Seeking serenity together

Clubhouse a safe haven for many in 12-step recovery groups

SAMANTHA CHRISTIAN
Unified Newspaper Group

Perched on a hill along McKee Road is a red brick building that some may recognize as the former Camp Badger School. Just over 50 years have gone by since students last occupied the classrooms there, but learning still takes place within its walls.

Since 1981, the building has been the clubhouse for the Fitchburg Serenity Club, Inc. (FSC), a nonprofit corporation that provides meeting space for autonomous 12-step groups of alcoholics, gamblers, overeaters and other troubled souls. Here, recovering addicts and their families learn from one another rather than from a teacher.

Posters of the alphabet have been replaced with the 12 steps, motivational sayings with the Serenity Prayer, and portraits of past presidents with those of Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith, the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous. The two are known more commonly as “Bill W.” and “Dr. Bob” as a way of honoring AA’s tradition – upheld by other 12-step programs – of maintaining anonymity.

Each week, approximately 1,200 people attend the 80 meetings held at the FSC, said board president Mary F. Many come from the Madison area, and some travel on a daily basis from places like Sun Prairie, Monroe, Spring Green and Janesville.

What brings them together is the willingness to find peace and acceptance in their lives, one day at a time.

Especially around the holidays, many people need an escape from the stress of family gatherings, which can become a trigger for their addictions. For others who may have burned those bridges, the FSC is the only place they can call home.

As with any meeting place, though, not everyone who passes through the FSC’s doors decides to return.

“There’s all kinds of hesitation – reasons not to come in here … Asking for help, not

Touched by history

Fitchburg native looks back 70 years to freezing, hellish Battle of the Bulge

SCOTT DE LARUELLE
Unified Newspaper Group

Imagining hell generally brings to mind chaotic images of fire, heat and indescribable suffering.

Ask Raymond Ray, and he might tell you that for him, while there was plenty of suffering, hell was a 35 below-zero night spent in a frozen Belgian forest, thick with death and desperate enemy German soldiers. And plenty of suffering that has lasted with him to this day.

The 89-year-old Fitchburg native survived more than a week in the front lines during the Battle of the Bulge, one of the United States’ most famous and most costly engagements in World War II. This week marks the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the battle, which lasted more than a month, left tens of thousands dead and ultimately proved the end of Adolf Hitler and his Nazis’ dream of a 1,000-year empire.

Ray is part of a proud family military tradition that dates back to his great-grandfather John Agan, who served with Wisconsin’s famous Iron Brigade. Wounded and captured during the battle of Gettysburg, he died of starvation in 1864 at the infamous Confederate prison in Andersonville, Ga., at the age of 38. Ray’s father, a World War II veteran, served in France in World War I and was left permanently disabled from injuries suffered there.

“I don’t think he was right after he came back from Europe,” Ray said. “He was a silent father.”

As he looked back Dec. 5 on his role in the battle, Ray recalled how he wanted to become an artist before he was drafted into the Army in 1944, straight out of high school. He has art talent in the family, as his grandfather was an accomplished painter, and one of his grandsons has taken on the ability.

But that all had to wait as he prepared to enter a war that had already taken tens of thousands of American lives. Soon, he would be fighting for his own life in
Driving past 102
Fitchburg woman misses life in the fast lane

Genevieve Jackson had been driving the highways and byways of rural Dane County in her family's Ford since horses and buggies still traveled the roads. She started driving back in 1923 and only stopped driving seven years ago when she was 95 because of a bad knee.

Jackson made many trips to take her mother shopping and get out of the house, simply because she loved to drive. But she made her first trip on her own to try and help her dad.

Unfortunately, she was only 11, and the trip didn’t end well. She was with her father visiting her aunt’s neighboring farm when he mentioned he wished he had his car. So, she thought she’d be good and go get it. “But it ran out of gas on the way home,” said her nephew Mark Jones, grinning. She was scared and said, “Oh not at all,” Jackson quickly countered.

Jackson now lives in her condo with some assistance. At first, it was just from her nephews who lived nearby. However, she now receives help from Home Instead Senior Care and Heartland Hospice.

Prior to that, Jackson liked to help out in the community by volunteering at the Fitchburg Senior Center. “Get, as her friends and family called her, ‘typed out our (monthly) newsletter on the typewriter (before I worked at the senior center),’” Jill McHone, the senior center’s director, told the Star.

Jackson continued doing that until McHone came on board in 1993 as the program director, to 1996, and then to Bob Jackson, who died in the early 1980s—both wonderful people, her nephew said. She had no children.

Now that she doesn’t drive, if she rides with you, she will insist on helping you get to where you’re going. She can’t stand because of the arthritis, Jones said. “And some of old age,” he added.

She will give you plenty of directions on how you should drive and where you should drive and what way you should go,” he said. “At the age of 102, Jackson is doing quite well for her—she’s on her own with some help coming in, has managed to stay in her condo and is doing the things she now likes to do most, read newspapers and watch her favorite golfer, Phil Mickelson.”

But if there’s one thing she really misses, it’s driving.

Above, 102-year-old Genevieve Jackson reads the newspaper, one of her favorite things to do now that she can no longer drive. Below, senior center receptionist Susan Hoencher looks at a picture of Jackson at age 8 with her dog, Shep, that is displayed in the senior center.

McHone said with a chuckle. “So, that’s when we transitioned from the typewriter to the computer.”

Jackson is the last surviving member of her five siblings. She was married twice, first to Erich Keller, who died in 1961, and then to Bob Jackson, who died in the early 1980s—both wonderful people, her nephew said. She had no children.

She wasn’t surprised how little residents know about the arthritis, Jones said. “It’s just the kind of personality where I like to help people,” Jordan emphasized that no idea all of the things that go on here, let alone that there are two state-certified social workers on staff that can do a senior center, but they have no idea of the things that go on here, and have been here for almost nine years. Despite her time in Fitchburg, she said she’s often surprised how little residents know about what services they are providing.

“People might know there’s a senior center, but they have no idea of the things that go on here, let alone that there are two state-certified social workers on staff that can do a senior center,” Folkers said.

Folkers grew up in Madison before working out east for 10 years as a social worker. She returned to her native area and has been at the center for the past 10 years. “I just have that kind of personality where I like to help people,” Jordan added. “I just have that kind of personality where I like to help people,” she said.

Despite her time in Fitchburg, she said she’s often surprised how little residents know about what services they are providing.

“People might know there’s a senior center, but they have no idea of the things that go on here, let alone that there are two state-certified social workers on staff that can do a senior center,” Folkers said.

Folkers emphasized that point, as the two shared a knowing laugh over a frequent misconception about the center.

“Nobody lives here—this isn’t a nursing home,” she chuckled. “We go out into the community. We don’t want people to go into a nursing home. It’s being proactive instead of reactive. We’re helping people to maintain their independence at home.”

For information on the center, call 270-4291 or visit fitchburggov.wisc.gov.
The average home in the City of Fitchburg will pay about $45 less in taxes this year than in 2013, even though the average assessed value has increased. Most homes, in fact, will see an even larger decrease.

City residents’ taxes will vary by school district, as always, but those in the Verona and Oregon school districts will get the biggest cuts, with most homes getting more than a 10 percent back. Most in the Madison Metropolitan School District will see their taxes drop by about $75.

Tax bills will be mailed late this week or early next week, and the majority of the change in residents’ taxes is a result of a $406 million influx of state monies to the technical college system, something that was a major point of emphasis for legislators this year.

Madison College’s 5-cent increase in the mill rate combined with the assessment increase will cost the average homeowner $168.

The total average bill, including the Lottery Credit and First Dollar Credit and garbage fee (which decreased $10), is between $5,856 and $5,884, depending on the district. Last year it was between $5,827 and $5,856. The city’s slight increase is despite an rebounding growth overall. It brought in $75.7 million in new construction, increasing the city value by 3 percent, and it spent on four new positions and raises for current employees.

The public safety positions added were a full-time fire chief, a Fitch-Rona EMS captain and a police patrol officer, but the fire department and police department won’t start later next year, meaning the full funding will likely have a greater impact on the 2016 budget. The city will also add a full-time sergeant for the police department and provide a part-time on-call firefighter pay increase.

Another key element of the city’s budget is a 2.5 percent increase for all staff, though for non-union employees that will be a 1 percent increase plus up to 1.5 percent based on performance.

Tax bills are due Jan. 31, but many homeowners pay all or part of the bill before the end of the year to count it toward their 2014 taxes.

Payments posted by Dec. 31 will be credited as a December payment for tax purposes.

The first half of the taxes is due Jan. 31 and the rest by July 31. To get tax information online, visit the public access portal of Access Dane at accessdane.co.wi.us.

### Tax bills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>+/-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madison Metropolitan S.D.</td>
<td>11.71</td>
<td>12.09</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dane County</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATC</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>-48.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Wisconsin</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Fitchburg</td>
<td>7.84</td>
<td>7.95</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School tax credit</td>
<td>-1.77</td>
<td>-1.72</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total per $1,000 of value</td>
<td>22.89</td>
<td>22.59</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average home value</td>
<td>$256,900</td>
<td>$262,446</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lottery credit</td>
<td>$129.31</td>
<td>$131.39</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Dollar credit</td>
<td>$75.93</td>
<td>$77.64</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage fee</td>
<td>$152</td>
<td>$142</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average total with credits</td>
<td>$5,827</td>
<td>$5,861</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon School District</td>
<td>12.32</td>
<td>12.12</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dane County</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATC</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>-48.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Wisconsin</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Fitchburg</td>
<td>7.84</td>
<td>7.95</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School tax credit</td>
<td>-1.77</td>
<td>-1.72</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total per $1,000 of value</td>
<td>23.49</td>
<td>22.83</td>
<td>-3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average home value</td>
<td>$256,900</td>
<td>$262,446</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lottery credit</td>
<td>$134.23</td>
<td>$131.77</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Dollar credit</td>
<td>$78.81</td>
<td>$77.86</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage fee</td>
<td>$152</td>
<td>$142</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average total with credits</td>
<td>$5,973</td>
<td>$5,871</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Former Fitchburg business owner sentenced to prison

Peterson ordered to serve 7 years

The former owner of the Pancake Cafe in Fitchburg was sentenced to seven years in federal prison for bank fraud and other charges earlier this month.

Christian Peterson, 45, was found guilty of eight charges in May in U.S. District Court, including bank fraud, making false statements to banks, money laundering and theft from an employee retirement fund. Money loaned for business purposes was used instead to support a gambling habit, the court ruled.

In a news release from the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. District Court Judge Barbara C. Brbab stated that “his conduct was nothing short of appalling and that he did widespread damage to this community because of his narcissistic, selfish actions.”

Peterson was the former owner of the Pancake Cafe in Fitchburg, the County Inn & Suites hotel in Fitchburg and the Pancake Cafe in Madison. He also managed properties in Chicago and was the former owner of a company called Maverick, Inc., which brokered poly-scrap foam for use in the manufacture of carpet cushion.

