after it was granted a 72-hour extension through 5 p.m. last Friday, so districts 1 and 4 will seemingly come down to write-in ballots.

Last year, Ozzie Doom's

Turn to **Election/Page 9**

Spreitzer sworn in as State Senator for 15th District

Succeeds long-time area representative Janis Ringhand

Stoughton's newest state senate representative has started his term.

Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) was sworn in on Tuesday, Jan. 3 at the State Capitol as the State Senator for the 15th Senate District. He will serve a four-year term representing communities in Dane, Green, and Rock Counties - including six cities, six villages, and twenty-five towns.

Spreitzer previously served as the State Representative for the 45th Assembly District from 2015-2023, and succeeds

Janis Ringhand as the Senator for the 15th District.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as a State Senator, and I look forward to continuing to serve and advocate for the people of our district,"

Spreitzer said in a news release. "I am proud to continue to represent the people of the 45th Assembly District, who I served as a State Representative for the past eight years, and look forward to representing my new constituents in the 43rd and

Turn to **Spreitzer/Page 3**



Stoughton native Kapfer co-authors book on state amphibians and reptiles

SCOTT DE LARUELLE
 Staff reporter

If Stoughton native Josh Kapfer ends up writing the seminal 21st century textbook on Wisconsin's unique amphibians and reptiles, he'll have dozens of people to thank.

And an iguana named Conan. Last month, UW Press published "Amphibians and Reptiles of Wisconsin," co-authored and edited by Kapfer and his colleague Donald Brown. The massive work that took nine years to complete contains nearly 1,200 pages, more than 300 color figures and photographs, and includes the work of more than 50 contributors.

The process was perhaps metaphorically similar to bringing a child to birth, considering the book's weight of nine pounds. Kapfer, a 1993 Stoughton High School graduate, told the Hub the path started for him at a very early age with a keen interest in dinosaurs that later transitioned into reptiles.

"In my young mind, the closest thing still alive to a dinosaur was a lizard, so

Turn to **Kapfer/Page 2**

Photo submitted

Josh Kapfer, a 1993 Stoughton High School graduate and current UW-Whitewater professor of wildlife biology, holds an Ornate Box Turtle (a state endangered species) in Sauk County as part of a recent research project.



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Kapfer: Stoughton graduate spent nine years researching, writing book

Continued from page 1

I was just as obsessed with reptiles as I was with dinosaurs," he said. My parents' families grew up in rural Clark County, and there were always opportunities to go out and look in the woods and streams."

During his middle and high school years, though, Kapfer's interests turned toward sports and the arts, as he sang in the chorus at SHS and later at the University of Wisconsin La-Crosse, where he also played football. It was there, as an undergrad pondering a career path, that Conan the iguana came into Kapfer's life and changed it forever.

"There was a group of us Stoughton High School grads living in an

apartment, and we decided to get an iguana as a pet, and that was the catalyst, strangely enough," he explained. "It was, 'Why am I messing around with other things? I really need to get into working with wildlife, that's what I want to do.'"

Soon, Kapfer started working on undergraduate biology research at UW-La Crosse, which led to graduate-level work focused on amphibians. For his Ph.D at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, he realized he wanted to work with local and regional amphibians and reptiles, completing his doctoral work on bull snakes in Wisconsin.

After stints with the Department of Natural Resources and as an

environmental consultant, he was hired by Elon University in North Carolina to teach wildlife biology, a job he enjoyed but left after two years when a similar position opened up at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 2011.

"I just couldn't turn down the opportunity to come back to southern Wisconsin," he said. "Not only was it close to home, but they had an ecology concentration that had field-based classes, and that is really what I was interested in teaching - that's sort of where the rubber meets the road if you want to get into this field."

And what the biologist in Kapfer particularly likes about amphibians

and reptiles is the opportunity to directly come into contact with them.

"I can't take my students out and have them hold a coyote or a bald eagle, but we can find turtles, snakes and frogs, and they provide this outstanding opportunity for us to realize wildlife is not an abstract concept, it's something that we can be very connected to," he said.

The metamorphosis begins

For the first few years of his teaching career, though, most of

Turn to **Kapfer/Page 9**



Photo submitted

Kapfer works with his UW-Whitewater wildlife biology students out in the field.

