

The Breeze

Serving the
Whitewater Lake area

- Starbucks
- Native screens
short film
- Adventure
awaits



Starbucks set to come to Whitewater

Starbucks has submitted plans to the City of Whitewater for a coffee shop with a drive-thru on the west side of town.

The Starbucks proposed location is the current site of the Whitewater Quick Lube at 1280 W. Main St.

The existing building will be torn down and Excel Engineering, based in Fond du Lac, will build the new building.

The next steps are to review the site plan and issue a conditional use permit during the May meeting of the City of Whitewater's Plan and Architectural Review Commission. The property is zoned B-1 and will require a conditional

use permit for the drive-thru. Architectural changes in B-1 zoned properties are subject to Conditional Use Permits.

Whitewater City Manager John Weidl said the redevelopment represents "another concrete positive step forward for this community."

"As a very wise elected official I once worked with said, if the local government invests in community, so will others," he said. "The city will continue to support and, where possible, invest in opportunities that create housing, jobs and bring new businesses to the city."

The plan and architectural review commission met May 8. If the PARC approves the site plan, accepts the design, and approves the conditional use permit, the owner of the land and his representatives can apply for building permits.

Starbucks is interested in opening coffee shop with drive-thru in the City of Whitewater. Plans for the store were submitted to the city recently,

SUBMITTED PHOTO The Breeze

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Bringing the screening back home

WHITEWATER NATIVE SCREENS SHORT FILM AT AREA THEATER

By Tom Ganser
CORRESPONDENT

Whitewater experienced a little of the sparkle of Oscars night March 27, thanks to the premiere screening of Michael Hilliger's independently made animated short film, "Marcus the Teenager's Never-Ending Quest for Popularity."

Hilliger is a 2017 graduate of Whitewater High School and a 2022 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Entertainment Design (Animation Concentration), with additional studies in game design and development, and a minor in performing arts. He currently resides in Whitewater.

Hilliger credits "Marcus" to his co-creator, Evan Lux, and his capstone animation experience at UW-Stout.

"I'm a passionate creator of entertainment specializing in 2D animation and story," Hilliger noted in his resume. "I've worked for Apple TV+, Amazon Prime Video, and medium-size commercial studios. My goal is to help create awesome entertainment that people love and remember."

He co-wrote scripts for an upcoming animated series about space, served as 2D assistant animator for an upcoming animated series about spirits, and developed concepts for an upcoming

animated fantasy series.

"Marcus" is the story about a neurotic teenager who desperately tries to improve his social standing through short-term "quests for popularity" which often succeed – and backfire – in delightfully unexpected ways.

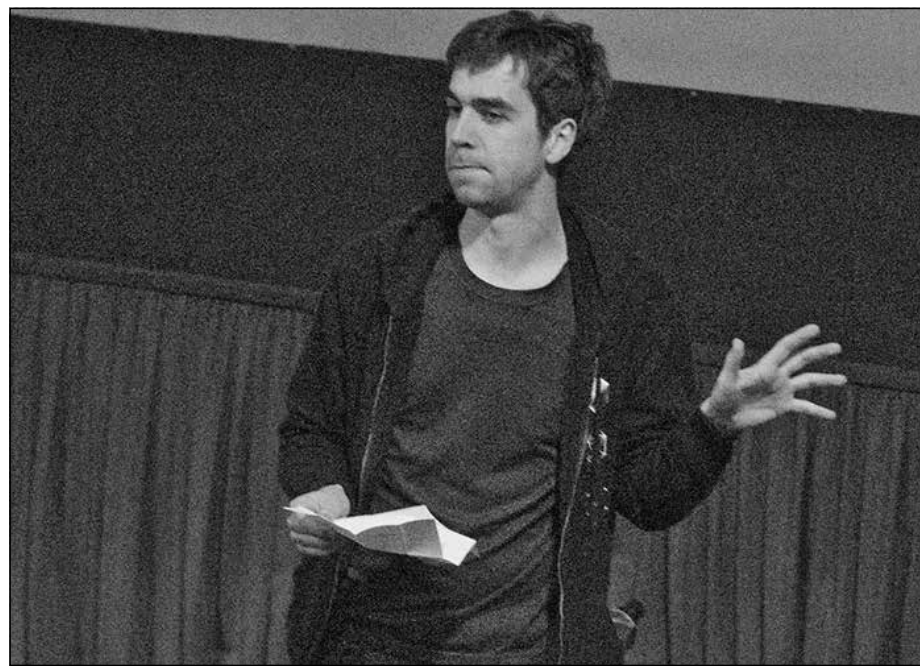
Before the showing of "Marcus," Hilliger told the audience that only in the last 10 years has the technology enabled the creation of animated film without investing large sums of money.

