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DVM, Owner & Veterinarian



Sally Harper
DVM, Owner & Veterinarian



Anna Kern
DVM, MPH, MS



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Certified Vet Technician

Alisha
Certified Vet Technician

Megan
Certified Vet Technician

Vicki
Groomer

Katie
Client Relations

Jessica
Client Relations

Missy
Kennel Supervisor

Amber
Kennel Assistant

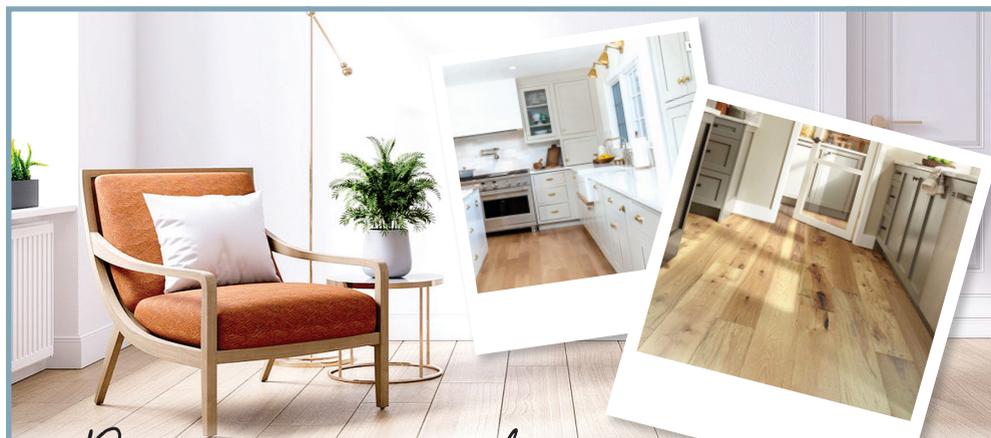
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When Katie Glass was growing up, she didn't really know what she wanted to do. She knew she wanted to be a mom, but as far as career paths, or where she wanted to live, she never had a clear answer on those.

She knew she wanted to give back to her community. She knew she wanted to work with people, and make things better, but the answer to the simple question 'how' seemed to elude her when she was young.

Currently the Director of Marketing, Recruitment, and Foundation Services at SW Tech, Katie said she couldn't have predicted she would be where she is now when she was young, but it is the perfect fit for her.

"My path to being in my current position was a windy road," Katie said.

Growing up, her family was very involved in programs and events. Her dad, who was an ag instructor before getting into banking, had the family go to a lot of the community events, often times volunteering at them.

"We went to everything," Katie shared, noting they went to things like the annual dairy breakfast, pancake breakfasts. "My husband jokes that I'm the first person there, the very last person to leave, but just the life of community service."

That volunteering her family was involved in rubbed off in a big way to Katie, and she noted the only way small towns will continue to grow and thrive, so a part of her life would need to have community involvement.

But how does that become part of your career? Katie went through switching her majors four different times when she was in college.

She was first a business major for her first semester, then shifted over to healthcare, went undeclared for a time before moving over to history, something she really has a passion for.

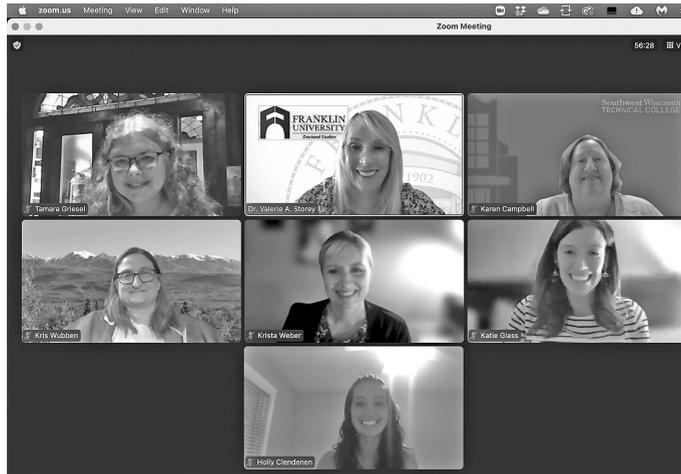
She went to major in education, thinking maybe she would become a history teacher. After job shadowing a teacher, however, she realized that was not going to fit her, yet.

So, in the end she double majored, social science and history, but when she graduated, she remained working at MaCandies

Katie Glass

Finding the right path for you

By David Timmerman



Just some of the facets of the life of Katie Glass, from a Zoom call with her fellow doctoral candidates, to volunteering at items like Brewfest, supporting causes, or spending time with her family.



Boutique for the next two years, where she also worked in high school and throughout college.

"Working is like my hobby," Katie said, joking that if people asked her what she would do with her time off, she would likely respond "go find a job."

She loved that job, helping women feel good about what they were wearing, but she knew she was never going to be a business owner, so she continued to look for what her path would be.

Eventually, she applied for and got a position as an event coordinator with UW-Platteville. It was a perfect fit for Katie - deep involvement in the community which also brought her close to working with people, and tapped

all that knowledge and muscle memory of setting up, operating, and taking down an event.

"It was just a big variety of stuff, and I loved that job," Katie said.

