

N.Y. Times gets story right on Green Bay

When Walmart comes to Green Bay to build a new store, other retailers here understandably take notice.

When the Chicago Bears or Detroit Lions roll into town, the Green Bay Packers are ready to meet them on the field of battle.

But the New York Times sending a reporter to Green Bay? Uh, I got this one.

As a reporter who prides himself on knowing the important news happening around here, I took more than a casual interest in learning that the New York Times was in town. After all, the New York Times is among the biggest, most influential newspapers around. It has reporters covering presidents, prime ministers and world affairs all over the planet.

What could it possibly want in Green Bay?

Then I discovered that the reporter was a travel writer who was preparing an article for tourists considering coming here for a vacation. Uh-oh, I thought. This could end up being one of those stereotypical profiles of Green Bay as a small town offering a good time for football fans — and not much else.

But I was pleasantly surprised.

The reporter took time to explore Green Bay far outside the realm of football. In an article published this past weekend under the headline "36 Hours in Green



The New York Times last weekend published a travel writer's in-depth assessment of Green Bay. SCOTT COOPER WILLIAMS/PRESS-GAZETTE MEDIA

Bay, Wis.," he highlighted many of the other attractions and characteristics that make Titledown a wonderful place.

As somewhat of an authority on many of the spots visited by the New York Times, I can offer this insider's perspective.

The reporter started out with a cocktail at The Libertine, a downtown tavern specializing in designer cocktails. Obviously, there are plenty of drinking establishments around here, and everybody has their favorite. But you cannot fault the reporter for gravitating toward one of our newer spots and mingling with some of the locals during happy hour.

From there, the reporter went looking for dinner and ended up in De Pere. Wait a minute — De Pere? I thought this was Green Bay's travel piece. We have a ton of restaurants here in the city. Oh, well. De Pere is a good neighbor, so I guess we can share this moment in the limelight.

To his credit, the reporter later visited such Green Bay eateries as Al's Hamburger Shop and Kavarna Coffeehouse. He also ventured down the Broadway shopping district, inside the Neville Public Museum of Brown County and out to Bay Beach Amusement Park.

He took very few shots at Green Bay, although he did describe some of our buildings as "dull." OK, I will concede that we don't have anything to compete with the Empire State Building.

If I were planning this travel writer's trip, I might have added a few other places to his itinerary: the CityDeck, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and Titledown Brewing Co., just to name a few.

But on the whole, the article was very complimentary of Green Bay. The overriding theme was that there is much more to this community than just a football team. In other words, the reporter got the story right.

Maybe now I should ask my editors to send me to New York and let me put that town under the microscope. Nah. On second thought, I'll just head over to The Libertine and have a drink.

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