





Savory sounds of summer

Whitewater Arts Alliance will once again host its Savory Sounds concert series this summer and while dates have yet to be announced, the group stated on its website the first concert will be in June. The concerts, which take place outside the Cultural Arts Center, 402 W. Main St., are held during the lunch hour, free of charge. Lunch is available for purchase from a different local food vendor at each event. Left: among

each event. Left: among performers last year was Tapestry, an acoustic folk quintet. For details on the 2024 concerts, keep an eye on the WAA's website at whitewaterarts.org.

TOM GANSER Whitewater Breeze

Urban Forestry Commission to review library expansion

By Dave Fidlin

CORRESPONDENT

The status of two aged trees in the path of the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library's expansion plans became a focal point as members of the Plan and Architectural Review Commission recently combed through some of the details associated with the project.

Commissioners gave their consent to a site plan review and additions and renovations associated with the library project, which has been discussed for a number of years and is advancing after funding has been secured.

But commissioners gave the green light with one contingency – having members sitting on the city's Urban Forestry Commission comb through the details as well and weigh in on the status of two towering oak trees that will have to come down. The trees reportedly are in excess of 100 years in age.

Sherry Stanek, who sits on the Plan and Architectural Review Commission, led off the discussion about the trees when the appointed group met April 8.

"I realize we're not looking at the

landscaping plan, but I'm really bothered when I look at these drawings, and we're taking out large oak trees, and we're taking out lots and lots of vegetation," Stanek said.

Stanek added, "That entire Center Street frontage there is full of vegetation that is going to be lost. I think it's a shame. It just seems like a waste to me."

Marisa Urbina of StudioGC is one of the consultants involved in the preliminary planning of the library expansion project. Urbina acknowledged the current plan calls for removing the trees.

"We have been in conversations with the library about salvaging portions of the tree to be outdoor seating." Urbina said. "We're looking into seeing if it can be a part of the interior. We are having those conversations ... so they are remembered and used, and not simply discarded."

Zoning Administrator Allison Schwark gave a favorable recommendation to all elements of the expansion project, which includes an addition of 6,928 onto the existing facility and additional a new parking lot.

The 11,678-square-foot main floor will

be renovated, and the 2,902 feet of existing basement space will remain the same.

The library expansion talks had been underway for a number of years and have gone through a series of iterations, including a stalled effort that would have included a public-private partnership.

Three years ago, members of the city's Library Board went before the Common Council and gave a presentation on the latest iteration of plans that were a part of the commission's recent review.

The latest sets of plans call for a more scaled down approach that officials say focuses on modern library patrons' desires, while dually holding true to many of the core traditional offerings.

The expansion, which carries an estimated \$5.05 million price tag, is occurring at the portion of the library facing Church and Center streets. A mix of public money and fundraising brought the project to fruition.

An adjacent outdoor public space also is included in the plans and could host such community events as farmers' markets, concerts and art shows.



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Fran Achen photo contest open for submissions

The Whitewater Arts Alliance invites photographers of all levels to submit their photography for consideration in the 15th Annual Fran Achen Juried Photography Exhibition.

The gallery exhibit will be held during the month of July at the WAA's Cultural Arts Center Gallery. The photographs in the exhibit will be displayed on the walls of the gallery and, concurrently, in an online virtual exhibit that will appear at the WAA website.

New this year: a free commemorative PDF catalog containing all of the photographs chosen for the exhibit will be produced and made available for download.

All are welcome to enter. Submissions must be received no later than Wednesday, May 29. Photo submissions must include the following:

- A completed online entry form
- The \$35 entry fee (\$30 for current WAA members)
- Emailed digital copies of entered photos.

Note that the entry includes submission of up to four photographs per person.

For more information about the contest including access to the online entry form, key dates, and rules, visit whitewaterarts.org/fran-achen-2024.

Ready to make wave Southern Wakes United waterski team competitive but the goal is to have fun

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**

STAFF WRITER

The Southern Wakes United waterski team capped off last year's season with a fun, successful weekend on Lake Wazeecha in Wisconsin Rapids.

Bringing home several box score awards – individual or group act recognition – the team earned the top trophy at the 2023 Wisconsin State Water Ski Show Championships, held last July.

They topped the Division 3 standings, and brought home awards for Best Comedy Act, Highest Scoring Traditional Ballet Line, Most Original/Unique Act, Highest Scoring Production, High Scoring Dock and Equipment and Highest Scoring Tow Boat Team.

Southern Wakes United totaled 1,063 points, while the Plum-Skiters were second from 1,044.

It was the first state title since the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers from Lauderdale Lakes and the Minneiska Water Ski Club from Whitewater Lake merged into one team in 2019.