DOT holding Hwy. 51 public meeting Jan. 12

Improvements planned from Roby Road to County B/AB

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) will host a public involvement meeting to discuss the proposed improvements along Hwy. 51 from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12 at Good Shepherd By The Lake Church, 1860 Hwy. 51, Stoughton. A brief presentation will be made at 5:30 p.m.

According to a DOT news release, the meeting will focus on the planned construction project between Roby Road and County B/AB in Stoughton and the Town of Dunn that is "designed to provide a safe and efficient transportation system along the US 51 corridor to serve the traveling public while minimizing disturbance to the environment."

The public is invited to attend to learn more about the projects. WisDOT and consultant staff will be available to discuss design plans, the expected real estate impacts and construction timeline.

Both projects will require the purchase of right of way and temporary easements.

The real estate process for the project along US 51 from Roby Road to County B/AB is planned to

begin in fall 2023. Real estate specialists will be available at the meeting to discuss with impacted property owners.

Plans for US 51 between Roby Road and County B (east) include:

- Reconstructing the existing rural 2-lane undivided roadway to a 4-lane urban divided roadway with a raised median and 10-foot-wide sidewalk on both sides of US 51
- Reconstructing the Rutland-Dunn Townline Road and County B (east) intersections to dual-lane roundabouts
- Reducing the speed limit from 55 miles per hour to 35 mph

Plans for US 51 between County B (east) and County B/AB include:

- Reconstructing the existing undivided rural roadway to a two-lane rural divided roadway with a continuous raised median, including intersection improvements
- Construction from Roby Road to South Quam Drive is currently scheduled to begin 2026, with construction from South Quam Drive to County B/AB scheduled to begin in 2027.

In addition to this in-person meeting, people can find out more at wisconsindot.gov/US51.

If You Go

What: Wisconsin Department of Transportation Hwy. 51 public involvement meeting

When: 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12

Where: Good Shepherd By The Lake Church, 1860 Hwy. 51

Info: Call 608-246-3811 or email at Kevin.Drunasky@dot.wi.gov

This project is located under "Rural" in the menu list.

Requests for hearing or language interpreters can be made at least three working days prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions, or if you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to find out more about the project, please contact WisDOT Project Manager Kevin Drunasky at (608) 246-3811 or by email at Kevin.Drunasky@dot.wi.gov. Written comments can be made by mail to 2101 Wright Street, Madison, WI 53704.

Contact reporter Scott De Laruelle @sdelaruelle@ourkemediagroup.com

Vesterheim showing film on Norwegian immigration Jan. 14

If you've got the winter blues and are looking for a bit of a road trip, Vesterheim, the National Norwegian-American Museum and Folk Art School in Decorah, Iowa, might have just the ticket.

Vesterheim is holding its Free Second Saturday on Jan. 14, including a showing of "A Dream of Milk and Honey," a stop-motion animated film about Norwegian immigration to the United States.

The film tells the story of two immigrants during the 1800s and is the final product from a workshop collaboration with Vesterheim, the Decorah Home School Assistance Program, and Norwegian partners E6 Mediaverksted, Fredrikstad Kulturskolen, and Studium Actoris. It is approximately 25 minutes long and will be shown in a continuous loop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the museum's main building.

In spring 2022, Norwegian animators Katz Plunkett and Gitte Ous worked with a small group of Decorah students and more than 100 students in Fredrikstad, Norway, to film individual scenes that were joined together, along with Norwegian dialogue and music, to make the film. The animators used historic documents, images, and stories from Vesterheim's

If You Go

What: Showings of animated film, "A Dream of Milk and Honey"

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14

Where: Vesterheim National Norwegian-American Museum & Folk Art School, 523 W. Water St., Decorah, Iowa

Info: Visit vesterheim.org or call 563-382-9681

collection and collections in Norway.

Vesterheim welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds to engage in the conversation of the American immigrant journey through the lens of the Norwegian-American experience, and offers Free Second Saturdays every month with free museum admission and an engaging community activity. Vesterheim also offers innovative and interactive exhibits, classes, and programs, both at the dynamic campus and park in scenic Decorah, Iowa, and online at vesterheim.org and Vesterheim social media.

