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February 22nd 2026



Fondly
"Six Pack"
Weekly
SERIES

I LOVE FDL

Weekly news, inspiration, updates and happenings

The Fondy Frontline

In the heart of Fond du Lac, Mike's Music continues to serve as a full-service music hub, offering quality instruments, expert repairs, rentals, and personalized lessons for musicians of all ages. More than just a store, it's a welcoming community space where beginners and seasoned players alike can grow their skills and passion for music.

Finding Balance

At Legacy Training Lab, owner Zach Westfahl believes "we're all bodybuilders," shaping our bodies and lives through the daily choices we make. More than just a gym, the Fond du Lac facility blends high-quality equipment, expert guidance, and a strong sense of community to help members grow stronger in both mind and body.

Play Explore Repeat

Every February in Fond du Lac, sturgeon spearing season on Lake Winnebago brings more than anglers onto the ice, it brings the entire community together. From early mornings in shanties to packed counters at local favorites like Wendt's on the Lake and Sunset on the Water, the tradition lives as much in shared meals and stories as it does in the water below.

Hometown Heroes

For more than 40 years, Ahern Gross Plumbing has delivered dependable residential and commercial plumbing services with a "small family feel and big capabilities." Deeply rooted in the community, the family-owned company also gives back through local involvement and mentorship, helping inspire the next generation of skilled trades professionals.

Creative Corner

Fond du Lac's 1913 Chicago & North Western Railway depot has been revived as The Passenger Lounge, a live music venue and bar that blends history with an intimate, modern vibe. With its residency band performing jazz, funk, and blues on select Thursdays, the restored landmark is once again welcoming the community for music and connection.



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THE FONDY FRONTLINE

Mikes Music and Sound

In the heart of Fond du Lac, one local shop continues to strike the perfect chord with musicians of all ages and skill levels—Mike's Music. More than just a retail space, Mike's Music is a full-service music hub where beginners find their first instrument, experienced players upgrade their gear, and aspiring artists develop their craft.

A Guitar Selection That Inspires

Step inside and you're immediately met with an impressive wall of guitars. From stage-ready electrics to rich, resonant acoustics, the store's inventory is carefully curated to serve players at every level.

Beginners can find dependable starter models, while advanced musicians can explore performance-grade instruments designed for tone, sustain, and playability. Whether you're after sparkling clean tones, warm acoustic projection, or high-gain punch, Mike's Music has options to match your sound and budget.

Music Lessons with Skilled, Passionate Teachers

Mike's Music is deeply invested in growing the local music community. Their experienced instructors provide structured, personalized lessons in a welcoming and encouraging environment.

From learning basic chords and rhythm fundamentals to diving into advanced theory and technique, students of all ages benefit from patient guidance and real-world musical knowledge. It's not just about learning songs—it's about building lasting musicianship. My Daughter has been taking lessons at Mikes for years and continues to this day. She plays Piano, Violin, Bass and Cello.

Instrument Repairs & Professional Guitar Setups

Instruments need maintenance to perform at their best, and Mike's Music delivers expert repair services right here in town. From restringing and fretwork to electronic troubleshooting and structural repairs, their technicians help keep instruments in peak playing condition.

They also offer professional guitar setups—adjusting truss rods, action height, intonation, and overall playability. A proper setup can dramatically improve tone, comfort, and performance, and their team ensures your instrument feels and sounds exactly the way it should.

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THE FONDY FRONTLINE

Mikes Music and Sound - CONTINUE

Convenient Instrument Rentals

For students joining school band or families testing the waters, Mike's Music provides affordable and reliable instrument rental options. Each rental instrument is well-maintained and ready for performance, giving beginners a strong start without the pressure of an immediate purchase.

Friendly, Knowledgeable Staff

What truly sets Mike's Music apart is its people. The staff combines technical expertise with genuine enthusiasm. Whether you need help choosing your first guitar, understanding tone woods, scheduling lessons, or servicing your instrument, you'll receive honest advice and attentive service every time you walk through the door.

A True Community Music Store

Mike's Music continues to be a cornerstone of Fond du Lac's music scene because it offers more than products—it offers support, mentorship, and a welcoming environment where creativity thrives.

Whether you're shopping for your next guitar, booking lessons, renting a band instrument, or getting a professional setup, Mike's Music is ready to help you play your best. 



