

# Lauderdale Lakes **BREEZE**

SUMMER 2023 • First Edition

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FREE

## Lauderdale Shores: WHERE FRIENDS HAVE FUN TOGETHER

By **Deborah Cruger**  
CORRESPONDENT

Once located on Surfwood Drive in Elkhorn, Luebke's Resort transitioned from a campground with a restaurant and bar to Lauderdale Shores, a condominium community of campers and manufactured homes.

Lauderdale Shores is widely considered to be the most reasonably priced condominium community on Lauderdale Lakes. The community is a patchwork of decades-old campers and newer manufactured homes with porches and designer furnishings.

Lauderdale Shores is located on Green Lake near Lauderdale Bible Camp's 52-acre campus. The community is open from mid-April through mid-October. It has a community beach, boat slips for residents, a private boat launch, volleyball and a bath house.

Most residents drive golf carts within the community as they are a convenient means of transportation to visit friends, go to the beach, go to the piers or visit nearby Pebble Beach.

The Lauderdale Shores Condominium Association, which oversees the community, has enacted quiet hours, a no pet policy and other regulations that make the seasonal home community a great place to live.

The draw of this lake access community is clear. Green Lake, where Lauderdale Shores is located, is the deepest of the three lakes that make up the Lauderdale Lake chain. This is the same lake that people pay millions of dollars to live on. Nearby waterfront homes sell for \$1 to \$3 million.

Most homeowners who live in manufactured home communities do not own the land that they live upon and must pay a monthly rent. Lauderdale Shores is unique in that residents own both their land and unit. There is no monthly land fee – only a small association fee of \$122.

This fee covers water/sewer, pier installation and removal and grounds maintenance.

There are property taxes on units in Lauderdale Shores, but these taxes are minimal compared to traditional lake home taxes.

Over the past two years, five condominiums have sold at Lauderdale Shores for less than \$200,000 each. This does not include the units that have been sold by owner. Currently, there are only two properties listed for sale in the community.

Realtor Karen Ostermeier, with Compass Wisconsin-Elkhorn, has unit 8 available at \$198,500. According to the listing, this private lakeside unit is move-in ready and features a large screened-in porch and a boat slip just a few steps away from the unit.

Lauderdale Lakes has historically low lakefront inventory. As of May 1st, there are only three waterfront homes for sale on Lauderdale Lakes. Each home is listed at well over a million. This could mean that buyers are ready to pounce on lake access properties in good locations as the 2023 season progresses.



Properties on Lauderdale Shores are popular throughout the summer. from top: Unit 8 in Lauderdale Shores has updated décor with new flooring, new windows and a new roof; This private lakeside unit has a screened-in porch overlooking the lake and a patio for warm summer nights; Unit 8 is also just a few steps away from a deep water boat slip that comes with the unit. Boat lifts are also allowed in the slips.

KAREN OSTERMEIER *The Breeze*

## Frank's Piggly Wiggly stores sold to Hansen's IGA Market

After 42 years of owning a grocery store, and more than 60 years in the business for Frank Lueptow, and 50 for Stephanie Lueptow, they are retiring.

According to a news release, the Lueptows sold their stores and shopping centers in Elkhorn and East Troy in late April. Hansen's IGA Markets purchased the businesses.

In 1981, Frank and Stephanie Lueptow opened a 5,000-square-foot store, Frank's Quality Market in downtown Elkhorn. Within a year they bought their nearest competitor and moved across the street to a 10,000-square-foot location and rebranded as Frank's SuperValu Discount Foods.

The Lueptows spent a decade in that location, until it was time again to upgrade. In 1991 they opened their current location as Frank's County Market in a new 35,000-square-foot building.

As the Elkhorn continued to grow, so did Frank's. In 2001, they completed a 10,000-square-foot addition. Lueptows expressed their excitement of growing at the time saying, "It is our great pleasure to continue to expand and evolve with our hometown."

In 2009, Frank's expanded east by acquiring the East Troy Sentry store. "We are so excited to grow and service the community of East Troy. It is a special place, and we look forward to being part of the community," the Lueptows

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## Lauderdale Lakes **BREEZE**

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# Karen Ostermeier

Lauderdale Lakes Resident & Specialist



**THANK YOU LAUDERDALE LAKES FOR A  
VERY SUCCESSFUL 2022 AND HELPING ME  
SELL OVER \$25,926,076 IN SALES VOLUME!**

**NEW LAKEFRONT**

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N7630 Pleasant Point Cir • La Grange • \$1,689,000

**BOAT SLIP**

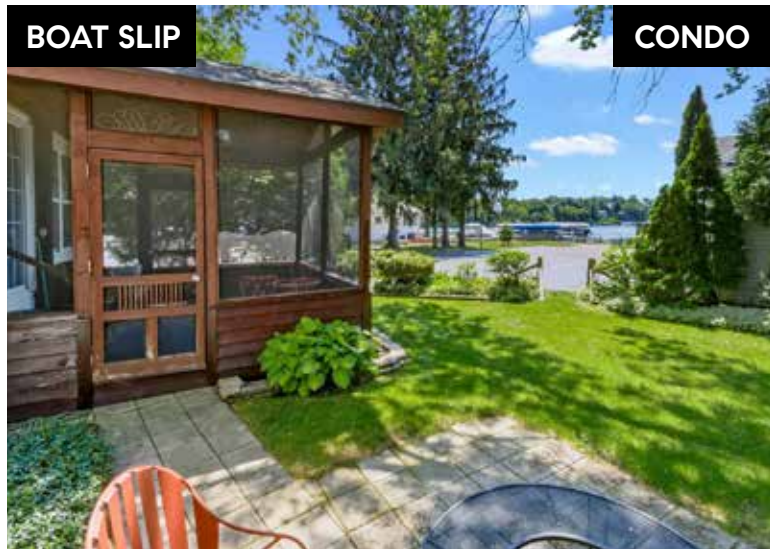
**PENDING**



N7544 Cool Hill Ct • La Grange • \$549,000

**BOAT SLIP**

**CONDO**



w5229 Surfwood Dr, Unit 8 • La Grange • \$198,500

**SOLD**



W5316 Lost Nation Rd • La Grange • **\$1,525,000**



**LOOKING FORWARD TO AN AMAZING 2023!**

**Karen.O@Compass.com**

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Karen Ostermeier is a real estate licensee affiliated with Compass, a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Keefe RE agents are now licensed with Compass.

**COMPASS**



An initial appearance was adjourned for a woman charged in connection with a crash in Sugar Creek that killed the passenger in the truck she was driving.

Yvette L. Gray, 39, Lake Geneva, was charged April 3 with homicide by a vehicle with the use of a controlled substance, hit-and-run resulting in death and second-degree reckless homicide.

A status conference for the case is scheduled for July 6.

According to the criminal complaint, Gray was seen wet

and distressed and walking in the middle of the road in the area of Highway P and Sugar Creek Road in the Town of Sugar Creek at about 12:25 a.m. Oct. 30. Gray told police she had been in an altercation with a man but refused to provide additional information and denied being in a car crash or having her car break down, according to the complaint.

Gray asked to be taken to Delavan but then requested transport to Mercy Walworth Medical Center on Highway 67

where she said she goes to warm up in the waiting room because she is homeless, according to the complaint.

At about 2:35 a.m., a witness called police and said Gray had been driving a truck with Andres P. Godina, 55, of Elkhorn, as a passenger. The caller said Gray crashed the truck on Highway P and fled the scene, leaving Godina injured inside the truck, according to the complaint. Godina called the witness, who found Godina in the truck and called police, according

to the complaint.

Police found the truck partially in a creek off Highway P with Godina inside with a large amount of blood on his face, according to the complaint. Godina was suffering from shock, exposure to the cold and injuries from the crash and was taken to Mercy Hospital in Janesville. He said Gray had been driving at the time of the crash and she intentionally went off the road and crashed the truck by driving too fast, according to the complaint.

Godina was hypotensive from being exposed to the cold for several hours and was in critical condition with internal bleeding. He died at the hospital three days later as a result of blunt-force injury to his torso, according to the complaint.

Gray was given a urine screen Oct. 30 that showed a positive result for cocaine, the complaint states. An accident reconstruction determined Gray was traveling more than 83 mph at the time of the crash, according to the complaint.



A pair of EF-0 tornados touched down the evening of March 3 in Walworth County – one in Geneva that went almost due north to Elkhorn and one in Sharon that traveled almost to Delavan. Above: The roofing was torn off the building at Elkhorn Self Storage. Bottom: A tree was ripped up at a residence by the Geneva tornado.

MARY RICE *The Breeze*

## Three confirmed tornados touch down in area

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**  
EDITOR

The National Weather Service out of Milwaukee confirmed three EF-0 tornados – the lowest or least destructive on the scale – touched down in the area the evening of March 31.

One touched down in Rock County in Beloit and traveled west for eight minutes and about 4 miles.

The other two in Walworth County were on the ground longer and traveled further. One touched down in Sharon and traveled northeast for about 11 miles to just south of Delavan, while the other touched down in the Town of Geneva near the Geneva National Golf Club and went almost due north into Elkhorn.

While there were no injuries or fatalities, the winds – estimated at peak to be about 80 miles and hour – did some damage to trees and buildings.

Among the damaged areas was Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan. Several large trees were uprooted and one large one fell directly into one of the buildings.

Lake Lawn Resort issued the following statement on its Facebook page April 3:

“This past Friday, both the City and Township of Delavan experienced an early season severe weather event with a confirmed tornado within our community. There have been numerous photos and news reports shared over the weekend highlighting the storm damage to local businesses, including our own.

“While the resort experienced wind damage to a number of large trees, along with some structural damage to a single building, cleanup crews responded quickly and continue to work and restore the resort grounds back to its original state.

“We are beyond thankful for the associates, who assisted all guests during the tornado warning, into safe designated shelter areas throughout our expansive resort. Due to full cooperation by all guests and visitors no one was hurt during the storm.

