

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!



Photo courtesy of Badgerland Water Ski Show Team

SHAWANO — The Badgerland Water Ski Show Team was named the Division 2 National Champion earlier this month after competing in Shawano. In mid-July, the team won the State Tournament Division 2 title. Pictured is the team forming a pyramid during the national competition.

“The competition field of 11 teams (including Shawano, the home team) was tough but we skied a great show to bring home the first place National Title,” said Staci Maloney, club president of Badgerland Water Ski Show Team. “Along with winning the tournament, we had the best swivel act, doubles act, dock and equipment, sound and production, and showmanship. Everything came together on Sunday from all aspects of our show and I am so proud of the team’s perseverance to push through and bring home the title.”

The team still has several performances left this season in Oconomowoc and Okauchee. To see their schedule, go to <https://badgerland.org/>.

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Hulk Hogan makes stops in Waukesha County to promote Real American Beer

WAUKESHA — Retired wrestling superstar Hulk Hogan stopped at a few Waukesha County retailers earlier this month to promote and sign boxes of his new beer, Real American Beer. WWE fans of all ages were wrapped in a line around the Kwik Trip on Golf Road waiting to meet the wrestler, whose real name is Terry Bollea.

Hogan drew fans from across the region. Tracey Rewolinski of West Allis was “Hulk-ed out” in a Hulkamania shirt and a classic red bandana. He brought along a copy of “Sports Illustrated” for Hogan to sign, although it was announced later that Hogan would only be signing the boxes of his beer.

“I’ve been a Hulkamaniac since I was a little Hulkamaniac,” Rewolinski laughed. He said he hasn’t tried Real American Beer yet, but would be doing so that night.

Cousins Jesus Serna and Lupe Najera had shown up to the Kwik Trip two hours before when Hogan was set to arrive at 1:30 p.m. They walked out of the gas station lugging their freshly signed Real American Beer boxes.

“We grew up watching him in the ‘80s!” Serna said.

Digital artist Michael Goglia brought a few of his pieces with him to the signing, hoping to give a couple to Hogan and get one signed for himself. Goglia has several art collections of WWE, then known as WWF, wrestlers.

Hogan only stopped for a brief hour at the Kwik Trip; he had other stops to make on his Wisconsin beer-signing tour.

His management estimated about 250 people would make it through the line at Kwik Trip to meet their icon and pick up some Real American Beer.



Freeman Staff photo

Jesus Serna poses for a quick photo with Hulk Hogan during the signing event. Serna said he grew up watching him on TV.

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Courtesy of the YMCA of Greater Waukesha County

WCTC and the YMCA of Greater Waukesha County announced a strategic partnership that will bring a new full-service YMCA facility on the WCTC campus in Pewaukee in the near future.

WCTC and YMCA of Greater Waukesha to open YMCA on WCTC campus

Waukesha YMCA facility to close in a few years

By Karen Pilarski
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PEWAUKEE — A new YMCA facility is coming to the Waukesha County Technical College campus in Pewaukee. As a result, the downtown Waukesha YMCA will close once the new facility at WCTC opens, according to a press release.

“The existing Waukesha YMCA facility, built in 1954, is well beyond its lifespan with aged infrastructure accessibility barriers and operational inefficiencies. Coupled with growing demand for services, YGWC had to look elsewhere for expansion,” the release said.

The village of Pewaukee supports the development of the facility. Kahler Slater Architects and VJS Construction Services have been selected for the project, the release said.

WCTC and the YMCA of Greater Waukesha County (YGWC) announced on Wednesday a strategic partnership that will bring in the new full-service YMCA facility in the near future.

“Under this partnership, WCTC and YGWC will collaborate on developing a modern YMCA facility, which would be located on the WCTC Pewaukee campus, serving students, staff, and faculty at the college, as well as residents of Waukesha County and the surrounding areas. This new, modern YMCA facility will be running a variety of fitness, health and recreational programs along with drop-in child watch services during scheduled hours,” the release said.

YGWC will launch a capital campaign with a \$30 million goal and will involve fundraising events, informational sessions, and community outreach to engage local businesses, residents, and stakeholders.

The project planning and fundraising portion is expected to take two to three years, followed by site work and construction.

WCTC and YGWC will work together on developing a modern YMCA facility, which serves students, staff, and faculty at the college, as well as residents of Waukesha County and the surrounding areas.

“We are excited to join forces with WCTC on this initiative,” said Chris Becker, CEO of YGWC. “This new YMCA facility will provide a central location for our community to gather, stay active, and engage in a wide variety of programs and services. We look forward to serving the WCTC community, the surrounding Waukesha area, and continuing our commitment to greater Waukesha County.”

“We could not be more excited to welcome the YMCA to our campus,” said

Rich Barnhouse, president of WCTC. “I see this new partnership as a wonderful opportunity to serve our campus community as well as the greater Waukesha region. Bringing the YMCA to WCTC will bring even more visitors to our campus that will showcase why the college is a hub of Waukesha County.”

