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8-25-11 packers-lambeau expansion

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — There's good news for the 81,000 fans on the waiting list for Green Bay Packers season tickets. The team said Thursday it plans to add about 6,600 new seats at Lambeau Field. And in good news for taxpayers, the team says it will fund the \$130 million project itself. The seats will be ready for the 2013 season. They'll be in four levels in the south end zone. The upper range of prices is expected to be between \$87 and \$313. The project will also include construction of a rooftop viewing terrace that club-seat holders can use on game days. Current season-ticket holders will get the first access to the new seats with a chance to trade their existing seats. Priority goes to those who have held tickets the longest.

8-25-11 new fdl public works director named

Jordan Skiff, the current public works director in Sparta, will succeed Mark Lentz as the City of Fond du Lac's public works director. Lentz retires August 31 and Skiff begins September 12. Skiff has been the Sparta public works director since February 2000 and served in numerous engineering job assignments as an active duty Air Force officer prior to that. He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor of arts degree in engineering science from Bethel College in St. Paul, Minnesota where he earned cum laude honors. He is a graduate of Neillsville (Wisconsin) High School and was the valedictorian of his class. "Jordan Skiff is a superb fit for this challenging job," said City Manager Tom Herre. "He combines more than a decade's worth of experience as a Wisconsin public works director, valuable military leadership experience and an abundance of invigorating spirit." Skiff was one of two finalists for the job, the other being Bob Bartelt, the Village of Howard's public works director. The selection process included interviews with a panel of city department directors and public works leaders from other Wisconsin cities as well as one-on-one tours and conversations with city public works department division chiefs. Skiff was selected from a field of 25 applicants.

8-25-11 car crashes into fdl convenience store

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Nobody was injured when a car accidentally crashed into the front door at Ma and Pa's Grocery Express on South Main Street. The driver said the accelerator stuck and she couldn't stop. The accident happened shortly before 10am.

8-25-11 judge throws out sex assault case against fdl boy accused of giving teen girl a hickey-calls charging decision "egregious"

Charges have been dismissed against a Fond du Lac boy accused of sexually assaulting a teenage girl by giving her a hickey. Fond du lac Judge Gary Sharpe dismissed the charges last week following a preliminary hearing. The 17 year old Fond du lac High School Senior was charged with second degree sexual assault. He is accused of giving a 13 year old girl a hickey on the girl's breast area, according to a criminal complaint. "Even if he did give her a hickey on her breast should this be charged as a 40 year felony with lifetime sex offender registration? Its nuts, that's not what this statute is for," the boys attorney Mike O'Rourke said. "The judge on my motion dismissed the case calling it one of the most egregious cases of overcharging he has ever seen. It was shocking to me that it was charged at such a high level. I have never seen it charged for two teenagers making out in a car and giving each other hickeys." O'Rourke says the District Attorney's office is apparently not giving up the fight and plans to appeal the judge's decision.

8-25-11 goding resigns

The Fond du Lac city engineer has resigned his position before an internal investigation determines his fate with the city. Rick Goding submitted his letter of resignation on Monday, retroactive to August first. Goding is charged with child sex assault.

8-25-11 fea president not allowed to speak at school year kickoff gathering

For the first time in a decade the president of the Fond du lac Education Association will not be allowed to speak at Thursday's school year kick off ceremony. Hedy Eischeid says the superintendent was concerned about what she was going to say. "I inquired as to his rationale and he (superintendent Dr. Jim Sebert) indicated to me that he was concerned about what I would say," Eischeid said. "His other comment to me was that he didn't believe any good would come from it." Eischeid says allowing her to speak would have been a step toward mending some fences between the administration and teachers following the heated debate over collective bargaining law changes.

8-25-11 local unemployment rate down

Local unemployment rates are down in the latest reporting period. The July unemployment rate for the city of Fond du lac stands at 8.8 percent...down from 9.2 percent in June. The Fond du Lac County jobless rate fell from 7.8 to 7.3 percent. The Dodge County unemployment rate is down from 8.4 to 7.9 percent.

8-25-11 semi trailer breaks in half in freak accident

Nobody was injured after a semi broke in half while attempting to turn a corner in Fond du lac. Police Captain Steve Klein says the freak accident was reported Monday afternoon. The accident happened at the intersection of Brooke and Kelly Streets. Klein says It appears there were structural problems that resulted in the trailer splitting in two. The intersection was shut down to traffic for nearly four hours.

