

VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW and THE THREE LAKES NEWS

JUNE 12, 2024

TAKE ONE



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Events scheduled throughout North Woods

Area chambers of commerce and organizations hold different events in the North Woods to accommodate visitors who already visit the area in the summer.

The activities planned range from craft fairs to live entertainment and parades.

The following is a list of events and activities provided by tourism officials and other sources.

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Detailed stories from some of these events can be found in this publication.

JUNE 12, MUSIC ON MAIN

STREET — Boulder Junction will host a music series with live entertainment on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. at Peeple's Park. Karley Davidson will be performing on June 12. For more information

visit boulderjct.org.

JUNE 12, WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAYS — Held by four instructors at Campanile Center, visitors can explore various artistic expressions every Wednesday starting June 12. Cost varies per session, so contact the center at 715-356-9700.

JUNE 12, PLUM SKI-TERS WATERSKI SHOW — The

Plum Ski-ters Water Ski Show team opens with its first show on June 12 at 7 p.m. at the Statehouse Point Boat Landing on Plum Lake. Shows are held on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Contact 262-423-7586.

JUNE 12, HUNTING FOR SPRING SMALL-MOUTH

BASS — Join this free fishing seminar hosted by Jim Riley of Northern Wisconsin Kayak Fishing at Northern Highland



On the schedule at the Eagle River Airport fly-in event is a pancake breakfast, a flour drop and a visit from Lifelink Medevac heliopter. Individauls can get an up close view of the helicopter at the event slated this Saturday.

Sports Shop in Boulder Junction. The seminar starts at 4 p.m.

JUNE 14, FLAG RETIREMENT

CEREMONY — Sand Lake Pub will host its annual Flag retirement ceremony at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner.

Visitors can bring tattered flags to retire and a dish to pass. Contact 715- 545-3200.

JUNE 14, ISLAND CITY WINE

WALK — The Island City Wine Walk will be held at participating businesses in Downtown Minocqua. Participants can sample different wins and foods while listening to live music.

Contact 715-356-7517.

JUNE 14-16, SOLSTICE BIKE FESTIVAL — Manitowish Waters celebrates the longest day of the year with a variety of bike road rides and trail rides.

A party in Koller Park with food, drinks, live mu-

sic and more will follow the festivities on June 15. Visit solsticefestival.us for more information.

JUNE 14-15, ANTIQUE BOAT

SHOW — The show will take place on Friday from noon to 7 p.m., followed by music and a boat parade during the intermission of the Min-Aqua Bats Water Ski Show.

A show will also take place on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Contact 715-892-4873.

JUNE 15, WINE WALK — The Eagle River Chamber will host a Sip N Shop Wine Walk at participating downtown businesses from noon to 5 p.m. Visitors can sample a variety of wines during the event.

JUNE 15, AIRPORT FLY-IN — The Eagle River Union Airport will host its annual fly-in event from 8 a.m. to noon. A pancake breakfast served from 8 to 11: 30 a.m., a flower drop contest and airplanes being on display will highlight the day.

JUNE 15, MUSKY

TOURNAMENT — Hank Lesniak's Valley of the Giants Musky Tournament will be held on Lac Vieux Desert from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., with headquarters at Hillside Resort. Contact 715-547-3646.

JUNE 15, RUMMAGE-A-

RAMA — The sale is held throughout Phelps from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone interested can visit the Phelps Convenience Store to get a map of locations of rummage sales.

JUNE 15, THE CHAIN SKIMMERS WATERSKI SHOW

- The Chain Skimmers waterski show team will perform through August at 7 p.m. on Lake Pleasant north of Conover off

CLEARWATER FARMS FARMS Pick your own Strawberries! Children encouraged to pick!

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"Best and oldest 9-hole course in Wisconsin. A must play." —R.B.

"As a regular golfer or vacation player, it's worth going out of your way to play this gem. After, you have to spend time enjoying the best view in the North Woods sipping a beverage on the porch!" —W.K.

Information and online booking at: **plumlakegolf.com** 715-542-2598 Sayner, WI

Loon songs common to the North Woods

"Above came a swift whisper of wings, and as the loons saw us they called wildly in alarm and took the laughing with them into the gathering dusk. The shores echoed and re-echoed until they seemed to throb with music. This was the symbol of the lake country, the sound that more than any other typifies the rocks and waters and forests of the wilderness."

—**Sigurd Olson,** *"Listening Point"* Those who are look-

ing for the best place in Wisconsin to hear the wild calls of the common loon, visitors can look no further than Vilas, Oneida, Iron, and Forest counties.

It is these lakes that not only attract tens of thousands of fishermen and vacationers each year, but also one of nature's top fish-catchers, the common loon.

Loons once nested on lakes all over Wisconsin, but now are mostly confined to the upper third of the state, especially Vilas, Oneida, Iron, and Forest counties. Out of the four loon species, the common loon is the only one that nests in Wisconsin.

According to Project LoonWatch, up to 30% of the state's loon population resides on lakes in these four counties, an area blessed with the heaviest concentration of clean, fishable lakes in Wisconsin.

Every five years since 1985, LoonWatch has conducted a one-day loon survey on a pre-selected group of lakes to estimate the size and distribution of Wisconsin's common loon population.

