

# LOCAL & STATE

ECOSYSTEM PROJECT | HISTORIC INDIAN AGENCY HOUSE

## Prairie beginning to thrive

Volunteers' intensive labor brings 8 acres nearer original state

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PORTAGE — For the last past three years, volunteers at the Historic Indian Agency House site have worked to transform a roughly eight-acre area of dense invasive woodland back to its original prairie landscape.

And while the Agency House is eyeing the completion of phase 3 of the project this summer, much work remains to be done to nurture the landscape back to a healthy, thriving prairie ecosystem in phase 4 and beyond.

"Landscape is a significant component of history, so the res-

toration and preservation of this special and endangered habitat are worth the effort," Adam Novey, director of the Historic Indian Agency House, said in a statement.

"When the Fort Winnebago Indian agency house was constructed in 1832, the surrounding landscape of the portage area consisted of prairie with occasional stands of hardwoods," Novey said. "Several acres of the historic prairie landscape still exist on our property, but invasive species have been steadily encroaching upon it. Old photos document the fact that up until quite recently, the thick black locust woods were not part of this landscape. It was mostly open prairie."

Phase 1 of the restoration project was completed in the winter of 2021 when about two acres of invasive black locust trees — a

highly aggressive invasive species that expands into massive stands through root suckering, seed spreading and stump sprouting — were cut down and burned by volunteers.

Phase 2 was completed in 2022 and 2023, when a logging company cut the bulk of the large stands of locust trees on the property for free. Volunteers also put in more than 450 hours of work processing the logging slash and preparing the ground for seeding, Novey said.

Phase 3, which started last fall and is coming to a close this summer, is focused on eliminating the rest of the several hundred black locust trees that remain along the edges of the large stands logged off last year.



NICHOLAS WALCZAK, PORTAGE DAILY REGISTER

Adam Novey, executive director and curator of the Historic Indian Agency House, said the third phase of a prairie restoration plan is coming to a close this summer.

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RETAIL

## Results vary for Target, Macy's

Shoppers stretching inflation-bled dollars

ANNE D'INNOENZIO  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Grocery aisle deals and an emphasis on affordable but stylish clothes helped Target reverse a year-long sales slump, while Macy's reported another quarterly decline and said sales for the fiscal year will be weaker than expected due to a "more discriminating consumer" outlook.

Minneapolis-based Target has 32 stores in Wisconsin, including in Madison, Fitchburg, Sun Prairie and Janesville. New York-based Macy's has stores in Madison, Appleton, Greendale and Wauwatosa.

The difference in fiscal second-quarter results reported by the two retailers this week underscores the financial circumstances of U.S. shoppers: Consumers are still spending, but they're being selective about where they make purchases when the costs of housing, food and other essentials remain inflated. When it comes to clothing, for example, they're often choosing store label brands, which are typically less expensive than national brands.

"You have to believe that everybody is being a little more cautious as they kind of watch what's going on in the macro environment and are just being more judicious in the purchases they make," Macy's CEO Tony Spring told analysts Wednesday.

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### HOW MUCH A HEART CAN HOLD

Workers at the Chazen Museum of Art prepare sculptor artist Petah Coyne's exhibit "How Much a Heart Can Hold" on the campus of UW-Madison Thursday. The multi-decade exploration of her career features large-scale pieces made of cloth, human hair, scrap metal, wax, silk flowers and other unorthodox materials. Inspiration for the creations was drawn from the artist's affinity for the literary works of female authors. A line by Zelda Fitzgerald inspired the exhibition's title. "Nobody has ever measured, even the poets, how much a heart can hold," the American writer, dancer and painter wrote in an unpublished manuscript. The exhibit opens Sept. 9 and runs through Dec. 23.

JOHN HART PHOTOS,  
STATE JOURNAL

PAOLI | SEVEN ACRE DAIRY

## Popular dinner series doubles the culinary fun

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Seven Acre Dairy Company's dinner series featuring distinguished chefs from near and far was so popular last time, when it ran 11 events over nine weeks starting in January, that the series has been expanded to two dozen evenings over 11 weeks.

The fall dinner series starts Sept. 10 with "A Pizza Party" with Robert Maleski, owner of Milly's Pizza on the Pan, named Chicago's best pizza by Chicago Magazine last year. This week, Milly's was ranked No. 5 on a Yelp ranking of the top 100 pizza places nationwide.

"Fun fact: The reason why

customers always get the 'perfect crunchy crust' at Milly's is because they never pre-slice their pies, a practice that prevents sauce from dribbling into the dough," the Yelp ranking said.

Nic Mink, who owns Seven Acre with his wife, Danika Laine, said the pizza party and another pizza dinner should sell out quickly because they're family friendly.

He said about 10 people bought tickets for most of the dinners in the series right away.

"They just went over so incredibly well since we started that I think it's kind of more and more part of our brand, which we like," Mink said.

The said he also expects the Oct. 20 dinner with Chef Edward Lee to do particularly well. Lee is the author of "Bourbon Land: A Spirited Love Letter to My Old Kentucky Whiskey, with 50 recipes," "Smoke and Pickles: Recipes and Stories from a New Southern Kitchen," and "Buttermilk Graffiti: A Chef's Journey to Discover America's New Melting-Pot Cuisine."

### A redeveloped creamery

Mink and Laine opened Seven Acre Dairy in February 2023 as part of an ambitious \$11.2 million project that has turned a



SAMARA KALK DERBY, STATE JOURNAL

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The Kitchen at Seven Acre Dairy Company in Paoli opened in February 2023.