



Theatre Z tackles tough topics through humor
City Pages



St. Norbert alum named NHL head coach
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Coming home after eight decades

World War II veteran laid to rest with family



The folding of the flag is conducted by the honor guard from Naval Station Great Lakes during the May 27 services.

Submitted photo

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GREEN BAY – A World War II soldier with Green Bay roots was laid to rest May 29 in Mt. Vernon Cemetery outside Juda, just east of Monroe.

The burial comes over eight decades after Seaman Second Class David Joseph Riley lost his life on the USS Oklahoma during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

Riley was born on Feb. 18, 1916, in Green Bay.

His parents are listed in census records as George F. and Ethel J. Riley, but little is known about his childhood until the age of 11 when he became the foster son of Elmer and Della Asmus of Juda.

His distant cousin, Deb Krauss Smith, is one of the closest rela-

tives to Riley.

“He’s not a biological cousin; my great-granduncle would be his foster father. He became my great-granduncle and aunt’s foster child when he was 11 years old, and they had no other children. David was

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Farmers’ Market on Broadway kicks off 20th season

BY PRESS TIMES STAFF

GREEN BAY – On May 24, the Farmers’ Market on Broadway kicked off its 20th season in the Broadway District.

On Broadway said that the farmers’ market is one of the largest in the state.

The venue offers fresh produce and flowers, locally-made crafts, food truck vendors and products from Broadway District businesses, and runs May 24 through Sept. 27 this season.

“We are excited to celebrate 20 years of the market this year over the course of the 19 week season,” said Allie Thut, director of special events, On Broadway, Inc. “There will be 110 plus vendors selling locally made products and entertainment for the community to enjoy.”

“The Farmers’ Market on Broadway has been one of the single largest contributing factors to the revitalization efforts of the Broadway District,” added Brian Johnson, On Broadway executive director. “In addition to the hundreds of small businesses that it helps support, it has provided critical space activation in a previously blighted area that showed the community what the district

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A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated youth room at Foster the Village was held May 23. Pictured from left: Allison Tarlton, Michael Gehm, Luke Mitchell, Cheri Salmon, Erica Plaza, Samantha Webster, Morgan Hicks and Ross Johnson.

Foster the Village opens renovated youth room

BY ANNIKA MORSCHAUSER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

GREEN BAY – The ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated youth room at Foster the Village took place on May 23.

The renovation was completed in time for National Foster Care Month, with only a few furniture pieces left to be delivered.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Director of Marketing Erica Plaza explained the

purpose of the room.

“The foster youth can come. They can feel comfortable. They can hang out. They can feel safe. A place where they can meet

See YOUTH ROOM page 8

Time passages

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GREEN BAY – On May 24, the Greater Green Bay YMCA placed a new time capsule above the front door archway of the Ferguson Family YMCA building at 235 N. Jefferson St., Green Bay.

The time capsule replaces the one that was opened in 2021 to celebrate the YMCA’s 150th anniversary.

“(In 2021), we took the time capsule out and saw some really cool stuff, including an American flag with 48 stars on it,” recalled Greater Green Bay YMCA President/CEO Sean Elliott. “It had newspaper clippings of the day in 1923, where the community raised \$425,000. This is 1923, right? \$425,000 for this YMCA right behind us that has been serving

See TIME CAPSULE page 7



Greater Green Bay YMCA’s Former Board Chair Chris Stiles and YMCA President/CEO Sean Elliott, with assistance from IEI, place a new capsule above the Ferguson Family YMCA building archway.

Kris Leonhardt photo

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RILEY
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their only child. And so there are no other descendants from that family one and, of course, David died before he married, you know? So, those of us who are left are just cousins a couple of generations removed and we're foster cousins," Krauss Smith stated.



Riley

"Just recently I found out he was born in 1916. And I recently found a record where his parents weren't actually married until 1918. So, either the father that's listed in the 1920 census is not his biological father or they just married after he was born; we just don't know. And then somewhere in the early 20s or mid-20s, the parents divorced. And somehow then David ended up in foster care.

"You know, it was kind of on the eve of the Depression starting, so we don't know what the circumstances were, but I do have documentation that he was placed through an agency at Children's Home Society in Madison. And that's how he ended up with my uncle and aunt."

Riley attended high school until his sophomore year and worked at a bakery and a café on Monroe.

Before enlisting in the Navy, Riley served in the Wisconsin National Guard Company K.

