



NEWS GRAPHIC

OZAUKEE COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1883

Champion Bulldogs

Cedarburg girls basketball team tops Plymouth to win the Niki Doedens Holiday Tournament.

▶ Page B1

Support for Kaiden

Local residents hold a holiday party to benefit 11-year-old cancer patient Kaiden Schmidt.

▶ Page B8



Suspect sought in Mequon bank heist

Associated Bank branch robbed on New Year's Eve

By Gary Achterberg
News Graphic Staff

Mequon — Police are looking for a man who robbed a bank on Mequon's far southeast side on New Year's Eve afternoon.

Police responded to an armed robbery at Associated Bank, 10509 N. Port Washington Road, at 12:51 p.m. Monday. It was the third bank robbery in Mequon during 2012.

Mequon Police Chief Steve Graff said a man walked into the bank wearing a black mask with the eyes cut out. He displayed a handgun and demanded money from a teller. He ran south from the bank with an undisclosed amount of cash. No accomplice was observed.

"The suspect left several items of evidence at the scene and along his route as he fled to the city of Milwaukee," Mequon police said in a news release.

Glendale police spotted the

See BANK, Page A8



News Graphic Facebook Question of the Week:

Friday's Question: In the wake of the tragic Newtown, Conn., school shooting, do you think that security is tight enough at our local schools?

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More photos

For more color photos from this week's Ozaukee County events, check out our Web site, www.gmtoday.com



Help needed in search for missing man



Steinbrecker

Cedar Creek area residents asked to search their property

By Gary Achterberg
News Graphic Staff

Cedarburg — Sheriff's deputies Wednesday asked for help from residents who live along Cedar Creek as they con-

tinue searching for a man who was last seen on the ice in downtown Cedarburg at about 2 a.m. Thursday.

Robert E. Steinbrecker, 24, was last seen when he left running north on Cedar Creek

just north of Bridge Road. He ran off from two friends. They had left a local tavern a short time before.

The young man, who was back in Cedarburg for the holidays, now lives in the Portland, Ore., area, said Lt. Rod Galbraith, an Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department detective. He added that there

is no indication that there was any type of argument or fight before Steinbrecker ran off.

The young man's parents, who live in the vicinity of Cedar Creek Parkway in the town of Cedarburg, reported him missing at 11:51 a.m. Friday.

"There is a lot of private

See MISSING, Page A8

Winter wipeout



Photos by Mark Justesen



What started out as an exciting ride down a hill at Centennial Park in Cedarburg on Sunday, ended up as a tumble in the snow for four Cedarburg girls. The girls are, above from left, Avery Kunz, Ellie Rottier, Josslyne Kunz and Olivia Rottier.

Faithful in the face of lung cancer

Grafton man offers testimony of faith in the healing process

By Steve Schuster
News Graphic Staff

Grafton — It was a crisp October morning in 2011 when Grafton resident Rick Wolff received news that would forever strengthen his faith.

On that day, Wolff learned that it wasn't just his kidney stones causing the pain in his chest, he had stage III lung cancer, which ultimately resulted in a trilecta of treatment including chemotherapy, radiation and even the surgical removal of part of his left lung.

"Initially, I went through a roller coaster of emotions, shock, depression, frustration, fear and anger," Wolff said. The emotions,

including the fear, didn't last long. The reason? His faith and God's love, he said.

"It deepened my faith and appreciation. Everyone is going to have trials. But the question is how you are going to deal with it. I had to give it up to God," Wolff said.

Some say Wolff was lucky because when he turned to Columbia St. Mary's for an x-ray of his kidneys the x-ray was positioned too high and captured a glimpse of his left lung, revealing a tumor early enough so that it could be treated.

But Wolff said it wasn't luck. "I didn't luck out. It was God's plan ... God healed me. The doctors know it. I know it," he said.

