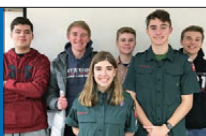


FORT LEGION

Venturing Crew 166 to host spaghetti dinner fundraiser March 16. • B7



UW-W: Astronomy lecture this Friday. • A5

HEARTS: Fort a jewel among jewels. • A8

BIZ: New chef at Edgerton Hospital. • B8

150th ANNIVERSARY Daily Jefferson County Union

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March 10, 2020 – One Dollar



JEFFERSON COUNTY AREA

Senior facilities guard against flu, coronavirus

Jefferson center asks visitors to stay home

By Pam Chickering Wilson
pwwilson@dailyunion.com

JEFFERSON — Friends and relatives of residents at Alden Estates in Jefferson are being asked to stay home in order to lower the potential risk of spreading influenza or the coronavirus.

Alden Estates of Jefferson Rehabilitation and Health Care Center has taken

'The facility is not under quarantine, but we have requested visitors to not visit ...

— Janine Schoen, corporate spokesperson for Alden Estates.

the precautionary measure of requesting that people not visit the facility in order to protect its vulnerable residents from what could be a life-threatening illness for frail elderly people.

"The facility is not under quarantine, but we have requested visitors to not visit

the facility," said Janine Schoen, corporate spokesperson for Alden Estates. We are taking this precautionary measure to prevent our residents from the possibility of being exposed to COVID-19. At this time, we do not have any cases in our facility.

"Our greatest concern is ensuring res-

idents are cared for in a safe and healthy environment," Schoen added. "Our facility has been and continues to follow recommendations of the CDC with regards to COVID-19."

Administrators of Reena Assisted Living in Fort Atkinson are considering changes to its policy, a representative from that facility said, but any potential changes have not been thoroughly hammered out yet.

Meanwhile, Karen Boyle, director of nursing at Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater, said that at this time,

See **CORONAVIRUS**, Page A7



Dogs 'truly gifts of God,' says K-9 Veterans Day speaker

By Kim McDanielson
Adams Publishing Group

Related story on A2

K-9s are "truly gifts of God," an author and military historian told about 60 people gathered in Fort Atkinson Sunday afternoon.

Ron Werneth, past-historian of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association, keynoted the sixth annual Wisconsin K-9 Veterans Day held at the American Legion Dugout. A dedicated researcher, the Chi-

cago resident has been collecting stories from veterans for over 25 years.

He was introduced by Jerry Witt, a War Dogs Milwaukee member and Vietnam veteran handler of two Army scout dogs, "Skip," a German Shepherd/Collie mix who was killed in action, and "Satan," a

See **K-9**, Page A3



Kim McDanielson

Shown above, Gary Wolfram, high school friend of fallen K-9 handler and Vietnam War soldier Lance Corporal "Terry" Beck of Fort Atkinson, places a wreath around the neck of a bronze statue made in the likeness of "Carbon," a working dog recently deceased. The statue is part of a K-9 Memorial in McCoy Park. Above left, John Meeks, executive director of the United States War Dogs Association Chapter 3, based in Kokomo, Ind., snaps a photo of his dog, "Brutus," a retired patrol, explosives and handler protection dog.

JEFFERSON

Kallsen, Sande top seniors

By Pam Chickering Wilson
pwwilson@dailyunion.com

JEFFERSON — Jefferson High School has announced the Class of 2020's top two seniors in terms of academics.

Anna Kallsen, the daughter of Kent and Lisa Kallsen, is the valedictorian, the top-ranked student, while Ian Sande, the son of Rebecca and Matthew Sande, is the salutatorian.

Kallsen has one older brother, while Sande has one older sibling and four younger siblings. Both live in Jefferson, Kallsen a lifelong resident and Sande a Cambridge native who came to Jefferson in the third grade.

During her elementary years, Kallsen attended a student at East Elementary School, while Sande attended St. John the Baptist Catholic School.

On top of being excellent students in the classroom, both honorees have been active in numerous extracurricular opportunities while at Jefferson High School.

See **SENIORS**, Page A7

LEGION BREAKFAST BUNCH



Pam Chickering Wilson

Jefferson's American Legion Auxiliary Unit 164 hosted its annual Spring Breakfast Sunday at the VFW/Recreation Hall, attracting a good crowd. Above left, Lilly Stevenson, 6, Lake Mills, grins as she looks up from the table. Above right, dad Scott Maron sits with his two girls, Hannah, 6, and Evelyn, 3, all of Jefferson. The girls are wearing matching cat outfits. Related photos appear on page A8.

