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SPORTS, 6B

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Sail Neenah owners Max and Lata Sheppard take a quick harbor tour with family on Aug. 13 in Neenah. The company offers private charters on Lake Winnebago aboard their Stiletto Catamaran.

PHOTOS BY WM. GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Sail Neenah keeps art of sailing alive

Tours of Lake Winnebago offered to the public

Faith Huey

Appleton Post-Crescent | USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Captain Max Sheppard has navigated countless bodies of water for over 30 years. Now, he’s using his passion and experience to offer sailing tours of lake Winnebago.

Sail Neenah opened for the season on July 5. With a handful of tours already completed, Sheppard said they’ve been well received with several groups already booking a second tour.

“The purpose of this business for me is to get people out and experiencing the water,” Sheppard said. “It might have a bad stigma for not being great for swimming, but lake Winnebago is beautiful and one of the better lakes for sailing.”

The two-hour tours are done on a Stiletto Catamaran — a 27 foot long and 14 feet wide boat with enough space to accommodate six passengers outside of the boat crew. Passengers are encouraged to bring their own food and drink onboard to enhance their experience.

The boat departs from Riverside park, 500 E. Wisconsin Ave. in Neenah, with trips currently running from Thursdays to Sundays for daytime or sunset tours. The business will operate outside of cold seasons from around Mother’s Day in May until early October, weather permitting.

Sheppard said he’s already looking forward to next year to create more opportunities for passengers. He’s currently working on partnerships with local restaurants to offer dinner-and-sail packages where people can enjoy dinner while enjoying the lake.



Sail Neenah owners Max and Lata Sheppard opened for the season on July 5.

In addition to offering a relaxed, scenic experience for passengers, Sheppard said his other goal is to get people interested in sailing.

“Before this, I ran the Fox River Tours, but my passion is more sailing than powerboats,” Sheppard said. “I don’t see a lot of younger sailors in the area, and I don’t want the sport of sailing to fade away, so we started this because of that and wanting to get people out on the water.”

Prior to operating the Fox River Tours and settling down in Neenah, his hometown, Sheppard accumulated over 1,000 days of offshore experience. He’s crossed the Pacific Ocean several times working as a private yacht captain and lived in Tonga for a year where he met his wife Lata, who assists with running

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Family of 1992 murder victim file civil suit against acquitted man

Kelli Arseneau

Appleton Post-Crescent | USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Editor’s note: This story contains some content that readers may find disturbing.

In the aftermath of Tony Haase’s murder acquittal, the family of Tanna Togstad is pursuing a civil lawsuit against Haase, accusing him of causing her wrongful death, as well as inflicting physical and emotional suffering.

Haase, 54, of Weyauwega, was arrested in August 2024 and charged with two counts of first-degree murder for the 1992 stabbing deaths of 23-year-old Togstad and her boyfriend, 35-year-old Timothy Mumbrue, in rural Waupaca County. On Aug. 11, after a nearly monthlong jury trial, a Waupaca County jury found Togstad not guilty on both counts.

With trial evidence including a DNA profile tying Haase to the crime scene and Haase’s own confession to investigators, the Waupaca County district attorney and some family of the victims expressed surprise at the verdict. Defense attorneys, however, argued at trial that the DNA evidence was flawed, that the crime scene was mishandled, and that Haase’s confession to investigators was false, a result of deceptive interrogation tactics.

The civil lawsuit was filed in Waupaca County Circuit Court Aug. 6, before Haase’s criminal trial had concluded. It lists as plaintiff Tanna Togstad’s brother, Richard Togstad, in his capacity as special administrator for the estates of Tanna Togstad and Tanna’s and Richard’s mother, Helen Hoffman.

The complaint lists five separate claims against Haase. On behalf of the estate of Helen Hoffman, it

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When will Ballard Road over I-41 in Appleton reopen?

Taima Kern

Appleton Post-Crescent | USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Before school let out this past spring, students attending Appleton schools north of Interstate 41 had road construction to contend with when the Wisconsin Department of Transportation closed the Ballard Road exit and overpass over the interstate in late April as part of its multi-year I-41 expansion project.

Now, as summer rounds to a close, commuters along the detours for Ballard are asking: Will the overpass reopen by the time school traffic returns? Here’s what we know.

One of the Ballard Road ramps from Interstate 41 is open now, the rest will open soon

The southbound off-ramp from I-41 reopened Aug. 6, allowing drivers exit the interstate at Ballard and access the areas north of the interchange.

The southbound on-ramp is expected to open on

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