Written by: Darren Goodpaster



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Ahern Gross Plumbing: Family Feel with Big Capabilities. Serving Fond du Lac Since 1983.

For more than 40 years, Ahern Gross Plumbing has been a trusted name in Fond du Lac. Founded in 1983 when Tom Gross purchased the small projects division of another local company, the business has grown into a respected, family-owned operation led by Tom Gross, Pat Bertram, and Tyler Gross. Located at 218 S. Main Street, the company provides residential service, commercial plumbing, new home construction, and 24-hour emergency service – all delivered with what they describe as a “small family feel with big capabilities.”

Born and raised in the area, Tom chose to build his business in Fond du Lac because it’s home. The owners describe the city as the perfect size – offering plenty to do, manageable traffic, and close proximity to Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Madison. That strong local connection continues to shape the way they operate and serve their customers.

Backed by a team of more than 20 dedicated professionals, Ahern Gross Plumbing is committed not only to quality workmanship, but also to giving back. The company supports numerous local organizations and serves in volunteer board roles. One of their favorite partnerships is with the Career Construction Academy at Fond du Lac High School, where they donate and teach students for two weeks each year to help inspire the next generation of skilled trades professionals.

Looking ahead, Ahern Gross Plumbing hopes to transition ownership to the next generation while continuing its long-standing involvement in the community. After four decades in business, their goal remains simple: provide dependable service and remain a proud part of Fond du Lac for years to come.



Ahern Gross PLUMBING





The Passenger Lounge Brings Live Music To Fond du Lac's Historic Train Depot

There's something really special about seeing a historic Fond du Lac building come back to life, and that's exactly what's happening inside the old Railway Depot. Now transformed into The Passenger Lounge, the beautifully restored space officially opened its doors Thursday as a live music and event venue with a full bar, giving one of Fond du Lac's most recognizable landmarks a brand-new purpose while honoring its past. Originally built in 1913 as the Chicago & North Western Railway passenger depot, this building once welcomed travelers arriving in the city by train. Now, more than a century later, it's welcoming people again, this time for music, community, and nights out.

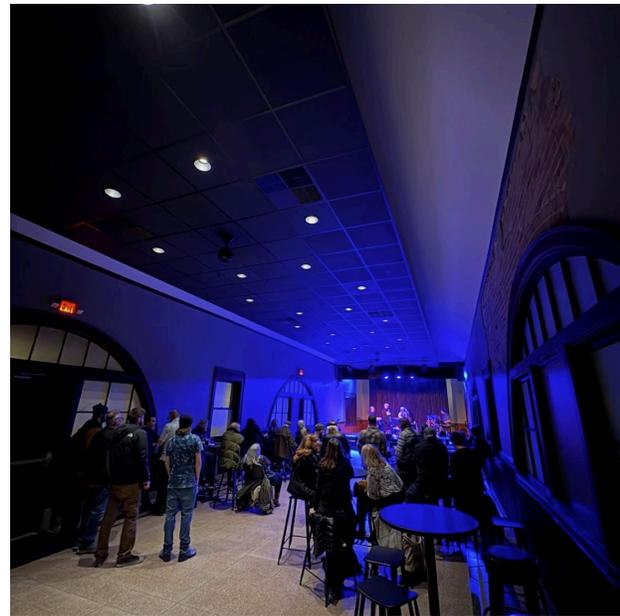
I had the chance to tour The Passenger Lounge before the grand opening, and the inside truly surprised me in the best way. They've created a warm, intimate music venue that still respects the character of the depot. There's a proper stage set up for live performances, a spacious and comfortable

bar area, and a thoughtfully curated selection of drinks that feels more like a lounge than a typical bar scene. It's the kind of place you can picture settling into for a full evening of listening, talking, and just enjoying being there.

One of the most exciting parts of the new space is its in house residency band, The Passenger Lounge Players, led by Kurt Shipe. The four-piece group, along with rotating special guests, will perform jazz, funk, and blues fusion on the first and third Thursdays of every month. Doors and bar open at 6pm, with music running 7-11pm. It's a format that feels both accessible and authentic. Professional musicians in a historic venue, right in the heart of Fond du Lac.

Places like The Passenger Lounge matter for a city like ours. They create a fun place to gather, support local and regional musicians, and give historic buildings meaningful new life instead of letting them fade away. Walking through the depot and seeing it filled with music again felt right, like the building had found its next chapter. And if opening night energy is any indication, The Passenger Lounge is about to become a regular stop in Fond du Lac's live music scene.