Still, she knew this was not the final destination on her path, so she next moved over to Southwest Health Center as the staff educator. It was during that stint that Katie realized education was her passion.

"I missed education," she said about being in that post.

So seven years ago, she moved over to SW Tech, where she has been ever since.

Being in her current job opened her eyes to sides of her she didn't know were there. For one,

how much she craved to learn. Katie admits she did okay in school growing up, but she was not like top of her class, and school work was not a big driving factor for her then.

But now? During that time, she went back to school and got her master's degree, and is currently working on her doctorate in educational leadership.

And remember how she didn't think teaching was right for her? Turns out, she needed to just find the right subject - she has taken on teaching courses for event planning and for non-profits.

"Non-profits are near and dear to me," Glass said. "They are the heartbeat of our communities."

Glass said one thing that she loves about her job is that, since it is being constantly evaluated to see what is doing for the five-county region the technical college serves, she gets to directly see the impact it is having on the community.

"My hairdresser is a graduate, the people that I interact with at the bank we are graduates, the nurses that take care of me and my children are graduates," she said of her own personal experiences to see the importance of her job.

Glass admits that since she had her children, she has pulled back from some of the volunteering that she was doing personally, but at the same time, she has been active and involved in many community items through her job.

As her children get older, Katie is already eyeing up reinvesting herself in other community projects and programs. One item that is a goal of hers is to service as a public official someday, thinking that she would like to run for some office like the Grant County Board at some point.

In the meantime, she and her family are constantly going to community events, and makes sure she is involved in her job in them, because she wants to make sure these community programs continue.

"Anything that is going on, I just want to be involved."

She noted helping those groups and projects is now as important as ever because they are struggling to find people to get involved. She sees that part of it is because people have busy lives, but also she believes there is a gap, that people are uncertain of what volunteering may entail for them, and that scares them off.

"If you are not getting involved because you don't know - ask."

She also said that when you go to an organization, be upfront with what you can commit, both in time and what you feel comfortable in doing.

"Be up front with what you are comfortable doing." She said go into an organization and tell

Glass | see Page 6

In Charge

All female leadership team oversees MHLC

By Adam Krebs

The staff at Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County thinks of itself as one big family, and has bred a culture to back up that claim. When Carlee Segebrecht was in the hiring process to become the hospital's new Chief Operating Officer, she did a background check of her own – and came to the same conclusion.

"I had researched the hospital before coming here," Segebrecht said. "One of the things that attracted me is the culture. I am a working mom – I have kids at home and my husband works full-time. Talking with Kathy and Deanna and hearing of the culture they've delivered really attracted me to working here."

Hired in late 2022, Segebrecht's official first day was Tuesday, Jan. 2. She was reassured almost right away that she made the right decision to join the hospital.

"Since starting, the talent and passion the doctors, the surgeons, the nurses, the support staff – everyone –

it's been really astounding. It's very impressive that you can find that in a rural community," Segebrecht said.

Time and time again, the administration talks glowingly of the "culture" and team effort from across the facility. From Kathy Kuepers, Chief Executive Officer, and the rest of the administrative staff, to the retention rate of quality doctors, nurses, and maintenance staff – the "culture" is what binds them all together.

"It is kind of a culture thing – being from the area, knowing the people in the area, they do develop a certain level of trust for what you bring to the table," Kuepers said. "That is very important in healthcare, because you need to trust the people that are providing the services for you – whether it's in administration, patient care, reaching out into the community; all of that. You need to trust that they are doing the best job."

Kuepers is always looking for strong, committed talent to join her staff, and

the hiring process is about getting the best workers available. For example, the current administrative staff is all from southwestern Wisconsin.

"When we focus on filling positions, we definitely do not focus on gender – we focus on talent and skill sets," Kuepers said.

Coincidentally, the MHLC administration is also all-female.

"To be honest, we don't think about it. Predominantly in healthcare, women fill the roles – except for administration. Probably somewhere between 15-19% of administrators are women, so we are definitely not the norm here," Kuepers said.

In fact, it's not the first time it's been an all-female administrative staff – it just works out that way sometimes, Kuepers said. "We happen to have attracted many talented women here that are doing an amazing job. Having said that, we are very, very fortunate. I think talent attracts talent, so when you start getting very talented people in these positions, it attracts other very talented people into your organization. While we don't focus on it, it still is pretty amazing to work this group of women."

Deanna Wright, Chief Clinical Officer, said that part of the reason of a high retention rate is the chance to climb up the ladder at the hospital.

"Most of us in administration worked our way up from within the facility, holding other roles and titles and worked their way through," Wright said.

Similar to Segebrecht, Addison Reilly is also somewhat new to MHLC. Reilly took over for Sue Paquette, who retired as the hospital's Community Outreach Director in early December 2022.

"It's been really great, and everyone has been really helpful. Even Sue, who retired from the position I was in, she's always willing to help out. I even saw her the other day and asked her a few questions," Reilly said. "It does help that I am local, that I grew up here in Lafayette County. I came in and knew most of the people."

Sally Blackbourn, Director of Nursing, said the staff takes pride in continuing the culture built inside the building over the years.