“While resort operations continue as normal, we are aware that others in

not only our immediate community of Delavan, but those in neighboring towns such as Elkhorn, Sharon and Walworth continue their cleanup efforts as well. We send our thoughts to them at this time and look to support however we can.

Storm damage was also evident in Elkhorn, where several large trees were uprooted and the roof was torn off Elkhorn Self Storage.

The early-season storm served as a reminder about the differences between a watch and a warning, and also what to do in case of a warning.

A watch means conditions are present to spawn a tornado, while a warning means an actual tornado or cloud rotation has been spotted.

- In case of a tornado warning:
- Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building;
  - Avoid windows; and
  - If in a mobile home, a vehicle, or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect against flying debris.

## Woman charged in newborn death

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**  
EDITOR

A 39-year-old Whitewater woman is facing felony charges after allegedly neglecting a child, leading to its death.

Santos Asucena Caseres Cruz was charged in Jefferson County Circuit Court in late March in the case of the newborn found dead in a Whitewater field.

Caseres Cruz is facing one count of neglecting a child with the consequence of death, and another count of attempting to move, hide or bury a corpse.

The first is a Class D felony, the second a Class F felony. Combined, the two could lead to more than 37 years in jail and fines of \$125,000.

She appeared in court March 28 by video. A \$10,000 cash bond was set, along with conditions that Caseres Cruz surrender any passport, not leave Jefferson County and comply with GPS monitoring. A preliminary hearing in the case was scheduled for May 12, and information from that hearing was not available before press deadline.

According to the criminal complaint, an autopsy on the child was done and no cause of death could be determined.

The complaint stated that, in the course of the investigation, police discovered an address on the box the baby was found in. Police went to that person’s place of employment and the witness said that her father believed her mother was pregnant by another man and her mother had been accusing of having an abortion.

Police then went to interview Caseres Cruz, using a translator from the Division of Criminal Investigation, according to the complaint. Caseres Cruz said she had not been pregnant and did not conceal the newborn in a field. She added that the accusations were by her ex-husband, who was allegedly abusive, according to the complaint.

Investigators took a DNA swab and searched Caseres Cruz’s home. According to the complaint, “nothing of evidentiary value was found.”

An interview with a second witness was conducted the same day as the search. The witness said that Caseres Cruz was in the bathroom Jan. 27 suffering from stomach pain and that there was “a lot of blood.”

Both witnesses are children of Caseres Cruz. Later that day, police went to interview Caseres Cruz. She was advised of her rights and agreed to make a statement, then asked how much “time” she’d serve for doing this, according to the complaint.

Caseres Cruz then admitted to going into labor Jan. 27 – a few days before her due date – and giving birth in the bathtub at her home, according to the complaint. Initially, she told investigators that the baby was not breathing or moving when born, but then changed her statement to say the baby was alive when born but possibly choking. She admitted to not helping the child. She said that she did not call 911 because she was scared of her children finding out she was pregnant, according to the complaint.

The defendant said she cleaned the bathtub and later put the baby under the sink in a plastic bag. She later wrapped the child in a pink sweatshirt and put the baby beside her bed in a cardboard box. Caseres Cruz said that she cried all night, according to the complaint.

The next morning, she told investigators, she cut the umbilical cord, placed the child and the placenta in separate bags and then drove to the field by Twin Oaks Trailer Park and left the baby behind, according to the complaint.

Caseres Cruz told investigators that she checked on the box every day and cried, according to the complaint.







The Southern Wakes United Ski team performs throughout the area during the summer, with shows on Whitewater Lakes, the Lauderdale Lakes and at Turtle Lake. Walworth County's only water ski team, Southern Wakes is a non-profit that is designed to not only put on a show but gives water skiers a chance to improve their skills.

DAVE DRESLOW FILE PHOTO Lauderdale Lakes Breeze

## FRANK'S PIGGLY WIGGLY • CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

said at the time.  
In 2011, Frank's joined the Piggly Wiggly family (Piggly Wiggly Midwest) and both locations became Frank's Piggly Wiggly.  
"Frank's stores have grown with Elkhorn and East Troy and it is now time to pass on their stewardship

to a new family business with the Hansens," the Lueptows stated in the news release. "The Lueptows sincerely express their appreciation to all their customers, vendors and their employees for their support, friendship, and loyalty over the last 42 years."

## ● CALENDAR

### Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club

**Cocktails with the Commodore**, Saturday, June 3, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Cheers to 70 years. This event is open to all, you do not need to be a member of the LLYC to attend. Cost is \$35 before May 26, \$40 after. Contact Linda Johnson at lcjlcs@gmail.com with questions.

**Rock'n In the Bay**, Saturday, June 17.

*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

**Annual Membership Meeting**, Saturday, June 10, 9 to 11 a.m. – This event will be held at Lutherdale Camp. The meeting starts with registration and social time at 9 a.m., with a chance to join the LLIA for 2023. The meeting will run from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

*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 Siok 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.

### Whitewater Lake

#### Scenic Ridge Campground

*All shows 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.*

- Saturday, May 27
- Saturday, June 3
- Saturday, June 17
- Saturday, July 8
- Saturday, July 29
- Saturday, Aug. 19, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 2, 6 p.m.

### Lauderdale Lakes

#### Lauderdale Landing, Elkhorn

*All shows at 6 p.m.*

- Friday, June 9
- Friday, June 30
- Friday, July 14
- Friday, Aug. 4
- Friday, Aug. 11
- Friday, Aug. 25

### Turtle Lake

#### Turtle Lake Tap & Grill

- Friday, Aug. 18, 6 p.m.

### Elkhorn Lake

#### Babe Mann Park, Elkhorn

*All shows at 6 p.m.*

- Thursday, June 8
- Thursday, July 13
- Thursday, Aug. 10

*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

**Spring Food Truck Festival 2023**, Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Held in Veterans Park, 100 W. Walworth St. in Elkhorn, the festival features a wide variety of food from sweet to savory, with a number of local favorites coming to the area. There will also be craft and commercial vendors in the park.

**Elkhorn Antique Flea Market at the Walworth County Fairgrounds**, 411 E. Court St., Highway 11, Elkhorn, Sunday, May 21 – 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.

**Mai Fest**, Friday, May 26 and 27, **Duesterbeck's Brewing Company**, N5543 Highway O, Elkhorn – Bands will play Friday, May 26, and Saturday, May 27, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mr. P's Grilled Cheese will be on site to offer gourmet grilled cheese options, plus Duesterbeck's will have its tap selection available. Bands include Bridio Trio and Amy Rose and Fender Bender.

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.

**Naturescapes Class, The Vinery**, 218 Elkhorn Rd., Whitewater – Classes are available June 6-8 and June 9-11, with varying times, to teach fused glass techniques. Register at The Vinery by calling 262-458-2209.

**Walworth County FFA Truck and Tractor Pulls**, Saturday, June 17, 6 p.m., **Walworth County Fairgrounds**, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn – Food sale proceeds to benefit all six FFA Chapters in Walworth County. Ticket proceeds towards Ag Education opportunities at the Walworth County Fairgrounds.



# New pier and kayak launch coming to Babe Mann

By **Kellen Olshefski**  
CORRESPONDENT

The City of Elkhorn Common Council voted unanimously in favor in March of the addition of a new pier and kayak launch on Elkhorn Lake in Babe Mann Park.

The cost of the new fishing pier and kayak launch will be split between the City and the Rotary Club of Elkhorn, which raised \$25,000 for several 2023 Babe Mann Park improvements through its 12 Days of Christmas fundraiser this past year.

The fishing pier and kayak launch are estimated to cost about \$10,000, and the City would cover its portion of the cost by using money from the Park Fund, which City Administrator Adam Swann said currently has \$142,899.

City of Elkhorn Recreation Director Karl Sorvick said the new floating pier and launch is a modular design from the company EZ Dock, meaning the city could easily extend it if they so wished.

“If we wanted to make things bigger eventually, we could add on to this component,” he said.

Alderman Gary Lee Payson Jr., who serves as the Council Liaison on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, said members of the board were in favor of the addition of the new feature at the park.

“It’s a great idea with all of the improvements we’ve done at Babe Mann Park,” he said, making a motion to approve the \$5,000 cost for the installation of the new pier.

In addition to the kayak launch and pier, other proposed projects

for 2023 to be funded by the Rotary Club include the addition of four picnic tables at the cost of \$2,500 each, two benches with pads at the cost \$6,800 total and the planting of 16 new trees at the cost of \$8,000.

## In other parks business

In other parks and recreation news, the City of Elkhorn Common Council approved a budget amendment to allow the Elkhorn Recreation Department to take over treasurer duties for the Quad County Baseball and Softball League.

According to Sorvick, the league had 10 communities involved with more than 80 teams last year, at which time Palmyra served as the treasurer for the league.

Sorvick said he feels Elkhorn is better suited to take on the treasurer duties, in part largely due to the

Elkhorn Recreation Department’s larger staff.

“I think it’ll be easier for our coaches and our community involved for us to take on this responsibility,” he said.

“Basically, this will just give us the flexibility to currently expand on what we’re doing and just make things more timely for all the communities involved, to make the Quad a better league entirely.”

Payson said the advisory board concurred, noting that Palmyra currently only has a part time staffer available to handle the league treasurer duties.

“We believe it’s going to be a benefit to not only our area, but everybody else that participates,” he said.

A motion to approve by Payson with a budget adjustment for

\$7,500 in revenue and \$7,250 in expenditures was approved unanimously.

In his memo to the council, Sorvick noted the treasurer role would be responsible for the determination and collection of team fees, as well as the reimbursement for end of season tournament costs.

He noted that last year’s team fee was \$90 per team, with those funds used to cover the cost of the league website, team awards and tournament costs, such as umpire wages and balls.

With \$7,470 collected in team fees last year, \$6,660 was reimbursed to hosting tournament communities, \$500 was spent on awards and \$100 was spent on the website subscription, resulting in a net positive of \$210 in 2022.