Author: Shane Michael



PLAY. EXPLORE. REPEAT.



Why Sturgeon Spearing Season Still Feels Like the Heart of Fond du Lac

Every February in Fond du Lac, you can just feel it when sturgeon spearing season is back. Before the sun even comes up, trucks are heading out onto the ice, heaters are firing up in shanties, and families are settling in for long, quiet hours staring into that dark hole. For a lot of people around here, this isn't just something they do... it's something they've always done. It's part of growing up in Fond du Lac.

And honestly, even if you've never speared a fish in your life, you still feel the season everywhere. You see it up Highway 45 with places like Wendt's and the Gasshole packed with spearers grabbing breakfast, burgers, and stories after coming off the ice. Then over on the east side of the lake, spots like Sunset Supper Club, Capone's, and Luke's Tap fill up with the same thing, cold hands, warm food, and "you should've seen the one that came through the hole today" conversations. It's like the whole lake just funnels back into these local places every afternoon and night.

That's the thing about sturgeon season here; it's not just about the fish. It's about the people, the routine, and the way the entire community kind of moves together for those couple weeks. Generations share shacks. Friends check in on each other across the ice. And then everyone meets back up at the same bars and restaurants they've been going to forever. There aren't many traditions left that still pull a whole area together like that, but this one absolutely does.

In Fond du Lac, sturgeon spearing season isn't just happening out on Lake Winnebago, it's happening in parking lots, at counters, around tables, and in stories told over food and drinks all around the lake. It's one of those things that quietly reminds you how deep the roots go here. And every winter, without fail, it all comes back to life again.

Author: Shane Michael



Finding Balance

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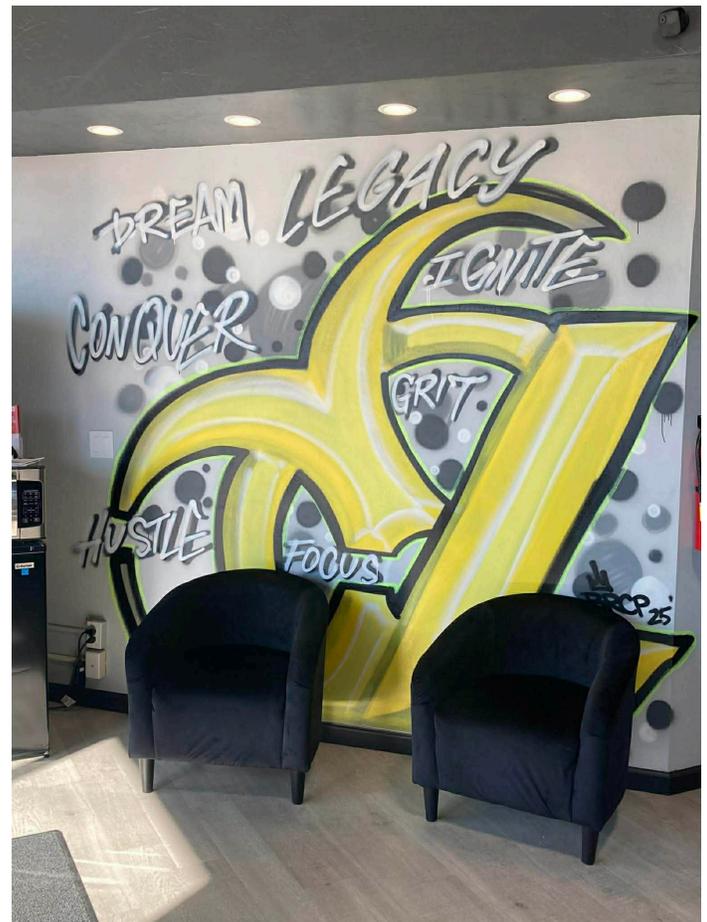
What if every habit, from your morning walk to your late-night snack, is shaping the body you live in?

As Zach puts it, “We’re all bodybuilders. Every choice we make every day shapes and sculpts our appearance- we work toward our ideal image. That’s bodybuilding.”

