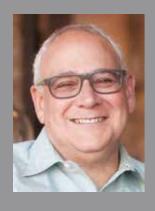




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Boating season is here, and we couldn't be more excited. In our opinion, having a good time on the water is what summer is all about. However, behaving irresponsibly leads to accidents that could put your life and others' lives at risk.

Boating under the influence is a federal offense subject to a \$1,000 fine. In addition, criminal penalties (as well as possible jail time) are subject to fines as high as \$5,000. Therefore, it's crucial that you refrain from drinking and boating.

Keep reading for some boating best practices and the answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Ready to take your celebration to the water? Make sure to follow these rules when you do:

Have a sober captain. It doesn't matter whether you're in a car or a boat drinking and driving is always a bad idea. A sober captain guarantees that everyone has fun and stays safe. And as we mentioned, a drunk (or drinking) captain faces large fines and potential jail time.

Remember, the decision to designate a sober captain is not just about adhering to the law but also about prioritizing the well-being and safety of everyone

involved. By staying alcohol-free, the captain can focus entirely on their duties and navigate the waters carefully.

Boat days are all about having fun – but it's important that you don't go overboard (pun intended). Therefore, the captain should designate a sober first mate to help keep the crew in check, which minimizes distractions and potential dangers.

The first mate plays a vital role in promoting a safe boating experience. They can assist the captain in monitoring the weather conditions, keeping an eye out for other vessels, and ensuring that all safety protocols are followed. With their sober presence, they can react swiftly and effectively in case of emergencies, keeping everyone on board secure.

Before the party starts, ensure everyone on board has a properly fitting life jacket (including kids and pets). A life jacket that is too large will slip off the wearer, and one that's too small might not offer sufficient buoyancy. Wearing a life jacket ensures everyone on board stays safe, which is always in style.

When it comes to enjoying a day out on the water, the last thing you want is a mishap that puts a damper on the fun.

Bringing glassware on board may seem convenient, but the risks outweigh the benefits. If glass shatters while onboard, you risk damaging the boat's upholstery or, worse, causing harm to someone's

Instead, pack cooler cups for your next boating adventure. Not only will these cups keep your drinks cool, but they're also specifically built to withstand the rigors of outdoor adventures.

Whether you're on the water for a weekend or an hour, basking in the sun's rays can become draining. Not to mention, they significantly amplify the effects of alcohol. Ensure everyone on board stays hydrated and eating plenty of snacks. Additionally, throwing some electrolytes - like coconut water or Liquid IV - into your cooler is not a bad idea.

Typically, the crew outnumbers the captain on any boating adventure. Therefore, listening to their directions will make their job at the helm much easier.

Don't pressure them to drink or roughhouse while on board. Instead, follow their rules, and behave responsibly

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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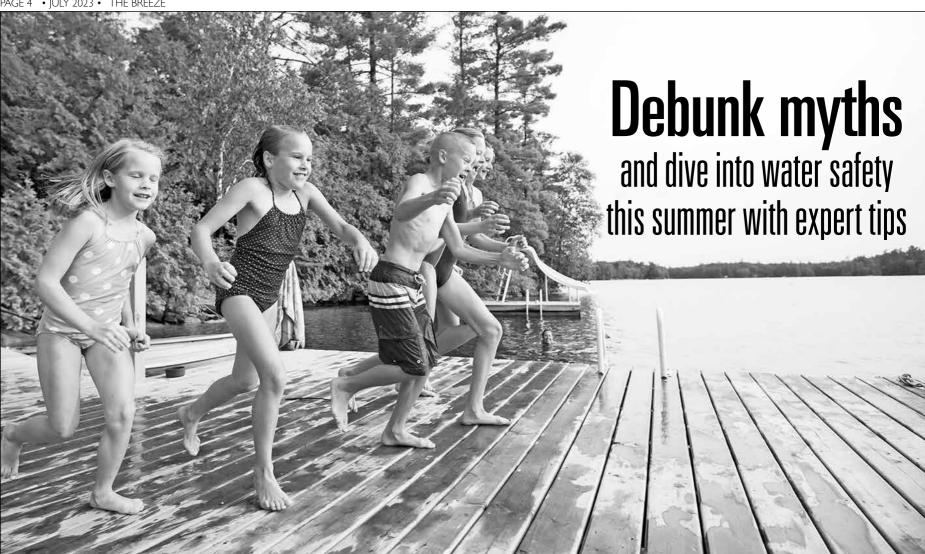
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above: The boating season is the perfect time to make lasting memories with friends and family on the water. And if you keep a few safety rules in mind, there will be many fun-filled days in the future.

