

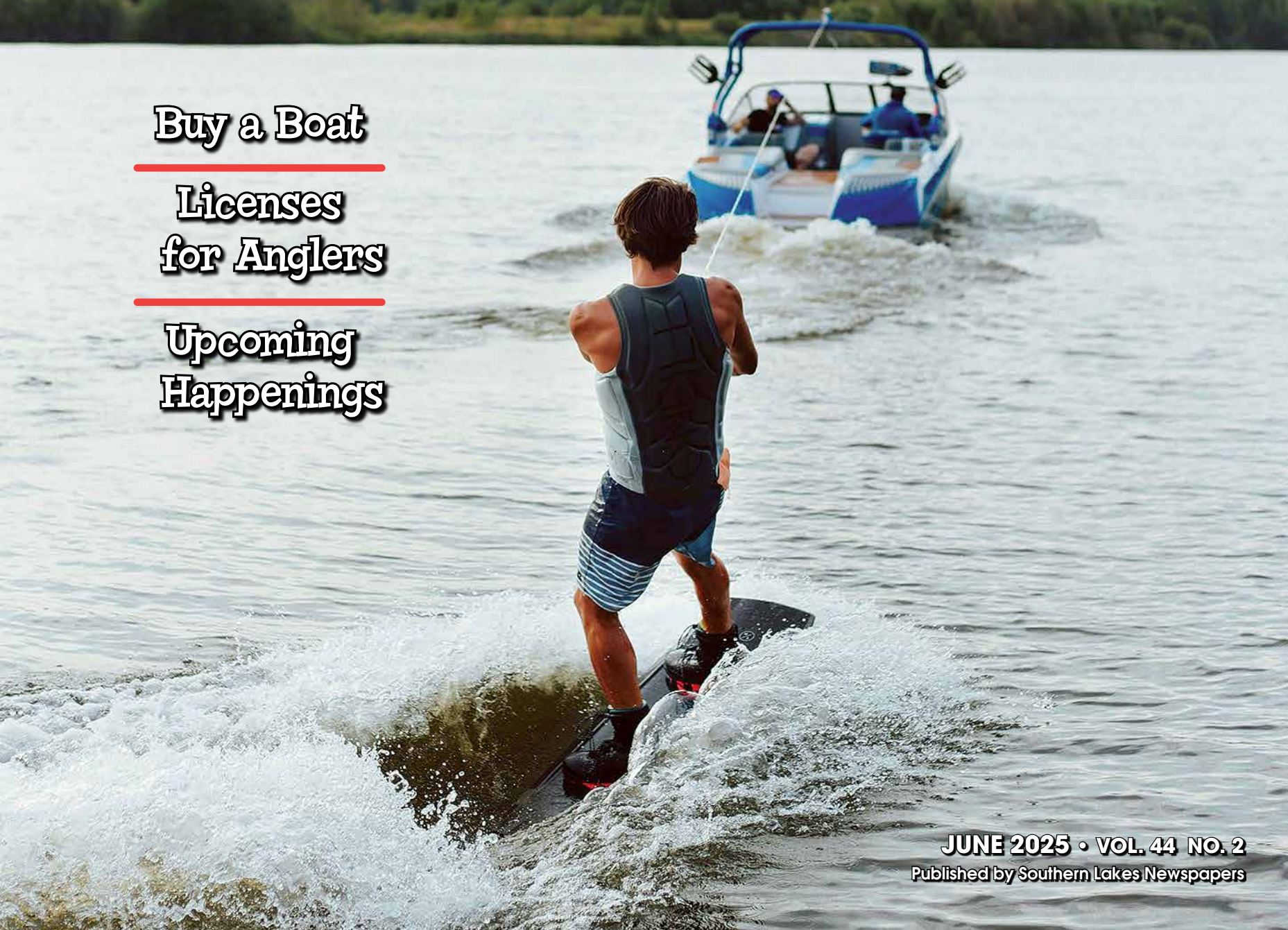
The Breeze

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Council delays vote on lake management district

By Dave Fidlin
CORRESPONDENT

A decision on the potential creation of a management district for Cravath and Trippe lakes will remain on ice, following a vote from the Common Council.

Members of a Lakes Advisory Committee presented the council with a series of recommendations at a meeting in early May, including the official formation of the district.

If the committee's recommendation does take hold, the City of Whitewater Trippe and Cravath Lake District – as the entity would be called – would be an additional taxing authority within the city.

