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September-November 2024



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Odyssey Climbing and Fitness expands with Appleton location

By Janelle Fisher
City Pages Editor

When Odyssey Climbing and Fitness opened its doors in early 2023, owners Sam Howard and Ben Ganther established Northeast Wisconsin's only indoor rock climbing gym, but it won't be the only gym for long as plans are in the works for a second Odyssey location in Appleton.

We started this journey about five years ago now," Howard said. "We were both living in Milwaukee and we're also brothers in law, so we spent a lot of time coming up here to visit Ben's family and my wife's family and climbing was a huge piece of our social program. We would hang out through climbing on a Tuesday night or Thursday night and then go grab tacos and a beer or something like that. When we came up here to visit family, we searched all over the place for a climbing gym in Green Bay or a climbing gym in Appleton or a climbing gym in Oshkosh because we were hoping to find that same kind of community — the same kind of spaces that we had in Milwaukee — up here. And we couldn't find it. We knew it wasn't for a lack of people that wanted something like this in the community and that's when the gears started turning that maybe we should be the ones to bring it to Northeast Wisconsin."

Howard said the Green Bay location has been successful in building that community he and Ganther were looking for.

"It took quite some time to get it moving, but as soon as we opened our doors, the community that started growing in this space was really special..." he said. "It's been awesome to see how our youth programs have grown across Green Bay and Northeast Wisconsin and how many kids are getting in the gym and accessing a lot of the things that they couldn't before or they'd have to drive to Milwaukee for.

And then the community in the space is just unbelievable. We have a lot of adult programming, a lot of youth programming, a lot of community-facing events... it's just been an incredible ride for the last year and a half since we've opened our doors."

The plan for Odyssey, Howard said, always involved expansion outside of Green Bay.

"It was kind of always our plan to grow across Northeast Wisconsin in that manner," he said. "If you look at the Fox Valley Area, we think that there could be multiple climbing gyms — two, maybe three in order to meet the community at large. Appleton was our next area of focus after Green Bay. We've been spending a lot of time down at the Appleton Farmers' Market this summer and we've been hearing a lot of excitement about it... We think that more people could be coming into our space in a bigger way if we have a facility down in the Appleton area."

For those who haven't had much exposure to climbing or an opportunity to get to a climbing gym, Howard said both Odyssey locations will be equipped to meet people where they're at and help them get started.

"I don't think you need to know much about climbing to jump into our space and get on the walls," he said. "We have all the rental gear and our staff is incredibly knowledgeable and they'll be able to walk you around the facility and get you comfortable with everything in the space before you're off by yourself climbing. It's a pretty easy, low barrier to entry to get in and climb for your first time."

The appeal of climbing, Howard said, is exactly what he and Ganther hoped to build with Odyssey — an opportunity to socialize while being active.

"It's a social sport," he said. "You're in the gym and you're hanging out with



people and talking about the routes you're climbing or you're giving each other pieces of advice on how to do it more efficiently... You end up working really hard and not really noticing it because you're just kind of hanging out with friends."

That's not to say there aren't other reasons to take up climbing, though.

"Outside of the social aspect, it's a big mental and physical puzzle at all of the ability levels," Howard said. "We have stuff in our gym that's accessible for a first-timer and stuff in our gym that could take years to climb. There's always that mental and

▲ In addition to opportunities to socialize, climbing also offers participants a mental and physical challenge. Mickey Schommer photos

physical puzzle that you're trying to put together that makes it really attractive to all sorts of different people."

Odyssey's Green Bay location is open now with the Appleton location expected to open its doors off Hwy. 41 and Hwy. 47 in 2025.

Learn more about Odyssey and find updates on the Appleton location at odysseyclimbing.com. **CP**



Odyssey was started by Ben Ganther and Sam Howard to bring the sense of community they'd found at climbing gyms in other areas to Northeast Wisconsin.



Odyssey's Green Bay location is open now, with the Appleton location expected to open in 2025.

Art for a new generation

By Mickey Schommer
Contributing Writer

Originally from Haiti, Gregory Frederic is a self-taught, full-time artist who goes by the name of CrewlArt. Since moving to Green Bay in 2013, Frederic has become a well-renowned artist, not just throughout Brown County, but the entire Midwest.

Frederic has painted many murals throughout northeast Wisconsin and has even been commissioned by The Packers.

"I've been painting since 2008," Frederic said. "I picked up the paint brush, started doing my thing and here I am today, doing what I love to do."

"You have to work harder every day, get better at what you do and never stop working," he added. "You just have to keep rolling."

His work features very vibrant colors and abstract representations. When asked about his artistic influences, Frederic said, "Actually, I like Salvador Dali... Kinda with the vibe of surrealism and I like Picasso. But again, I do have an influence for my home country and use the vibrancy, so I include those to my artwork as well."

Frederic has been awarded for his art throughout the Midwest, including the Invitational and Feature Artist award for Madison's Art Fair on the Square and the Greater Green Bay Black History Maker Honor for the We All Rise African American Resource Center.

Of all these accolades, Frederic said, "I will say [my biggest] accomplishment is seeing the youth picking up and really appreciating what I do and... working with so many of them in the community."

"They are the next generation," he added. "So my biggest accomplishment with them is someday... keep the legacy going. And then, you know, yeah, putting more of them out there, you know, we can do so much."

When asked about the impact of art on the community, Frederic believes that we can't live without it.

"We just need something to rely on, something to, you know, when things are going around this world, to focus on. You know, technology, all of that give us all the opportunities to get more out there and then to express ourselves and then bring people together and in the community. I think all this very important."

Before he moved to Green Bay permanently, Art Street had a large impact for him. Frederic wants to make sure that other people can appreciate Green Bay for all of its amazing qualities as well.

"I don't want people talking about Green Bay like it's only cheese or anything," he said. "I want to make sure that people know Green Bay. When people can visit, they can see cool stuff about the art and everything like that; that when people visit Green Bay, it will be a place they never forget." **GP**

Frederic's artwork, "The Real Up North," is featured on this edition's front page.

Find more information about Frederic on his website at crewart.com or on his Instagram, [@crewart](https://www.instagram.com/crewart).



▲ Since moving to Green Bay in 2013, Frederic has become a well-renowned artist, not just throughout Brown County, but the entire Midwest. Submitted photos



▲ When asked about the impact of art on the community, Frederic believes that we can't live without it.

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A publication hub at UW-Green Bay

By Janelle Fisher
City Pages Editor

As director and publisher of The Teaching Press at UW-Green Bay and advisor of *Sheepshead Review*, Dr. Rebecca Meacham is working towards establishing a publications hub in Northeast Wisconsin, offering opportunities not only for students to gain real-world experience in publishing, but also for artists and writers from near and far to have their work published.

Sheepshead Review

Originally started in 1975 and re-launching in 2003, *Sheepshead Review* has established itself as a prestigious journal featuring a variety of art forms.

"*Sheepshead Review* is an international journal of art and literature," Meacham said. "It accepts work from high school-age all the way up to professional artists... We accept work in four genres — poetry, fiction, nonfiction and visual art... One thing I love about *Sheepshead* is that it's multi-genre. It sounds really goofy, but there aren't many journals of the arts — they're usually literary journals... If I was a visual artist or if I was just a regular wordsmith... I love the idea of my work appearing alongside multiple genres including visual art, which we have a big selection of compared to other journals... It seems inconsequential, but I'm a person who tends to, as an artist, look for collaborations between the words and images."