Judge Crabb found that Peterson used his business partners to get loans for purported business reasons but instead used much of the money for his own personal lifestyle.

After an eight-day trial in May, a jury found that Peterson had wired money intended as business loans to a casino in Las Vegas. In addition to his convictions for bank fraud, money laundering and making false statements to banks, Peterson was convicted of stealing his former employees’ $40,000 in account funds and using the money to pay his former wife $7,500 in alimony and to lend himself $10,000. Due to his conviction for this crime, Peterson has been debarred by the U.S. Department of Labor from ever acting as a fiduciary for a retirement plan.

As part of her sentence, Judge Crabb also directed that Peterson pay $5,168.57 in restitution to Greenwoods State Bank.

– Mark Ignatowski

### HEMINGWAYS CIGAR BAR & LOUNGE

- Fully Stocked Humidor
- Fine Cocktails
- Intimate Atmosphere
- Happy Hour, M-F 4:30-7
- Live Music

facebook.com/HemingwaysCigarBar

2960 Cahill Main, Fitchburg 608.270.3576

### Neil’s Liquor

3064 Fish Hatchery Rd • (608) 442-0606

Great Selection of Craft Beers, Wines & Liquors

1.75 L. Jack Daniels • $39.99
1.75 L. Smirnoff Vodka • $19.99
1.75 L. Sailor Jerry Spiced • $21.01
1.75 L. Korbel Brandy • $19.99
750 ml Gallo Moscato • $3 for $9.99
Miller Lite/Coors Lite/Bud Lite
16 oz. 24-pack cans • $19.99
Stella Artois 12-pack bottles • $13.99
Capital Brewery 12-pack cans • $11.99

Bring in this ad & get 10% OFF the purchase of any two (2) bottles of liquor or wine.

Offer expires 12/30/14

### Connections

- Open Daily
- Book Specials
- Happy Hour
- Strong Selection of Beers
- Full Reto of Wines

### Good Neighbor Liquor

3111 Parmenter Street, Middleton (608) 831-8400

### Neil’s Liquor Middleton

2415 Allen Blvd, Middleton (608) 831-1644

### The Fitchburg Star

December 12, 2014

ConnectFitchburg.com
Pharmacist’s Corner

I can remember back in my childhood seeing advertisements from fellow寒冰 Johnson, demonstrating how to clean our medicine cabinet and replace old ones in the house. In 30 years, the message of throwing away old medication is still relevant today. I see this when a patient passes away and a family member brings all of the patient’s medications to the pharmacy for disposal. They often bring in a stockpile of expired medications and inevitably, there are always a couple that could be sold as antiques. While it is important to throw away old medicine, storing current medicine is also important. I have heard people talk about how they keep medications out of reach of children from the kitchen cabinet to the bathroom. In our house, the top shelf of our pantry was noted to be a great spot for storing old medications. When choosing a place to store your medicines, make sure you consider things you must consider. Primarily, you should pick a spot that is child-safe, empty of broken or extremely high, or preferably both. Low humidity (farther away from your steam-creating sources such as a sink or shower) and controlled temperature should also be priorities when choosing a storage area for medicine storage. This is why the top shelf of the pantry or many kitchen cabinets are excellent spots. One of my patients’ biggest concerns with prescription medication is forgetting the times and frequency that they need to take them. For instance, this one patient, bed that one times a day, but you know what, I’m tailoring this. Many people store their medicine throughout the house in an effort to remember to take them at the correct times. The most popular place for these medications to be stored (outside the kitchen) is a bedside table. However, I would be cautious of a few things. Security and safety become a major concern when medication is spread throughout the home. If you are taking any pain medication or else Oxycotin, you should take steps to secure them in a container or cabinet that locks. People who abuse these drugs (possibly including your loved one) who seek them out, or children who may need safety. Take extra care to keep children away from the areas where you keep your medication, so that child-resistant caps or packaging to further reduce the risk. The final concern related to storing medication is changes in temperature and humidity. When choosing the proper place for a “medicine cabinet,” you want to find a location where there is little variation in humidity or temperature, as these can be not ideal places for storing your medicine.

Schumacher

I have never been a fan of the Children’s Holiday Party at the Fitchburg Community Center. The Star used outdated information from the Fitchburg Police Department. I think it is time for a family member to bring all of the patient’s medications to the pharmacy for disposal. There are always a couple that could be sold as antiques. While it is important to throw away old medicine, storing current medicine is also important. I have heard people talk about how they keep medications out of reach of children from the kitchen cabinet to the bathroom. In our house, the top shelf of our pantry was noted to be a great spot for storing old medications. When choosing a place to store your medicines, make sure you consider things you must consider. Primarily, you should pick a spot that is child-safe, empty of broken or extremely high, or preferably both. Low humidity (farther away from your steam-creating sources such as a sink or shower) and controlled temperature should also be priorities when choosing a storage area for medicine storage. This is why the top shelf of the pantry or many kitchen cabinets are excellent spots. One of my patients’ biggest concerns with prescription medication is forgetting the times and frequency that they need to take them. For instance, this one patient, bed that one times a day, but you know what, I’m tailoring this. Many people store their medicine throughout the house in an effort to remember to take them at the correct times. The most popular place for these medications to be stored (outside the kitchen) is a bedside table. However, I would be cautious of a few things. Security and safety become a major concern when medication is spread throughout the home. If you are taking any pain medication or else Oxycotin, you should take steps to secure them in a container or cabinet that locks. People who abuse these drugs (possibly including your loved one) who seek them out, or children who may need safety. Take extra care to keep children away from the areas where you keep your medication, so that child-resistant caps or packaging to further reduce the risk. The final concern related to storing medication is changes in temperature and humidity. When choosing the proper place for a “medicine cabinet,” you want to find a location where there is little variation in humidity or temperature, as these can be not ideal places for storing your medicine.

Schumacher

I have never been a fan of the Children’s Holiday Party at the Fitchburg Community Center. The Star used outdated information from the Fitchburg Police Department. I think it is time for a family member to bring all of the patient’s medications to the pharmacy for disposal. There are always a couple that could be sold as antiques. While it is important to throw away old medicine, storing current medicine is also important. I have heard people talk about how they keep medications out of reach of children from the kitchen cabinet to the bathroom. In our house, the top shelf of our pantry was noted to be a great spot for storing old medications. When choosing a place to store your medicines, make sure you consider things you must consider. Primarily, you should pick a spot that is child-safe, empty of broken or extremely high, or preferably both. Low humidity (farther away from your steam-creating sources such as a sink or shower) and controlled temperature should also be priorities when choosing a storage area for medicine storage. This is why the top shelf of the pantry or many kitchen cabinets are excellent spots. One of my patients’ biggest concerns with prescription medication is forgetting the times and frequency that they need to take them. For instance, this one patient, bed that one times a day, but you know what, I’m tailoring this. Many people store their medicine throughout the house in an effort to remember to take them at the correct times. The most popular place for these medications to be stored (outside the kitchen) is a bedside table. However, I would be cautious of a few things. Security and safety become a major concern when medication is spread throughout the home. If you are taking any pain medication or else Oxycotin, you should take steps to secure them in a container or cabinet that locks. People who abuse these drugs (possibly including your loved one) who seek them out, or children who may need safety. Take extra care to keep children away from the areas where you keep your medication, so that child-resistant caps or packaging to further reduce the risk. The final concern related to storing medication is changes in temperature and humidity. When choosing the proper place for a “medicine cabinet,” you want to find a location where there is little variation in humidity or temperature, as these can be not ideal places for storing your medicine.

Schumacher

I have never been a fan of the Children’s Holiday Party at the Fitchburg Community Center. The Star used outdated information from the Fitchburg Police Department. I think it is time for a family member to bring all of the patient’s medications to the pharmacy for disposal. There are always a couple that could be sold as antiques. While it is important to throw away old medicine, storing current medicine is also important. I have heard people talk about how they keep medications out of reach of children from the kitchen cabinet to the bathroom. In our house, the top shelf of our pantry was noted to be a great spot for storing old medications. When choosing a place to store your medicines, make sure you consider things you must consider. Primarily, you should pick a spot that is child-safe, empty of broken or extremely high, or preferably both. Low humidity (farther away from your steam-creating sources such as a sink or shower) and controlled temperature should also be priorities when choosing a storage area for medicine storage. This is why the top shelf of the pantry or many kitchen cabinets are excellent spots. One of my patients’ biggest concerns with prescription medication is forgetting the times and frequency that they need to take them. For instance, this one patient, bed that one times a day, but you know what, I’m tailoring this. Many people store their medicine throughout the house in an effort to remember to take them at the correct times. The most popular place for these medications to be stored (outside the kitchen) is a bedside table. However, I would be cautious of a few things. Security and safety become a major concern when medication is spread throughout the home. If you are taking any pain medication or else Oxycotin, you should take steps to secure them in a container or cabinet that locks. People who abuse these drugs (possibly including your loved one) who seek them out, or children who may need safety. Take extra care to keep children away from the areas where you keep your medication, so that child-resistant caps or packaging to further reduce the risk. The final concern related to storing medication is changes in temperature and humidity. When choosing the proper place for a “medicine cabinet,” you want to find a location where there is little variation in humidity or temperature, as these can be not ideal places for storing your medicine.

Schumacher

I have never been a fan of the Children’s Holiday Party at the Fitchburg Community Center. The Star used outdated information from the Fitchburg Police Department. I think it is time for a family member to bring all of the patient’s medications to the pharmacy for disposal. There are always a couple that could be sold as antiques. While it is important to throw away old medicine, storing current medicine is also important. I have heard people talk about how they keep medications out of reach of children from the kitchen cabinet to the bathroom. In our house, the top shelf of our pantry was noted to be a great spot for storing old medications. When choosing a place to store your medicines, make sure you consider things you must consider. Primarily, you should pick a spot that is child-safe, empty of broken or extremely high, or preferably both. Low humidity (farther away from your steam-creating sources such as a sink or shower) and controlled temperature should also be priorities when choosing a storage area for medicine storage. This is why the top shelf of the pantry or many kitchen cabinets are excellent spots. One of my patients’ biggest concerns with prescription medication is forgetting the times and frequency that they need to take them. For instance, this one patient, bed that one times a day, but you know what, I’m tailoring this. Many people store their medicine throughout the house in an effort to remember to take them at the correct times. The most popular place for these medications to be stored (outside the kitchen) is a bedside table. However, I would be cautious of a few things. Security and safety become a major concern when medication is spread throughout the home. If you are taking any pain medication or else Oxycotin, you should take steps to secure them in a container or cabinet that locks. People who abuse these drugs (possibly including your loved one) who seek them out, or children who may need safety. Take extra care to keep children away from the areas where you keep your medication, so that child-resistant caps or packaging to further reduce the risk. The final concern related to storing medication is changes in temperature and humidity. When choosing the proper place for a “medicine cabinet,” you want to find a location where there is little variation in humidity or temperature, as these can be not ideal places for storing your medicine.
State Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D-Middleton) was appointed to serve on the Joint Committee on Finance, the state budget writing committee of the legislature. The 16-member committee is made up of 12 members of the majority party and four from the minority party.