As proposed, the district's initial budget would be \$250,000, translating into an estimated mill rate of approximately 26 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The calculation means the owner of a \$100,000 property would pay approximately \$26 in the first year of the district's implementation.

Talks of creating a lake district within Whitewater were first floated last year to help address the quality of both of the city's lakes.

"If approved, the district would have the authority to implement lake protection projects and levy a tax on all properties within the city – not just those with direct lake access," Michelle Dujardin, recreation and community events programmer with the city, said.

Council President Patrick Singer was absent from the May meeting; for this reason, a majority of the other six elected officials in attendance at the meeting opted to hold off on making a final decision until all seven members are present.

"For something this large, of this scope, I think we need to have all seven members present to vote before we make a decision," Councilmember Neil Hicks said.

Councilmember Brian Schanen, who presided over the meeting, agreed.

"I think the conversation tonight was very important, and good to have," Schanen added.

Tips for those looking to buy a boat

Considerations on whether to purchase a new or used watercraft

Buy new or buy used? That's a tough call for boat buyers, especially those about to do so for the first time.

There's no right or wrong answer. It all depends on what the buyer is seeking including tastes, budget, intended use and mechanical aptitude.

What makes your smile wider? A mint condition new prize or a bargain cleverly bought and burnished?

Some say the sweet spot is a used boat that is a couple of years old, bought from a trusted dealer you trust, but that opinion will likely vary between buyers.

Discover Boating offers the following pointers from both sides of the issue.

Why buy new?

Who doesn't like things that are shiny and new?

There's no need to wonder how the boat's been used or misused, or if it's been adequately winterized and commissioned.

And there is no history to uncover, because the first owners will write this boat's on-water biography.

Future boat owners can go for exactly what they want and not have to settle for what's on the pre-owned market.

One of the most fun aspects of a new boat for many will be getting the latest, greatest technology – the kind of things other people will be impressed by with some even being envious.

If something does go awry, there is a manufacturer's warranty to take care of the issue and bring peace of mind. That warranty is served by the selling dealer, which is another good reason to buy nearby.

Once purchased, the boat owner can rig it the way they want with the latest gear selected precisely for that type and style of watercraft. Unless the purchase is a boat-and-motor combo with the lowest-offered powerplant, it should be a satisfying match (though a combo is more than satisfying for many people.)

Finally, there is no need to get an answer to what might be the most troubling question: Why is this used boat for sale?

Consider pre-owned

Savings is likely the main reason many people shop for a used boat.

The previous owner has covered the percent of depreciation that happens when a new boat is towed off the dealer's lot.

With a used boat, shoppers will get more boat for fewer dollars, lower cost per year



Those interested in buying a boat need to determine whether going the route of new or used makes the most sense. From the budget and intended use to something as simple as preferring new and shiny or tried and true, there are many things to consider.

PEXELS.COM PHOTO The Breeze

of ownership, and there will be less on the line if they decide a different style or size boat would better serve them down the road.

While some enjoy the shiny and new in their purchases, for many there's peace of mind in knowing they're not going to put the first scratch or ding in the boat.

Any initial bugs in the boat or motor have likely surfaced and been dealt with, bringing another level of peace of mind for owners.

For reassurance, and before signing, potential buyers are encouraged to get a marine survey (see the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors or the National Association of Marine Surveyors). Marine surveyors see what most people can't, and they will look where most won't.

One the survey is done, the options are fairly simple: smile and buy (including whittling down the price in some instances), draft a to-do list, or walk away from this one and continue searching.

A used boat will have time-tested technologies. If a manufacturer brought out a bad boat or balky motor, online resources and other sources can warn buyers before they decide to buy.

The options on style of sale are many, including:

- From the trade-in or used stock of a dealer who has to cover overhead but has a reputation to uphold and a service bay;
- From a broker who has reduced

overhead costs;

- From a private seller, who may be most motivated.

The bottom line is whether to buy new or used is a decision each potential buyer needs to make with both ways offering a variety of positives, depending on the wants and needs as well as the budget.

For more information about boats including tips on purchasing one, visit www.discoverboating.com.

The Breeze

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Status hearing set for homicide trial

Another status hearing has been set for July in the case against Chad T. Richards, a 23-year-old Whitewater resident accused of shooting and killing a University of Wisconsin-Whitewater championship gymnast in August of last year.

Richards appeared by video in a status conference in the court of Judge Estee Scholtz May 22, where it was revealed that some evidence in the case is still being analyzed by the Wisconsin State Crime Lab.

