

Lauderdale Lakes BREEZE

FALL 2024 • Fourth Edition

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Olympians represent area in sailing, wrestling

BY Jennifer Eisenbart • EDITOR

Every four years, the pageantry and competition of the Summer Olympic Games dominates headlines for two weeks.

While the big-name sports like swimming, track and field, and gymnastics tend to get a lot of attention, a pair of area athletes competed in different sports at the games.

Payton Jacobson, a standout wrestler for Elkhorn, qualified for the United States Greco-Roman team in the 87-kilogram weight class April 20. He lost his opening match at the games.

East Troy native Stephanie Roble, meanwhile, competed with partner Maggie Shea in the 49erFX class of sailing, making the finals and finishing 10th.

A first-time Olympian

Jacobson survived an exhausting trials process. As he wasn't one of the top-seeded athletes, Jacobson had to compete in the challenge round.

There, he beat a pair of wrestlers ranked ahead of him.

In the championship final, Jacobson upended the top-ranked U.S. wrestler, Spencer Woods.

"I really thought I had a chance, 100 percent," Jacobson said at the time. "It was just a matter of executing.

"The seed didn't matter at all," he added. "I wasn't worried about that."

Two times for Roble

Roble grew up sailing on Lake Beulah, sailing scows and dinghies starting at age 5.

A graduate of Catholic Central High School in Burlington, Roble competed internationally throughout her teenage years.

After a successful junior career, she attended Old Dominion University and was a two-time All-American. She was also one of the few women competing as a skipper in the open division.

After graduating in 2011, Roble focused on several different classes of sailing before settling in the 49erFX class with teammate Maggie Shea.

The 49erFX is named for its length – 4.99 meters – and is sailed by two people. The skipper sails the boat and makes decisions, while the crew works the sails and speed of the boat.

Roble and Shea have been together in the 49erFX class since the fall of 2016. They won the Olympic trials in February of 2020 before the Tokyo Games were postponed a year because of the pandemic, and then finished 11th in 2021 at the Olympics.

LaGrange won't rule on wake boats - yet

BY Jennifer Eisenbart • EDITOR

At an Aug. 12 meeting of the Town of LaGrange board, the entity declined to set rules for wake-enhanced boats on Lauderdale Lakes.

Frank Taylor, the town chairman, said that the town's attorney, John Macy, suggested that the science of how wake boats affect smaller, shallower lakes is still not settled.

"We had a discussion about it, talked about the pros and cons," Taylor said Tuesday after the meeting. "(The attorney) believes the state will eventually need to take a position on these."

Bill Schulte, a director with the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association, requested the item be put on the Town Board agenda for discussion. While the discussion was had, Taylor indicated that he wants to see the Lauderdale Lakes Management District take the lead.

"They're the governing body on the lake," Taylor said. "Until we get some direction from them, we're not going to take any action of our own."

Taylor added that, after a discussion with Macy, it was clear that ordinances differ from area to area, with a good deal of variation from lake to lake.

He indicated he did not want to put an ordinance in place that would end up being struck down.

"We're not going to draft an ordinance that won't be defensible in court," Taylor said.

Wake-enhanced boats – also known as wake surf boats – are



While wake-enhanced boats are popular for boaters, wake surfers and tubers, their use on smaller lakes continues to be debated.

JACK CRUGER *The Breeze*

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Adams adds to apprenticeship role in trades

BY Jennifer Eisenbart • EDITOR

Adams Power, a family owned and operated company in Elkhorn with more than 35 years of experience, is helping build the next generation of workers.

On July 11, the company held a signing event for 13 local

apprentices with Associated Builders and Contractors. Those 13 signed commitment contracts that day.

In attendance at the ceremony were the participants, their families, Adams team members, and local dignitaries.

"We are incredibly proud of these apprentices and their decision to take this step," said Jesse Adams, president of Adams.

"This commitment not only represents a bright future for these individuals, but also strengthens the skilled workforce in our

community. At Adams, we are dedicated to fostering local talent and supporting the next generation of tradespeople," he added.

The names of the 13 apprentices and their hometowns were not available by press deadline.

Gary Jensen, the recruiting and training manager at Adams Power, said that there is an "unprecedented number of licensed tradesmen and tradeswomen leaving the workforce every year."

"If this trend continues without proper action, it could lead to a severe issue with managing projects from residential to commercial and industrial," he added.

Jensen went on to say that recruitment to the trades professions has been slim in recent years.

The bright spot, though, is

increased interest from the next generation.

"We have found that the interest is there at our high schools, as well as young adults not far removed from high school," Jensen explained.

"It's amazing to see so many young men and women interested in the trades, and we (Adams) want to ensure this positive trend continues by staying involved in our community as well as participating in Youth Apprenticeship programs with our schools," he said.

On July 11, Adams inked 10 of those in person.

According to Jensen, this is the largest group Adams has had sign at one time.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Adams Power recently held a signing evening for numerous new apprentices in the journeyman electric trade. Ten of them are shown attending in person to sign on July 11.

PHOTO COURTESY ADAMS POWER *The Breeze*

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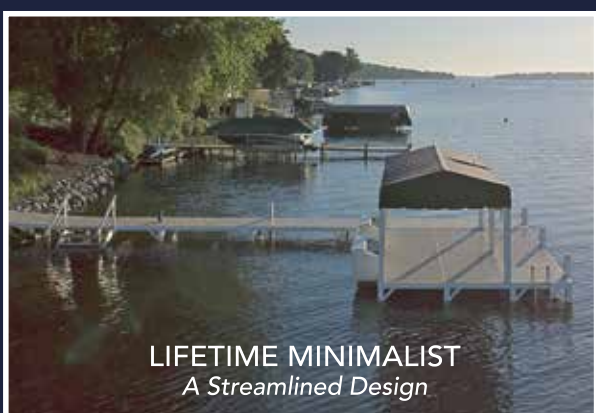
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● OBITUARY

PAUL PEARCE

Paul R. Pearce, age 95, proud U.S. Navy Veteran, of Western Springs, passed away on July 16, 2024.

Beloved husband of Beverly A. Pearce for a wonderful 64 years. Loving father of the late Elizabeth "Betsy" Pearce, Susan Pearce, and William (Steve Spencer) Pearce.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Dayton and Margaret Pearce and brother, Jack Pearce.

Paul was hired by the Quaker Oats Company in 1961 and retired in 1986, where he served as Vice President of Human Resources in the U.S. Grocery Products Division.

He was a graduate of Northwestern University and Northwestern School of Law, after serving his country as a Lieutenant in the US Navy.

Paul will be remembered for his kindness, generosity, and lifelong love of his lake-life and fishing.

Interment private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

Services by Hallowell & James Funeral Home, Countryside at 708-352-6500.



Court rules on Elkhorn transgender case

A federal court granted a preliminary injunction recently, saying a 13-year-old transgender student must be allowed access to the girls restrooms at Elkhorn Area Middle School when school resumes in September.

The situation regarding the transgender student has been brewing since earlier this year. Wardenski P.C. took on the case of the student, while a countersuit was filed to deny the student access.

Following the court ruling, Elkhorn Area School District Superintendent Jason Tadlock issued the following email to parents:

"Dear EASD Families, Bottom Line Up Front:

An injunction request to allow a middle school student, 'Jane Doe,' to utilize the bathroom with which they gender-identify has been granted by Judge J. P. Stadtmueller.

While we disagree with the preliminary ruling, we are required to follow it until it is reversed.

The injunction only grants the student access to the

bathrooms, not the locker room.

It is only applicable to the student named in the lawsuit.

We will put up privacy screens on all stalls in the girls' restrooms to cover cracks in the partitions and provide greater privacy for all students.

As always, any student wishing greater privacy may use the single-use unisex restrooms.

As always, we will continue to strive to meet the needs and well-being of ALL of our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly."

Recap of lawsuit

The student's family filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the school district, Tadlock, and EAMS Principal Ryan McBurney on March 21, challenging EASD's refusal to permit Jane to use the girls' restrooms as a violation of her civil rights under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United

States Constitution.

The lawsuit alleges that EASD has deliberately ignored controlling case law from the Seventh Circuit – the federal appeals court that covers Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana – which established that denying transgender students access to restrooms matching their gender identities is unlawful.

In a 47-page written opinion, Stadtmueller of the Eastern District of Wisconsin held that Jane "has shown a high likelihood of success on both her Title IX and Equal Protection Clause claims," that she would suffer irreparable harm without a preliminary injunction, and that the public interest "is best served when all students are treated equally."

The court explained that the harms Jane has suffered – and would continue to suffer without an injunction – include unwanted attention to her restroom use, lost class time, social isolation and withdrawal, declining school attendance, bullying from classmates, severe distress,

and adverse effects on her mental health.

The court concluded that the facts of this case are "materially indistinguishable" from those of the transgender student plaintiffs in *Whitaker v. Kenosha Unified School District* and *A.C. v. School District of Martinsville*, in which the Seventh Circuit held that other school districts' policies barring transgender students from school facilities corresponding to their gender identity violated Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause.

The order entered by the court enjoins EASD "from enforcing any policy, practice, protocol or custom of the EASD or (EAMS) that denies Plaintiff Jane Doe the ability to access and use girls' restrooms at EAMS or any other EASD school that she may attend in the future, or otherwise denying or restricting her access to girls' or women's restrooms at school or on school trips."

The injunction "will take effect immediately and remain in place for the pendency of this litigation."

● CALENDAR

Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club

Best Hand Boat Rally, Saturday, Sept. 7, 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Join us for a themed Lauderdale Lakes Best Hand Boat Rally. Hop on your boat and grab some friends where you'll travel to five piers around the lake, enjoy some treats, and compete with others for the best hand. Prizes awarded. \$15 per person.

The Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club was established in 1953.

The club has provided a variety of educational and entertaining activities throughout the years, with more than 200 current members from the area.

Annual events include the Cocktails With the Commodore, Taste of the Lakes, House Walk, Pig Roast, and more.

For more information, visit llyclub.com.

Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association

Directors Meeting, Saturday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Directors will meet to discuss improvements on the lake.

The objective of the LLIA is to encourage and assist in the general work of protecting, improving, and adorning the Lauderdale Lakes, as well as the bank and shores of the lakes. Rich Stok is the current president of the organization.

For more information, go to llia.org.

Southern Wakes United Ski Team

Show dates this year are on Whitewater Lake at the Scenic Ridge Campground, and at Lauderdale Landing on Lauderdale Lakes.

Elkhorn Lake

Babe Mann Park, Elkhorn

All shows at 6 p.m. • Saturday, Aug. 31

The Southern Wakes United Water Ski show team is Walworth County's only water ski show team.

SWU is a merger of the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers and the Whitewater Lake Sports Club (Minneiska).

The group is a non-profit whose purpose is to give all a chance to build confidence in their abilities, learn new skills, and promote leadership, water safety education, and sportsmanship.

For more information, go to southernwakesunited.com.

OTHER EVENTS

Walworth County Fair, Aug. 28 through Sept. 2

The 175th Walworth County Fair is "Stars, Stripes and Fair Delights!" The fair features thousands of exhibitors, a carnival, plenty of fair food and drink, musical entertainment, and children's activities.

For more information, go to walworthcountyfairgrounds.com.

Saturdays on the Square, Saturdays through Aug. 31, Veterans Park, Elkhorn

Join in the weekly market at the park, which features a large variety of produce, flowers, commercial and craft vendors, and more. The market opens at 9 a.m. and closed at 1 p.m. Vendor spots are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Elkhorn Antique Flea Market at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Highway 11, Elkhorn, Sunday, Sept. 29

Gates open at 7 a.m., with admission \$5 per person. Free parking is available on site, with food and drink for sale. Pets are not allowed at the event.

Live Music Duesterbeck's Brewing Company, N5543 Highway O, Elkhorn

Duesterbeck's has live music most weekends at its location, as well as weekday events. For more information, call 262-729-9771 or go to dbcbrewery.com.

The Vinery, 218 Elkhorn Rd., Whitewater

Classes are available throughout the summer at varying times, to teach fused glass techniques. Register at The Vinery by calling 262-458-2209.



A little night music

The Neon Nights country music festival graced the stage at the Walworth County Fairgrounds Aug. 2-3, bringing in a number of high-profile singers. The inaugural festival featured acts like Trace Adkins, Wynonna, and Eddie Montgomery.

PHOTOS COURTESY ELKHORN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE *The Breeze*

WAKE BOATS • CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

boats that use ballast tanks, water sacks, or fins to cause a boat to operate in a bow-high manner.

That, in turn, increases the wake behind a boat to increase the amount of water for tubers, water skiers or wake boarders being pulled

behind a boat.

However, numerous different authorities throughout the state have begun to see the impact these boats have on lakeshores – mainly shoreline erosion, the destruction of fish habitats,

and damage to lake bottoms.

Wake-enhanced boats also create hazards for other boaters, kayakers, swimmers, paddle boarders, and pleasure boaters.

Because of the use of ballast tanks, which cannot be completely drained,

there is also the concern of invasive species being transferred from one lake to another.

The maximum depth of Lauderdale Lakes is about 54 feet, and most of the lakes in the chain are narrow – a total of 825 acres for all the lakes.

ADAMS • CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"It displays our growth as an organization, as well as our commitment to our employees that we are willing to invest in them and their career," he said.

Jensen said that typically, Adams only enrolls a few each year into an apprenticeship, but this year there are many more.

"It's an amazing opportunity, and as an

organization, we are extremely grateful to have so many motivated young adults interested in this trade, and ready to commit the next four to five years to become licensed journeyman electricians," Jensen said.

He explained that working with Associated Builders and Contractors allows the students to

participate in a strong training program, and that Adams uses ABC for its plumbing apprentices as well.

Jensen was also quick to point out there are numerous organizations offering apprenticeships now.

"Our goal going into this project was not just simply offer apprenticeships, but to ensure we were offering the

best possible opportunities for them," he said. "It's important that they not only receive the best on-the-job training, but also the education piece that runs parallel to their growth."

"At the end, they'll have the practical knowledge combined with the institutional knowledge needed to be successful electricians," Jensen added.

Walworth County Fair schedule of events

The Walworth County Fairgrounds will be open for the fair from 7 a.m. to midnight, except Monday, Labor Day, when it closes at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 28

Honorary Marshals Day
Senior Citizens Day
(admission for 62 and older, \$8)
North American Midway
Entertainment Wristband Day,
3 to 11 p.m., \$35

Judging/Demonstrations

8 a.m. Junior Swine Barrow Show, Swine Barn
9 a.m. Open Farm Products, Horticulture Building
9 a.m. Junior Dog Obedience and Showmanship, Activity Center
9 a.m. Junior Plant and Soil Science, Flowers and Houseplants, Junior Exhibits Building
9 a.m. Open Antiques, Antiques Building
9 a.m. Open Flowers, Horticulture Building
9:30 a.m. Open Photography, Cultural Arts Building
Noon Open Foods, North Hall
7 p.m. Open Adult Dairy Showmanship, Activity Center

Peggy's Park Stage

10 a.m. Opening Ceremony, Honorary Marshal, Outstanding Seniors, Vendors, Exhibitors, Friends of the Fair awards
12:30 p.m. Caribbean Eclipse Steel Drum Band
3 p.m. The Phenix Band
6 p.m. Fairest of the Fair Finals

Gazebo in the Park

2 p.m. Celebrating 175 years of the fair, vintage outfits, any era

Duesterbeck's Brew

Haus Music Hall
1 p.m. Lara Bell
6 p.m. Karen Schook

Family Adventureland

Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
..... Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
3 p.m. (and roaming throughout the day) Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage
12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
..... Kai McNulty, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
..... Prehistoric Dinosaur Adventure
All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery Experience
Noon to
4 p.m. Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

Barnyard Adventure – Tent and Garden

10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
11:30 a.m. Story Time
5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop

10 a.m. Honeybees 101 with Kristine Karlson
11 a.m. Shaking up Mocktails with Staller Estate Winery
Noon Pond Construction, Maintenance and Care of Koi Fish by Aquatic Realmz Maintenance Div.

ADMISSION

Adult admission \$12
Junior (ages 5-12) \$5
Kids 4 and younger FREE

Senior Citizen Days:

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (age 62 years and older) \$8
Lifetime passes \$450
Prices are "at the door" admission

FREE GENERAL PARKING

For more information, call 262-723-3228 or visit walworthcountyfair.com.

of Aquatics Unlimited
1 p.m. The Road to Raw for Pet Nutrition by Stella Chewy

Grandstand

7 p.m. Rice's Pro Rodeo, sponsored by Jake Leiser Painting

Thursday, Aug. 29

Senior Citizens Day
(admission for 62 and older, \$8)
North American Midway
Entertainment Wristband Day,
3 p.m. to 11 p.m., \$35

Judging/Demonstrations

8 a.m. Junior Beef, Activity Center
8 a.m. Junior Sheep, Sheep Barn
9 a.m. Junior Cavies, Discovery Barn
9 a.m. Open Crafts, Cultural Arts Building
9 a.m. Open Woodworking, Cultural Arts Building
9 a.m. Open Canned Goods, North Hall
9 a.m. to
10 p.m. Plein Ai, throughout fairgrounds
3 p.m. Pride on Display, Antiques Building
6 p.m. Junior Meat Goats, Activity Center

Peggy's Park Stage

11 a.m. The Box Band
2:30 p.m. Thompson Duo
6 p.m. Bobby Messano Band

Gazebo in the Park

2 p.m. Red, White and Blue Jeans Day

Duesterbeck's Brew

Haus Music Hall
1 p.m. Kyle Young
6 p.m. Thompson Duo

Family Adventureland

Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
..... Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
3 p.m. (and roaming throughout the day) Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage
12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
..... Kai McNulty, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
..... Prehistoric Dinosaur Adventure
All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery Experience
Noon to
4 p.m. Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

Barnyard Adventure – Tent and Garden

10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
11:30 a.m. Story Time
5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
5 p.m. Butterfly Release



Tractor Truck Pull

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop

10 a.m. Growing a Tea Garden with Brenda from Pesche's Greenhouse
11 a.m. Training Service Dogs with Canine Companions and C. Rupp
1 p.m. Make and Take with Laura Zaraza, Stampin' Up

Midway Area

4 p.m. Kindschi's Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls registration – Pulls begin at 5 p.m.

Grandstand

Noon Antique and Stock Tractor and Truck Pulls
5:30 p.m. American Legion VFW Flag Ceremony
7 p.m. PI Motorsports Tractor and Truck Pulls, sponsored by Pete's Tire, Elkhorn

Friday, Aug. 30

Tanis Construction Day
Senior Citizens Day
(admission for 62 and older, \$8)
North American Midway
Entertainment Wristband Day,
Noon to 11 p.m., \$35

Judging/Demonstrations

8 a.m. Open Sheep, Activity Center
8:30 a.m. Junior Dairy, Sheep Barn
9 a.m. Open Arts, Cultural Arts Building
10 a.m. Draft Horse Halter Class,

Draft Horse Arena
10:30 a.m. Junior Rabbit Showmanship, Small Animal Barn
1 p.m. Dairy Auction / Miss "Q" Contest, Activity Center
2:30 p.m. Junior Non-Rabbits Pet Show, small animal barn
4 p.m. Junior Rabbits Pet Show, tent near small animal barn
5:30 p.m. Plein Air Art, Cultural Arts Building

Wiswell Center

9:30 a.m. Meat Animal Sale
3 p.m. Meat Animal Sale of Champions

Horse Arena

8:30 a.m. SMILES Open Benefit Horse Show

Peggy's Park Stage

1 p.m. Indigo Canyon
4 p.m. Crooners and Divas Show
7 p.m. Banana Wind, the Music of Jimmy Buffet

Gazebo in the Park

2 p.m. Patriotic Family Outfit Day

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall

1 p.m. Dan Maguire
6 p.m. Justin Wallace

Family Adventureland

Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.
..... Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
3 p.m. (and roaming throughout the day) Magic "Mike"

Magician, Barnyard Stage
12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
..... Kai McNulty, Chainsaw Artist
1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.
..... Prehistoric Dinosaur Adventure
All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery Experience
Noon to
4 p.m. Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

Contests – Barnyard Stage

11 a.m. Infant/toddler patriotic costume contest
1 p.m. Cupcake Eating Contest

Barnyard Adventure – Tent and Garden

10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
11:30 a.m. Story Time
5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop

10 a.m. Flower Farming with Crooked Oak Farm
11 a.m. Sourdough 101 by Good Oak Farmstead
Noon Painting a Make and Take, Glass of Art & More
1 p.m. Make and Take with Laura Zaraza, Stampin' Up

Midway Area

10 a.m. to Noon .. "Sensory Friendly"



A rider puts on a show for the grandstand during the Rice Pro Rodeo at last year's fair. The rodeo will be back on opening night of the 175th Walworth County Fair. It kicks off at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 28. Tickets to the rodeo are \$10 in addition to general fair admission.