“I will work hard for the people of this state as we prepare to solve the difficult budget challenges ahead,” Erpenbach said in a news release.

Erpenbach was re-elected last month to another term in the 27th Senate District, a seat he has held since 1999. The district includes portions of Columbus, Dane, Green, Iowa and Sauk counties.

Nine Springs agreement OK’d

The Fitchburg Common Council approved a new one-year lease agreement for Nine Springs Golf Course last month. The agreement allows for Sam Schultz to run the golf course for the city in exchange for a $20,000 payment, but also calls for more public use of the land. Schultz has managed the course since 1999, but only began receiving the $20,000 two years ago after the course stopped making money on its own.

This year, the council debated whether to keep the golf course open or let the land be used for public recreation in a park-like setting. Schultz wants to spend time doing “more hands-on volunteer activities and grass-root advocacy efforts in the area of education,” she told report Scott Girard.

Potential candidates have until 5 p.m. Jan. 6 to file the necessary paperwork with their respective municipality or school district. The general election will be held Feb. 17.

For information and forms, visit gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/2015/spring

Unified Newspaper Group reporter Scott Girard contributed to this story.

Fitchburg Mayor Shawn Pfaff announced his re-election bid this month.

Pfaff, who has been in office since 2008, intends to run for another four-year term to lead the city.

The announcement sets up a race against 10-year incumbent Steve Arnold, who last month declared his intention to run in the spring election. Election day is April 7.

Pfaff, who intends to run for another four-year term, said he would like to see the city continue its economic growth through projects like the North Star Prairies.

The latter was recently rejected by a regional commission that makes recommendations on sewer expansion to the state Department of Natural Resources, but the DNR will make the ultimate decision. Pfaff said he was disappointed it will not be approved and called it an integral part of the city’s comprehensive plan.

The Northeast plan is one of several issues in which he and Arnold have clashed, Pfaff said.

In 2008, Pfaff announced Dec. 4 he would run for another term in the office so far have run for another term. After three terms, Silva wants to spend time doing “more hands-on volunteer activities and grass-root advocacy efforts in the area of education,” she told the Star.

Potential candidates have until 5 p.m. Jan. 6 to file the necessary paperwork with their respective municipality or school district. The general election will be held Feb. 17.

For information and forms, visit gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/2015/spring

Unified Newspaper Group reporter Scott Girard contributed to this story.

Since 1999, the district includes portions of Columbus, Dane, Green, Iowa and Sauk counties.

Fitchburg Mayor Shawn Pfaff announced his re-election bid this month.

Pfaff, who has been in office since 2008, intends to run for another four-year term to lead the city.

The announcement sets up a race against 10-year incumbent Steve Arnold, who last month declared his intention to run in the spring election. Election day is April 7.

Pfaff, who intends to run for another four-year term, said he would like to see the city continue its economic growth through projects like the North Star Prairies.

The latter was recently rejected by a regional commission that makes recommendations on sewer expansion to the state Department of Natural Resources, but the DNR will make the ultimate decision. Pfaff said he was disappointed it will not be approved and called it an integral part of the city’s comprehensive plan.

The Northeast plan is one of several issues in which he and Arnold have clashed, Pfaff said.

In 2008, Pfaff announced Dec. 4 he would run for another term in the office so far have run for another term. After three terms, Silva wants to spend time doing “more hands-on volunteer activities and grass-root advocacy efforts in the area of education,” she told the Star.

Potential candidates have until 5 p.m. Jan. 6 to file the necessary paperwork with their respective municipality or school district. The general election will be held Feb. 17.

For information and forms, visit gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/2015/spring

Unified Newspaper Group reporter Scott Girard contributed to this story.

Since 1999, the district includes portions of Columbus, Dane, Green, Iowa and Sauk counties.

Fitchburg Mayor Shawn Pfaff announced his re-election bid this month.

Pfaff, who has been in office since 2008, intends to run for another four-year term to lead the city.

The announcement sets up a race against 10-year incumbent Steve Arnold, who last month declared his intention to run in the spring election. Election day is April 7.

Pfaff, who intends to run for another four-year term, said he would like to see the city continue its economic growth through projects like the North Star Prairies.

The latter was recently rejected by a regional commission that makes recommendations on sewer expansion to the state Department of Natural Resources, but the DNR will make the ultimate decision. Pfaff said he was disappointed it will not be approved and called it an integral part of the city’s comprehensive plan.

The Northeast plan is one of several issues in which he and Arnold have clashed, Pfaff said.

In 2008, Pfaff announced Dec. 4 he would run for another term in the office so far have run for another term. After three terms, Silva wants to spend time doing “more hands-on volunteer activities and grass-root advocacy efforts in the area of education,” she told the Star.

Potential candidates have until 5 p.m. Jan. 6 to file the necessary paperwork with their respective municipality or school district. The general election will be held Feb. 17.

For information and forms, visit gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/2015/spring

Unified Newspaper Group reporter Scott Girard contributed to this story.

Since 1999, the district includes portions of Columbus, Dane, Green, Iowa and Sauk counties.

Fitchburg Mayor Shawn Pfaff announced his re-election bid this month.

Pfaff, who has been in office since 2008, intends to run for another four-year term to lead the city.

The announcement sets up a race against 10-year incumbent Steve Arnold, who last month declared his intention to run in the spring election. Election day is April 7.

Pfaff, who intends to run for another four-year term, said he would like to see the city continue its economic growth through projects like the North Star Prairies.

The latter was recently rejected by a regional commission that makes recommendations on sewer expansion to the state Department of Natural Resources, but the DNR will make the ultimate decision. Pfaff said he was disappointed it will not be approved and called it an integral part of the city’s comprehensive plan.

The Northeast plan is one of several issues in which he and Arnold have clashed, Pfaff said.

In 2008, Pfaff announced Dec. 4 he would run for another term in the office so far have run for another term. After three terms, Silva wants to spend time doing “more hands-on volunteer activities and grass-root advocacy efforts in the area of education,” she told the Star.

Potential candidates have until 5 p.m. Jan. 6 to file the necessary paperwork with their respective municipality or school district. The general election will be held Feb. 17.

For information and forms, visit gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/2015/spring

Unified Newspaper Group reporter Scott Girard contributed to this story.

Since 1999, the district includes portions of Columbus, Dane, Green, Iowa and Sauk counties.

Fitchburg Mayor Shawn Pfaff announced his re-election bid this month.

Pfaff, who has been in office since 2008, intends to run for another four-year term to lead the city.

The announcement sets up a race against 10-year incumbent Steve Arnold, who last month declared his intention to run in the spring election. Election day is April 7.

Pfaff, who intends to run for another four-year term, said he would like to see the city continue its economic growth through projects like the North Star Prairies.

The latter was recently rejected by a regional commission that makes recommendations on sewer expansion to the state Department of Natural Resources, but the DNR will make the ultimate decision. Pfaff said he was disappointed it will not be approved and called it an integral part of the city’s comprehensive plan.

The Northeast plan is one of several issues in which he and Arnold have clashed, Pfaff said.

In 2008, Pfaff announced Dec. 4 he would run for another term in the office so far have run for another term. After three terms, Silva wants to spend time doing “more hands-on volunteer activities and grass-root advocacy efforts in the area of education,” she told the Star.

Potential candidates have until 5 p.m. Jan. 6 to file the necessary paperwork with their respective municipality or school district. The general election will be held Feb. 17.

For information and forms, visit gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/2015/spring

Unified Newspaper Group reporter Scott Girard contributed to this story.

Since 1999, the district includes portions of Columbus, Dane, Green, Iowa and Sauk counties.

Fitchburg Mayor Shawn Pfaff announced his re-election bid this month.

Pfaff, who has been in office since 2008, intends to run for another four-year term to lead the city.

The announcement sets up a race against 10-year incumbent Steve Arnold, who last month declared his intention to run in the spring election. Election day is April 7.

Pfaff, who intends to run for another four-year term, said he would like to see the city continue its economic growth through projects like the North Star Prairies.

The latter was recently rejected by a regional commission that makes recommendations on sewer expansion to the state Department of Natural Resources, but the DNR will make the ultimate decision. Pfaff said he was disappointed it will not be approved and called it an integral part of the city’s comprehensive plan.

The Northeast plan is one of several issues in which he and Arnold have clashed, Pfaff said.

In 2008, Pfaff announced Dec. 4 he would run for another term in the office so far have run for another term. After three terms, Silva wants to spend time doing “more hands-on volunteer activities and grass-root advocacy efforts in the area of education,” she told the Star.

Potential candidates have until 5 p.m. Jan. 6 to file the necessary paperwork with their respective municipality or school district. The general election will be held Feb. 17.

For information and forms, visit gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/2015/spring

Unified Newspaper Group reporter Scott Girard contributed to this story.
Local children to dance in Nutcracker

Dance Wisconsin, under the artistic direction of Jo Jean Reimringer, will revive its critically acclaimed production of the holiday classic Nutcracker at the Wisconsin Union Theater, 800 Langdon St., Madison, with appearances by local dancers.

Dances from the Fitchburg area include John Crim, son of Elton and Dawn Crim, dancing the role of Mouse King; Eily Duffy, daughter of Tommie Thompson and Brian Duffy, dancing as a Bon; Yasmin Garcia, daughter of Lance Garcia, dancing as Clara; and Thomas Liang, dancing the role of the Prince.

Tickets are $20, $30, and $40. There is a $2 discount for seniors, and children are half price.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.dancewisconsin.org or call 608-255-4646. Performances will be held in the newly renovated Shanell Hall at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21; and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23.

The price of tickets vary from $20 to $32. There is a $2 discount for seniors and children are half price. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.dancewisconsin.org or call 255-4646.

The following Fitchburg residents will perform in Dance Wisconsin’s Nutcracker on Dec. 20-21 at the Wisconsin Union Theater: Front row from left, Rina Milh, Kristin Diers; second row from left, Zoe Triatk, Evan Schumacher and John Crim;
Fitchburg woman receives Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway

Fitchburg resident Onita McIn has received a Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway from Diversified Personnel Services in Madison.

The giveaway included a box full of Thanksgiving dinner items. McIn has worked with DPS since June, and was “beyond grateful to be selected,” the release said. “Her hard work ethic and great attitude make her a joy to be around and to work with,” it said.

Opportunities, Inc., is a not-for-profit training and employment organization.

Fitchburg native Amy Porter is one of seven University of Wisconsin-Madison doctorate students who received a grant through the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad program. Porter plans to use $26,447 in funding during upcoming research in Senegal, where she is working on a project called, "Senegal, Poverty and Enterprise – Negotiating ‘Good’ Economic Practice in Dakar, Senegal.”