In the heart of Fond du Lac, Legacy Training Lab is more than a gym- it’s a reflection of one man’s passion for growth, discipline, and community. Owner and personal trainer, Zach Westfahl, first discovered his love of fitness right here in Fondy, deepened it during his service in the Marine Corps, and carried that dedication home with him. When he returned, he saw an opportunity: people were looking for a space with high-quality equipment, expert guidance, and an atmosphere that truly inspires progress. So he built it! His goal? “I want everyone to have the tools and ability to grow their minds and bodies- to become their greatest self and leave a positive legacy for their family and community.”

Legacy Training Lab is rooted in a simple but powerful philosophy: knowledge and work ethic go hand in hand. “One is useless without the other,” Zach explains. The gym provides a safe, welcoming facility with carefully selected equipment designed to make workouts efficient and enjoyable. “Of course you can do any job with a hammer and a nail,” he says, “but having the right tools just makes it easier and more enjoyable.” This gym boasts premier equipment such as a curved treadmill offering an intense sled push option, a seal bench for upper body focus and the hip belt squat machine- allowing lifters to get a better range of motion with minimal pressure on the lower back! Members also benefit from expert programming, a supportive network of like-minded individuals, and the freedom to pursue all types of fitness at their own pace.

Author: Cassandra Leffelman



Finding Balance

**I Love
FDL**

What if every habit, from your morning walk to your late-night snack, is shaping the body you live in? -

CONTINUE

Zach's vision also continues to grow! He is currently developing a fitness app that will generate personalized workouts based on each client's individual goals and even adjust to how you're feeling on a given day- making it suitable for every fitness level. Understanding today's fitness culture, he has also built a dedicated posing room with visibility in mind. Whether you're tracking progress for yourself or sharing it with others- this space celebrates hard work and transformation! Most recently, a dry sauna has also been added to aid in recovery and overall wellness.

At its core, Legacy Training Lab is about more than muscle. "You feel good doing good things," Zach says. That belief fuels his desire to collaborate with local charities and organizations to uplift the Fond du Lac community and instill healthy habits in the next generation. He hopes to leave "a legacy of discipline and a positive community- both for Fond du Lac and for his family." If you've been waiting for a sign, this is it! Move your body. Choose habits that shape the image you're proud to see every day.

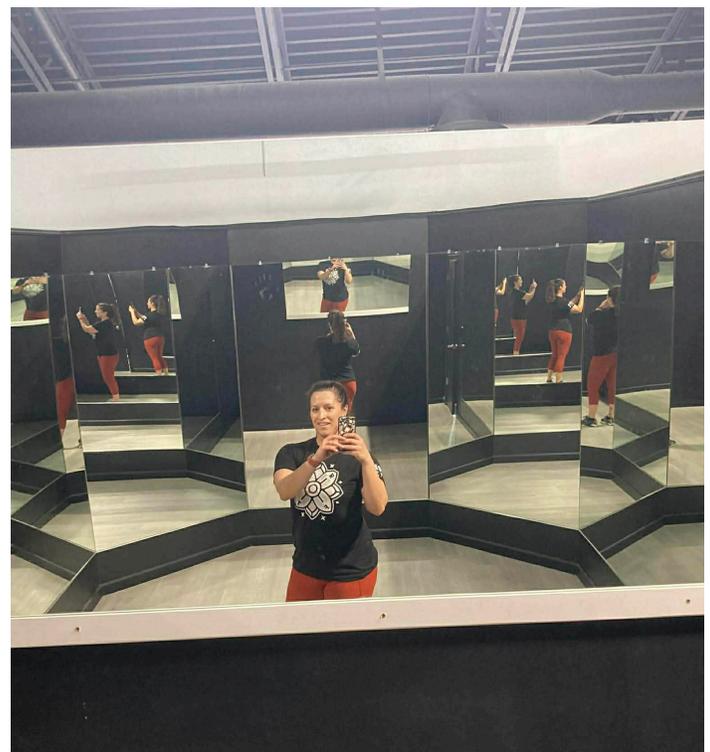
If you're curious to learn or see more, reach out via text, social media, or email- there's no wrong way to start building your legacy.

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Author: Cassandra Leffelman

This week is **PACKED** with awesome deals from some of Fond du Lac's favorite small businesses! 🌟🛒 If you've been needing a sign to shop local... this is it. 🤝❤️ Dive into the specials below, show love to the shops that make our city feel like home, and have an amazing week, Fondy! 😍🌟

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