



Gutekunst's draft strategy will shape Packers future

SPORTS, 2B

Stevens Point Journal

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A closure of Patch Street between Blaine Street and Michigan Avenue is expected to last two weeks beginning April 28, 2026 while a parallel storm sewer pipe is installed to help improve drainage in the area. ERIK PFANTZ/STEVENS POINT JOURNAL

Plover YMCA eye June opening

Caitlin Shuda
Stevens Point Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

PLOVER – Construction continues on the new YMCA in Plover.

Sam Ivey, the marketing coordinator for the Stevens Point Area YMCA, shared an update with a Stevens Point Journal reporter April 22. As construction progress continues, the organization is anticipating a June opening, Ivey said.

The Stevens Point Area YMCA announced Dec. 18 it would work with Lokre Development Company to open a brand new YMCA in the former Younkers space, now called the Plover Marketplace, at 1780 Plover Road near Artist & Fare.

The new Plover site will offer four pickleball courts, a wellness center with cardio and strength equipment, a

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Travelers to expect detours, delays as construction season begins

Erik Pfantz
Stevens Point Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

The arrival of spring in Wisconsin also means the beginning of road construction season.

Travelers will face detours and delays resulting from road construction projects throughout the spring, summer and fall in Stevens Point and Portage County. Here's a list of current and upcoming projects to consider in your travel plans and what local drivers can expect to encounter.

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Business 51/Church Street (south segment): Over 2,400 feet of roadway between Michigan Avenue and the city's southern limits will be reconstructed in a project expected to begin in May and be completed by the end of the 2026 construction season, according to Scott Beduhn, Stevens Point director of public works. A total closure of the roadway nearest the railroad crossing will be

required at an undetermined point during the project. A signed detour will route northbound drivers east on McDill Avenue/Portage County HH, north on Hoover Avenue, and back west on Patch Street and vice versa for southbound drivers. The roadway, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and underground utilities and other streetscape features will all be repaired or replaced as a result of the work.

Business 51/Division Street (north segment): Over 1 mile of roadway between North Point Drive and Briggs Street will be reconstructed in a project expected to begin in June and be completed in 2027, according to Beduhn. The project will begin with a total closure of the roadway between Briggs Street and Fourth Avenue before proceeding northward with the installation of a roundabout at the intersection with Fourth Avenue and following with roadway reconstruction north to the entry and exit of the roundabout at North Point Drive. The roadway, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and underground utilities and other streetscape features will all be

repaired or replaced as a result of the work.

Michigan Avenue underpass: About 1,200 feet of Michigan Avenue will be reconstructed between the intersections of Patch and Dixon streets in a project expected to begin in late May and be completed by late September, according to Beduhn. Besides reconstruction of roadway, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and underground utilities and other streetscape features, the project will also replace the street's underdrain system and add a dedicated multi-modal path. The work is not expected to entirely resolve issues with flooding in the underpass but will help keep the pavement dry during dry weather.

Patch Street and Michigan Avenue storm sewer improvements: A parallel storm sewer pipe will be installed through the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Patch Street in a project that started April 28 and is expected to take two weeks, according to

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Schmeckle Reserve to host 'Sounds of Spring' celebration

Nida Tazeen
Stevens Point Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

STEVENS POINT – The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Schmeckle Reserve will host a Spring Celebration on May 3.

The event, themed "Sounds of Spring," is scheduled for 1-4 p.m. It is free and open to the public, but donations are suggested, according to a community announcement. A donation of \$4 per person or \$10 per family is recommended.

Attendees can participate in a variety of activities, including face painting, hands-on discovery stations, crafts and a guided character hike. The "Sounds of Spring" character hike will

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