Fitchburg resident receives Fulbright award

The library held a Launch Into Fun event Thursday, Dec. 4, where kids made “rocket launchers” and catapults with household supplies.

Above, Arinava Prabhakaran, 2, launches a paper ball into the air.

Left, Adelyn Page, 5, launches a paper rocket by blowing air into a straw.

Launch party

The library held a Launch Into Fun event Thursday, Dec. 4, where kids made “rocket launchers” and catapults with household supplies.

Above, Arinava Prabhakaran, 2, launches a paper ball into the air.

Left, Adelyn Page, 5, launches a paper rocket by blowing air into a straw.

A happy Thanksgiving

The Boys & Girls Club community Thanksgiving meal featured a poetry slam, music and children’s performances at the Allied Family Center on Nov. 25. More than 200 families were served a Thanksgiving meal at the Boys & Girls Club event.

Get Connected

Find updates and links right away. Search for us on Facebook as “Fitchburg Star” and then LIKE us.
'Tis the season

Fitchburg held its annual Holiday Party Sunday, Dec. 7, featuring a Lego train show, plenty of climbing around and special guest Santa. The event also began the judging of the Sustainable Castle competition, with cardboard castles for kids to climb around on that others had designed and built. Donations of a dollar were used for votes, and the money will go to Fitchburg Fields, a nonprofit food-growing organization.

Above, Deja, 3, right, laughs as she comes to the end of the bouncy obstacle course for the second time in a five-minute span.

Below, Zach, 4, left, and John Pirnstill, of Fitchburg, take a look at the passing train after Zach finished controlling one of the other mini-trains on the set of tracks.

Santa and Sophia Lymburner, 10, left, wait to hear from Christian Lymburner, 8, on what he wants for Christmas.

See more photos

View photos from the Fitchburg Holiday Party and other events online at: UNGphotos.SmugMug.com
Tito’s Readathon at Leopold Elementary

Leopold Elementary School held Tito’s Readathon on Tuesday, Dec. 2, featuring poetry and book readings with authors, playwriting, playacting, literary games and book swaps.

At right, Tito the Timberwolf mascot draws a face on a squash while Yasmine Kinney, 5, of Madison, left, and Sophia Bever, 7, of Fitchburg took on after Fitchburg author Pat Zietlow-Miller, not pictured, read her book “Sophie’s Squash.”

Below, Christopher Gaus, 16, of Madison, left, and Cam Gorman, 17, of Madison, right, help Miles Dawkins, 7, of Madison, make a bookmark.

Photo by Kaitlyn Bracken (right) and Brianna Nappen (below)

A Fluent Influence

West High Teacher wins foreign language award

SCOTT GIRARD  United Newspaper Group

Deana Zorko grew up with her father’s side of the family speaking Italian around her house daily.

"From an early age, I just kind of had the language bug," Zorko said of her time growing up on the south side of Chicago.

But when she and her family moved to Poynette, Spanish was the only foreign language offered, so she embraced it.

Years later, she is an award-winning teacher of the language at Madison West High School.

The Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers (WAFLT) named the Fitchburg resident the 2015 Teacher of the Year in November.

"I'm feeling humbled and very, very honored by all of it," Zorko said.

Zorko received the award at the WAFLT annual conference Nov. 7, and said standing in front of her colleagues to be honored was a special experience.

"All I could see were people I considered world language teacher icons and mentors," she recalled. "It just seemed surreal, like I shouldn't be the one up front."

A former colleague, Lauren Roen, had no doubt Zorko deserved to be up front.

"There's some people that I believe were just born to teach," said Roen, who taught with Zorko in Middleton nearly 30 years ago before getting her master’s degree.

"It's not just about teaching Spanish (for Zorko). It's really getting students to be more globally competent."

Immersive classroom

Zorko herself mentioned a similar concept, saying she hopes to ensure every student she has can experience more than just the language.

"If kids can’t travel, if kids can’t be exposed to the language, I can bring all that into the classroom for however many minutes I have them for complete immersion," she said.

She highlighted lessons on social justice in Spanish-speaking countries or having her students read through Pablo Neruda's "Odes and eventually write their own."

"You just kind of push students just a little beyond their comfort zone in a language," Zorko said.

"Moving way far away from that old school idea of fill in the blank, verb conjugation, grammar translation."

A great challenge

She first entered the teaching world while majoring in Spanish at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire after spending a year teaching English in Spain.

"I just fell in love with it," she said. "It was a great challenge and good brain food for my mind in being creative."

Now in her 25th year of teaching, and first at West, Zorko has also had to overcome a pair of recent health battles to continue practicing her passion.

In April 2013, she required a dual organ transplant following complications from diabetes, and she had back surgery earlier this year, causing her to miss the past few weeks of school.

"I can’t stay away that long," she said, adding she hoped to be back before winter break. "This is what I do and this is what I love to do.

She credited everyone who has helped her through those situations, including the organ donors, doctors and surgeons, for her ability to keep teaching.

Looking ahead

The next step for Zorko is competing with 16 state Teachers of the Year winners for the regional award in March. The regional winner will move to nationals, where the winner will be announced next November.

Zorko said that she's looking forward to the process despite the overwhelming work it adds, requiring a portfolio of data, videos and recommendations.

In the meantime, she said she would continue to innovate in the classroom, whether it’s lesson planning or technology.

"What I used to say a lot about my teaching is I’m very eclectic," she said. "I look at the new trends, new standards, and kind of mesh them with what I’m already doing and then keep going."

"There's some people that I believe were just born to teach," said Roen, who taught with Zorko in Middleton nearly 30 years ago before getting her master’s degree.

"It's not just about teaching Spanish (for Zorko). It's really getting students to be more globally competent."

Tina’s Home Cleaning, LLC

Specializing in Residential Cleaning 12 Years Experience

Reliable  Free Estimates

Visit mge.com/setback to calculate your savings or call 252-7117.

Save energy and money this winter. Turn back your thermostat while asleep or at work. Each degree can save 1% on your heating bill. If we all setback 1*, we’ll save enough gas for 3,100 homes. Bigger setbacks save even more.

835-0339  513-3638
tinahomecleaning@gmail.com

December 12, 2014  The Fitchburg Star
Oregon High School students Cameron Telfer and Tyler Hale talk about a project during the video game development class.

Read more Oregon School District stories at ConnectFitchburg.com, including the full story on the teacher compensation referendum and the following:

More than a game

Every year, a group of Oregon High School students is learning sophisticated skills to work in a rapidly growing, multi-billion dollar industry where high-paying jobs are the standard. They make use of a wide variety of subject areas, including math, science, art and even history. Oh, and it’s all based around video games.

Investigation clears coach

An independent investigation of Oregon High School basketball coach Jon Nedelcoff has concluded after school board members decided he did not violate district policy.

Nedelcoff had been accused earlier this fall of past bullying behavior by two parents of a former player, allegations that were repeated during the public comment period of an Oct. 12 school board meeting and brought up at the next meeting, Oct. 26, with around 150 of Nedelcoff’s supporters in attendance.

Board members made their decision at a closed session meeting Dec. 4 after receiving an oral report from independent investigator Malina Piontek, a Madison-based attorney who specializes in public education, employment and even history.

Compensation referendum would revise pay scale to recruit, retain best educators

SCOTT DE LARUELLE

Limited Newspaper Group

When Oregon School District residents went to the polls on Nov. 4, they approved by more than a 60-40 margin two referendums designed to improve the district’s buildings and facilities.

Now, a committee of teachers, district officials and school board members is working on another referendum planned for April to improve teacher compensation and opportunities, with hopes to keep teachers in the district.

Under the current salary schedule, teachers receive pay increases only through years of service and by obtaining additional credits. Progression is relatively automatic, and it takes 25 years to reach the top of the pay scale.

The proposed model calls for teachers to have more choice over their progression, learning plan and time commitments outside regular job duties, something committee members hope will “attract, develop and retain” high quality teachers.

“Educators can move much faster through the levels, which encourages professional growth and mastery, and boosts career earnings,” committee members wrote in a report delivered to the board in November.

Oregon Education Association (OEA) and teacher compensation committee member Jon Fishwild said a new compensation plan is needed because the district has had no “defined compensation system” in place since the Act 10 “Budget Repair Bill” was passed by state legislators in 2011, which limits how a teacher can “get ahead.”

“For the most part, the only way for a teacher to get ahead right now is to complete a district-approved master’s program,” he said.

“They are not doing so or who already have done so for the most part only get a cost-of-living increase.”

School board member Gwen Matzen said teachers are “really behind” in terms of cost of living and health care, something the board hopes to address with the new compensation plan.

“Their increases were sucked up by health care increases, and in some cases teachers are losing money, and that’s not right,” she said. “Times are tough, but these are highly qualified professionals.”

Maitzen and two others were elected in April after running on a platform that centered around improving relations with teachers, and this proposed referendum is a tangible result. The new teacher compensation model would include six levels for teachers, from “beginning educator” to “leading educator,” with a sliding scale for pay and responsibilities.

Beginning educators would start at $40,000 per year, or $44,000 for those with master’s degrees. That compares to a starting salary for the 2013-14 school year of $36,745. No educator would lose compensation as a result of initial placement on this system.

Once an educator moves out of the Beginning Educator level, he or she could move either up or down. Higher levels have additional ongoing requirements, such as extra days outside the normal contract.

For those with fewer than five years experience, the district would give credit for other years of relevant education experience outside the district.

Why a referendum?

To give any teacher a raise above cost-of-living under the current structure, Fishwild said the district has too “divert into other parts of the budget,” as the state is not providing any further revenue assistance.

“Without a new teacher compensation system, teachers will not be able to earn a professional wage,” he said.

“We are competing with other districts and with jobs outside of education — people just aren’t going to see teaching in Wisconsin as a reliable means of sustaining a family if we don’t alter how we fund our schools.”

In the wake of the Act 10, however, this has become more costly for school districts. In June, as part of the 2013-14 contract negotiated between the district and the OEA, most educators received a 2.07 percent wage increase. The exceptions were a handful of teachers in technology education and agricultural departments who earlier in the year received a separate supplemental pay contract — for some as high as $10,000 — as their positions were deemed to be high-demand.

District human resources director Jina Jonen said Act 10 has forced districts to adapt.

“Teachers are much more mobile than they ever have been,” she said. “We want to keep our quality folks here, because we invest a lot of time and energy and support in finding the teachers who are the best fit for us and training them.”

A school board member Rae Vogeler said the planned April referendum should be viewed as the second of a two-part plan for investing in the schools — the first being the successful November referendum.

“We know that quality education is not just about the buildings, but those inside the buildings,” she said.
NCS charter gets OK
Core Knowledge presents limited changes

SCOTT GIBRARD
United Newspaper Group

The Verona Area School District’s two oldest charter schools each took a step forward Dec. 1 in setting up their next five years.

For New Century School, that was gaining approval from the school board to spend the years until another charter renewal is required in 2019 transitioning to a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum.

Meanwhile, Core Knowledge Charter School brought its charter renewal proposal to the board with few changes to what it’s been doing in the 18 years since it opened.

