

# Area

## From the OLD SCHOOL

*Golf lovers head to Green Lake to play the sport the way it began*

by Aaron Becker  
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The new golf pro at Lawsonia wondered if he'd stepped into a time machine.

"It doesn't feel like 2016,"



Josh Carroll thought as he toiled around the Green Lake course in late September. "Everyone's got the hickory shaft. The club makes a different sound when it hits the ball. The clothing ...

"It just feels old. Feels cool."

As word spread, several other folks throughout the area had the same curiosity.

"We actually had people call and ask to come out and watch it, just because it's something you don't ever see," he said.

Lawsonia's Links course hosted the U.S. Hickory Open Sept. 22 to 24, and with it, 76 players who appreciate and want to preserve the golden days of the gentleman's sport. That means using original equipment that's perhaps a century old, with clothing to match.

In other words, no titanium drivers the size of dinner plates.

"We had guys from Canada, from Alaska, from everywhere," Carroll said. "They actually play with the hickory sticks — the old equipment. So these guys are still playing with the old, bound golf balls and they're playing with hickory-shaft clubs."

Green Lake's Lawsonia has hosted the state sectional of this tournament in the past, but this was the first time hosting the national event, Carroll said. He related it to the FedExCup of the



ABOVE, GOLFERS COMPETE in the U.S. Hickory Open in late September at the Lawsonia Links. Left, a sharply dressed golfer putts the ball. Tracy O'Brien photos

PGA Tour.

And so, the local course was dotted in dress vests, bow ties, newsboy caps and short pants.

"A lot of them like to show off their style," he said. "It's part of the whole package. They have the clubs, and then they have the

argyle socks and the knickers." To these players, it represents what golf once was.

"They just want to keep that going," Carroll said.

Is their enthusiasm historical or sentimental?

"For a lot of them, it's both,"

he said. "It's more about just playing golf the way it was meant to be ... Every single guy that competed, he'd come up to you and he'd have a story behind his clubs. Didn't really care how well he played, but he wanted to tell you about the clubs. There's

more of a story to the clubs for these guys."

Over the weekend, 76 players played two rounds — 18 holes each day. The best two tied at 151, so a playoff was held on the

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## Leaf it alone: Tree gets last chance

Town Square reconsiders fate of stately elm

by Aaron Becker  
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Dennis Deyo was feeling sad this week as he thought about his favorite tree on Green Lake's old courthouse lawn.

He describes the elm as big and stately — a real eye-catcher.

"The rumor is, they're going to cut it down," he said. "And it's at least 200 years old and there's nothing wrong with it, except it drops leaves on the roof, which needs to be cleaned off."

"I'm thinking maybe if they could trim up that side of the tree a little bit, maybe that would help the problem."

If his age estimate is correct, that tree was growing at least three decades before the village of Dartford (later renamed the city of Green Lake) was platted, long before the first courthouse brick was laid.

"Think of all the things that have happened in Green Lake history in 200 years that the tree has been there ... It had to be there when the courthouse was built," Deyo said. "I know they're going to plant more trees in its place, but you can't replant a 200-year-old tree."

A phone call to Fran Hill at Town Square — the community center in the old courthouse — confirmed the elm was a goner.

"That is correct," she said with a hint of sadness. "We have



STANDING WATER POOLS on a roof atop the old Green Lake County courthouse. A big elm tree next to the building drops leaves, which clog the drainage system. The beloved tree was poised to be cut down, but its fate has been reconsidered. submitted photo

been struggling with this for four years now, quite frankly, because it breaks our heart to see that tree come down."

It's an issue of safety and building maintenance.

"The leaves fall onto that roof, they clog the drains and it ends up like a swimming pool up there. And we are very afraid of the roof collapsing. We've had water damage from it before," Hill said.

The roof section in question has three-foot walls on all sides, so when leaves clog the drain, the water simply pools.

Not only that, but accessing that roof section is dangerous, she emphasized.

Hill called it "a death-defying climb" that requires shimmying

across a steeply pitched roof with cleaning equipment. She added this needs to be done regularly when leaves are falling.

If not, bushels of elm leaves clog the roof's drainage system, creating standing water on the flat roof. This has frozen solid at least once.

"And as much as we try to keep those leaves cleared out of there and put our best efforts into it, it just hasn't been effective in keeping the water off of that roof," she said. "It was a very difficult decision."

But it turns out, the tree will get one last shot.

After Hill initially spoke with the Commonwealth, Town Square leaders reconsidered whether a good prune may be a

final option.

Phil Burkart couldn't promise the tree will remain indefinitely, but this will buy time.

"In talking to Fran just now, I think what we're going to do is we're going to try to save it, but we are going to trim it — do a pretty substantial pruning on it — and see if we can save it," Burkart said.

The maintenance issues are not lost on him. He described the tree's crown being 20 to 30 feet taller than the roof of the building, meaning the right wind in autumn "just dumps literally bushels of leaves" on the roof, clogging the drainage system.

"Literally we've had over

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## Two from area injured in crash

by Aaron Becker  
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A newly rebuilt highway intersection in Green Lake was the site of a crash that injured two local residents.

It happened last week Wednesday afternoon at the intersection of Highway 23 and North Street near the Green Lake bowling alley. That intersection was rebuilt in 2014 when the highway was reconstructed from Green Lake to Ripon.

