



**News**  
**Cedarburg Auxiliary Police look to purchase drone**  
 ▶ Page 3A



**Sports**  
**GHS clinches share of title**  
 ▶ Page 1B

**OZAUKEE COUNTY**



**NEWS GRAPHIC**

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**Kellner Field dedicated at Grafton High School**

"It's very special," seeing everything come together. "I have a lot of memories from Grafton. I want to have wonderful facilities and I hope future generations can have the good experiences we did." — Ted Kellner



Photos by Mark Justesen/News Graphic staff



**Above**, Grafton School District Superintendent Jeff Nelson introduces the Kellner family and others during a half-time ceremony celebrating the Kellners' donations to help enhance Grafton schools' athletic complexes. **On left**, Ted Kellner and his wife, Mary, are seen cutting the ribbon at the halftime ceremony during the Grafton football game Friday night.

**Uptick in number of panhandlers seen in Ozaukee County**

By Charley Hanney  
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**OZAUKEE COUNTY** — It's nowhere near big-city levels, but an uptick here in the number of people commonly referred to as panhandlers has more people in Ozaukee County asking what can be done, including some elected officials.

At times, there have been reports to police and to Family Sharing of Ozaukee County of people clutching cardboard signs and asking for money near popular stores in Grafton and Cedarburg.

"I don't have the number of calls we have received regarding the panhandlers, however I would say, at most, once per week we receive a call or see them in the community," Grafton Police Public Information's Officer Patrick Brock said. "We often receive these calls for service at Grafton Commons during the weekends where there is a higher amount of slow moving traffic."

Brock added that the people involved are typically playing a musical instrument and have a collection bucket for money.

"They tend to be around here. I've seen them selling flowers over there," Costco employee Miguel Garcia said, pointing toward the corner parking lot located in the Grafton Commons.

In Cedarburg, a family has been seen sitting on the corner of Washington Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard, prompting some to call police.

"We've had five calls regarding panhandling since July 29 at that location," Cedarburg Police Captain Joseph Kell said. "In the past, it was not nearly as frequent, but getting three calls about it in the span of those days (Sept. 8 through Sept. 13), yeah, there is an uptake in it."

In Mequon, panhandling has not been a big issue. "This is not a problem in Mequon that we have to deal with," Mequon Police Operations Captain John Hoell said.

For others, though, there has been a balance of looking at what laws are on the books while educating people about the resources available.

Grafton does not have a panhandling ordinance, though they do have a soliciting one that requires permitting for sales of services or merchandise, door to door. However, the actions of those involved with panhandling do not fit the soliciting ordinance.

"There are traffic laws that may affect their activities if they are found along the roadway, however, they are typically not in the village," Brock said.

The same goes for Cedarburg, as Kell pointed out that the city does not have a panhandling ordinance. "They have a right to be there," Kell said.

And while there was a discussion during the Cedarburg Common Council's Sept. 26 meeting about the possibility of creating an ordinance, the Council decided to not pursue establishing one, as City Administrator Mikko Hilvo said they felt panhandling didn't seem like a huge concern at this time and that it wasn't happening on a regular basis.

However, the Cedarburg Police Department could step in if panhandlers were blocking sidewalks or stopping vehicles.

"But when they start obstructing the sidewalks or the streets, that's when we address it," Kell added. "That's why we went there (Washington Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard), because people were coming out to the roadway to retrieve whatever objects were given to them from cars."

See **PANHANDLE**, PAGE 6A

**CEDARBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Curriculum Committee to review Second Step materials**

School District pauses its use realizing it received no Board approval

By Christina Luick  
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**CEDARBURG** — The Cedarburg School District's Curriculum Committee will review materials Thursday from a social and emotional learning program that was implemented into the elementary schools but was apparently not formally approved by the School Board.

But some parents fear the committee will essentially eliminate the program.

Resources from Second Step, which has been used with children in kindergarten through fifth grade, was purchased and implemented into the

school curriculum in 2018, said Superintendent Jeridon Clark. It is a part of the overall social and emotional learning (SEL) that is taught in the Cedarburg Schools.

Prior to this, former CSD Director of Student Services Ted Noll conducted a presentation about SEL that mentioned Second Step to the School Board during a Committee of the Whole meeting. However, the School Board took no action regarding this afterwards.

