Lauderdale Lakes BREEZE

SUMMER 2024 • First Edition

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Shoreline work

Lauderdale Shores is restoring 700 feet of their Green Lake shoreline, including the sand beach and boat launch. The project is expected to cost \$280,000.

Highway 12 set for major work this summer

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will be resurfacing Highway 12 from the interchange at Elkhorn to Highway 20, replacing the bridge over Sugar Creek and reconstructing the intersection of Highway 12 and ES to replace the stop signs with

According a news release from WisDOT, the roadway surface needs replacement to restore a smooth driving surface and limit future maintenance, while the bridge over Sugar Creek is at its intended service life.

The intersection of Highway 12 and ES, meanwhile, has been identified as a spot location for safety improvements. The new intersection will be signalized, and ES will be realigned to provide more suitable roadway approaches for the signal.

The bridge replacement is expected to take about three and a half months to complete, and require Highwas 12 to be closed with a posted detour along I-43 and

Local traffic with a destination within the work zone – between Elkhorn and Highway 20 - can still use Highway 12 either north or south of the bridge to reach a destination.

Roadway resurfacing will be accomplished with traffic flagging around work operations, which may cause some delays. Both the resurfacing and reconstruction of Highway 12 and ES will be completed while the road closure is set for the bridge replacement.

A separate WisDOT project on Highway 11, northeast of Elkhorn, to replace a large box culvert will start in late spring and require Highway 11 to be closed between I-43 and Highway 67 for about eight weeks. A detour route will be posted.

WisDOT will be sending an informational mailer to residents within a half mile of the projects prior to the start of construction, which will include specific information on construction start

Faith, family and support system

Payton Jacobson qualifies for 2024 Olympics in Greco-Roman wrestling

BY Jennifer Eisenbart • EDITOR

The Elkhorn community and beyond will have one of its own to cheer on at the 2024 Paris Olympics this summer.

Payton Jacobson, a junior at Northern Michigan University, secured his spot at the Olympics as a Greco-Roman wrestler, earning a best-of-three decision in the 87-kilogram weight class April 20 at the U.S. Olympic Trials at Penn State University in State College, Pennsylvania.

"It's surreal, it really is,"

Jacobson said. "It's hard to process. I've been truly blessed."

A total of 18 U.S. wrestlers made the team for Paris in both freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling in State college. Five of those wrestlers.



Payton Jacobson

though, still need to qualify their weight class for the U.S. to Paris a separate qualifying process.

Jacobson was not one of those. The 87-kilogram (192 pounds, roughly) division had its top athlete, Spencer Woods - a U.S. Army veteran and Worlds bronze medalist at 82 kilograms - earn a bye through to the championship

Jacobson, meanwhile, was seeded seventh, albeit with a first-round bye. In the challenge quarterfinals, Jacobson beat Richard Carlson 4-0. In the challenge semifinals, Jacobson defeated Zachary Braunagel, the athlete with the No. 1 ranking for the last year in the weight class, 6-0.

In the challenge final, Jacobson edged John Stefanowicz. The two battled to a 1-1 decision before Jacobson earned the tiebreaker.

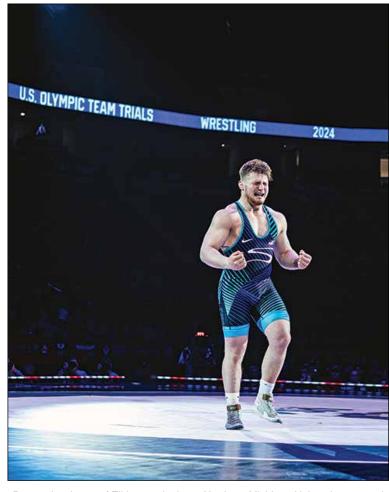
That advanced Jacobson to the championship series against Woods. In the first match in the best-of-three series, Jacobson won the opening bout by decision, 8-2, before Woods battled back to take a 5-2 decision in the second match.

In the decisive third round, Jacobson survived and pulled out a 3-1 decision.

It will be the first Olympics for Jacobson, who has a wealth of international experience at the junior levels of Greco-Roman wrestling. He placed second at the 2021 Pan-Am Championships before arriving at NMU as well.

The wins over Carlson, Braunagel, Stefanowicz and Woods at the Olympic Trials marked victories over the top four 87-kilogram wrestlers in the

"I really thought I had a chance, 100 percent," Jacobson said. "It



Payton Jacobson, of Elkhorn, a junior at Northern Michigan University, secured his spot at the Olympics as a Greco-Roman wrestler in the 87-kilogram weight class April 20 at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Pennsylvania. ALLIE GRANT PHOTO Lau

was just a matter of executing.

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

Jacobson said the night before the finals against Woods, he was nervous.

"I didn't sleep well at all," he said. "I knew I had a shot."

Jacobson said the first two matches were clearly in favor of himself and then Woods. Before the third match. Jacobson said his mind went to some dark places.

"I kept thinking about all the times I've come up short. It was eating at my mind," he said. "But then I started thinking about times I've done things I didn't think I could do."

Jacobson said his faith as well as family – and support system carried him through that final

He said there was a point in the second period where Woods tried a reverse lock and then a front head lock, both of which he countered.

With three seconds left in the match, Jacobson said Woods basically walked away from the match.

"I was so tired," Jacobson said, adding that he's thankful and humbled. "Mainly that God is great. He really provided for me."

Jacobson now has until early August to prepare for the Olympic Games. He's got a lofty goal – to win a gold medal.

"If I'm going to be there, might as well," he said. "I don't know how many chances I'm going to have. I'm going to do everything in my ability to prepare myself.'

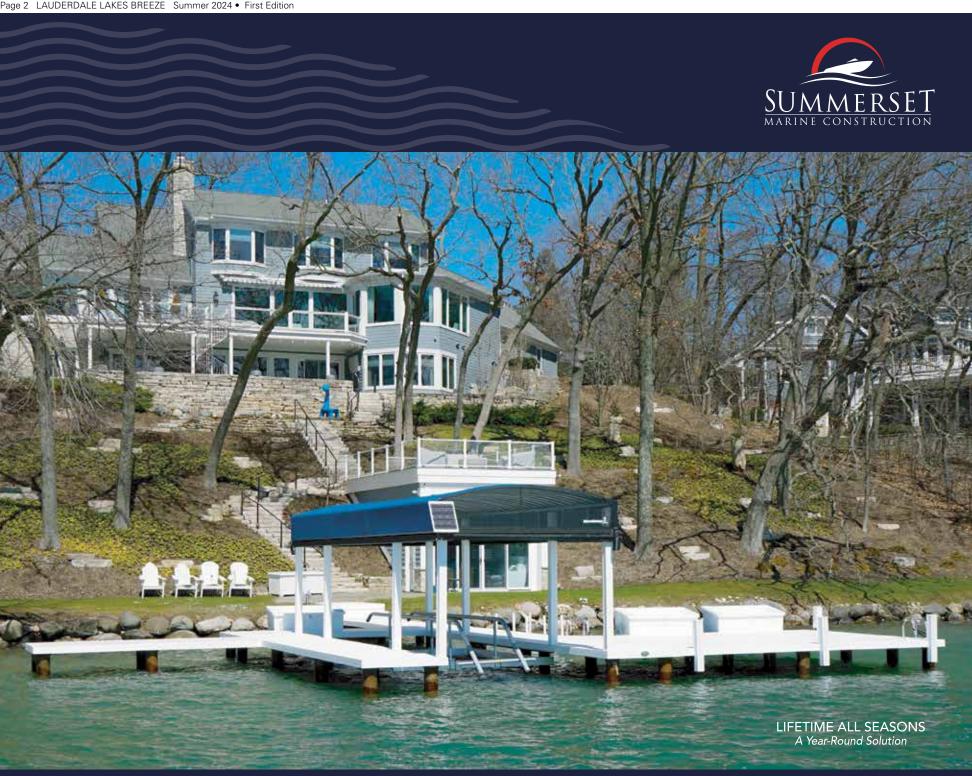
Editor's note: The NMU Sports Information Department helped



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Giving back to the community



Elkhorn Area High School, Career and College Academy and Options Virtual School students gathered recently for The Great Give Back, formerly the Day of Action. Sponsored by the Nicholas D. Sergi Foundation, students spent the day volunteering throughout the community, performing various service projects. Above: students and staff gather in the high school gymnasium before heading out to work on projects. At right: a student chops up wood at one of the volunteer sites, Lutherdale.

DAVE DRESDOW Lauderdale Lakes Breeze



Holi Cannoli, the food!

Elkhorn Italian restaurant offers authentic food experience

BY Jennifer Eisenbart • EDITOR

For Holi Cannoli owner Melissa Lopardo, her journey with her restaurant isn't just about serving customers.

"It's so personal," she said. "It's my world."

Holi Cannoli opened at N7065 Highway 12 in 2010, with Lopardo's parents, Rich and Cathie, being the face of the restaurant. Since then, it has developed a reputation for authentic, quality Italian cuisine, as well as great service and a home-like atmosphere.

"We wanted people to feel like they were walking into our home," Melissa explained. "There's that warmth. Food is

love, to me."