"That's one thing with our culture,

ABOVE - Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County is run by an all-female administrative staff: Sally Blackbourn, Director of Nursing; Deanna Wright, Chief Clinical Officer; Kathy Kuepers, Chief Executive Officer; Addison Reilly, Community Outreach Director; and Carlee Segebrecht, Chief Operating Officer.

They got game

Butler & Lauzinger lead by example

By Adam Krebs



Bailey Butler, currently a member of the UWGB Womens Basketball team, and graduate of Black Hawk High School.

The Black Hawk School District draws from five small villages in eastern Lafayette County and western Green. Currently, there are just 101 students in the high school, and that is a number that has steadily lowered over the past 15 years.

During that same time, the girls basketball program rose to prominence, not just in southwest Wisconsin, but across the entire state.

When Michael Flanagan took over as head coach in 2006, the program had been struggling to finish above the middle of the conference in win-loss record. His brand of basically not only helped change that, but the athletes themselves took the bull by the horns.

Since that time, Black Hawk – home of the Warriors – has seen a bevy of athletes come through the ranks. Three players went on to play NCAA Division I college basketball, with two of those athletes, Bailey Butler and Natalie Leuzinger, still playing. The pair helped bring home the first gold ball in program history in 2019, and finished No. 1 and 2 in career scoring at the high school.

“The teaching part of the game is what it is all about. Regardless of success, at the end of the day, I love teaching the game,” Flanagan said in 2021 when he announced he was stepping down as head coach. He finished with over 300 wins and seven trips to state in 15 seasons. “I always said that I was done, I wanted people to say that we made our kids better. Whether it’s Bailey Butler or a role player – we wanted to take those kids and help them reach their ceiling.”

Butler and Leuzinger went to state together three years in a row, from 2018-2020. They lost in the title game in 2018, won in 2019, then had the 2020 tournament canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Leuzinger graduated in 2020, and Butler came back for one more hurrah in South Wayne, leading Black Hawk back to the state tournament for a fourth straight year.

Butler, a sophomore with the UW-Green Bay Phoenix, was both the Freshman of the Year and Sixth Player of the Year in the Hori-

zon League last season. The results came just one year after being named the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association’s Miss Basketball as a high school senior – the first Black Hawk athlete to receive such an honor. In her senior season of high school, she averaged 28.3 points, 8.2 rebounds, 7.9 assists and 6.2 steals per game. She shot 43.6% from beyond the arc and recorded a rare quadruple double.

This season with the Phoenix, she’s been in the starting lineup every game, and has averaged 7.3 points per contest, as well as 3.2 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 0.9 steals. She’s hit 29.3% of her 3-pointers and a whopping 89.2% of her free throws. As of Jan. 16, Green Bay is 14-3 overall and tied at the top of the Horizon League standings at 7-1.

“I feel like we started the season a little bit up and down, but we’ve been playing well lately and have gotten better as the season has went along,” Butler said. She said her mindset changed a bit coming into this season as well.

Last year, she learned under the tutelage of Meghan Pingel, a sixth-year senior with a bunch of talent and leadership. Butler said she now has to take charge of the offense as a facilitator, and tries to keep her teammates balanced. She’s also worked on her defense a bunch, which has helped improve her game, all while being reminded of just how much harder college ball is to youth and high school sports.

“Everything is harder. Defense is a whole other world than high school,” Butler said.

Leuzinger’s path has been a little bit different post high school. She walked on at Wisconsin and battled on the scout team for two years. In the weeks before opening this season, she was surprised by her coaches with a full scholarship, commending her for her dedication, hard work and leadership. That drive continued into the season, and she’s seen her minutes climb as the weeks have gone on.

Game | see Page 13

An artist with fabric

"I've never considered myself an artist," said Sarah Strange, UW-Platteville senior lecturer and costume director., who is having her work from the past decade being spotlighted with an exhibit at the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery Jan. 27-Feb. 22.

"I'm a costume designer and it is my job to tell the story through the clothing. My language is fabric and color and texture, earrings and buckles and scarves. The costumes and sketches on display here span 10 years of my work but they represent a small fraction of the costumes that I have designed or created for the stage. However, these creations are not intended to be individual works of art. They're communication tools, a means to achieve an end. What you see here are pieces of a larger puzzle."

Her colleagues disagree about whether or not she is an artist.

Sarah is an amazing artist and designer," said Ann Farrelly, UW-Platteville professor of theatre and theatre program coordinator. "She transforms what she reads on the page into truly stunning creations on the stage. She is also an inspiring teacher and mentor. Our program, our students, this university and the Platteville community are so lucky to have Sarah here. I am thrilled for the community to see her work on display in this way. Each piece is a work of art."

Strange is in her 10th year as the costume director and senior lecturer at UW-Platteville. She teaches courses in design, stage makeup, textiles, costume technology and introduction to theatre. She has a Master of Fine Arts in costume design from UW-Madison and a Bachelor of Science in theatre design and technology from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. She



has designed for many theatre companies across the country including The American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Va.; Endstation Theatre Company in Sweet Briar, Va.; Children's Theatre of Madison; and Echo Theatre and The Orange Girls Theatre Company in St. Louis.

"Costume design and production is a multi-faceted endeavor, one that takes a variety of skills and a breadth of knowledge that spans fashion history, psychology, dramatic literature, pop culture, anthropology, geometry, textiles, illustration and sculpture," said Strange. "Costume designers are investigators. We intensely study the script, the historical context of the play, the playwright, the socioeconomic background of the characters, their cultural backgrounds and modes of dress, and the aesthetic that will best serve the telling of the story."