Sheepshead Review is published twice each year, in the spring and fall, featuring works selected by the students working on the journal each semester.

"It's a pretty competitive magazine..." Meacham said. "We usually get between 400 and 600 submissions per issue, so that's about between 1,000 and 1,300 submissions a year... In each genre, we're taking about 20 pages worth of work. So that might be five stories out of the hundreds that we get or maybe 18 to 20 poems out of the hundreds that we receive. And the same goes for visual arts

and nonfiction. It's competitive. We don't just accept everything that gets submitted to us, but it is a great accomplishment to have your work published in *Sheepshead Review*... There is a bit of prestige to that, as well. That's a credential. Your work has made it through a number of readings and readers [to be accepted.]"

Over its history, Meacham said *Sheepshead Review* has established its esteem by being mindful of the contributing artists and writers, making sure their work is being presented as they intended.

"When you trust a press or a journal to publish your work, you're trusting that they're going to make it look good and appeal to as many people as it can..." Meacham said. "We have different visual design people and layout editors every year, so they come in with fresh eyes. We're not trying to give the same sort of look to each issue and we always make the work look beautiful, whether it's a poem or it's visual art. There is such care taken in the presentation and the editing and the appearance of the journal and the way it looks and the way it's distributed. I would feel, as a writer, very good about that... The other thing is that we are very sensitive — my editors and myself — to recognizing and respecting the voice of the writer or the intent of the artist, and we want to make sure that shines through."

Submissions for this fall's issue of *Sheepshead Review* open at the beginning of September.

More information can be found at sheepsheadreview.com.

The Teaching Press

While *Sheepshead Review* publishes small works by a variety of artists and authors, for the last five years, The Teaching Press at UW-Green Bay has also offered publishing opportunities for larger works through its two imprints — Hard-Penned Press and Mimi and Rupert.

"How we've traditionally done business is called Hard-Penned Press," Meacham said. "Through that imprint, we aren't technically the publisher because we don't



▲ The Teaching Press at UW-Green Bay and *Sheepshead Review* offer not only students the opportunity to gain experience in publishing, but also the opportunity for artists and authors from near and far to be published.

▼ The Teaching Press at UW-Green Bay also has the equipment and ability to print books in-house. Submitted photos




typically sell the work. What we are doing through that division is we have a menu of services that we offer as part of a package including interior book design, cover design, sometimes developmental editing if necessary, copyediting, proofreading and media — we'll do a press kit and a media kit and we'll write a press release for the launch of the book... It's fee-for-services, so you pay us to do the editorial, publishing, design and some degree of the promotion and then after that, you are the one that sells the book. You, the client, are the one that takes the responsibility of getting that book out to the public. We don't sell or distribute through that division."

"The other imprint we have is a true publishing imprint is Mimi and Rupert," Meacham said. "That is where *A Portrait of Grief and Courage*, *Wandering Toft Point*, the *Fox River PCB Clean Up* and *Call Me Morgue* [came from]. That is where we, as the press, acquire and are looking around for a good project that also serves a community need or is in some way telling stories that don't typically get told and in the way they get told. [Mimi and Rupert] is just like a

traditional publisher in the sense that we are investing all of the resources — we do all the work — and then the way we recoup expenses is by selling the book like every other publisher that's out there in the world."

Much like *Sheepshead Review*, it is the care and attention paid to each work that sets The Teaching Press at UW-Green Bay apart.

"You have between five, sometimes at my lowest enrollment in the summer, and 22 students who are working mainly on your book in different ways," Meacham said. "In terms of the level of attention and the level of care, that's one of the benefits that you get from a university. We have courses with grades and accountability and leadership and internships... You get a lot of care and craftedness for the product that is produced... If you're going through Hard-Penned Press services or if you're going through Mimi and Rupert, there is a lot of attention being paid to you."

To learn more about The Teaching Press at UW-Green Bay and its imprints, visit uwgb.edu/teaching-press. 



▲ Mimi and Rupert's latest release is *A Portrait of Grief and Courage* by Sandy Shackelford. Shackelford (middle, seated) was joined at the launch of her book by many family members of the individuals included in the book, as well as members of the Teaching Press who helped bring the book to life. Janelle Fisher photo

Redefining the Wisconsin wine industry

By Janelle Fisher
City Pages Editor

Four Wisconsin wineries have taken the first step in redefining Wisconsin wine with the launch of the Ledge Blanc initiative, a new wine consortium defined by regional significance and quality standards.

The Ledge Blanc initiative is spearheaded by its inaugural participating winery members — Parallel 44 and Door 44 in Kewaunee and Door Counties, Mixed Meadia in Egg Harbor, Anchored Roots south of Egg Harbor and Silarian Vineyards in Manitowoc County.

Ledge Blanc is referred to as a Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA) and is modeled after the very successful wine quality and marketing program followed by wineries in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia called Tidal Bay Wines.

“It’s an attempt by myself and three others to produce a wine that is what we believe to be the best representation of wine from this part of the world...” Parallel 44 Owner Steve Johnson said. “Basically, a few winemakers decide what are the best varietals that we have in terms of the best wine representation and that we can consistently do from year to year. Each of us can put our own unique spin on it as long as we’re in the parameters of using those varietals in different proportions.”

Johnson said quality and adherence to those parameters is ensured by subjecting each wine to an evaluation before granting the use of the Ledge Blanc label.

“We add another layer of what we describe as quality assurance in the sense that we send the wines out to a panel of wine evaluators independent from us and they have to give us a score of 90 or above for us to use the term Ledge Blanc,” he said. “So it’s a way to evaluate the quality of the wine and, at the same time, develop a distinctive style that people can wrap their head around.”

Johnson said evaluators are specifically looking for wines sent out for evaluation to meet the characteristics set for the Ledge Blanc.

“The key components are, ‘Are they balanced? Are they representative of the varietal? Do they fit the criteria of what we’re shooting for, which is aromatic and crisp?’” he said. “The two defining characteristics of the Ledge Blanc whites is that they are crisp and aromatic. They’re basically judging if it meets that criteria, if

it’s balanced and if it’s free of flaws. Should that be the case, generally you’re going to get a score of 90 or higher.”

The Ledge Blanc program is still in its initial phase, Johnson said, with three of the four founding wineries having released their wines and plans to consider adding in a red or a rosé in the future, creating a family of wines to represent the Wisconsin Ledge Appellation.

Helping to get the word out about Ledge Blanc wines and increasing exposure to wine enthusiasts, Johnson said Festival Foods has agreed to shelve Ledge Blanc wines in a new section of its stores.

“I’ve been able to convince Festival Foods, at 18 of their locations, to put the Ledge Blanc in the same section as the sauvignon blanc sections of their store, which is unprecedented,” Johnson said. “Wines from across the state are put in the Wisconsin wine section. While it’s easy to find there, I think the wine enthusiasts of the world don’t walk past that section. It’s sort of a symbolic way of showing that this wine can stand shoulder to shoulder with some of the best wines in the world and it just happens to be from Wisconsin.”