While Cathie and Rich were raised in Chicago, both were

raised in Chedgo, both were raised cooking Italian food.

Melissa said she and her extended family grew up with her parents cooking, surrounded by good wine, coffee and great food.

She said her parents were always on the lookout for a potential restaurant to open, and they moved permanently to this area in the late 90s.

When the old Delisle's Steak Ranch and then Bubbling Springs became available in 2010, the Lopardo family jumped at the opportunity.

Also worth noting, from the beginning, the restaurant has been serviced by one chef – Rudy Camacho – and has offered a slate of authentic Italian dishes.

"It's very traditional for the northwest side (of Chicago)," Melissa explained. "Mussels, calamari...food, it means everything to me."

Melissa is known for a phrase, related to one of the restaurant's

"If I could inject our vodka sauce into my veins, I would," she said. "And that's the truth. It's dangerous, it's so good."

The menu

Holi Cannoli's menu features a slate of appetizers – including baked clams, fried and grilled calamari, mussels and the like – and salads that range from a traditional Caesar salad to the Cannoli salad (mixed greens, cucumbers, onions, corn, carrots, bell peppers, tomatoes and roaster peppers with mozzarella and Italian dressing).

But like any authentic Italian restaurant, the pasta is heart of the menu. Everything is made to order, and all of the sauces are homemade.

In addition, Holi Cannoli makes its own gnocchi – hand rolled with ricotta cheese instead of potato.

"They're like little pillows," Lopardo said.

Noodles range from angel hair to fettuccine to linguine and rigatoni. The restaurant also offers a gluten-free penne option. Sauces include favorites like Alfredo and Alio Olio (garlic and olive oil), to meat sauce (Bolognese) and pesto.

Perhaps what Holi Cannoli is best known for is its chicken parmesan, featured on the Food Network show "The Best Thing I Ever Ate."

The entrée was part of an episode called, "Everything Is Better With Booze," hence Melissa's line about the vodka

A mix of tomato sauce, heavy cream and vodka (not to mention the super special secret



Owner Melissa Lopardo stands near a picture of her parents – Rich and Cathie – at Holi Cannoli, an Italian restaurant in Elkhorn. Now the sole owner after her parents' passing in 2021, Lopardo puts her heart and soul

into the business.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Lauderdale Lakes Breeze

ingredients), the sauce is one of the featured items on the menu that is most popular.

In addition to daily specials

- which range from appetizers to
soups to a meat special to daily
fish and pasta – the entrée menu
also has chicken marsala, tilapia
Francese and Cannoli chicken
(whole deboned chicken herb
infused with lemon butter).

Add in an extensive wine and cocktail menu, homemade desserts and homemade Limoncello (plus Poppy's Giardiniera, a pickled Italian relish), and it's no wonder that Holi Cannoli becomes a destination for many, and is a restaurant where reservations are recommended.

"The majority of our customers, they become like family," Melissa explained.

The family

Melissa lost both of her parents to severe health issues in September of 2021, within five days of each other.

Both had contracted COVID-19, and died either of the disease or complications from it.

Melissa has been the sole owner since then, and said she is extremely grateful to both the Elkhorn community and to the customers who call Holi Cannoli family

"They are like family," Melissa said. "It's special that a lot of the customers knew my parents and we have all these great stories and memories.

"It's a support network, on top of it," she added. "Just all around support from our customers and the Elkhorn community as well.

"I want to make my parents proud – and my customers happy," Melissa finished. "That they are happy and they are well fed."

The restaurants hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 5 p.m. to about 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.,

and Sunday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. For reservations or more information, call 262-742-2500.

Double homicide case pushed back

Next status hearing for Thomas Routt is May 29

BY **Jennifer Eisenbart** • EDITOR

With the defense asking for extra time to review discovery in the case, proceedings in a double homicide case were pushed back again Tuesday morning.

Thomas Routt Jr., 57, was in court in person at the Walworth County Judicial Center April 16, but his attorney, Russell Jones, appeared via

While Judge Kristine Drettwan – and the people assembled in the courtroom – had trouble hearing Jones, he made it clear that he had not had enough time to review discovery in Routt's case and file motions.

Drettwan agreed to a month's delay, setting another status hearing for May 29 at 1:15 p.m. She made it clear, however, that the motions and the briefs that would go with them had to be filed at the same time, in order to expedite the process.

Routt Jr. is accused to shooting and killing Gina and Emerson Weingart at Sports Page Barr in Elkhorn Feb. 1, as well as shooting at another witness who fled the scene.

Both Emerson and Gina's parents were in court Tuesday morning, and expressed frustration with the further delay.

At the initial hearing in March, Gina's father, Tim Gennara, had asked for the proceedings to move as expeditiously as possible.

Routt was taken into custody Feb. 4, and allegedly admitted to police that he was the man at the bar with the gun Feb. 1, and that he committed the crime "more than likely for the money."

He said he wanted Gina Weingart to get down on the ground, but she allegedly told him to put the gun away or she would call the cops. Routt said Gina Weingart slapped the gun and it went off, causing her to fall down and go limp.

Routt then admitted to shooting the man sitting at the bar, Emerson Weingart.

Routt said he took between \$120 and \$140 from the open cash register. The other witness called 911 as she fled the scene, and later provided police information about what happened in the bar that night.

Routt told police he went home after the shooting, and later dumped the gun and ammunition at a gas station. A news release from police said the gas station was the Handi-Mart in Lake Como (Town of Geneva), and that a 9-millimeter handgun and ammunition were later retrieved. The criminal complaint said the gun and ammunition were located in bags in a dumpster at the gas station.

While Holi Cannoli in Elkhorn offers a fixed menu of Italian favorites. specials like this show up every day - crostini bread topped with fresh mozzarella, sautéed mushrooms and smoked salmon, drizzled with a

balsamic glaze.



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Honoring an Elkhorn legend

Accomplished Elk athlete dies following fall

Roger Van Scotter, one of Elkhorn High's best allaround athletes, died Jan. 8 due to complications from a fall at his home in California.

Van Scotter earned 13 varsity letters in four sports starting with baseball in ninth grade. As a sophomore in 1955, he started in the backfield for coach Fred Suchy in his first year at Elkhorn. That winter he joined the varsity basketball

In the spring of 1956, Van Scotter began his assault on school, conference, and state track and field records, winning the Class B 220-yard dash on the Camp Randall Track in Madison. As a sprinter and long jumper, he earned six Class B titles from 1956-58, leading Elkhorn to its only state track and field championship his senior

At one point, Van Scotter held four state records in the 100-yard, 220-yard

dashes and long jump, while anchoring the 4x220-yard

As senior in the fall of 1957, he was first-team Southern Lakes Conference in football and its player of the year. That school year, he also helped lead the Elks to the SLC basketball title.

Van Scotter is remembered statewide for his accomplishments on the cinder track, but Elkhorn fans recall his dramatic kick returns on the Harris Field gridiron and cross-country touchdown passes from quarterback Jon Platts.

Van Scotter graduated fifth in his high school class, then enrolled in Marquette University on a track scholarship. At Marquette, he excelled, winning sprint titles in the Central Collegiate Championship Meet.

While still an undergraduate, he entered Marquette's dental school graduating in 1964. After serving as a captain in

the U.S. Air Force, Van Scotter earned his specialty in Periodontics at the University of California's Medical School, San Francisco.

Dr. Van Scotter had lived in Laguna Beach, California for 55 years with a periodontal practice in Newport Beach. Among other adventures, he was an avid airplane pilot.

Among his honors in high school, Van Scotter was selected to attend Badger Boy's State, received the American Legion Medal as a top student-athlete, and inducted into the Elkhorn's inaugural All-Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

Van Scotter shared the Legion Medal with teammate Jon Platts, the only time in the school's history that the medal was awarded to two athletes.

Van Scotter was married to Jean Zost with whom they had a daughter, Tiffany, and son, Ryan, along with three grandchildren.



Music By the Lake, a long-time summer tradition in at George Williams College of Aurora University in Williams Bay, appears to be at an end with the closing of the college.

The way the music died

Summer season of Music By the Lake appears to be canceled

BY Jim McClure

CORRESPONDENT

The big sound of bigname musical acts has gone

There will be no summer season of Music by the Lake, the outdoor music concert series that has brought top

performers and performances the fate of the summer long from the Doobie Brothers to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Beach Boys to Lyle Lovett.

Aurora University in Aurora, Illinois, no longer owns the property of its former George Williams College in Williams Bay, which has been shuttered since its final class graduated in December.

There is no word yet from the new owner regarding

music festival that combined the talent and aura of world class outdoor music venues like Ravinia near Highland Park, Illinois, which is familiar to many of the same Southern Lakes area concert goers who hail from the North Shore suburbs of Chicago.

The beautiful setting on the George Williams College

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CALENDAR

Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club

Cocktails with the Commodore,

LLYC Cardboard Boat Regatta, Saturday, June 29, 1 to 3 p.m. Start at the Lauderdale Landings, W5625 Westshore Dr.,

Pig Roast and more.

For more information, visit llyclub.com.

Lauderdale Lakes

Annual Membership Meeting, Saturday, June 8. 9 to 11 a.m. – This event will be with registration and social time at 9 a.m., 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

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.