Riley then signed up to serve for six years with the Navy, and after a short leave in July 1940, he was assigned to the USS Oklahoma.

He was one of the 429 sailors who died aboard the battleship after it was sunk by Japanese aircraft.

His remains were listed as unrecoverable and unaccounted for until February 2021 when the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency used forensic technology to identify remains.

Claiming David

"It wasn't until 2021 — between the months of June and November in 2021 — that the sailors' remains were exhumed," explained Krauss Smith.

"They had been interred in actually a couple of different cemeteries in Hawaii, the skeletal remains thrown in caskets.

"And when it started doing this, they thought there would be like maybe four or five sailors remains in a casket and when they started analyzing them, using DNA, they found there were hundreds in one casket.

"They use professional genealogists to find a paper trail to identify any remaining biological family that might be out there. And so that's what they



Members of the Zilmer-Riley American Legion Post No. 84 Honor Guard begin the memorial program. Submitted photo

did with David; and because with all of the military, when they returned remains somewhere, the biological family has first dibs on it — I guess you'd say I don't know what other word to use — but you don't have the first opportunity to reclaim those remains.

"Then, they get a DNA swab from the biological person that they've identified, and then match that to the remains to verify that is the family.

"They found a distant maternal relative of his that doesn't even live in Wisconsin. And when it came right down to it, this person said, 'Well, we don't know who he is; we didn't know he ever existed.'

"So, they declined the opportunity to [handle] his remains."

The message

In the fall of 2021, Krauss Smith was contacted on Facebook by someone asking if she was David Riley's cousin.

The individual contacting her was connected with the Wisconsin Patriot Guard Riders — a veterans

group that assists with the burial of Wisconsin veterans.

"If it had not been for that initial contact, I would not have known anything about this at all," Krauss Smith stated.

The Wisconsin Patriot Guard Riders work to ensure that military veterans and public service veterans are laid to rest with "dignity and respect," which is completed by 1,400 volunteers across the state.

While the Navy searched for biological family members, Krauss Smith was doing some research of her own.

"In the meantime, I had put together a lot of documentation using information from a couple of historians in Juda and also from the Green County Historical Society... I was able to document that, yes indeed he was a foster child of my aunt and uncle and had the paperwork from Madison from the agency that he came from and other things that just corroborated that this is where he lived and this was his home," she said.

Krauss Smith made contact with the Navy in August of 2021

"Of course, they have to do everything on their end, but it was months and months and months and

nothing was happening," she said.

"Every couple of months, I would check in with the Navy and they'd say, 'Oh, we're working on it.'

"It wasn't until Nov. 10, 2022, that I finally got a call from the Navy telling me that I had been designated as what they call the person authorized to direct disposition, which translated means he got to come home, he gets to come back to Juda."

In December, personnel from the Navy Casualty Office in Tennessee came to Wisconsin to meet with her and explain how Riley was identified and help set up a memorial and burial.

"For anybody waiting for word on a service member from their family whose remains were unrecoverable, it is a wait anyway. His was especially complicated because there was no biological family, it was a foster family. So, that just makes it a little more dicey," Krauss Smith explained.

The tribute

On May 29, Riley was honored during a memorial service held at Juda High School and was interred alongside his foster parents, who passed in 1960 and 1976.

The service brings to close an eight decades-long homeward journey for Riley.

"I think he had unfortunate circumstances throughout his life, you know? We don't know for sure, but there's a good chance that his childhood was not the greatest and then being put in foster care," Krauss Smith said.

"And it seemed like when he entered the Navy that maybe he was really

finding his niche and his way there because before he died, before Pearl Harbor, he had sent a letter back to one of his foster cousins here. [The] letter indicated that he was realizing the seriousness of life and all the opportunities he had missed thus far, and he intended to make that right when he got out of the Navy. But he never had the opportunity to do that. So in a way, it's kind of a sad story.

"I think, you know, he was just coming into his own and didn't get the opportunity to do that. But, the positive side is the community he came from Juda is small; it's like 400 people, it's unincorporated.

"That was his community, whether he realized it or not. And all of these years, you know, 81 years later, they've never forgotten him."

On May 26, Gov. Tony Evers ordered the flags of the United States and the state of Wisconsin to be flown at half-staff in honor of Riley.

"The attack on Pearl Harbor changed the trajectory of World War II and our state and country, taking the lives of more than 50 Wisconsinites, including Navy Seaman Second Class Riley," Evers said. "We are grateful for the effort to ensure that Navy Seaman Second Class Riley's remains were returned so he can be laid to rest in Wisconsin. On behalf of his home state, we honor him for his service and sacrifice to this nation and the values we hold dear."