Volunteer observers visit a lake or lakes on one day in July between 5



Loons are a common sight and sound on lakes throughout the North Woods. The soothing call of the loon can often be heard in the early morning and sunset hours. —Staff Photo By KURT KRUEGER

and 10 a.m. to count both adults and chicks. This information is then used to estimate the number of breeding adults and the number of chicks produced. Over time, the survey tells the trend in the state's loon population—whether it is stable, increasing, or declining.

A total of 152 volunteers helped LoonWatch survey 157 lakes throughout 27 northern Wisconsin counties for the 2020 Wisconsin Loon Population Survey, which showed the 2020 adult population estimate was 4,115, and the chick population estimate was 893 chicks.

The adult population saw a 5.9% decrease from the 2015 survey, but LoonWatch officials said it was well within the standard error. The chick population estimate is 59 more chicks than the 2015 survey, or a 7% increase, which is also well within the standard error. The standard error is a measure of the variability of a statistic.

Sixty-four lakes were monitored in Vilas County, 48 in Oneida County, and 10 in Forest County.

The seventh Wisconsin Loon Population Survey was held in 2015. This survey started in 1985 and is orchestrated once every five years on 258 preselected lakes throughout northern Wisconsin. In 2015, 230 volunteers surveyed 223 lakes.

According to the 2015 results, the adult loon population is estimated at 4,350, an increase of 9.1% from 2010, and the 2015 chick population was estimated at 834, an increase of 37.8%.

Erica LeMoine, program coordinator of Project LoonWatch at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College in Ashland, said the estimates are good news for loon populations. She credits the improved population, in part, to improved communication about loons, expanding volunteers and the LoonWatch Get the Lead Out! program.

"LoonWatch has had a positive impact educating interested lake residents and visitors about good loon conservation practices, reaching tens of thousands of people since it started in 1978," LeMoine said. "And these loon enthusiasts are incredible stewards and ambassadors for this iconic bird of the north."

VILAS, ONEIDA NESTS

Past research on where

To LOONS page 14



The lake country of Vilas and Oneida counties is home to hundreds of common loons, the highest concentration in Wisconsin, as most lakes over 20 acres have a nesting pair of loons. They construct nests from old vegetation in May and baby loons hatch in June. Their most prized staple is yellow perch and they eat literally tons of them every year. — Staff Photo By KURT KRUEGER

Vacation Week is published by the Vilas County News-Review and The Three Lakes News, with 12 issues during June, July and August. This issue also can be viewed in digital format at vcnewsreview.com. For more information, contact the Vilas County News-Review in Eagle River at 715-479-4421.

EVENTS

from page 3

Highway 45. Shows will be every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Contact (708) 205-9180 or visit its Facebook page.

JUNE 15, BAGS AND BREWS: CORNHOLE NIGHT — Grab a partner for a friendly game of cornhole at Sayner Pub from 4 to 8 p.m. Tossing starts at 6 p.m. Registration is \$30 for a pair for one night. Contact learnmore@ sayner-starlake.org.

JUNE 16, MUSIC IN THE PARK

- Located in Koller Park in Manitowish Waters, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. people can listen to live music in the open air of the park. Contact (715) 543-8488.

JUNE 17, FLEA MARKET —

The St. Germain Flea Market, one of the largest flea markets in the North Woods, is held on Mondays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m at the Saint Germain Community Park. Visit stgermainfire.com.

JUNE 17, BINGO — Bingo in Manitowish Waters is held at Manitowish Waters Community Center, Mondays at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. and snacks and refreshments will be available.

JUNE 18, SPEEDWAY RACES

- Every Tuesday from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. races are held at the tri-oval track in Eagle River. Concessions are available at the tracks. Contact (715) 479-5208.

June 19, Aqua Devils Ski Show —



Airplanes will be staged for viewing during the Eagle River Airport fly-in event slated for this Saturday. Things kick off at 8 a.m. and go through 12 p.m.

Airport fly-in event set June 15

The public is invited to the Eagle River Union Airport on Saturday, June 15, from 8 a.m. to noon to take part in the annual fly-in and pancake breakfast. This year, The Civil Air Patrol will be cooking and serving pancakes and sausage from 8 to 11:30 a.m. in the large hangar next to the terminal building for a suggested donation of \$8 per person.

The first event of the day will be a flour-drop contest beginning at 10 a.m., where attendees can watch a pilot and crew attempt to get close to the target area with a half-pound bag of flour dropped from 50 feet.

Airport manager Robert Hom detailed that teams are vying for a \$250 prize.

A two-person crew is required for all wishing to enter the competition. Attendees can also take part in the flour drop festivities by purchasing a square from organizers on the pilot pool board for \$10.

In addition to these events, individuals will also have the chance to check out the LifeLink Medevac helicopter (call dependent).

Participants will have the opportunity to walk out on the ramp and take an up close and personal look at the aircraft on display. For more information, visit erairport. com, or contact Hom at 715-479-7442 or fbo@ erairport.com.

The Three Lakes Aqua Devils waterski team will host its first show of the season from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Big Stone Lake. Shows are held on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. from mid-June through mid-August. Visit www. aquadevils.org.

JUNE 19, CONCERT CRAWL —

The St. Germain Concert Crawl will kick off at 6:30 p.m. featuring Jenna Jane. Each Wednesday, the crawl will be held at a different restaurant or bar in town. Visitors are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Visit st-germain. com for the schedule.

JUNE 19, MUSIC ON MAIN STREET —

Boulder Junction will host a music series that will offer live entertainment. Bret and Frisk will be performing in downtown Boulder Junction and the event will continue on select days from 6 to 8 p.m. until August. Visit boulderjct.org for full details.