Johnson said the road to being able to make wine in Wisconsin that can compete with those made in Europe and on the West Coast has been anything but simple.

“The varietals that they are growing in California and Europe, they are called vinifera — it’s just the genus or species of the grape,” he said. “They have been famous world-over for the quality of wine. They’re the cabernets, merlots and chardonnays that have been around for a couple hundred years and proved to be making the best wine in the world. But the varietals we’re using are referred to as French American hybrids. I really don’t like that term, because, while it’s accurate, I think it’d be better to use a term like northern varietals to indicate the region that they’re from. They are the result of over 60 years of work from a by Elmer Swenson... You couldn’t plant the varietals on the West Coast or Europe [in Wisconsin] because once it got down to 10 degrees, they would die in the ground... Elmer realized that around the farm fields of Western Wisconsin and the riverbanks, there’s wild grapes. And they’ve been here for thousands of years. So he kind of went around like Johnny Appleseed and he collected pollen from the wild species of grapes and he crossed them with



the pollen of the cabernets, the merlots and the chardonnays of the world. Through successive crossing of the offspring of each of those crosses, we have these varietals now that have the genetic component to survive when its 20 below zero because of a native, wild grape parentage to them. But then they also have the varietal heritage of world-class wines.”


As the Ledge Blanc initiative gains momentum, Johnson said he hopes to see more Wisconsin wineries join in and more consumers recognizing Wisconsin is capable of producing quality wines.

“We’re just at the very beginning of developing this region, but in competitions these wines do as well as, if not better than

▲ Parallel 44 and Door 44’s first Ledge Blanc wine. (Inset: Mixed Meadia’s first Ledge Blanc wine.) Submitted photos

some of the California wines,” he said. “We’re just so small yet and we’re not well-known, but the quality and parameters are there. They’re very distinctive. In general they are a little lower in alcohol than California wines... And that cooler climate leads to more aromatic expression... I think a growing trend in wine right now is people are looking for lower alcohol and more expressiveness and wine that does really well pairing with food. I’d say it’s sort of a new region with new varietals for a new kind of consumer.” **CP**





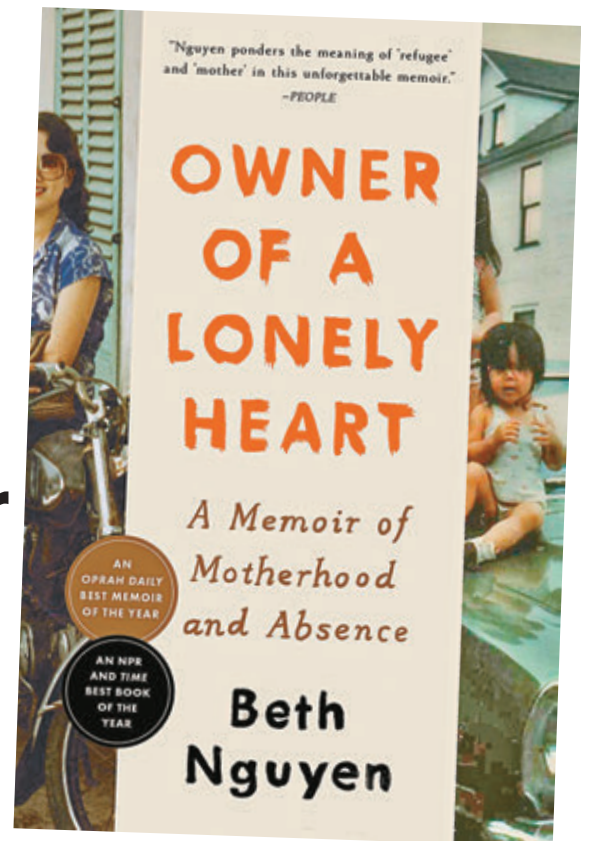
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Owner of a Lonely Heart: A Memoir

By Beth Nguyen



Review By Mickey Schommer
 Contributing Writer

Of all that makes Beth Nguyen’s memoir compelling, *Owner of a Lonely Heart: A Memoir* builds on themes of absence as she recounts growing up in the United States as a Vietnamese refugee — all without her mother. Written out of chronological order, Nguyen’s memoir is composed of essays, which develop a more lyrical take on her experiences as a daughter, a mother and as a refugee.

As a child, Nguyen grew up in a white Michigan town. The contrast between her home life, heavily reflective of the Vietnamese culture her family left, and white America caused her to enter “an uncertain space, liminal state, partial refugee, where all the gaps are filled with shame.” This liminal space informs the silence that consumed her adolescence; it also became the language she is most fluent in.

Having never met her birth mother until her late teens, all Nguyen knows is that her family left her in Saigon — and that she harbors the resounding guilt for this mutual absence. She connects narratives of “refugeetude” and motherhood, revealing the only concrete thing she has known

from either of them is their uncertainty. She writes, “For me, motherhood, like being a refugee, has meant being in multiple consciousnesses at the same time, and never feeling sure about any of them.”

It is through learning about parenthood by being a mother that she comes to understand her parents. “Parenting, I know now, is a long relationship with failure,” she reflects.

As Nguyen concludes her memoir, she realizes, “My whole life I have waited for permission—my own permission—to be here.”

Nguyen presents her writing matter-of-factly, never shying away from hard truths, leaving a brave portrayal of everything she had previously committed to silence. Her memoir is an evocative recollection of her upbringing, a portrait of shame and belonging. Nguyen emerges at the end of her memoir gentle and confident, ready to take up space, finally content with the ambiguity to her life’s questions. It is an experience less about finding belonging, but rather about growing into it.

Owner of a Lonely Heart will resonate with readers who have struggled with family relationships, identity and belonging, especially pertaining to the refugee experience. **CP**

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Ice Age Trail expands through Northeast Wisconsin

Algoma receives Ice Age Trail Community designation, new trail segment

By Janelle Fisher
City Pages Editor

Algoma area residents and avid hikers alike had much to celebrate at the end of August with the designation of Algoma as an official Ice Age Trail Community and the opening of the Algoma Segment of the Ice Age Trail.

“The Ice Age Trail Community Program is a partnership with municipalities located throughout the state of Wisconsin near the Ice Age Trail and it’s a partnership with the Ice Age Trail Alliance...” said Amy Lord, Ice Age Trail Alliance outreach and education manager. “Our mission is to promote, create, maintain and support the Ice Age Trail. Our Trail Community Program is an opportunity for the alliance to work with municipalities, cities, villages and townships to support the trail, to promote the trail and to better the trail for community members and hiking enthusiasts who love the Ice Age Trail.”

This summer, Algoma joined the ranks of more than 20 communities across the state as a designated Ice Age Trail Community.

“It’s been a pretty good year,” Lord said. “Five new trail communities is amazing — we usually get one to two every year. This year, having five, we’re busy onboarding these communities... We’re super excited to have all these new communities join us. And in terms of trail, every year is different. We have a plan in place to build



and maintain trail and last year was actually one of our best years. I think we built 15 miles of new trail. This year we’re not going to have that much, but anytime we can get new trail, it doesn’t matter how long it is. It’s a good thing. We’re really excited to have this new segment and showcase it for the community and all of our other hikers that are working to finish the Ice Age Trail.”