Board members unanimously approved the NCS agreement, and did not signal much hesitation toward CKCS’ proposal, which will be voted on Dec. 15. The NCS charter will allow the school to focus on its charter with few changes to what it’s been doing in the 18 years since it opened.

If you have something to say.

The discussion turned a bit more philosophical after board member Renee Zook questioned why neither school requested exemptions from Department of Public Instruction requirements. Those exemptions are something a charter needs to be charted every five years, “I’m just thinking when we have a school that’s been in existence since 1996, why this can’t be offered as a choice in our school district rather than something that has to be charted every five years,” Zook said.

Superintendent Dean Gorrell explained that EA needed exemptions from time in seats and attendance requirements for what it had proposed, unlike CKCS, NCS or the district’s other charters, which instead stand apart because of their curriculum.

That struck Zook, and board member Joanne Gauthier, as something that could perhaps then be implemented in the district’s attendance area schools.

“That’s her entire philosophy behind charters, she said. “If you have something that’s proven that it works, more people should do it as a choice,” Zook said. “Board members should think about what our board philosophy is … with charter schools with a proven track record.”

The board also approved an extension to the deadline for West End property owner Vanta Properties to meet a set of contingencies on a purchase agreement that is expected to go to voters next spring.

Vanta Properties, which owns one of the parcels of land the district has agreed to purchase if voters approve it in an April referendum, needs to get signatures of “condominium” owners on the neighboring property as one of the contingencies on the purchase agreement.

The property was divided into many condominium parcels rather than platted as an alternate form of ownership and development. City of Verona planning director Adam Sayre explained to the Fitchburg Star that protected the land from certain state easements but has complicated some of the paperwork for this transaction. Owners include UW Credit Union, a hotel developer, an apartment developer and multiple banks.

The original deadline was Dec. 1, but Vanta said it could not meet that and asked for an extension to Jan. 15. Given other deadlines for the school board around approving the referendum question, they compromised and set the deadline for Jan. 31.

Gorrell said he understood that Vanta had his conversations on the subject with all of the property owners, but has not received all of the necessary signatures.

The board unanimously approved the changes.

Teacher compensation

Gorrell reported the first meeting of the district’s alternative compensation committee brought a few ideas for future changes to compensation structures.

The committee includes district administrators and representatives from the Verona Area Education Association, the union for most teachers in VASD.

Gorrell said a survey of district staff indicated a “great deal of interest” in looking at alternative compensation to the approach the district has used for years.

He said a model that would allow the district to “attract, motivate and retain quality employees” is the goal, and he emphasized nobody’s salary would be reduced.

MSAN

The Verona Area High School Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN) will host the 2015 national MSAN conference. The students attended the conference in October in Michigan, and next year will plan out the Oct. 7-9 conference for around 250 attendees from around the country.

The conference will be at the Concourse Hotel in Madison and include a tour of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Fitchburg Star editor Jim Feroldi contributed to this story.

What’s online?

Stoner Prairie Elementary School is one of the schools in the district closer to a 1:1 ratio between students and devices. Above, from left, Jamie Puent, Brynn Stacey and Sotera Boado play with iPads during “SP Design Lab,” which takes place every Tuesday and Thursday.

Read more Verona Area School District stories at ConnectFitchburg.com, including the following:

Equalizing the ‘utility’

The Verona Area School District has had dozens of conversations about inequality in recent years.

But this time, it’s not the usual test scores or access to high-level classes for low-income and minority students.

Instead, it’s the access to mobile devices at school.

Future Schools Committee update

In 2010, the Sun Prairie Area School District opened a new high school for grades 10-12.

This year, the Middleton-Cross Plains School District added fifth-graders to its traditional grades 6-8 middle schools.

But whether either of those configurations or another alternative would work in the Verona Area School District remains to be seen.

That’s one of the key questions for members of the district’s Future Schools Committee, which held its second meeting last week – and its first since May. So they’re hoping for help from those nearby districts that have recently undergone transitions VASD is considering.

December 12, 2014 The Fitchburg Star 11

From Our Family To Yours

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Your locally owned grocer for over 100 years.
210 S. Main St. Verona - (608) 845-6478

Your locally owned grocer for over 100 years.
210 S. Main St. Verona - (608) 845-6478
Verona junior wins three state titles, adds to records

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Inside the University of Wisconsin-Madison Natatorium hangs a series of clocks counting down – among other things – the exact number of days and hours until the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Some 629 days from potentially swimming in Brazil, and with the Olympic time trials next summer, 16-year-old Verona Area/Mount Horeb junior Beata Nelson capped yet another stellar season at the WIAA Division 1 girls state swimming and diving championships.

Already the defending record holder in three individual events, Nelson won a step further Saturday, Nov. 15, breaking Katie McLaughlin of St. Margarita (Calif.) High School’s national high school and 15-16 national age group record in 51.7 seconds.

“National record holder. It sounds awesome,” said Nelson, whose time was two seconds faster than a week ago at sectionals. “I really had no expectations.”

While breaking 52 seconds was a goal she set for myself at the end of last season, she didn’t talk about it much.

“I didn’t want to put too much pressure on myself, but I really wanted the record,” she said. “When I saw my time flash I just wanted to cry. I’m speechless.”

Having no idea what the record was last season, Nelson couldn’t believe she came within seven-hundredths-of-a-second.

“This year I was very aware of what the record was,” she said. “I didn’t have a have a very good finish, but 51.7. I can’t say much more than that.”

Shortly after her records-shattering swim, Nelson received a standing ovation from the capacity crowd of 1,500 spectators.

“Every time I swim an event, my jaw just drops when I look at the board,” she said. After just missing the 200 freestyle relay state record a year ago, sophomores Maizie Seidl and Kristi Larsen and senior Shelby Rozebom joined Nelson to break the six-year state record of Madison East and shock Arrowhead with a time of 1:33.51.

It was more than a three-and-a-half second PR for the Wildcats. Arrowhead posted nearly a second PR but still had to settle for second – well behind Verona in 1:34.91.

“It was absolutely amazing,” said Rozebom, the lone senior on the relay. “We set the goal to defend our title and I’m so

VAHS girls swimming

National record-Beata

Photo by Jeremy Jones

Verona Area High School junior Beata Nelson splashes to a new national high school and 15-16 National Age Group record in the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 51.7 seconds Saturday, Nov. 15, at the WIAA Division 1 state girls swimming championships inside the University of Wisconsin-Madison Natatorium. Nelson also added state titles in the 100 backstroke (her third) and a second 200 freestyle relay crown.

MWHS boys hockey

Regents ready to contend for title

EVAN HALPOP
Unified Newspaper Group

Madison West High School boys hockey head coach Bret Farley said his team is ready to contend for the Big Eight Conference title with 13 returning letterwinners and a strong field of newcomers with junior league experience.

Farley, speaking before the season opener on Friday, Nov. 28, against Hayward at the Madison Ice Arena, pointed to the leadership of players such as senior goalie Henry Cutting as key to the team’s early defensive success. Cutting is back on the ice after a junior season in which he saved 304 out of 324 shots on goal with a save percentage of .938 during the regular season.

Farley also said sophomore forwards Max Frey, who played five games for the Madison Capitos last year, Schuyler Hedican, who played 26 games for the junior Admirals as a freshman, Dean Fuhrmann and

OHS girls basketball

Defense halts Edgewood

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

Pressure is an understatement when talking about the Oregon High School girls basketball team’s performance Tuesday, Dec. 2, in a 46-35 win over Madison Edgewood.

The host Panthers (1-2 overall, 1-0 Badger South) bottled up the Crusaders for much of the night and collected 12 total steals while holding sophomore Estella Moschkau to just six points.

The defense also held Edgewood senior Emma Meriggioli to seven points in the first three quarters, though she ended up with 16 in the end.

“We don’t have a star. We play team defense and that is something we stress,” head coach Corey Sielaff said.

“We talked about getting our hands up, using our feet, talking and communicating.

“Emma is a fantastic scorer, and Estella inside is really unstoppable if she gets position, so I was really happy with the way we played help-side post defense … We forced them to take tough stops.”

Senior forward Riley Rosemeyer was one of the catalysts on defense and also helped Oregon win the battle in the paint. She collected 13 points, 10 rebounds, five steals and two blocks.

Junior guard Leah Koopman added three steals for the defense.

“We got into a little bit of foul trouble, but our big thing is that we play everyone the same,” Rosemeyer said. “We are going to play hard no matter if you are a 3-point shooter or a post player, and we did what we needed to do defensively.”

Besides Rosemeyer,
Boys hockey
Thrilling finish ices Norskies

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

Cole Hefty said it wasn’t the best shot he’s ever taken, but somehow the senior defenseman still managed to put the puck into the net for a 4-3 overtime victory Tuesday, Dec. 2, inside the Oregon Community Ice Arena.

Despite outshooting the visiting DeForest Norskies 48-8 in a Badger Conference crossover game, the Panthers needed a pair of third-period goals and a lucky break on Hefty’s shot in overtime to prevail.

“The puck chipped up to me along the blue line and I just tried to get it on net. It was one of the worst shots I’ve ever taken,” said Hefty who scored the game-winner 43 seconds into overtime. “The goalie wasn’t paying attention, I guess, and it went in.”

Senior forward Joey Andrisch cut DeForest’s two-goal lead in half on the power play early in the second period.

Despite outplaying the Norskies, which led to several opportunities in the period, Oregon struggled to capitalize and eventually saw the visitors go back up by two thanks to Logan Wright’s short-handed goal.

But it was the performance of Oregon’s other win of the season, posting a 1:51:52 in the 200 free relay in 1:46.14. Larsen went on to add a fourth-place finish in both events he has state aspirations in this season, posting a 56.22 in the 100 fly.

The Panthers finished seventh overall out of a very talented nine-team field with 107 points. Oregon saw lifetime-bests turned in by David Heim in the 200 free relay, David Michael in the 50 and 100 free. Josh Greene (50, 100 free), Baptiste Como (50, 100 free), Ryan Wood (50 breast, 100 free), Jordan Sanchez (50, 100 free), Charles (50 free) and Larsen led off the school record pace in the 400 free relay.

Despite outplaying the Norskies with 2 minutes remaining in regulation Tuesday against DeForest with teammates Joey Andrisch (12) and Brandon Michek (16) Oregon twice overcame two-goal deficits to defeat the visiting Norskies 4-3 in overtime.

Senior forward Collin Bundy (10) celebrates his game-tying goal with 2 minutes remaining in regulation Tuesday against DeForest with teammates Joey Andrisch (12) and Brandon Michek (16). Oregon twice overcame two-goal deficits to defeat the visiting Norskies 4-3 in overtime.

“incoming in the 100 free for a 4-3 overtime victory Tuesday, Nov. 25, inside Madison Ice Arena.

The area’s top forward and University of Massachusetts recruit, Ty Pelton-Byce scored short-handed and even-strength goals and added an assist in the win. Jacob Padley added a goal and two assists, while Riley Karr also scored a goal.