Lauderdale Lakes

Lauderdale Landing, Elkhorn

- All shows at 6 p.m. Friday, June 7
 - Friday, June 21 • Friday, July 5
 - Friday, Aug. 9
 - Friday, Aug. 23

Turtle Lake

Turtle Lake Tap & Grill

Saturday, May 25, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 1, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Cheers to 71 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 25. Contact Linda Johnson at lcjlcs@gmail.com with questions.

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,

Improvement Association

held at Lutherdale Camp. The meeting starts with a chance to join the LLIA for 2024. The

Babe Mann Park, Elkhorn

- All shows at 6 p.m.
 - · Saturday, June 1 • Saturday, June 29
 - Sunday, July 14
 - Sunday, Aug. 18 (Alumni Show)
 - Saturday, Aug. 31

Whitewater Lake

Elkhorn Lake

Scenic Ridge Campground

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

- Saturday, July 27
- Friday, Aug. 16

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



Southern Wakes United Ski Team

The Southern Wakes United Ski Team provides shows on several area lakes throughout the summer, including Lauderdale Lakes.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Lauderdale Lakes Breeze

chance to build confidence in their abilities,

water safety education and sportsmanship.

learn new skills and promote leadership,

For more information, go to

southernwakesunited.com. **OTHER EVENTS**

Spring Food Truck Festival 2023, Saturday, May 18, 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 19 - Gates open at 7 a.m., with admission \$5 per person. Free parking is available on site, with food and drink for sale. Pets are not allowed at the event.

Live Music Duesterbeck's Brewing

Company, N5543 Highway O, Elkhorn -Duesterbeck's has live music most weekends

at its location, as well as weekday events. For more information, call 262-729-9771 or go to dbcbrewery.com.

The Vinery, 218 Elkhorn Rd., Whitewater - Classes are available throughout the summer at varying times, to teach fused glass techniques. Register at The

Vinery by calling 262-458-2209. Carden Circus, June 6, Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn – The Carden International Circus will come to the Walworth County

Circus. In addition to animals and traditional three-ring circus activities, there will also be BMX Riders and Moto Riders.

Fairgrounds, for the Spectacular Extreme

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at www.spectacularcircus.com or one hour before each show at the Walworth County Fairgrounds.

Fundraiser will move to Glendale, future in this area uncertain

BY **Jennifer Eisenbart** • EDITOR

A popular late-summer fundraiser will change names, change locations – and perhaps no longer benefit local charities.

DasFest, normally held the first weekend in August at the Walworth County Fairgrounds in Elkhorn, will not be taking place this year, though it may come back in the future.

Meanwhile, DasFest Wisconsin will take place the first weekend of August at the Bavarian Bierhaus in Glendale

United Way, which had run the event and used proceeds to benefit area charitable organizations, will not be involved in the Glendale event. However, DasFest Wisconsin operator Tammy Dunn said some organizations in the county would still receive donations from the

The announcement came after the event came off the Walworth County Fairgrounds schedule, Dunn's departure from United Way last August and numerous board members with United Way resigning in the last year.

Formal announcement

The announcement of the move – and the name change – was made on the DasFest Facebook page March 2, with a video and the following statement:

"Friends, DAS Fest USA will not be taking place at the Walworth County Fairgrounds Aug. 2-4, 2024. Understandably there will be disappointment given the time, talent, and support of so many individuals, businesses, tourism entities, sponsors, and nonprofit organizations. We were disappointed too.

"But recently we received an exciting opportunity from the Bavarian Bierhaus in Glendale to create a similar festival and keep

Das Fest going.

"Willkommen to Das Fest
Sisconsin, taking place Aug. 2-4,

"You'll find many of the same

vendors, entertainers, activities, German food and bier, and all the Gemütlichkeit (friendliness and cheer). Plus, there will be some new reasons to put Das Fest on your summer-must list.

"The Bavarian Bierhaus features a Munich-style outdoor fest hall, a charming park-like setting, a soccer field for our Little Leg Dog Races, and an air-conditioned brewery and restaurant. If you haven't been there, you're going to love it! We'll have three stages of music with a variety of performances including The Alex Meixner Band, The Red Hot Chilli Pipers, The Swing Crew, The Freistadt Alte Kameraden, and many more.

'And admission will be FREE!

"Proceeds from Das Fest Wisconsin will support several charitable organizations.

Let the countdown to Gemütlichkeit begin as we get ready to PROST for charity at Das Fest Wisconsin this summer at the beautiful Bavarian Bierhaus, Milwaukee's Original Biergarten!"

The Facebook page announcement was made on the same page that had previously been used for DasFest USA. However, the page was renamed to DasFest WI

Controversy surrounding the event

Following the 2023 festival, Dunn resigned her position as executive director of United Way, taking the same position at the Walworth County Food and Diaper Bank.

"I had this opportunity present itself," Dunn said last week. "I absolutely love this place and its mission. I left for a better opportunity."

Dunn's statement on DasFest leaving the Walworth County Fairgrounds was more guarded.

"Many factors played in," Dunn said. "I can't really talk about it, and even if I did, it wouldn't change the outcome. I will say: there's no one more disappointed than I am"

Walworth County Fairgrounds CEO and General Manager Larry Gaffey explained the timeline of the festival leaving last week.

Following the Festival, a "good portion" of the Board of Directors for United Way left, as did Dunn.

He said he was waiting to hear what was going to happen regarding the festival from United Way. However, he was not contacted until later in the fall by United Way president Katherine Gaulke, who asked if the fairgrounds would be interested in taking over the festival.

"I would say they weren't interested in running it," he said.

Gaffey went on to say that he asked for financial figures from United Way and did not receive them. Later, he was asked to join in a valuation meeting with other interested parties who might want to purchase the festival.

He said the fairgrounds organization was reluctant to pay anything for it, saying outdoor festivals can be risky. Given the uncertainty surrounding the event, a decision was made to place the Neon Nights country music festival on that weekend when it became apparent DasFest was not going to happen.

Gaffey said he wanted the public to know that the fairgrounds would have found a date for the festival in 2024, even with Neon Nights scheduled.

"DasFest was a great community event, and we were looking forward to it," he said. "But we were surprised as far as what happened.

"I don't want people to think the fairgrounds did something to prevent DasFest," Gaffey added.

United Way issues

Ward Phillips, a former board member and partner agency coordinator with United Way, confirmed Monday that he resigned from the board last summer – and said many other board members went with him.

He said he decided to leave

because of changes being made within the United Way organization, which included how many groups would receive funds from United Way.

"I wasn't comfortable staying with the board," he said. "It significantly narrowed the number (of groups receiving funds)."

The United Way website is still active, with 10 listed board members – including Gaulke as president. But on Monday afternoon, the phone number of 262-374-4474 was not being answered and messages were not returned.

While the festival was still working at getting off the ground – it started in 2021 – Phillips said the framework was there to turn the event into a profitable fundraiser for United Way.

He said he was not surprised to see DasFest moved to a new location. He added that there was controversy surrounding who would be running the event from the beginning.

DasFest started as a combined Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce and United Way event, and then moved under the sole direction of United Way after the first year.

Who exactly has ownership of the DasFest USA festival is unclear.

Dunn said she is the owner and director of the "new" DasFest, while United Way believes it still has ownership of the festival.

"There's no copyright here,"
Phillips said.
Gaulke was asked the following

questions through Facebook messenger Monday afternoon:

1. Can you confirm you have moved out of the area?

2. Are you still president of United Way?

3. Is there a lawsuit regarding the intellectual property of DasFest?

4. What, in your opinion, led to DasFest leaving the fairgrounds?

Gaulke confirmed Monday afternoon that she had moved to Eau Claire, but visits the area frequently and attends United Way of Walworth County board meetings in person.

She is finishing her second three-year term on the board, and her first year as board president. Both her three-year term and term as board president will expire July

Gaulke has also served as interim director until now, but a new executive director is expected to be named this week.

She said the rest of the questions

She said the rest of the questions would be shared with the Board of Directors in terms of a response.

The new festival

Dunn said the Bavarian Bierhaus, located at 700 W. Lexington Blvd., Glendale, reached out in January and said it was interested in helping keep the festival going.

"It's a very cool setting, very similar to that fairgrounds vibe," said Dunn, who added that she spent much of her childhood at the Bierhaus, dancing on Friday nights with the Oberlanders German dance group.

"Back in the day, it was called the Bavarian Inn," she said. "It's a very special place for me."

Dunn made it clear that the festival in Glendale would be called "DasFest Wisconsin" and that she didn't want to focus on the area losing the festival.

"I want to focus on the positive impact it had for three years," Dunn said. "I am so grateful for all the sponsors and vendors and tourism partners and the fairgrounds for helping to bring it to life.

"It's disappointing," she added.
"It's a huge economic loss for our community, but I'm just going to hold onto the good that it did and the fun that we had."

Dunn said the new event is not affiliated with the Walworth County Food and Diaper Bank, but it and other local non-profits would still benefit from it, with profits coming back to those Walworth County organizations.

Timothy Allen Lockwood Feb. 21, 1958-Feb. 29, 2024

Helping others through the hardest time

Greater community says goodbye to funeral home owner after battle with pancreatic cancer

Timothy

Timothy Lockwood never needed to stray far from home.