JUNE 19, TENNIS ROUND ROBINS —

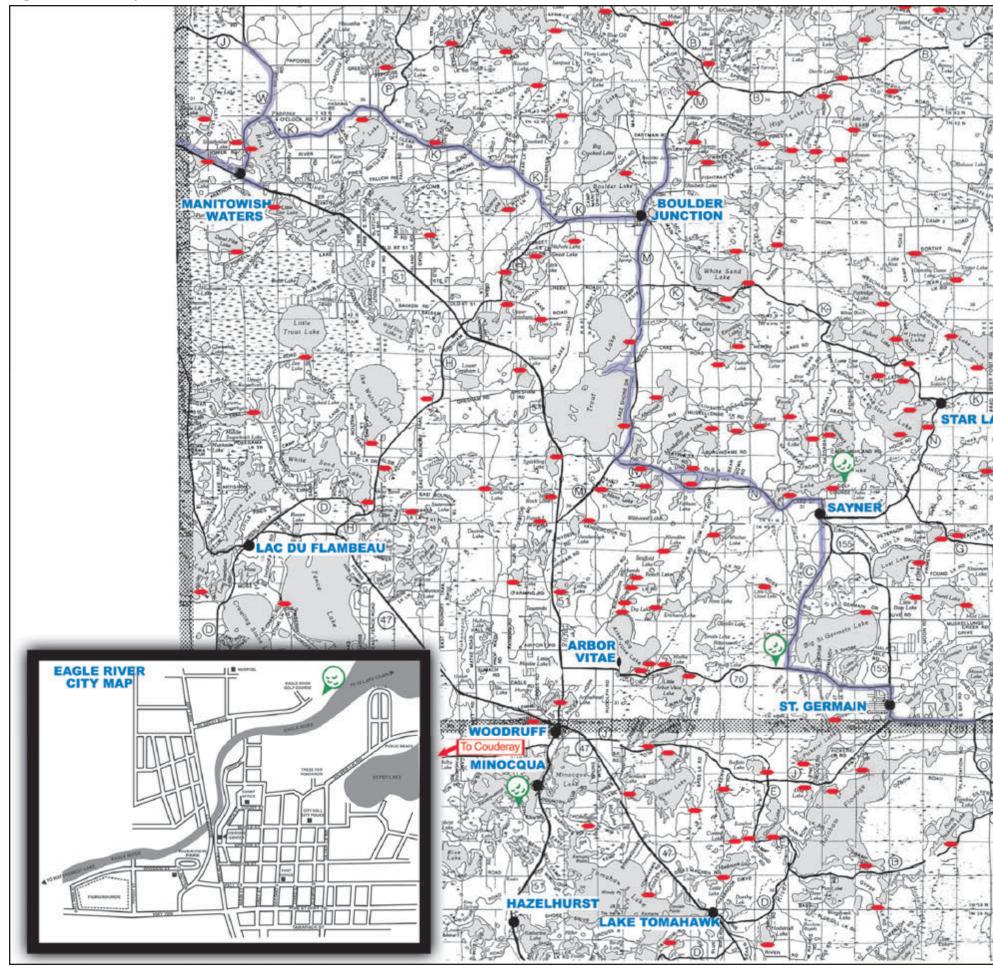
The Greater Eagle River Tennis Association will host a social tennis event at the Vilas County Fairground courts every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. Contact greatereaglerivertennis@gmail. com.

JUNE 20, MANITOWISH WATERS FLEA AND FARMERS MARKET —

Every Thursday during the summer, the Manitowish Waters Community Center grounds host a flea and farmers market, offering fresh produce as well as traditional art from craft vendors. The event is held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact 715-686-2033.

JUNE 20, LAKE NOKOMIS CRANBERRY TOURS —

The Lake Nokomis Cranberry Marsh is offering tours of the marsh to the public Monday through Saturday each week through September at varying times. Contact 715-479-6546 or visit lakenokomiscranberries.com for the schedule.



Pirates Hideaway deemed a gem of the North Woods

One of Eagle River's best-kept secrets, Pirates Hideaway continues to provide visiting guests with a truly unique lakeside experience, blending the adventure of the high seas with the small town atmosphere of the North Woods.

In 2004, Captain Steve Strauss, his wife Linda, and their family built a pirate ship and have been giving pirate ship rides on the world's largest chain of inland freshwater lakes ever since.

Since that time, the business' services have grown to encompass much more than just rides on the Chain as the company has added a number of quality onland services as well.

This year they'll celebrate their 20th anniversary as pirates on the Eagle River Chain of lakes.

This year commemorates the business' 20th season as pirates, and the crew have celebrations planned.

The pirate ship offers family-fun public tours along with the option to rent the ship for private events. It has become a well-known icon on the Eagle River Chain and attracts visitors from all over the state and beyond.

While the operation of the pirate ship continues to provide a magical experience for young and old, Pirates Hideaway also features its unique on-land services that are open to the public.

In addition to providing weekly live entertainment by the lake, Pirates Hideaway has a lakeside ice cream shop, tiki bar, gift shop, and offers various menu items such as delicious homemade woodfired pizzas.

The new improvements and innovations coincide with the goal of the business — to provide a variety of options for any age to enjoy.

Over the past few winters, the owners and crew at the Hideaway have been busy making major improvements to the facilities.