8-25-11 owi 5th on lawnmower

Local residents along Blackhawk Trail in the Town of Fox Lake became increasingly concerned with a 73-year old man who consistently drove his lawn tractor down the road while consuming alcohol. The man's behavior became erratic and his conduct disturbing so when he drove down the road Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. drinking a can a beer they contacted the Dodge County Sheriffs Dept. Authorities mutually aided the Fox Lake Police Dept. to locate the man until Sheriffs Deputies could respond. Authorities did locate the man driving his lawn tractor and arrested him for Operation of a MV While Intoxicated - 5th offense. The suspect previous OWI convictions include two in 1997, and one each in 1991 and 2001. "I think people need to understand that it is illegal to operate any motorized vehicle/implement upon any town/city/county or state road while intoxicated. These people present a danger to others no different that those operating cars," stated Sheriff Todd Nehls. "I think it is also important for people to know that the law allows these very dated convictions to count which greatly increases the penalties to include a Felony conviction, stated Nehls.

8-25-11 wolf lake beach reopens

On Wednesday August 24, 2011 the Fond du Lac County Code Enforcement Office removed the beach closed signs. Water tests collected at the swimming beach on Aug 22 and 23 tested below 235 e. coli per 100 ml'. Code Enforcement will resume weekly testing of Wolf Lake's beach water. Water quality testing is done as a precaution to alert swimmers when bacteria levels are high which puts swimmers at an increase risk for developing gastrointestinal illnesses.

8-25-11 lantz retiring

The Fond du lac city council has recognized longtime Fond du Lac Public Works Director, Mark Lantz. Lantz is retiring next week after 30 years of service to the city. The council presented Lantz with a plaque at last night's meeting. Lantz has been the public works director in Fond du Lac since 2000. Before that he

served as Fond du Lac city engineer.

8-25-11 tornadoes confirmed

NEILLSVILLE, Wis. (AP) — The National Weather Service confirms that a couple of tornadoes touched down in Wisconsin yesterday. The weather service says an EF-Two tornado with winds of 135 miles per hour hit Clark County near Chili about 5 p.m. Tuesday. A weaker, EF-zero tornado touched down about 7 p.m. in Shawano County.

8-25-11 governor issues disaster declaration

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Governor Scott Walker has declared an official state of emergency in three far northwestern Wisconsin counties due to hundreds of thousands of downed trees. Walker issued the order for Burnett, Douglas and Washburn counties today. The declaration officially puts the Department of Natural Resources in charge of the log clean-up and also authorizes the Wisconsin National Guard to participate if the mission is federally approved.

8-25-11 west nile virus confirmed

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin health officials have confirmed the first cases of West Nile virus in animals in the state this year. State and county health officials said today that two birds tested positive for the virus — one in Dane County and the other in Waupaca County.

8-25-11 health care reforms

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A new report has found that federal health care reform should drastically decrease the number of uninsured people in Wisconsin but mean higher premiums. Former Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle's administration commissioned Massachusetts-based Gorman Actuarial, LLC, last year to study the reform plan's effects on Wisconsin markets. The report found mandates that people purchase health insurance coupled with tax credits will help decrease the number of uninsured people in the state from about 520,000 now to about 180,000 by 2016. However, nearly 90 percent of individuals without employer-sponsored or public assistance likely will see premium increases. After the tax credits are applied about 60 percent will see increases.

8-25-11 avery appeal denied

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A state appeals court has denied an appeal by a Manitowoc County man sent to prison for life for killing a photographer. Steven Avery was convicted of killing Teresa Halbach in 2005 after she went to the Avery family salvage yard to shoot photos of vehicles for a magazine. Avery argued he deserved a new trial, in part, because he wasn't allowed to blame anyone else for killing Halbach. The appeals court said Avery's claim was properly deemed inadmissible. A jury convicted Avery of first-degree intentional homicide and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole. His nephew, Brendan Dassey, was also convicted of helping his uncle kill the 25-year-old woman.

8-25-11 wiaa lawsuit

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A federal appeals court in Chicago has upheld the Wisconsin scholastic athletic association's right to limit who streams its games live on the Internet. Today's ruling came in a lawsuit between the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and Gannett newspapers.

8-25-11 brett favre look-alike

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — A Brett Favre look-alike says he wasn't trying to fool anyone when he showed up at Green Bay Packers practice last week wearing the former quarterback's jersey and signing autographs. Kirk Ermatinger of Ripon says he was shocked when he saw the story and his picture all over the Internet. Ermatinger signed autographs but doesn't say whether it was Favre's name he signed. The 47-year-old says he's often told he looks a lot like Favre, down to the gray sideburns. He says he didn't know the picture was taken and he didn't intend to create a stir. He also says he wore the Favre jersey because it's his only Packers jersey. Favre's travel coordinator said his boss hasn't been in town since the last Minnesota Vikings game.

8-25-11 2011 wisconsin waterfowl hunting seasons set

MADISON — The Natural Resources Board set 2011 waterfowl season dates and bag limits and approved creation of a third waterfowl hunting zone at its meeting today in Spring Green.