A 1976 graduate of Elkhorn Area High School, Lockwood went straight to mortuary school and become a licensed funeral director four years later.

On May 15, 1983, Lockwood opened the doors to Lockwood Funeral Home – the same doors that hosted his funeral Monday.

Lockwood, 66, died Feb. 29
after fighting pancreatic cancer since May of last year. He is survived by his wife, Mary; children Alex, Daniel, Andrew and Megan; and numerous other relatives.

A visitation was held at Haase Lockwood & Associates Funeral Home and Crematory in Elkhorn, with a mass of Christian burial at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Elkhorn.

Lockwood's obituary outlined the start of the funeral home business, which began with the support of his cousin, Tom Jacobs.

"He corned the trust of each family he corned

"He earned the trust of each family he served and built relationships with each family be cared for," the obituary read.

Lockwood founded his own funeral home in

1983 and in 1995, merged with the Haase family, which had started its own business in 1953 in Genoa City, expanding later to Twin Lakes.

Haase-Lockwood's location in Elkhorn was remodeled in 2003, while the Twin Lakes location was remodeled in 2010.

Numerous members of both families remain in the business. While Tim Lockwood was still serving as president and funeral director when he died, Bryan Haase is treasurer, Andrew Haase is vice president and funeral director, and Tim's son Daniel is secretary and funeral director, according to the website.

Lockwood was also a former supervisor of the Town of Geneva, was a member of the Walworth County Board of Supervisors, and a trustee at St. Patrick's.

According to the obituary, he had "a quick wit and could make light of any situation with his humor," and that "his favorite past time was working in his yard, creating beautiful landscapes throughout the property.

It noted that in dedicating more than 40 years of his life to the Ministry of Funeral Service, Tim "touched the lives of many grieving families. Helping people process their grief ... was what he was naturally born to do."

Alpine Valley looking at minimum of four concerts

BY **Jennifer Eisenbart** • EDITOR

The Walworth County Board of Supervisors Executive Committee gave its unanimous approval Jan. 15 for the 2024 Business and Sanitary License Application and Operations Plan for Alpine Valley Music Theatre

There was little conversation at the public hearing, though Alpine Valley Music Theatre General Manager Adam Borosch gave a brief overview.

"This year, we're just looking to repeat what we did last year, though at a larger scale," said Borosch.

Alpine Valley already has four concerts scheduled for this year – Noah Kahan July 13 and three concerts in August. Hootie and the Blowfish will be Aug. 10, Jason Aldean Aug. 17 and The Avett Brothers Aug. 18.

Borosch said at the meeting he hopes to have at least four other concerts scheduled and maybe as many as five.

"We plan to camp at least two of those," he explained, talking about the camping facilities on site. "Like I said, we're just looking to repeat what we've done in years past."

Undersheriff Tom Hausner was the only person to speak at the public hearing, and he spoke in favor of the plan.

"Adam and I have been working together," Hausner said. "It looks like everything is the same. The communication we have and the cooperation that we have is outstanding. We have no objections moving forward."

The multiple-page 2024
Operations Plan document was included in the Executive Committee packet, and details everything from attendance to temporary restrooms in the parking lot.

Sold out for all concerts is

which is the maximum capacity of the venue. The operations plan also highlights security plans and emergency response plans. In a draft of the concert license,

considered to be 35,600 attendees,

which was also included in the packet, a few conditions were addressed:

• Concerts are expected to end at 11:30 p.m. and last no more than

eight hours. In the event of a delay, events have until midnight to finish.

• Alpine Valley has to maintain, set up, remove and store lighting at six different intersections along

Highway D.
• No more than 18 concert dates will be allowed per season.

• In an effort to control the use of fireworks, dedicated signage, event PA recordings and security employees will continue to enforce the "no fireworks" policy, which has been in place since 2007.

The full plan and license can be viewed online at www.co.walworth. wi.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/ Item/3678?fileID=57648.

Page 6 LAUDERDALE LAKES BREEZE Summer 2024 • First Edition

The ins and outs of Lauderdale Lakes

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

Size

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

Maximum depth

• Green Lake: 55 feet

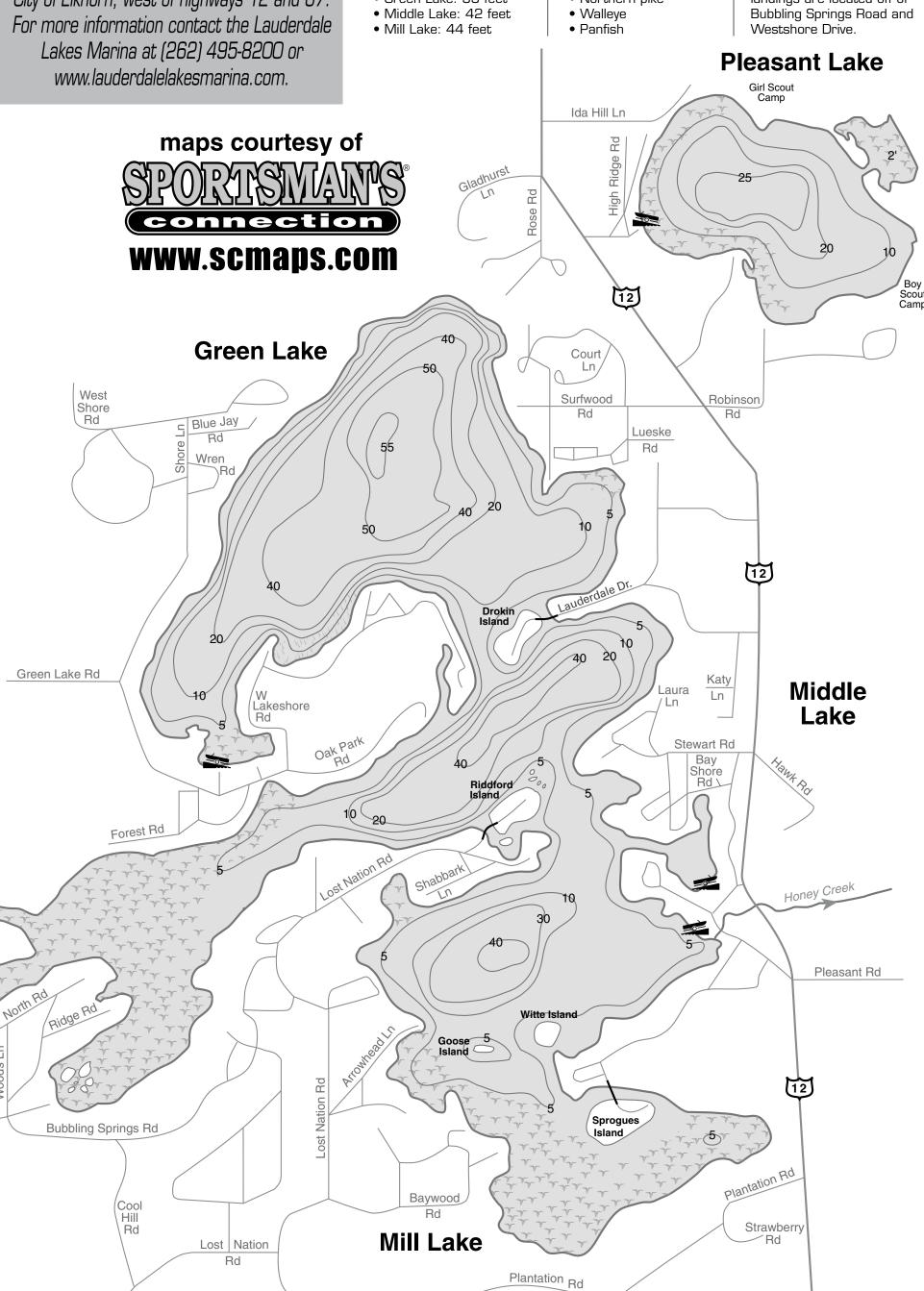
Fish species

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

- Largemouth bass
- Smallmouth bass
- Northern pike

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.





First place shot

John Finney submitted this photo of a Lake Beulah sunset as seen from the shoreline for a local photo contest. It made the judges wish they were sitting in one of the chairs, taking in the view in person.

JOHN FINNEY Lauderdale Lakes Breeze

Bus crash near middle school injures one

A collision between a vehicle and an Elkhorn Area School District bus Feb. 7 resulted in one student being

According to a news release from the Walworth County Sheriff's Office, a report of a vehicle crash came in shortly before 3 p.m. Feb. 7. The crash took place on

Highway 11 near Interstate 43, where the middle school is located.

The crash involved a 2013 Hyundai Elantra and a Durham School Services bus transporting students from the Elkhorn Area School District.

Initial reports indicated no injuries, but one student was later transported to a local

hospital, and a second student was evaluated for a headache.

The driver of the Hyundai was also transported for minor injuries, while the minor passenger in her vehicle was uninjured.

Students were taken back to Elkhorn Area Middle School and reunited with parents and guardians.

The initial investigation indicated the crash resulted from a turning maneuver, but the crash is still being investigated.

The Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Elkhorn Area Fire Department, City of Elkhorn Police Department and the Elkhorn Area School District.