Carnival Experience, sponsored by Tanis Construction
 4 p.m. Kindschi's Kids Pedal Tractor Pulls registration – Pulls begin at 5 p.m.

Grandstand
 7:30 p.m. Nelly, sponsored by Ecklund Group @properties

Saturday, Aug. 31

*Kunes Auto Group/RV Day
 North American Midway
 Entertainment Wristband Day,
 Noon to 11 p.m., \$35*

Judging/Demonstrations
 8 a.m. Junior Poultry, Small Animal Barn
 8:30 a.m. Junior Dairy Goats, Goat Barn
 8:30 a.m. Open Dairy, Activity Center
 9 a.m. Junior Rabbit, tent near Small Animal Barn
 10 a.m. Draft Horse Cart/Hitch, Draft Horse Arena
 10:45 a.m. Pies in the Park, Pie Judging, Peggy's Park Stage, open to everyone
 11 a.m. Pure WI Honey Cookie Classic, Barnyard Adventure, Learning Coop Tent, open to everyone
 6:30 p.m. Master Showman Contest, Activity Center

Wiswell Center
 5 p.m. Walworth County Cloggers

Horse Arena
 8:30 a.m. Boots and Saddle Open and Speed Show
 9 a.m. Walenton's Rocking "B" Ranch Speed Show

Peggy's Park Stage
 11:30 a.m. Pies in the Park Auction,

all are welcome
 1:30 p.m. Judson Brown Band
 4 p.m. Underground Sound Jazz Band
 7 p.m. Doo Wop Jukebox

Gazebo in the Park
 2 p.m. Best Western Wear

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall
 1 p.m. Jenny Hundt
 6 p.m. Kayla Seeber

Family Adventureland
 Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show, Barnyard Stage
 3 p.m. (and roaming throughout the day) Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard Stage
 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Kai McNulty, Chainsaw Artist
 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. Prehistoric Dinosaur Adventure
 All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery Experience
 Noon to 4 p.m. Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

Contests – Barnyard Stage
 11 a.m. Ring in the Steer
 1 p.m. Pickle Eating Contest

Barnyard Adventure – Tent and Garden
 10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
 11:30 a.m. Story Time
 5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
 5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop
 10 a.m. The Wisconsin Honey Queen
 11 a.m. Pure Wisconsin Honey Cookie Classic Contest
 1 p.m. Make and Take with Laura Zaraza, Stampin' Up

Grandstand
 9 a.m. Combines for Kids, combine rides, sponsored by Rote Oil
 7:30 p.m. Brantley Gilbert, sponsored by Great Lakes Components

Sunday, Sept. 1

*Edge Broadband Family Fun Day
 North American Midway
 Entertainment Wristband Day,
 Noon to 11 p.m., \$35*

Judging/Demonstrations
 7:30 a.m. Open Rabbit Show Registration, tent near Small Animal Barn
 8 a.m. Open Beef, Activity



Members of Walworth County American Legion posts and VFWs open last year's fair by presenting the colors. The fair features everything from carnival rides and animals to a variety of food, sure to satisfy people of all ages. This year's fair runs from Wednesday, Aug. 28 through Monday, Sept. 2.

PHOTOS BY DAVE DRESDOW *The Breeze*

Center
 9 a.m. Open Goats, Goat Barn
 9 a.m. Open Rabbit Show Judging, tent near Small Animal Barn
 10 a.m. Draft Horse Hitch Class, Draft Horse Arena (Draft Horse Parade to follow at Grandstand)
 10 a.m. Wool Fleece Contest, Sheep Barn
 3 p.m. Favorite Cookie Contest, North Hall, open to everyone
 3:30 p.m. Dairy Futurity Show, Activity Center

Wiswell Center
 10 a.m. – to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Antique Appraisals by Barbara J. Eash (Certified Appraisers Guild of America)

North Hall
 Noon \$5,000 Pinewood Derby Showdown, sponsored by Advanced Auto Clinic

4-H Centennial Picnic Pavilion
 2 p.m. Poultry Awards

Horse Arena
 8:30 a.m. Linn Youth Benefit Open Horse Show
 9 a.m. Walenton's "B" Ranch Speed Show

Peggy's Park Stage
 10 a.m. Ecumenical Church Service
 Noon Kickin' It With Carol

3 p.m. Woodcarving Auction
 5 p.m. Van Wailin'
 7 p.m. Kashmir

Gazebo in the Park
 2 p.m. Farmer Wally Worth Day

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall
 1 p.m. Grant Milliren
 6 p.m. Thompson Duo

Family Adventureland
 Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show
 3 p.m. Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard
 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Kai McNulty, Chainsaw Artist
 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. Prehistoric Dinosaur Adventure
 All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery

Noon to 4 p.m. Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

Contests – Barnyard Stage
 11 a.m. Barn Doody Race
 1 p.m. Cream Puff Eating Contest

Barnyard Adventure – Tent and Garden
 10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
 11:30 a.m. Story Time
 5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
 5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop
 10 a.m. Let's Can with Stephanie Slater
 11 a.m. Benefits of Growing Herbs
 Noon Flower Drying with Blue Barn Farms
 1 p.m. Wisconsin Bats with Jill Roberts

Grandstand
 11 a.m. Antique Tractor and Car Parade
 7:30 p.m. Crowder, sponsored by Thrivent-Shoreline Group

Monday, Sept. 2

*Demo Day
 Wristband Day, noon to 8 p.m., \$35*

Wiswell Center
 10 a.m. Fur & Feather Sale

Horse Arena
 8 a.m. Wisconsin Open Horse Show
 9 a.m. Walenton's "B" Ranch Speed Show
 11 a.m. Equestrian Drill Team Competitions, in memory of Rick Welch

Peggy's Park Stage
 11 a.m. Sam Barrett
 2 p.m. The Mathew Skiller Duo
 5 p.m. Gary McAdams Band

Gazebo in the Park
 2 p.m. Cooking Up Fair Memories, Apron Day

Duesterbeck's Brew Haus Music Hall
 1 p.m. Lucky Pickers
 6 p.m. aGOOstic

Family Adventureland
 Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. Nick's Barnyard Adventure Show
 3 p.m. Magic "Mike" Magician, Barnyard
 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 p.m. Dinosaur Adventure
 All Day Heavy Duty Dirt Machinery

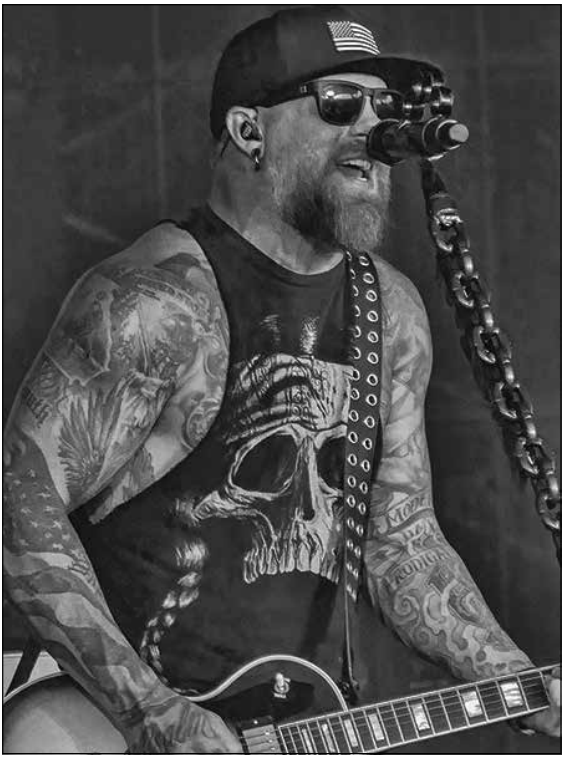
Noon to 4 p.m. Demos by Superior Construction and Atlas Bobcat

Contests – Barnyard Stage
 11 a.m. Sweet Corn Eating Contest

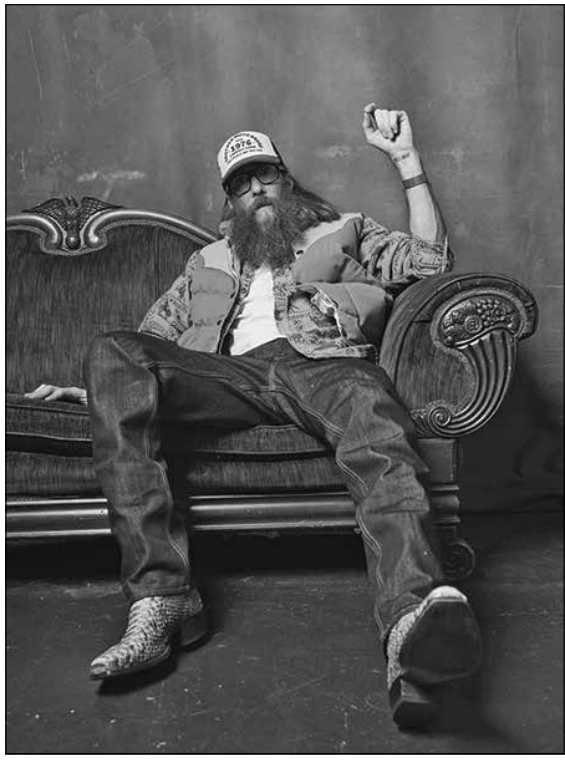
Barnyard Adventure – Tent and Garden
 10 a.m. Freshly Picked Food Tasting
 11:30 a.m. Story Time
 5 p.m. Surprise Make & Take for Kids
 5 p.m. Butterfly Release

Barnyard Adventure – Learning Coop
 10 a.m. Biodiversity in Your Garden by Blue Barn Farms
 11 a.m. "The Incredible Egg" with Karen Gefvert
 Noon/1 p.m. Introduction to Stained Glass and Fused Glass with The Vinery

Grandstand
 8:30 a.m. Horse Pulling Contest
 12:30, 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. Demolition Derby, (three heats), sponsored by American Truck Center, LLC



Brantley Gilbert



Crowder

The ins and outs of Lauderdale Lakes

Lauderdale Lakes consists of Green Lake, Middle Lake and Mill Lake and is located in La Grange Township a few miles north of the City of Elkhorn, west of highways 12 and 67. For more information contact the Lauderdale Lakes Marina at (262) 495-8200 or www.lauderdalelakesmarina.com.