Contact reporter Scott De Laruelle @sdelaruelle@ourkemediagroup.com

Legion breakfast fundraiser set for Jan. 15

Stoughton's American Legion Post 59 is hosting a breakfast fundraiser from 7:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 15 at the post, located at 803 N. Page St.

Adults are \$10 and children under 10 are \$5 for a breakfast consisting of pancakes, French toast, hash browns, scrambled eggs, sausage patties, bacon, biscuits and gravy, coffee, orange juice and milk. Also, the auxiliary will hold a basket raffle. Proceeds go to the post's veteran and community programs.

For more information,

If You Go

What: American Legion Post 59 breakfast fundraiser

When: 7:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 15

Where: American Legion Post 59, 803 N. Page St

Info: Visit post59.us or call 608-205-9090

call 608-205-9090 or visit post59.us.

— Scott De Laruelle

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Election: Two races in Rutland township

Continued from page 1

District 4 aldermanic seat did not have a registered candidate, so the highest write-in vote-getter, Frank Raff, accepted the position.

Council terms are three years in length.

Stoughton Area School District

With three at-large school board seats open, incumbents Holly Tellander and Tim Bubon are running again, along with newcomer Zachary Masa-Myers. Bubon has been on the board since first elected in 2016, while Tellander was first elected in 2019.

School board terms are three years in length.

In an email to the Hub, Tellander wrote that she's "seeking a second term on the board to continue the equity work we have re-committed to as we move forward in a post-pandemic world."

"I'm proud to serve with a body that holds equity and justice as some of our highest ideals as we work to provide an educational experience for all students that will allow them to feel prepared and supported to pursue their goals," she wrote.

Tellander said her highest priorities for the upcoming board are to "continue to explore how we can incorporate more student voice into our policy creation, how to use our assessment and data tools to improve outcomes for marginalized groups, and how we can develop new, creative, and practical ways to let our teachers know how much we appreciate, respect and support them in the vital and transformative work they do with our students and their colleagues each day."

Masa-Myers' great-grandparents immigrated to Stoughton from Norway, and the Freeport, Illinois native and his wife Sarah moved here in 2020, and in November welcomed a son, Landon. He's worked as a public-school music educator and taught English abroad, and now serves in the Wisconsin Army National Guard and a budget analyst for the United States Department of the Army.

In an email to the Hub,

Important City of Stoughton Spring election dates

- Feb. 1** - Last day for voter to register by mail (if primary required)
- Feb. 17** - 5 p.m. deadline to request absentee ballot by mail for the Spring Primary
- Feb. 21** - Spring Primary, if needed
- March 15** - Last day for voter to register by mail for Spring Election
- March 30** - 5 p.m. deadline to request absentee ballot by mail for the Spring Election
- April 4** - Spring Election 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Booth at Stoughton's Coffee Break Festival
- 4:30 p.m. Team can set up at Mandt Park's ball diamond
- 6:30 p.m. Opening Ceremony
- 8 p.m. Luminaria ceremony
- 9:30 p.m. Event ends

Masa-Myers wrote that he's running because he "cares deeply about public education and the role that the school district has in equipping all students with skills that help them prepare for real-life challenges."

"I believe my experience and background has prepared me to think strategically about complex issues and effectively implement ideas that will benefit our school district and the community," he wrote. "I bring a unique perspective as I don't currently have any students in the school district but have an eye toward the future, while living in the present, and looking to the past for understanding the institutional practice and memory of SASD. This will put me in a position to be an effective listener and come up with pragmatic solutions."

Masa-Myers wrote that he will "seek to empower staff, students and their families, and the community in taking an active role in public education" and will prioritize concerted efforts toward navigating how to maintain services, promoting SASD by working with local, state, and national partners to capitalize on resources that can be utilized by the school district, and increasing and continuing visibility of student achievement by highlighting, developing, and celebrating accomplishments that instill pride for students and the school district."

Town of Dunkirk

All Dunkirk incumbents will be back on the ballot for two-year terms, with no challengers: chairman Norman Monsen, supervisors Theodore Olson and Daniel Jenks, treasurer Bonnie Smithback and constable Gregory Holte.