"I am so proud of the dedication this team showed this year, especially the last couple of weeks leading up to the competition," Rick Syverson, president of Southern Wakes United said last summer.

"Winning that trophy has been something we have had our eyes on since merging in 2019. We thought of ourselves as the little team that could. And we did," he said.

Syverson explained that show directors Laura Lohrmann and Zach Pressley worked throughout the previous winter to put the show together.

"The show had a lot of moving pieces, so there was a lot of preparation to make

top: Members of the Southern Wakes United Waterski Team form a pyramid last summer. Local shows scheduled this season will take place on Whitewater Lake at Scenic Ridge Campground, Whitewater; Lauderdale Lakes at Lauderdale Landing, Elkhorn; Elkhorn Lake at Babe Mann Park, Elkhorn; Turtle Lake at Turtle Lake Tap & Grill, Delavan. at right: The team is coming off a year that was capped with them winning the 2023 Wisconsin State Water Ski Show Championships title in Division 3, the first since the Lauderdale and Minneiska ski teams merged in 2019. Members of the team

perform a ballet line last summer.

DAVE DRESDOW Whitewater Breeze

it happen that goes beyond the water skiing," Syverson said. "They stuck with it, they made it fun, and they earned the buy-in from the team to make it the best it could be."

Last year's team had 56 skiing members and 28 non-skiers – which covers everything from boat drivers to people who pay dues to support the team.

"Our skiers kind of come from everywhere," said Syverson, including some are Chicago-area residents who have summer homes in the area. Most are from Whitewater and Elkhorn, but there are others from as far away as Muskego.

"We are a smaller team," Syverson said. "We love competing at state, but that's not what we wanted to be known for. We just wanted to have fun.

"We just wanted to open it up to families and kind of be the fun team," he added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



MAY 2024 • THE BREEZE



A fun-filled night, FFA-style

The Whitewater FFA hosted a donkey basketball tournament in early March, welcoming East Troy and Milton FFA as well as two home teams comprised of WHS FFA members and school staff. The games brought many laughs with players struggling to get on, and remain on, their donkeys. During intermission, members of the community were able to interact with the donkeys and kids were allowed a ride with assistance from the FFA.

TOM GANSER Whitewater Breeze



Details on the state's fishing season dates

Opening day for Wisconsin fishing is traditionally the first Saturday in May. Season dates are often specific to the species of fish as well as the water body.

Below are the current fishing season dates, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Early inland trout

(catch and release) Was Jan. 6 to May 3

General inland trout

Opened May 4 and goes through Oct. 15

General inland fishing

Opened May 4 and goes through March 2, 2025

Largemouth Bass Northern Zone harvest

Opened May 4 and goes through March 2, 2025

Smallmouth Bass Northern Zone Harvest

Opens June 15 and goes through March 2, 2025

Large and Smallmouth Bass Southern Zone Harvest

Opened May 4 and goes through March 2, 2025

Large and Smallmouth Bass Catch and Release

At all other times of the year

Musky Northern Zone Harvest

Opens May 25 and goes through Dec. 31

Musky Southern Zone Harvest

Opened May 4 and goes through Dec. 31

Northern Pike

Opened May 4 and goes through March 2, 2025

Walleye

Opened May 4 and goes through March 2, 2025

Lake Sturgeon

Opens Sept. 2 and goes through Sept. 30 (hook-and-line)

Regarding fishing seasons, note that temporary or emergency rules may be enacted, which could change the season dates for a species or waterbody. If that happens, the DNR advises anglers to look for signs posted at boat landings.

Not all Wisconsin waters follow the general dates for the hook and line or trout season. Anglers must still consult the current regulations' particular county or boundary waters tables to determine if any special season dates exist for the specific waters they plan to fish with hook and line.

Free fishing weekends

The state offers two free fishing weekends, the first Saturday and Sunday in June, and the third Saturday and Sunday in January.

The second free fishing weekend in 2024 is June 1 and 2; the first next year will be Jan. 18-19, 2025.

For more information, visit drn.wi.gov.

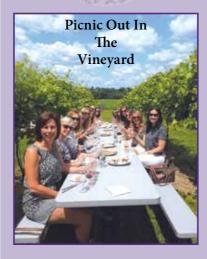


Season dates for fishing in Wisconsin may vary to fish species and the water body. Traditionally, opening day is the first Saturday in May and there are two free fishing weekends each season, on the first Saturday and Sunday in June as well as the third Saturday and Sunday in January.

STOCK PHOTO Whitewater Breeze

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Philanthropic family to have park renamed

By Dave Fidlin

CORRESPONDENT

A Whitewater family credited with donating four green spaces over the years will have one of them named in their honor, based on a recent plan green lit by city officials.