Size

- Green Lake is 311 acres
- Middle Lake is 259 acres
- Mill Lake is 271 acres

Maximum depth

- Green Lake: 55 feet
- Middle Lake: 42 feet
- Mill Lake: 44 feet

Fish species

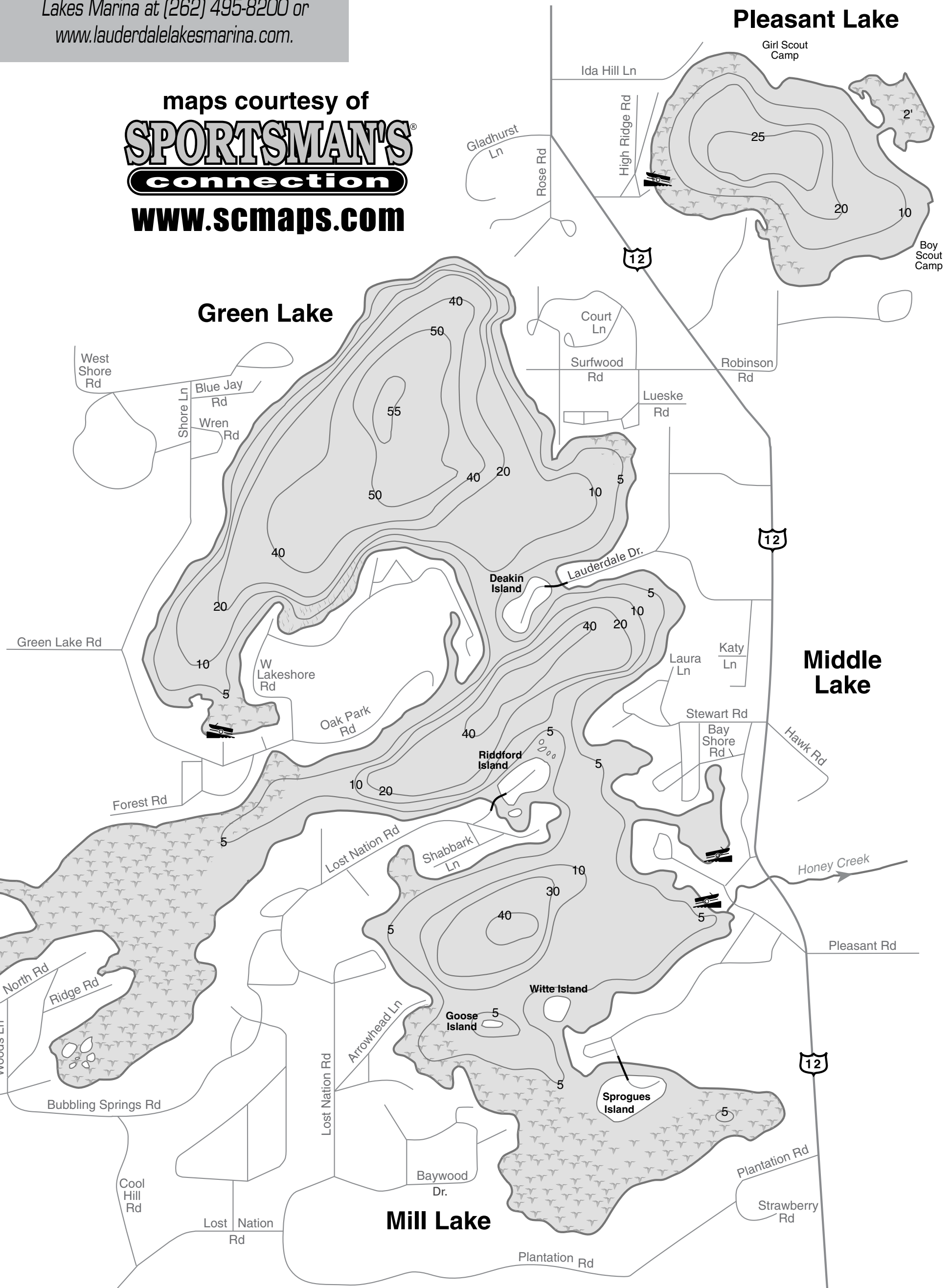
Lauderdale Lakes offers a wide array of fish with the predominant species being:

- Largemouth bass
- Smallmouth bass
- Northern pike
- Walleye
- Panfish

Access

Lauderdale Lakes is accessible via a paved ramp on Sterlingworth Road off of Highways 12/67. Additionally, unimproved landings are located off of Bubbling Springs Road and Westshore Drive.

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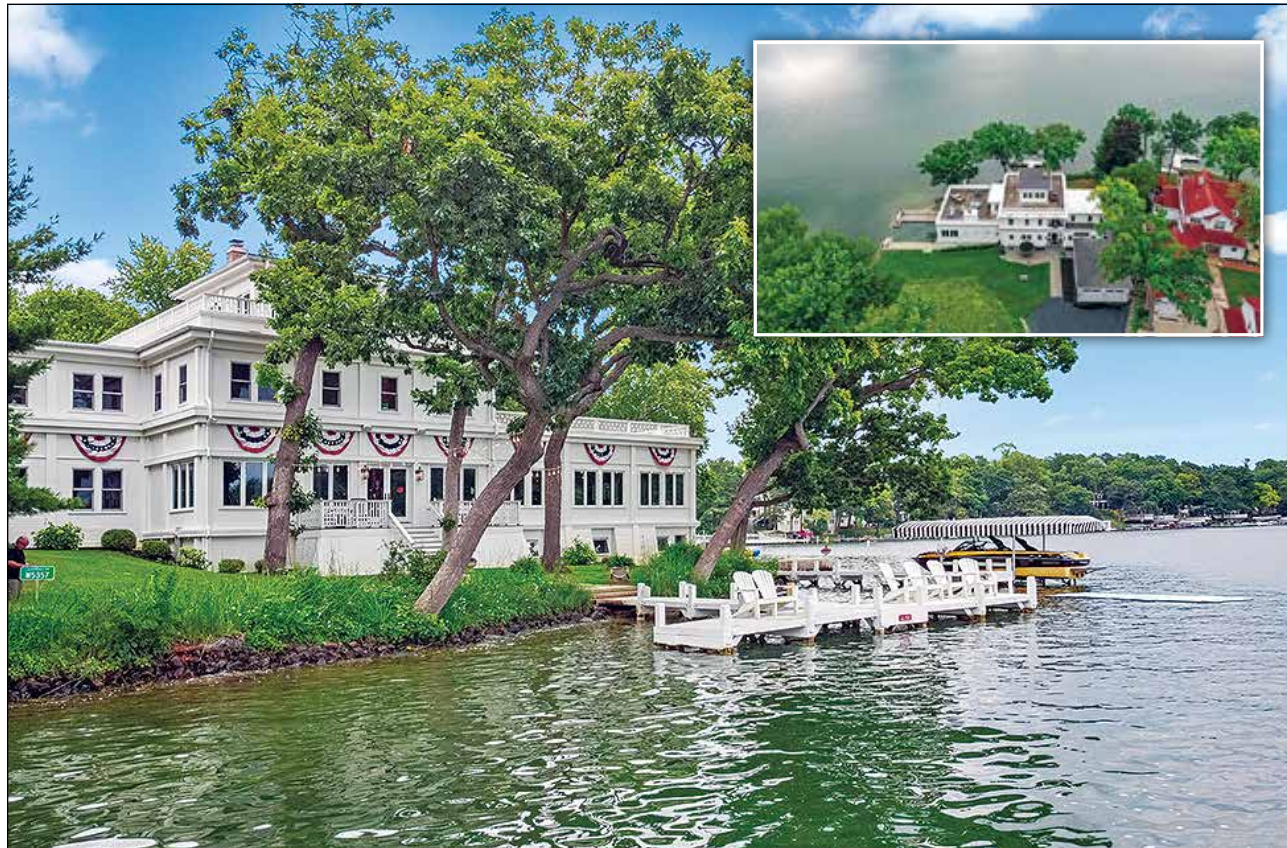
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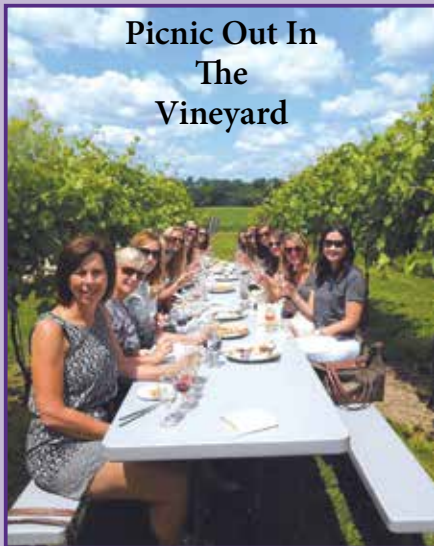


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• COURT NEWS

Charge filed against accused drunken bus driver

A school bus driver arrested for drunken driving on the job is now facing up to 10 years in prison.