Town of Dunn

Four offices are up for re-election in Dunn, with incumbents all running unopposed: chairman Steve Greb, Town Supervisor I Jeffrey Hodgson and Town Supervisor II Rosalind Gausman (two-year terms) and municipal judge Lana Mades (four-year term).

Town of Rutland

Rutland will have a pair of contested races in April, with incumbent town chair Deana Zentner running against challenger Kent Knutson, and three candidates for two supervisor seats. Incumbent supervisor Susan Williams facing off against challengers James Dorn and Norman Arendt.

Constable Steven Williams, clerk Dawn George and treasurer Kim Sime are running unopposed for re-election. Terms of offices are two years.

Contact reporter Scott De Laruelle @sdelaruelle@orkemediagroup.com

Girls hockey

Cougars put clamps on Icebergs

Goaltender Gruner leads Stoughton with solid effort in goal

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

Senior goaltender Aven Gruner had a game-high 47 saves, but the Stoughton girls hockey co-op was stymied by Cap City 4-0 in a Badger Conference game on Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Ice Pond in Waunakee.

Cap City outshot Stoughton 51-10, including a 14-2 advantage in the first period. Cap City senior forward Marli Davenport scored one goal and had an assist. The Cougars' Abby Hollfelder scored on an assist by Davenport at 13:51 in the first period.

Cap City scored two goals in the second period. Davenport scored a power-play goal on a pass from

Badger Conference Standings

Team	Pts.	Conf.
Metro Lynx	12	6-0
Rock County Fury	10	5-2
Viroqua	8	4-1
Badger Lightning	6	3-3
Cap City Cougars	2	1-4
Stoughton Icebergs	2	1-5
Beaver Dam	0	0-5

Olivia Kaminsky at 5:55 in the second period to take a 2-0 lead. GeorgiaRae Samuelson added a goal at 12:38 to extend the Cougars' lead to 3-0.

Cap City sophomore forward Teegan Davis scored a short-handed goal about

midway through the third period to cap the scoring. The Cougars went 1-for-6 on the power play and the Icebergs were 0-for-2.

The Icebergs (3-10, 1-5 Badger Conference) will host Rock County on Friday, Jan. 13.

Kapfer: Taught at UW-Whitewater since 2011

Continued from page 2

his time was spent simply preparing for classes. When he had more time to spend on research, Kapfer was introduced to Brown, his future co-author, who was at the University of Wisconsin-Madison doing postdoctoral research on wood turtles in the Rhinelander area. They had common interests in updating the 1980s-era standard book on Wisconsin's amphibians and reptiles.

"It's an excellent book - certainly a standard for natural history books about organisms - but it's long out of print and it's dated, there's tons of new information available," Kapfer explained. "As an academic, the goal is always to share information and get our results out there."

They started with updating, county by county, the "range maps" used to track locations and distributions of species for use by various groups. As Kapfer had worked for the DNR and an environmental consulting firm, he "knew what sorts of information I was constantly on the lookout for."

"Then we thought, 'Hey, wouldn't it be

great if there was one source where people could find all this information on species that they might need, whether they're a graduate student or a natural resource regulator or environmental consultant or an academic?" he said. "And do it in a way that still had approachable aspects to the average person and brought together all the different herpetological and natural history experts in the region."

Soon, what began as an update for a basic field guide was turning into a massive effort to produce a generational, "one-stop shop" for any and all information people might need on the state's amphibians and reptiles.

"It sort of snowballed," Kapfer said. "It didn't start as huge as it ended up."

Rigorous methodology

There were many factors for the authors to consider, both academic and practical. For instance, to be on the safe side, they chose

Turn to **Kapfer/Page 10**

CITY OF STOUGHTON

The City of Stoughton, an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), is currently recruiting for a **Recreation Assistant to assist our Parks & Recreation Department and two Long Term Seasonal Park Maintenance Employees.**