A new status conference is now set for July 15 at 1:15 p.m. in Scholtz's courtroom. A trial schedule for Richards has been set, with the final pre-trial Dec. 3 and a 12-person jury trial to begin Dec. 12.

Richards is accused of shooting and killing 21-year-old Kara Welsh – a student/athlete entering her senior year at UW-Whitewater – Aug. 30 following an argument at an off-campus apartment building.

According to the complaint, City of Whitewater police were dispatched to an apartment on W. Whitewater Street just

before midnight on Aug. 30, after Richards called for help, saying a woman was dying.

Officers entered the building and allegedly found Richards in the hall on the phone, “crying hysterically.” While he was escorted out of the building, police entered the apartment and found the victim on the floor in a pool of blood with gunshot wounds to her neck, shoulder, wrist and leg. She was not breathing and didn't have a pulse.

Another officer found multiple holes in the door to the bedroom, consistent with someone striking it, and a black handgun on the floor of the living room along with spent casings.

After Richards was read his Miranda rights, he spoke with a detective at the City of Whitewater department. Richards allegedly told police that Welsh was his girlfriend and the two had gotten into an argument at her apartment.

Richards allegedly told the detective he didn't remember what the argument was about, but he had gotten angry enough to punch the door. Richards said that while the

couple was in the bedroom, Welsh grabbed Richards' handgun, and he wrestled it away from her.

Richards also told police that he shot her because “he feared for his life.” He then called his father – and then called 911.

An autopsy of Welsh through the Walworth County Medical Examiner's Office showed that she had been shot eight times, including wounds to her neck, wrist, abdomen, thighs and lower back.

After obtaining a search warrant, police went back to the apartment and recovered 11 spent shell casings. Another detective is on record saying that, based on his training and experience, the injuries to Welsh and the evidence at the scene were consistent with some of the shots occurring while the shooter was standing over the victim lying in the fetal position on the floor.

Welsh, from Plainfield, Illinois, was majoring in management at the school's College of Business and Economics. She was a member of UW-Whitewater's gymnastics team, and had won a Division 3 vault title in 2023.

Court news

Man faces seventh drunken driving charge

An arraignment is scheduled June 4 in Walworth County Circuit Court for a Whitewater man accused of seventh-offense drunken driving.

Brandon M. Herdman, 38, is charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence – seventh, eighth or ninth offense; operating a motor vehicle while revoked; failure to install an Ignition Interlock Device; and misdemeanor bail jumping.



Brandon Herdman

According to the criminal complaint, on May 17 at 1:06 p.m., Whitewater police received a call for a welfare check on Herdman. The caller stated Herdman had been drinking, left an apartment and drove away. Dispatchers reported Herdman's license is revoked due to several previous drunken driving convictions.

Police located Herdman, inside his running vehicle, in the parking lot of the apartment complex. He stated he had not been drinking, but admitted his license was revoked. Herdman showed signs of intoxication, including slow speech, and alcohol on his breath.

He failed field sobriety tests and blew a .263 on the preliminary breath test.

He told police he drank two Twisted Teas since 9 a.m. that day.

Herdman was previously convicted of driving while intoxicated on Nov. 5, 2018; May 29, 2016; Feb. 4, 2014; March 11, 2009; Oct. 12, 2005; and on May 20, 2005.

As a result of the convictions, Herdman's license was revoked and he was ordered to install an IID into his vehicle and hadn't complied.

He was out on bond through Walworth County since Aug. 6, 2024, for battery and disorderly conduct and was ordered not to possess or consume alcohol, nor commit any new crimes.

If convicted of the latest OWI, a Class F felony, he faces up to 12 years and six months in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

Committee outlines recommendations for water tower

By Dave Fidlin
CORRESPONDENT

After a months-long meeting of the minds, a committee's myriad recommendations concerning the future of the historic Starin Park Water Tower were disclosed at a recent Whitewater Common Council meeting.

In November, the council gave the Whitewater Landmarks Commission direction to explore further options for the water tower, which has been decommissioned after concerns of its

structural quality were raised.

At a council meeting May 20, a convened committee that included – but was not limited to – the Landmarks Commission presented a 6-point list of recommendations on addressing the tower's future.

In addition to keeping the structure and not moving forward with demolition, the so-called Starin Park Water Tower Committee advocated for, and received council approval, to reopen discussions with a structural engineering firm to address the condition of the metal tank at the top of the

structure.

Additionally, the committee was given authority to extend the submission of the final report through the end of the year.