Roskos turned away 41 of 45 shots on goal. Memorial sophomore Ryan Keny stepped all 10 shots he faced to earn the shutout.

“I thought from the second period on, we completely outplayed DeForest,” Oregon head coach Rick Fleming said. “What was disappointing that we didn’t come out with the energy I was hoping for in our first home game. That’s a little concerning.”

Madison Memorial 4, Oregon 0
Oregon managed just 10 shots on route to a 4-0 loss Tuesday, Nov. 25, inside Madison Ice Arena.

The area’s top forward and University of Massachusetts recruit, Ty Pelton-Byce scored short-handed and even-strength goals and added an assist in the win. Jacob Padley added a goal and two assists, while Riley Karr also scored a goal.

Roskos turned away 41 of 45 shots on goal. Memorial sophomore Ryan Keny stepped all 10 shots he faced to earn the shutout.

Appleton United 4, Oregon 0
Although has faced two of the top 10 ranked teams in the state in its first three games, losing both by an identical 4-0 final, Fleming said the similarities stop there.

“I look at our team, and even though we lost to a good Appleton United team tonight, I thought we took a good step forward,” Fleming said. “Our guys did everything I asked, getting pucks deep and getting end zone time. They executed our system to perfection.”

Seventh-ranked Appleton United (5-0-0) didn’t waste its opportunities as junior forward Trenton Bliss gave the visitors a one-goal lead early in the second period with a wrist shot in the high slot. He then extended the lead by flipping a short-handed goal over Roskos less than three minutes into the third period.

The dagger for the Panthers’ Bundy’s boarding major at 12:37, which led to a power play early in the second period.

Sophomore Henry Roskos stopped five of eight shots on goal, while Brock Suchomel turned away 44 of 48.

“I thought from the second period on, we completely outplayed DeForest,” Oregon head coach Rick Fleming said. “What was disappointing that we didn’t come out with the energy I was hoping to schedule an appointment, call (608) 274-5300.

Health Care for the Entire Family

UW Health focuses on building a comfortable relationship with our patients and their families so they can partner on addressing the patient’s health care needs.

We provide a comprehensive approach to care for all members of your family including routine health supervision and follow-up of chronic problems.

Visit uwhealth.org/findadoctor for more information about UW Health providers.

To schedule an appointment, call (608) 274-5300.

Sun Prairie Invitational
Oregon reached the medal podium with four events Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Sun Prairie Invitational. The Panthers’ top relay team of Charles, Rule, Larsen and Marsden led off the meet by finishing sixth overall on the 200-yard medley relay in 1:46.14.

Charles later added the backstroke title in 1:11.09, but it was the performance of Larsen that had everyone inside the Oregon Community Pool talking.

Minutes after guiding the Panthers’ medley to victory, Larsen dove back into the pool to post yet another record, taking the 200 free in 2:04.21. He later added a second-place finish in the 100 fly before helping set yet another record as the lead leg of the first-place 400 free relay in 2:37.20.

Charles, Marsden, Rule and Larsen were just off the school record pace in the 400 free relay.

Rule clocked the team’s final benchmark, taking second in the 100 breaststroke (1:15.66).

Oregon’s other win of the evening came in the 100 free where Marsden posted a 1:00.38.
There aren’t many times that teams shooting over 60 percent from the field end up on the losing end, but turnovers doomed the Verona Area High School girls basketball team Friday, Dec. 4, in a 65-62 loss to Middleton. The Wildcats had 29 lost possessions – 19 in the first half – and Middleton senior guard Elizabeth Veronega made them pay with 8-for-11 shooting from 3-point range, a career high, and 32 total points – which tied for career high.

“Her shots were so deep. She really stretches you,” Verona head coach Angie Murphy said. “When she is on, she is on. And she likes to drive and get people on versus us, which always kind of stinks.

Four of Veronega’s 3-pointers came in the fourth quarter. She hit one to put Middleton up one to start the quarter, and then she hit back-to-back deep shots sandwiching a Verona turnover over to put the Cardinals up 56-50. The Wildcats battled back to take a 60-56 lead with under two minutes to play, but Veronega once again swished a 3-pointer to cut Middleton’s deficit to one.

And she did it all with four fouls. “She was smart enough not to pick up that fifth foul,” Middleton head coach Jeff Kind said. “She was unselfish tonight, and just tried to do it like this: it takes somebody to do that.”

After a Grace Mueller basket, senior guard Katie Fermanich and junior forward Grace Douglas each scored baskets with a Verona turnover in between to make it 63-62, Middleton. Sophomore guard Brin Lemirande hit two of four free throws to seal the Wildcats’ fate.

But despite the loss, there was much for Murphy to be excited about. Junior Cheyenne Trilling, who missed all of last season with an ACL injury, had her best showing so far with 12 points, and the post play of Verona was dominant for much of the game.

“For Cheyenne’s third varsity game after being off a year, she is truly happy with the way she played,” Murphy said. “She is a good floor leader out there, and she was dominating.

Cheyenne Trilling’s play—which included a couple of 3-pointers and a

Turn to VHS girls/Page 16

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

Girls basketball

Lost possessions sink Wildcats

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

There aren’t many times that teams shooting over 60 percent from the field end up on the losing end, but turnovers doomed the Verona Area High School girls basketball team Friday, Dec. 4, in a 65-62 loss to Middleton. The Wildcats had 29 lost possessions – 19 in the first half – and Middleton senior guard Elizabeth Veronega made them pay with 8-for-11 shooting from 3-point range, a career high, and 32 total points – which tied for career high.

“Her shots were so deep. She really stretches you,” Verona head coach Angie Murphy said. “When she is on, she is on. And she likes to drive and get people on versus us, which always kind of stinks.

Four of Veronega’s 3-pointers came in the fourth quarter. She hit one to put Middleton up one to start the quarter, and then she hit back-to-back deep shots sandwiching a Verona turnover over to put the Cardinals up 56-50. The Wildcats battled back to take a 60-56 lead with under two minutes to play, but Veronega once again swished a 3-pointer to cut Middleton’s deficit to one.

And she did it all with four fouls. “She was smart enough not to pick up that fifth foul,” Middleton head coach Jeff Kind said. “She was unselfish tonight, and just tried to do it like this: it takes somebody to do that.”

After a Grace Mueller basket, senior guard Katie Fermanich and junior forward Grace Douglas each scored baskets with a Verona turnover in between to make it 63-62, Middleton. Sophomore guard Brin Lemirande hit two of four free throws to seal the Wildcats’ fate.

But despite the loss, there was much for Murphy to be excited about. Junior Cheyenne Trilling, who missed all of last season with an ACL injury, had her best showing so far with 12 points, and the post play of Verona was dominant for much of the game.

“For Cheyenne’s third varsity game after being off a year, she is truly happy with the way she played,” Murphy said. “She is a good floor leader out there, and she was dominating.

Cheyenne Trilling’s play—which included a couple of 3-pointers and a

Turn to VHS girls/Page 16

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

Boys basketball

Shots don’t fall in losses

Antony Iozzo

VERONA AREA HIGH SCHOOL boys basketball head coach Alan Buss said the guys need to assert more toughness, especially in foul situations.

“People are picking up fouls,” Buss said. “It can’t just be them. It can’t just be them. The guys, the guys, the guys.”

Launched in the second half after a 6-0 run by Middleton, the Wildcats battled back to cut the deficit to one.

That line also protected senior quarterback Noah Roberts. Roberts, a second-team all-conference selection, completed 92 of 193 passes for 1,490 yards with 15 touchdowns and eight interceptions.

Also making the second team were senior tight end Jake Toman, senior running back Eric Schmid, senior defensive end Trayvonn Johnson (67) and senior split end Christian Stoffel, senior quarterback Noah Roberts, a second-team all-conference selection, and senior wide receiver Nathaniel Buss.

That line also protected senior quarterback Noah Roberts. Roberts, a second-team all-conference selection, completed 92 of 193 passes for 1,490 yards with 15 touchdowns and eight interceptions.

Also making the second team were senior tight end Jake Toman, senior running back Eric Schmid, senior defensive end Trayvonn Johnson (67) and senior split end Christian Stoffel, senior quarterback Noah Roberts, a second-team all-conference selection, and senior wide receiver Nathaniel Buss.

That line also protected senior quarterback Noah Roberts. Roberts, a second-team all-conference selection, completed 92 of 193 passes for 1,490 yards with 15 touchdowns and eight interceptions.

Also making the second team were senior tight end Jake Toman, senior running back Eric Schmid, senior defensive end Trayvonn Johnson (67) and senior split end Christian Stoffel, senior quarterback Noah Roberts, a second-team all-conference selection, and senior wide receiver Nathaniel Buss.
Regents finish eighth at state

JEREMY JONES
Sports editor

The Madison West girls swimming team reached the 45th annual WIAA Division 1 medal stand in two events Saturday, Nov. 15.

West’s 200 free relay of senior Katie Feller, sophomore Katie Cardwell and juniors Sydney Higgins and Mary First finished a team-best fourth overall in a season-best 1 minute, 35.96 seconds.

The Regents closed out the meet matching the 200 relays finish with a season-best time of 3:30.97. Sophomore Emily Mirus, Higgins, Feller and First swam on the 400 free relay.

Arrowhead won the event in 3:23.67. Verona Area/Mount Horeb set a state record time of 1:33.51 en route to defending its state title.

West’s 200 medley relay of sophomores Mady Sullivan, Mirus and seniors Paige Talercio and Feller opened the meet taking 11th place.

First added a 10th-place finish in the 50 free, while First added a 14th-place finish in the 100 free. Junior Tess Lutz chipped in with a 15th-place finish in the 500 free.

The Regents finished eighth overall, fourth among the Big Eight teams, with 88 points. Verona/Mount Horeb (180) Madison Memorial (127) and Middleton (109) finished fourth through sixth, respectively.

Arrowhead ran away with the meet, scoring 337 points for its 11th state title. Cedarburg, meanwhile, held off Waukesha South/Mukwonago to finish as runner up for the second straight year thanks to the final relay, taking silver 224-222.

The Regents won the last three state titles.

Boys basketball

West takes down Verona in conference opener

The Madison West High School boys basketball team hosted Verona Tuesday, Dec. 2, and picked up a 55-51 win to open the conference season.

Sophomore Terrell Carey and junior Parrish Crayton each scored nine points for West. Twelve different players scored a basket for the Regents.

Verona was led by Will Kellerman with 21 points. West 75, East 67

West hosted Madison East Friday, Dec. 5, and won 75-67.

The Regents jumped out to a 16-3 lead after the first quarter and never trailed. Junior Greg Wright led West with 16 points, while Carey added 12. Junior Sam Meyer and Crayton also reached double digits with 11 points each.

Basketball

Regents win first Big 8 match

The Madison West High School girls basketball team played its best game of the season Saturday, Dec. 6, at Madison La Follette.