"I-Pads are available and the software is at the consumer level, so independent animation is kind of a new thing," he said.

He also said it was "very special" to premiere the film in Whitewater.

"Wonderful people were very supportive of me wanting to pursue animation," Hilliger said. "Everybody just said, 'You're going to be a cartoonist?' and talked about it like it was a thing that was really going to happen. And thanks for betting on me. It happened."

After the screening, Hilliger encouraged questions from the audience. Asked about the relationship of his own life to the film, he said, "I feel writing is allowed to be a little more authentic if drawn from some sort of personal experience. All the characters are half me and half of my insanity."



Although with a laugh Hilliger said he would not "name names," he admitted that people in his life were like archetypes for the characters. As an example, he said the quirks of a friend "can bleed into the character." Still, he according to Hilliger, the characters "usually tend to be built from the ground up."

Asked what took him by surprise during the two-year project, Hilliger smiled and said, "I guess that it worked. Truth be told, there were two films before this that I made. One of them got 50% done and one 80% done."

"Neither of them was quite good enough to warrant a release."

Hilliger said he wanted to work on "Marcus" to the point where people would laugh at the jokes and remember the character.

In a follow-up interview, Hilliger traced his early interest in cartooning to drawing pictures of characters in Nickelodeon shows. With the help of his parents, he remembered showing up to kindergarten orientation at Lakeview Elementary School with drawings of Jimmy Neutron to show the teacher.

At Lakeview, music teacher Karen Tordera and art teacher Mareta Hale would pull him aside and say, "You're really good at this cartooning thing. Can you make more cartoons for us?"

"I first learned of his talents in animation when Michael was a fourth

grade student," Tordera said. "Michael created a series of episodes featuring 'Dakota, The Puppy'. Each episode

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



The Breeze

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above: Whitewater native Michael Hilliger (above) talks with the audience recently after the screening of his short film, "Marcus the Teenager's Never-Ending Quest for Popularity." Hilliger, a 2017 Whitewater High School graduate.

TOM GANSER *The Breeze*

Hook a kid on fishing

15 quick tips to make their day

As the weather warms, the desire to go fishing is undeniable. And if you love fishing, there's only one thing more enjoyable than catching a big fish – watching a kid catch a fish.

This fishing season, the folks at Rapala fishing lures encourage adults to take a kid fishing. Why? Because kids represent the future of fishing. According to the American Sportfishing Association, kids who are introduced to fishing at an early age by a trusted adult are more likely to fish as an adult.

Here are 15 quick tips from the folks at Rapala on how you can introduce a kid to fishing this year:

GET THEM ON GOOD BITES

The number one thing you can do to hook a kid on fishing, says legendary angler Al Lindner, is to get lots of bites for your child. “Taking kids fishing between the ages of 8 and 12 years old is a critical time. Try to get them on good bites. Their attention span is short. You will quickly know if fishing will be a part of their life in the future. They are either going to like it or not. But they have to get bites. I can't say how important that is. You gotta get 'em on a bite.”

START THEM ON BLUEGILLS AND SUNNIES

The easiest bites tend to be panfish - bluegills, sunfish and bream. As your kids watch you catch bass, walleye and other gamefish, they'll want new challenges. Keep a panfish pliers handy to remove hooks from small panfish.

A SMALL FISH CAN BE A MONSTER FISH!

To a child, a small sunny can be a trophy. Don't downplay a small fish. Every fish caught is a huge accomplishment.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Start your kid fishing with a single hook. They're much easier to remove from fish. It could be a hook and a bobber or a

single hook soft bait, such as the Storm 360GT Searchbait. As your kids get more experience, let them graduate to a lure such as an Original Floating Rapala.