'Discover Wisconsin' to feature Whitewater

MADISON — "Discover Wisconsin," the state's media brand and tourism TV show, will be shining the spotlight on Whitewater in an upcoming episode.

It will premiere Saturday, March 21, at 10 a.m. on Fox Sports Wisconsin and Sunday, March 22, at 10 a.m. on WITI Fox 6. The episode is available now for online streaming at discoverwisconsin.com, Roku, Apple TV, SmartTV, Google Chromecast and Amazon Fire.

The show kicks off at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with the Up-

ham Greenhouse, Barnett Theatre and Perkins Stadium all featured. Co-host Mariah Haberman attends a Whitewater Warhawks game and interviews players after the Warhawks' win against the UW-La Crosse Eagles.

"Whitewater totally surprised me — this is a city I thought I knew well. But to get here and rediscover this destination with a completely new lens brought forth a whole new, fascinating city to me!" said Haberman. "I can't wait for the rest of the

See **'DISCOVER'**, Page A7

Wisconsin celebrates sixth annual K-9 Veterans Day in Fort

By Kim McDaniel
Adams Publishing Group

Wisconsin's sixth annual K-9 Veterans Day was celebrated Sunday at the American Legion Dugout in Fort Atkinson, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony in McCoy Park.

The observance's activities were attended by about 60 people, many of whom were handlers of police and search-and-rescue dogs, and veteran handlers of dogs serving in wartime. Several brought working dogs and canines representing breeds that are used in the military.

Mabel Schumacher, treasurer of the Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson and coordinator of the its Fort Atkinson K-9 project, served as master of ceremonies. She was coordinator of the committee that led the effort in support of a Wisconsin resolution, passed by the Legislature in 2015, acknowledging March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day statewide. The K-9 Veterans Memorial in McCoy Park was dedicated in 2017.

Those taking the podium with Schumacher included American Legion Post 166 Chaplain Roger Faulterback; Friends of McCoy Park President Dan Judy; state Sen. Steve Nass; Milwaukee War Dogs member Jerry Witt, a veteran Vietnam K-9 handler of two Army scout dogs, "Skip," a German Shepherd/Collie mix who was killed in action, and "Satan," a black lab; and keynote speaker Ron Werneht, author, military historian, and past-historian of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association, who has been collecting stories from veterans for over 25 years.

He is writing a third book documenting K-9 handlers.

Nass told those in attendance that on March 13, and for a period thereafter, a flag will fly over the Wisconsin State Capitol in recognition of K-9 service.

The flag and a certificate later will be presented to Schumacher for her dedication in helping to bring about the Assembly resolution in 2015 declaring March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day.

Werneht told those in attendance that he plans to include information about local hero and Vietnam War K-9 handler Lance Corporal Terrance "Terry" Daniel Beck, whose likeness appears on the granite monument erected in McCoy Park. Beck moved from Iowa with his family to Fort Atkinson in 1963. He died in Vietnam, along with his dog, "Seato," on Dec. 20, 1967. Dan Atkinson hand-etched the granite with images of Beck and Seato, Schumacher said.

During the ceremony, a memorial bell was tolled in honor of 14 working dogs whose lives were lost between March of 2019 and Sunday. The bell, carrying the War Dogs emblem, was designed and donated to the Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson by Bill Krieger, formerly of Fort Atkinson, who performed the duty of tolling the bell. Among those lost was "Carbon," the German shepherd dog used as a model by sculptor Mark Dziewior, who made the bronze statue gracing the McCoy Park K-9 memorial monument.

Also honored was recently retired Jefferson County Sheriff's Office K-9 Officer "Harlow," a Belgian Malinois/German shepherd mix police utility dog skilled in narcotics detection, evidence recovery, bite and apprehension, tracking and handler protection.

Harlow retired on this past Valentine's Day, and lives with his now former han-

dler, Sgt. Jason Behm, also of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.

The two were thanked for their service as a team and each was presented a heart-shaped cookie made by Bon Ton Bakery, Jefferson, specifically for his species.

Behm will continue to serve with the department, but will no longer serve as a K-9 handler, he said. Before his retirement, Harlow served for more than six years, Schumacher said.

Jefferson County K-9 Unit Supervisor Brian Olson and Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson President Jan Holewinski presented recognitions and gifts to a combined 24 dogs, handlers, and K-9 veterans in attendance, with each handler receiving a stuffed German shepherd dog and each dog receiving a biscuit. Jefferson County Sheriff Paul Milbrath was unable to attend.