The Regents defeated the Lancers 70-63 in double overtime.

West (1-4 overall, 1-2 Big Eight) outscored La Follette 10-3 in the second overtime.

Senior Shaquita Lee led the Regents with 21 points, while freshman Kate Carlson and senior Kyana Johnson added 15 and 12, respectively.

Verona 58, West 20

West opened the Big Eight season with a 58-20 loss against Verona. Johnson led West with eight points, but the Regents’ defense couldn’t contain Verona’s post players. Verona juniors Grace Mueller and Kira Opsal scored 21 and 10 points, respectively.

West was held under 10 points in every quarter.

East 48, West 45

The Regents fell 48-45 to Madison East Thursday, Dec. 4. Carlson scored 15 points, while Lee added 12.

On Oakwood Village University Woods’ 30-acre campus, you’ll have interesting neighbors of all kinds—including those who live in our 9-acre nature preserve. As you follow the walking trails, you’ll be greeted by squirrels jumping from tree to tree, mallards and wood ducks relaxing in our pond, and Great Horned owls keeping watch over the neighborhood. No doubt, you’ll have interesting observations to share with your other neighbors over dinner.

Call today to schedule a personal appointment and discover a community where you’ll enjoy neighbors of all kinds: 608-230-4266. Or visit us online at www.oakwoodvillage.net.
VAHS swim: Verona finishes in fourth place at state meet with 180 points

Continued from page 12

proud. "I'm really going to miss that. It's a lot of fun."

Larsen settled for silver in a school record 1:44.63 as a member of the 200 medley relay with leg 24.62 50 backstroke split. She hit, Larson, senior Seymour and Rozeboom finished 1.33 seconds behind Arrowhead.

Rozeboom anchored the relay to the wall with a lifetime best 23.15 split for the 50 free – nearly seven-tenths of a second ahead of her individual fifth-place finish in the 50 free (23.82). "It was a lot more than I could ever ask for," Rozeboom said. "I'm just so amazed at state meet I could have hoped for."

Tim Andrews Horticulturist - LLC

Tree Pruning is best done during the dormant season.

Schedule a free evaluation today.

608-232-9970 wjahlton.com

Caring for our Green World since 1970


The Wildcats matched last year's fourth-place finish with 180 points – 53 ahead of Madison Memori- al, which finished fourth in Madison West (eighth) and Sun Prairie (10th) finished fifth in the eight-team Big Eight Conference field in the top five.

Larsen was the only one to make any doubt rolling-up a 3rd slowest 200 IM split and 5th fastest 50 free points to win its 10th team title, 337-224. The Warhawks kept up its winning ways under junior Kelly Jacoby in the 50 and 100 free, along with a sixth-place finish in the 200 medley relay, as well as a win in the 400 free relay. Waukesha South/Muk- , Kaukauna, which finished second in the Big Eight Conference field in the 200 free, respectively. Seidel had personal best times by a half-second each in both events. He also stopped the 500 free clock with a two second season-best 5:10.43 – good for 12th place. Freshman Maggie Nunn rose to 11th for VA/MH before finishing 12th overall during Saturday morning’s diving competition with 412.5 points. The top three divers: Neenah senior Hazel Herten- (576.45), Racine Case senior Cassidy Bose (531.4) and Franklin senior Katrina Voge (519.55) all posted state record scores to round out the top three.

"I was super nervous with my toughest divers to start the meet," Munn said. "I'd settled down eventually, and I think I did pretty well. I was glad I made it all the way through to finals."

Larsen moved up from a non-scoring 17th seed to his bid valuable points with her 10th-place finish in the 100 breaststroke with a person- al-best 1:06.90. Seidel, Henshue, Roze- boom and Larson capped the meet by taking 10th place on the 400 free in a season- best 3:36.68. "It was a lot more than I could ever ask for," Rozeboom said. "I'm just so amazed at state meet I could have hoped for."
Boys basketball
Slow start dooms Panthers in loss to Monona Grove in Badger South season opener

ANTHONY IOZZO
Assistant sports editor

The Oregon High School boys basketball team played with Monona Grove for most of the Badger South Conference matchup Friday, Dec. 5, but a slow start in the first quarter was enough for the Silver Eagles, as the Panthers fell 52-45.

Monona Grove jumped out to a 14-5 lead in the first, but Oregon scored with the Silver Eagles for the rest of the game, including a 22-22 tie in the fourth quarter.

Senior Markus Tobias led the scorers in double digits with 18 points, while senior Mitch Morhoff collected 11. Junior Charlie Soule added 10 points.

Seniors Jackson Riley and Zach Stimson led Monona Grove with 14 and 13 points, respectively.

Oregon continued the season with a non-conference game against Randolph Thursday at Oregon High School.

The Panthers travel to Badger South rival Milton at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, and host non-conference Whitewater at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Conference preview
Stoughton is once again the pre-season favorite to win the Badger South.

For Oregon to compete, head coach Jon Nedelcoff said it will come down to the mix of inside and outside pieces and the possibility to change tempos to keep other teams out of sync.

Stoughton brings back top scorers Nick McGlynn (309), who signed to play at Division I Drake University, Troy Slaby (211) and Bradley Graffin (78).

The Vikings graduated Paul Kosowski (209), Will Clark (143), Luke Logan (75) and River Hoaglin (79).

Oregon 60, Platteville 37
The Panthers scored at will in the game with several turnovers in the fourth that helped them cut the deficit down to eight. But it was the offense that didn’t capitalize in the end.

Our press was great. It also didn’t help that the Panthers shot 14-for-29 from the free-point line and only hit 30 percent of their field goals.

Tack on 19 turnovers, and it was just too much to overcome with a team like Stoughton, Sielaff said.

“We need to get tougher, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough,” she said. “We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game.

We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game.”

But Oregon did match the physical play of the Viking, forcing several turnovers and rushed shots with the full-court press.

That press nearly propelled the Panthers back into the game, allowing the Silver Eagles for the rest of the game. "Our press was great.

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

After the Panthers had 12 total steals, including three from Koopman.

Senior forward Blake Wagner led Platteville with 16 points.

"We are trying to figure out who wants to score, and I think that is really our problem right now," Sielaff said. "Everyone is looking for another person to score. Everyone on this team can score, and they all know it and do it in practice. So we just need to step up and be confident."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score.""We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"Our press was great. It also didn’t help that the Panthers shot 14-for-29 from the free-point line and only hit 30 percent of their field goals.

Tack on 19 turnovers, and it was just too much to overcome with a team like Stoughton, Sielaff said.

"We need to get tougher, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

But Oregon did match the physical play of the Viking, forcing several turnovers and rushed shots with the full-court press.

That press nearly propelled the Panthers back into the game, allowing the Silver Eagles for the rest of the game. "Our press was great.

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

But Oregon did match the physical play of the Viking, forcing several turnovers and rushed shots with the full-court press.

That press nearly propelled the Panthers back into the game, allowing the Silver Eagles for the rest of the game. "Our press was great.

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score.""We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score.""We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."

"We need to try harder, all around physically tough, and a lot mentally tough," she said. "We can’t let small things affect us and take us out of the game. We can’t let a missed free throw or a turnover or a missed layup mess us up for the rest of the game."

"And if it is your night to score, then look to attack and score."
Whether being cold is the result of slowed metabolism or is due to sitting around in a heatingless room, a cozy blanket, sweaters, caps, scarfs and gloves are a must during cold weather to avoid hypothermia.
they didn’t want to get to in the fighting for weeks had to kill them,” Ray said.

"We were scared," Ray said. "And of course, after the first big battle, you had to change your undergear, because you are damned scared," Ray chuckled. "But you get used to it and you know it’s either that guy or you.”

Out in the open

While he never got close enough to use his father’s throwing knife, the one thing that probably saved his life and the lives of two others was remembering some Boy Scout everything. The men were caught outside in 35-below-zero weather and needed some kind of cover to avoid freezing to death; a fate suf

"You couldn’t get warm in any of the buildings, so if you built a fire, they’d shoot mortars and artillery at you,” Ray said.

Ray said the men were so compressed — likely in the same party — that they had no idea what to do outside in such conditions, and asked Ray for advice.

"I said, ‘Take your knife and cut some pine boughs off of the trees and clear some snow so we could sit back to back.’"

Ray said they had each a blanket, so they put one on the ground under us and put the other two over all of us, and kept all the body heat in that little capsule. We would have frozen to death. As they moved forward through the Hurten Forest, the unit was trying to capture or kill fanatical members of the Waffen SS who were menacing the area.

*His* friends — and most of all those on his right — were there.

Reaching the front lines around Dec. 27, as American reinforcement units were pushed forward and rushed to the scene, taking the place of men killed during the first days of the battle. They were to the replacement depot and went on to those units, and from then on, they were in the hot fighting," he said. Ray was “volunteered” by his commanding officer to go out ahead, sent out ahead of the main group to locate the enemy. It was a difficult job, and he was anything but pleased to have just a short-range carbine as a weapon, instead of a rifle.

"You had to be close if you had to kill them,” Ray said.

The soldiers who had been in the fighting for weeks wanted little to do with the replacements, Ray said, as they didn’t want to get to know men who they thought would surely be dead in a matter of days. Sadly, one of Ray’s best friends from basic training who went over with him — Pvt. Priscilla W. native — was killed the second day there.

The men were quickly thrust into battle — against both the Germans and the elements. Neither offered much comfort.

"We were scared, and of course, after the first big battle, you had to change your undergear, because you are damned scared," Ray chuckled. "But you get used to it and you know it’s either that guy or you.”

Hitler’s final gamble

After a promising start to World War II, the once-powerful German war machine was under siege by the end of 1944, with the armies of the Soviet Union, United States, Great Britain and Canada closing in from three sides. Ignoring his generals’ advice to fight defensive battles, German leader Adolf Hitler instead ordered a desperate, all-out assault designed to divide and destroy Allied forces gathering in the west. It would strike, he thought, where and when least expected — in mid-December, through Belgium’s heavily forested, lightly defended Ardennes Forest.

On the morning of Dec. 16, the Germans unleashed a massive artillery barrage, preceding an attack of more than 200,000 troops and 1,000 tanks that created a “bulge” in the American lines that gave the battle its historical name. After several weeks of bloody fighting in temperatures that plunged far below zero, the lines were restored, but at a tremendous cost. The U.S. suffered an estimated 75,000 casualties; Germany around 80,000, according to the U.S. Army. While initially successful in pushing the Allies back, the gamble proved a failure, as irreplaceable German losses ultimately sealed its fate. Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945.
Landfill on property could force some adjustments
MARK IGNATOWSKI
United Newspaper Group

Plans for 152 multi-
family homes on the corner of Lacy and Fitchrona roads moved one step forward after a brief review Nov. 18.
City of Fitchburg Plan Commission members unanimously approved the general implementation plans for Quarry Vista, a trio of three-story build-
ings proposed by Fiducia-
ry Real Estate Develop-
ment, Inc.