A large fire on Highway O in Elkhorn gutted a boat storage facility last fall, leaving it a total loss, according to authorities.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Southern Lakes Newspapers

# Blaze destroys boat storage building

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**  
EDITOR

A boat warehouse and storage facility in Elkhorn was estimated to be a total loss after a large fire last fall.

While there were no injuries to firefighters or employees, the facility on Highway O – a privately owned building listed as boat storage – burned for about seven hours.

Roughly 10-12 boats and 50 vintage snowmobiles were inside at the time of the fire, said Elkhorn

Fire Department Chief Rod Smith. The department was paged out at about 8:50 p.m. for a structure fire. Smith said that when the department arrived, the building was fully involved in the fire.

The blaze progressed to a third alarm on the MABAS call sheet, and Smith also called in two special alarms for water tenders since there were no fire hydrants on site – and only one narrow driveway.

“It made it difficult getting the vehicles back in,” Smith explained. “We had to run the water from the road.”

The building was estimated to be about 40,000-square feet in size. The cause of the fire is undetermined and remains under investigation.

According to Smith, the mutual aid calls brought help from Lauderdale-LaGrange, Town of Delavan, City of Delavan, Lake Geneva, East Troy, Whitewater, Troy Center, Darien, Williams Bay, Lyons, Walworth, Fontana, Sharon, Bloomfield, Milton, Palmyra, Kettle Moraine, Fort Atkinson, Janesville, Clinton, Helenville, Vernon and Rochester.

# Sentence handed down *Washington man gets 16 years prison in fatal crash*

A Washington man was sentenced to 16 years in prison and 13 years extended supervision in connection with a crash that killed a man in the Town of LaGrange.

Timothy M. Creiglow, 34, of Seattle, pleaded guilty Sept. 14 to second-degree reckless homicide and homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle. A charge of homicide by use of a vehicle with a prohibited alcohol concentration against him was dismissed.

He was sentenced Nov. 29 to one year in prison and three years extended supervision on the reckless homicide charge and 15 years in prison and 10 years extended supervision on the charge of homicide by intoxicated use of a vehicle, according to online court records. The sentences are to run

consecutively.

According to the criminal complaint, a blue Jeep was reported driving recklessly on Highway 12 in the Town of Lafayette at about 11:20 p.m. Oct. 9, 2021. The Jeep was reportedly swerving on the roadway, nearly struck a vehicle driven by the person who called police, left the road, struck a sign, crossed into oncoming traffic and crossed the fog line multiple times, according to the complaint.

As police tried to locate the reckless driver, they came upon a crash on Highway 12 east of Jackson Road in the Town of LaGrange involving the Jeep and a BMW. The BMW had extensive front-end damage and smelled of gasoline, and an unresponsive man was lying from the passenger

seat across the center console and into the rear passenger seat, the complaint states.

A deputy tried to remove the man from the vehicle as a fire began burning near the front passenger tire, according to the complaint. The deputy was unable to remove the man before the BMW became engulfed in flames, and the man died as a result of the crash and fire, according to the complaint.

Creiglow, the driver of the Jeep, had a significant head laceration, was drifting in and out of consciousness and smelled like alcohol, according to the complaint. Creiglow’s blood was drawn and sent to the State Crime Lab for analysis, the complaint states.

## *In remembrance*

### Long-time community enthusiast Barb Fischer praised

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**  
EDITOR

The City of Elkhorn and Walworth County lost a bright light Dec. 21, 2022.

Barb Fischer, an Elkhorn resident committed to continuing education, to her community and to her family, died of injuries she suffered in a car crash in Lake Geneva shortly before the Christmas holiday.

“Christmas was her absolute favorite time of the year,” said her son, Travis, adding that Barb was excited to finally have all three of her children home at the same time.

Fischer’s memorial service was March 19 at Evergreen Golf Course. Fischer’s son and those who she touched in the area are remembering a woman who cared about all around her.

“She was a special light in the community, without a doubt,” Travis said. “Always smiling, always friendly, always happy.”

The list of organizations and businesses that Barb contributed to is, in a sense, almost endless, the result of a life spent in the area. An Elkhorn-area native, she graduated from Elkhorn Area High School along with her husband, Art, the two opened Art’s Service and Sales in Elkhorn.

Barb also served in the community. For decades, she was clerk for the Town of LaFayette, working with numerous town chairs and board.

Bruno Schiffleger was one of those chairmen, and he appreciated all of the work Barb contributed.

“She was a very wonderful person,” Schiffleger said. “Her dedication to her job (was obvious). She was so efficient. Being town chairman was such an ease because she did everything so efficiently.”

Schiffleger said that one of his goals as town chairman was to rewrite the municipal code for coherency.

“It appeared every one of them was written by a different lawyer,” he explained.

While it took nearly two years, the job was accomplished. “Without her ... we never would have been able to accomplish anything,” he said.

Barb also worked with the Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce, spending more than 10 years working with Chris Clapper, the chamber’s executive director, in one capacity or another.

“What I admired about Barb was her way of being such a quiet but so very involved and important part of the community,” Clapper said. “Whether it being the town treasurer, treasurer of the Alice in Dairyland (board), EASD School Board member she took those responsibilities to the highest degree and was so professional but yet so very modest in what she did.”

The Alice in Dairyland finals are headed back to Walworth County this spring. Initially, the county was scheduled to host in 2020 but the COVID-19 pandemic forced the event to a mostly virtual platform.

Clapper said the reason that the county has been able to weather that storm is because of Barb.

“Barb served as our treasurer and was a reason that we were able to keep things financially responsible,” Clapper said. “The Walworth County committee has had to really plan and pay for the event twice on the money raised.”

There was also Barb’s devotion to the Elkhorn Area School District. She served on the School Board from 2006 until her death, and was recognized by EASD Superintendent Jason Tadlock for all that she did, including her roles as vice president, treasurer and deputy clerk.

“Not only did she fill the School Board seat, but she served on the CESA 2 board,” Tadlock said, adding that Barb was a Wisconsin Association of School Boards delegate as well

Tadlock said Barb was always early to meeting, to “ask any questions, make sure she was always prepared.”

Tadlock pointed out that Barb would always attend school events, volunteering her time and her baking skills.

In addition to serving on the school board, Barb was also involved with the Elkhorn Area High School Scholarship Foundation and treasurer and secretary for the EAHS All-Sports Booster Club.

“She was just really involved,” Tadlock said. “She’ll be remembered for a long time.”

Her son said that, over the years, Barb likely interacted with thousands in her time at the Town of LaFayette, at School Board and at the family business.



Barb Fischer



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# 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](http://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**

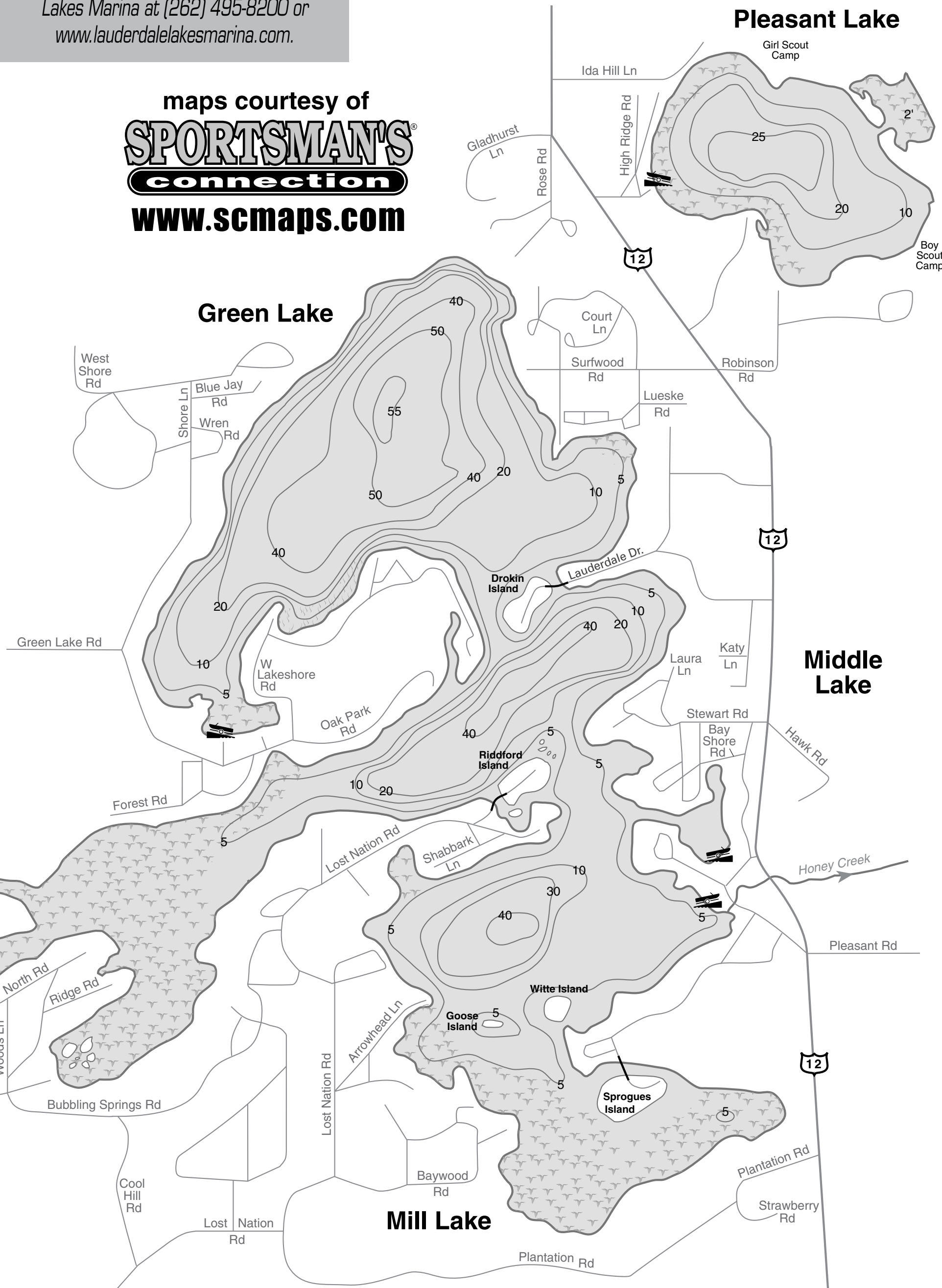
Lauderdale Lakes offers a wide array of fish with the predominant species being:

- 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.

maps courtesy of  
**SPORTSMAN'S<sup>®</sup>**  
**connection**  
[www.scmaps.com](http://www.scmaps.com)





# Licenses, stamps, tags needed for all anglers older than 16

Wisconsin residents who are 16 years old or older need a fishing license to fish in any waters of the state. Residents need a fishing license to take rough fish by hand, hook and line or to spear fish where allowed.