Along with the designation of Algoma as an Ice Age Trail Community, the city is also home to more than three miles of newly blazed Ice Age Trail, adding to the roughly 50 miles of Ice Age Trail already in Kewaunee County.

“The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is about 1,200 miles,” Lord said. “We’re still building it, so 700 miles are done. They’re complete. So we’re still working on connecting the dots and closing the gaps. We’ve got about 450 miles to go. The Ice Age Trail of Algoma will be an urban trail segment, so it will go right through the downtown area of Algoma. We’re excited because the trail showcases so many different landscapes of Wisconsin and tells the story of glaciers and what glaciers meant to our landscapes. But it also goes through communities, so we can tell the story of the community.”

“The story of the Ice Age Trail is the story of the glacier,” Lord said. “It traces the route of the glaciers from our last ice age 20,000 years ago. And it’s an awesome way to see Wisconsin because there’s so many different landscapes. In Algoma, you’re on the coast, looking at beautiful Lake Michigan. Maybe you head south to the Kettle Moraine area and you’re seeing the hills and the valleys and the peaks and the lows. Then maybe you head over to northern Wisconsin and all of a sudden you’re exploring the Chequamegon National Forest and these big beautiful woodlands. It’s a great way



Photo by: Kaitlin Van Price

▲ Whether you’re already familiar with the Ice Age Trail or just getting started, Lord said hikers of all experience levels are invited to join in on the 2024 Mammoth Hike Challenge.


▲ Along with the designation of Algoma as an Ice Age Trail Community, the city is also home to more than three miles of newly blazed Ice Age Trail, adding to the roughly 50 miles of Ice Age Trail already in Kewaunee County. Kris Leonhardt photo

to see Wisconsin while you’re hiking the Ice Age Trail. I think it’s really important to know the scope — how big it is, why it is where it is and why we have the route where it is.”

As the non-profit partner of the Ice Age Trail, the Ice Age Trail Alliance relies on donations — of money and time — to make progress on its goal of finishing and maintaining the trail.

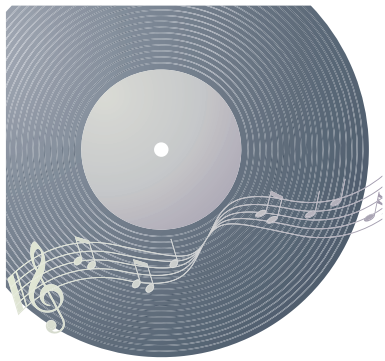
“We have over 6,000 members and we have thousands of volunteers that are just an amazing community that supports the trail and supports hikers,” Lord said. “Our mission is to complete the trail. We don’t know when that’s going to happen, but it’s a really great group of people. If folks are new to the trail and want to get more involved or maybe dip their toe into hiking it, join us at an event.”

Whether you’re already familiar with the Ice Age Trail or just getting started, Lord said hikers of all experience levels are invited to join in on the 2024 Mammoth Hike Challenge, which challenges participants to traverse a total of 44 miles of the Ice Age Trail and visit three Ice Age Trail Communities throughout the month of October to receive a commemorative patch and certificate.

Registration is free and more details can be found at iceagetrail.org/mammoth-hike-challenge. 



◀ Algoma area residents and avid hikers alike had much to celebrate at the end of August with the designation of Algoma as an official Ice Age Trail Community and the opening of the Algoma Segment of the Ice Age Trail.



THE BEAT WEEZER? I hardly know her!

Getting to know your local Weezer tribute band

By Mickey Schommer
Contributing Writer

Behind Green Bay's local Weezer tribute band, Weezfest, are Collin Catalano and Charlie DeVillers. Like most of the duo's projects, Weezfest started out as a joke, a "What if?" scenario.

"We worked at the same Domino's together for about a year and then we kept talking about how we were gonna jam and then we just never found the time to do it," said Catalano. "Come 2022, we were at Badger State Brewing and we were just kind of hanging out there because we were both seeing the same band and then we had a few beers, got to talking and just said, 'Wouldn't it be funny if we did an entire show where we only covered Weezer songs?' It's usually how most of our things start out. It's just, 'Wouldn't it be funny if...?' and then we just do it."

Catalano and DeVillers had known of each other in high school — both were in high school band, but at different schools. Catalano went to Green Bay East; DeVillers went to Green Bay West. The two came together to form the group in 2022 after Catalano had moved back to Green Bay from Milwaukee.

The duo are also accompanied by Thomas Killian, who DeVillers played with in 7000apart for a short time, and also plays in another cover band, BoomBoxx. Matt Hayes plays with Catalano and DeVillers as well, while also being a part of the bands Wet Possum and Feel Good Kids.

"Having two pros like Thomas and Matt, it's insane because half of the time Charlie and I show up and it's like, 'We kinda know the songs,' but these guys have everything learned for the first rehearsal. So it was

like, 'We got to step our game up a little bit. We have to commit,'" said Catalano.

"Their level of professionalism helped elevate Charlie and I and just, instead of [joking around], we really wanted to dig deep," he added. "We listened to the albums, found a bunch of live concerts and learned how these guys are playing it live instead of going, 'Oh yeah, these are the chords.' But, when you come to Weezfest, you're going to hear what the actual solos are, you're hearing some of the buried guitar parts that you don't usually hear on the record, so we're trying to make it seem like you're seeing Weezer for the first time."

The duo have a unique way of labeling their concerts: numerically. Catalano and DeVillers have hosted Weezfest 1 and 2, but also Weezfest 1.5 and 2.5.

"We picture Weezfest as the main flagship where we're gonna play the blue album and we'll do a couple of other things. The .5 [concerts] are where we can kind of get a little weird with it. For [Weezfest] 2.5, we did [at] At The Tracks, so we just played the full green album and a couple other things," he said. Catalano also added that the Weezfest 1.5 concert consisted of four hours worth of Weezer covers.

When asked about the group's major milestones, Catalano said that playing with the Appleton-based band Hang Ten was an amazing experience for them.

"They're a super group basically, that just plays kind of whenever they want. This band is — their thing is like, 'We're Wisconsin's premier California band' with that huge, awesome, washy California sound that I absolutely love — so asking them to play on a Wednesday at a night ticketed show [at] At The Tracks when there was a bunch of other stuff going on



▲ Catalano said that he and DeVillers find their success is measured in how much fun they have at their shows.

that past weekend, I was like, 'It would be sick if anybody showed up.' But we had a really good turnout for a band that doesn't often play [outside of Appleton], especially with a Weezer tribute group. It's just a goofy thing," he said.

"Ever since the first one we did the first concert, we're getting recognized for being like, 'Oh, you're the Weezer guys!' I was at Heid Music in Appleton just buying some guitar strings or something like that and someone walked up to me and they're like, 'Hey, did you do the Weezer tribute show?' I was like, 'Yeah, that was me.' It's funny," he said.

In addition to these major milestones, Catalano said that he and DeVillers find their success is measured in how much fun they have at their shows.