Monroe's American Legion Post No. 84 was renamed the Zilmer-Riley post in 1947, in Riley's honor.

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Changing their world one by one

BY MELANIE ROSSI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

GREEN BAY – Using Trap Neuter Vaccinate Return (TNVR) services, Cats Anonymous, Inc., works to improve the lives of feral cats living in northeastern Wisconsin.

The organization began in 2005 in response to community concerns for the wellbeing of local stray cats.

By humanely limiting the growth of feral cat colonies, better care could be provided to stray cat populations and less pressure would be put on shelters and clinics, preventing increases in the use of euthanasia.

The goal of Cats Anonymous is to care for America's favorite pets, but unlike the improved solutions that have arisen to help care for dogs, the approach to helping cats has been historically different.

"The overpopulation problem affected both of them (dogs and cats), but the solutions were very different," Lisa Kay Sperbeck, volunteer board president of Cats Anonymous said.

Solutions to help with the overpopulation of stray dogs could take place through in-home neutering processes and fighting unethical breeders, both of which have been, according to Sperbeck, "wildly successful."

"But when we look at cats," she said, "it's been wildly different. We estimate that half the cat population

in this country is unowned, so preaching to owners that don't exist doesn't do much.

"Cats have never been historically obtained as pets from breeders anywhere near the rate that dogs are. So, if we were going to improve their lives and take the pressures off of shelters and all of these cats being taken away and euthanized, we had to look at this very different source of kittens, and that's where TNVR comes in."

Trap Neuter Vaccinate Return services aim to vaccinate cats against rabies as well as curb the negative effects of overpopulation using spay neutering.

Sperbeck explained that Cats Anonymous is "a high volume, high quality spay neuter service" that first starts with whoever is caring for a colony registering with the organization.

"We're very focused on making sure that we're not just doing one cat here or one cat there. We want to know how many cats are in this colony and we want to get that colony as close to 100% fixed as possible. We figure out how many there are and educate the property owners on how the process is going to go."

The organization next gives the property owners the traps and explains how to use them in the safest way possible for the cats.

Then, when going through the organization's surgical



By humanely limiting the growth of feral cat colonies, better care could be provided to stray cat populations and less pressure would be put on shelters and clinics. Submitted photo

program, the cats also receive vaccinations, "to help the cats be healthier, as well as protect the community," Sperbeck said.

After neutering the cats and administering vaccines, the organization stays with the colony caretaker and helps to monitor the cat colony to ensure that the population stops growing.

Cats Anonymous has been doing this work for 18 years in 13 different Northeastern counties, and their work has had a noted impact.

"When we look at the statistics of where people are obtaining their pet cats, it's very steadily becoming more fully vetted, socialized cats and kittens that they are getting from shelters and rescues instead of just picking up strays...

Those trends have definitely changed," Sperbeck added.

For Cats Anonymous, the main goal isn't to act as a cat adoption agency; by letting the rescues and shelters focus on finding the cats new homes, Cats Anonymous can fully devote their time to decreasing the overpopulation of stray cats so they can receive better care.

"There are so many good shelters and rescues in this

area if people want to adopt a socialized cat. That's where we really direct people," Sperbeck said. "When we first started, we tried to pull kittens out of colonies and put them in foster care so people could adopt them, but that very quickly became overwhelming — it was a drain on resources."

The organization quickly realized that many stray cats are past the stage at which it is possible for them to be socialized and domesticated, but that doesn't mean they can't live healthy lives.

"Most of the cats that we are dealing with are beyond the pet stage... When you miss that, they don't necessarily want to be pets," Sperbeck added. "The cats that we work with are healthy, they're muscular, bright-eyed. They're living really great lives... But if you want to pick them up, they're not having any of it."

For Sperbeck, one common parable aptly exemplifies the work Cats Anonymous aims to accomplish.

In the parable, Sperbeck said, people are walking down the riverbank when

they see a baby floating in a basket down the river.

"They start pulling the baby out, but then more babies start coming in, and all of a sudden somebody leaves the group and starts walking away. Everyone who's trying to save these babies in the river is like, 'What are you doing? There are babies to be saved!' Well, I'm going upstream to see who the heck is throwing the babies in the river!"

Sperbeck added, "It's good we have both. We have people who are fixing the issues for the individuals, the cats who are without a home today and trying to find them good homes. And we're upstream trying to prevent more cats who don't have a home from being born in the first place."