For every Pioneer Players production, she either designs or mentors a student designer, while also serving as the costume studio director, patterning, constructing, sourcing and modifying every costume that lands on stage along with a small team of student assistants.



Glass

from Page 3

them the parameters you can do - everyone doing a little bit, and doing it with passion, is better than either joining and just sleep-walking through, or getting overwhelmed with so much that you either burn out or quit.

Katie shared one of the programs she has been involved with, the Potosi Brewery Foundation. "I joined thinking 'this is going to be fun.'"

While she loves the work, Glass also noted that events like Brewfest, that is about working all day at that event, cleaning up things and catering to the patrons and vendors, not just hanging out and sampling food and beverage. Because she had a passion for fundraising, making changes of the annual event to increase the level of fundraising was the accomplishment for her.

One of her biggest passions is working with the Schreiner Memorial Library. She got on to help just as the building project was wrapping up, and she could see those who worked on it had given their all to make it happen.

"It takes people being committed and seeing it through, start to finish," she said.

It also takes a new generation to pick up and keep things going.

Beyond being involved with groups, Glass attempts to find ways to help others more personally. During the pandemic she joined an online group started by Laurie Meighan called Helping Hands, where

people reached out to find ways to help one another. People could ask for help, and others offered it willingly, no questions asked.

Glass also tries to do at least one quiet act of kindness every day. It can be as small as bringing someone a coffee or other beverage, giving a ride to a person they see at a store, or checking in to see what is needed by a family being helped by Family Promise.

"The impact that has is larger sometimes than serving on something," Katie shared.

She and her husband also set up a scholarship fund at SW Tech to help the next generation of students.

Katie reflected that people change in each stage in their lives, in what they are involved in, and what they want to do. She noted that her family, from her parents to her husband, have been supportive in whatever she did, or changes she made to get where she is now.

And that support is important, as making changes sometimes can be scary and tough. She noted that her husband, Dan, had invested years working to become a lawyer, as well as money in tuition, but at one point, he wanted to do something different.

So he moved to banking, and Katie noted how proud he was able to find a path, as he gets to help people as they are starting out their lives with financing things like buying a home.

In the end, you need to find something that drives you.

"Like my husband says, we cannot be involved in everything, but we show up."

January 2023
Page 6 **She**

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She

Page 7



Heather Bogardus

Open opportunities

By Steve Prestegard

Heather Bogardus may be in a group of one among Southwest Wisconsin women.

Bogardus works for Ingersoll Plumbing & Heating in Platteville in plumbing and HVAC work.

Bogardus has been working in plumbing and HVAC for three years. She started working at Ingersoll for three years.

"I did a little bit of work for my old boss, who had rental properties — I did some maintenance and stuff," she said. "I started in the office for Ingersoll's and I just wasn't really an office person, so I asked my boss if I could start working out in the field doing the plumbing and heating, and so I gave it a try and I really liked it.

"I like doing hands-on work. I grew up on a dairy farm, I've always been outside doing stuff, and it just really appeals to me. It's definitely labor-intensive, hard work."

On one mid-January day Bogardus was installing ductwork for the HVAC system at the new Clarity Clinic location on

South Water Street in Platteville.

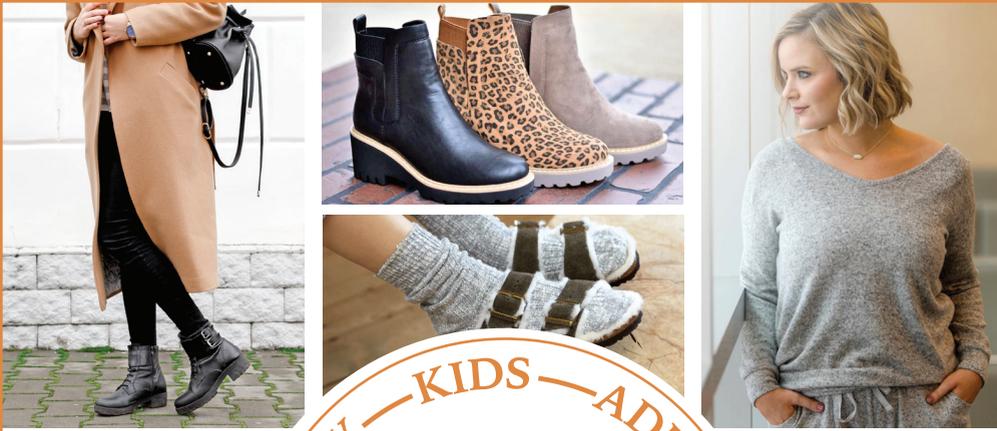
"Most of the time I'm doing service calls, so I'm fixing furnaces, fixing leaks, installing furnaces, air conditioners," she said. "I'm at different places every day; I'm not usually at the same job day after day. We're definitely busier during the winter and hot days in the summer."

Ingersoll trained Bogardus — "I've just basically been working with the guys and learning everything in the field."

She is a UW-Platteville graduate in dairy science and animal nutrition. "My plan was to dairy farm or do something in that field, but this kind of came across to me."

