



## Victor Caratini proves to be a quick study

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# THE REPORTER

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Brothers Sam, left, and Owen Stoppeworth are the owners of the new Brothers Antiques, 861 Grove St., formerly Pat's Gallery of Antiques. They open May 28. PHOTOS BY DAN POWERS/USA TODAY NETWORK-WIS.

## FDL twins to open Brothers Antiques

### Pat's Gallery of Antiques says goodbye

Daphne Lemke Fond du Lac Reporter | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

As one Fond du Lac antique staple says goodbye, two young men are taking the helm to expand their business and keep antiquing alive in the area. • Pat's Gallery of Antiques, 861 Grove St., closed April 28 but will remain an antique store — renamed Brothers Antiques — as it is reopened later this month.

Twin brothers Sam and Owen Stoppeworth, originally from Oakfield, bought the building to feed their love of antiques and history — and to keep Fond du Lac from having one less antique store.

The brothers have bought and sold antiques since they were 13. Now, at 23, they took the opportunity to start a physical store after they already established an online presence, Sam Stoppeworth said.

“Our business started out more as a hobby through high school, centralized mostly around local sales and some online sales through eBay,” he said. “With the start of college, we put more time into the business in an effort to pay for some of the

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Brothers Sam and Owen Stoppeworth are the owners of the new Brothers Antiques.

## Aaron Sadoff is new Fond du Lac Area Foundation executive director

Daphne Lemke Fond du Lac Reporter USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

FOND DU LAC – A familiar face will find a new role next year as North Fond du Lac school leader Aaron Sadoff sets to transition as executive director of Fond du Lac Area Foundation.

Sadoff, superintendent of the School District of North Fond du Lac, will officially take on the role Jan. 1 after serving the school district for 13 years, according to a news release from the foundation.



Sadoff

The position opened after Joe Braun resigned at the end of last month, after 20 years with the foundation and four as executive director. He made this decision in favor of a different career opportunity that will give him more time for family and travel, he said in an April news release.

David Hornung, a foundation board member, stepped up to interim director during the search to replace Braun, and he will continue in the role for the rest of this year.

Sadoff is a Gulf War Veteran with a master's degree in educational leadership and administration from Marian University alongside his superintendent license.

As superintendent for North Fond du Lac, he helped create the Oriole Nation Booster, which raises over \$80,000 every year for students, contributing to academic, athletic, club, music and other art experiences.

During his time with the district, enrollment grew and a \$29.5 million referendum funded a new elementary school and district-wide building updates. Sadoff also advocated for public influencing changes for the area and beyond and helped create a culture focused on people and the whole student, earning the Wisconsin State Superintendent of the Year award in 2019.

“We have a motto in North Fond du Lac: ‘Working Together for the Success of All,’” Sadoff said in the release. “I look forward striving for this motto throughout the greater Fond du Lac community.”

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## Rep. Tim Ramthun doubles down on election ‘nullification,’ says Vos should be prosecuted

Molly Beck Milwaukee Journal Sentinel USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON – Grievance over the outcome of the 2020 election continues to dominate the Republican primary race for governor just months from the midterms, with one candidate popular with the base of the GOP reviving a push to nullify the state's 10 electoral votes cast for President Joe Biden and calling for a Republican legislative leader to be prosecuted.

State Rep. Tim Ramthun, a Republican from Campbellsport, is drafting a new resolution to bring to his Assembly colleagues that aims to decertify the 2020 election result, which has been deemed to be a fantasy by legal experts and constitutional scholars, including an attorney who once represented former President Donald Trump.

But Ramthun told supporters he plans to draft the legislation, which resembles a resolution he introduced last year that Republican legislative leaders rejected, without the word “decertify.”

“I did modify the words. If there was the word ‘decertification’ anywhere in it, I took it out and I had it replaced with either ‘nullify’ and/or ‘reclaim’ to address the ballot specifics or the votes’ specifics so we can have a tighter focus (on) the language so that there wouldn't be excuses from the naysayers,” Ramthun said in an April 29 virtual town hall event organized by supporters of Trump's false claims of significant voter fraud in the 2020 election.

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State Rep. Timothy Ramthun reacts to applause before speaking at a rally supporting the legally impossible act of overturning Wisconsin's 2020 presidential election on Feb. 15 at the Capitol in Madison.

MARK HOFFMAN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

USA TODAY

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# US, others say Africa has become main target of IS

## Group had been largely underground since 2019

**Zeina Karam and Tarik El Barakah**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RABAT, Morocco — A senior U.S. official said Wednesday the world must remain vigilant about the continued threat posed by the Islamic State group around the globe — especially in Africa — a reminder of an unfinished war despite the overwhelming preoccupation with the conflict in Ukraine.

Victoria Nuland, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, said the threat from IS was particularly high on the African continent, which she said saw nearly 500 IS terrorist incidents in 2021 resulting in the deaths of more than 2,900 people.

“At the same time as we are preventing the resurgence of (IS) in Iraq and

Syria, we need to remain vigilant to the continued threat it poses elsewhere in the world, especially here on the African continent,” she said.