"I've played bigger shows, but I've just felt hollow after them. After doing it for long enough, you just start to realize, like, 'Am I having fun at this show?' And that feels like a measure of success to me... We've got a picture at [Weezfest] 2.5 under the bridge of just us and 10 friends of ours. Someone kind of drove by, took a picture of us; this feels like a cultural moment where it's like everyone just hanging out. It's through the guise of playing a show, but we're hanging out with our friends and having a good time. That's my favorite part of music in general — it's just bringing people together and having fun."

Though, playing in a Weezer cover band comes with its challenges, too. After months of rehearsing and curating their Weezer setlist and finally performing,

Catalano admitted jokingly that he and DeVillers have to check into "Weezhab."

"We always experience that post-Weezfest burnout because it basically ends up being all we listen to. And we keep joking for the month and a half after, it's like, 'I haven't looked up Weezer in a month and a half' and then it slowly starts trickling in. And then, because it's always a November thing or a summer thing, fall rolls around or spring rolls around and then we start getting that itch again. The burnout afterwards is pretty real," Catalano said.

Beyond the group, Catalano and DeVillers collaborate on many different musical projects, a production group called Superfriends Productions and host a Weezfest-based podcast, aptly named WeezfestCast.

"We collaborate on Modern Haunting. That's Charlie's original music. It's kind of like a synth-rock thing. We keep calling it The Strokes but worse, if they had synth," he joked. "And then we manage a band, Carlo Champagne and the Balcony Brothers, which is like a funk band from the '70s and '80s. I have a groove jam group called The Vibe Center. And then I have a country folk project called Wood Violet [which is] my original music. That has been really fun to write because it's the first time I've taken that mantle as songwriter of the group and telling people, 'These are the songs. This is



▲ The duo have a unique way of labeling their concerts: numerically. Catalano and DeVillers have hosted Weezfest 1 and 2, but also Weezfest 1.5 and 2.5.

how they're played," said Catalano.

He also added, "We usually end up, to some degree, even if the other person isn't in that group, we usually are sending tracks or asking, 'How does this sound?' Charlie and I trust each other so much and we know what we like. It's such a great working relationship."

Collaboration is such a large part of Catalano and DeVillers' artistic processes that it's no surprise that community is an integral value of the Weezfest group.

"I like that local artists, to a visual or

auditory degree, are creating events and spaces where the general community are able to gather and create safe gathering spaces. It's wildly important in a growing or thriving town," Catalano said. "When you go to an event that you're passionate about or you're interested in, the thing is, there's gonna be something you have in common with pretty much everyone who's there. So it's such a great space to make new friends and even start putting yourself out there as an artist. I love anybody who's like, 'Who wants to create?' And there's a space for



▲ Collaboration is a large part of Catalano and DeVillers' artistic processes.



▲ Behind Green Bay's local Weezer tribute band, Weezfest, are Collin Catalano and Charlie DeVillers.

you to do that. And more than likely, if there isn't, if you create [that space], the people will flock to it. People love new and unique things. That's my absolute favorite part of it is that the community can express themselves."

Follow Weezfest on Instagram @weezfestofficial for updates on upcoming shows and listen to their podcast on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@weezfestofficial.



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A play on the Bay

Coastal Players to put on *Rent*

By Janelle Fisher
City Pages Editor

Since 2019, Coastal Players has been expanding local theater offerings in Marinette through independent shows and partnerships with other theater groups.

The troupe got its start when founder Brittany Welch Pilz followed her dreams to perform in a show that just didn't fit into the scope of any existing Marinette theater groups.

"There was a two-person show called *The Last Five Years* that my friend and I wanted to do and we were really involved at Theatre on the Bay, which is now Bayshore Art Center, and we knew that it was unlikely that they would do just a two-person show there," she said. "So I was like, 'Well, how hard can it be to set up an LLC and do our own thing so we can do this show?' So we did. It was very hard, but it was really successful. Since then, we kept going and choosing shows that might not be able to be done in the Theatre on the Bay space, whether it's due to size or content or anything like that. So we've done shows in restaurants, at opera houses, high school auditoriums and now we have this partnership with Theatre on the Bay. We've been doing several shows a year just to give people more opportunities for performing and seeing performances in the community."

After that first show in 2019, Coastal Players continued to grow and put on shows and, as of last year, entered into a partnership with Theatre on the Bay.

This November, Coastal Players and Theatre on the Bay will present *Rent*.

"Our first partnership show with Theatre on the Bay was the *Rocky Horror Show* last year and then we did *First Date: The Musical* in February," Pilz said. "So this is our third co-production with Theatre on the Bay and it's going to be the biggest one that we've done since we started doing the partnership."



▲ After *First Date*, Coastal Players' next partnership show with Theatre on the Bay will be *Rent*.



▲ In January 2023, Coastal Players produced *Tick, Tick... Boom!*



▲ Coastal Players' first show was *The Last Five Years*. Coastal Players photos

Partnering with Coastal Players allows Theatre on the Bay to be a part of shows they might otherwise not have the platform to put on.

"As far as Coastal Players' partnership with Theatre on the Bay, it's getting closer and bigger every time," said Brandon Byng, who will direct *Rent*. "Sometimes Theatre on the Bay, being connected with the university, they can't do certain shows. [Coastal Players] lets us do those shows that are harder to do — that aren't necessarily centered around kids or family-friendly. It's kind of the next branch beyond that to be able to offer these other types of shows."

Rent, Pilz said, was a natural

next show for Coastal Players and a dream show for many performers.

"*Rent* has just always been a bucket list show for me," she said. "When we did the *Rocky Horror Show*, it was sort of in partnership with the Pride Center at UW-Green Bay. The plan was to choose an inclusive, LGBTQ+ friendly production to do in the same spot every November. I just thought it was the perfect time to do *Rent*. I approached Brandon to direct, and thankfully he agreed. I don't think there's a theater kid out there that *Rent* isn't on their bucket list."


As Coastal Players has grown along with the theater scene in Marinette, Pilz said it has begun to draw in performers and audiences from further away.

"For the past 12 years that I've been involved up here, it's been mostly locals," she said. "Here and there, we would have people come from Green Bay and our most recent production at Theatre on the

Bay, *Matilda*, had quite a few people from out of town.... With what's going on with theaters across the state, we have a lot of out-of-town people coming. It's pretty cool and encouraging to see the reach that we're starting to have."

The expanded interest in Coastal Players, Byng said, is a reflection of the experience the group offers.

"I think it's a testament to the level of quality and attention to detail that Theatre on the Bay and Coastal Players put into their shows that it is attracting those out-of-town people," she said. "We're really running a professional show as much as we can and training people to operate as a regular theater would. It's nice. We're still a community theater, but it's a little bumped up from there. We try to always raise the bar a little bit."

Learn more about Coastal Players and their upcoming production of *Rent* on Coastal Players' Facebook page. 