In 2021, the Strauss family added the woodfired oven to offer freshmade pizza to visitors. The restaurant's homemade dough is topped with fresh, quality ingredients and has become a big hit in the area. The business has become known for having some of the best and freshest pizza in the North Woods. They now serve their woodfired pizzas during both lunch and dinner hours, as opposed to just evenings as they had in the beginning.

Patrons can also enjoy lunch and dinner just a few steps away from Duck Lake, which provides a beautiful setting for guests while dining.

Additional menu items include slow-roasted pulled pork sandwiches, Vienna Chicago dogs, hot beef sandwiches, salads and more.

The lakeside tiki bar at Pirates Hideaway also offers a diverse and delicious range of tropical cocktails, craft beer and wine selections. It is quickly becoming a "must-check-out" destination when visiting Eagle River, but also provides a fun regular stop for local patrons. "Since much of the grounds are open air, Pirates Hideaway is able to offer a spacious, fun indoor/outdoor venue that has something for all ages," Strauss said.

The Strauss family also made a series of upgrades back in 2020, including a 1,000-squarefoot "sky deck" to offer additional seating and an outdoor order window for its ice cream shop.

The sky deck provides a spectacular view overlooking the ground's beautiful annual gardens and Duck Lake where visitors can relax and appreciate the beauty of the North Woods with a sweet treat in hand.

The ice cream shop at Pirates Hideaway now offers 24 flavors of Wisconsin-made Cedar Crest ice cream, soft serve, Lotus concoctions, & more. What sets the ice cream shop at Pirates Hideaway apart from others is that guests don't just get ice cream, they also get an experience.

"What a better way to spend the summer with your family than to sit by the lake and enjoy ice cream?" said Captain Steve about the business' unique appeal. There is an abundance of spacious lakeside seating too, where patrons can enjoy malts, shakes, sundaes, candies and cones.

Below deck, they've brought the Caribbean appeal to the North Woods with added spacious seating, a stage for live entertainment, and a tiki bar for those looking to a enjoy a meal or relaxing evening with their favorite drinks by the water.



This year commemorates the 20th season as pirates, and the crew have celebrations planned with the pirate ship offering family-fun public tours and options to rent a ship for private events.

There is free live music every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, and a beach party with a band Sunday afternoons.

"We are so excited for people to come enjoy the ambiance and unique appeal of our establishment," said their son, Stevo, who runs the business with them. "It is great because this is a place where adults and kids can enjoy their time together and take advantage of a number of unique lakeside services."

With the stage being a focal point of the openair tiki lounge, the hideaway offers many weekly events to look forward to this summer.

Some of their favorites include Thursday nights with Scott Kirby, Friday and Saturday night solo and duo concert sets, Sunday beach parties from 3 to 6 p.m. with a band, and the annual performance of Tod Donnelly and Sons, Tom Mason and the Blue Buccaneers, and more. The lineup of performers can be found on Pirates Hideaway Facebook events page or at eagleriverpirates.com under their Events and Entertainment tab.

For all the treasure seekers out there, Pirates Hideaway also offers a gift shop that features unique jewelry, apparel, dresses, skirts, pirate costumes, souvenirs and more.

The iconic pirate ship sails from Memorial Day through mid-September. Guests can make reservations and enjoy a public tour of the Chain of Lakes.

Public scenic tours include Coffee with the Captain rides, afternoon tours and sunset rides. They're the perfect way for families and friends to enjoy the Chain, which Eagle River is known for.

Guests can also reserve the ship for private events such as family reunions, weddings, birthday parties or any event that requires a fun, festive venue.

"Fun for kids and adults alike, visitors enjoy a scenic tour of several lakes on the Eagle River Chain. We are so fortunate that we get to help so many people make lasting memories with their families and friends every summer," said Captain Steve.

Pirate ship availability for public rides can be seen and booked on the website. Inquire about private availability by calling or emailing Pirates Hideaway.

Pirates Hideaway has a great team of around 30 local and seasonal employees lined up to serve patrons.

Pirates Hideaway is located by land 2 miles north of Eagle River at 1998 Highway 45 North or by water on the west shore of Duck Lake between Sweetwater & Hiawatha.

For more information, visit eagleriverpirates. com or call 715-479-6756.



3905 US 45, Conover Call 715-409-2994 4seasonspowersportsrental.com



Chanticleer Inn Summer Hours





"For a fun and challenging golf experience, I would like to personally invite you to visit our beautiful golf course in the heart of the Northwoods. Walk or ride, 9 or 18 holes. Rental clubs are available."



-Anthony Sable, PGA Professional

WalkAbout Apparel & Paddle provides exceptional service

WalkAbout Apparel & Paddle first opened its store on Wall Street in Eagle River in 2001, and they have been outfitting customers with a smile ever since.

With lakes and rivers abounding in the North Woods, WalkAbout offers great watercraft variety: kayaks, canoes, standup paddleboards, utility docs, and the all-new electric Lift eFoil hydrofoil boards.

WalkAbout features kayaks from Wilderness Systems, Perceptions, and Eddyline, all made in America. Also, the store carries canoes from Souris River and Pelican.

Souris river canoes are available in Kevlar, and Pelican canoes are stocked in rotational molded plastic. WalkAbout also sells a wide variety of standup paddleboards from Boardwalks, Gray Duck, and Lifetime.

According to store manager, Alice Krueger, paddleboarding works for both exercise and relaxation, and is an activity suitable for all members of the family.