"Waterfowl hunters can look forward to a full 60-day duck season with a six-duck daily bag, and an 85-day exterior goose zone season," said Kent Van Horn, Department of Natural Resources waterfowl ecologist. "It was a good year for duck production in Wisconsin and across the continent. Overall conditions were very good for breeding ducks. The continental breeding duck estimates hit a record level at 45.6 million ducks making 2011 good year to be a duck hunter. "As always, the most successful hunters will be the ones doing the early season scouting, locating the smaller isolated potholes that can attract waterfowl when hunting pressure is high in other areas and securing permissions from landowners well in advance," added Van Horn. "I'd like to thank the thousands of hunters who participated in the development of our new duck hunting zones and wish all waterfowl hunters a successful and safe season."

2011 waterfowl season structure

During the 60-day season duck season, the daily bag limit is six ducks in total. The six-duck total may include no more than four mallards, of which only one can be a hen, three wood ducks, two redheads, one black duck, two pintail, two scaup and one canvasback. In addition, five mergansers to include not more than two hooded mergansers. Coot daily bag of 15. (For duck species not listed such as teal and ring-necked ducks, the combined total with all other species may not exceed six ducks).

Northern Zone—Sept. 24 at 9 a.m.—Nov. 22.

Southern Zone—Oct. 1 at 9 a.m.—Oct. 9, and Oct. 15—Dec. 4.

Mississippi River Zone—Sept. 24 at 9 a.m.—Oct. 2, Oct. 15—Dec. 4 (12 day split Oct 3-14),

Youth Waterfowl Hunt

The youth waterfowl hunt will be Sept. 17-18. Youth may harvest Canada geese in all zones during these 2 days. All bag limits and tag requirements apply for the zone hunted. These days overlap with open goose seasons in most areas so adults will also be able to harvest geese but not ducks during the youth hunt.

Canada geese

The state is apportioned into two goose hunting zones: Horizon and Exterior. Other goose management subzones within the Exterior Zone include Brown County and the Mississippi River.

Exterior Zone: 85 days. Daily bag of two Canada geese.

North Zone: Sept. 16-23 and Sept. 24, (9a.m.)-Dec. 9.

South Zone: September 16-30, October 1 (9 a.m.)-Oct. 9 and Oct. 15-Dec. 14.

Mississippi River Subzone: Sept. 24 (9a.m.)-Oct. 2, Oct. 15-Dec. 29.

Horicon Time Periods: Hunters with Horicon zone permits will be issued six tags for the time period that they are awarded. The daily bag limit will be two geese with a possession limit of six.

Horicon : 92 days Period 1 Sept. 16-Oct. 30, Period 2 Oct. 31 –Dec. 16

Other Geese: Brant and Light geese Seasons will be the same as for the Canada goose zones/subzones. The daily bag limit will be one brant and 20 snow, blue or Ross' geese. White fronted geese season will be the same as Canada geese for the Exterior zone and within the Horicon zone the season will be from Sept. 20-Dec. 16. The daily bag limit will be one.

Third Waterfowl hunting zone added

The new three-zone season structure adds a third waterfowl zone to the existing northern and southern duck zones. The new third zone consists of the Mississippi River from roughly Prescott to the Wisconsin – Illinois border, west of the railroad, and is identical to the current Mississippi River Canada goose subzone. What is now identified as the Mississippi River Zone for duck hunters will open Sept. 24 – Oct. 2; reopening Oct 15 through Dec. 4. Goose seasons in this zone will continue through Dec. 29.

Mentored Hunting

Wisconsin's mentored hunting law allows any registered hunter age 18 and older to introduce anyone age 10 and older to hunting without the mentee first passing a hunter safety education course. It's a great way to generate excitement and interest in adding hunting to a lifestyle. Interested hunters can learn more at the Mentored Hunting Law page of the DNR website.

8-25-11 fdl salvation army in need of school supplies

On Saturday, August 27 the Salvation Army will be handing out more than 400 backpacks full of school supplies to needy children, and it is still in critical need of supplies. "remaining supplies out to those who missed the sign up the following Monday, which will be We fill the back packs on August 23 and 24," says Heather Merten who has organized this year's drive for supplies. "We distribute them to those who signed up last spring for school supply help, and give any August 29 this year. Generally speaking everyone who needs school supplies get most of what they need. It is our aim to provide students with a 'leg up' and ask parents and students themselves to be responsible for acquiring the last few needed supplies," she concludes. Supplies still in critical needs are 1000 spiral notebooks, 1000 multicolored folders, 150 TI-30X11s calculators, 250 binders, 216 boxes of colored pencils, 600 glue sticks, and 250 school scissors. Those who wish to make a tax deductible donation of school supplies or a financial gift to purchase supplies may bring them to the Follett Street entrance of The Salvation Army, which is located on the corner of North Macy and Follett Street any Monday through Friday between 9AM and 4PM. To volunteer to help stuff back packs on August 23 & 24, call Heather at 923-8220.



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