According to the report from the Green Lake County Sheriff's Department, the two drivers were Eric E. Kivela of Ripon and Ardis G. Mitchell of Green Lake. Both received medical attention.

Damage to both vehicles was listed as "severe," and both had to be towed from the scene.

According to the crash report, Mitchell was at the stop sign on North Street and did not see Kivela traveling eastbound on Highway 23. Mitchell struck Kivela in the intersection while attempting to turn westbound onto the highway.

Mitchell was cited with inattentive driving.

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# Area

## News BREAFS

Brandon, Rosendale, Eldorado, Alto, Fairwater and Surrounding area

### Rosendale-Brandon School District

► Senior night for the boys' united soccer team (Laconia, North Fond du Lac, Oakfield and St. Mary's Springs Academy high schools) will be celebrated Thursday when the team hosts Lomira at 7 p.m. at Marian University's Smith Field, 45 S. National Ave., Fond du Lac.

► Parents' night for the football and dance teams will be celebrated Friday when the Spartans host the football game with Fond du Lac's St. Mary's Springs Academy High School Ledgers at 7 p.m. at Laconia High School.

► Parent/teacher/student conferences will be held Monday, Oct. 10 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in all Rosendale-Brandon School District schools.



Deanna Lefebber

country coach; and Mel Gunnink, volunteer boys basketball coach.

### Brandon

► Brandon Area Veterans Memorial will host the season's final brat fry Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Depot Park Brat Stand.

► Brandon Public Library Book Club will meet Thursday, Oct. 13 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the library, 117 E. Main St., Brandon. The book is "Ghost Boy: The Miraculous Escape of a Misdemeaned Boy Trapped Inside His Own Body" by Martin Pistorius.

Call Library Director Christy Ross at 920-346-2350.

### Meetings

► The next town of Alto Board meeting is Monday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Alto Community Center. Call Clerk Roger Karsten at 920-346-2734.

► The Fairwater Village Board meets Monday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center. Call Village Clerk Karen Smit at 920-346-5418.

► The next town of Metomen Board meeting is Monday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Call Clerk Cindy Sheskey at 920-346-5866.

If you have an event or accomplishment to share in this column, call or email Deanna Lefebber at 920-922-1721 or dlefebber@charter.net.



ABOVE, GOLFERS PREPARE to tee off on hole #1 at the Lawsonia Links in the U.S. Hickory Open. Below, golfers drive and putt in the old-time event. Tracy O'Brien photos

## GOLF/Jokes made about course's new dress code *continued from page 7*

par-3 No. 10.

The champion won by sinking his last shot for par.

How would 151 compare to modern golf?

"That's seven over par for two days," Carroll said. "Some of the guys that were playing, they can shoot even-par with the hickory clubs ... This course is a little more challenging. With the modern clubs, obviously you can hit them so much farther."

U.S. Golf Association rules were in effect, except as modified

under local rules set forth by the tournament committee, reads the website for the tournament.

"Local rules modifications are intended to help hickory enthusiasts experience the game as closely as possible to the way it was played in the heyday of hickory golf," it explains.

Carroll spoke with the winner, who reported being able to drive about 250 yards with the old, wooden driver.

"You take today's equipment, he could hit one probably 320, 330," Carroll said.

For the U.S. Hickory Open, the course was adjusted to be a bit shorter. Some players drove carts, some walked and at least one had a personal caddy.

Carroll said a few were "in it to win it," although the majority just enjoyed the camaraderie.

"It's just a bunch of stories," he said. "That's what these guys are all about is telling stories: the history of what they've done and bragging about who has what club ... There's competition, but 90 percent of the guys are here just to have a really good time."

Lawsonia's Links course was completed around 1930, so this history played well with the theme of the weekend.

"The first group to play the course when it opened contained golfing legend Walter Hagen,

and Ben Hogan, Sam Snead and Byron Nelson played there at the Little Lawsonia Open in the 1930s," reads the website for the tournament.

"They loved it," Carroll said. "They were like, 'This course was designed for bump-and-runs' (a type of shot) because when this course was built, that's the kind of equipment that we were playing with ... Every guy that came in was just blown away."

Golfers who came for the Woodlands course took note.

"We had a running joke with people who came to check in to play the Woodlands," he said. "We'd be like, 'Hey, don't you know about our dress code?'"

Carroll — who grew up on the Green Lake Conference Center grounds and graduated from Green Lake High School in 2011 — just recently started as the Lawsonia pro.

"It was honestly the coolest event that I've ever been a part of," Carroll said. "Everyone just loved it."



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## Church offers event to pray for America

The third-annual national Public Fatima Rosary Rally for America will take place Saturday, Oct. 15 at noon in Green Lake at Deacon Mills Park, corner of Mill and South streets.

An invitation to pray the rosary publicly is extended to all who love America and are concerned about its direction. Everyone is invited, regardless of age or religious affiliation.

This prayer rally is coordinated nationally by "America Needs Fatima."

For more information, email anfosaryrally@aol.com or visit their website at www.anf.org.

Local sponsorship is by the Council of Catholic Women of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Green Lake. For more information, call Joyce Hayes at 294-0233.

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