Among those recognized were Cody Crangle, Milwaukee War Dogs member and veteran Marine K-9 handler serving in Afghanistan, and his adopted retired bomb-sniffing black lab, "Flo."

Flo recently received community support when it was discovered that she needed knee ligament reconstruction surgery. Witt helped create a fund to pay for the surgery and American Bank, Waukesha, donated \$4,000 toward the operation.

War Dogs Milwaukee is comprised of veterans and people with their dogs representing the variety of breeds that have served in wars. Through various presentations, parades and events such as Great Lakes Pet Expo, it continues to educate and raise funds to help retired military working dogs and service dogs for veterans.

Also recognized was United States War Dogs Association Chapter 3 Executive Director John Meeks, along with his adopted German shepherd "Brutus," a patrol, explosives and protection dog who retired from service in 2018. Meeks, of Kokomo, Ind., served as a K-9 handler in Vietnam with his partner "Artus," a German shepherd killed in action Dec. 11, 1970. Meeks further contributed to the ceremony by bringing a wall of photographs of K-9 dogs and handlers; he has been amassing the collection for 10 years, he said.

Veteran K-9 handler Rick Hong, who carried the War Dogs flag as part of the ceremonial colorguard, was recognized. Members of the colorguard further included Veterans of Foreign Wars member and Korean War veteran Richard Miles, Vietnam War veteran Bill Insland, Vietnam Veterans of America member Bill Scherwitz and American Legion Post 166 Commander Joel Osmundson.

Racine County Sheriff's Department K-9 deputies Anthony Valenti and his Belgian Malinois, "Stax"; Edward Drewitz and his German shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix "Friday"; and Kurt Clemens and his German shepherd dog, "Nox," were among those recognized, as were Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Deputy Scott Guikich and his German shepherd, "Balko."

Also in attendance were Gary Wolfram, Fort Atkinson resident and friend of Beck; K-9 memorial sculptor Mark Dziewior; and one of three founding members of the Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson in 1992, Marleen LaPlant.

Schumacher has been a member since 2000.

A floral wreath created by Humphrey Floral and Gift was placed by Schumacher and Wolfram around the neck of the



Pam Chickering Wilson

Ron Werneht, past historian of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association, was keynote speaker Sunday at the K-9 Veterans Day program at the American Legion Dugout in Fort Atkinson. He is pictured above with a display of uniforms worn by K-9 handlers during the war.



"Harlow," a recently retired Belgian Malinois/German shepherd mix police utility dog, and his former handler, now owner, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Jason Behm, pose for a photo with the bronze statue of "Carbon," a retired working dog who was among those recognized as "passing" sometime between Sunday and last spring. Harlow and Behm were recognized for their service. Behm will continue deputy work, but no longer will be a K9 handler.

bronze canine statue at the K-9 Veterans Memorial at McCoy Park.

Joe White, a retired military working dog trainer, founded K-9 Veterans Day. White's home state of Florida was the first state to

proclaim March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day. Since then, several states have followed. The date was chosen to commemorate the founding of the US Army's K-9 Corps on that date in 1942, Schumacher said.



A terrier is given a treat during Sunday's K-9 Veterans Day program at the American Legion Dugout in Fort Atkinson.

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K-9

Continued from Page A1

black lab.

He said that Werneth "realizes the importance of recording the stories and images of veterans before they are lost to time," Witt said.

The author currently is working on his third book, focusing his attention on the history of veteran K-9 handlers.

Werneth was in Fort Atkinson for the dedication of the Wisconsin K-9 Memorial at McCoy Park in 2017, Witt said.

In his comments, Werneth said that he and his family are dog lovers, adding: "They are truly gifts of God."

He described himself as a military dog historian, but not a veteran.

"I care deeply about our K-9 veterans including law enforcement, volunteer and military," he said.

He dedicated the celebration, in part, to "one of Fort Atkinson's own fallen K-9 teams, U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Terry Beck and his canine partner, 'Seato'."

"They were killed in combat on Dec. 20, 1967, in Vietnam," he said. "During the war, Lance Corporal Beck was just one of 294 dog handlers to sacrifice their lives on behalf of all of us. As for K-9 Seato, he was one of an estimated 3,800 dogs to serve in Vietnam, but only 232 canines transferred to non-stateside bases, while the others were killed in combat, euthanized or left in-country."