WCTC has seen enrollment grow along with a new applied AI lab and programming, and welcoming UWM on campus in 2025, adding a YMCA facility to the Pewaukee campus “will only further solidify WCTC as a destination location in greater Waukesha County,” the release said.

Waukesha Y

Closing the Waukesha YMCA is part of the long-range planning process for the organization, according to Becker.

Becker told The Freeman looking at modern day amenities and member expectations they realized the Waukesha facility suffers significantly.

“It is a very old and outdated building that while still viable, we have to factor long-term needs to the betterment of the Y as a whole,” Becker said.

He added the Waukesha facility has lived out its typical lifespan.

“This is a move that strengthens not only YMCA and WCTC but will give access to a much larger and more accessible building. As the demographics have changed throughout the greater Waukesha area, it’s a perfect dot on the map as far as a central location in Waukesha County,” Becker said.

Becker said the planning process has been ongoing for several years as the board of directors has assessed a long-range plan.

The YMCA service area in Waukesha County is a broad and diverse region. From the ongoing assessment, according to Becker, it was obvious that the Waukesha facility was their biggest concern in priority to reposition and build a new YMCA. Staff hopes to expand the programming offered at the new facility.

Becker emphasized the Waukesha facility remains open and will stay that way until the new WCTC facility is open which could be several years down the line.

The plan is to transfer the Waukesha employees from Waukesha to the new facility.

“We are fully committed to all of the member services and programs that we are currently offering at the Waukesha Y. When the new Y opens up, then the old Y will close,” Becker said.



Courtesy of the YMCA of Greater Waukesha County

WCTC and the YMCA of Greater Waukesha County are working together to build a full-service YMCA facility on the WCTC campus in Pewaukee.

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BOUCHER



L I N C O L N

The Commodore opens in Delafield

By Katherine Beck
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DELAFIELD — Reflecting the history of the restaurant’s past, while also recognizing the importance of today and the future, The Bartolotta Restaurants has restored to life the former Seven Seas building on Nagawicka Lake in Delafield.

The fine dining restaurant, The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant, opened recently after two years of work. Prior to being the Weissgerber’s Seven Seas for almost four decades, the site was Hasslinger’s Pleasant View Hotel & Resort when it opened in 1902.

“The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant, while contemporary, takes inspiration and is dedicated to the legacy and rich history of Nagawicka Lake and Lake Country,” said The Bartolotta Restaurants Owner and Co-Founder Chef Paul

Bartolotta in a statement. “We are excited to unveil this two-year project and bring this iconic property back to life.

We view this as a long-term commitment to the Lake Country community as we are now custodians, building new legacies and memories for generations to come. We look forward to greeting our guests with the ‘hospitality heart’ that they have come to know and love from The Bartolotta Restaurants.”

Dishes will highlight Wisconsin’s farmers, cheesemakers

and creamers, as well as featuring “nostalgic” classic, but served in a more contemporary way, such as the Beef Wellington for Two, which includes a 16-ounce prime, barrel-cut filet baked in puff pastry with mushroom duxelles and a black truffle-périgourdine sauce. Many Waukesha County residents will also be excited to see the wiener schnitzel on the menu, which pays homage to the legendary Jack Weissgerber.

Some more contemporary dishes will be the Seared Georges Bay Sea Scallops and Roasted Atlantic Halibut.

“The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant enlivens the nostalgia of Lake Country,” said Bartolotta. “We embrace what life once was and what it can still be. Through this gaze into the rearview mirror, we gain a sense of our own identity, connecting ourselves with the neighbors and guests who were here before us.”

The upper level of The Commodore is a catering and special events space, such as intimate gatherings, galas, weddings, meetings, conferences and more. The Grand Heritage Ballroom takes its name from the property’s era as Heritage on the Lake & Spirit of ’76 Resort & Disco, which can be divided into North and South Heritage Ballrooms. The Baldwin Lounge is a private room anchored by a fireplace named for former owner Dave Baldwin, with views of Nagawicka Lake. The Nagawicka Suite serves as a bridal hospitality suite.

On the main level The Commodore Restaurant features several dining rooms with views of the lake. Paying homage to the property’s history, the private dining rooms, Margo’s and Pepper’s, are a nod to the once-famed “Margo’s Pepper Tree” restaurant which operated at this location from 1976 through 1978. The first floor also features a large bar with indoor and patio seating.

Outside, the Pleasant View Pavilion can be used for small receptions and ceremonies.

An exclusive members-only social club, Club 1902, will debut at a later date and will be located on the lower level.



Photos courtesy of The Bartolotta Restaurants

The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant is located at 1807 Nagawicka Rd., Delafield, on the shores of Nagawicka Lake.



The Seared Georges Bay Sea Scallops is served with champagne-demi smoked salmon caviar butter sauce, morels and melted leek at The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant in Delafield.



The Beef Wellington for Two from The Commodore – A Bartolotta Restaurant which includes a 16-ounce prime, barrel-cut filet baked in puff pastry with mushroom duxelles and a black truffle-périgourdine sauce.



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