The newest addition to WalkAbout are batterypowered hydrofoil boards from Lift, which come in several sizes. That offering was so popular in 2021 that owners David and Jessica Eibner expanded their supply to meet the growing market.

"Hydrofoil surfing is not a flash in the pan," said David Eibner. "It's here to stay and it is available to surfers of all ages, from kids to 70-year-olds."

The eFoil gives riders the experience of a combination of surfing,



With lakes and rivers abounding the North Woods, WalkAbout offers great watercraft variety, including kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddleboards, and utility docs.

flying, and deep-powder

snowboarding, and the

staff at WalkAbout can

confirm this experience

firsthand after demon-

store's owners.

strating the eFoil with the

Handmade in Puerto

shipped by a family-run

business that has devel-

board that incorporates

technology found in

smart phones, drones,

operators forward and

above the water using

an eFoil fin, relying on

electric power instead of

manual power or wind.

They run on a recharge-

able lithium battery and

create no emissions or

oped the eFoil. a hydrofoil

and even electric vehicles.

The boards propel their

Rico. Lift boards are

noise.

Speeds are controlled by a Bluetooth-connected hand remote and riders can go upwards of 25 mph on a two-hour charge.

"It's a new and exciting way to experience the North Woods," said Eibner.

WalkAbout stocks Paddle North utility docks made with durable materials for floating or slipping and sliding. The docks are even safe for dogs. The store also offers a selection of lifejackets for all members of the family, including the family dog, as well as carries many accessories for water activities and camping.

WalkAbout provides

demos of all recreational water toys.

"It's our try-before-youbuy commitment," said Krueger.

She said WalkAbout's trained and experienced staff is ready to assist guests for a pleasant shopping experience.

"We are committed to providing our guests with the best customer service! We'll find the right boat and paddle to fit your needs, as well as your favorite comfort leisurewear or footwear that fits just perfect," said Krueger.

The store, located next to Nelson's Ace Hardware, is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

With a men and women's department of apparel and shoes, WalkAbout carries many brands of clothing such as Patagonia, Life is Good, Lakegirl, Carhartt, Charlie B, Brighton, prAna, Kuhl, Vera Bradley, and Stormy Kromer, just to name a few.

"We are a dog-friendly store with treats, beds, chewy toys, collars and leashes, as well as life jackets. We enjoy meeting our guests' furry friends as well," said Krueger.

The store has a wide variety of Birkenstock sandals, along with Chaco and Reef. They also carry shoes from Merrill, Keen, Sorel, Dansko, and Ugg.

The storefront is located at 622 E. Wall St. in downtown Eagle River. Customers can follow the store on Facebook and Instagram.

For more information, call 715-479-6631, or email them at info@walkabout-paddle.net.

VACATION WEEK

Chanticleer Inn supper club boasts historic setting, modern cuisine

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

The Chanticleer Inn in Eagle River offers a variety of services right on the Chain of Lakes for visitors and residents to take advantage of yearround, from dining to boat rentals to a place to relax near the water.

With a recent exchange of owners, and after celebrating its 100th year in business three years ago, the Chanticleer Inn has been making changes around the grounds.

Jordan Banda, along with four other families, co-own the inn. The owners, along with co-managers Jenni Raatz and Jill Mesun, said they are ecstatic to breathe new life into the inn.

One of the biggest news items is the reopening of its dining room to the public after a short hiatus from Covid. The dining- and bar area is staffed with enthusiastic employees, most of whom



Right on the Chain near Eagle River, The Chanticleer Inn has been a staple in the area to visitors and residents alike, offering lodging, food, drinks, and a fun and friendly atmosphere year round.

returned from last year, ready to greet patrons with a smile.

This year, the kitchen has been newly updated with top-of-the-line equipment, which is fully staffed and ready to serve their guests.

"The Chanticleer Inn has been and remains a consistent, excellent statement for the North Woods. People can have a fantastic meal and a fun evening," said Raatz. "The food is great, and we have the most beautiful spot on the Chain.

"It's awesome to see the enthusiasm and the willingness to learn in the younger workers," she said. "Everyone here is like family and we work together as a team to provide excellent customer service."

The Chanticleer Inn also provides quality lodging in the North Woods. It has eight free-standing villas and 17 hotel-style suites. The business is currently working towards updating and renovating many of the rooms.

There is free Wi-Fi available throughout the entire resort, and guests also have access to Dollar Lake, a privately-owned lake off the Chain.

According to Raatz, the Chanticleer Inn is family-oriented.

"We have activities for everyone," she said. "There is a kid's scavenger hunt with an ice cream reward for the children. Another bonus is that we're right off the snowmobile and ATV trails."

With the Chanticleer Inn being located directly on the Chain, docking is available, as well as boat and jet ski rentals from Bubba's Boats.

For updated hours please call the restaurant at 715-479-4486.