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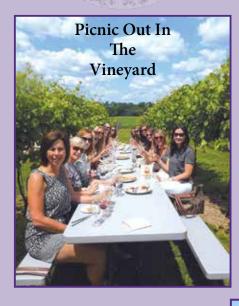
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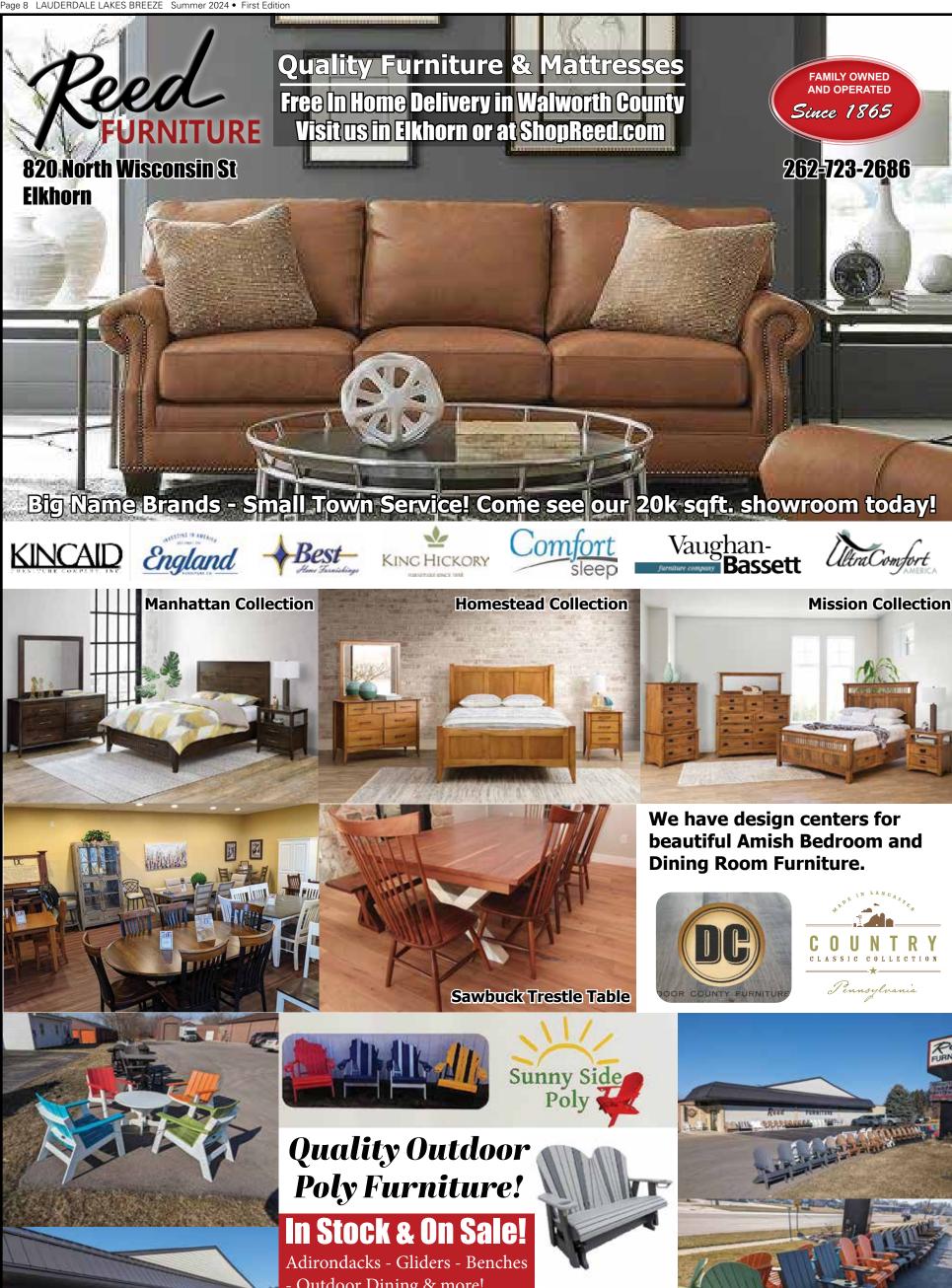


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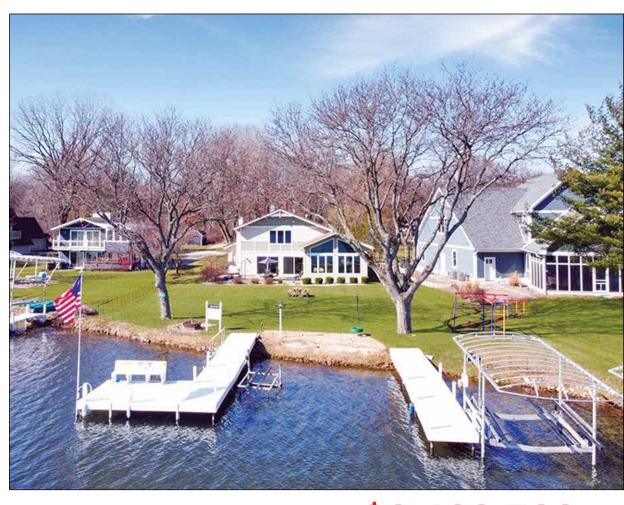
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• W5369 Baywood Dr. • Elkhorn









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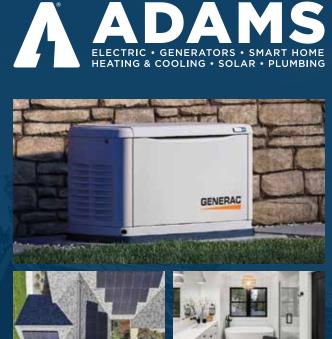
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Crash near Whitewater claims lives of four

The names of four people killed in a fatal car crash on the outskirts of Whitewater April 13 have been released.

According to news releases from the Rock County Medical Examiner's Office, Jeffrey Turnipseed, 67; Ericka Berg, 38; Jamie Ranguette, 39; and Patricia A. Seufzer, 59, all of Whitewater were killed in the crash that happened at the intersection of Highway 12 and East County Line Road – in the Town of Lima – shortly after noon on Saturday, April 13.
The Rock County

Sheriff's Office is still investigating the crash and its initial news release revealed three people had

In an updated news release received April 18, the sheriff's office said a fourth victim had died.

On April 22, Seufzer's name was released as the fourth victim.

City of Whitewater officials in a news release said Whitewater Fire and EMS received a report of the crash shortly after noon on Saturday, April 13. Upon arrival, they found three vehicles involved.

Two vehicles had sustained major damage, and three people had been ejected from one of the vehicles. Those three individuals were declared dead at the scene.

The Rock County Sheriff's Department provided the following details in a news release:

An initial investigation of the scene indicated that a van traveling east on County Line Road did not stop at the stop sign at the intersection of Highway 12.

An SUV with the right of way traveling southbound on Highway 11 collided with the driver side of the van. As the two vehicles collided, a truck pulling a trailer hauling hay going northbound on Highway 12 hit the front of the van.

During the crash, two adult females and one adult male were ejected from the

The driver of the van and the driver of the SUV sustained non-lifethreatening injuries. The other four passengers in the van were transported to local hospitals. One victim was transported via UW Med Flight with lifethreatening injuries.

Mutual aid was requested from Lakeside Fire/ Rescue, the Fort Atkinson Fire Department and the Lauderdale-LaGrange Fire Department.

In addition, the Rock County and Jefferson County sheriff's offices were on scene, as was the City of Whitewater Police Department and the Wisconsin State Patrol.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office is handling the rest of the investigation.



City of Whitewater Police Chief Dan Meyer gives an update on the influx of immigrants to the Greater Whitewater Committee March 18 at 841 Brewhouse.

An influx of immigrants

Whitewater police chief talks on rising numbers in the area

BY **Tom Ganser** • CORRESPONDENT forced to work 30 hours a week

On March 18, at the monthly meeting of the Greater Whitewater Committee at 841 Brewhouse, Whitewater Chief of Police Dan Meyer offered an overview of the impact of recent demographic changes with influx of immigrants in the City of Whitewater on the Police Department, along with additional changes

Meyer admitted that it is difficult to put an exact number on the number of immigrants coming to Whitewater because many are undocumented.

"It's not like a census where we have an exact, known group of people here," Meyer stated. "That's not what we're dealing with. A lot of this is just based on the types of calls we're seeing, the living situations we're seeing, and the first-hand accounts we're being told in the Police Department."

According to Meyer, by Spring 2022 an estimated 400 to 500 immigrants from Nicaragua had settled in Whitewater.

Noting continuing arrivals from Central America, with Venezuela now the most common country of origin, Meyer said, "Our estimate is 800 to 1,000. I don't have a great metric to provide you with how we came to that, other to say that I think it's a conservative estimate. I believe it's actually more than that, based on how many calls for service we're seeing and just the population we're seeing on the law enforcement

Meyer suggested that vacantoff campus housing tied to cancelled and online courses at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater during COVID-19 was an incentive for moving here.

In addition, the opportunity for employment in factories and in agricultural and farm settings "happens to be the work that people coming from across the border are looking for.'