Some of the committee's other recommendations also were included in the council's go-forward motion, including the establishment of a “friends” type group that could help fundraise for the structure's restoration and name the site to the National Register of Historic Places.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Report: Bird removing scooters in Whitewater due to tariffs

By Dave Fidlin
CORRESPONDENT

An app-based electric scooter company has announced plans of removing its fleet from Whitewater this month, according to a recent report, with tariffs cited as the reason.

Public Works Director Brad Marquardt presented the Common Council with a report at a meeting May 6 on the city's relationship with Bird, which has been providing it scooters in Whitewater for several years.

Last month, the council and Marquardt had preliminary discussions about the status of the city's contract with Bird, which had been auto-renewing in six-month increments. The council at the time

had directed Marquardt to gather data on ridership figures.

“While gathering information for this memo, Bird Scooters sent an email on April 28, 2025, indicated that service to Whitewater would be discontinued, with all scooters removed by May 11, 2025,” Marquardt wrote in the memo.

He added, “This decision was driven by the impact of tariffs on companywide vehicle shipments and allocation.”

Bird reportedly has also removed its scooters in the nearby communities of Beloit and Janesville, according to the information Marquardt shared in his memo.

Alongside the tariff talk, Bird also reported a decline in ridership in Whitewater in year-over-year comparisons,

as well as net revenue.

In all of 2024, Bird received net revenues of \$129,855, according to information the company shared with Marquardt. Throughout 2023, the company reported net revenue of \$140,002.

In terms of ridership numbers, total trips in 2024 dipped to 28,356 throughout the calendar year, compared to 29,977 trips logged in Whitewater in 2023.

The number of logged miles on a Bird scooter also declined in yearly comparisons, with 32,146 miles total in 2024, compared to 35,958 miles in 2023.

The average number of Bird scooters on a Whitewater street, however, increased, with 81 reported in 2024, up from 78 scooters in 2023.



Licenses needed for anglers 16 and older

2025 resident, nonresident costs for licenses, stamps, tags

In Wisconsin, kids 15 and younger can fish without a license. For everybody else, various license options can get people out on the water quickly and easily.

Where to purchase

Unless otherwise noted, licenses are available through the DNR's Go Wild website at gowild.wi.gov, sales locations or

at one of the DNR Service Centers.

A valid driver's license or social security number will be needed to purchase a fishing license at gowild.wi.gov.

Service Center counters are open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The centers located closest to this area include:

- Janesville – 2514 Morse St. Phone: 608-743-4800
- Waukesha – 141 NW Barstow, Room 180. Phone: 414-897-5773

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

There are various fishing license options in Wisconsin for resident and nonresidents. Discounts are available for first-time buyers, those who are disabled, veterans and active-duty military on furlough or leave.

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To find a licensed retailer, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov, click on the Fishing tab, select “Get a fishing license” and on the following page, choose sales locations for an interactive map.

Resident general

- Individual (annual) fishing license, \$20.
- First-time buyer – for those who haven’t fished in Wisconsin before or want to return to fishing after 10-plus years without a license, \$5.
- One-day fishing license, \$8 – can be used toward an upgrade to an annual fishing license for \$12.75.
- Reduced-rate fishing license, \$7 – required of anglers 16 and 17 years of age and anglers 65 years of age and older. Residents born before 1927 do not need a fishing license but should carry proof of their age when fishing. Note that nonresident senior citizens must purchase a regular

nonresident license.

- Junior license, 16-17 years old, \$7
- Senior citizen license, 65 and older, \$7
- Spousal license, \$31 – this license is issued to a legally married husband and wife who meet residency requirements.
- Inland Trout Stamp Privilege (residents and nonresidents), \$10 – see the Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for license restrictions.
- Sports license \$60 – this license allows for fishing and hunting of small game and gun deer. (Nonresident fee, \$275).
- Two-day Inland Lake Trout Fishing, \$14 – this license authorizes fishing for trout on inland lakes (includes inland trout stamp.)

Resident miscellaneous

- Fishing, disabled, \$7 – anglers must provide required proof of disability. Discount applies to resident fishing license only. Note that disabled nonresidents need to buy a regular nonresident license.
- Fishing, veteran / disabled, \$3 –

veterans must provide one of the following as proof: Veteran’s Disability Award Letter showing benefits are being paid for a disability of 70 percent or more, or Letter from Veterans Administration that indicates customer is receiving benefits for a service-related disability of 70 percent or more. Nonresident disabled veterans must purchase a regular nonresident license.

