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WEEKEND EDITION



# The FREEMAN

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## CODING *for the* FUTURE

Kettle Moraine School District using coding to develop 21st century thinkers, workers



Submitted photos

Dousman Elementary students Santino Alexander (left) and Caleb Howden (right) share their coding and design thinking skills with parents and grandparents during the school's Epic Build event.

By Ashley Haynes  
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WALEN — Gone are the days of sitting in class and working on the same worksheet as everyone else. Nowadays, school districts are faced with the task of preparing students for the workforce of the future, while many future jobs have yet to be defined. The skills students learn now should make them adaptable to whatever job path they follow in the future. The Kettle Moraine School District believes that integrating coding into the everyday curriculum of students, from grade school on up, will mold them into the successful 21st century thinkers the future workforce will need them to be.

"They love the engagement, and they see it very much as something that is preparing them for the future," said Pat Deklotz, superintendent of KMSD. "I think it's important that we are addressing all of their needs."

The KMSD believes technology is part of everything we do and in today's digital world, computer science is a language everyone should speak. Last year, the district piloted the coding curriculum and now, design thinking and coding are incorporated into the K-6 classes through a partnership with Code To The Future. In the younger grades, students are learning block-based, text-based and robotics-coding while having it tied into their normal content plans.



Kettle Moraine School District students share their coding and design thinking skills with KM School Board members.

"It could be a mathematics expression or a game to demonstrate their knowledge of literature or the characters or that sort of thing," said Deklotz.

While students are learning the same skill set, personalized learning is still happening. There are different areas of interest within the category of computer

sciences, and varying degrees of difficulty.

"Personalized learning is our highest priority at KM and the very nature of computer science is that a student can learn a skill set and apply it in any way they choose," said Holly Myhre, director of digital learning. "They have a lot of voice and a lot of choice in what they choose to do with what they're learning."

She explained that KM is attempting to build a generation of students who think and design differently, but there are also some bigger picture life skills students get as a package deal when learning coding.

"The very nature of computer science is debugging and solving problems," said Myhre. "So, problem solving, critical thinking, persistence — is a huge one — collaboration and communication are all things they're learning."

At the high school, computer science has been around for years, but the program itself is evolving with each new group of students. Students participate in a pathways course, which gets to the heart of personalized learning. Different groups can spend time learning about their particular areas of interest within computer science, whether it be IT networking or web design, and then they can get an actual certification from industry partners like Cisco and Microsoft.

"We are not doing this to create 400 programmers every year," said Deklotz. "We are really trying to equip our students to be successful in a digital society, so regardless of the occupation, their need to understand design thinking and be comfortable with the tools of technology is extremely important to their success."

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### WAUKESHA

## Council to vote on Milwaukee water contract Tuesday

Closed-session discussion will precede vote in open meeting

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**SOUND OFF**

**What do you think?**  
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WAUKESHA — The Waukesha Water Utility's plan to obtain Great Lakes water will face its last test from a municipal body on Tuesday during a Waukesha Common Council meeting. Aldermen will start discussions in closed session while they meet with an attorney to go over the water contract between Milwaukee and Waukesha.

Residents can provide comments at the outset of the meeting before the 14 city aldermen vote on the deal, which has already gained approval from elected officials in Milwaukee. After meeting in closed session to review stipulations in the contract, aldermen can speak about it on public record before they vote.

Council members have met in closed session many times to discuss negotiations with Milwaukee Water Works after the group submitted an unsolicited proposal in May, but they have not yet discussed it publicly at a full

council meeting.

During Milwaukee's Common Council meeting on Nov. 28, that city's aldermen didn't discuss the contract at all before approving it 14 to 1.

Waukesha's Water Commission and Milwaukee's Steering and Licensing Committee both approved the contract unanimously.

The entire water diversion project is expected to cost \$286 million, about \$40 million less than if Waukesha had tapped Oak Creek. Waukesha Water Utility General Manager Dan Duchniak held a press conference in late October with Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly and Waukesha Common Council President Aaron Perry to announce the intent to purchase Lake Michigan water from Milwaukee.