She and her husband Jimmy, who live near Potosi, also have rental houses in Platteville. "I mainly do all the plumbing and heating myself. It's definitely a benefit."

"For other women out there, don't be afraid to go into this kind of field," she said. "There's definitely a need for workers."



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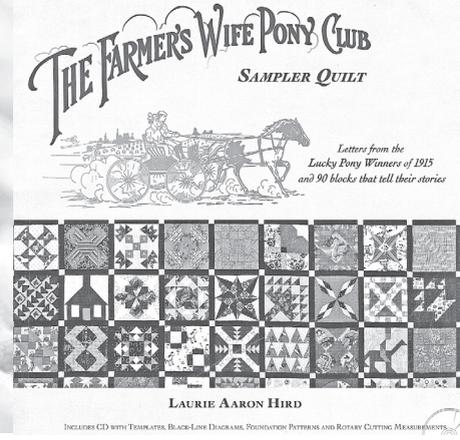
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Inspired to take on a writing project while recovering from an injury, one former Shullsburg-area resident is now the author of five published books that are keeping history and old-fashioned quilting practices alive.

Laurie Aaron Hird, mother of 11 children, started her writing career while she was raising and homeschooling her kids.

Hird, a native of Los Angeles, joined the Navy out of high school. It was while serving the U.S. at a time when women weren't allowed to work on the Naval ships that she met her husband – a Dubuque native and fellow member of the military, she said.

After they got married and she found out she was expecting her first child, she retired from the service and became a parent who would also eventually take on the title of author.

Her road to publication began when Hird was temporarily in a boot after she hurt her foot, she said, and she needed something to keep her occupied. She prayed for something to do.

One day, her prayers were answered in the unexpected form of a sampler quilt book. It paired historic, Civil War-era let-

ters with information about quilts that tied into the letters' content.

Hird loved the concept, so she started putting together another way to bridge history with quilting. The thread that she found to stitch them together: Letters from a 1922 contest in which respondents commented on whether they would want their daughters to marry farmers.

The general format for her book presents a letter alongside a quilting block – a segment of a quilt – that corresponds to the letter in some way.

Each quilting block has a name, says Hird, so she chose to match quilting blocks with letters based on how the names of the quilting blocks lined up with an element of each letter – such as the author's name, where they were from, or the content of their letter.

Laurie Aaron Hird

Keeping traditions alive

By Elyssa Vondra

Throughout her books, she highlighted over 500 quilt blocks and tried not to reuse any of them throughout her publications, she said.

Another of her books matches passages from the Bible with quilting blocks, and her favorite of the books that she's written features letters from kids who won ponies after subscribing to a magazine. The magazine gave away around 500 ponies, said Hird, and the letters were thank-you notes with photos from the kids who received them.

The letters are “a great glimpse into life in America” from that period, said

Hird. It's likely one of few historic archives where kids were able to have a voice about what life was really like for them back in the early 1900s.

One letter that Hird found particularly moving was from a child whose mom had passed away, and in his letter thanking the magazine for the pony he had won, he said how meaningful the award was to him. Hird commented that she found it touching that he noted in it that every time he rode the horse he thought of his mother.

In general, the letters “have so much to teach us,” and offer voices of real people with great attitudes who are full of encouragement, said Hird. “They have such helpful advice for people.”

Bringing them together with quilting techniques that Hird herself uses in place of modern sewing machine-era practices has allowed her to do something that she is passionate about.

“I like to keep the old things alive,” said Hird, and with her books she does just that.

TOP RIGHT - Laurie Aaron Hird, a published author of five books and former Shullsburg area resident.

BELOW RIGHT - The Farmer's Wife Pony Club, one of her more popular books.

Darlene Masters got into her work helping domestic violence victims for personal reasons.

"I'm a survivor myself," said the executive director of Family Advocates, Inc., in Platteville. "I'm a survivor of teen dating violence and sexual assault, and I knew that I wanted to help people. So as a survivor myself it made me interested in working with this population."

"It's also a very vulnerable population; it pulls on my heartstrings for lots of reasons. I also have a history in my family of domestic violence and sexual assault prior to my parents. My mom grew up in a home where domestic violence and sexual assault were prevalent, which I didn't learn until after her death. I think she tried to protect me, and I didn't grow up in a house like that."

The need for more space for the organization and its clients is prompting a move to a \$3 million facility near Southwest Health in Platteville to replace its current shelter, the former St. Mary Catholic Church convent, since the early 1980s.

"We want to serve people better," said Masters, "to have it all on one floor, so that everything's accessible for everyone, and to be able to have a space where people can actually be by themselves, and more space in the dining room, more space in the living room, more space outside."

The new 13,000-square-foot building will have 10 bedrooms, up from the current seven, designed like hotels with adjoining rooms so that large families can stay in more than one room.

Masters has worked for Family Advocates since 2006. She was the director from 2012 and 2016, left for a year and returned in 2017.

"Most people think we're just a shel-

Shelter from the storm

Family Advocates provides services for women in need

By Steve Prestegard

ter," she said. "We also provide support groups, one-on-one counseling, medical counseling, legal counseling, criminal justice counseling. When we get calls at 2 a.m., we're the ones responding."