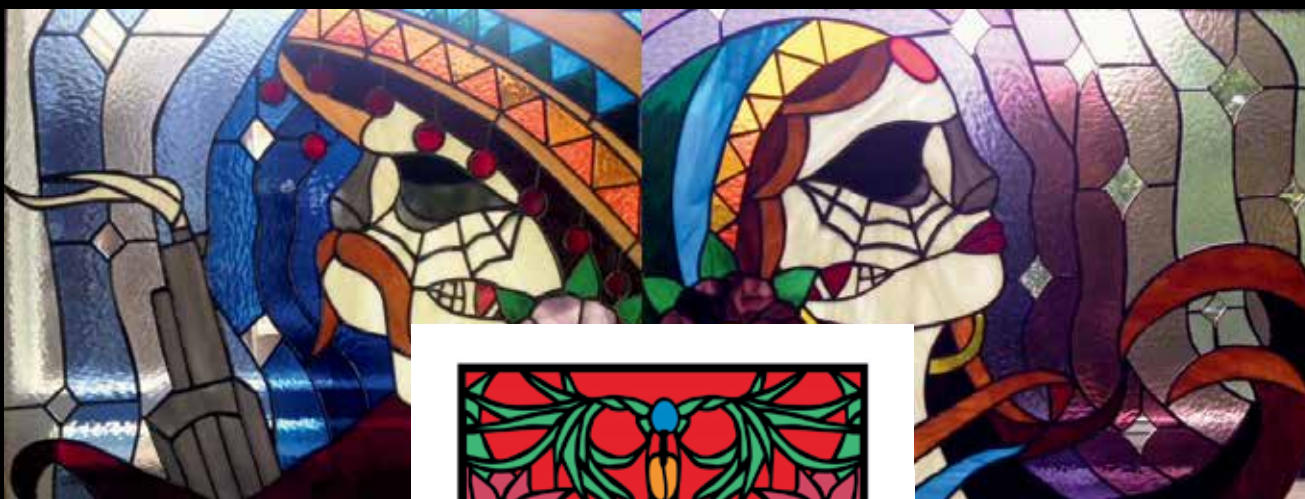
- Fishing, armed forces, \$0 – annual resident armed forces fishing license for members of the U.S. armed forces who exhibit proof that they are in active service with the armed forces and that they are a resident on furlough or leave.

Nonresident

- Individual (annual) fishing license, \$55.
- Family (annual) license, \$70 – includes children 16 and 17 years old but not grandchildren ages 16 and 17 years old.
- First-time buyer, \$28.75.
- One-day fishing license, \$15 – in the event the angler purchases an annual license,

can be used toward that upgrade for \$40.75.

- Four-day individual license, \$29.
 - 15-day individual license, \$33.
 - 15-day family license, \$45 – includes children 16-17 years old but not grandchildren 16-17 years old.
 - Military – not available for online purchase, \$20.
 - Student – available to full-time nonresident students in residence at any Wisconsin public or private college or university offering a degree (not available for online purchase), \$20
 - Inland Trout Stamp Privilege, \$10 – see the Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for license restrictions.
 - Two-day Inland Lake Trout Fishing License (residents only), \$14 – this license authorizes fishing for trout on inland lakes and includes inland trout stamp.
- All annual licenses are valid from date of purchase through March 31, 2025.
- For more information, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov or call 1-888-936-7463.

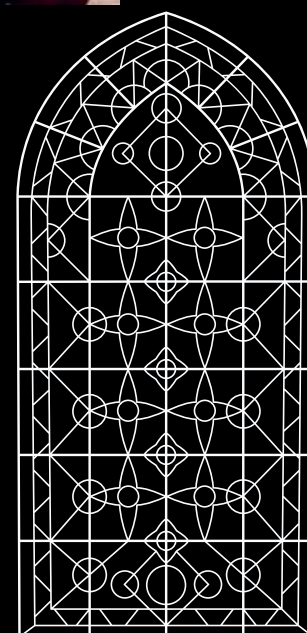
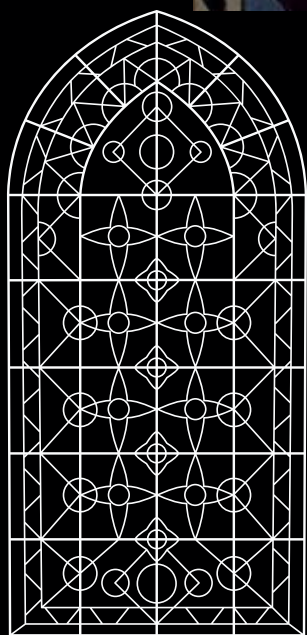


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Safety tips for boats and watercraft

Sea-Doo suggest keeping these safety tips in your watercraft or boat at all times and make sure that you and everyone aboard understands them all prior to leaving dock and observes them once out on the water.