Recreation Assistant

The Recreation Assistant will assist with various department functions in and outside the office. Hours for the position will typically be **Monday through Friday from 9 am - 2 pm with some weekend and evening work when needed. This non-exempt, part-time position is 30 hours per week** (1560 hours per year). Duties include, but are not limited to: coordinates Gazebo Musikk and Movie in the Park events, assists with Sponsorship Program management, handles cash receipting for department, participates in light outdoor maintenance, performs visitor services functions for department, provides friendly customer service and a welcoming environment to each customer, posts to department social media accounts and sends marketing emails, fills in when needed at Troll Beach, Youth Center, and Ski Club. This position assists with City Hall front desk coverage, and performs other tasks such as scheduling meetings, transcribing meeting minutes, creating agendas & packets, and other administrative duties. **The pay rate for this position is \$15.46 per hour. Benefits are available on a pro-rated basis.**

Long Term Seasonal Parks Maintenance Employees

During the peak season, hours for the position will be 40 hours per week April through October. During Peak season, the work hours are typically Monday-Thursday from 6:30 am until 3:30 pm and Friday from 6:30 am until 10:30 am. This position will assist with snow and ice removal in the winter as needed. During the off-peak months, work hours and schedule will vary based on weather conditions and there may be some weekend responsibilities. The regular pay rate for these positions is \$16.64 per hour. The pay rate for snow and ice removal will be \$20 per hour.

These positions will remain open until filled.

To view the full position descriptions and submit an online Application for these positions please visit: <https://www.governmentjobs.com> You may also download a hard copy application at <https://www.ci.stoughton.wi.us/jobs> and submit it via email to gskarda@ci.stoughton.wi.us

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Obituaries**Kandy Flood**

Kandy L. Flood, 48, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at UW Hospital and Clinics-Madison. She was born Nov. 14, 1974 in Janesville to Jerry and Shirley (Pohill) Flood.

A graduate of Craig High School, she would commit herself to caring for her family and anyone who asked for her help. This commitment brought her to being a resourceful woman who found the means to get what was needed. She enjoyed cooking, crafts



Flood

with the kids, wearing a sun dress everyday in summer, watching anything Tyler Perry and was so brutally honest to you that you respected her more.

She loved dogs and always wanted to see the Grand Canyon and the ocean. Her trademark fingernails will be remembered by her family.

Kandy is survived by her daughters: Marisa Flood and Makia Flood and Gabby; grandchild Henrick; sibling: Kellyann Wilson and Geri Flood (Leonard Washington, Jr); niece Tesia Washington; best friend Andrea (Jerry) and other special friends.

She was preceded in death by her father Jerry Flood; long time love Devarn Triplett; and

brother-in-law Jimmy Wilson, Jr.

Per Kandy's request no formal services will be held for her.

A memorial fund in Kandy's name is established at Educators Credit Union, 2652 N Lexington Dr, Janesville, WI 53545 to help with expenses and a college fund.

The APFEL WOLFE FUNERAL HOME, Janesville is assisting the family. Special thank you to April Brown and her daughter Rhiana Billups and Dee Triplett III for being there for the family.

Janet Janowski

Janet Janowski, 64, of Suamico, Wisconsin, passed away surrounded by loved ones on Dec. 27, 2022, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. She was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Dec. 25th, 1958 to Jerome and Mary Jane (Koch) Kulinski.

She attended Dominican High School from 1973 to 1977 where she found a passion and excelled at volleyball. In 1976, Janet was selected as the Dominican High School Senior Athlete of the Year—The first female to ever receive this award. She attended Marquette University from 1977 to 1982 where she continued her love of volleyball and went on to coach there from 1982 to 1985. In 1997, Janet was inducted into the Dominican High School Athletic



Janowski

Hall of Fame for being a pioneer for women's sports.

Janet married her childhood sweetheart and the love of her life, Randy Janowski, on May 14, 1983. Her entire career was in the banking business and specialized in mortgage underwriting for over 30 years. Janet continued to stay active in the volleyball community after she got married and had her 2 children, Arthur and Elizabeth. She coached at Stoughton High School and many club

teams. She played multiple nights a week with friends and family and was a wonder to watch and learn from on and off the court. Her passion for the game of volleyball lasted her whole life and she shared that passion with anyone who played with her. Janet took that passion to life as well and impacted so many of those around her and could make a stranger into a friend with minimal effort. Janet enjoyed reading and loved being in the sun as much as possible. Her love of crafts and projects will always be remembered as she shared her creations with many others. She always saw the good in people and supported all she knew and loved.