Wolff said he has been active with Cornerstone Church in Grafton for many years and during his battle with cancer, that was no exception. Pastor Joe

See FAITH, Page A2

Ted Egelhoff set a real civic-minded example

By Gary Achterberg and Lisa Curtis
News Graphic Staff

Mequon — Ted Egelhoff was involved in community service in one way or another over the decades after he returned to his hometown after serving as a Marine during World War II.

He was a Mequon alder-

man shortly after the growing town became a city. He also served 33 years on what ultimately became the Mequon-Thiensville School Board and he served 27 years as a member of the Ozaukee County Board.

He also was the owner and operator of Egelhoff Tree Service with his brother, David, from 1945 until



Submitted photo

Ted Egelhoff lived in Mequon since the 1920s and for many years he operated Egelhoff Tree Service with his brother, David.

2005. He was a lifelong member and very active in what in later years was Lumen

Christi Catholic Church. He

See EGELHOFF, Page A2

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Faith: Wolff hopes to reach out to others with cancer

Continued from Page A1

Stillone said Wolff shared his faith with the congregation and it was not in vain.

"Our trials can either be wasted, resulting in nothing of value, or the challenges can transform us, if we see God's hand in it," Stillone said, and Wolff did just that.

Wolff's wife, Cathy, shares in his faith.

"I don't know how people get through this without God; that's really the hope we hold on to. We kept saying no matter what happened, I never really felt like we were ever alone," she said.

Cathy Wolff, like her husband, was also surprised when she first learned her husband had cancer.

"I was shocked. I couldn't believe it," she said. "He's very physically fit, he has never smoked and doesn't drink," Cathy Wolff added.

Rick Wolff placed great emphasis on physical fitness and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. He is an avid cyclist who loves the outdoors. This past September, Wolff successfully competed in a 16-mile Chequamegon Mountain Bike Race. It was only months earlier, in February, when he first learned about the race in the midst of his treatments.

"I don't know how people get through this without God, that's really the hope we hold on to."

— Cathy Wolff, wife of cancer survivor Rick Wolff

According to hospital officials, he received a great deal of support about the race from his attending physicians. His surgeon, in fact, took the race poster and hung it on his office wall, where it served as a daily reminder of his hope, courage and spirit, Kathleen Schmitz, chief communications officer with Columbia St. Mary's Health System, said.

Wolff began his career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at the age of 16, where he performed odd jobs. He worked as a park ranger; then worked his way up the ranks to become a game warden for Ozaukee County, before retiring after 30 years of service.

"I really like Ozaukee County; there are a lot of great people here," he said.

Wolff has hopefully completed his last chemotherapy and radiation treatments and now wants to give back to the community. Nearly on the one-year anniversary of his cancer diagnosis, Wolff spoke at a black tie gala event at the Milwaukee Country Club on Oct. 13. The event was sponsored by the Columbia St. Mary's Foundation, through which philanthropic gifts help support its cancer services program.

"These gifts (donations) can really make a difference," said Cristina Crogan, director of donor relations. According to Crogan, Wolff spoke for several minutes at the fundraiser, alongside some of his attending physicians.

"Within five minutes, we received \$65,000 in donations," Crogan said. And the entire evening brought in around \$275,000.

Wolff said he wants to continue helping others battling cancer.

"I just want to reach out to people who are going through what I did. There are a lot of people hurting out there and I'm more than happy to pray with people; that's what I want to do," he said.

Wolff may be contacted via email at rickwolff@myway.com.

Contact Steve Schuster at sschuster@conleynet.com or via Twitter www.twitter.com/stevenschuster



Submitted photo

Cancer survivor Rick Wolff is an avid bike racer.

Egelhoff: Couple instrumental in establishing AFS at Homestead High School

Continued from Page A1

was also an active longtime member of the Thiensville-Mequon Rotary Club.

Egelhoff died in Mequon on Christmas Eve. He was 91.