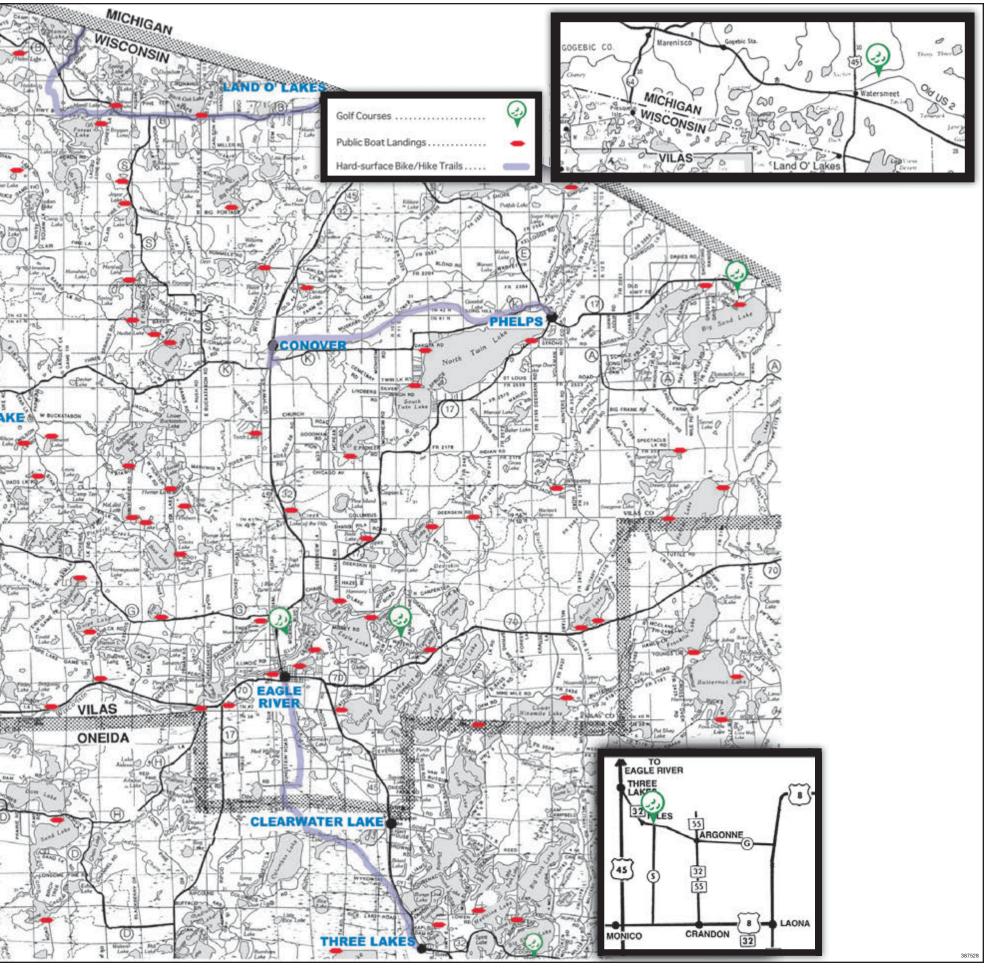


While relaxing, the dining and bar facilities offer patrons beautiful views of the lake.



This church directory will run each week in Vacation Week. If you would like information about having your church added to the list, please stop in at the News-Review or call (715) 479-4421.





Boulder Junction hosts weekly flea market

The Boulder Junction Lions Club weekly outdoor craft and flea market will be held every Tuesday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., between the dates of June 6 through Aug. 29. The flea market will take place at the Boulder Junction Community Center, located at 5392 Park St. in Boulder Junction. There will be vendors selling crafts, food, farm produce, clothing, collectibles, fine art and antiques. The Lions Club will also have its slider and baked goods booth set up.

For more information, or to reserve a vendor space, call Tom Wierzba at 715-686-7970.

I Pay Cash for Old Fishing Lures

Tall Pines Motel & Gallery





Big Rig Friendly RV Resort featuring tranquil privacy and a relaxing atmosphere. An exclusive Northwoods masterpiece!

The Land O' Lakes Nature RV Resort is an exclusive Northwoods escape for adults 25+ only

Big	Rig	Frier	٦dl	У	

- 25 Spacious RV Sites
- 20, 30 & 50 Amp Service
- Water & SepticHand Crafted Picnic Table
- Fire Ring
- High-Speed WIFI
- ce 215 Acres Miles of Nature Trails able 2 Observation Towers Kayak Launch Enchanted Forest

Firewood

Offsite Storage

Scottie's Bait and Tackle carries it all

Scottie's Bait and Tackle in Three Lakes is ready to share and support another summer season in the North Woods with owner Scott Brandenburg leading the charge heading into the busy season.

In addition to

Brandenburg's bait and tackle shop, as well as his Three Lakes Cheese House business, he is an avid community supporter of veterans, first responders, and the youth. All military personnel and first responders, along with students who attend Three Lakes or Sugar Camp schools, receive a 10% discount every day.

The tackle shop carries several kinds of live bait including leeches, worms, crawlers and baby crawlers, as well as seven kinds of minnows. Bait from the shop can be used to catch muskies, walleyes, and many other kinds of fish found in North Woods lakes.

Scottie's also has an exclusive line of double blade, double hook muskie lures and will be featuring new plastics from Off The Chain, perfect for walleye, bass, and panfish set to arrive mid June.

The shop also has plenty of tackle including reels, lines, lures, bobbers, hooks and sinkers. A variety of fishing rods and children's fishing rods are available for purchase. Nets, life jackets, and children's swim toys are also sold.

Ice fishing supplies for the winter can also be bought at any time.

Brandenburg has been



Scottie's Bait and Tackle carries several kinds of live bait, including leeches, worms, crawlers, and live minnows.

a fisherman for about 45 years, visiting the North Woods for more than 20 years, doing business in the North Woods for six years, and has lived in the North Woods for a little over four.