BRING THE SNACKS

Whatever your kids like for snacks, such as chips, cookies or fruit chewies, bring them! You're sure to work up an appetite catching all those fish. And don't forget the wipes for sticky, slimy little hands.

CREATE TRADITIONS

One of the best things about fishing with a kid is creating little traditions to which they can look forward in the future. For example, stopping for a donut on the way to the lake, or giving fish pins whenever your kid catches a new species.

BRING A FRIEND

If your child has a good friend, invite them along on the fun, too. That kid may turn into a lifetime fishing buddy for your kid.

TAKE PICTURES

Don't limit yourself to just fish photos! Take photos of the entire experience - stopping for donuts on the way to the water, eating snacks, collecting rocks or seashells, feeding the ducks. Turn your photos

into a photo book or create a slide show with music that the kids can watch later. When fish are caught make sure the most important people in your kid's life see their fish photos.

KEEP IT SHORT

With younger kids, especially, avoid overdoing it. Start out with short trips - a couple hours at most, and if the fish just don't seem to be cooperating, cut it short and go have an ice cream cone. Gradually increase your time out on the water and trying different types of fishing approaches, such as fishing with soft baits or trolling with crankbaits.

WATCH THE WEATHER

Sometimes the weather doesn't always cooperate. You may think the fishing is best on an overcast, windy day, but that may not be the case for kids. Instead, watch the weather and choose a warm, clear day and get out early when the fish are most likely to bite.

BRING A LIFE JACKET

It only takes a second and you may find a kid in the water. When on a boat, kids should always wear a life jacket that fits properly (in many states, it's the law). Use caution when fishing from docks, piers and

shorelines, too.

AVOID SUNBURN

Make sure your kid is wearing a comfortable fishing cap and together, apply your sunscreen to ears, noses and other exposed skin.

HANDLE FISH GENTLY

Fish are slimy, prickly and wiggly. With young kids, adults should handle fish at first and let kids gently “pet” them before they're released. As they become more experienced, show kids how to carefully land, hold and release their catches.

FISH WITH TOPWATER

Watching a fish explode on the surface for a lure gives young anglers an exciting visual that will keep them coming back for more. An X-Rap Pop or Skitter Pop are amazing baits to throw from shore or the dock for heart-stopping topwater action.

KEEP A FEW

If your kids want to try eating fish, keep a few fish and cook them up. Don't make an entire meal out of it though, as eating fish is an acquired taste. Use a trusty batter recipe and serve with French fries.

Teach kids to fish to build a life-long love of the sport and water activities.

STOCK PHOTO The Breeze



Adventure awaits



STOCK PHOTO The Breeze

Ways to soak up summer on the water

Summer fun is right around the corner, and boating is the perfect addition to your bucket list. No boat? No problem. There are plenty of ways to get on the water and enjoy the unique adventures only boating provides, in addition to its many wellness benefits. Studies show being on the water boosts creativity, happiness, relaxation and mental health.

"Americans today prioritize experiences, work-life balance and outdoor recreation. There's no better way to do that than spending time on the water with loved ones," said Ellen Bradley, Discover Boating senior vice-president. "Boating delivers fun, freedom and relaxation in a special way you

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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can't get on land - and we're seeing more people giving it a try than ever before as they learn about the proven benefits of time on the water."

Whether you're into fishing, watersports, riding personal watercraft, sailing or simply cruising around the open waters, boating offers something for everyone, and it's more accessible than you may think. Boaters come from all walks of life, backgrounds and areas of the country, with an estimated 100 million Americans going boating each year, according to the National Marine Manufacturers Association.

Discover Boating, the leading resource for all things boating, helps people find easy ways to get on the water and provides tools and articles to get started. Check out these tips to start planning your next on-water

Swimming on local lakes is a great way to cool off on a hot summer's day.

STOCK PHOTO *The Breeze*



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above: Fishing has fans of all ages and abilities. The family friendly activity is a great way to strengthen relationships. right: Boating in Wisconsin starts in spring and doesn't wrap up until fall.

STOCK PHOTOS The Breeze



adventure and make the memories of a lifetime this summer.