Residents do not need a fishing license to take smelt, rough fish, or minnows with nets, traps, and seines of legal size. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's Guide to Wisconsin Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations has more information on additional regulations.

Nonresidents who are 16 years old or older need a nonresident fishing license to fish in Wisconsin waters with hook and line.

Nonresidents need a fishing license to take rough fish by hand, hook and line, or to spear fish where allowed. Nonresidents of any age need a fishing license to take smelt, spear fish, or to take rough fish and minnows using nets, traps, and seines of legal size. Nonresidents may not sell minnows or smelt. The DNR's Guide to Wisconsin Spearing, Netting, and Bait Harvest Regulations has more information and lists all the regulations.

Fishing licenses are sold online at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov).

Groups of disabled persons on fishing excursions conducted by nonprofit organizations may not need fishing licenses.

All annual licenses are valid from date of purchase through March 31, 2024.

## LICENSES

- Resident individual (annual) fishing license, \$20.
- Fishing, junior (16 and 17 years old), and senior (65 and older), \$7.
- Resident one-day fishing license, \$8 – In the event the angler purchases an annual fishing license later in the same license year, the cost of the one-



Fishing is a family friendly activity. General inland fishing season opens May 6. Get your tackle ready.

STOCK PHOTO *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

day license will apply towards the purchase of the annual fishing license.

- Resident combination (spousal) license, \$31 – Issued to a legally married husband and wife who meet residency requirements.
- Resident sports license \$60 – This license allows for fishing and hunting of small game and gun deer. (Nonresident fee, \$275)
- Resident junior sports license (10 to 17 years old), \$35 – (Nonresident fee, \$36)
- Resident 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. Simply carry proof of age when fishing. Nonresident senior citizens must purchase a regular nonresident license.
- Resident conservation patron license, \$165 – This license serves as a substitute

for separate licenses and stamps for annual fishing, inland trout fishing, Great Lakes trout and salmon fishing, hook and line lake sturgeon harvest, hunting small game, turkey, pheasant, deer, waterfowl, archer hunting, and trapping (trapping for residents and qualified nonresidents only). You also receive an admission sticker for state parks, state forests and state trails, and a one-year subscription to Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine. (Nonresident fee \$600)

- Resident junior conservation patron license (10–17 years old), \$75 – (Nonresident fee \$77)
- Resident annual fishing licenses for the disabled, \$7 – Anglers must provide one of the following as proof: Social Security Disability Award Notice issued within the past year, Letter from Social Security Administration advising the customer is currently receiving disability benefits, Letter or

Notice of Railroad Retirement Disability, or signed statement from a licensed physician or optometrist indicating that the customer's sight is impaired to the degree that he/she cannot read ordinary newspaper print with or without corrective glasses. Discount applies to resident fishing license only. Disabled nonresidents need to buy a regular nonresident license.

- Resident annual disabled veteran's fishing license, \$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.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

## 2023-24 Fishing Seasons

Opening day for Wisconsin fishing is traditionally the first Saturday in May. Hook-and-line fishing for many species of fish on many Wisconsin waters begins on that day. However, to better manage Wisconsin fisheries, season dates are often specific to the species of fish as well as the water body.

For a complete listing of all Wisconsin's fishing seasons, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov).

**General inland trout**  
May 6 (5 a.m.) to Oct. 15

**General inland fishing**  
May 6 to March 3, 2024

**Largemouth bass northern zone harvest**  
May 6 to March 3, 2024

**Smallmouth bass northern zone harvest**  
June 17 to March 3, 2024

**Large and smallmouth bass southern zone harvest**  
May 6 to March 3, 2024

**Large and smallmouth bass catch and release**  
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**Musky - northern zone**  
May 27 to Dec. 31

**Musky - southern zone**  
May 6 to Dec. 31

**Northern pike**  
May 6 to March 3, 2024

**Walleye**  
May 6 to March 3, 2024

**Lake sturgeon**  
Sept. 2 to Sept. 30 (hook-and-line)

**Free fishing weekends**  
June 3 and 4  
Jan. 21 and 22, 2024

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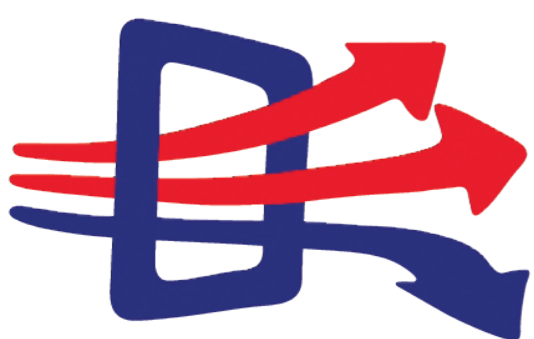
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# Personalized for each customer

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**  
EDITOR

*Pepperoni Pub features self-pour wall in new Delavan location*

With the former Sperino’s site for sale in Elkhorn, the Italian eatery has found a distinct new home in Delavan at 627 S. 2nd St., right across the street from Delbrook Golf Club.

The restaurant features several changes, including a popular beer and wine self-pour wall, where customers are charged by the ounce so they can try what they want from the wall.

Co-owners Cory and Kristin Aune made the decision to move from Elkhorn to Delavan in spite of the long-time Elkhorn site.

“It’s a move of necessity for family and overhead purposes,” Cory Aune said.

So far, the move has gone well.

“It’s going great,” Cory said. “Support over here has been unbelievable. We’re seeing a lot of new faces that we were just getting a chance to know. And we’re seeing a lot of our old faces.”

“This first week has been fantastic,” he said shortly after opening.

The restaurant features signature pizzas – everything from traditional thin-crust cheese to Margherita and Hawaiian and even the Inferno – with the note, not spicy – as well as salads and bread options.

“We’re very focused on pizza,” Cory said, adding there is a gluten-free cauliflower crust option available.

But the self-proclaimed pub also offers something new to the area – the self-pour beer and wine wall.

About a year ago, the Aune family took trip down to Florida, and stayed with cousins in Naples.

They went out to dinner the last night there, and the restaurant had a self-pour beer wall.

“It was 60 taps,” Aune said. “I thought it was really neat. We got to see how it worked, and I definitely said it was something we’d like to try and bring north.”

The iPourIt company provides the self-pour set-up, which includes an iPad at each tap. Customers have their ID scanned when they

arrive, and then get a wristband they use at each station.

Cory said that when he contacted iPourIt, he found out only a handful of sites in Wisconsin had the set-up, but amount them was Geneva Tap House in Lake Geneva.

“When I heard the Tap House was doing what they were doing... it has a lot of allure to it for the future of our industry,” Cory explained.

Pepperoni Pub features more than a dozen taps, including CO2 beers and seltzers, a nitro beer line and two wine or cocktail lines.

“It’s constantly evolving and changing,” Cory explained, but added that Pepperoni Pub has partnered with Duesterbeck’s Brewing Company in Elkhorn to provide some of that company’s specialties, including the Back Forty Irish Nitro Stout that is so popular.

Also popular is the Ecto Cooler seltzer by Beachwood – yes, that is a take on the famous 1980s film, complete with the “slime” color – a JP’s Casper White Stout from Whole Hog in Stevens Point, the Chesterwhite peach seltzer from Duesterbeck’s, and an English brown ale from Duesterbeck’s.

“We see ourselves committing a couple of lines to Duesterbeck’s all the time,” Cory said.

Customers, again, are charged by the ounce, with some 40 cents, some 65 cents.