- Know and understand all operational features of the craft you are riding – read and follow your operator's guide.
- Ensure your watercraft is Coast Guard-compliant and has all required equipment.

Securely attach engine cutoff lanyard to your wrist or Personal Flotation Device. Keep attached at all times.

- All watercraft riders must wear a properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD. The operator and passenger(s) of watercraft must wear protective clothing, including:

- A wet suit bottom or thick, tightly woven, snug-fitting clothing that provides equivalent protection. Thin bike shorts for example would not be appropriate. Severe internal injuries can occur if water is forced into body cavities as a result of falling into water or being near jet thrust nozzle.

- Normal swimwear does not adequately protect against forceful water entry into the lower body opening(s) of males or females.

- Footwear, gloves and goggles/glasses are also recommended. Some type of lightweight, flexible foot protection is recommended. This will help reduce possible injury, should you step on sharp underwater objects.

- Know your vessel's capacity – don't overload.

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Constantly look in all directions for skiers, divers, swimmers and other boats or watercraft.

- Keep a safe distance! Avoid wake jumping, splashing and passing close to any other vessels.

- Know the waters you will be operating in and observe all applicable federal, state and local boating laws.

- Know the weather conditions – tune into your local forecast.

- Stay clear of all restricted areas.

- Obey all posted signs, such as "No Wake," "Right of Way," "Idle" and other navigation signs.

- Never consume alcohol or drugs before or while operating a watercraft or boat.

- All operators must be of legal age to operate the craft you will be riding.

- BRP recommends a minimum operator of 16 years of age to ride.

- Always operate at a safe speed and be prepared to stop or alter course in emergencies. Ride within your limits, and allow sufficient distance to stop.

- Whether you're heading in or out, always maintain a slow speed until you're in a clear area, away from shore.

- Know and understand right-of-way rules.

- Remember you need throttle power to steer.

- Stay in sight of shore, but avoid operating too close to residential and congested areas. Be considerate of others who share the waterways.

- A boating safety course is strongly recommended.

For more information, visit www.sea-doo.com.



Follow the rules of the waterways when having fun out on the lake, whether riding a jet ski or driving a boat. There is room for all enthusiasts on the lake if everyone stays alert.

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470636

Samuel Karns named next WUSD superintendent

By Dave Fidlin
CORRESPONDENT

After a months-long search, the Whitewater Unified School Board has selected the district's next leader with the issuance of a two-year contract.

Samuel Karns will serve as WUSD's next superintendent. At a meeting May 27, the School Board issued Karns a contract that begins July 1 and runs through June 30, 2027.

Karns is succeeding Caroline Pate-Hefty, who early this year announced her resignation.

Pate-Hefty has been named superintendent of the Manheim Township School District in Pennsylvania, and will be departing the district June 30. She has been serving as

WUSD's superintendent for the past five years.

The School Board deliberated behind closed doors for nearly an hour at the May 27 meeting before voting, 6-1, in favor of appointing Karns to the superintendent position.

School Board member Jeff Tortomasi cast the dissenting vote as the board briefly reconvened into open session to vote on Karns' appointment before adjourning the meeting.

No board members spoke to the rationale for appointing Karns to the position during the brief return to open session.

Karns was one of three finalists the WUSD School Board announced as being under consideration. Laurie

Fiorenza and Kurt Schneider were the other contenders for the leadership position.

According to information the district furnished, Karns holds numerous degrees, including his superintendent licensure from Concordia University and a master's degree in education from Texas A&M University. He also holds a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of Texas.

Karns currently works within the Wisconsin educational arena as principal of Todd Elementary School in the School District of Beloit.

Prior to his current principalship in Beloit, Karns worked in a variety of teaching and administrative roles in Wisconsin and Texas.