"We will go sit with somebody at a court hearing all the way through the criminal justice process. We help with divorces; child custody cases. We help with restraining orders. We can't give legal advice, but we can help people through the legal process."

The organization provides such services as clothing for sexual assault victims. "Somebody's been sexually assaulted and they go to the hospital, they're collecting their clothing for evidence," she said. "It used to be hospitals would send them home in hospital clothing. We provide them a brand-new outfit for them to walk out with some dignity."

"We do a lot of prevention and awareness education — we do a lot of education on abuse, on human trafficking — human trafficking is happening in every county."

Prevention to Masters involves "we need to teach our boys proper respect. We put a lot of onus on girls to, you

know, don't walk late at night, hold your keys between your fingers, always travel in groups. That's well and good, but we need to be talking to boys more about how to treat their partners, how to treat their parents, how to treat their siblings, how to not hurt other individuals with their words or their bodies."

While "abuse doesn't discriminate; it's across all socioeconomic classes, all sexual orientations, all walks of life, all cultures," Masters said, "of course there's going to be people that are more vulnerable — people that grew up in a home where domestic violence was present, for instance, or have been sexually assaulted. People with disabilities are at a higher risk. The LGBTQ+ community is at a higher risk — a lot of times it's their partners threatening to out them because nobody else knows that you're gay. So there's definitely vulnerable populations, but the number one thing to know is that it does touch everybody."

"Mostly who we see in shelter is people with socioeconomic disadvantages because they don't have the money to get on a bus, to get on a train, to get on a plane. A lot of times they've been

isolated — they've been brought here and started a life here and then the abuse happens and they have no money to get back home, wherever that might be.

"The thing that's always said is why do they stay in abusive relationships? There's lots of reasons why they stay — money, fear, children, animals, the list goes on; shame, blame, guilt. Instead of saying why do they abuse we're always looking at the victim — why do they stay?"

Unlike some organizations serving domestic violence victims, Family Advocates publicizes the location of its facility because, Masters said, "we don't want victims to have to hide in shame and guilt value there's a lot of self-guilt and self-blame for their circumstances. We want them to feel safe, but we want them to know that it's OK to talk about it; we want the community to know that it's OK to talk about it."

The organization serves almost 400 people each year, with 80 to 90 adults and children in their shelter on North Court Street in Platteville over a year. In the middle of January the shelter had seven adults and 10 children, with a waiting list of four families or individuals, down from 14 people and families late in 2022.

Family Advocates' clientele is "predominantly female," though "the number of males that we are serving either in-house or as a non-residential client has increased over the years."

Family Advocates has an office in Dodgeville to serve Iowa County. The organization also serves Lafayette County.

"A lot of times we'll hear 'he never hit me before,'" she said. "A lot of the victims that we see have never been

Shelter | see Page 14





Natalie Neuzinger took what she learned at Black Hawk High School and is using it playing for UW-Madison.

Game

from Page 5

She played just 87 total minutes in her freshman and sophomore campaigns, but now as a junior, she's averaging 10.9 minutes a night through 13 games. That number itself is skewed, as her first six appearances on the season were just 5 minutes or less. Since that time she's played in 11 or more minutes in 6 of 7 games, and has eclipsed 22 minutes three times. Wisconsin is 6-12 overall, and just 2-5 in the Big Ten as of Jan. 16.

"We've had a couple of games slip away from us this season," Leuzinger said.

She's averaging just 1.9 points per game, but her position on the team isn't about scoring, it's filling in where needed and locking down on defense.

"We've had injuries, and with Syd (Hilliard) leaving, it's opened up some more minutes for me," Leuzinger said. At 5-8, she's a bit undersized to play forward in the Big Ten. However, in high school she played a lot of the 4 and 5 positions on the

floor, because her team itself was undersized. That experience gave her a clearer path to increased minutes. "I've been working really hard in practice, watching film and working with my coaches to learn the position."

She's also found a knack for making a big play in a key moment. Against UW-Green Bay in December, she connected on a late 3-pointer to keep the Badgers within striking distance in a 70-60 loss. In January, she blocked a late 3-point attempt in a tight win over Minnesota, and days later hit a pair of free throws in overtime in a win over Michigan State.

"To know that I have the confidence and trust of my coaches and teammates does a lot for me," Leuzinger said. "I still treat every practice and every game like I am a walk-on. I give it 100% every day. That's what got me here and I'm not going to stop that now."

On Dec. 14, the former teammates clashed on the court, as Leuzinger's Wisconsin and Butler's UWGB faced off against one another. Green Bay won 70-60, but the game was tight throughout.

"I feel like a lot of emotions came back for that game. All the work we put in together when we were younger, the runs to state," Butler said.

Leuzinger saw a career-high in minutes that day, playing 26 minutes and guarding her former teammate on defense. Leuzinger finished with five points, which included a big 3-pointer late in the second half to keep the Badgers within striking distance. Butler scored 15 points and was a perfect 11-for-11 from the free throw line.

"It was pretty cool to see two kids from a small high school get to play in a game like that," Leuzinger said.

In high school, both players were more than just star hoopsters. They shared the field together on the softball diamond, and Butler was the conference player of the year in volleyball her senior season, as well as a state-qualifier in track and field.