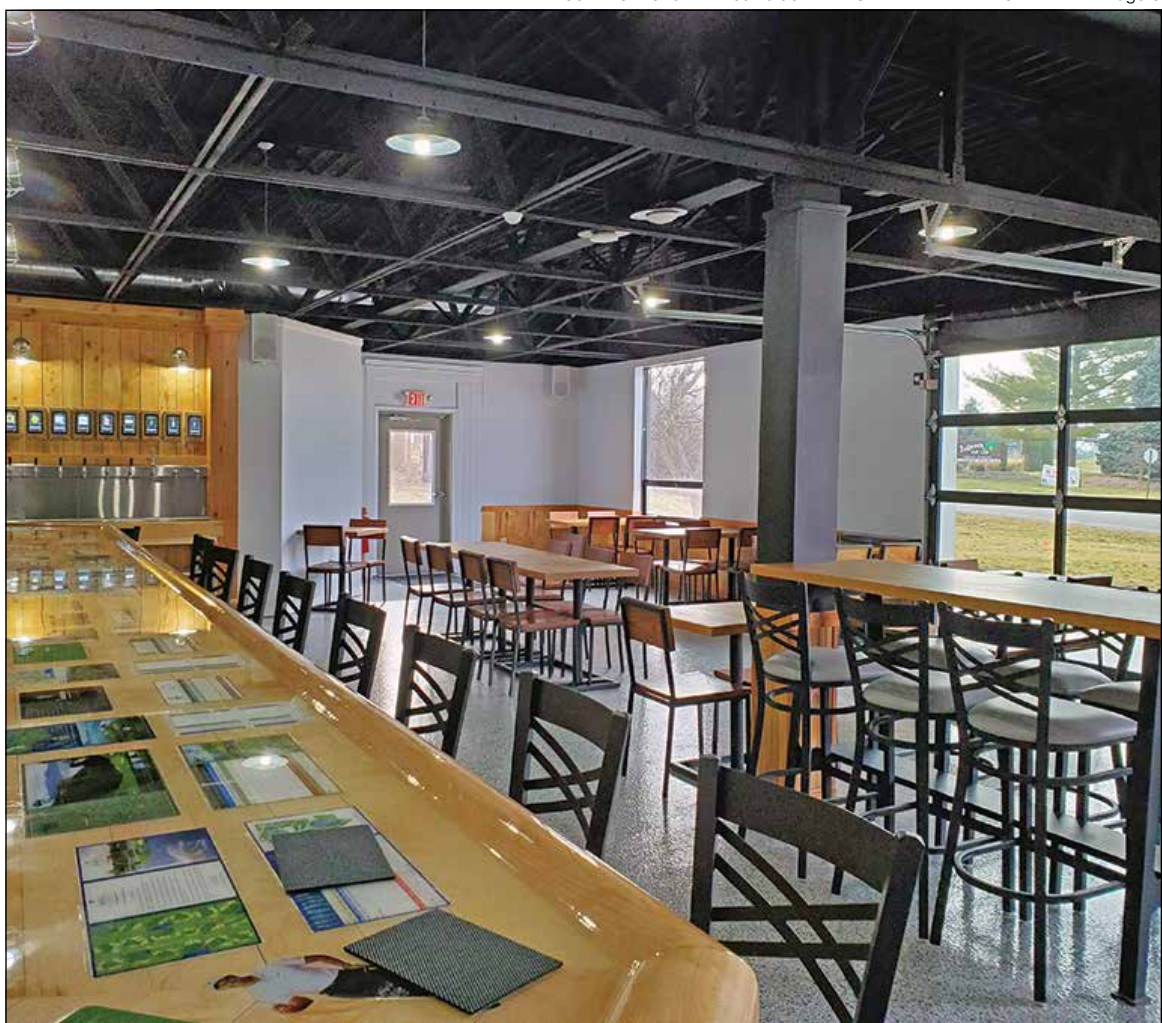
“You can pour as little or as much as your want,” Cory explained, adding that customers can then sample and go back for a larger pour if they want.

The pub, Cory Aune said, is looking to offering flights in the future.

The wine options, which currently are a Cabernet and Chardonnay, offer an option to those who don’t like beer.

“What goes better with pizza than beer?” Cory said. “And wine.”

Pepperoni Pub opens at 11 a.m. and generally is open to about 10 or 11 p.m. For more information, go to [sperinos.com/pepperoni-pub/](https://sperinos.com/pepperoni-pub/),



**above:** Pepperoni Pub is located at 627 S. 2nd St., Delavan, and offers a self-pour beer and wine wall.  
**top:** Pepperino Pub offers a casual atmosphere to go with specialty pizza and its new self-pour beer and wine wall.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

## CAMP TIMBER-LEE TO STAY OPEN: AREA PHILANTHROPIST PURCHASING CAMP



Campers from Burn Camp 2022 – Soaring To New Heights – pose for a group shot during Visitor’s Day at Camp Timber-lee in East Troy. The annual camp for burn-injured youth is celebrating its 29th year in 2023 and will return to Timber-lee this year said the camp’s buyer, Gregg Kunes.

LISA SMITH *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

By **Tracy Ouellette**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

When Gregg Kunes heard Camp Timber-lee in East Troy was going to close, he said he was compelled to act. So, he decided to purchase the Christian camp.

“We’re working through the red tape right now to purchase the camp and keep it open,” Kunes said. “The desire is to keep the Christian camp open.”

Kunes, who is the president and founder of Kunes Country Auto Group, said they are working to keep this year’s programming intact, including the annual Burn Camp, which is sponsored by the Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation.

“Burn Camp is returning this summer,” Kunes said. “That’s in our heart to continue.”

While Kunes said he didn’t want to get into details of the purchase of the camp until the sale closed, he was going to buy the camp and eventually turn it into a non-profit.

“It’s going to take a lot of

volunteers and donors to keep the camp going long-term,” he said. “We’re looking at putting the right people in place and continue with a good staff. It’s one thing to buy the camp; it’s another thing to sustain it in the long run.”

Kunes said they were looking at all the camp’s programming for this year to see what they can continue.

“It’s a process,” he said. “But we know we’re going to need volunteers and donors to help with that.”

### BURN CAMP

The organizers of Burn Camp were sent scrambling, looking for a new venue when it was announced in March that Camp Timber-lee was closing. The camp is celebrating its 29th year in 2023.

While the Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation hasn’t officially announced Burn Camp is returning to Timber-lee this summer, Kunes

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 13





For more information contact:

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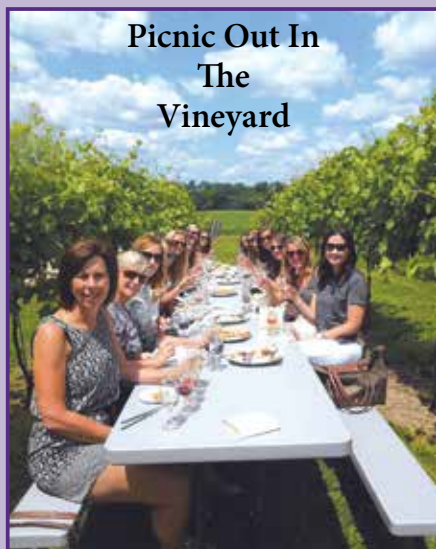
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# Finding that special home

*Area realtor specializes in lakefront properties*

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

If you have been following the real estate market over the past couple of years, you are aware of the many changes involved in finding and purchasing a home.

Whether you are looking to upsize your current residence, downsize to a more manageable home size, relocate, or finally purchase that second home, or finding the home of your dreams, contacting a realtor to help walk you through the process is always the first and most important step in your process of acquiring that desired home.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, mortgage rates dropped to their lowest levels in years, reaching an all-time low of 2.65% according to Freddie Mac. This low rate brought out buyers but unfortunately for them the number of properties available for sale could not keep up with the demand.

In 2022, inflation pushed rates up. It is expected that, as Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell, has hinted there are expected to be declines in the rates in the near future. The current rate is about 6.5% said Jerry Kroupa, real estate broker in the Elkhorn Lauderdale Lakes area. In spite of the higher rates, sales continue although there is still a shortage of properties on the market.

Kroupa has been a real estate broker in the Elkhorn, Lauderdale Lakes, Kettle Moraine area for more than 40 years and is the leading real estate agent on Lauderdale Lakes.

We reached out to Kroupa who works for @Properties/Christies International real estate out of its newly opened Elkhorn office which is on the square in downtown Elkhorn.

Kroupa said selling homes has been a very busy experience the past couple of years.

“We have especially been selling second homes. Most of the buyers are looking for homes on the water making Lauderdale Lakes a popular spot,” Kroupa said. “Lauderdale Lakes property prices are comparable to those on Delavan Lake. This makes them a good alternative to homes on Geneva Lake with their much higher costs.”

Many of those searching for that vacation property come from



The office of @properties/Christie's International Real Estate on the square in Elkhorn is at 102 N. Wisconsin St.  
PHOTO COURTESY @PROPERTIES Lauderdale Lakes Breeze

Illinois especially from the City of Chicago and its northern suburbs. The distance from Chicago and its northern suburbs is short enough for the owners to come up for a weekend or a few days when not able to spend a longer period of time.

“The majority of homes on Lauderdale Lakes are single family homes. Cost of these homes are based on size of the lot and the size of the home along with their location on the lake,” Kroupa said. “The cost of a home here on the lake ranges from about \$600,000 to \$2 Million.”

What are shoppers looking for in a vacation home?

Kroupa said they are not looking for a little cabin on the water but a full three- to four- bedroom home with three or more bathrooms. They are truly looking for a complete second home to enjoy with family and one large enough to allow them to invite friends and relatives up to enjoy time at the lake.

“Today’s buyer is also highly educated about the market. They do their research and reach out with questions appropriate for their buying interests,” Kroupa said.

Those looking for lakefront properties are those who enjoy all the water sports, including summer activities such as boating, swimming, water skiing, fishing, or just sitting on the deck enjoying the water view, Kroupa said. They may also enjoy winter outdoor activities on the water such as ice fishing, ice boating or ice skating.

The past couple of years have caused a dramatic change in how customers shop for properties, both second- and full-time homes. With limited inventory and properties

selling quickly, decisions have to be made even more quickly, Kroupa said.

“In the past, prospective buyers would visit many homes until they found the house that was perfect for them and had everything they wanted. With the small number of properties on the market within their price range, choices may be more limited,” Kroupa said. “When you find something that meets a majority of your needs, move on it quickly. Nothing stays on the market long.”

Also be prepared to pay more than the listing price. There are often multiple offers for a property, especially if it is a desirable property, and may result in a bidding war, Kroupa said. So, if one is serious about purchasing that property, be ready to place your best offer as quickly as possible.

Everyone knows when it comes to real estate that location, location, location is the most important factor in a purchase. This is true when purchasing that second home. Buyers want to be sure that the property offers the activities that are important to their family.

“Most of the people who come to purchase a lakefront property come with a specific lake or a couple of lakes in mind. They often pick the lake based on the exposure they have had on that lake. They may have been up to the lakes with family and friends so they know what is available both in activities and the types of homes located there,” Kroupa said.

While most think of a second home as being a summer home, that is not always the case. Some people may be looking for that

summer home but others may also want winter activities also. Fortunately choosing a second home in the Wisconsin area allows one to participate in both summer and winter activities.

“The Kettle Moraine area is another area that attracts people looking for a second home. It is a popular place for hiking and mountain biking along with road biking in the summer and enjoying the nearby lakes. It is also as popular in the winter as it is in the summer. It is a favorite place for cross country skiing and winter hiking,” Kroupa said. “It is another area in which we sell many properties.”