Before owning Scottie's Bait and Tackle, Brandenburg was known as "the cheese guy." He continues to sell more than 40 different cheeses in his store and out of his truck, which can be found in Eagle River by Nelson's Ace Hardware on Saturdays and the St. Germain Flea Market on Mondays throughout the summer season.

The cheese curds are made fresh and can be bought the same day they are made. Customers can also buy maple syrup, meat jerky, and mushrooms. Types of cheese sold include cheddar, colby, and a horseradish cheese to "open up the sinuses," said Brandenburg.

Arriving sometime in June will be his best-selling seasonal cheese — Sweet Vidalia Onion Colby cheese. Brandenburg said he sold more than 1,000 pounds of that cheese last year alone.

Amish jams, Wichman Farm syrup, Dupont cheeses, Smith's Mushrooms, and Mike's Country Meats are all items Brandenburg carries in an effort to support Wisconsin businesses and, more specifically, from the Marion area where Brandenburg is from.

Additionally, varieties of wild rice from Rice River Farms in Spooner will be available this year at Scotties as well.

Something potential customers might not know is that in addition to Scottie's selling custom-made sheds and cottages, also available are G-Force steel trailers which can be ordered and custom-made.

The shop is open Sundays through Thursdays, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m; Fridays 6 a.m. to 7 p.m; and Saturdays 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information call 715-546-3776 or visit Scottie's Bait and Tackle's Facebook page.

Nelson's Ace Hardware celebrates 70 years of helpful service and sales

For 70 years, customer service and quality products have made Nelson's Ace Hardware in Eagle River a retail leader in the North Woods.

Each year since 1953, Nelson's Ace has received awards for its commitment to providing superior service, retail excellence, and supporting the community. The business holds true to its motto as being "the helpful place."

"The goal of the business is to provide friendly, knowledgeable and helpful service, as well as high-quality products," said co-owner David Eibner. "Whether it is paint, light bulbs, power tools, or better quality dog food, we never stop working to satisfy the needs of our customers."

With an array of equipment, products, and services to help visitors and residents enjoy their summer vacation, Nelson's Ace is the place to gear up for grilling out, getting the yard up to par, and finding the right tool for getting jobs on the "to-do" list done.

The business offers a wide variety of grills from Big Green Eggs to Traeger and Weber. Eibner added that Nelson's Ace has enhanced its supply and selection of Traeger pellet grills, an advanced cooking system that is growing in popularity.

Among the newest products are low-smoke deck and yard heaters from Solo Stove, a wood fire pit holder with a built-in stand for use on decks. Nelson's carries both the Bonfire and Yukon models.

The store is also an authorized dealer of Stihl and Ariens, and provides service and repair for all Stihl products. The full line of Stihl products includes chain saws, trimmers, blowers, pole pruners, and lawn mowers.

"Stihl just developed and started marketing a new chainsaw that offers a fuel-injected engine, which features better acceleration and an improved power-to-weight ratio for the operator," said Eibner.

Another prominent tool brand they offer is Milwaukee, which is marketed heavily across the Midwest and beyond.

Nelson's can also fill propane tanks for campers, recreational vehicles and grills, with free assembly and local delivery offered as well.

The business and its staff pride themselves on providing helpful information and a bevy of accessories for home improvement, cabin upkeep, and summer projects.

Plumbing, lawn and garden, automotive, electrical supplies, and houseware products are other departments offered at Nelson's Ace.

The business' recentlyexpanded paint department sells Benjamin Moore, Ace Royal, and Clark+Kensington.

Since 1883, Benjamin Moore has remained a top choice paint brand



With an array of grills, smokers and, and flat-top griddles, Nelson's Ace Hardware in Eagle River will have guests barbecuing in style this summer with great deals every day.

for both the do-it-yourselfer and professional design consumer, offering customers more than 3,500 premium color options.

In addition, Nelson's has advanced its LED lighting inventory.

"It's not just the larger selection and lower prices that has caught the attention of customers, but the fact that the latest bulbs are actually starting to look like traditional light bulbs," said Eibner.

Nelson's Ace is more than a typical hardware store. They offer products for the lake such as water toys and beach balls, and giftware to decorate a cabin.

"Nelson's Ace is a onestop shop because of our wide array of products and friendly staff," said Eibner. Eibner and his wife, Jessica Nelson-Eibner, handle the dayto-day operations of the business. They are the third generation to run the store.

According to Eibner, two Nelson brothers originally founded a hardware store in Park Falls. After a few years the brothers separated and Carl Sr. moved to Eagle River to start Nelson's Ace Hardware.

Located at 606 E.

Wall St. in Eagle River, Nelson's is open Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about Nelson's, call (715) 479-4496.



A detailed variety of home goods and gifts can also be found at Nelson's Ace Hardware.



The shelves of Nelson's offers a collection of gardening equipment.



Fireman's Flea Market

LOONS from page 4

pairs of loons nested found 55% of lakes of more than 20 acres in Vilas County had at least one pair. Oneida County was also found to have 65% of its lakes populated with loons.

Often referred to as a lasting symbol of the wilderness, the powerful, streamlined birds are easily identified with their black-and-white checkerboard plumage. Baby loons, which hatch in June, don't have the distinctive markings, but will often accompany their parents.

The loon is holding its own in what remains of its Wisconsin habitat. but that doesn't mean there are no problems. People, mostly well-meaning, disturb the birds, and shoreline development continues to eliminate nesting habitat.