According to Meyer, "warning lights" were going off during the last week of January 2022. There was an apartment fire with two unattended children sleeping on the floor, a family living in a 10 foot by 20 foot shed with a 2-yearold (and just a space heater to stay warm), and a 14-year-old girl

instead of attending school.

Major obstacles for law enforcement described by Meyer included communication in Spanish with a Central American dialect difficult even for officers who speak Spanish to understand, often resulting in requiring longer time in investigations due to required translation.

Difficulties in obtaining true identities of individuals who use four or five different names may necessitate additional time in fingerprinting and photographing individuals without proper identification.

Another challenge is tied to high priority incidents that require significant long-term investigation, along with situations that occur in the Whitewater schools.

Initial responses to the evolving situation by the Police Department included multiple meetings with government entities and stakeholders, creating a Helpful Hints document in English and Spanish for residents, using the Propio app for interpretation needs, and participating in outreach events to educate the community on laws and available resources.

Throughout the presentation, Meyer shared information on several trends impacting the police department.

The annual cost for interpretation increased from \$382 in 2020 to \$5,968 in 2023, with an estimate of \$10,000 for 2024.

Whitewater Unified School District calls for service regarding truancy increased from 49 for 2020-2021 to 77 for 2022-2023.

Requests for mutual aid from Ûniversity of Wisconsin-Whitewater police and the Sheriff Offices of Walworth and Jefferson counties increased from an annual average of 253 between 2017 and 2021, to 342 in 2022 and 384 in 2023.

Regarding traffic enforcement, Meyers said operating without a license citations have "skyrocketed" from 104 in 2018 to 282 in 2023.

Speeding citations dropped from an annual average of 179 between 2017 and 2021, to 120 in 2022 and 147 in 2023, while operating while intoxicated and absolute sobriety citations decreased from 191 in

Although the drop in citations seems to be positive, Meyer cautioned, "Our officers don't have time to deal with proactive enforcement like OWI enforcement. OWI and Absolute Sobriety citations have really dropped off, and a lot of that is we don't have time to do it.'

In 2010, there were 2,479 officer-initiated traffic stops and 7,501 total calls for service, a difference of 5,022. In 2023, there were 1,447 OITS and 11,976 CFS, a difference of 10,529.

For Meyer, the widening gap between the two is troubling. It provides evidence of the reduction in "unobligated time for officers" that is not directly related to a call for service or the follow through work required for the call.

During "unobligated time" officers are involved in "proactive" police work, including being visible in the community, ensuring safe roadways through traffic enforcement, decreasing response time for calls for service, and supporting thorough investigations and follow-up, as well as community events like Kiwanis Cops 'n Kids Book Reading, Shop with a Cop, and Active Threat Training Presentations.

"Ideally, in my world," Meyer said, "Total calls for service would be down, and officer-initiated traffic Stops would be up.

In helpful solutions to the challenges faced by the Whitewater Police Department, Meyer said, "In 2023 we had a huge focus on leveraging technology. Propio has been a huge help for officers, we implemented a drone program with some grant funding, and thanks to the council, we were able to install Automated License Plate Reader cameras, so we now have 12 of those. At every entrance to the city now we have a camera. It's a huge investigative resource for us. It makes us more efficient.'

Meyer also referenced the Whitewater Police Department staffing and resource needs study by Fitch and Associates currently underway.

"Looking ahead," Meyer said, "my goal is to address the staffing issues we're seeing so that we can better provide that resource to the

He views the results of the Fitch and Associates study as providing information to the community. admitting that a referendum may be needed to address the costs of additional officers and detectives that extends beyond salaries and benefits to appropriate equipment, including patrol cars.

In an interview on March 19, Meyer shared, "From a law enforcement perspective, first and foremost, my number one job is to make sure that everybody here, whether you're from Central American or have lived here 40 years, has access to the services we provide. We need to be able to continue to provide those services at a high level, and a level this community is used to receiving. For now, the trends are not favorable and we're not doing that the way we used to.'

He emphasized the important role of officer-initiated traffic stops as "backbone of law enforcement" that targets many enforcement goals - identifying outstanding warrants, intoxicated driving, drug users or drug dealers, and carrying guns illegally.

Meyer also strongly advocated the creation of an "Immigration Liaison" position for the City of Whitewater, adding that he has made a request to Wisconsin U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's staff to fund such a position.

In addition to providing resources and helping people to understand what their rights are, an important role of the Immigration Liaison, Meyer believes, is to "bridge the trust gap" among immigrants and police, realizing that "where these people come from, they have no reason to trust their government or law enforcement."

As an example, Meyer said that without trust in law enforcement, victims in a severe domestic situation may wait to call for police assistance "until they truly fear for their lives.

"We want people to be able to call us at the outset because they know they can trust us," Meyer

"I want to make sure that we are properly serving the community. That's the bottom ige 12 LAUDERDALE LAKES BREEZE Summer 2024 • First Edition

New 'Bargains' might not open until June

Outdated lighting delays Elkhorn store for wholesale foods redistributor

BY **Jennifer Eisenbart •** EDITOR

When Doug Helnore announced late last year that a new Best Bargains store would open in Elkhorn, the original timeline was to be open by March.

"That's what we were hoping for," Helnore said.

But a holdup with renovations of the former Pharmacy Station space has put the project behind, and now Helnore is hoping to open the Elkhorn store by June 1.

"I really do think we can hit that, so long as there's no holdups with permits," he said. "But I really don't foresee any of that."

The new store will be at 3 E. Geneva St., Elkhorn.

Best Bargains has a primary site in New Munster as well as a smaller retail store in Burlington. The master redistributor of wholesale foods offers restaurant-quality food and grocery items that meet repackaging and resale standards.

As Helnore has explained in a previous interview, Best Bargains receives oversupplies, then puts them out under its own private labels, selling them to the consumers in smaller, home-sized packages. The same goes for food service oversupply.

"Our main goal is buying in

quantity at the right time of year and partnerships – close, honest partnerships – with our vendors and customers," he said.

The result is lower prices on a larger variety of items – rather like a warehouse club store without any membership fees and is open to the public.

Helnore pointed out there's a difference between restaurant-quality foods and retail foods.

"What we give people is better quality at a much lower price," he explained. "It's not all items, but generally all the items they sell in the grocery store ... will be all the mis-sized stuff.

"Restaurant quality – the bottom line is – it's more of a uniform consistency and size," Helnore added.

The new site in Elkhorn, though, will be part restaurant food sales and part grocery sales. The difference is size of the packaging.

"What would be ideal for the restaurant cash and carry customers that come in, instead of buying cases and having them stored ... they can come in every single day for smaller amounts, at less of a cost than having it delivered," Helnore said.

The grocery side of his business is taking restaurant-quality items



The former Pharmacy Station building, at the corner of East Geneva and South Wisconsin streets in Elkhorn will be the site of the newest Best Bargains store.

JENNIFER EISENBART Lauderdale Lakes Breeze

and repackaging them to fit into home refrigerators and freezers.

"The consumer can buy items in smaller sizes," Helnore said. "There is a difference between restaurantquality and grocery-quality items, in many cases."

The major holdup in the renovation of the Elkhorn facility comes down to two factors – old, outdated lighting discovered while working inside the building, and a bump in Best Bargains' regular business.

Helnore said when they went into the building in Elkhorn to rework the electrical system, they found the lighting was outdated to the point where it needed to be completely replaced.

"We can't source bulbs for it," Helnore said.

The other holdup was actually the result of a positive.

Best Bargains serves numerous outlets meaning sometimes, Helnore has to put his energies where the biggest demand is.

"Specifically, it was the re-boxing and repackaging end that had picked up," he explained.

He said he's excited about the new location in Elkhorn and is



Renovations are underway for Best Bargains' Elkhorn store. Among the changes is a new lighting system, which delayed the opening, now projected to be June.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Lauderdale Lakes Breeze

already making positive connections with people in the community.

"We've had so many inquiries that were so positive," Helnore said. "I think it's just a really nice fit for everyone involved."

The goal at all of the Best Bargains locations is satisfied customers who are presented an option to stretch their food budget.

"I think they get a better quality at a cheaper price," Helnore explained.

Best Bargains is online at www.

Best Bargains is online at www. bestbargainsinc.com.

To reach Best Bargain's main office, call 262-537-2639, or the store at 262-537-4407.

MUSIC • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The newest Best Bargains store, in the former Pharmacy Station in Elkhorn, is

undergoing renovations, some of which are delaying the opening.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Lauderdale Lakes Breeze

of Aurora University campus was on a sloping hillside leading down to the shore of Geneva Lake where sail boats plied their way among waves aided by summer breezes and accompanied by a host of different music genres wafting through the lakeshore air.

Music by the Lake was a summer tradition of June through August weekends featuring top 40 acts in a range of music that included classical, country, big band, musical theater and classic

The concert programs first began under the Music by the Lake

name in 1951 and wasted no time becoming a venue for the world's best talent and the nation's bestknown favorites.

Those appearing for the first 18 seasons included violinist Isaac Stern, trumpeter Doc Severinsen – who was the band leader of NBC's The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, the New York City Opera and the Chad Mitchell Trio with John Denver.