With their spay neutering and vaccination services, in addition to partnering with local vets, Cats Anonymous works upstream, helping the future generations of stray cats one colony at a time.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/CatsAnonymous or call (920) 321-1967.

TIME CAPSULE

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the community; and the special part — at least to me — is that the community raised all those dollars in 13 days and the largest capital gift was \$25,000. So, there's literally a ledger inside the downtown YMCA with thousands and thousands of capital receipts for \$10, \$15, \$25.

"So, the point of all that is the community built this YMCA. It's a privilege to continue to serve this great community at our downtown YMCA."

Greater Green Bay YMCA's Former Board Chair Chris Stiles said that he was excited to be a part of the installation of the time capsule, considering his family's long history with the YMCA.

"It's a pretty exciting time for the Green Bay YMCA



Greater Green Bay YMCA President/CEO Sean Elliott talks about the items included in the time capsule. Kris Leonhardt photo

again. In 2021, we celebrated our 150th year of serving the community. When I was asked to give some opening comments, I started thinking about this building in particular this archway — my great-grandfather

walked through this door, my grandfather walked through this door, my father walked through this door (and) I still walked through this door and so do my kids. So, five generations that have passed through this archway underneath this time capsule; and when we opened it up, we saw some really fantastic things," he explained.

"And we put some really neat things in this for the next five generations to open down the road. So, I'm excited."

The new time capsule included current news articles, membership brochures and impact reports, as well as a 150th-anniversary t-shirt and donations from area businesses.

Elliott and Stiles were assisted by IEI in accessing the ledge above the archway for the installation.



Progress at the port

More than \$10 million in federal infrastructure grant money will be used to redevelop the former Pulliam Power Plant site into a new port facility and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, at podium, along with Senator Tammy Baldwin, visited the site on May 24 to highlight the progress being made with the Biden Administration's Investing in America Agenda. Pictured in back along with Baldwin, far left, are Administrator of the United States Maritime Administration Ann Philips and International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139 President Terry McGowan. Josh Staloch photo



On May 24, the Farmers' Market on Broadway kicked off its 20th season in the Broadway District. Mike Hollihan photo

MARKET

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could be. It continues to be a beacon and driving force behind why the Broadway District is one of Wisconsin's most talked about revitalization success stories."

On Broadway said that the 20th anniversary season will offer "celebrity volunteers," a special 20th anniversary brew from Titletown Brewing Co. and various live music options. Farmers' market hours

are 3-8 p.m. every Wednesday before Labor Day, and 3-7 p.m. after Labor Day, and the market happens rain or shine.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/farmersmarketonbroadway.

The Press Times

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Three St. Norbert students receive Gilman scholarships

FOR THE PRESS TIMES

DE PERE – The Center for Global Engagement (CGE) announced that three St. Norbert College students have been selected to receive Gilman scholarship awards.

The U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program awards students up to \$5,000, or up to \$8,000 if they also are recipients of the Gilman Critical Need Language Award, to apply toward their study abroad or internship program costs.

About 1,500 U.S. undergraduate students have been selected nationally to receive Gilman scholarship awards from the March 2023 application cycle.

St. Norbert recipients include:

Carissa Baumgartner

\$5,000 Gilman award

Baumgartner, of Waterford, will be studying abroad through the University of Minnesota's language immersion program in Montpellier, France for the spring 2024 term.

Kylie Kapelke

\$4,500 Gilman award

Kapelke, of Sparta, will be studying abroad through the School for International Training (SIT) in Belgrade, Serbia for the fall 2023 term.



Brianna Schultz

\$5,000 Gilman-McCain award

Brianna Schultz, of Reedsburg, will be studying abroad at University College Cork in Cork, Ireland for the spring 2024 term.

Students selected to receive this award went through a competitive application process with the support of their study abroad advisor.

The U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, providing them with skills critical to our national security and economic prosperity.

To be eligible for the Gilman Program, applicants must be receiving a Federal Pell Grant during the time of application or provide proof that they will be receiving a Pell Grant during the term of their study abroad program or internship.

For more information, visit www.gilmanscholarship.org.

Green Bay RDA approves development agreement for Bay City Lofts at new site

BY KRIS LEONHARDT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GREEN BAY – During its May 25 meeting, the Green Bay Redevelopment Authority (RDA) approved a development agreement with Gorman & Company for TIF assistance for a redevelopment project on University Avenue.