WATER TOWER

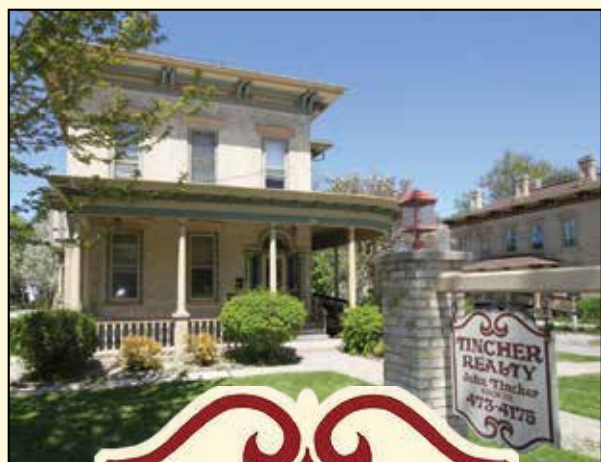
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Patricia Blackmer, chair of the Whitewater Landmarks Commission, said the discussions within the convened committee were fruitful and represented input from a wide spectrum of community stakeholders.

"At any entry point into the City of Whitewater, it is visible as one of our most historic and iconic structures," Blackmer said. "It's an important part of Whitewater's history."

Resident Lynn Binnie, a former councilmember, served on the committee and acknowledged initial hesitation of saving the structure, citing cost concerns. Ultimately, however, he said he was swayed to support the tower's continuation after hearing input from others on the committee.

"I envision the possibility that we could go decades without really putting significant money into it, as long as we don't have an expectation of keeping it as close to original as possible," Binnie said. "To me, the important thing is safety."



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470635

Upcoming happenings

Southern Wakes United Ski Team

Below is the tentative schedule of remaining shows for this year in the area, including on Whitewater Lake.

Whitewater Lake Scenic Ridge Campground

All shows at 7 p.m.

- Saturday, Aug. 2
- Saturday, Aug. 23

Lauderdale Lakes Lauderdale Landing, Elkhorn

All shows at 6 p.m.

- Friday, June 13
- Friday, July 4
- Friday, July 25
- Friday, Aug. 8
- Friday, Aug. 29

Elkhorn Lake Babe Mann Park, Elkhorn

All shows at 6 p.m.

- Saturday, June 21
- Saturday, June 28
- Sunday, July 12
- Sunday, Aug. 16
(Alumni Show)

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.

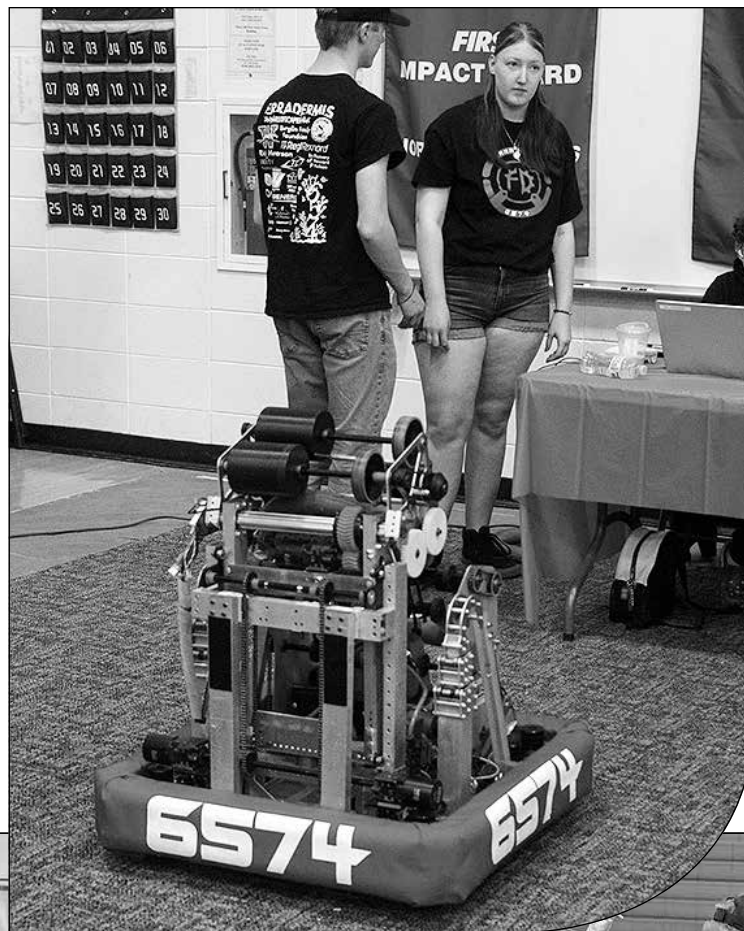
For more information, go to southernwakesunited.com.

Live music

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.

Glass classes

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 different kind of fair

Whitewater High School held its annual STEAM Fair May 10, highlighting the work of students and opportunities for others in science, technology, arts and mathematics. At left: The high school robotics team, Ferradermis, made an appearance with its robot. Below: Guests included representatives from the Wisconsin Chapter of the Ghostbusters.

