



Winneconne has reloaded, starts the season 6-0

SPORTS, 2B

THE REPORTER

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Habitat for Humanity of Fond du Lac County's partner family for this year's home build is Amanda Buechel and her family, pictured here painting the trim for their future house. PROVIDED BY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF FOND DU LAC COUNTY

Did you miss these 6 Fond du Lac stories from Sept.?

Daphne Lemke
Fond du Lac Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

FOND DU LAC – September brought not only the start of fall, but several updates in Fond du Lac's business sphere. Here are six of the most-read Fond du Lac stories from September.

Two Fond du Lac companies were in the running for Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce's Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin Contest is back for 2026, and two Fond du Lac companies were among the 108 nominees featured in the popular vote round. Elkay Interior Systems made the list for its Kids Meal Toy Cabinet, and Fives Giddings & Lewis earned a spot for its vertical turning centers. As of Sept. 29, the vertical turning centers have made it into the Top 16 and will face off against Enerpac Tool

See STORIES, Page 2A



Ulta, 820 W. Johnson St., opened at the Commons at Forest Plaza in Fond du Lac. DAPHNE LEMKE/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

HIDDEN GEMS



Dundee Mountain is easily visible from the back patio of the Ice Age Visitor Center, N2875 State 67, as it towers above the surrounding landscape. DAPHNE LEMKE/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

These Kettle Moraine stops are worth the drive

Daphne Lemke
Fond du Lac Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

FOND DU LAC – On the eastern edge of Fond du Lac County, the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit offers a day-trip escape within reach of Oshkosh, Manitowoc and Sheboygan. The 30,000-acre forest is well known for its scenery and recreation, but it also holds plenty of lesser-known places worth ex-

ploring. Visitors come to hike, paddle, camp, take in the scenery or simply spend a quiet day outdoors. Many areas require an annual or daily vehicle admission pass. Pass sales support Wisconsin state parks, trails and recreation programs. The Fond du Lac Public Library also offers a limited number of state park passes through its Experience Passes collection.

What can you do at the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit?
The northern unit offers year-round recreation, including hiking, biking and horseback riding; swimming, fishing and boating; and camping and picnicking. In winter, several trails remain open

See HIDDEN GEMS, Page 3A

Fives Giddings & Lewis advances in Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin Contest

Daphne Lemke
Fond du Lac Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

FOND DU LAC – Fives Giddings & Lewis is still in the running for Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce's Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin Contest. The company's vertical turning centers

earned it a spot in the Top 16, and the next round of voting started Oct. 1 to narrow down the Top 8 products. The next few rounds run on a tournament-style bracket format, and Fives Giddings & Lewis's opponent in this round is Enerpac Tool Group's LU-Series Lightweight Electric Torque Pump out of Milwaukee.

What are vertical turning centers?
Fives Giddings & Lewis's vertical turning centers are a type of lathe with precision cutting. The models are known for versatility, adaptable to meet the specific cutting

See COOLEST, Page 2A



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