I Could Live Here Forever By Hanna Halperin

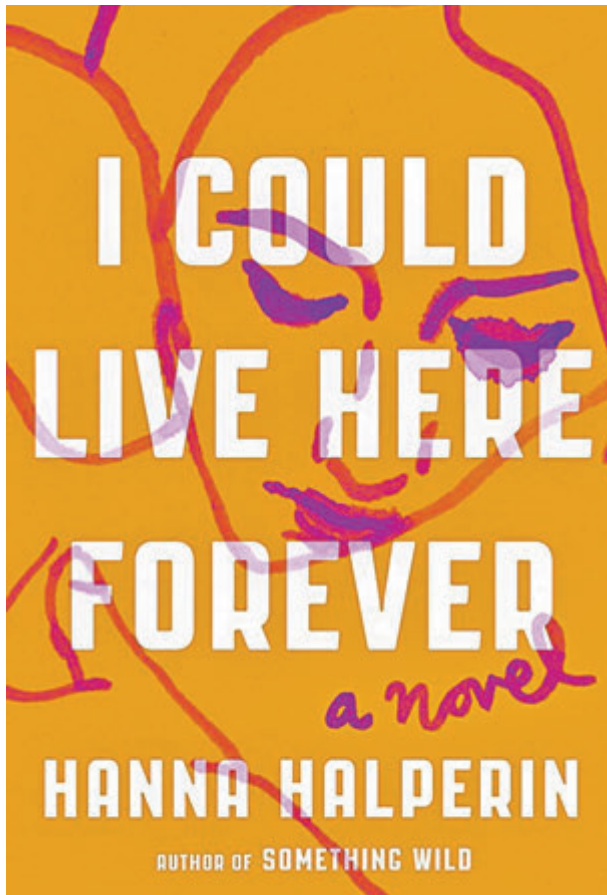
Review By Mickey Schommer
Contributing Writer

Between blurring lines of perception and truth, Hanna Halperin's sophomore novel *I Could Live Here Forever* explores the whirlwind relationship between a young UW-Madison MFA student, Leah, and her boyfriend, Charlie, a charming construction worker who is 10 years her senior. He is also, as Leah finds out, a heroin addict. Despite this, Charlie's charisma becomes a focal point of her devotion to him: "What if I loved Charlie simply because he was Charlie?"

During her creative writing program, Leah's writing is noticed by major publications, but her work, and most other facets of her life, are often overshadowed by the painstaking, "all-consuming" energy that Leah invests to her relationship with Charlie — energy that attempts to keep both of them afloat. Charlie's cycles of relapse mirror Leah's progressively more discernible cycles of denial, inaction and isolation. Her judgments and rationalizations become clouded by her seismic fear of being alone and her penchant for self-sabotage.

Halperin's novel does exceedingly well at rendering the insecurities that many 20-somethings face: the desperation to be known and loved. Leah is a deeply relatable character, navigating the trials of a relationship as it blurs from committed to codependent. In the throes of her on-again-off-again relationship with Charlie, she admits, "The only thing I wanted was to be known completely by someone, to know someone completely."

This novel spins a new take on addiction, making Charlie



loveable and charismatic, unlike most stories which pin addicts as repulsive and inhuman. This novel contributes a clear response to the age-old question, "Why did you stay with [them]?", as it depicts the intricate and messy nuances of unsustainable love through Halperin's emotionally intelligent writing.

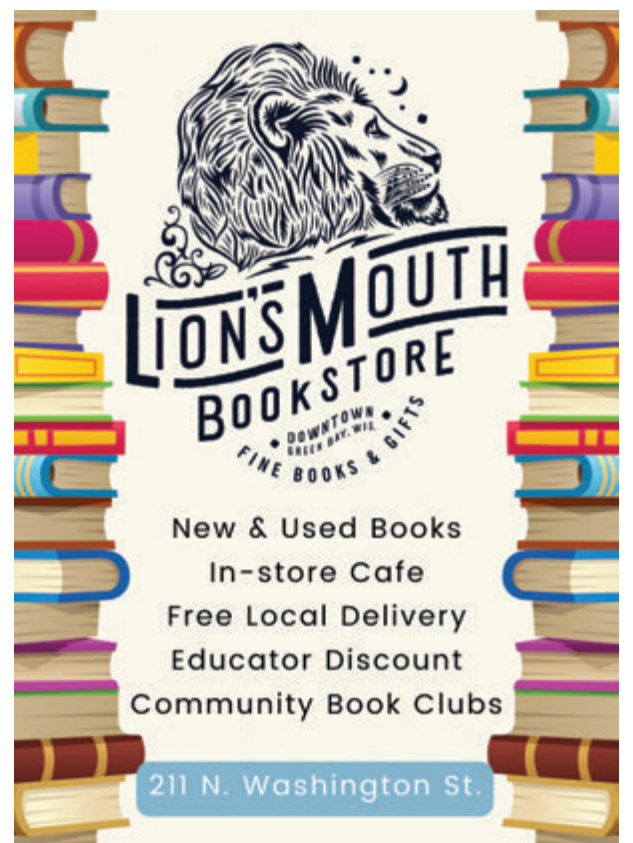
I Could Live Here Forever is a poignant, captivating novel perfect for readers drawn to stories that explore the complexities of addiction, love and loneliness, and the blurred lines between devotion and codependence. **CP**



THE CREATIVE



◀ Ethan Kowalske is a 20-year-old artist from Elkhorn. An avid traveler, Kowalske's work is inspired by the natural landscapes he encounters. Recently, he has been leaning into a more child-like approach with the use of oil pastels. "I've been really into oil pastels and I think the reason I am is because I'm growing into my 20s and moving out of the house. I've been thinking so much about childhood and so, it just reminds me of going at it with crayons [as a child]," he said. Kowalske's creative journey reached a pivotal point in high school where he took an IB (International Baccalaureate) art class during which he had to prepare an entire gallery of artwork. "I remember the piece of art that made me want to identify as an artist was when we did self portraits because you have to sit and look at yourself for hours and you're forced to face your own reflection and think about your identity." When asked about the role of art in the community, Kowalske said it "enhances life." "Art exists without putting pressure on you," he added. "You can pay attention or choose not to." Follow Ethan's art on Instagram at @e.kowalske



NWTC Artisan and Business Center welcomes fifth cohort of residents

By Janelle Fisher
City Pages Editor

Throughout the next year, six local artists will go through the NWTC Artisan and Business Center's Artisan Residency Program.

This group — the fifth cohort to go through the program — will meet with Operations Coordinator Carrie Dorski and various mentors throughout their as residents to learn all about what it takes to run an art-based business, including marketing, website design, branding and more, individualized to meet the needs of each resident while fostering a sense of community among them.

In addition to learning from mentors about how to take the next steps in growing their businesses, residents in the program

will also benefit from the Artisan and Business Center's resources throughout the year with free classes and unlimited studio access.

Read on to learn more about this year's residents, and check back in each quarterly issue of City Pages to keep up with them as they continue through the Artisan Residency Program.



Ben Thibodeau

Ben Thibodeau

What type of art do you primarily do?

Decorative pit fired and raku pottery as well as functional, glazed pottery

What inspires you to create art?

The ceramics process as a whole inspires me. The feeling of clay while I'm pulling or trimming something is something that I hope never gets old. Thinking of the different variables at each step that affect the result of a pot and how I can change them on future projects drives me to keep creating.

What inspired you to apply for the Artisan Residency Program?

I have loved making pottery for about two years now and have been an active part of the NWTC Artisan Center for a little over a year. A few months ago, I became aware of the Artisan Residency Program and thought it would be a great way to gain more knowledge of the arts as well as the local art scene.