The Whitewater Common Council on March 5 approved a request from the Walton family to make a tweak to the name of East Gate Park, located along Jakes Way. The green space is located within the Walton Pine Bluff subdivision, which the family constructed.

Moving forward, it officially will be named Walton East Gate Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Boehm said

a family member, Russell Walton, had requested East Gate display the family name.

A letter from Russell Walton shines further light on the rationale behind the name change request.

"I am proud of the work and the contributions the Walton family has made in and for the City of Whitewater," Walton wrote in a letter. "I feel having the Walton name in the name of the park honors my family and the hard work and dedication they have made to developing the City of Whitewater."

The proposal subsequently was vetted through the city's Parks and Recreation Board before advancing to the council with a favorable recommendation.

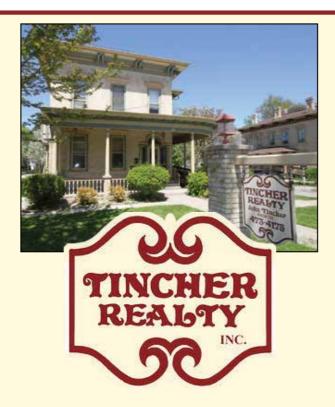
"He cited the donation of four park properties as reason for the desired name change to recognize the contributions the Walton family has made to the City of Whitewater," Boehm said.

In addition to East Gate, the Walton family donated land for Walton Oaks, Meadowsweet and Skyway parks.

There was one caveat the Parks and Recreation Board put in place that the council ultimately upheld in their binding vote. The Walton family will be responsible for the cost of creating and installing new signage at the park.

Boehm was asked if the family had been alerted to the cost stipulation at the time the vote was cast.

"I don't believe so," Boehm said, in response.
"But this is pretty important to them. The cost of the sign would be minimal – about \$1,200 to \$1,500."



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SOUTHERN WAKES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Among the awards that SWU brought home was the Most Original/Unique Act, which featured Whitewater High School graduate C.J. Tomomitsu combined with adaptive waterskier Madux Devitt.

Devitt, who has Ataxia-telangiectasia a rare nervous system disorder – rode on a knee board while Tomomitsu executed a wakeboard tantrum flip over

"He's been involved with the water skiers ... he's grown up with this," Syverson said of Devitt. "He can knee board, which he did as C.J. flipped over

"A lot of us had goosebumps when we won that award," he added.

Among the other awards were the 19-person ballet line winning, the honoring of drivers Eric Gostomski, Dan Neuens and Chris Berryhill with co-driver George Lohrmann, along with riders (spotters who watch the skiers) Mark Lutz and Shawnda Peteres.

The comedy act featured a "skialis" commercial, based on a Cialis commercial.

The team also gives out annual awards and the winners for the 2023 season

- Barb Diehl Memorial Award for Showmanship (female) - Nicole Severson
- Meredythe Poltrock Memorial Award for Showmanship (male) – James
- Margo Rhyan Memorial Award for Sportsmanship (female) - Megan Gostomski
- Ronald Wolfe Memorial Award for Sportsmanship (male) - Mike Maas and
- Frank & Alice Hoch Memorial Award for MVP (male) - Rick Syverson
- Walter & Elna Koerting Memorial Award for MVP (female) - Alyssa Berryhill

- Most Improved Male Skier Jack
- Most Improved Female Skier Grace
- Most Valuable Junior Samantha Neuens and Emma Maas
 - SWU Award Joellen Berryhill.

2024 schedule

The team recently released its local show schedule, which is as follows:

Whitewater Lake

Scenic Ridge Campground W7991 R & W Townline Rd. Whitewater

Shows are at 7 p.m.

- Saturday, July 27
- Friday, Aug. 16

Lauderdale Lakes

Lauderdale Landing W5625 Westshore Dr. Elkhorn

Shows are 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 N6513 Anderson Dr. Delavan

Show is at 6 p.m.

• Saturday, May 25

Elkhorn Lake

Babe Mann Park (park behind Precision Plus) 840 Koopman Ln. Saturday shows are at 6 p.m.; Sunday shows are at noon.

- Saturday, June 1
- Saturday, June 29
- Sunday, July 14
- Sunday, Aug. 18 (Alumni Show)
- Saturday, Aug. 31

More about the teams

The Whitewater Lake Sports Club was formed back in 1973 and included sailing, canoeing, and skiing. The skiing portion continued with full strength and was named the Minneiska Water Ski Team in 1974. The team performed their first show on July 21, 1974, for the Lions Club.