One of the major causes in the reduction of breeding sites is that loon nests have been gradually replaced by cottages, condos, and vacation homes on the inland lakes in Wisconsin. Other shoreline development had further blocked areas formerly used as nesting sites. Because the loon needs to nest very close to the water's edge, as more shoreline is developed, more birds are displaced.

The loon is not built for walking or even standing; its feet are set too far back on its body, forcing it to build nests close to the edge of the water where they are vulnerable to boat wakes and changes in water level.

Another issue is the use of lead sinkers in the fishing community. Due to the nature of loon's digestion, lead sinkers can be detrimental to their health. Loons may mistake a broken off sinker for a small stone, which are used to aid digestion. When the sinker enters the gizzard, it is eroded by the acid and grinding nature of the organ. The lead is then exposed to the bloodstream where it quickly becomes fatal to the loon.

Officials of Sigurd **Olson Environmental** Institute remind people, especially boaters, that the harassment of a loon may result in the separation of young and parent. Once that happens, the voung may die of fatigue or exposure or may be killed by predators.

Whenever possible, those wanting to get a closer look at the North's bird should use binoculars or a spotting scope to make observations,

according to officials. If photographing a loon, use a telephoto lens.

LOON RANGERS

For the past 40-plus years, LoonWatch has engaged an active volunteer network of "Loon Rangers" as their primary tool to collect critical long-term data on loons in northern Wisconsin, Volunteers attend a Loon Ranger workshop in the spring to learn how to monitor loons, to hear what's new in the world of loon research and to meet other loon enthusiasts.

Throughout the summer, Loon Rangers watch loons on a lake where they live, vacation or visit often. They record when loons arrive, if they nested, how many chicks were produced and any potential threats to the nest site.

In fall, data is sent to LoonWatch where it is entered into the Department of Natural Resources database and is available for management decisionmaking. Loon Rangers also help protect loons by spreading the word to their neighbors and other lake users to steer clear of loons on nests and on the water.

CALL OF THE WILD

A loon from 20 years ago could still be yodeling on a lake this summer.

VACATION WEEK

The birds are said to have a life expectancy of 15 to 25 years, and return to the same body of water year after year.

The familiar calls of the loon have been broken down into four classifications.

The wail is probably the most frequently heard. A loon will wail when it becomes separated from the chick or if its mate fails to return. The tremolo is an aggressive response given when disturbed by a boat or predator. Another common call, the vodel, is another expression of aggression and is given by the male during a confrontation. The hoot symbolizes a call of curiosity and happiness.

Loons feed primarily on fish, frogs, crayfish, mussels, leeches and aquatic insects. By the end of summer, the young fledglings are capable of feeding themselves. The loon's favorite food is the yellow perch.

In late autumn, loons can be seen congregating on large lakes, ready to fly south for the winter. somewhere along the southern Atlantic or Gulf coasts.

Fortunately, residents and visitors to the North Woods are able to enjoy the beauty and calls of loons each summer.





DESTINATION: NORTH WOODS

Ride the Lumberjack Steam Train! On Hwy 8 on Laona's West Side The train leaves the depot at 10 & 11 a.m. 12 and 1 p.m. **Tuesday through Saturday** Enjoy the Forestry Museum, Blacksmith Shop, Nature Center, the Petting Zoo, Forest Surrey Ride, the Cracker Barrel Gift Shop & enjoy a lunch at the Choo Choo Cafe!

www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com or 715-674-3414

Reiter Center to host third annual Sip 'N Swirl wine event

The Reiter Center announced that tickets are still on sale for the third annual Sip 'n Swirl event Wednesday, June 19, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The event will include wine tasting, beer tasting, specialty food samples and sales and an evening of music by Brett Winters.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served and basket raffles are available for chance. Attendees will also receive a wine-sampling glass with a commemorative glass charm. Tickets to the event are available for a cost of \$40 and can be purchased at the Reiter Center during open hours or from any Reiter Center board member.

Funds raised will be used for maintenance and classes to be offered to seniors. The center provides meeting space for nonprofit organizations, facilities for the Senior Nutrition Program and a location for public assistance programs and Nicolet College courses. It is also a venue for large meetings, weddings and events. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 715-546-2552.

Take a Kid Fishing event scheduled June 16 in Conover

The Conover Lions Club and Headwaters Muskies Inc. will once again be sponsoring the Take a Kid Fishing on Father's Day event, to be held June 16 at Lake Itsy Bitsy at the Conover Town Park on Highway K. Registration for the event will begin at 11 a.m., with fishing running from noon to 3 p.m. Admission for the event is free of charge and every child 12 and younger will have the opportunity to catch a fish. Thirty of the stocked fish have tags and,

if caught, children will receive a \$5 prize. The organizations will furnish fishing poles and bait for participants. The child who catches "Marvin the Big Trout" during the event will be able to have the fish mounted by Lax Reproductions. An all-day concession stand will be available during the event. Raffles and a bounce house will be ongoing throughout the day. For more information, contact Kathy at 715-477-0575.

Wine enthusiasts can enjoy Sip and Shop

event June 15

The fifth annual Sip-N-Shop Wine Walk event is planned for Saturday, June 15, by the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce.

This year's event will run from noon to 5 p.m. in the downtown Eagle River area.

Participants can enjoy an afternoon of shopping and wine sampling at participating businesses that will offer discounts





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