What are you most looking forward to about the Artisan Residency Program?

I am looking forward to learning tools to help grow my pottery business as well as interacting and collaborating with the other talented artists that are a part of the program! During my time as a resident, I hope to improve my art and form a more cohesive style that is my own.



Annie Stenseth

Annie Stenseth Art

What type of art do you primarily do?

As a sculpture artist, my primary mediums are ceramic and metalwork. My style includes realistic representations, elements of nature and a bit of surrealism.

What inspires you to create art?

I find inspiration from both the external world and the internal worlds within us all. My interest centers on the ever-evolving nature of personal growth, exploring paths to individual identity through acknowledging and embracing traumas, sexuality, mental health, self-perception and morality. I admire the familiarity and beauty of the human form. I often find influences in nature to capture the beauty and transformation within the decay and growth around us.

What inspired you to apply for the Artisan Residency Program?

I have witnessed the growth within previous residency cohorts and listened to the positive feedback from the artists. The motivation to apply comes from the encouragement the program offers to stay focused on our art while receiving essential tools and support.

What are you most looking forward to about the Artisan Residency Program?

I'm excited to be a part of a group of fellow artists that are in a similar position as myself. I look forward to exploring both the commonalities and differences among us. During my time in the residency, I hope to learn the business skills necessary to share my artistic practice and to evolve my body of work by blending ceramic and metalwork.



Laura Schley

What type of art do you primarily do?

My current focus areas are sewing pieces with naturally dyed textiles and paint, with some large-scale mural work on the side thrown in for fun.

What inspires you to create art?

The ability to slow down momentarily and take joy in the act of making something with my own hands. The natural dye process and much of my art practice require many steps, so it forces me to slow down and embrace the journey. In our hyper-digital land where everything is 'Subscriptions On Demand Now! Get It Immediately!', I enjoy escaping through art to physically hold a paintbrush or sew a garment and see it slowly form in front of me. There's joy in the anticipation of a thing and excitement in the mystery of what the artwork will become.

What inspired you to apply for the Artisan Residency Program?

I had been eyeing up the program for several years before finally getting up the courage (and let's face it... proper time management to actually do the thing) to apply for the program. The NWTC Artisan Center is an amazing resource for the community and I am beyond excited and grateful to have been selected for this program and take part in growing my art practice alongside this year's cohort of talented artists.

What are you most looking forward to about the Artisan Residency Program?

I am looking forward to granting myself more space and time to focus on nurturing my own art practice and establishing goals and a plan for growing and formalizing my creative business. Also, I am looking forward to connecting with my fellow residents more and building community.



Lynn R. Peters

What type of art do you primarily do?

Ink and watercolor

What inspires you to create art?

I find everyday life full of inspiration, but my favorite ideas often come from travel and the out-of-doors.

What inspired you to apply for the Artisan Residency Program?

I learned about the residency on social media and thought, "Someday I'd love to have THAT learning opportunity!" The idea swirled around in my head for months. Even though applying felt like a major leap of faith, I figured I had nothing to lose!

What are you most looking forward to about the Artisan Residency Program?

I love the learning cohort concept, and know I'll get lots of ideas and Inspiration from the other residents. I'm also looking forward to creating a more intentional strategy for selling my artwork. I'm not at all interested In having it pile up around my house!

Sam Rowe
Samsconsin Art

What type of art do you primarily do?
 Watercolor, often abstract with bright colors.

What inspires you to create art?
 I'm inspired by pop culture (especially drag queens), mental health, self-acceptance and self-expression. Art is a form of therapy for me!

What inspired you to apply for the Artisan Residency Program?
 I applied for the Artisan Residency Program because I wanted to grow my art business and was looking for guidance on how to become a better small business

owner. I knew the program would force me to step out of my comfort zone and connect with more local artists instead of blindly forging ahead on my own.

What are you most looking forward to about the Artisan Residency Program?
 I'm most looking forward to bonding with my cohort and learning as much as possible from Carrie and the excellent mentors she has lined up in the coming year. I hope to get a better understanding of the business side of being an artist as well as make meaningful connections in the local art community. Ultimately, I want to push myself to lean into my unique style and learn ways to best share the joy that flows through my intuitive abstract art.



Jill Steen
What type of art do you primarily do?

Ceramics.
What inspires you to create art?
 I'm inspired by nature, by history and by a desire to engage with the world in a tangible way.

What inspired you to apply for the Artisan Residency Program?
 Most of my art education has happened at the Artisan Center and I've been able to witness the enthusiasm and dedication the program staff have for the artists

who've gone through the program. When I started exploring ways to grow my own art practice, this program was an obvious choice.

What are you most looking forward to about the Artisan Residency Program?
 My goals are to expand my skill set and confidence as an artist and to explore new ways of getting my art out into the world. I am excited to have the opportunity to explore ideas and projects that will push me out of my comfort zone.

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A new type of venue

The Truck Yard at the Tarlton host first event series, plans for the future



By Janelle Fisher
City Pages Editor

▲ Over the summer, The Truck Yard opened with its first concert series. Pictured here is the band Supersuckers, which performed with The Rumors at The Truck Yard in June. Mickey Schommer photo

The grassy space behind Green Bay's Tarlton Theater is serving a new purpose this summer as the area's first food truck park, with its In The Yard outdoor concert series opening over the summer.

"The Truck Yard is part of a vision for the Tarlton Theatre block that we've been dreaming of for some time," Knight said. "We wanted to add to the art and cultural offerings of the downtown and of our own programming at the Tarlton by offering some outdoor activities, food, drink and programming."

Thursday nights through Sept. 12, the Truck Yard will host a different musician or band, along with a variety of food trucks and drink offerings.

"The free music is going to be great," Knight said. "It's going to be a great opportunity for folks who aren't traditionally available for the Wednesday Farmers' Market on Broadway or the Saturday Farmers' Market Downtown of Friday's on the Fox. It's a great music option with regional and national acts who only come through Green Bay every couple of years and some who haven't been back to Green Bay for five or a couple more years. And a couple of them are coming to Green Bay for the first time... So hopefully we're adding something to the mix of how people can enjoy the summer weather and spend time with family and friends."

The In The Yard concert series, Knight said, is only the beginning of what's to come for the Truck Yard.

"It's part of an exploratory, experimental phase that we're going through — Phase One of the Truck Yard," Knight said. "We'll have a more open concept to explore with the city of Green Bay, its Economic and Community Development Department and the zoning. As guinea pigs, we can work with them as partners to make sure that this type of development can occur in the future throughout the city and in other urban areas... There are a number of different uses and requirements that we're going to need to meet and



that allow them to include electrical and water hookups and a large shipping container stage to host bands with as many as a dozen bands so we can get the big horn bands and the big jam bands here. We want to have an eclectic mix of cuisine. With a healthy rotation of partnerships and relationships that we'll make with the food trucks, I think that eventually we'll have some really great food trucks who make it their permanent home during the season, but we always want to make sure we're exploring and offering some different styles. Right now we've got a couple of food trucks offering tacos, Thai food and burgers. There's always going to be a classic but interesting mix of food options here. Phase Two, I think, is going to see anywhere from two to four food trucks on a regular basis, but we'll be able to hold as many as six."