RENT OR SHARE A BOAT

Rental options are available on most waterways and provide hourly, daily or weekly access to a variety of boat types. Rental outfitters should provide tutorials on operating a boat, share safety instructions and offer suggestions on destinations. Another option is peer-to-peer boat sharing, which allows you to rent boats near you directly through the boat owners and offers the choice to hire a captain.

JOIN A BOAT CLUB

Boat clubs offer access to a variety of boats. You'll pay a monthly fee and be able to book your time on the water online. Most boat clubs take care of docking, cleaning, maintenance and boat training courses.

TAKE A CLASS

Take the helm and become a confident boater. Sign up for a boating lesson to hone your powerboating, sailing or watersports skills by mastering the basics while having fun along the way. On-water training courses, watersports camps, youth boating programs and more are offered across the U.S.

FIND YOUR DREAM BOAT

Chart your own course to boat ownership by visiting DiscoverBoating.com, where you'll find resources such as the boat finder and loan calculator to help you find a boat that fits your budget, lifestyle and interests.

Visit Discover Boating's Go Boating Today tool to find out how you can secure your boating vacation on-demand this summer. Use the social media hashtag #SeeYouOutHere to share your boating.

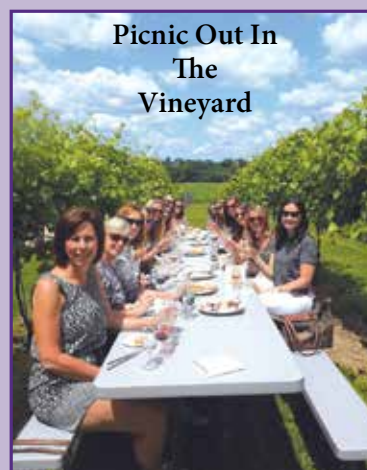
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SCREENING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

included opening and closing credits, a story line as well as theme music, and were uploaded to YouTube. In fifth grade, ‘Dakota, The Puppy’ continued into a second season.

“Mareta Hale and I recognized that Michael had exceptional artistic talent,” she added. “We even had a conversation at this fifth grade parent/teacher conference with Michael’s parents discussing the possibility of copyrighting his work. Before Michael left elementary school, I commissioned artwork featuring his characters making music. I framed the drawings and they hang in my classroom each year.”

At Whitewater Middle School, Hilliger was a student in Stacey Johnson’s art class. She said, “I distinctly remember that he had a very advanced and distinct personal art style.”

“It was clear to me that he had been practicing cartooning for years,” Johnson said. “I recall that his subjects always

had prominent and exaggerated facial expressions, with extra care always given to the mouths. Even at a young age, Michael had a knack for conveying movement and emphasis in his work.”

In response to Johnson’s comments, Hilliger said, “She nailed it on the head. You can draw the bodies the same way, but the face and the eyes have to do something interesting. The most important thing is the shape of the mouth that conveys the mood.”

Hilliger believe his Whitewater High School experiences in music and theater helped develop his creativity.

“I took as many music classes as I could in high school just because I could tell music shared a lot of DNA with animation,” he said, adding that he also appreciated learning to be comfortable with being critiqued as a member of the jazz ensemble, a core value important in art.

Cast as King Sextimus the Silent in

the Whitewater High School Players production of “Once Upon a Mattress,” Hilliger drew storyboards on what the mute character was supposed to be doing, adding, “My script was covered with body language doodles.”

As a crazy General Lee in “Afraid of the Dark,” Hilliger and fellow actor Weston Lema together “made efforts to break away from the script and just do really nutty things. The director Jim McCulloch was really good about this. If we just did something that was funny he would let us keep it in. Every single rehearsal we would try something different.”

Following graduation from UW-Stout, Hilliger was hired by the City of Whitewater to create a series of three videos highlighting the Train Depot, the Birge Fountain, and the Artesian Well natural spring. Hilliger received a Wisconsin Community Media Award of Achievement this documentary, “Gems

of Whitewater.” Also working on the project were Haley Dieter and Kristin Mickelson.

“I was 100% in charge of it and responsible for making sure it got done. I was afforded a lot of responsibility and a lot of trust. Thanks to this experience, Hilliger came to understand all aspects of what a project needs and how to shepherd it out the door, what to focus on and what not to focus on, because instead of being the hands making the thing I was allowed to be the brains, too.”