Kettle Moraine State Park offers groomed trails and beautiful scenic vistas to enjoy while skiing in the winter or hiking and biking in the warmer weather. This makes it a great area for a second home or to live year round.

“When making an offer on a property, always include a home inspection as part of the offer,” Kroupa said.

Buyers need to know what problems to expect if any and hopefully the owner will be open to some remediation if problems are found and the owner wants the sale to go through, Kroupa added. If they aren’t and it is a major problem, having the results of the inspection as part of the offer will allow the buyers the leverage to not follow through with the sale.

In addition to selling lakefront second homes, @Properties/Christies International also service buyers and sellers looking to replace their permanent home. With an office in Elkhorn they are ready to help you

successfully sell your current home and to help you find the right home for you to purchase.

“Many of our clients return as their home needs change and it is not unusual for us to work with them on 2 or three homes in their lifetimes,” Kroupa said.

According to the MLS, there were 103 sales of single family homes in Elkhorn in 2022. The sales prices ranged from a low of \$135,000 to a high of \$599,000 with an average price of \$306,000 making Elkhorn an affordable community for a family.

Presenting a home for sale and pricing it correctly can present the property as the most desirable in its price range. @properties/Christies International offers these suggestions for preparing your home for the market:

- Start by decluttering your home, clean it, and organize. Everyone collects excessive items when they have lived in the home for a while. Now it is time to clear the clutter;
- Maintain the exterior of the home. First impressions are important;
- Paint inside and out as needed;
- Make any needed repairs;
- Brighten your home.
- Remove pets from the home; and
- Hire a home inspector.

Following these suggestions will make your home attractive to buyers and should help to make your sale proceed in a timely manner.

@Properties began in Chicago when realtors Mike Golden and Thad Wong recognized the need for better service and support for both agents and clients. They set out on their own in 2000 to establish @properties.

The company grew over the next two decades into one of the largest brokerage firms in the country. The company acquired Christie’s International Real Estate global network in 2021. The company continued to grow and opened offices in many new locations. It continued to expand, and improve, and looked to promote a true love for the properties that would become a family’s home.

The Elkhorn office opened in December 2022 in the city center. The white single story building at 102 Wisconsin St. with the name @properties/Christie’s International Real Estate out front.

The office is staffed with office manager Don Shea (847-833-8572), Broker Jerry Kroupa (262-949-3618), agents Lynn Haman (262-949-3124) , William Russell (262-228-2700), Kate Rozman (2362-993-8293 and Sales Agent Andrea Cummings (262-492-8082) who are all available to serve you and answer your questions.

Visit @properties on the square, 102 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn or visit them on line at [www.lakehomeswi.net](http://www.lakehomeswi.net).



@PROPERTIES Southern Lakes Newspapers

Set slightly back from the waterfront on a small rise, this home listed with @properties/Christie's International Real Estate has a beautiful view of the lake and ample room for a pier to dock the boat.



Broker Jerry Kroupa and his associate Andrea Cummings in the reception area at @properties/Christies International Real Estate. The area provides a pleasant welcome to customers looking to purchase or sell a property.



# Lack of housing stock persists

## *New construction likely needed to satisfy demand*

By **Jason Arndt**  
STAFF WRITER

The housing supply, both statewide and regionally, continues to be an issue for people looking to relocate for job opportunities and other purposes.

President-Owner of Bear Realty in Burlington Brad Lois said the lack of housing supply is largely attributed to the persistent demand for residential units in southeastern Wisconsin.

“The general extent of it is that there is still not enough housing opportunities for people based on demand,” Lois said. “The demand is still high and the supply is still low.”

Lois said constructing new homes is critical to mitigating supply shortages and demand.

“We need new construction to help fill that gap,” he said. “Lots of locations in southeast Wisconsin are still extremely desirable for people moving here from other areas, specifically from Illinois.”

### Slight dip in construction

The Wisconsin Builders Association, a professional trade association dedicated to helping members build communities, reported a slight decrease in new construction based on a report released in February.

According to the report, the latest new home construction numbers from year-end 2022 showed a 3% decline in production of residential units.

The data submitted by all municipalities across showed 11,326 permits were pulled statewide between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2022, compared to 11,711 permits the previous year.

While the report showed a decline, according to WBA President Mike Howe, the trends are still favorable for the industry.

“We’re pleased with these year-end numbers, after a slow start the first half of the year,” Howe said in a news release issued in February. “At the culmination of the second quarter, we were down 24% compared to the second quarter of 2021, so to recover from that

so quickly is great news for the industry.”

While down slightly compared to 2021, Wisconsin numbers are still above those nationally, with the National Association of Home Builders recently reporting single-family starts ending the year down more than 10%, its first annual decline since 2011.

“Low mortgage rates in 2021 tremendously aided the home-building industry, as they helped offset high material prices,” said WBA Executive Director Brad Boycks. “The interest rates of 2022 really impacted existing home sales, along with home building. Simply put, homeowners could no longer afford mortgages on homes they may have been able to afford just a year earlier.”

### Multiple factors

Boycks, in response to the February report, outlined other factors for housing supply shortages in Wisconsin to this newspaper.

“Several factors over the past few years have triggered a lack of supply, which include supply-chain challenges that have slowed construction, higher prices for building materials due to inflation and supply chain challenges, and the lack of buildable lots because of the time it takes to approve new subdivisions,” Boycks said.

The WBA, Boycks said, has been in close contact with other interested parties and key members of the State Legislature to explore voluntary changes that could be adopted on that level, which if approved, could bring down the cost of housing and foster additional housing growth in Wisconsin.

While officials have worked diligently to resolve housing shortages, consumers are still spending money on housing despite increased prices, Lois said.

According to the Wisconsin Realtors Association, the median price of a home in January was \$250,000, an increase of nearly \$20,000 from a year earlier.

The increased trends come even as the number home sales dropped from 4,702 in January 2022 to 3,164



The housing supply in Southeastern Wisconsin isn't keeping up with demand. New home construction is needed but challenges in affordability and land access are slowing building down.

STOCK PHOTO Lauderdale Lakes Breeze

in January 2023.

“Even with increased interest rates, we have still seen strong demand out there from buyers, or tenants looking to occupy a

residential unit in southeastern Wisconsin,” Lois said.

### Most in demand

While communities tout different

housing styles, ranging from multi-family apartment dwellings to single-family residential units, one style remains most popular.

“I would say single-family, one-level units are probably the highest in demand,” Lois said.

Lois said single-story homes have become popular because of accessibility, primarily for an aging population.

“It has a lot to do with the ability for anybody, at any age, to be able to live in them,” he said.

Meanwhile, as the area continues to see housing shortages, people seeking employment in southeast Wisconsin have found a difficult time relocating from out-of-state.

“What I do know is that there are still people looking to move to the area for job opportunities because Southeastern Wisconsin is a desirable place to live and they are having a hard time finding those,” Lois said.



This home is one of the few currently available on the market to rent in the Delavan area. Listed by Compass Realty, it is listed for \$2,400 a month.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Lauderdale Lakes Breeze



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| W5292 Lauderdale Dr ....  | <b>\$1,315,000</b> |
| W5134 Plantation Rd ..... | <b>\$1,495,700</b> |
| W5505 Rocky Rd .....      | <b>\$1,549,900</b> |
| N7630 Pleasant Point Cir  | <b>\$1,689,000</b> |
| N7688 Westshore Dr .....  | <b>\$2,059,700</b> |
| N7729 Laura Ln .....      | <b>\$3,899,999</b> |

## Rental costs continue to climb

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**  
EDITOR

It's the old law of supply and demand.

When asked why rentals of apartments and houses have risen so steeply, @Properties Jerry Kroupa had a simple answer.

“It’s very tight,” Kroupa said of the market. “Generally, if a rental comes up, they have 5 to 10 applicants.”

Rentals costs in Racine and Walworth County have risen 67% in the last three years. What was a \$900 rental in for a house in 2019 is now \$1,500, and Kroupa explained the same is true for apartments.

While the COVID-19 pandemic may be declared over, the rise in housing costs that came from that difficult three-year period is here to stay.

“You’ll never see it go down,” Kroupa said. “It’s just like housing.”

Using a tool like Apartments.com, here is what apartment rentals look like in some of the area municipalities:

- In Elkhorn, one- to two-bedroom apartments ranged from \$725 to \$1,300.
- In Burlington, studio apartments to two-bedroom apartments range from \$913 to \$1,400.
- In Delavan, one- to three-bedroom apartments range from \$769 to \$1,560.
- In East Troy, one-bedroom to 4-bedroom apartments range from \$1,110 to \$2,090.
- In Waterford, there are limited two-bedroom apartments ranging from \$1,505 to \$1,555.
- In Lake Geneva, two-bedroom apartments are ranging from \$1,149 to \$2,019.

These are just listings done online through one provider. Going to different real estate companies, like Compass (handled by Karen Ostermeier and Rob Edwards in Elkhorn), house rentals range from roughly \$1,200 a month to more than \$3,000 a month, scattered through the Delavan, Lake Geneva and the Walworth County area.

Tincher Realty, in Whitewater, has a variety of different rentals available, but many are student rentals. There does seem to be more availability of units in the Whitewater area, however – perhaps because of the student population.

As Kroupa explained, demand is high. That is at least in part because the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates several times in the last year. Kroupa said the interest rate for a 30-year fixed rate mortgage is currently hovering right at 7%.

“That’s knocked a lot of people out of purchasing mode, so a lot of people are renting – at almost the same cost as a mortgage.”

With rents sitting so high and inflation still rising, the old standard of one week’s income going toward housing is well out the window. Kroupa said that some areas – including resort areas with lower-income employees – are struggling with affordability.

“Eventually, the interest rates are going to come down,” Kroupa said. “I think the rents are going to continue at their current pace. How do you correct that?”

Kroupa said if it were to shift, it would have to depend on kind souls – landlords willingly lowering rents – or government subsidies.

As for a market correction, Kroupa added, “I don’t know how it can correct,” since unemployment is low and jobs are plentiful.