Looking towards Phase Two Knight said he hopes the community will embrace the idea of a food truck park.

"We're going to move forward with Phase Two, and that'll happen around September in time for the draft," Knight said. "We're going to be exploring a more final version and layout of how The Truck Yard at The Tarlton will operate as far as the guest experience and the placement of things like the permanent food truck pads, which is something we want to install in order to make sure that we're accommodating and working really well with food trucks to help them grow... The hope is that the community comes and supports this exploration of a food truck park as a permanent destination and that we'll be able to develop something really special with the city once we know what the city is looking for."

As The Truck Yard evolves, Knight said he welcomes feedback both from the food trucks utilizing the space and community members.

"We want to understand food trucks and their owners," Knight said, "We want to make sure that this is a supportive destination for them and make it an all-around great experience for our community. We have the responsibility as the folks piloting this thing to make sure we do it right."

Learn more about The Truck Yard at The Tarlton and the In The Yard concert series by visiting The Truck Yard at The Tarlton's Facebook page. **CP**

discover together. Phase One is how we'll build the concept of the Truck Yard and the food trucks will be self-sustaining, the live music will be available and we'll have our own beer available — craft beer sponsored by Lion's Tail Brewing Company out of Neenah. What we're trying to do is get the word out about it. We're trying to explore the community's feedback."

After this summer's concert series, Knight said there are big plans for The Truck Yard, including permanent pads for food trucks with electrical and water hook-ups, a shipping container stage and more.

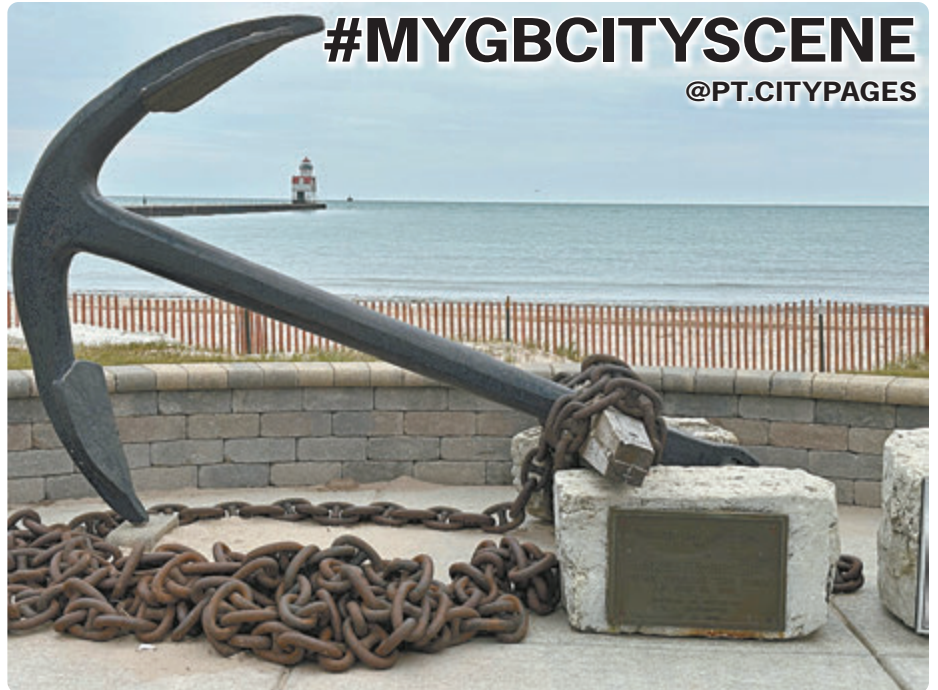
"There's so much that we can do with this space..." Knight said. "Phase Two is going to include all of the big, fun stuff — the double-decker shipping container with the canopy on top so people can sit up there like box seats and look over the years. We'll be able to serve a number of great food and drink options. We're going to have pads for food truck stations



▲ The grassy space behind Green Bay's Tarlton Theater is serving a new purpose as the area's first food truck park. File photo



BROWN COUNTY'S WEQUIOCK FALLS IS ONE OF THE COUNTY'S SMALLER PARKS. THE PARK INCLUDES A LARGE RAVINE WHICH OFFERS A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT ONE OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT ROCK FORMATIONS. DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER, THE WEQUIOCK CREEK FORMS AN INVITING WATERFALL AND THE SMALL ROADSIDE PARK OFFERS A SMALL PICNIC AREA WITH RESTROOMS JUST OFF OF HIGHWAY 57. AN OLD BRIDGE ABOVE THE FALLS AND A SET OF STONE STAIRS LEADING DOWN TO THE RAVINE ONLY ADD TO THE AMBIANCE OF THE PARK. THE PARK IS LOCATED OFF OF HIGHWAY 57; TURN OFF ON VAN LAANEN ROAD AND THE ENTRANCE TO THE PARK IS IMMEDIATELY ON THE RIGHT. THE IDEAL TIME TO VISIT THE WATERFALL IS IN THE SPRING DURING THE THAW AND AFTER A GOOD RAIN, BUT THE FALLS OFFER A PICTURESQUE VIEW AND FUN ALL SUMMER LONG. WEQUIOCK FALLS IS LOCATED AT 3426 BAY SETTLEMENT ROAD, GREEN BAY.



ON NOV. 17, 1886, THE DICKINSON AND EMERALD WERE PAIRED WITH TWO LOADED COAL BARGES BEING GUIDED BY A TUGBOAT USING THE CONSORT SYSTEM. ACCORDING TO STATE MARITIME HISTORY, CONSORT SYSTEM WAS USED IN THE GREAT LAKES 1860-1920, WITH AN "UNPOWERED CARGO VESSEL — USUALLY A SCHOONER-BARGE — TOWED BY A STEAM BARGE OR A STEAMER. A LARGE STEAMER COULD TOW SEVERAL CONSORTS, EACH FULLY LOADED WITH BULK CARGO." WHEN A STORM HIT ON LAKE MICHIGAN, THE DICKINSON AND EMERALD SPRUNG LEAKS. THE EMERALD WAS CUT LOOSE AND DRIFTED TOWARD THE SHORE WHERE IT CAPSIZED KILLING FIVE MEMBERS OF THE CREW. A MEMORIAL SITS ON THE POINT NEAR THE SITE OF THE BARGE EMERALD'S DEMISE, LOCATED NEAR THE KEWAUNEE PIERHEAD LIGHTHOUSE IN KEWAUNEE, AT THE EAST END OF ELLIS STREET.



GREEN ISLE PARK OFFERS HIKING, BIKING, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, TENNIS, VOLLEYBALL, PLAYGROUND AND A SHELTER. LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF GREEN BAY ALONG THE EAST RIVER, THE 51-ACRE PARK IS A TRANQUIL ESCAPE FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE CITY. A WALK DOWN THE NATURE TRAIL LATE IN THE DAY OFFERS THE FEEL OF A COUNTRY STROLL. A FEWER PLAYGROUND FEATURES A RAMPED PLAY STRUCTURE, SWINGS, SLIDES, AN ARCHED CAT-WAY BRIDGE, SPINNERS AND CLIMBERS AND A WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE CRUISER/ROCKER ON A RUBBER SURFACE AREA.

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