It was a long run from 1951 to 1969 that ended in part due to rising costs of inviting such front name performers. What ended beneath the men landing on the

moon in Apollo 11 would find a new summer concert journey revival 31 years later.

A Summer Odyssey

Under the stars of the Geneva Lake skies – above the concert which was astride Lake Shore Path segment from Williams Bay to George Williams College to Fontana and Walworth – a new tradition began in 2001 and the old tradition renewed as Music by the Lake first performed with the addition of an open-air pavilion tent.

According to the Music by the

Lake website, "the Allyn Pavilion showcased artists such as The Irish Tenors, the 5th Dimension, Maureen McGovern, Glenn Miller Orchestra, Ramsey Lewis Trio, Duke Ellington Orchestra, and the New Sousa Band. Opera was first offered in 2002 with a young artist performance of Puccini's La Bohème."

Crowds in the thousands necessitated hiring of a full slate of temporary security guards for each concert to augment the normal complement of a half dozen college security professionals. Furthermore, a parking crunch

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was handled by shuttle buses that would pick up concertgoers from the large parking lot at Williams Bay High School.

Music by the Lake continued to thrive and grow, with one brief hiatus. It was canceled for the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic that canceled many music and sports events across the United States.

Just as what is to become of the new property owner's site is a mystery, so is the future, if any, of the summer music series.

The days of lying in the grass or sitting in an auditorium seat to enjoy the likes of Three Dog Night, Judy Collins, Peter Frampton, Michael Bolton and the Chicago Philharmonic appear to be gone.

Former neighbors like Richard Dreiser, who lived nearby as a resident and educated nearby as a tour guide at the adjoining University of Chicago Yerkes Observatory, wonders what the future will bring.

"I was astonished to find out," said Dreiser, echoing many who are just learning of the closure. Having been familiar with it since arriving at Yerkes in 1980, he sees an effect on area tourism as well.

"The number of tourists will definitely drop," he said.

One of Music by the Lake's best-known performers, Kenny Loggins, retired last summer without a final visit to Williams Bay. His music will live on, as will the legacy of the concert series that brought the best to the area.

By THE NUMBERS

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\$1,750,000	W5672 Ridge Rd
\$1,799,000	W5742 North Dr
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How proposed ruling may change real estate

By Jennifer Eisenbart

It's been the subject of numerous headlines - and recently, it was the lead story on CNN. com. It has dominated discussions surrounding real estate for several weeks, and the entire market of buying and selling a home could change.

This is in reference to the National Association of Realtors recent anti-trust lawsuit settlement.

In an effort to provide a clearer picture, we review the highlights of the ruling. Additionally, two area realtors – RaeAnn Arrigoni of Legacy Realty Group and Rob Edwards, of Compass – weigh in on the potential impact it could have going forward.

"I anticipate that Wisconsin realtors will move forward without a lot of disruption to our normal practice," said Edwards.

He said the Wisconsin Realtors Association has always "been proactive and promotes transparency and disclosure of realtor's duties to all parties involved in the transaction.'

Arrigoni said the real estate market, like any other, is controlled by supply and demand.

"It is NOT controlled by compensation rates and splits between realtors, so I don't believe the proposed ruling will have any significant impact on the market in terms of inventory or prices," she

The ruling

The \$418 million anti-trust federal case must still be approved by a judge. However – if it is approved – it's likely going to impact how realtors are paid and

To put this in layman's terms: • Both the buyer of a home and a seller have an agent. The buyer's agent works to help find homes for their client, while the seller's agent



Realtors will have to be diligent in discussing their compensation with buyer clients at the earliest stage of the home search process, according to RaeAnn Arrigoni, of Legacy Realty Group, if the lawsuit is approved by a judge.

STOCK PHOTO Southern Lakes Newspapers

negotiates the best deal on the home for sale.

- Homes are listed not only by the seller's agent, but more often than not, through a multiple listing service, or MLS (a private offer of cooperation and compensation by listing brokers to other real estate brokers.) The seller's agent puts the home into the MLS, with guidance from the seller.
- · While there are no standard commissions, the commission has traditionally been awarded to multiple agents, shared between the listing agent and the buyer's agent. Not all of this information has always been available to buyers and sellers, which can lead

to conflicts in who is making what and how (in terms of agents).

- Sellers can offer to pay portions of a buyer's fees, in order to make the offer more agreeable. With first-time homeowners - who are oftentimes working to come up with a down payment - this can change the complexion of a deal.
- In Wisconsin, the details of a contract with a seller and an agent are negotiable.

The point of the ruling will be to increase transparency so buyers and sellers understand how they will compensate agents, what they are compensating agents for - and just how much work is being done

What it means

Both Arrigoni and Edwards said that Wisconsin has done well in keeping its practices transparent already.

"Nothing is perfect," Edwards conceded, but added that the Wisconsin Realtors Association has come up with something more thorough than many other states.

"That WRA has always been proactive when it comes to requiring its members to provide information to all the parties in a transaction. And, we have been using state-approved buyer agency forms for over 20 years.

Arrigoni, meanwhile, pointed

out that the ruling would mean there are more logistical challenges to the realtor community.

She explained that the lawsuit began as an attempt to stop agents from steering buyers toward properties that offered the highest commission rate for the buyer's

Arrigoni said the lawsuit doesn't eliminate the co-fee, and will create an extra layer of work and effective communication between a buyer's and seller's

"While commission rates and co-brokerage fees have always been negotiable, I think realtors will have to be able to truly educate their seller clients on the importance of covering the buyer's agent's fee," Arrigoni said, adding that the ruling would mean that fee can no longer be listed on the MLS.

"Most buyers, especially firsttime buyers, don't have the cash on hand to cover the fee and will likely bypass looking at homes where the seller is not offering to assist in covering at least a portion of the commission," she said. "This will limit the buying pool for the listed property, resulting in a longer time on the market and most likely a sale price that is less than anticipated.

Arrigoni said realtors will have to be diligent in discussing their compensation with buyer clients at the earliest stage of the home search process.

'Compensation communication will have to be at the forefront of every transaction," she said.

One thing both realtors were clear to communicate is that the final details are still being worked out, including how this ruling will affect open houses, agent agreements and the like.

'I anticipate that all parties will adapt as we move forward,"

Housing market predictions for 2024

With mortgage rates and home prices both historically high, and inventory very tight, many prospective sellers and hopeful buyers are feeling nervous about today's housing market, according to an article on bankrate.

The median sale price for an existing home in the U.S. was a hefty \$394,300 as of September 2023, the third month of year-overyear price increases in a row. And as of early November, the average 30-year mortgage rate was 7.69 percent — thankfully no longer above 8 percent, but still hovering around 20-

Home prices, mortgage rates and inventory levels will all shape housing affordability in the coming year. Curious where these trends may go? Read on to learn what the experts predict for the 2024 housing market.

What will happen to the housing market in 2024?

Rates roughly doubled in 2022, thanks in part to the Federal Reserve's war on inflation, and have stayed high since. While the Fed does not directly set mortgage rates, mortgage lenders take cues from them, and mortgage rates climbed in tandem with the Fed's long string of rate hikes.

The Fed's war on inflation could end soon, but many predict that buyers will still be feeling the squeeze in 2024. "As long as the economy continues to motor along, the new normal of higher rates is here to stay," says Greg McBride, CFA, chief financial analyst for Bankrate. "A sharp economic slowdown would bring mortgage rates materially lower, but be careful what you wish for. Home price appreciation will be quite modest, at a low- to mid-single digit pace in most areas of the country.7

Will housing sales decline?

While home prices have certainly held

firm this year, the volume of home sales has softened considerably. Existing-home sales in September 2023 declined to an annual pace of 3.96 million, according to NAR data, which represents a 15.4 percent drop yearover-year. However, these trends may pivot in 2024 if mortgage rates dip.

"Retreating mortgage rates will bring more buyers and sellers to the market and get Americans moving again," says NAR chief economist Lawrence Yun. At a NAR conference in November, Yun predicted that sales will rise by as much as 15 percent next

"Housing sales are expected to increase a bit from this year," says Chen Zhao, who leads the economics team at Redfin. "However," she qualifies, "we are not expecting sales to increase dramatically, as rates are likely to remain above 6 percent."

"Lower mortgage rates would help spur home sales activity, which are expected to increase in 2024 compared to 2023," says Selma Hepp, chief economist at CoreLogic. "Declines in mortgage rates will drive more sellers to trade their existing home and help add much-needed inventory to the market, leading to more transactions.'

Will housing inventory increase?

Speaking of much-needed inventory, housing supply has been very low throughout 2023 thus far. The overall number of existing homes on the market for sale as of September sat at 1.13 million units, an 8.1 percent decline since last year. That figure represents only a 3.4-month supply, far short of the 5 to 6 months usually needed for a balanced market.

There are simply not enough homes for sale," Lawrence Yun said in a statement earlier this year. Yun is chief economist of the National Association of Realtors

"The market can easily absorb a doubling of inventory," he said.

For inventory levels to improve significantly, there would need to be either a surge of homeowners listing their existing properties or a huge amount of newconstruction homes hitting the market. While both seem relatively unlikely, Yun does foresee some increase in housing inventory for 2024. "There will be more home construction, and more existing homeowners will be willing to sell and give up their low mortgage rates," Yun says.