Karl Hertz, who served as Mequon-Thiensville school superintendent from 1984 to 2006 and also briefly sat alongside Egelhoff on the county board, said Egelhoff's deep ties to the community were very valuable to the school district.

"He brought a particular dimension to the school board. He had that wonderful contact with the community's longtime members because he had lived here since he was about 6," Hertz said. "He had a business in the community, he was a member of St. Cecilia's (later Lumen Christi) and he was on one of the little elementary school boards before consolidation.

"He had all of those contacts and those were incredibly valuable on some occasions for having him on the school board," Hertz added.

Egelhoff played a key role in the formation of Homestead High School. He was interviewed by Kelly Umhoefer for an article, "The Birth of Homestead High School," as part of historical materials compiled for the high school's 50th anniversary celebration.

In the article, Egelhoff said that the idea for building the high school was sparked by the amount of money being spent both on transportation and tuition to send students to nearby high schools, in Cedarburg, Grafton, Whitefish Bay and, later, Nicolet.

"Anybody who had kids in school wanted a high school," he said. "A lot of people from Thiensville and the Freistadt area backed the idea. The city did not accept the idea the first time around, but the citizens tried to get a high school three times and it was turned down."

The school eventually was approved through a referendum and a high school board of education was formed. "I was one of the first ones on the committee working to create this and get a high school built," Egelhoff wrote.

Egelhoff and his wife, Jayne, also were instrumental in getting the AFS foreign exchange program integrated into the new high school. That program remains vibrant to this day. Homestead currently has four AFS students and another foreign exchange student sponsored by the Rotary.

Another one of Egelhoff's key accomplishments with the schools was keeping pace with rapid growth in the late 1980s and early 1990s when Mequon was building a couple hundred homes a year, Hertz said.

"The school district needed more space and Ted was always enthused about providing for the children," Hertz said. "He was very thoughtful about money and he didn't

want to spend money that he didn't have to, but he always came down on the side of what was good for the kids."

He said the district added on to the four elementary schools it had at the time, as well as both middle schools. Additions at the high school would come later.

"Ted loved the idea that by adding to those buildings that we didn't have to hire more administrators," Hertz said. "We just got teachers for the children. He was very supportive of that and very helpful with the longtime members of the community."

In recognition of Egelhoff's many contributions to the schools, the conference room connected to the administrative offices at the high school is named for him.

Egelhoff also made a mark on the area through his decades of service as a county supervisor.

He served on the Ozaukee County Board for 27 years, representing District 24. He

was a longtime member of the parks commission – serving as chairman for many years – and had much to show for his efforts, those who knew him said.

Former Ozaukee County Park Commissioner Bill Knight said that during the planning stages for the Ozaukee Ice Center on Pioneer Road, he and Egelhoff attended nearly every weekly construction meeting.

"Ted was a big part of that," he said.

Egelhoff's brother, Lee, actually designed both of the county's golf courses, Knight said.

Egelhoff also played an active role in the construction of the current club house at Mee-Kwon Park and the Ozaukee Interurban Trail, putting to use his professional expertise as founder and president of Egelhoff Tree Service. On his Ozaukee County supervisor profile, Egelhoff listed his most important civic accomplish-

ments as being on the Justice Center Building Committee, the county parks and being a Lasata trustee.

Current Ozaukee County Highway Commissioner Bob Dreblow said it was Egelhoff who planted the seed for Dreblow's career with the county. While working as Cedarburg's city engineer in the late 1990s, Dreblow was walking back to city hall when Egelhoff drove by. He stopped and told him that former Commissioner Syl Weyker would be retiring.

"You ought to throw your hat in the ring," Dreblow remembers Egelhoff telling him.

Knight said Egelhoff was the consummate gentleman, who was always positive.

"He never had a bad word to say about anybody," Knight said.

(Gary Achterberg can be reached at gachterberg@conleynet.com. Lisa Curtis at lcurtis@conleynet.com.)

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