STOCK PHOTO The Breeze



Booked summer plans? Check. New bathing suits for the family? Check. Swim lesson enrollment? Priority check!

Water safety is essential, yet many people get confused by misinformation that puts kids at risk. Step Into Swim provides need-to-know information to ensure swimming activities are safe and fun for all involved. The program is led by Rowdy Gaines, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist and Vice President of Partnerships and Development at the Pool & Hot Tub

With a passion for creating more swimmers and expanding access to swim education, Gaines wants to keep everyone safer this summer by debunking some of the most widespread myths about water

Myth – Splashing and screaming are signs of drowning. While 83% of parents who have a child ages 14 or under are confident in their child's ability to be safe in the water, many parents (60%) incorrectly assume someone who is drowning will draw attention to themselves by splashing and screaming, according to a Step Into Swim survey conducted by The Harris Poll. Drowning is silent, meaning the person won't scream or splash

because they are struggling to breathe. This underscores the importance of swim safety.

Myth – Drowning takes several minutes to occur. Drowning can happen in seconds, so it's critical to consistently watch children in the water - even if they know how to swim. Watch kids closely because drowning can happen in the time it takes to send a text message.

Myth - Parents can teach their kids to swim and lessons aren't needed. While supporting your child and encouraging water safety is important, teaching kids to swim is best left to trained instructors. Learning to swim from a qualified instructor reduces the drowning risk by 88% among children ages 1 to 4, according to the medical journal Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine. Caregivers can complement the lessons learned from swim instructors by practicing the skills with their children.

Myth – Floaties and water wings are safe and help kids learn to swim. Parents may think floaties and water wings keep children safe in the water, but they offer a false sense of security. Many children don't realize that when they remove the water wings, they lose their ability to remain afloat. Two-thirds of parents who have

a child ages 14 or under (66%) believe floaties and water wings keep children safe in the water, according to the survey. However, they are not recognized as safe personal flotation devices. Caregivers must keep a constant eye on children in the water to make sure floaties remain on and secure.

Myth – Dry drowning is a danger. Dry drowning is not a medically accepted term and may be misused to refer to other medical conditions, such as pulmonary edema or laryngospasm. Drowning injury is caused by lack of oxygen and respiratory impairment from submersion in water. It doesn't refer to the amount of water entering the lungs, according to the American Red Cross. To help avoid drowning, families need to enroll kids in swim lessons and practice supervision.

Water safety steps for everyone

Unfortunately, drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death in children ages 1 to 4, and the second leading cause for children ages 5 to 14, according to the CDC. Before jumping into the water, follow these best practices to help keep children safe.

- Enroll your child in swimming lessons. Parents have a responsibility to keep kids safe in the water;
- •Keep toys away from water when not in use. These can be distractions for children, who may overreach and accidentally fall in the water;
- Designate a water watcher to keep a close eye on children and put the cell phones down;
- Only practice safe behaviors, such as entering the pool feet first and walking instead of running;
 - Avoid breath-holding activities;
- Learn CPR and keep your skills fresh with ongoing training;
- Keep kids hydrated and take frequent breaks from the sun to limit heat exposure;
- If you have a pool, use multiple layers of protection, such as pool covers, fencing and locked doors.

For more resources and information, visit StepIntoSwim.org.

Learning to swim is a lifesaving skill that empowers children to be confident in the water.