TOM GANSER *The Breeze*





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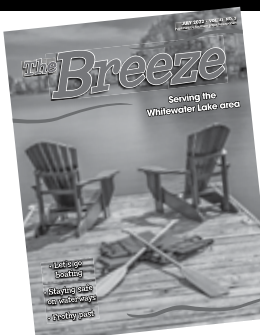
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2003 ALUMACRAFT 175 TROPHY W/ Trailer. 90 HP, 9.9HP & equip. 815-389-2480.



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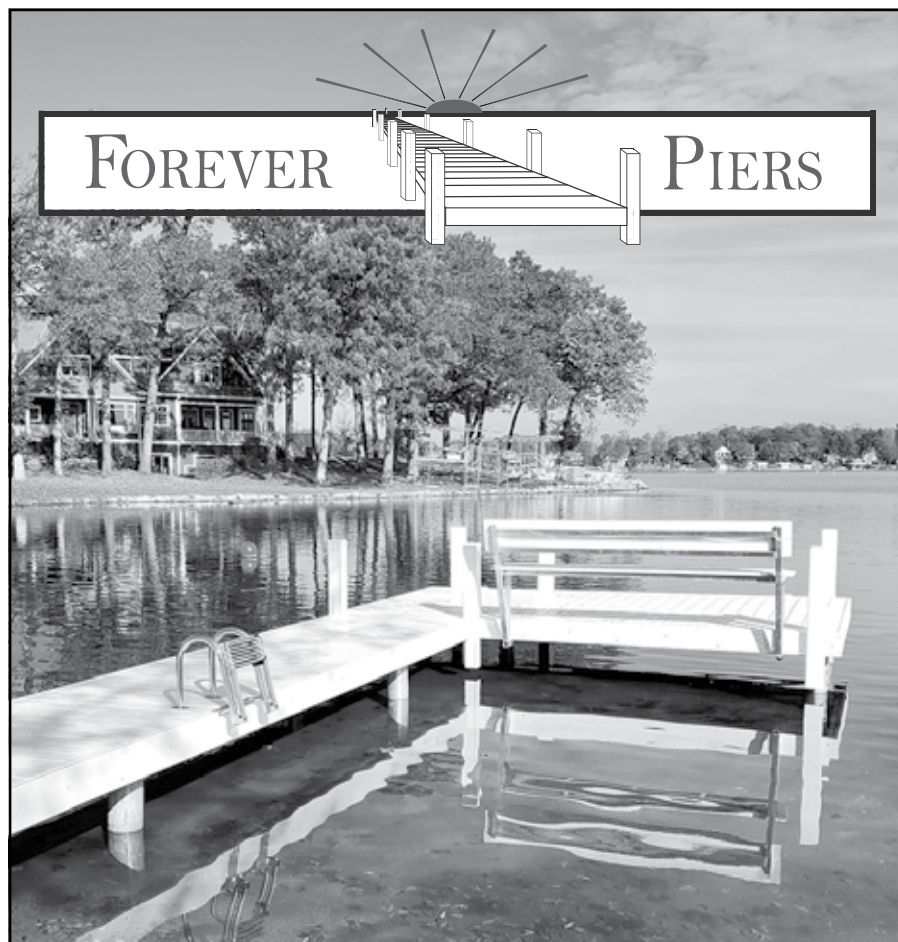
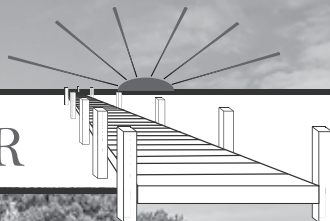
July 17 & Aug. 14

For any other advertising needs, please contact Pete Hansen at (262) 723-2250

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Big
day

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater held spring commencement exercises May 17, as close to 1,500 students earned their degrees, which were celebrated over two ceremonies. Carter Waelchli of Whitewater receives his degree from Chancellor Corey A. King.

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BY THE NUMBERS

Waterfront Homes for Sale
in the Whitewater Lake Area

N7049
Oakwood Rd.
\$574,000

Lt3 E
Lakeshore Dr.
\$750,000

N7525 E
Lakeshore Dr.
\$840,000

Lot 1
Cliffs View Ln.
\$950,000

N7646
State Park Rd.
\$1,250,000

N7294
Krahn Dr.
\$2,395,000

N7411
Ridge Rd.
\$2,450,000



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