# Rescuing with running in mind

## *Elkhorn area woman makes most of rescues with agility training*

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**  
EDITOR

When Tracy Newman first adopted her Australian cattle dog mix, Amber, she found herself in a little bit of trouble.

“She was literally re-arranging our house,” said Newman, saying she’d return home to find furniture moved, pillows destroyed and Amber’s dog bed torn apart.

She replaced the pillows and the dog bed – only to find Amber tore them up again.

On the verge of returning the dog to the shelter, a friend told her Amber was the kind of dog that needed mental stimulation.

“I realized she needed a job to do,” Newman explained.

Now, some seven years later, Amber is a high-level agility course runner. She and Newman competed at American Kennel Club National Agility Championship in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in March, where Amber made the finals and placed 12th in the 16-inch obstacle category.

Dogs are measured to their withers (the height above the shoulder to the ground) and assigned by that measurement the jump size for an agility course. They remain in that category for their competition careers, unless owners choose to step them down to lower jumps, which then means they compete in the “preferred” class.

Newman had previously taken Amber to AKC Nationals in 2019, and has since acquired another Australian Cattle Dog mix, Titus.

Amber recently earned her MACH-2 certificate, meaning Master Agility Championship Title 2. In order to qualify for her first MACH, she had to obtain 20 “double Qs” – a standard of a clean run of the jumper and standard Q course at the same event.

The No. 2 indicates that she has done that a second time.

### Understanding agility

According to the AKC, dog agility is a sport where dogs are directed by their owners through a pre-set obstacle course within a certain time limit.

“You have to run clean, and you have to run fast,” explained Newman about AKC competition.

Courses typically have between 14 and 20 obstacles, which include tunnels, weave poles, tire jumps, seesaws and pause tables – where dogs must stop for a set amount of time.

At each trial, dogs compete on courses designed for that day’s competition, with the owner giving the dog cues and body language in order to complete the course.

There are three types of agility trials – all-breed, specialty trials for dogs of specific breeds and group trials. Dogs must be 15 months of age or older, registered with the AKC and in sound health with up-to-date vaccinations to compete.

Both Amber and Titus compete in the all-breed competition.

Dogs are measured to their withers and are assigned to jump height by that measurement.

That is just at the AKC level. Dogs can also compete at Canine Performance Events, Inc. or the UK Agility International level, and



**right:** Elkhorn resident Tracy Newman, shown here with her agility dog Amber, has adopted a pair of rescue dogs and taken them to master-level agility courses. Here, Newman and Amber show off Amber having gained her MACH-2 status – which indicates mastery of agility courses. **above left:** Newman adopted another dog, Titus, three years ago. Titus has reached mastery level as an agility dog and Newman hopes to get him to the levels Amber has achieved. **top left:** Amber runs through an agility course.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Lauderdale lakes Breeze

generally start at small test trials and move up.

### Getting started

For Newman, realizing Amber needed something to keep her mind busy as well as her body turned out to be a blessing.

As Newman explained, walks and outdoor play weren’t enough. She decided to take Amber to For Pets Sake in Mukwonago, and enroll her in agility classes.

Amber took to the classes like a fish to water – or maybe a dog to a pond.

“She actually really loved it, and it was really benefitting her,” Newman said.

Now she trains both animals at Think Pawsitive in Waukesha – a premiere facility with indoor agility courses, a pool for dogs to swim in for conditioning, a water treadmill and more.

As she explained, Amber started with small events, and when she began showing success, Newman kept entering her in bigger and bigger competitions.

It wasn’t just to keep Amber

occupied. As Newman explained, the agility courses give dogs confidence, exercising the mind and body.

“My mission is making rescue dogs into rock stars,” she said. “That’s what I enjoy doing. I enjoy seeing them be the best they can be, and I enjoy seeing their growth.

“I enjoy the challenge of working with a rescue dog, that might come out of the shelter needing some work,” Newman added.

### Competition

While Amber competed at 2019 nationals, she did not make finals.

In order to qualify for AKC Nationals, dogs must register seven “double Qs” in the qualifying period and be part of the masters’ division, something Amber has been for some time.

This year, nationals in Tulsa provided a highly satisfactory outcome. With more than 200 dogs registered to compete in the 16-inch category, only 15 advanced to finals.

Amber finished what Newman

called in the “middle of the pack” of those top 15, making it to the final day of competition.

In the finals, Newman guided Amber to the 12th-place finish at the event March 13 to 16.

Recently, Amber picked up her MACH-2 title. Newman explained that it can be difficult for faster dogs to pick up the “double Q,” because they have to be perfect.

Although Amber is nine and a half, Newman calls her “going on four.”

“She hasn’t changed from when I got her,” Newman said. “She just hasn’t slowed down.”

And now, Amber has a partner in crime. About three years ago, Newman adopted Titus from a kill shelter in Tennessee.

“I was actually looking for another dog to adopt, but I wasn’t in any rush,” she explained. “I knew once I found the right one, I’d know.

“He had maybe two weeks (before being euthanized),” Newman added. “They don’t keep them for very long at those shelters. They just don’t have the

room.”

While Titus doesn’t have Amber’s consistency yet on agility courses, Newman sees the same talent and the same desire to “play the game.”

“His confidence has gone through the roof,” Newman said. “It took a lot of work to build that. He was just kind of unsure about everything, including himself.

“He can’t wait to get in the ring to go at it,” she added. “He barks and pulls to get into the ring.”

Next up for both dogs is a trip to the UKI Midwest Cup, which was scheduled for May 12 to 14.

Right now, though, Newman wants to stress the importance of rescue animals – both their adoption and their happiness.

“If you can’t rescue, donate to your local shelter or rescues,” Newman said. “Help out as best you can.

“There are so many great dogs out there that are in need of homes along with so many wonderful rescues who would help in finding somebody’s perfect match,” she added.

## CAMP TIMBER-LEE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

said they are in talks to make this year’s camp happen at Timber-lee. Burn Camp is planned for Aug. 13 to 19 this year.

According to the Burn Camp website, “Burn Camp is a free, week-long, overnight summer camp experience for kids with life-changing burn injuries to grow their

lifelong support system, continue to heal from the emotional trauma of their burns, and just be a kid. The dedication and participation of more than 100 burn survivors and volunteers makes this camp special for everyone who attends.”

For more information on Burn Camp, visit pffwcf.org.

## ANGLERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

- Free 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 (includes the inland trout and Great Lakes salmon stamps).
- Nonresident individual

(annual) fishing license, \$50

- Nonresident one-day fishing license, \$10 – In the event the angler purchases an annual fishing license later in the same license year, the cost of the one-day license will apply towards the purchase of the annual fishing license.

• Nonresident 4-day individual license, \$24

• Nonresident 15-day individual license, \$28

• Nonresident annual family license, \$65 – Includes children 16 and 17 years old.

For more information, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov).





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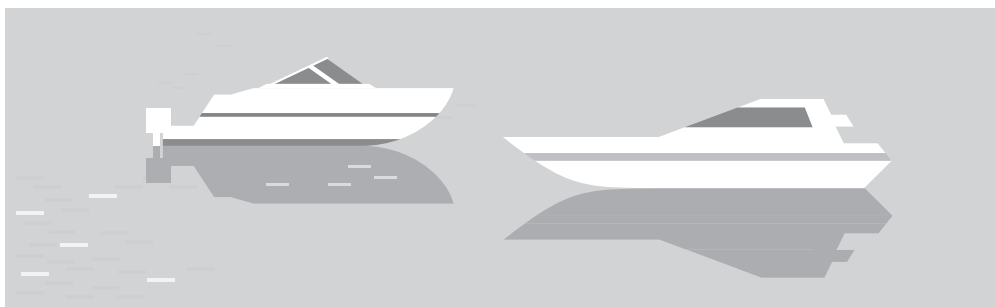
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## LAKES AREA CLASSIFIEDS

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**2000 Supra Legacy**, very clean, garage/lift kept, bow rider, 275 hours, \$11,500 best. (630) 886-6667

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**14 foot aluminum fishing boat**, trolling motor, oars, battery. \$395. (262) 742-3665.

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### Ski Equipment

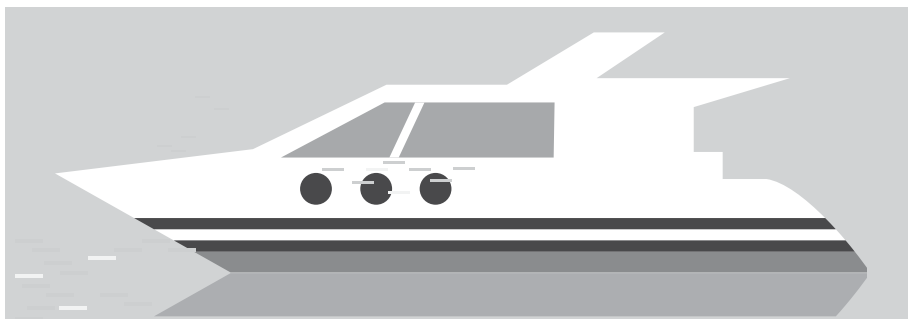
**Ski trainer**, easy to get up on, builds confidence. \$75. Text (262) 949-6997