STOCK PHOTO The Breeze



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds boaters to help stop the spread of invasive plants and animals in our waters as part of the Great Lakes Landing Blitz.

Starting this summer, Wisconsin's longrunning Clean Boats Clean Waters Landing Blitz is now a part of the Great Lakes Landing Blitz. The effort is a collaboration of all of the Great Lakes states and provinces to educate boaters that simple clean-up steps and draining water from the boat and live wells can help to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

From June 30 to July 9, many boaters in Wisconsin were greeted at landings and access points by volunteers and regional aquatic invasive species prevention partners. Clean Boats Clean Waters boat inspectors gave out a brand-new red, white

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

The Department of Natural Resources urges boaters and anglers to drain their livewells and fish buckets before leaving boat launches.

TRAVEL WISCONSIN PHOTO The Breeze

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INVASIVE SPECIES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

and blue boat trailer sticker with a graphic showing all of the places where plants, tiny animals and potentially contaminated water can hide on a boat and trailer.

"It only takes a minute to remove plants, animals, mud or debris from boats, trailers and equipment and to drain all water from bilges, livewells and bait buckets," said Erin McFarlane, the Statewide Clean Boats Clean Waters Educator with Extension Lakes. "These simple steps help keep invasive species from hitching a ride from one lake or river to another."

Every boater and angler has a role to play in protecting Wisconsin's lakes and rivers. Everyone should follow these prevention steps, required by Wisconsin state law, to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in our waters:

• Inspect boats, trailers and equipment;

- Remove all attached aquatic plants and animals;
- Drain all water from boats, vehicles and equipment, including livewells and buckets containing fish;
- Never move plants or live fish away from a waterbody;
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash; and
- Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer.

Additionally, only use leftover minnows when fishing with them on the same body of water. They can be used on other waters only if no lake or river water or other fish have been added to their container.

To learn more about invasive species and their impacts on Wisconsin's waters and economy, visit the DNR's invasive species webpage at dnr.wi.gov.

CELEBRATE SAFELY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and respectfully.

Below are the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about alcohol and boating:

Can you drink and drive a boat?

Boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal and can result in severe fines or jail time. In addition, it can put your life and others' lives at risk.

Can you drink alcohol while on a boat?

As long as you're not the one operating the boat (aka the captain) and are over the age of 21, it's okay to responsibly drink alcohol aboard. Again, boat captains should never drink and drive a boat under any circumstances.

Does alcohol affect you differently on a boat?

Technically speaking, being on a boat

won't raise your blood-alcohol content any higher than it would on land. However, drinking while boating does make you feel more intoxicated—thanks to the sun and the constant rocking motion — which affects your judgment and reaction time.

How much alcohol should be consumed while boating?

It's recommended that boat passengers limit their alcohol consumption to one drink per hour (or less). Be wary of the effects of alcohol while you're on the water to keep yourself and others safe.

What is the blood-alcohol limit for boating?

The blood-alcohol limit for boating is the same as that for driving a car: 0.08%.

Want more insider boating tips? Visit discoverboating.com.

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Sounds in the sun

Whitewater's Savory Sounds concert series kicked off June 22 with the Steve Meisner Legacy – a group performing in honor of their lead, Meisner, who died unexpectedly earlier in the month. **top right:** A couple dances. **above:** The band performs.

TOM GANSER The Breeze

Brief

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WATER WARNING ISSUED

The City of Whitewater is cautioning residents against unwanted water treatment solicitors. Private water treatment company are not associated with the city and often offer free tests and then the sale of an expensive water treatment system, most recently from C&P

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For more questions, call Water Superintendent Jim Bergner at 262-473-





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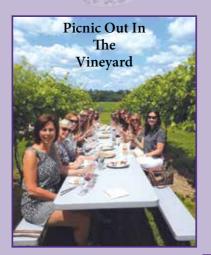


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Getting the chance to show off a little

Ferradermis team presents at First United Methodist Church

By Tom Ganser CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Whitewater High School robotics team Ferradermis got a chance to show off their competition robot and talk about the 2023 season recently at a First United Methodist Church Extra Years of Zest gathering.