Nuland spoke at the opening session in the Moroccan city of Marrakech of the annual gathering of members of the global anti-IS coalition. She is co-chairing this year’s meeting of the 8-year-old, 83-member bloc with Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita. The gathering aims to reaffirm attendees’ shared determination to continue fighting IS.

Nuland, the third highest-ranking U.S. diplomat, replaced Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who tested positive for COVID-19.

IS at the height of its power controlled more than 40,000 square miles stretching from Syria to Iraq and ruled over 8 million people. It lost its last patch of territory in eastern Syria in March 2019 following a yearslong global

fight against the group.

Since that time, it has largely gone underground and waged a low-level insurgency, including roadside bombings, assassinations and hit-and-run attacks mostly targeting security forces in Iraq and Syria.

In recent months, the group has exploited economic collapse, lack of governance and growing ethnic tensions in the impoverished region to reverse counter-IS gains. Its attacks in the region included a major assault earlier this year to seize a prison in northeast Syria holding at least 3,000 IS detainees. In Afghanistan, IS militants have stepped up attacks on the country’s new rulers, the Taliban, as well as religious and ethnic minorities.

The group has claimed several attacks in Israel recently, and an Islamic State affiliate in Egypt on Sunday claimed an attack that targeted a water pumping station east of the Suez Canal,

killing at least 11 soldiers.

“We remain clear on the state of the (IS) threat, which has not diminished,” said Bourita, warning that Africa has become the group’s main target, suffering 41% of all IS attacks worldwide.

Militants pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group remain active in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, where they have been blamed for scores of attacks on villages that have killed hundreds of civilians. Islamic extremists in Nigeria also have carried out violence under the banner of a group they call the Islamic State West Africa Province. More recently, IS-affiliated militants have claimed responsibility for deadly violence targeting Congolese soldiers and bars in the country’s embattled east.

Mozambique’s extremist rebels are also aligned with the IS group and announced this week it is known as the Islamic State Mozambique Province.

## Antique shop

Continued from Page 1A

tuition.”

They took their interest in studying and learning history and used it to accumulate antiques early in life, taking inspiration from shows like American Pickers and bidding on auction items they felt were undervalued.

“It all spiraled from there, and before we knew it, we were spending our weekends traveling around to auctions, estate sales and antique stores in the area,” Stopplesworth said.

They cultivated a following online, growing the business quickly, and after the COVID-19 pandemic reached the area, the business expanded substantially.

After graduating college, despite working full-time jobs, they poured more time and effort into the business and committed to creating an ever-changing atmosphere in the industry and bringing in “new,” fresh and interesting items.

“As part of the small group of the younger generation of antique dealers,

we look to use our youthful energy and transform how antique stores have traditionally been operated,” Stopplesworth said.

Their goal is to both captivate the traditional, older customers with their antiques, and also bring in a younger crowd and encourage them to recognize the beauty and craftsmanship the pieces have, he said.

“In an era where everything that is made seems to be disposable, we look to showcase the longevity of older furnishings and the appreciation in value that they have over time,” he said.

Their favorite aspect of the business is the thrill of the hunt as they collect pieces, but just as rewarding is curating and selling the items they carry.

They feel a sense of duty in preserving antiques and the stories those antiques carry with them, finding buyers that will cherish an item and give it new life.

“We never know what we might be able to pull out an old dilapidated garage, what we might find buried in a box of trinkets from an estate sale, or what we might discover tucked away in an attic,” Stopplesworth said.

The grand opening for Brothers Antiques is planned for May 28, and the

store will be open on weekends only as a side business to the brothers’ full-time careers.

For more information and updates to the business, find them on the Brothers Antiques Facebook page.

### Pat’s Gallery ends 25-year era as antiques industry evolves

Pat’s Gallery of Antiques has been part of Fond du Lac since April 1997, but just over a year ago, owner Pat Wendt announced her plans to retire and sell off the store’s stock.

“It’s very bittersweet because of the friendships we made over the years,” Wendt told The Reporter.

She and her daughter Amy Ott, who has been with the business since the beginning, have felt the love and support from their customers, which sometimes manifested in the form of invites to weddings and baby showers, she said.

“We’re very excited for the boys for buying the space,” Ott said. “It’ll be interesting to see their personality in the store.”

Pat’s was always known for its jewelry, but it carried everything in the warehouse-like store, and holidays were al-

ways bustling for the business.

Every year, the store would host a Christmas open house with vintage jewelry, gifts and decorations, though many people would come just for some of Wendt’s famous cookies.

“I don’t know what I’m going to do with myself this year without baking batches and batches of cookies,” she said.

Ott said the industry has seen many changes, including what people look for at an antique store and the shifting trends in the market.

When Pat’s first opened, Victorian and Classical items were in demand, and many of the buyers were older, she said. Now, “Retro” is popular, and it’s the older people that are selling — and a younger crowd is buying.

Over the years, Wendt and Ott have learned a lot about the business and how it evolved, and now Wendt will have to “recreate” herself, she said.

“I have every bit of confidence (the Stopplesworth brothers) will do an awesome job,” she said. “I’m glad to see it stay an antique store.”

Contact Daphne Lemke at [dlemke@gannett.com](mailto:dlemke@gannett.com). Follow her on Twitter at @daphlemke.

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