Survived by her husband, Randy, of nearly 40 years; son Arthur Janowski and daughter Elizabeth (James) Johnson. Busia loved her grandchildren: Raylan,

Elliot, and Sloane Janowski; Sister Christine (Thomas) Brown and brother Michael Kulinski (Lisa Stock). Further survived by many brothers and sisters-in-laws, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncle, cousins, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

The family would like to thank Unity Hospice Care, Michelle Duescher, St. Mary's Oncology, Dr. Edgard Badine, Laurie Metzger, the Geiser family and the Shimanek family for their support and care.

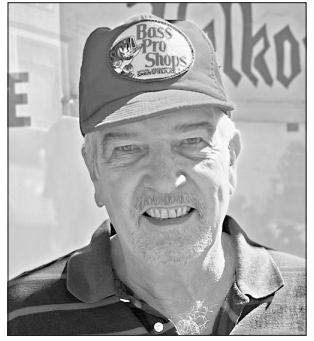
Janet's Celebration of Life will be held on Feb. 4, 2023, at Townline Pub and Grill, 2544 Lineville Road Suamico, Wisconsin, 54313, from noon to 4 p.m. and a memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Please come as you are, casual attire, to share memories and to toast to a wonderful woman.

Darwin Russell Bohn

Darwin Russell Bohn of Stoughton, Wisconsin, left this world on Jan. 6, 2023, at the age of 67. He is survived by his wife Patricia (Mertsching); his two children, Jason and Jessica (Nick) Leising; and many grandchildren. He will be sadly missed and will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Darwin retired after 26 years as a Maintenance Supervisor from the Stoughton Area School District. He also served in the Air National Guard for 23 years, and retired from the service as a Master Sergeant.

To honor Darwin and his dedication to the armed forces, a full military honors ceremony will take place at 11 am on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, at Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park located at 1731 Country Club Road in Stoughton. All who knew Darwin are welcome to join his family at this



Bohn



service to pay tribute and remember his wonderful life.

Please share your memories of Darwin by posting on his Tribute Wall at: www.CressFuneralService.com.

Cress Funeral Service
206 W. Prospect Street,
PO Box 231, Stoughton
(608) 873-9244

Karen Bouzek

Karen Bouzek, a longtime resident of Stoughton, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on Jan. 5, 2023 after a short lived illness.

Karen was born in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where she met and married Jerry, her husband of 58 years. Part of a large family of five children, she learned the entrepreneurial skills from her father in the family lodging business that would serve her well later in life. She went on to open Stoughton businesses, The Creamery, an ice cream parlor with her husband and Montage, a gift shop with her daughter, Deedee.

Karen worked as a nurse at Stoughton Hospital for nearly 40 years. She found her work fulfilling and was known as a skilled RN, a valuable mentor to her colleagues, and a compassionate advocate for her patients. Post retirement, she returned to work in the geriatric psych unit, where staff admired and respected her wisdom and expertise working with the elderly.

An avid reader of mysteries, especially by Norwegian authors, Karen read two to three books per week. She also loved shopping, collecting beautiful things, interior design, traveling to distant places, and spending time on her porch overlooking the Yahara River with her cat, Minnie.

Her creative skills found a home in knitting, sewing, quilting, and flower arranging. She was always thinking about her next project. Karen's family was the most important part of her life. She always made time for her children and grandchildren. Along with holding her impressive book collection, the shelves in her home served as a time capsule filled with the playbills and concert notices from the many family



Bouzek

performances she had attended. Like her mother, she loved to read magazines and spent countless hours at Barnes and Noble where she sought out the latest ideas in knitting or simply creating beauty in her home and garden.

Karen will be remembered by all who knew her as a kind and compassionate friend, mother, grandmother and sister with a quiet, immutable strength who always put others before herself. She had a beautiful smile that could light up any room. As her daughter Deedee aptly put it, "To know her is to love her."

Karen is survived by son David (Barbie) Bouzek, daughter DeeDee Bouzek, grandchildren Sophie and Silas Bouzek, all of Stoughton. Also survived by sister, Jane de Roussan of Montreal, Canada, and a brother, Eric Frydenlund, of Prairie du Chien and many nieces and nephews and cherished friends. She is preceded in death by her parents, Art and Elaine Frydenlund; her husband, Jerry; a son, Jeff; and two brothers, Gerald and John.