Royce G. Peterson, 71, of Elkhorn, is charged with second-degree recklessly endangering safety, a Class G felony. He is scheduled for an initial appearance in Walworth County Circuit Court Aug. 19.

According to the criminal complaint, on July 10, a witness reported Peterson "was drunk because he had struck a curb, a tree, and a sign" at Elkhorn Area High



Royce G.
Peterson

showed Peterson going over the curb.

When the officer questioned Peterson at Durham School Services, he said he has been looking

School, as well as at Jackson Elementary. An Elkhorn police officer reviewed surveillance at the high school, which

at the kids and not paying attention but admitted fault for hitting the curb and sign.

Peterson denied having anything to drink prior to driving but said he consumed a six-pack of beer the night before. He later submitted to an Intoximeter and registered a .06 blood alcohol concentration, .02 under the legal limit.

Peterson then claimed he purchased a 24-ounce beer and consumed it on the way home. He said he had

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Drunken driver hits motorcycle, causes injury

An initial appearance was scheduled in Walworth County Circuit Court for an Elkhorn man accused of striking a motorcycle and causing injury to the couple that was on the bike.

Tyler John Debrabant, 29, is charged with two felony counts of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, and four misdemeanors – two counts of operating while under the influence and causing injury and two counts of causing injury with a prohibited alcohol concentration higher than .15.

According to the criminal complaint, on July 14 at



Tyler John
Debrabant

for a report of a car versus motorcycle crash.

When deputies arrived, a woman, who was riding on the back of the motorcycle, was pinned underneath a Subaru SUV. The SUV and motorcycle drivers were also

4:03 p.m., sheriff's deputies were dispatched to County Road H and Bubbling Springs Road in the Town of LaGrange

on scene. Debrabant, who was driving the SUV, was yelling at bystanders, "Now I gotta pay for this shit."

Initially, Debrabant denied drinking, but later stated he drank "a couple beers" and "now I'm gonna get a DUI for doing nothing."

A witness stated he saw the Subaru strike the motorcycle at full speed in the 45-mile per hour zone from behind, causing the motorcycle to flip and throwing the woman into the air and the man onto the hood of the Subaru. The woman

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FALL IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

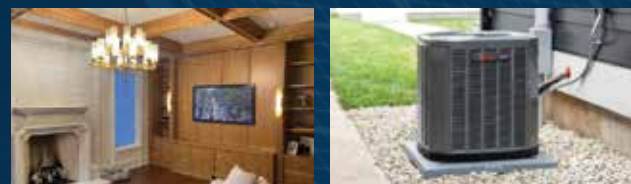
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A sight to see (and experience)

100-year-old wooden boat in the hands of a worthy caretaker

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

One of the most beautiful sights is boats gliding gracefully across the water on a clear lake, such as those on Geneva Lake. Today, we see a variety of boats out on the lake, from excursion boats taking visitors along the shore to view the mansions built there in the late 1800s to private boats spending a day enjoying time on the water. There are also a few very old wooden boats that cruise through the water, reminiscent of times of old.

These old wooden boats have been on the water for many years, going back to the days when there were no roads around the lake, and everything was delivered to the home site by boat.

When a home was being built, all the materials arrived by boat. When homeowners made the trip Lake Geneva by train, they were transferred to their lake home by boat. When food and other household supplies were needed, again it was the boats that arrived with everything needed for their stay.

While the boats provided the necessities, families also had boats for pleasure. Many of them had their own captain to take them out on their boat, so the entire family could enjoy the day. Visiting neighbors on the other side of the lake also required a boat trip.

“Today, there are not many wood boats left on the water, especially not many that are 100 years old,” said Patrick Maher, owner and Captain of the Cherokee. “My boat, the Cherokee, was built in 1924 in Morris Heights, New York, by Consolidated Ship Builders, for wealthy businessman H.J. Heinz.”

Maher said that in the 1920s, many well-to-do folks traveled from areas such as Connecticut to Manhattan, New York, in their luxury yachts. There was, he said, a place along the Hudson called the Speedway, where the boats would travel faster than a trotting horse to get into the city.

The Cherokee spent most of its life in Old Mystic, Connecticut, sharing the waters with many vintage classic yachts rich in maritime

history, making the run to New York City. After a refit in 2002, they sold the Cherokee for \$350,000. It made its longest trip to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and then returned to Old Mystic.

A long trip

“The yacht eventually made its way to Wisconsin, where it was parked on County Road A at an old schoolhouse for over eight months. The yacht was sold to David Young, the Verlo Mattress King. He had it put on a tow bed and shipped to his home in Elkhorn, where it sat on a trailer for seven years. The yacht needed repair, and was used as a playhouse for his children,” Maher explained.

“Eventually, Young hired my brother Dan and I to repair the yacht in his backyard. His goal was to restore it and take it down the Mississippi for a ride, but he passed away before it was ready to go,” he added.

After Young’s death, Patrick Maher and his brother, Dan, who has since passed away, purchased the boat.

Because it had been on that old trailer for so many years, they had to hire two cranes to lift it up onto a new trailer to move it. But move it they did, and Captain Patrick, his brother Dan, and Patrick’s son Zach continued to work on the boat, restoring its beauty and seaworthiness.

Long-time friend and fellow sailor, Richard Biers said Patrick’s work is admirable.

“There is no one who can varnish a boat like Patrick. With his full-body strokes, he leaves a clean, shiny surface that is admired by everyone,” Biers said.

Once the yacht was returned to seaworthiness, it was a while before it made its way to Geneva Lake. Patrick was invited to the Edgewater Hotel in Madison on Lake Mendota, where he spent the summer working and living on the boat.

“This was an open spot, and there was nowhere to hide when storms appeared,” said Patrick. “We spent four days trying to hide from the storms at Picnic Point.”

He spent some time with the boat on Delavan Lake, but ran into difficulty there due to low water. He spent time with the Delavan Sailing School, giving rides around the lake. He also often auctioned off trips around the lake to the carriage trade for amounts from \$100 to \$800 per trip.

Ongoing project

Today, when not working at his job at the Spring Grove Cemetery selling headstones, all of Patrick’s time is devoted to the boat.

“A wooden boat this old is in need of perpetual care to keep it seaworthy,” Patrick said. “There is always something that needs to be updated to keep the yacht in prime condition. Each year, it is professionally winterized to assure it is water ready when spring appears. Then, when it is ready to be launched, water is poured into the boat to be certain that everything is water tight and does not need additional caulking.”

Then there is the yearly painting and varnishing that needs to be done. And while it is a lot of work to keep the yacht seaworthy, it is well worth the time and energy to do so, according to Patrick.

It’s not surprising that Patrick loves boats. He grew up in Lake Geneva and had a father who owned boats and was always helping to keep them in shape.

Good to be home

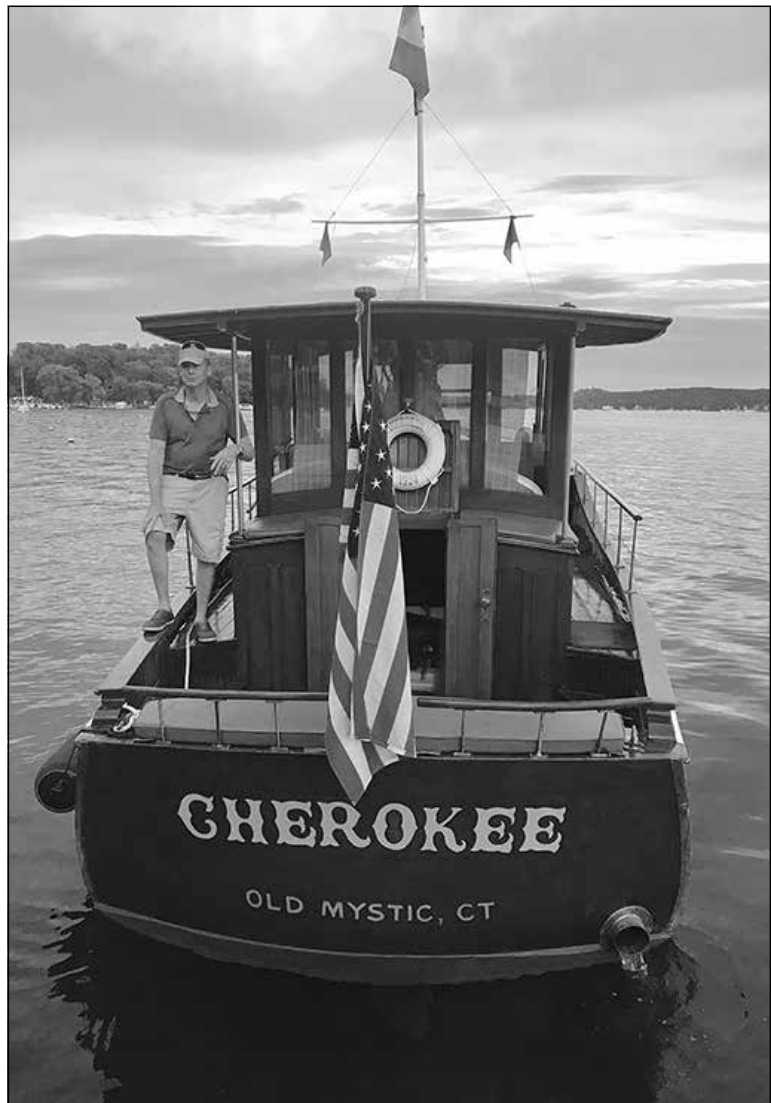
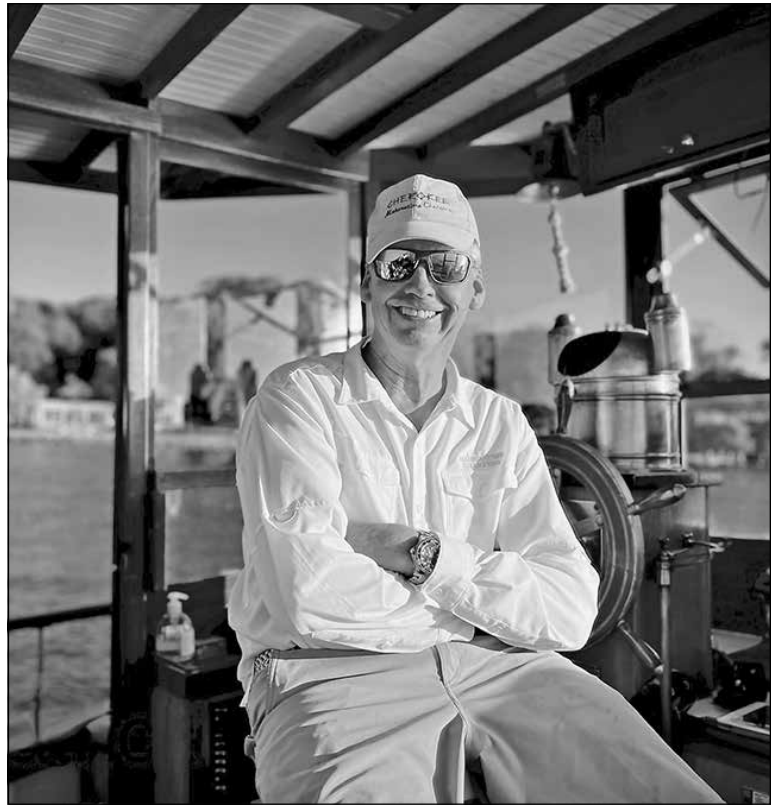
The yacht is now on Geneva Lake at Rainbow Point and can often be seen docked at Pier 486, a pier known for having an antique wooden boat in place, often with someone working on it. The Cherokee gives the look of times of old, when yachts were at the dock of every estate on the lakeshore.