"This is a project we've been working on for quite some time here," said RDA Director Neil Stechschulte. "Essentially, this was originally the one that was proposed to 16 Military Ave. but basically for a disagreement with the property owner that project did not proceed at that location.

"The developer has also identified this alternative location. The zoning has been approved, essentially the planning and development zoning has been approved. This is the initial part of the financial request that is going in with this project."

The agreement for developer, Bay City Lofts, would include TIF assistance on pay-go basis.

"That's essentially an 80/20 split on that as we as we go for a development project on this one."

The agreement was amended to an 85% increment due to raising interest rates.

According to a city memo, the project is now being proposed for "a 1.8-



The original rendering of the development planned for 16 City of Green Bay rendering Military Ave.

acre site that was a former gas station and includes a 4-story multi-family residential building with some first-floor office space to facilitate an agreement with Lutheran Family Services to provide services to the community. The proposed project includes the development of 48 residential units (13 one-bedroom units, 24 two-bedroom units, 1 three-bedroom unit and 10 three-bedroom townhouse units). Ground floor space includes common spaces for residents, private residences and office space for Lutheran Family Services."

Approval of planning option with New Land Enterprises

The RDA also approved a motion to direct staff to execute a standard planning option for six months to Milwaukee-based New Land Enterprises for Redevelopment Authority-owned property at 221 Cherry St.

a Milwaukee-based company. My dad started the company in 1993; that was three years after we came to the United States from what at the time was the Soviet Union, what is now Ukraine. That true American success story. I think we're a pretty unusual developer. We are market rate, ground up, new construction oriented," said New Land Managing Director Tim Gokhman.

"We've won nine out of 11 RFPs in the city of Milwaukee. We've got 27 projects under our belt.

The developer is considering a mixed-use, multi-story building for the site."

City of Green Bay rendering

"I was in touch earlier this year with Mayor Genrich, and we talked about the potential of our company New Land Enterprises coming up to Green Bay. New Land is



What's in a name?

Elmore Elementary in Green Bay is named after one of the city's influential families of the past and on May 30 students got a look at some of the Elmore family's personal items thanks to the Green Bay & De Pere Antiquarian Society. The society loaned the items to the school that bears the family's name. The family was a major influence in the area pre-1900, with Andrew Elmore instrumental in bringing the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad to Fort Howard. His wife, Mary Field Elmore, was a teacher. A skirt from her wardrobe, along with a matching jacket, was among the items on display Tuesday. **Josh Staloch photo**

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YOUTH ROOM

from page 1

with their friends and gather or perhaps even have a meeting with their birth families," Plaza said about the space.

"We serve all of the children that are working with Child Protective Services... We serve kids zero to 18. The kids as well as the foster parents or the social workers are able to come into the space," added Foster the Village Executive Director Cheri Salmon.

Their goal is to create a supportive environment where foster youth and families can shop for clothes, toys, toiletries and school supplies at no cost.

Salmon noted, especially with the older foster youth, it is important to them that they wear new clothes that they enjoy wearing, as they want to fit in with other kids their age which builds their self esteem.

"I think this space is really going to be exciting for them because they're going to be able to meet with some of the other kids that are also in foster care of their same age, maybe interact with them," Salmon stated.

The space will also be used as an opportunity for families and social workers to talk with the kids, especially those who have gone through trauma in their transition into the foster care system.

"They're never really going to look you in the eye and tell you what's wrong with them, but if you're interacting or doing something maybe you're shooting baskets or you're coloring or doing a craft project maybe they'll open up and kind of have those conversations with them. So, that's why I'm so excited about this room," Salmon explained.

The renovations of the youth room were made possible with the help of Leadership Green Bay along with a number of donors.

Salmon mentioned that the rest of the building is not fully complete, but they are constantly looking for ways to create an even

more welcoming space for the kids.

With the increase of the number of children in foster care in Brown County, the need for more renovations in the old St. Jude grade school is even more urgent.

Foster the Village is looking at a \$750,000 campaign to transform the space to be more useful for the children and families they work with as it would provide the renovations for more rooms such as this one for other age groups and much more.

"This is really a great step in creating the heart of the village for kids and families. That was our intent and that is what our mission is," Salmon said.

SATURDAY NIGHT BUFFET

4-8pm

Featuring a Delicious Themed Menu!
6/3: Mexican, 6/10: Italian, 6/17: Prime Rib, 6/24: Hawaiian

GOLF & BOGO

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