"It was recently brought to district administration's attention that the resource the district uses to help build our kindergarten through fifth grade students' skills for social and academic success, Second Step, had not been formally approved by the School Board as required by Board Policy 2510 - Adoption of Textbooks," according to a letter that was sent out to elementary families from Clark and Alan Groth, director of curriculum and instruc-

tion on Sept. 21.

Based on this, the district decided to pause its use of the Second Step resources until the Curriculum Committee can review the materials.

The organization behind Second Step is Committee for Children, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

"Combining classroom-based programs with SEL for out-of-school time settings and SEL for adults, Second Step programs help educators take a holistic approach to building supportive communities for every child through social-emotional learning," according to the Committee for Children's website.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction defines SEL as the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals,

See **MATERIALS**, PAGE 6A

**INDEX**

- Ozaukee Proud . . . . .2A
- Local . . . . .3A, 4A, 6A
- Obituaries . . . . .5A
- Sports . . . . .1B, 2B, 3B
- Calendar . . . . .3B
- Business . . . . .4B
- Classified . . . . .5B, 6B

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**'Surprise' chairs recall pandemic era**

New collection commemorates unprecedented times

By Colleen Jurkiewicz  
 Special to the News Graphic

**CEDARBURG** — The artisans and staff members of the Amish Craftsmen Guild 2 were not exempt from the chaos and uncertainty of the past two years — but they have found a way to recognize and honor the lessons learned during that transformative time.

"It was a really different time for our store," said Christine Foley, marketing integrator for the Cedarburg-based business.

During the pandemic, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) — the dense, durable

repurposed plastic utilized by the 13 Old Order Amish furniture craftsmen who create pieces for the ACG2 — was in critically short supply.

Not only did the pandemic increase demand for HDPE in the medical, food and outdoor furniture/recreation industries, "few poly raw material manufacturers for HDPE PolyLumber existed and owner and executive changes within the industry were occurring," said ACG2 founder and CEO Laura Armstrong-Goss.

Additionally, winter storms in Texas had destroyed raw material production facilities, and because HDPE is also used in medical and food industries, "the outdoor furniture industry was near last in line for

See **SURPRISE**, PAGE 6A



Photo by Mark Justesen/News Graphic staff

In the Surprise Collection the pieces are distinguished by a varying color palette consisting of a combination of bright tones

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# Materials

From Page 1A

feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

School Board President and Curriculum Committee Chairman Rick Leach said social and emotional learning has long been part of school courses.

"It's embedded in the curriculum and things we do. It always has been," he said.

The problem, Leach said, is that the program was instituted without being approved. It was presented at a Committee of the Whole meeting, but it never went to the next step for approval.

Several people spoke in favor of Second Step during public comment at the recent School Board meeting on Sept. 21.

Connie Kincaide said her son who is in fourth grade has benefited from lessons included within the Second Steps curriculum.

Gina Stupak said it was kind of alarming that Second Steps had been implemented in the elementary schools for almost five years and it wasn't properly improved.

"It leaves one wondering what other balls have been dropped or if we're singling out something that has recently become the target of controversy across the U.S.," she said.

The Washington Post has written about several school districts across the country where parents are taking issue with social and emotional learning.

Krystal Groth, who has a child attending Thorson Elementary School, said that she taught the Second Step curriculum in Madison for three years and had her students be taught it in Menomonee Falls.

"Kids really need to be explicitly taught social skills along with all of the other math, reading and important subjects," she said, adding it helps children foster a sense of belonging.

The Curriculum Committee will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Cedarburg High School IMC at W68N611 Evergreen Blvd.

# Panhandle

From Page 1A

There are a number of reasons why people panhandle, but in most cases, they're experiencing extreme poverty and lack one or more basic needs such as housing, food or healthcare.

"We want to ensure that when a household is in crisis, that they get connected with Family Promise for homelessness prevention, Family Sharing for food and clothing, and the Adult Literacy Center for language services and job assistance," Ozaukee Family Sharing Executive Director Julie Hoover said, also

sharing that they have had several calls about families asking for money near a large retailer in Saukville.

"I'm glad people have wanted to help when they've seen the families," Hoover added. "We are fortunate to have a lot of resources available and to be in a community that cares."