When the Cherokee is not docked at the pier, it’s out on the water with Captain Maher, giving cruises to private groups on Geneva Lake. The Cherokee offers a variety of customized personal tours to be enjoyed.

“Each tour is two hours long and takes the group along the shore of Geneva Lake. We point out some major places, such as the Wrigley Estate, but refrain from giving the names of the private citizens who live on the shore, as a means of preserving their privacy,” he said.

The private tours are ideal for small family reunions, special family events – such as anniversaries and birthdays – or just a small gathering for a group of friends. There might not be anything better than spending a couple of hours on a beautiful antique wooden boat with friends or family members, enjoying time out gliding through the lake water.

For a special corporate excursion, consider a cruise on the Cherokee. Employees will be impressed, and, after two hours on the water, will be refreshed and ready to work harder, possibly in anticipation of another excursion.



above: The Cherokee is a 100-year-old boat available for rental cruises on Geneva Lake. **top:** Patrick Maher is the captain of the Cherokee, an antique yacht he restored.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *The Breeze*

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



above: Pier 486, which the Cherokee is shown docked at, is known for having antique yachts docked there. **at left:** The large windows on the front of the boat can be opened or closed. Either way they offer an amazing view of the lake.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEIDI SCHULZ *The Breeze*

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

Making something old new again

Eagle Scout hopeful from McFarland restores Millard Cemetery

BY **Callie Koehne**
CORRESPONDENT

If you drive down any old county road in Wisconsin, it's hard not to notice the lonely cemeteries peppered throughout the state.

Oftentimes, those quiet monuments to lives long past sit run down and nearly forgotten, with stones that are so covered by age that the names are hardly visible.

One local teenager on the path to earning his Eagle Scout was moved by such a cemetery - so moved that he took it upon himself to restore it.

On July 13 and 14, Gus Heckel - a Scout from Troop 53 out of McFarland - came with his parents Susan and Mark and a group of more than 30 volunteers to work on Millard Cemetery.

The group braved the scorching summer heat to complete a mission - Gus's service project that's been in the works for eight months. The project itself will earn Gus the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America organization and mark the culmination of nine years of hard work and dedication.

Only 4% of those who participate in the Boy Scouts of America go on to reach the rank of Eagle Scout.

In order to do so, the challenge calls for more than just showing up to weekly meetings. The Scout is expected to embody 12 specific characteristics, being: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Scouts also need to earn at least 21 merit badges (Gus has more than 30), fulfill leadership roles, display outdoor skills, demonstrate by example the Scout Oath and Law, and complete a comprehensive service project in the community.

After visiting the Millard Cemetery, the question of what Gus would choose as a service project was a no-brainer.

"The whole back right corner of the cemetery is my family," Gus said. "My grandparents, my brother, most of my family are there. We came to leave flowers and visit and I saw that it was dirty and looked run down. A lot of the stones are broken and leaning."

Gus said that he started trying to figure out how to help right away.

"I didn't know how to clean a grave stone, but I knew there was a way to figure it out, so I started researching," he explained.

He learned that the gold standard in headstone cleaner is called D2. At \$50 a gallon, he needed to fundraise to get the 10 gallons required to clean all the stones in the cemetery, along with brushes, water pumps, scrapers, buckets,

food for volunteers, flags for veterans' headstones, and wood he needed to build a bench.

Once he had what he needed and was fairly certain on the method, his investigation led him to Janie Jenkin and 815 Stone Scrubbers, a non-profit group out of Rockford, Illinois, that focuses on cleaning the stones of Civil War Veterans in the Winnebago County (Illinois) area.

Gus reached out to Jenkin to make sure he was doing things the right way, and she responded by volunteering her time to come help him, bringing with her several other 815 volunteers.

"Gus has been our first Boy Scout in the process of working on his Eagle Scout Project to contact us," Jenkin said. "We loved seeing youth so passionate about cemetery preservation."

"By the time we connected with him, he had everything in the works, his visions of his phases and how he would execute his event was already in motion," she added. "I was quite impressed for being a young man of his age, how well-versed and organized with his event he was. It was great seeing him in action, speaking with many of the adults stopping by to ask questions, and most importantly how professional he was with his volunteers that came out to help him."

Helping Gus was the first and farthest the organization has ever gone to lend a hand, and the very first Scout they've been asked to assist. After such a positive experience, though, they hope it won't be the last.

The local community also came out in droves to help Gus. Millard Community Church made lunch for volunteers both days; The DeLong Company, Inc., donated a water tank; Little Miss Sweet Pea's in Elkhorn donated the flowers the group planted around the new sign; Home Depot donated supplies for the bench Gus built for the cemetery; and Bonstone: Stone, Masonry & Concrete Adhesives in Mukwonago gave Gus a 15% discount on D2.

David Robers, chairman of the Town of Sugar Creek, acted as Gus's beneficiary, donating a portable toilet for the weekend and food for the many volunteers who showed up to help.

"The Millard cemetery recently became defunct, at which point it became the property of our township," Robers said. "We welcomed Gus's project, as the cemetery has fallen into disrepair and we had no funds available for much repairs."

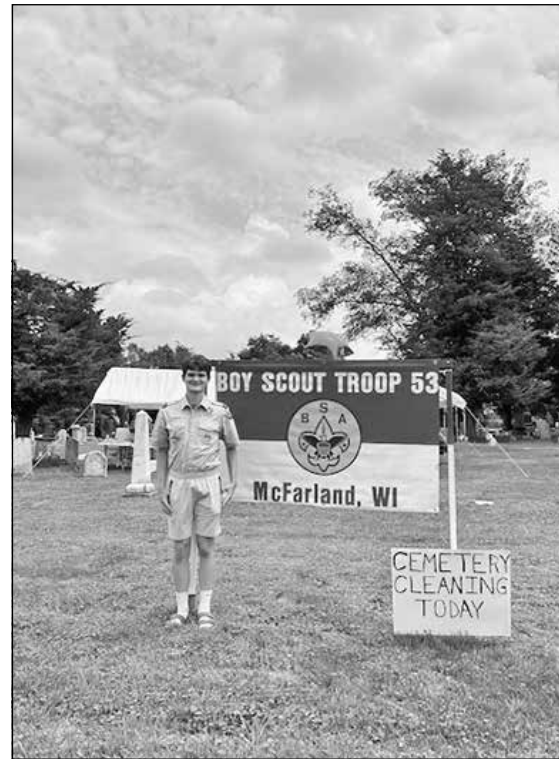
"He is a great young man and a very good organizer and is doing an amazing job."

Volunteers from the community and his troop worked hard from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days of the project, scrubbing moss and grime off of every stone that needed it and covering them in a chemical that will continue to break down the



McFarland's Gus Heckel recently took on his Eagle Scout project, restoring Millard Cemetery where members of his family are buried. **left:** Heckel cleans a monument at the cemetery during two days of work. **right:** Heckel shows off his Troop 53 sign.

CALLIE KOEHNE *The Breeze*



moss and mold for weeks without hurting the stone.

At Gus's direction, they built and installed a new "Millard Cemetery" sign and a bench that now sits back in shade looking out over friends and loved ones, gone but, thanks to Gus, not forgotten.

Gus was pleased at the end of the two-day project when they finished with hours to spare, and he was thankful to the many people who had a hand in helping him.

"They had a huge role in my project," he said. "Without them, it wouldn't be done."

He learned a thing or two about managing large groups of people, instructing them on how to get the job done, and what to do when the weather doesn't cooperate. He mentioned each donor by name,

each volunteer, his grandpa, and his mom and dad for taking so much time to encourage him and help him in Scouting. The impact he made on the community, Gus said, was only possible because of the impact made on him.

Gus exceeded his fundraising goal thanks to the generosity of family, friends, his fellow scouts, and the community, breaking even on his project. Now that the work is done and the stones are cleaned, Gus needs to fill out the Eagle project workbook that's almost 30 pages long, then complete the Eagle application.