They were inspired to be athletes from a young age as well. Both had older siblings they looked up to who played sports, and adding fuel to the fire was another Black Hawk grad: Jen Wellnitz.

Play | see Page 14

Leaders

from Page 4

is we have a great retention of our staff, and they are very proud to work here. They stay here," Blackburn said.

It's also the goal of the staff to continue that culture to the long-awaited new hospital building.

"They are putting their heart and soul into the new replacement facility. They want it to be good for both the staff and the community members," Blackburn said.

The new facility will cost more than \$50 million, and Kuepers said everyone is hopefully to break ground this spring, and hopefully move everything in to the new hospital over the course of just a couple of days in the Fall of 2024.

"We are really hoping to break ground in April. We are praying that Mother Nature really is on our side – that will really be the determining factor," Kuepers said.

Bids are being finalized for electrical, plumbing and mechanical needs. The design and layout is being finalized

as well, with new equipment also being purchased.

Kuepers and the administrative staff also made it an inclusive endeavor for the entire staff, not only giving updates on the processes, but taking their own wants and desires into account.

"One of our goals was to really engage in our staff in this whole process – because it really is their hospital as well. It was really important to introduce it at every meeting to give them updates. They have been very engaged in the last few months with meetings, and deciding on equipment, and furniture and space – they have been very involved in designing their space and looking at it. We've really engaged them in the process and they are all-in and very excited," Kuepers said.

The new facility will also be bigger, and provide more services. Right now, MHLC has just one operating room in the emergency department, but that will bump up to two in the new facility. The incoming hospital will also have an MRI machine, something the current facility is without. With new equipment comes either new training, or

added staff, which the administration is pleased with.

"It's been an eye-opening journey and very exciting, and something to be proud of. I'm just so proud of our hospital and our community in general and what we've been able to accomplish in our small rural area. I think it just speaks volumes to our staff and everyone here of what we've accomplished. You don't accomplish it just by yourself – it takes the whole team. I think with the replacement facility, it's really going to reflect on our teamwork and just how much we lean on each other and how much we have to work together," Wright said.

Segebrecht, her husband and children enjoy living in the rolling hills of southwestern Wisconsin. She said her family likes the smaller, rural community aspect of life over the hustle and bustle of the city. However, a lot of times the people in smaller communities have no choice but to go to a hospital in the city to get proper care. She sees the new facility as a way to remedy that situation in Lafayette County.

"I am very excited to give a world

class facility to the talented individuals that work here. I live in the rural community, because it's where I want to raise my family, and it's nice to not have to drive to a metropolitan community to get those kinds of services. It's exciting for patients in the community, but I'm also excited for our talented staff and to hopefully give them those new facilities. Everyone here knows their stuff," Segebrecht said.

Current site of future sight, in the end, Kuepers said that she's proud of the hospital she helps run, the service MHLC provides, and especially the people inside that give it the personal, human touch.

"I think people that work here are very invested in the organization and everything it entails. I've been working here a lot of years in a lot of capacities, and something I just really believe is Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County is a great place to work: Great people, and a lot of talent," Kuepers said.

from Page 13

As a freshman in high school, Wellnitz burst onto the scene and helped lead the Warriors to the state tournament. She finished her career as the school's all-time leading scorer, and also went on to play at UWGB — allowing young players like Leuzinger and Butler to not only dream of playing DI someday, but setting it as a realistic goal.

"Jen was in my brother's class, so I was around her quite a bit growing up. I watched her play with the boys and never let down," Butler said. "I'm glad I could follow in her footsteps and go to Green Bay."

Wellnitz has since graduated from college and moved back to the area. She eventually got married (now known as Jen Krogman) and coaches Argyle's girls basketball team. Wellnitz said when she was growing up, she looked up to Black Hawk basketball player Kelly Holverson.

"I always aspired to be some kids' 'Kelly' one day, and it's extremely rewarding to know that I achieved that," Krogman said.

She added that inspiration has trickled down over the years.

"Bailey and Natalie are two great basketball players and even better people. My younger sisters were managers for those girls when they were playing high school basketball, and they were also so nice and loving

towards the girls. I love that so much because those two became their 'Kelly's.' I feel this is a big reason why Black Hawk girls basketball has been so successful — the high school girls make the younger girls feel really special and gets them interested in basketball and they strive to be as cool and successful as those older girls."

Wellnitz hurt her knee in her senior season at UW-Green Bay, but still received offers to play professionally overseas. However, her injury was not fixed by surgery, which ultimately ended her playing career. She moved back to southwest Wisconsin and began running basketball and workout camps for area youth before eventually taking over as head coach at Argyle in 2021. Under her wing, the Orioles won a regional final for the first time in program history.

"Coaching was something that I never thought I'd be very into ... I would much rather be playing than coaching, to be completely honest. When you're playing, you can take over the game in your own hands. As a coach, you are doing the same thing through teaching, however you can't physically be out there doing it yourself, which is the hardest part," she said. "Coaching has been a really rewarding experience. This season is challenging me mentally more than ever, but it's helping me grow as a coach and a person as well. I'm really grateful to still be a part of the game, even if it is from the sideline and not on the court playing."

from Page 12

physically harmed. It's all verbal. It's the put-downs, it's the constantly nagging at them, it's the financial abuse, it's the words that are being said in front of the children."