Presenting information about Ferradermis were team members Jazmin Cederberg, Emerson Dunham, Ace Hudec, Zoe Olson and Daniel Portwine.

As stated on the Ferradermis website (www.ferradermis.org), the mission of Ferradermis is to create a sustainable





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extracurricular environment and provide mentorship for high school students to participate in the FIRST Robotics

Ferradermis aims to prepare students for STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and business careers, while also challenging, empowering, and inspiring them to build leadership skills, self-belief, and professionalism under the guidance of dedicated mentors that include teachers, engineers, programmers, metalworkers and Ferradermis alumni.

This year, 26 WHS students were in the team, with two-thirds of the team either female or non-binary. There were 15 adult

Ferradermis is in the top of three FIRST divisions: "FIRST Robotics Competition." The middle level is "FIRST Tech Challenge" and the entry level is "FIRST Lego League."

Whitewater elementary schools and Whitewater Middle School now offer FIRST Lego League teams, and the aim for WMS is to become a FIRST Tech Challenge team.

According to Portwine, FRC is essentially a game designed to challenge students in engineering and programming.

"We are given a game," Portwine stated, 'and tasked to build a robot that solves the problem that we need to solve in the game."

Beginning in 2016 and competing for a first time in 2017, Ferradermis students have grown in a cooperative learning environment that targets the development of problem-solving skills in a fun, interactive and accepting environment.

In aiming to be "more than robots," Ferradermis team members serve the community with outreach projects, including partnering with the Whitewater Kiwanis during pancake breakfasts and raising funds for accessible playground equipment, participating in the Whitewater Parade of Lights and Fourth of July parades, and raising money for Christmas gifts and for the Whitewater Unified School District Family Emergency Fund.

Five Ferradermis members participated in a "FIRST Wisconsin Advocacy Day" in Madison in February to promote state funding of robotics programs and to raise

awareness with state representatives, including Senator Steve Nass and Representative Ellen Schutt.

The season for Ferradermis begins with summer and fall meetings aimed at orienting incoming eighth grade students and offseason competitions that help newcomers to become familiar with competitions.

The "build season" during January and February includes an open house and some pre-regional events useful in determining the capacity of the Ferradermis robot for the new season challenge.

In preparation for the Northern Lights Regional competition March 1-5, in Duluth, Ferradermis participated in a scrimmage on Feb. 19 with teams from throughout southeast Wisconsin.

Ferradermis was one of the final 12 teams standing on the Northern Lights field, finishing as part of the fourth-place alliance. The event included 59 teams from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

There are many activities at an FRC event that are not directly related to the robot. For example, Cosette Wildermuth-Breitzman, Maddi LaHaie and Andrew Zimmermann worked on the team's presentation for the Impact Award, which allows teams to highlight their community outreach and STEM education efforts.

March 22 to 25, Ferradermis competed at the Wisconsin Regional in Milwaukee with 47 teams from Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Mexico. The team ended the qualification rounds with an 8-4 record and ranked 10th out of 47. The Ferradermis-led alliance ended in fourth place.

WHS celebrated Robotics Week in April. Students participated in trivia contests and helped raise money for the Family Emergency Fund. Students received a fun pencil in homeroom, complete with a robotics fun fact. Activities wrapped with an all-school assembly where students learned about the Robotics teams and viewed a demonstration of the robot.

Each year, FRC teams may nominate two students for recognition on Dean's List, the highest recognition for an individual student in FIRST Robotics. The award recognizes great examples of student leaders who have led their teams and communities to increased awareness of FIRST and its mission, and who also achieved personal technical expertise.

This year the Ferradermis mentors nominated LaHaie and EDunham as Dean's List semifinalists.

Masbruch indicated that one of the important recent changes for Ferradermis has been the acquisition of dedicated space for the team at the high school.