**Slalom ski**, 67", great shape, \$125.00.

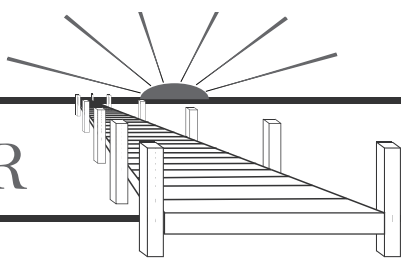
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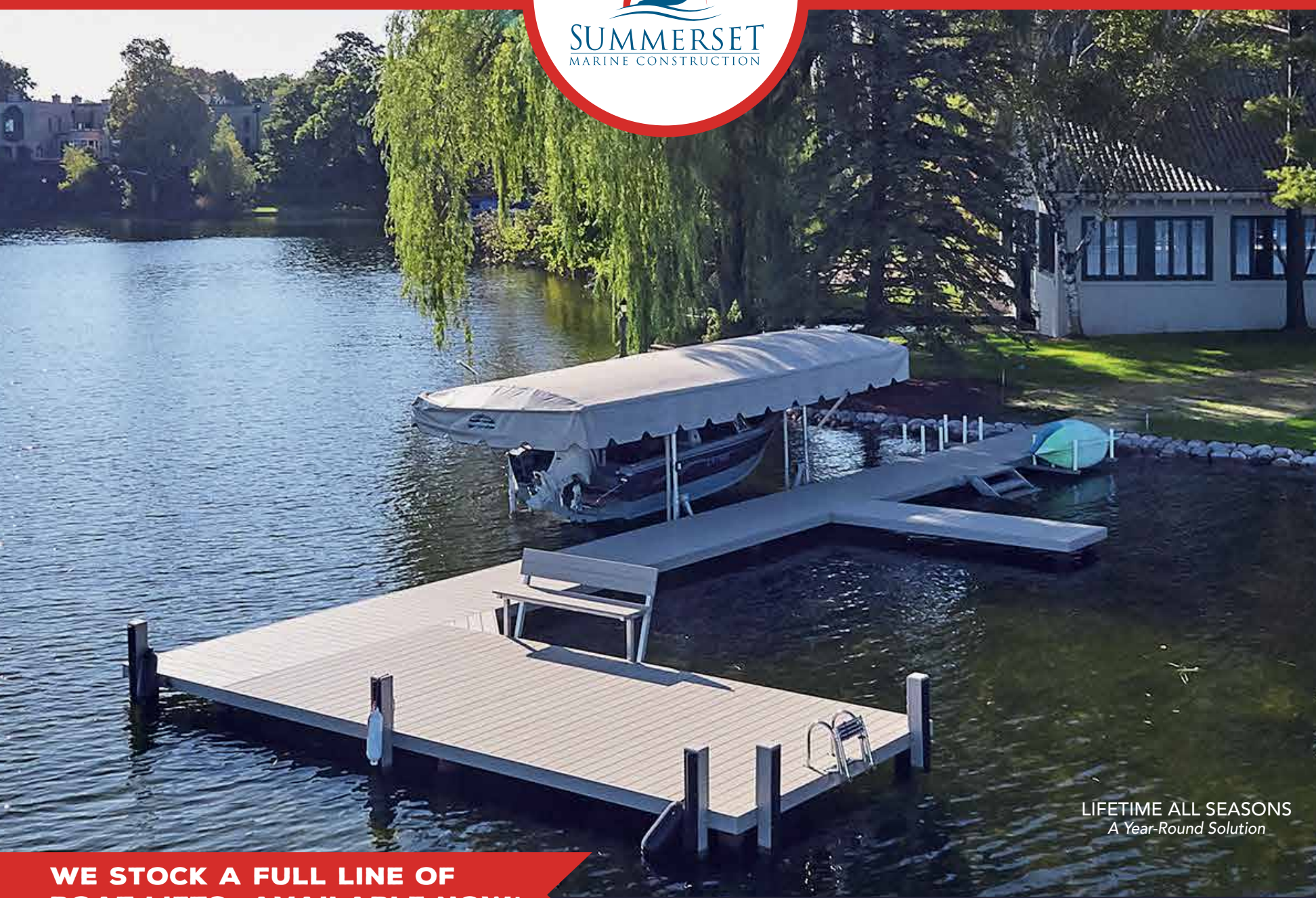
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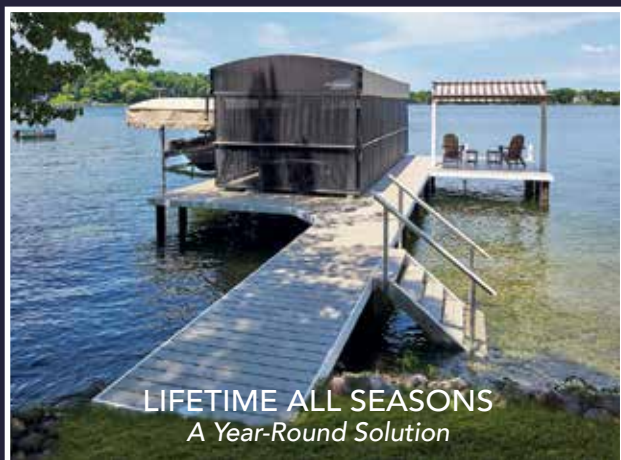


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MLS 1828637

**1828637** - Lakefront estate on 142' of sand frontage on Lauderdale "Gold Coast" on 1.28 wooded acres completely fenced and gated. 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath main house with open foyer to eat-in kitchen and lakeside dining room. Living room with fireplace and slider to screened porch with vaulted ceiling. Master en-suite lakeside with private deck. Family room walk-out to cement patio. Brick fireplace and wet bar plus fourth bedroom and bath. Wet boat house with 2 bedroom, 1 bath guest cottage above with full kitchen, living room and screened porch. 36x30 storage garage with four finished rooms all vaulted, heated and cooled. Plus another 3.5 heated detached garage. **OFFERED AT: \$3,899,999**

NEW LISTING

MLS 1831815

**1831815** - Dreaming of opening a business? This is your chance! Large commercial building in the heart of Elkhorn. Walking distance to the Square, restaurants, coffee shops & retail. Great visibility & ample parking. Easy access to I-43 & Hwy 12/67. The building has 7 offices, 2.5 BA, kitchen & electronic rear entry for staff. Generous storage space & fire-proof closet and external insulated storage area. New membrane roof installed 1.5 years ago. 3 phase, 400 Amp. **\$449,900**

NEW LISTING

MLS 1827963

**1827963** - Lake Benedict estate like setting featuring main house with separate coach house on Nippersink Golf Course. Main house features 7 bdrm, 5 baths, LR with vaulted ceilings, fireplace, wood floors. Eat in kitchen with door to cement patio, plus dinette area and formal dining room. Two Master en-suit bdrms with one featuring a fireplace. 20x20 lakeside deck off entrance. Finished lower-level walk-out featuring family room, rec-room, 2 bdrms, 2 full baths and den. Coach house is 3 bdrm, 2 bath with Master en-suite. 3.5 detached garage plus storage shed. Property has 3 separate tax bills makes it divisible. **OFFERED AT \$1,049,900**

PRIVATE ISLAND

MLS 1781758

**1781758** - 2 acres and 700' of level frontage on Green Lake. 2 homes, main house is a stone 2 story with 6 BR, 3 BA, large eat-in ktch. 2 BR, 1BA stone cottage. Multiple piers, 17 x 29 garage, gated entrance, majority of the property protected by metal fence. **\$2,059,700**

SOLD

MLS 1825741

**18257241** - Located on a peninsula with spectacular views of Mill Lake, 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath, 2 story on 75' of prime frontage. Two-story foyer, great room with soaring ceilings, massive stone fire-place and wall of windows. Deck with southern exposure. All inside and outside furniture included, making the transition to lake living a breeze. Move in ready for summer! **\$2,300,700**

SOLD

MLS 1819679

**1819679** - Situated on 108' frontage partially wooded with golf course view and slight slope down to large level lakefront yard you'll find this 4 BR, 2 bath ranch with walk-out lower level. The lake greets you as you enter walking into the eat-in kitchen with tile floor, hickory cabinets, breakfast bar and dinette with access to deck. Family room walk-out to large deck and screened porch. Family room features stone fireplace. Lakeside features level frontage and multiple permanent piers with canopy for pontoon, jet ski lift and shore station. **\$1,350,000**

SOLD

MLS 1779535

**1779535** - Located on 65' of prime Middle Lake swim frontage with Southern exposure you'll find this 4 BD, 3.5 Bath 3,968 sq ft 2 story with walk-out lower level. The lake welcomes you as soon as you step inside. Fabulous kitchen with large island, granite tops, SS appliances and French doors to screened porch. Open staircase in foyer leading to master bedroom en-suite. Upper level also offers 3 large bedrooms and full bath. Lower level family room walk out to cement patio and fire-pit lakeside. Family room offer brick fireplace, game room, additional eat-in kitchen, full bath and large storage area. Multiple decks lakeside leads to boat house and piers. Ample parking. Make your lifetime memories here on Lauderdale Lakes.. **\$1,725,000**

SOLD

MLS 1827958

**1827958** - Completely remodeled home in 2002 inside and out. In 2002 new furnace, pressure tank, plumbing, windows, decks etc. Home was raised and two new basement walls installed. Roof is new along with a special barrier to prevent any moisture with the limited slope. 10ft easement to lake access. Lower level can be finished off to make a walk out lower level. **\$256,500**

SOLD

MLS 1811147

**1811147** - Located on the South course of Evergreen GC you'll find this 3 BD, 2.5 bath Brick Ranch on the 6th hole beautifully landscaped on .70 of an acre. Inside featuring vaulted ceiling in LR with fireplace and access to screened porch, eatin kitchen with breakfast bar and adjoining dining room with vaulted ceiling and French door to deck. Master BD with ensuite featuring double vanity, walk-in shower, whirlpool tub with walk-in closet, plus French door to screened porch. Be part of this vibrant Golf Course Community. Short drive to Lauderdale Lakes, Kettle Moraine Trail Head and I-43. **\$400,000**

SOLD

MLS 1813814

**1813814** - Private wooded 5-acre park like setting overlooking a pond is where you'll find this 3 Bdrm, 2 Ba split ranch on beautiful Tamarack Ridge Rd. Inside features eat-in kitchen w/ breakfast bar & dinette area w/ bay window overlooking back yard. Formal dining room off kitchen w/ vaulted ceiling & floor to ceiling brick see-thru fireplace to living room. Also, in the dining room there's a wet-back bar & sliding glass door to 4 seasons room w/ access to backyard patio. 3rd bedroom has a French door out to full glass room w/ hot tub.. LL offers huge Rec room & storage area plus small work shop. **\$399,000**