See WATER, PAGE 5A

## Senate OKs tax bill as Trump, GOP near big legislative win

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans moved a nearly \$1.5 trillion tax bill through the Senate early today after a burst of eleventh-hour horse trading, as the party took a giant step toward giving President Donald Trump one of his top priorities by Christmas.

"Big bills are rarely popular. You remember how unpopular 'Obamacare' was when it passed?" Senate Majority Leader Mitch

McConnell, R-Ky., said in an interview, shrugging off polls showing scant public enthusiasm for the measure. He said the legislation would prove to be "just what the country needs to get growing again."

Presiding over the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence announced the 51-49 vote to applause from Republicans. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn.,

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### Fun Things To Do This Weekend

**Christmas at the Inn**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and Sunday, Hawks Inn Historical Society, 426 Wells St., Delafield. Watch fireplace cooking and rug hooking, taste hot drop donuts and popcorn. Free will donations appreciated. [www.hawksinn.org](http://www.hawksinn.org)

**A Little House Christmas at the Inn**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dousman Stagecoach Inn, 1075 Pilgrim Parkway, Brookfield. Tour the historic Stagecoach Inn decorated for a Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas. Scavenger hunt, bake sale, holiday music, make a holiday craft, sample homemade soup, muffins and cookies, visit with Santa (today only). Adults \$6, children 3-12 \$3 and 2 & under free. Cash/check only. Free parking on site. [www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.elmbrookhistoricalsociety.org)

**Oconomowoc Christmas parade**, starts 5 p.m. today at Fowler Park and goes south on Oakwood Avenue to the roundabout, then west on Wisconsin Avenue to the First Bank Financial Centre's parking lot. Food items collected for the food pantry.

**Waukesha Art Crawl**, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. today, downtown Waukesha. [www.waukeshaart.com/waukesha-art-crawl](http://www.waukeshaart.com/waukesha-art-crawl)

**Pewaukee Christmas tree lighting**, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. today, Clark House Museum, 206 E. Wisconsin Ave., Pewaukee. Hosted by Pewaukee Area Historical Society and sponsored by Pewaukee Kiwanis Club. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at 2:15 p.m. Take pictures with Santa (bring your own camera).

Santa's gift shop will be open for the little ones to purchase a \$2 gift for mom or dad, wrapping included or they can make a craft. Caroling from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and the tree will be lit at 5 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food for the food pantry. [www.pewaukeehistory.org](http://www.pewaukeehistory.org)

**Breakfast with Reindeer**, 8 a.m. to noon today, Delafield Fish Hatchery grounds, 417 Main St., downtown Delafield.

**Brookfield German Christmas Market**, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. today, Civic Plaza Center, 2000 N. Calhoun Road, Brookfield. Food, music, vendors, children's activities, hayrides, tree lighting.

### WEATHER



**Tomorrow:**  
Partly  
sunny  
**High 51**  
**Low 42**

See complete forecast on 8A



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**The Brooklyn**  
117 Sycamore Court  
Four Winds West, Hartland

I-94 W to WI-16. WI-16 to City Rd. KC/ City Rd. E (exit 183). Right on Marlon Ave. to Waukesha K. Left on K to City Hwy E. Right on E to subdivision entrance. Left on Sycamore Ct. to model.



**The Cambridge II**  
1613 Whistling Hill Circle  
Winthrop, Hartland

Hwy 16 to County Hwy KE (Jungbluth Rd.) then north to County Hwy K (Lisbon Rd.), east 1/4 mile to the Windrush entrance. South onto Windrush Boulevard. Left onto Whistling Hill Circle to model.



**The Dover III**  
W298 N3368 S. Imperial Drive  
Woodridge Estates, Delafield

I-94, exit Hwy. 83., north to W. North Shore Drive, east to Woodridge Estates. Right on Imperial Dr. to model.



**The Cambridge I-A**  
2274 N. Waterstone Circle  
Brightwater Estates, Summit

I-94 to Hwy. 67 (Summit Ave.). South on Hwy 67 to Delafield Rd. East on Delafield Rd. to N. Brightwater Blvd. South on N. Brightwater Blvd. to Waterstone Circle. West on Waterstone Circle to model.

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