He mentioned Gary Wolfram's presence in the audience, calling it "an honor," and citing Wolfram as Beck's "best friend."

"All told, for the Vietnam War, the K-9 teams that served are accredited with averting 10,000 casualties. This figure includes wounded and lives saved in combat," Werneth said.

"Even with the state-of-the-art technology that we have, there is no substitute for the nose, eyes and ears of a canine to detect lethal IED or an enemy on the battlefield," he pointed out. "The symbiotic life-and-death existence between the K-9 handler and their dog creates a bond that can't be put into words."

The speaker credited two events with helping develop his passion for German shepherds and working dogs.

"As a young boy, I was pret-



Kim McDarison

John Meeks, executive director of The United States War Dogs Association Chapter 3 based in Kokomo, Ind., and his dog, "Brutus," a retired patrol, explosives and handler-protection dog, are recognized for their service. Meeks was a K-9 handler during the Vietnam War.

ty scared of German shepherds, but that all changed when my brother's family welcomed a young pup," Werneth recalled.

The dog was named "Ellie," and when his brother traveled, he cared for the dog.

"I fell in love with that dog. I now have a passion for the breed that continues today," Werneth said.

A second influence was a book, titled "Always Faithful" by Dr. William Putney.

In it, he said, a young Marine and K-9 handler was partnered with a Doberman named "Big Boy." One night in 1944, as Big Boy and his handler waited in a foxhole during the World War II Battle of Guam, Big Boy alerted several times ... to waves of Japanese defenders launching a suicide attack, Werneth said.

"That night, ... Big Boy saved the lives of countless fellow Marines," he said.

After reading the story, Werneth said, he was so moved that he vowed to meet World War II K-9 handlers. Remarkably, he located the young Marine in the story and they became friends.

Werneth said the handler told him that even after 70 years, hardly a day goes by that he didn't think of Big Boy.

Thus, his next writing project involves working dogs.

"I've been interested



Kim McDarison

War Dogs Milwaukee members Michelle Lubinske and "Piper," an airedale terrier, receive recognition at Sunday's K-9 Veterans Day observance in Fort Atkinson. Piper serves as an example of the types of dogs that are used in military service.



Kim McDarison

Gary Wolfram, Fort Atkinson resident, military veteran and high school friend of local war hero "Terry" Beck, at right, and Kennel Club of Fort Atkinson treasurer and 6th Annual K-9 Veterans Day celebration master of ceremonies Mabel Schumacher place a wreath on a statue of "Carbon," a working dog used as a model by sculptor Mark Dziewior.



Kim McDarison

Ready to enjoy Sunday's program are War Dogs Milwaukee members, from left: Don Stein and German shepherd "Maizie," Carol Singer and English lab "Max," and Claudia Engel and "Sadie," a Jack Russell mix prepare.

now in working dogs and I especially love our Vietnam veterans," Werneth said. "I think a lot of people maybe misunderstand who they are and their service. It's important to me to document those stories before they are lost."

In his introduction, Witt noted that Werneth has been interviewing Vietnam dog handlers for more than the past 10 years, adding that his

next book will be developed from oral and photographic histories of the last survivors.

He also spent some time learning more about Fort Atkinson's Lance Corporal Beck, he said, and hopes to include his story in the book.

Werneth also has made it "his personal mission to record and preserve the stories of World War II veterans, from all sides of the conflict,"

Witt said, noting a two-decade journey that included living several years in Japan, where he interviewed some of the last surviving Japanese World War II Navy pilots and aircraft mechanics.

"It was the first time for many to share their stories with English language readers," Witt said.

In 2008, Werneth published "Beyond Pearl Harbor: The Untold Stories of Japan's Navel Airmen," which,

Witt said, was considered a groundbreaking book on World War II aviation. Then in 2019, he published "Fall of the Japanese Empire: Memories of the Air War 1942-45," compiling the narratives from the survivors of the Pacific war.

Werneth is a regular contributor to aviation journals worldwide, and more recently to the Smithsonian Channel, Witt said.

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Five UW campuses phasing out coal

MADISON (AP) — Five University of Wisconsin campuses are phasing out coal as a heat source this year and will transition to using a combination of natural gas and heating oil.

In June, the UW System will end its statewide contract to provide coal for campuses. Stout, Oshkosh, Platteville, Stevens Point and Superior campuses have upgraded their remaining coal-fired boilers to run mainly on natural gas with a fuel oil backup.

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