Since Family Sharing is working with the police departments and other agencies, Hoover said it's best for community members to reach out to one of them rather than trying to address the issue themselves or by giving cash to people. The Grafton Police Department keeps boxes of food on hand, as well as information about contacting Family Sharing.

# Surprise

From Page 1A

receiving material for production," said Armstrong-Goss.

It made filling orders a frantic, all-hands-on-deck scenario, with Armstrong-Goss and her husband Bud temporarily filling the roles of delivery people to the remote workshops of the group's artisans, whose already limited resources (they work without the aid of modern electricity) were further strained by the pandemic.

"A shipment would come in, and someone would need two boards and someone else would need three," Foley said. "We had a little of this and a little of that." In a nod to the spirit of improvisation that carried them through this historic time, ACG2 has introduced "The Surprise Collection." The pieces are distinguished by a varying color palette that consists of a combination of various bright jewel tones, representing the artistic ingenuity necessitated by the pandemic era.

Beginning with a single Adirondack chair offered in the winter and spring of 2021, the collection has now grown to include a variety of tables and chairs. Customers never know what colors they are going to receive, said Foley — which

is part of the appeal.

"Surprise Collection colors and color placement are determined by availability at the moment of crafting and construction of each individual piece," Armstrong-Goss said. "There is both a capricious and whimsical beauty found in each piece determined by this availability."

ACG2 has shown the collection at the Greater Milwaukee Realtors Home and Garden Show, at the Wisconsin State Fair and on TMJ4's The Morning Blend. Several pieces have been donated to local charities for fundraising purposes, and standing cabaret tables were donated for use at the Summer Sounds beer tent this summer. By presenting the collection, Armstrong-Goss said they hope to also share "the important things we learned, such as using, embracing and finding beauty in what we had in the moment during the difficult times of nearly three years."

"It really was a collection born of a lot of ingenuity, a lot of artistic heart, a lot of creativity," Foley said. "It's a nice way of commemorating that time that we all had to hang out outside, if we wanted to hang out together. I really think the story behind it touches everyone, because the pandemic did touch us all." For more information, visit amishcraftsmenguild.com.

# Turkey Trot to return Thanksgiving morning

## Local 5K to benefit local organizations

THIENSVILLE — The annual 5K Turkey Trot that takes place Thanksgiving morning in Thiensville may last only a few hours, but the impact of the event keeps going long after the last participant crosses the finish line. In fact, 16 organizations in Mequon, Thiensville, Cedarburg, Grafton, and Saukville benefited from the 2021 race.



Submitted photo  
This year's Turkey Trot will continue to benefit multiple local organizations.

The Junior Woman's Club of Mequon-Thiensville will host their 18th annual 5K Turkey Trot Run/Walk on Thanksgiving morning. The 2022 Turkey Trot will, once again, be an in-person, chip-timed race with a 9 a.m. start time. Participants can register through the Juniors Woman's Club website at juniorsmt.org.

Shirts and items purchased through registration will be available for pick up on Wednesday, Nov. 23 and Thursday, Nov. 24 in Thiensville Village Park. The Junior Woman's Club will be collecting non-perishable food donations for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County and new, unwrapped toys for Kids 2 Kids Christmas. Collection bins will be available on Nov. 23 and 24 in Thiensville Village Park.

Proceeds from the 2022 Turkey Trot will benefit the Saukville Community Food Pantry, COPE Line, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ozaukee, and other Ozaukee County organizations. Since 2005, the Junior Woman's Club has given more than \$400,000 to organizations in Ozaukee County. Past recipients have included All Children's Playground in Cedarburg, Advocates of Ozaukee, Portal inc., Mequon Nature Preserve, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Interfaith Caregivers, local police and fire departments, and many more.

The Junior Woman's Club of

Mequon-Thiensville is a 501(c)(3) group dedicated to the support of and involvement in community service. The group promotes the personal growth of its members by providing philanthropic, leadership, and social opportunities. <http://www.juniorsmt.org/>

Since 2005, the Junior Woman's Club of Mequon-Thiensville has held a 5K run/walk every Thanksgiving morning in the Village of Thiensville. Proceeds from the race are distributed to humanitarian, educational, civic, and cultural projects within Ozaukee County.

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