"We are able to set up a half-sized practice field in Room 306 and test the robot on homebuilt field elements at any time. This allows the students to head into competition much better prepared," she said. "2020 and 2021 obviously interrupted our progress as a team (as it did for most everything), but we found our way through it."

Masbruch highlighted new partnerships with the WMS and WHS tech ed programs as "fantastic for both parties."

"We work very closely with the tech ed teachers to make improvements to the shop that benefit both the classes and the team," she explained.

Efforts continue to create a \$500,000 endowment fund to help secure the longterm financial health of Ferradermis and to provide startup funds for other FIRST

"We would love to get more schools in the area involved so that we have more local teams to work with and compete with," Masbruch said.

In addition, Ferradermis has secured the marketing services of at least one intern for the fall from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Student Advertising

Upcoming summer events include the Rock River Robotics Offseason Competition (July 22), and the Mukwonago Robotics Offseason Competition (July 28 and 29).

A fall off-season competition event Oct. 14 includes TWIST (Together, Women in STEM Thrive) that will feature all-female drive teams.



opposite: The Ferradermis robotics team from Whitewater High School recently spoke at First United Methodist Church in Whitewater about its season. Daniel Portwine leads the presentation. above: Table centerpieces at the event mimicked the team's robot.

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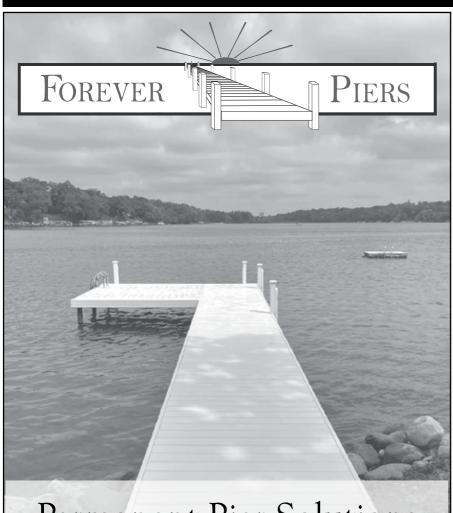


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Fort couple allegedly took \$40,000 for project

A Fort Atkinson couple was charged in February with taking \$40,000 from a Town of Whitewater couple for a construction project they failed to complete.

Tyler D. Hansen, 51, and Jennifer L. Hansen, 42, were charged Feb. 1 in Walworth County Circuit Court with theft by a contractor and four counts of home improvement practice violations, all as a party to a crime and with increased penalties for elderly victims.

According to the criminal complaint, a couple in their 70s hired the Hansens' company, Weathersealed, in January 2022 to build a deck and four-seasons room on their Shagbark Road home in the Town of Whitewater. The couple made two payments of \$20,000 each in January and February 2022 toward the \$80,000 project, according to the complaint.

The 75-year-old homeowner said the project was to be completed by Memorial Day, but, as of June 3, had not been started, according to the complaint.

The man said he signed a contract Jan. 26, 2022, and paid \$20,000 down, and on Feb. 12, 2022, paid another \$20,000 for a supplemental contract with Temo Design for the four-seasons room, according to the complaint.

The man said he received emails of the Temo drawings, but called the company and learned it had received no payment from Weathersealed and had no record that a sunroom drawing had been approved, according to the complaint.

The man tried to contact Tyler Hansen numerous times by phone and text messages but got no response, so he drove to Weathersealed's Madison location in

May and found the showroom nearly empty, and the building appeared as through it were being cleared, according to the complaint.

The man then made contact with Tyler Hansen, who said the project would start May 23, but it did not, the complaint states.

The payments the couple made had been deposited into the Weathersealed account and then immediately transferred to Jennifer Hansen's personal account, according to the complaint.

The contract the couple signed with Weathersealed did not include material costs, detailed timelines or the materials to be used, the complaint states.

As of June 1 hearing, Tyler Hansen is being held in the Kenosha County Jail on other charges.

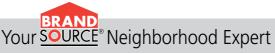












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