Will home prices go down?

Housing prices have been on fire lately, culminating in historic highs — September's median of \$394,300 was only about \$20K short of the highest monthly home price NAR has ever recorded (\$413,800, set in June 2022).

So will home prices drop in 2024? Probably not, says Yun: "Home prices will rise around 3 to 4 percent," he predicts.

Prices are intricately connected with housing inventory, as well, notes Zhao. "Sellers are likely to remain reluctant to give up their low interest rate for a much higher one, so inventory will remain constrained," she says. "As more time passes, more homeowners may be 'forced' to sell due to life events, so inventory may rise from the current anemic levels, but it's unlikely to increase much. That means that prices are unlikely to fall on a year-over-year basis, unless demand falters."

Will 2024 be a buyer's or seller's market?

In today's market, tight inventory gives sellers the upper hand. There are more buyers than there are homes available. so each home that comes on the market becomes more of a hot commodity than it might if there were more options to choose from. Without a significant uptick

in inventory, the seller's market seems unlikely to change next year.

'The current significant shortage of inventory suggests it would be hard to [become] a buyer's market anytime soon," "Given expectations about interest rates

and supply, demand will probably exceed supply similar to current conditions," Zhao

"Supply is likely to remain below what we would deem a balanced market."

'The plague of low inventory won't be cured in the short-term, but demand will suffer from high mortgage rates, bringing about more of a balanced market in 2024," says McBride.

'Sellers may find themselves making concessions on closing costs or rate buydowns more often in 2024, and buyers should be wary of biting off more than can be financially chewed. Home prices are at record highs in most markets, the cost of financing is the highest in more than 20 years and insurance costs are up substantially in many coastal markets. You're not getting a bargain, and the willingness to walk away might prove to be a good choice," McBride added.

Bottom line

The combination of high mortgage rates, steep home prices and low inventory levels are lining up to make the 2024 housing market a challenging one for both buyers and sellers. But if rates cool in 2024, as some experts predict, then market activity should heat up in response.

The complexities of the current conditions mean that, now more than ever, it's smart to lean on the guidance of an experienced local real estate agent. If you want to enter the market in 2024, whether as a buyer or a seller, let a pro lead the way



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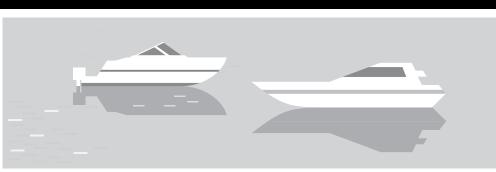
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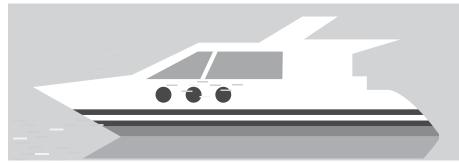
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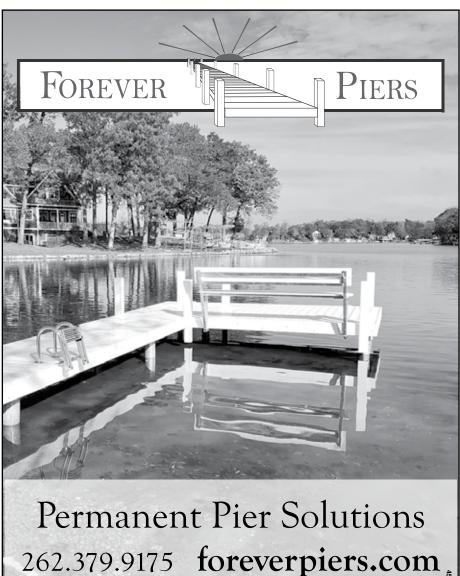
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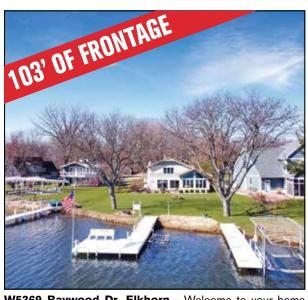


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W5369 Baywood Dr, Elkhorn - Welcome to your home that's surrounded by lake views, a large yard for family fun as well as plenty of parking for everyone. Enjoy amazing 4th of July fireworks with the best seats in the house. Situated on 103' of level frontage on 0.81 of an acre, you'll find an updated, move in ready, 4BR, 3BA, two story home with upper end finishes. The large vaulted ceiling kitchen has an adjacent dining area & bonus playroom/den. The family room, also with vaulted ceilings, features a wall of windows that welcomes the lake inside. The living room with a natural fireplace and sliders leads to a spacious brick patio. \$2,199,700



Lt0 West Shore Dr, Elkhorn - Green Lake vacant lakefront lot with 75' of level Sunset filled frontage on 0.65 acre lot on Lauderdale Lakes. Lot features slight wooded slope from road which leads you to level frontage and private pier. You'll appreciate the additional 50 x 100 lot across the street offering additional parking and storage. Walking distance to Lauderdale Landing and minutes to boat launch. Kettle Moraine trails 3 miles away. Build the home you've been dreaming of. \$520,000



300 W St, Palmyra - Located downtown Palmyra you'll find this Turnkey established Restaurant/Bar and separate 4 lane bowling alley waiting for an energetic entrepreneur to bring their vision to life. Restaurant/Bar has a seating capacity of 173 with an updated kitchen in 2019. Charming bar area overlooking main street and soaring ceilings in the dining area. Potential outdoor space for a beer garden and additional space to expand the bar area or rental opportunity. Income producing apartments on the second floor which consist of a 3 Bd, 2 Bd and 1Bd currently rented. Liquor license included. Palmyra is in the heart of the Southern unit of Kettle Moraine Forest offering hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails. Minutes from Blue Spring Lake and steps to Lower Spring Lake. \$749,700



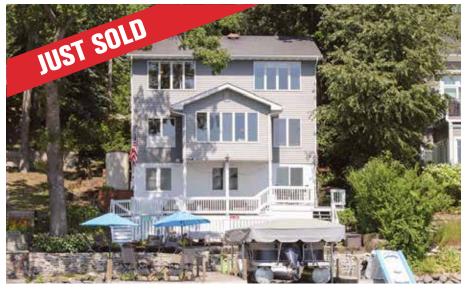
W4910 Oakwood Dr, Elkhorn - Rare opportunity to own a private 1.5 acres with 99' of frontage on Pleasant Lake. You'll enjoy the main level with vaulted ceilings and hickory flooring. Living room has a stone fireplace, galley Ktch that leads to lakeside dining room with slider to deck, offering outstanding lake views. Also included on the main, there's a large Primary BR, 2nd BR and full bath. Lower-level Family room walk-out to cement patio. Family room features wood fireplace, 3rd BR, full bath, laundry room & storage. Slight slope leads you to the L shape pier. Backside of the lot is level and open. Short drive to Kettle Moraine Trail head offering Mountain Biking, Hiking and Cross Country Skiing. Minutes to a boat launch on Lauderdale Lakes. Quiet Pleasant Lake road is great for long walks. Come take a look! \$739,900



N7391 Lost Nation, Elkhorn - Updated and move in ready for summertime fun. Fully furnished w/ RH furniture! You'll find this 4 BD, 3.5 bath Cape Cod with boat slip on Lauderdale Lakes. Situated on a private, wooded landscaped 1.14 acres. Featuring vaulted ceiling throughout the main level, kitchen offering large peninsula breakfast bar with quartz tops, Viking and Miele appliances, dining area with slider to deck and cement patio that leads to covered porch. Living room gas fireplace. Master BD ensuite with access to covered porch. The lower level offers a family room with English windows, 4th BD, 3rd full bath and a large storage room. Dream 3 car attached heated garage with polyurethane floors with drain gates and wash sink. Partially fenced backyard. \$799,700



38 & 42 N West St, Elkhorn - Located on the West end of town you will find this great investment duplex, each side offering 3 Bdrms, 1.5 baths, gas fireplace in Living Room with sliding glass door to cement patio, full basement and oversized 2 car attached garage. Unit 42 has just been completely updated inside with quartz counter tops in the kitchen with SS appliances. Backyard overlooks bird sanctuary wetland, great for viewing and privacy. Brand new roof just installed on both units. Unit 38 has tenants of 14 years looking to stay. Convenient location, come see for yourself. \$499,000



W5361 Lost Nation, Elkhorn - You're welcomed to the lake as you walk in with extended southern views of Mill Lake with 50' of frontage. Updated 3 BR, 3.5 BA makes this an ideal lake retreat. Open concept main floor featuring LR, Sunroom, Full bath and kitchen with quartz tops, SS appliances, breakfast bar and coffee bar with wine fridge, grilling deck, dining area & wood floors throughout. Upstairs features two lakeside bedrooms, one with powder room, full bath and game area. Lower level walk-out with lakeside bedroom and full shared bath, laundry and small rec area with slider to lakeside deck that leads to firepit and pier. 1.5 detached garage across the street with wooded area behind. Dive off the pier into some of the best swimming on the lake. Turn key furniture package included and quick closing. **\$1,375,000**