Once the council reviews it, an Eagle Board of Review is set. He'll need five letters of recommendation and will then sit and defend his project to the board, answering

any questions they have about the project and his time in scouts.

After he's officially an Eagle, he will have an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony. While he will step down from his role as Senior Patrol Leader, to allow another Eagle Scout hopeful to have a shot at the highest leadership position in a troop, he will still be an active part of Troop 53 and looks forward to helping his friends achieve their goals.

"I wouldn't say that getting this far in Scouts has been hard," Gus said. "There are things about figuring out how to best preserve Millard Cemetery that were challenging but even when it was difficult I knew that I had to do it, not to become an Eagle Scout, but because it needed to be done."

BOAT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



The inside of the Cherokee has ample seating for groups and is an ideal place to enjoy food items.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

The yacht holds about 10 visitors. They can enjoy time out on the deck, inside, or under the roof on the top of the boat. Food and beverages are supplied by those hosting the event, so they can be as intricate or as simple as desired. There is a small refrigerator on board for food or beverages.

"Some of my favorite trips have been the wedding venues. Taking the bride and her father for a last ride alone and delivering them to their wedding venue, often the Riviera, for the ceremony is often an emotional event," Patrick said.

"On the other end of the evening is having the bride and groom board the yacht and be whisked away across the lake to enjoy a quiet cruise together after the excitement of the day and then be delivered to their bridal suite. What a great way to end the perfect day," he added.

According to Maher, tours can be booked for any day of the week from late June through September, and even October or early November if the weather permits.

To reserve a cruise for this summer or fall, contact Captain Patrick Maher by calling 262-903-6577.

"I am an old fashioned captain on an old boat, and I do prefer to speak to people by phone. So, call to set up your special cruise."

He also said you do not really own a yacht this old. Rather you are its caretaker and need to do your best so it remains in good shape for the next generation.

"I hope to be remembered as an old man with an old boat when it is my time to leave this world," Patrick said.

But he is not anywhere near there yet. Despite some serious challenges, he continues to enjoy life - especially aboard his 100-year-old yacht.

BY THE NUMBERS

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W5685 Ridge Rd	\$419,999
W5854 Bubbling Springs Dr	\$675,000
W5706 North Dr	\$1,199,000
W5454 West Shore Dr	\$1,349,900
W5742 North Dr	\$1,687,500
W5672 Ridge Rd	\$1,750,000
W5369 Baywood Dr	\$1,999,700
W5284 Lauderdale Dr	\$2,179,000
LtO Lost Nation Rd	\$2,400,000
W5639 Forest Rd.....	\$2,595,000

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W5361 Lost Nation Rd
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W5599 Oak Park Rd
\$3,245,000

Home affordability hits record low two months in a row

Wisconsin REALTORS Association releases monthly data for June

The Wisconsin REALTORS Association released its June 2024 Wisconsin Real Estate Report recently showing Wisconsin affordability hitting record-low levels for the second straight month and 30-year fixed-rate mortgages more than doubling their pre-pandemic levels.

However, months of inventory improved statewide, and a need for balance between inflation and recession risks could indicate that possible cuts in short-term rates may be on the horizon. After a 7.4% increase in price over a 12-month period, the new median home price is \$327,500.

Mary Jo Bowe, 2024 Chair of the Board of Directors, Wisconsin REALTORS Association, said she hoped for growth in new listings.

“The drop in home sales was disappointing, especially given that June is typically our peak month for sales,” Bowe said.

“Hopefully the unexpected drop in new listings is an aberration, and we’ll see new listings bounce back in July, which will help grow home sales,” she added.

Tom Larson, President & CEO, Wisconsin REALTORS Association, commented about the current challenges of housing affordability.

“This is the second straight month that Wisconsin affordability hit record-low levels due to a combination of rising prices and higher mortgage rates,” Larson said.

“With the 30-year fixed rate at more than twice its pre-pandemic level, it’s important to bring those rates down. Lowering the borrowing expense for first-time buyers would lower their financing costs. In addition, it would also help increase supply as existing owners would be more willing to list their homes if right-sizing did not substantially increase their mortgage rates,” Larson added.

David Clark, Professor Emeritus of Economics and WRA Consultant, looks to a possible cut in short-term rates.

“Although the Fed did not lower short-term interest rates to begin stimulating the economy in June, some signs suggest the economy is beginning to slow and cuts are more

likely,” Clark said.

Clark said Core CPI inflation continued to improve in June, and Chairman Powell indicated in recent Congressional testimony that the labor market has also cooled to a point similar to pre-pandemic levels.

“(Powell) stated the Fed must balance the inflation risk against the recession risk. This increases the likelihood of a cut in short-term rates at least once this year. Although mortgage rates more closely mirror movements in longer-term rates like the yield on 10-year treasury bonds, they tend to fall when the Fed lowers short-term rates,” Clark said.

Report highlights

- After eight straight months of growth in new listings, they fell 10.5% in June 2024 relative to their June 2023 levels. This was one factor contributing to a 10.5% decline in June home sales over the past 12 months and a 7.4% increase in the median price to \$327,500 over that same period.

- The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage remained high in June, increasing 21 basis points over last year to 6.92%, which also contributed to weaker home sales. Every region of the state experienced slower sales and higher prices compared to June 2023.

- Still, Wisconsin’s growth in home sales was solid at the halfway point of the year. Home sales grew 6.9% compared to the first six months of 2023, and the median price rose 7.1% to \$300,000.

- Months of inventory improved statewide to 3.5 months but remain well below the six-month benchmark that signals a balanced market. Rural areas are closest to a balanced market with 4.7 months of supply. The more urbanized areas remain strong seller’s markets with smaller micropolitan areas at 3.6 months and larger metropolitan areas at just 3.2 months of available supply.

- Ongoing price pressure and high mortgage rates have taken a toll on affordability in the state, which the WRA began tracking

in 2009. Although the statewide median family income is estimated to have grown just over 1% in June compared to June of last year, this was more than offset by the growth in home prices and the modest increase in mortgage rates over the last 12 months. As a result, the Wisconsin Housing Affordability Index fell 8%, hitting a new record low in June.

About the WRA

The Wisconsin REALTORS Association is one of the largest trade associations in the state, headquartered in Madison. The association represents and provides services to more than 17,500 members statewide, made up of real estate sales agents, brokers, developers, appraisers, inspectors, bankers, and other professionals who touch real estate. The WRA is under the direction of a statewide board of directors, comprised of members from the top real estate firms around the state.

Safety measures for offering vacation rentals

Lauderdale Lakes property owners should take pros, cons into consideration

Vacations have changed dramatically over the last several decades. Social media has opened doors to new places, as millions of people are inspired to visit locales they first caught sight of via platforms like Instagram.

It’s not just where people are going that has changed, but where they’re laying their heads when they arrive at their destinations.

The online marketplace for vacation rentals has no shortage of inventory, as popular websites such as Vrbo and Airbnb continue to attract property owners and renters alike. Property owners may want to consider using a home or apartment to generate some extra money.

According to Alltherooms.com, the average annual host earnings on Airbnb in North America exceeded \$41,000 in 2021. That income is notable, and it’s undoubtedly one reason why Airbnb reported adding more than one million active listings in 2023.

Property owners must ponder the pros and cons to listing homes via a vacation rental service. Those that decide to go forward can take the following steps as they prepare to offer their properties as vacation rentals.

- Hire a home inspector. A certified home inspector is typically hired when individuals enter a contract to purchase a home, but these skilled professionals can be just as useful when preparing to offer a property as a rental.

- Certified, experienced professionals can identify any potential problems or safety issues with a home that could cause trouble when renting a home down the road. Address any safety or structural issues with a property prior to offering it through a rental service.

- Install new safety devices. New smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, locks on exterior doors, and other safety features should be upgraded prior to renting a property. In between each rental, test batteries in alarms and detectors to ensure each device is operating at peak



Property owners must ponder the positive and not-so-positive things about listing homes via a vacation rental service. It’s a growing industry as in 2023, Airbnb reported adding more than 1 million active listings.

METRO CREATIVE The Breeze

capacity.

A new security system with external cameras also can reassure prospective renters that a property is safe. Remote locks that allow for keyless entry to a home is another upgrade that can make it more convenient for hosts and renters to access a property.

- Do your insurance homework. Existing homeowners insurance coverage likely will not apply when renting a home as a vacation property. Prior to listing a property for rent, confirm with your homeowners insurance company the coverage you need to ensure you are protected when renting a home or apartment.

Liability and accidental damage coverage are two of the many

variables prospective hosts must consider.

- Keep emergency supplies on site. A fully stocked first aid kit, functioning fire extinguishers (more than one) and a listing of local emergency responder contact information (i.e., police department, fire department, nearest hospital, etc.) should be made readily available to renters.

Check supplies before each new group of renters gains access to the property and restock when necessary.

Renting a property as a vacation home is a great way to generate extra revenue. But prospective hosts must take steps to protect themselves and their guests before renting a home or apartment.

METRO CREATIVE

Single-family construction up 36%

The latest new home construction numbers released by the Wisconsin Builders Association shows new home construction is up 36 percent statewide.

The data, submitted by all municipalities across Wisconsin, shows 3,692 new home permits were pulled statewide between January 1 and March 31, about 980 more permits than in quarter one of 2023.

“Wisconsin is showing numbers that are on par with both midwest and national numbers, which are 36% and 43%, respectively,” said WBA President Jim Doering.

“In February alone, we saw a 50% increase in permits pulled throughout the state,” he said.

The counties that saw the highest (130%+) growth year-over-year in quarter one were Barron, Florence, Iron, Marinette, Milwaukee, Pierce, Sawyer, and Sheboygan.

Metropolitan areas of the state saw the highest numbers of permits pulled in quarter one with Brown County; 177, Dane County; 396, Milwaukee County; 275, and Waukesha County; 193.

“Lack of existing inventory continues to fuel the homebuilding industry” said WBA Executive Director Brad Boycks.

“Coupled with a relatively mild winter, we are very pleased with the stable increase in single family permits compared to quarter one last year,” he added.