A memorial gathering will be held from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023 at Cress Funeral Home, 206 W. Prospect Street, Stoughton.

Please share your memories of Karen by posting on her Tribute Wall.

Cress Funeral Service
206 W. Prospect Street,
PO Box 231, Stoughton
(608) 873-9244

Kapfer: College pet re-ignited this educator's love of wildlife

Continued from page 9

to create county-level range maps as opposed to specific locations, to prevent rare species from having exact locations identified and people disturbing the sites or collecting specimens.

And they had to be meticulous in their tracking, only including a county as part of an organism's range if it was reported in a public literature source (usually a herpetological or scientific literature source) backed by an official "voucher" specimen with a catalog number within an academic institution or museum.

"The importance of that is that anybody in the future can go back and say, 'Here's the specimen that supports, for certain, that this species was actually found in this county,'" Kapfer said. "And that was really critical, because there's sources where people can report, 'Oh, I saw such-and-such at this location,' and that's useful, but what we really wanted was well-documented and following a scientific process."

In instances where voucher specimens were in places like Chicago's Field Museum or the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., Kapfer contacted officials there who oversaw those collections to either confirm a specimen's presence or send photos for him to confirm it; all documented at the book's appendix for future researchers.

In most cases, though, Kapfer was able to travel around the state to examine specimens and databases.

"I spent a lot of time in museums," he said.

What makes Wisconsin unique?

So why are the state's amphibians and reptiles so interesting? From a biologist's perspective, the often "frozen tundra" is an interesting place to study cold-blooded animals, not only from a standpoint of

climate, but Wisconsin's unique geology.

"We have this coming together of habitat types and community types - influences from the prairie in the western part of the state, this whole region that was never glaciated, the Driftless Region along the Mississippi and Wisconsin River valleys, and then we have the eastern deciduous hardwood forest throughout a large part of the state," Kapfer said. "We're bounded by water on three sides and it's provided this great opportunity for this great diversity of species. They are some of the oldest organisms, so they have evolved to exist with a battering of different conditions hammering them."

Diverse, though not necessarily abundant. Due to the state's colder climate, there are fewer species of reptiles and amphibians than in warmer climates - around 21 snakes, seven salamanders, 18 frogs and 12 turtles, for example - and they are only here because they've adapted to the cold in a way their southern cousins haven't been forced to.

"Many of them exist at the edge of their continental distribution, and the way they act and behave at the periphery of their range is different than at the core," Kapfer explained. "Ecologically, they have different challenges - they have to be able to get away from the cold for an extended period of time."

Not easy for cold-blooded animals, but they have adapted through the years. For instance, bull snakes and timber rattlesnakes exist primarily in the Wisconsin and Mississippi river valley bluff habitats where they can find crevasses that reach below the frost line. Turtles who live in bodies of water that freeze over in the winter have adaptations for dealing with lack of oxygen, since they don't come to the surface.

"Their metabolism slows way down, they don't need to burn a lot of oxygen, and they can metabolize without the use

of oxygen," Kapfer said.

There is also a frog species that as part of their physiological response to cold produces "essentially an antifreeze" that doesn't allow ice crystals to form and damage their cells.

"So they look frozen for all intents and purposes, and then when they warm up, they sort of thaw out," he said.

Passing on the knowledge

When it finally came to putting all that information into a book form, Kapfer said it came down to finding a balance.

"It had to be robust for people that needed scientific information but we also wanted the sort of casual, interested reader to be able to find it approachable," he said.

To help avoid some often "intimidating" science, the authors added an "at-a-glance" section for each species.

"It's the basics of everything you need to know about that organism if you don't feel like wading through that whole species' account, and there's interesting things to look at and sidebars that have anecdotal stories," Kapfer said. "We kind of came to the conclusion that the general public is probably interested in learning. If they're really interested in an organism, they have everything they would need to learn about it here, and that was important to us."

And with over 50 contributors, he said that that speaks to the quality of the product.

"So many people wanted to be involved in something that would really be useful," Kapfer said. "It's been an exhausting process, but I also feel good about the fact that so many people can look at this and feel a sort of ownership of this work."

For more information, visit uwpress.wisc.edu/books/5426.htm.