“I feel that kind of leap-frogged my career by five or 10 years. I’m taking on some pretty high responsibilities with the companies I’m working for now because that’s more appropriate for where my skill level is, so Whitewater really sped that up.”

As to what’s next for Marcus, Hilliger confessed, “A break is next,” although adding that some discussion has taken place about a second episode.



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Make the most of a day at the lake

Water becomes the center of attention when the temperature climbs because of the cooling relief it can provide. Making a day of splashing through sprinklers, swimming laps in a pool or horsing around with friends at a waterpark is part of the summertime experience.

Even though most people equate summer fun with ocean escapes, those who do not live close to the coast often turn to other bodies of water to cool off and chill out. Lakes can be great places to spend summer afternoons and evenings. Discover how to make time at the lake even more fun with these ideas.

FISHING

Cast your line right into the lake and take a shot at catching some fish. Bass, trout, perch, and pike may be interested in the bait hanging off of your hook. Be sure to check local fish and game ordinances to see if you need a license for fishing for the season, as well as the recreational size limits, possession limits and fishing seasons if you plan on keeping your catch.

TUBING

Although tubing is often enjoyed on rivers where the rapids carry people along from a starting point to the end, those who desire a more relaxing day may opt for tubing on a lake. Tie several tubes together and create a fleet of friends or family floating leisurely under the sun. With the addition of a floating cooler full of drinks and snacks, you can stay out on the lake for hours.

WATER SPORTS

Water sports and lakes often go hand-in-hand. Certain water activities are easier on the calm waters of a lake than in the waves and swells of an ocean and particularly for beginners. Canoes and kayaks are one- or



Days at the lake can be memorable ways to spend summer vacations.

STOCK PHOTO *The Breeze*

two-passenger vessels that can be launched from just about anywhere. They make areas of the lake explorable that may not be accessible to large boats. Plus they require no fuel other than the power of rowing. If you prefer more speed, personal water craft like jet skis may be used on lakes in certain areas. Waterskiing or wakeboarding behind powerboats are some additional options for thrill-seekers.

LAKESIDE CUISINE

If you're lucky to have a lodge or restaurant dockside, you can enjoy a delicious meal overlooking a sunset on the

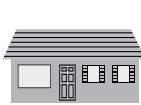
lake. Time in or on the water can build up an appetite, which can be satiated by a meal while you listen to the water lap against the shoreline.

(METRO CREATIVE)

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N7460 Ridge Rd.	\$1,900,000

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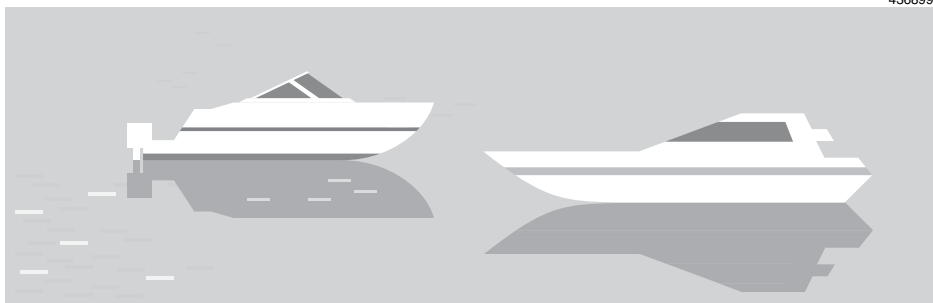
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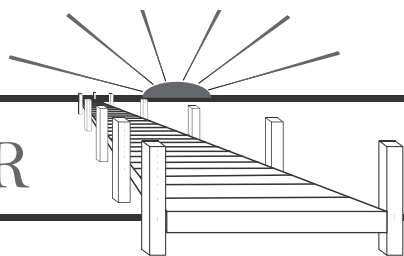
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The Southern Wakes United Water Ski Team has announced its show schedule for this year. Exhibitions include:

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

Schedule is subject to change. For up-to-date show information, follow the ski team on Facebook or visit SouthernWakesUnited.com.



Ski Team announces 2023 schedule



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