The ski team started competing in tournaments in 1975. In 1975 Minneiska was the only team in the state to pull a two-man 360. In 1979 the team performed and executed a three-man 360 which had never been performed by an amateur team. In 1980 the Minneiska's four-man 360 team was asked to perform at Tommy Bartlett's.

The word Minneiska means "white water" in the Sioux language. Over the years the ream and its skiers have won many awards including pulling 31 skiers behind a boat in 1980, breaking a record. The team has also placed in nationals.

Several skiers have earned awards for best swivel ballet, five skiers performing a 360 behind a single boat, best trick skiing act, best male skier and best female skier.

The team has also placed for best Pick Up Boat Crew and for Dock Crew and Boat Drivers and, most recently Most Unique Act.

The LAS Water Ski Show Team (Lauderdale Lakes Aqua Skiers) had its modest beginnings in the 1950s when a group of young people who loved to ski decided they wanted to perform for their friends and neighbors.

Using their own boats and fuel, they performed a single, annual show in conjunction with the Lauderdale Regatta Day in front of the Sterlingworth Motor Hotel. Their only rewards were the appreciation of their audience and a complimentary dinner at the Sterlingworth after the show.

With the advent of ski boats came new power and performance. LAS bought its own boat and began competing in the State Show Ski Tournament in the 1980s.

In 1988 LAS took first place in the Wisconsin State Individual Barefoot Competition and team member Nancy Lynd O'Hara won the coveted Willa McGuire Cook Award for Best Female Performance Overall at the National Tournament.

In 1990 the team won first place in division II at the Wisconsin State Show Tournament, claiming first place in dock equipment and safety, tow boat driving, announcing and overall show.

In 1997 LAS hosted a "fun class" individual events competition where over 150 novice skiers enjoyed the opportunity to compete in slalom, kneeboard and wakeboard. At the Wisconsin State Tournament that year, sisters Heather and Brooke Huelskamp were awarded the "Most Unique Act" for their slalom strap doubles act and were chosen from over 325 acts presented.

Team sponsors for the 2024 season include the following: Balestrieri, the Boat House, Edge Broadband, City of Elkhorn, Feldco, Gage Marine, Kunes, Lauderdale Landing, Precision Plus, Scenic Ridge Campground, Southern Lakes Plumbing & Heating, and Surf and Turf Property Management.

For more information about the team, visit southernwakesunited.com or follow the group on Facebook.

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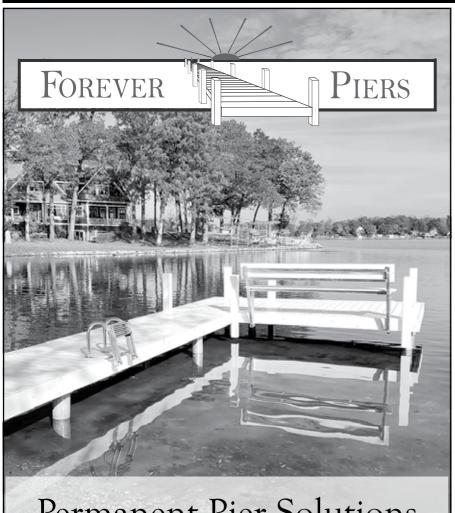


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Whitewater's municipal judge to resign June 1

By Dave Fidlin

CORRESPONDENT

For the past half-decade, Patrick Taylor has been serving as the City of Whitewater's municipal judge. But an imminent change within his household has prompted his resignation, which will take effect June

"It has been my absolute honor to serve as the city's municipal judge for the last five years," Taylor said at a Common Council meeting April 16. "It absolutely does break my heart to have to resign from this position.'

Taylor has indicated he and wife Grace Crickette are moving to Southern California, where she has

accepted a position as vice president of her alma mater, the University of Redlands.

In his resignation letter, Taylor said community collaboration made his position fulfilling and

"Preparation, understanding, impartiality and creative resolutions are among the keys to successfully administering community justice and are prerequisites to steering lives onto a more constructive path," Taylor wrote in the letter.

At the meeting, Taylor said he would happily avail his services to his successor as he or she settles into

"Î'm resigning, but I'm going to be available for whoever that may be," he said.

At City Manager John Weidl's urging, the Common Council approved a timeline for filling the soon-to-be vacant position.

In the interim, the city sought applicants to the position until late April and the council was expected to hold a special meeting in early May to interview candidates and make a selection for much of the remainder of the year.

A special election will be held in the upcoming fall general election for a candidate to cover the duration of Taylor's remaining term, which runs through 2027.

"I'm just suggesting, because it's clean to do it in November because an election already exists," Weidl said of the November special election proposal.













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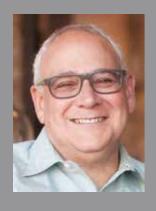


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