About the association

The Wisconsin Builders Association is a professional trade association comprised of 21 local associations dedicated to helping members build communities around the state.

The association advocates the interests of 4,000 home building industry members to keep housing affordable and accessible for Wisconsin families, protecting the American dream for over 75 years.

BUS DRIVER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

been sober for nine months prior to buying and drinking the 24-ounce beer on the way home. He also said he had been “doing that for eight years with no problems.”

In addition to 10 years in prison, Peterson also faces up to \$25,000 in fines, if convicted.

He is currently out of jail on a

\$20,000 signature bond and ordered not to consume or possess alcohol or have any contact with any of the students who were on his bus, among other conditions.

According to a representative from Durham School Services, he is no longer employed by the company.

DRUNKEN DRIVER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

appeared to have been trapped under the vehicle and dragged at least 20 feet.

She was removed from underneath the vehicle and taken to the side of the road for immediate medical attention “due to suspected multiple serious injuries.”

During questioning, Debrabant asked the deputy, “Did you ask the dumbasses that were stopped in the middle of the road?” and refused to take field sobriety tests or provide a breath sample, insisting deputies should just “give (him) the (expletive)ing

thing” referring to an OWI charge.

He later submitted a breath sample and blew a .27 on the portable breath test. After a warrant was secured, a blood draw was taken at Lakeland Medical Center with results pending.

While sitting in the hospital, Debrabant stated, “That’s what you do around here, get drunk ... I already know, yeah, clearly, I’m drunk. I mean common sense says so.”

If convicted of both Class G felony counts, Debrabant faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine.



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CLASSIFIEDS

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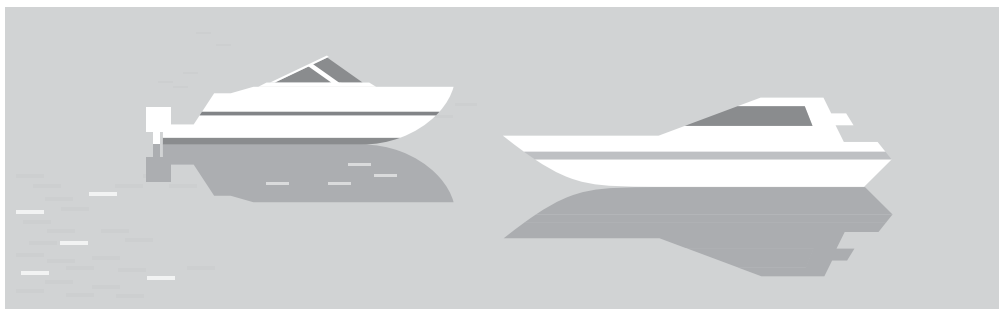
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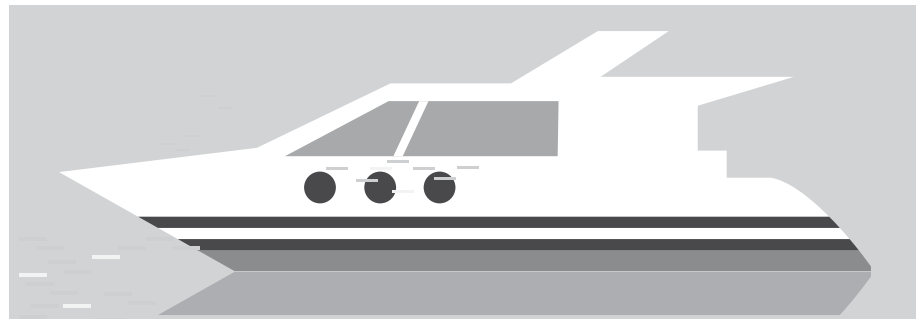
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Ski trainer, easy to get up on, builds confidence. \$75. Text (262) 949-6997
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Skis, doubles, nice condition. \$75.00. Text (262) 949-6997



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JUST LISTED

W1411 N Blue Spring Lake Dr, Palmyra - Just completed in 2021 this spectacular Craftsman style 5 BD, 3 bath ranch situated on 100' of level frontage on crystal clear Blue Spring Lake. Inside you'll appreciate the owner's attention to detail throughout with lake views from every room. Kitchen features granite counter tops, island/breakfast bar, Bosch appliances and dining area with access to lakeside covered deck. Ktch is open to LR with stone gas fireplace Master BD ensuite with dream bathroom, LL family room with amazing wet bar plus 4th and 5th bedrooms and fitness room. Main floor has Hickory hardwood floors and hand-stained Maple doors, panels, molding and trim. Throughout the house you'll find hand-stained Amish Cabinets. Wet-boat house and permanent pier. Plus 1,200 sq ft 4 car garage. Municipal sewer with private well. **\$2,189,700**



103' OF FRONTAGE

W5369 Baywood Dr, Elkhorn - Welcome to your home that's surrounded by lake views, a large yard for family fun as well as plenty of parking for everyone. Enjoy amazing 4th of July fireworks with the best seats in the house. Situated on 103' of level frontage on 0.81 of an acre, you'll find an updated, move in ready, 4BR, 3BA, two story home with upper end finishes. The large vaulted ceiling kitchen has an adjacent dining area & bonus playroom/den. The family room, also with vaulted ceilings, features a wall of windows that welcomes the lake inside. The living room with a natural fireplace and sliders leads to a spacious brick patio. This home offers the privacy of a main floor primary bedroom and the upper level has 3 generous sized bedrooms and 2 full baths. Accommodates 19 guests. **\$1,999,700**



JUST LISTED

W1260 South Shore Dr, Palmyra - Your lakefront search stops here with spacious 5 BD, 2 full, 2 half bath move in ready 2 story with walk-out lower level with 65' frontage on Blue Spring Lake. Lakeside kitchen with breakfast bar and large dining room with access to deck offering extended lake views. LR with cozy fireplace, main floor Master BD ensuite with sitting room lakeside. main floor laundry room. Upstairs offers 4 bedrooms and a full bath. Lower level Rec Room with sliding glass door that leads you to the lake. Lakeside level lawn and shed. Spacious back yard ideal for entertaining with multi-level patio. 2.5 detached garage with lower level storage. Blue Spring Lake is a All Sports Lake featuring crystal clear water in a North woods setting minutes to Kettle Moraine hiking, biking and SERENITY! **\$759,700**



NEW PRICE

W5135 Sterlingworth Ct, 13, Elkhorn - Prime location at the Sterlingworth Condominiums in the atrium, is just the beginning with this 2 Bedroom, 2 bath unit, steps off the beach with boat slip. The lake welcomes you as you walk in the door and head to the wall of sliding glass doors that leads to rare expansive deck. Eat-in kitchen with breakfast bar and dinette, living room with gas fireplace, large master bedroom with updated bath featuring walk-in multi-head tile shower and double vanity. Wood flooring throughout. Located right off the clubhouse with easy access to indoor pool. Tennis and Pickle Ball Courts and they finest sand beach on the lake. Short walk to Lauderdale Golf Course and minutes to Kettle Moraine trail head. Turn-key allowing for an easy transition to the lake! **\$709,700**



300 W Main St, 111, Palmyra - Located downtown Palmyra you'll find this Turnkey established Restaurant/Bar and separate 4 lane bowling alley waiting for an energetic entrepreneur to bring their vision to life. Restaurant/Bar has a seating capacity of 173 with an updated kitchen in 2019. Charming bar area overlooking main street and soaring ceilings in the dining area. Potential outdoor space for a beer garden and additional space to expand the bar area or rental opportunity. Income producing apartments on the second floor which consist of a 3 Bd, 2 Bd and 1Bd currently rented. Liquor license included. Palmyra is in the heart of the Southern unit of Kettle Moraine Forest offering hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails. Minutes from Blue Spring Lake and steps to Lower Spring Lake. **\$695,000**



ACCEPTED OFFER

139 Lance Dr, 302, Twin Lakes - Located on the 3rd floor of Lake Mary Resort, you'll find this turn-key 4 BD, 2 bath unit with boat slip, offering spectacular lake views from your private balcony. Inside offers living room with fireplace and sliding glass door to the balcony, eat-in kitchen with breakfast bar and large dining area, master ensuite, plus 3 more bedrooms and full bath. Large laundry room as well. Lake Mary Resort offers a sand beach, indoor pool, underground parking and private storage on pool level for easy access to water toys & life jackets. Watch the ski show from your unit and short walk to downtown shopping and restaurants. Move in ready with the ability to accommodate a quick closing. **\$558,700**



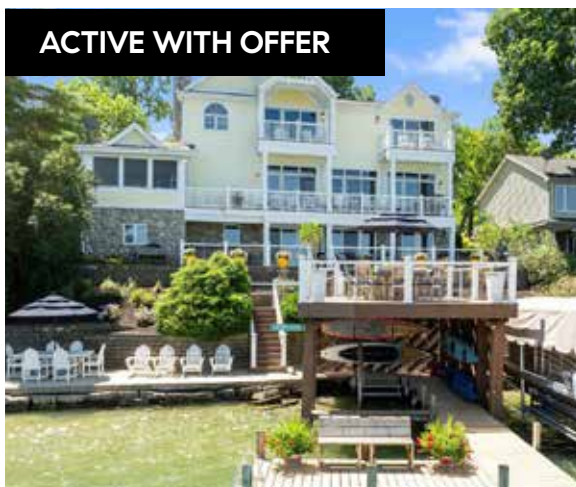
Karen Ostermeier

Lauderdale Lakes Resident & Specialist

COMPASS



ACTIVE WITH OFFER



W5284 Lauderdale Drive
La Grange **\$2,179,000**

LAKEFRONT



W5706 North Drive
La Grange **\$1,199,000**

ACCEPTED OFFER



W5454 West Shore Drive
La Grange **\$1,349,900**

BOAT SLIP



W5721 Nine Indian Trail
Sugar Creek **\$599,000**

LAKEFRONT



W5685 Ridge Road
La Grange **\$419,999**

LAKEFRONT



It27 North Drive
La Grange **\$389,900**

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