The general design approval is contingent on staff review of the project, including some possible changes to the proposal and map for the area, city planning director Tom Hovel told the com-
mission. A landfill was found on the property, which might change how some parts of the homes are mapped and zoned.

The company hopes to begin construction this spring. Fiducary develop-
ment director Craig Rad-
datz said the company, and winter will give the company and staff time to review any issues with the land use plan for Quarry Vista.

The city will have to install a water main connection this spring, as well, and that project was bid fall but no compa-
nies submitted bids. Hov-
el said the project will be rebid this winter and completed when weather allows this spring.

Documents submitted to the city show the develop-
ment would be phased in starting this coming summer, with expected com-
pletion by spring 2016. Market conditions would determine the schedule.

The project calls for three-story build-
ings with a mix of studio and one- and two-bed-
room units. Some units would have dens. The average size will be about 875 square feet, and rent is projected to average $1,150 per month.

The plan submitted last month shows buildings containing 55-, 52- and 56-unit buildings with access provided via Quar-
­ry Vista Drive, a new road near the ongoing Urban Forest project.

Fiducary has been working with staff since the concept was first proposed last spring. Site plans have been reworked during the past few months to make the area more walkable, Rad-
datz said, but the general layout of the neighbor-
dom plan to the Common Council, as well.

The land will have to be rezoned and platted before any development could occur.

Holiday tree curbside collection starts Jan. 5

Keep carts clear of snowbanks

Winter time means new challenges for everyone as we deal with the snow and cold. It’s important to follow these Fitchburg Refuse and Recycling Department guidelines all year round:

• Place carts about 1 to 2 feet away from the back of the curb (or edge of the street) and at least 3 feet from surrounding objects – NOT in the street. Carts placed in the curb or street are a safety hazard for traf-

• Avoid placing carts the night before collection if high winds or storms are expected.

• Clear the snow and clean the street to create obstacles for snow plows and street sweepers.

• Make sure to remove all foreign matter from the street. Carts and trees with nails, etc. are not collected.

• Streets, although often made from tree branches, are considered refuse if they contain metal or other foreign supporting devices and should be discarded accordingly. Set wreaths and garland in your refuse cart in a bag or wrap the wreath cart with a Refuse Tag attached.

• Holiday lights:

• Holiday lights that no longer work, remember to recycle old light strings at Fitchburg City Hall prior to Jan. 30. A special cart is now available 24 hours a day in the City Hall lobby.

• Non-working holiday light strings and extension cords are for recycling.

Residents must remove all foreign matter from the curbside. Store them in a bag or wrap the wreath cart with Refuse Tag. Set wreaths and garland in your refuse cart in a bag or wrap the wreath cart with Refuse Tag attached.

• Holiday lights:

• Holiday lights that no longer work, remember to recycle old light strings at Fitchburg City Hall prior to Jan. 30. A special cart is now available 24 hours a day in the City Hall lobby.

• Non-working holiday light strings and extension cords are recyclable, visit Fitchburg’s website: fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste.
Show off your kids in Unified Newspaper Group’s 5th Annual CUTEST KIDS CONTEST

Coming Wednesday, January 28, 2015

This section is full of area children and grandchildren ages 0 months-7 years. It is sure to be a treasured keepsake!

All photos will be entered in to a drawing to win great prizes from the Great Dane Shopping News and area businesses.

Photos are categorized by age group and winners are selected randomly from each age category.

To enter, send the form below and a current photo or visit one of our websites to fill out the form online and upload your photo by Friday, January 2, 2015.

Please print clearly. One entry per child. One form per child. Mail to:

Cutest Kids Contest
133 Enterprise Dr., PO Box 930427, Verona, WI 53593

Or go online to enter on any of our web sites:
connectoregonwi.com, connectstoughton.com, connectverona.com, connectfitchburg.com

Photos must be received by Friday, January 2, 2015 to be included.

For information on CARPC and to see meeting minutes, visit capsarpc.org.

---

CARPC votes against Northeast Neighborhood

Scott Girard
Unified Newspaper Group

A regional planning body voted against a City of Fitchburg neighborhood proposal, leaving the final decision up to the state’s Department of Natural Resources.

Commissioners on the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC), which advises the state on expansions to sewer service, voted 6-5 against the Northeast Neighborhood at the commission’s meeting last Thursday.

Two commissioners voting against the proposal cited concerns over how development could affect the nearby Waunresas Wetlands and the possibility of engineered protections failing, said deputy director Kamaran Mesbah. That issue previously came up throughout the city’s own approval process January and earlier in 2014. The other four commissioners voting against did not provide their reasoning at the meeting, Mesbah said.

A CARPC staff report, which analyzed the potential effects of development, had recommended approval as long as the city pursued a list of additional stormwater management and erosion control protections, but the majority of speakers at the October public hearing on the development spoke in opposition, according to meeting minutes.

The proposed plan would include an additional 494 acres of development in addition to the existing development already in the neighborhood, city planner Tom Hovel said.

The neighborhood, bounded by Nine Springs Creek to the north and the Lacy Road corridor to the south next to Hwy. 14, would cover nearly 986 acres total when including environmental corridors and existing residential development.

The 13 commissioners must get an eight-vote supermajority to recommend approval to the state. Because there were only five votes for approval, the two absent commissioners could not bring it to that number, meaning CARPC will not vote again on the proposal.

The state’s Department of Natural Resources will now have the final say on whether the city can expand its urban service area, which is where a municipality can provide sewer service necessary for most urban development.

CARPC had essentially been the final word on those determinations until a 2010 decision on a lawsuit from the Village of Mazomanie clarified it is only advisory to the DNR. Since then, CARPC’s denial of the Mazomanie plan and one other were forwarded to the DNR, which approved them.

CARPC’s decisions have sometimes been highly political, unlike those of its predecessor, the Dane County Regional Planning Commission.

Fitchburg Mayor Shawn Pfaff said he expects the DNR to ultimately approve the neighborhood plan. If DNR looks at the science that Fitchburg has done, it should be accepted,” Pfaff said.

For information on CARPC and to see meeting minutes, visit capsarpc.org.
SCOTT DE LARUELLE
United Newspapers Group

There are few things as important to children as celebrating their birthday. But in a tight economy, many parents aren’t able to provide as much of a birthday party as their son or daughter might want. And that’s where Fitchburg’s Hailey Berg and her “Box of Balloons” comes in.

Berg first found out about the nationwide program from her sister, who worked with a Box of Balloons group in Poynette. She loved the idea of helping out kids in need by providing needed supplies for their birthday parties but found she ended up doing more traveling than she wanted.

I had to bring $5 dollars of supplies all the way to Poynette,” she said. “I was really interested, but I didn’t know how to drive all that way for small supplies.”

When she asked how else she could help, it was suggested that she open a chapter of the organization for the west side of Madison, so she did exactly that.

The non-profit group, now in its third month, needs heavily to volunteer to provide supplies needed for birthday parties – everything from decorations and party favors to paper plates, cups, and napkins. Each box costs $50 to put together, and the group tries its best to fill each requested order, and personalize each box as possible.

Box of Balloons works with social workers or teachers at schools to help identify families who might need a little extra help to identify families who might need a little extra help to identify families who might need a little extra help to identify families who might need a little extra help to identify families who might need a little extra help to identify families who might need a little extra help to identify families who might need a little extra help to identify families who might need a little extra help to identify families who might need a little extra help to identify families who might need a little extra help to identify families who might need a little extra help.

“The group partners with school social workers, teachers and other community advocates. They find families who have children but not the means to celebrate their birthdays. A simple form is filled out giving us the child’s birth date, age, gender and likes.

The group partners with school social workers, teachers and other community advocates. They find families who have children but not the means to celebrate their birthdays. A simple form is filled out giving us the child’s birth date, age, gender and likes.

PLAN

Once the birthday box request is received, an email sign up goes out to our entire volunteer group. Volunteers click the link and decide which party supply they are looking for to fill the box with. Each box is filled with decorations, tableware, balloons, a party game, party favors, cupcakes and a gift for the birthday child.

CELEBRATE

Birthday Boxes are delivered to the school or community organization that submitted the request on the Friday closest to the child’s birthday.

Source: boxofballoons.org

“Box of Balloons’ helps celebrate big days

You say it’s your birthday

‘Box of Balloons’ helps celebrate big days

How it works

PARTNER

The group partners with school social workers, teachers and other community advocates. They find families who have children but not the means to celebrate their birthdays. A simple form is filled out giving us the child’s birth date, age, gender and likes.

Members of the area Box of Balloons group are, front row, from left: Nicole Moll and Rebecca Verhulst; back row, from left: Kathan Hansen, Amy Harris, Amy Ritch, Emily Kaehn, Michelle Krogstad, April Britto and Jen McGuire.
Serenity: Friendships formed at club help those in recovery get through stressful times

Continued from page 1

To help or be helped

What: Fitchburg Serenity Club, Inc.
Where: 6048 McKee Road, Fitchburg
When: Open daily 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., meeting times vary
Website: fitchburgserenityclub.com
Email: board@fitchburgserenityclub.com
Mission: To serve 12-step recovery groups by providing space for meetings, fellowship and a safe, positive environment for recovery
Meetings offered: Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Anorexia Nervosa Recovery, Codependents Anonymous, Debtors Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous, Sex Addicts Anonymous, Meditation, Universal One, Back to Basic, Spanish Speaking AA En Espanol and Al-Anon En Espanol
Donations: The nonprofit is entirely reliant on donations, which can be made online at the FSC website

Mary, 57, who’s been around long enough to have No. 42, is one of the first to get in the building nearly every day to make coffee at 6 a.m. before the first group arrives.

He found the place "just a bit of service," he said. "I’m a firm believer in community service, and the coffee is open and the coffee’s hot.

Scott didn’t talk much about his past, but sim- ply said he lost everything deed that didn’t just mean to himself – in one night’s drinking.

So, like many others, he switched to coffee.

Above the kitchen is a piece of artwork with words taken from the Serenity Prayer: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." A key shown below it symbolizes willingness.

Prayer: "God, grant me the wisdom to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the serenity to know the difference." A key shown below it symbolizes willingness.

The answers aren’t in the back of the book," Paul said. "But it’s a process... (It’s) the truth.

He said the club has come a long way in terms of reno- vating and expanding the building, but it is still funda- mentally the same.

"What the clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Par- kers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

He said the club has come a long way in terms of reno- vating and expanding the building, but it is still funda- mentally the same.

"What the clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

He said the club has come a long way in terms of reno- vating and expanding the building, but it is still funda- mentally the same.

"What the clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.

Scott remembers back to a time when meetings were held in the “mouse-hidden, druggy, and dirty” basement, which he said was painted “an ugly yellow andicky green” – definitely not Parkers colors.

"The clubhouse does is it gives us a warm, dry place to sit and do that stuff," Paul said. "You can’t do it online. You can do it here.
Wishing you a blessed holiday season filled with joy, love and much peace.