Masters isn't sure if domestic violence is increasing, but "I think that it's being reported more; I think more people are talking about it. Is there an increase? Quite possibly, but is it more so public awareness?"

"I also think that we're going to see an increase, and we have been seeing an increase, simply because of the times that we're living in. There's more financial burden on people. You have the increase in stress at home because of finances; you have the increase in stress because of the job market. You have the increase in stress just because it feels like ever since COVID people are arguing over stupid things. Society has changed, which means that people are changing."

Masters said the number of reported domestic violence incidents decreased during COVID, "but that's not really what was happening because it was hard for people to leave; it was hard for people to feel safe from a health standpoint, to go live in communal living with a bunch of people. Less people were moving out of shelters, which means we had a lot less rooms available, because people weren't able to find apartments" due to the landlord eviction moratorium.

"I would say it probably increased because now you're stuck at home with your abuser, or maybe somebody that wasn't abusive before, now you have all these extra stressors, and now abuse is entering into the relationship. All the children that are now at home with abusive parents or at home with all the stressors ... so I think that there was a large increase."

Masters also believes sexual assaults increased during COVID. "What was happening from our experience is that people were hooking up online and not telling anybody when a sexual assault would happen because of feeling guilty because you're supposed to be at home and not spreading germs," she said.

Almost 90 percent of Family Advo-

catees' funding comes from federal and state grants, with the rest from donations and grants from such organizations as the Platteville Community Fund or the Dubuque Racing Association. Family Advocates holds a fundraising event each summer and a raffle each year.

The organization has its shelter and two transitional houses, the latter for "people that come in and have no rental history, or have very poor rental history because of the abuse — whether it's because the bills weren't paid because of financial abuse, or because of domestic violence happening, or maybe they have felonies on their record for whatever reason. So it's kind of like a nice stepping-stone — they are temporary, two, three years tops."

"We help them with budgeting and figuring out how to make meals out of what's in your cupboards — life skills, and parenting — just trying to help people get their feet under them and be independent."

One of the discussion points during Platteville Common Council approval of the new building, which will become a tax-exempt property, was over the number of police calls to Family Advocates.

"We should be putting the blame on the perpetrator that's creating the violence," she said. "Victims should not be shamed or blamed because all of a sudden there's more violence, because they didn't ask for that. It's about the perpetrator being held accountable ... we are providing services to victims, and whenever there's a victim there's a perpetrator, and whenever there's a perpetrator there's going to be either violence or crime. I think it just goes hand in hand when you're providing victim services, you're going to have police involvement."

"Police call us on the reciprocal side of that, and we provide a lot of services for them. ... The whole point behind this is to make sure that we're doing a victim-centered approach. The police may not necessarily need us, but the victim needs us, and it makes the officer's job a lot easier."

The organization is looking for volunteers "to help with the kids especially; we have a lot of kids that need some mentoring ... to be a positive role model in kids' lives, especially males; male volunteers are fabulous."

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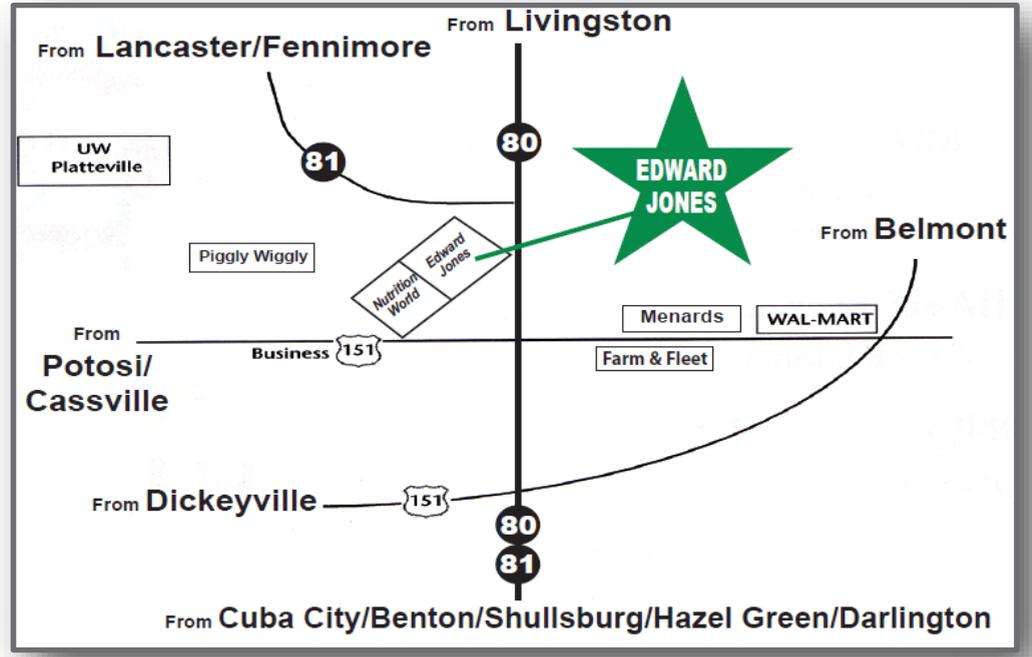
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