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THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 29 No. 2

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OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE BEAUTY

Many people erroneously lament winter as a drab, cold and colorless season. Those people need only open their eyes, ears and hearts to the many colorful sights, sounds and activities of winter in the Geneva Lakes area – sights such as this blue jay perched in a tree near the Southern Kettle Moraine Forest in Walworth County. From the high-flying Sky Circus on Ice (page 7) to the snow-sculpted fun of Winterfest (page 39), this edition has ideas to help you celebrate the beauty of the season.

Photo by Robert Mischka *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



IT'S COMIN' UP

FEBRUARY EVENTS

1 - 12 Lake Geneva's annual Winterfest featuring the US National Snow Sculpting Competition featuring music, magic, refreshments, activities, helicopter rides, shopping and dining. The US National Snow Sculpting Competition Champion's Award, second, third place and the Peoples' Choice award are featured at this great event at the Riviera on the lakefront in downtown Lake Geneva. (262) 248-4416. See page 39.

1 Paulaner/Hacker Pschorr Beer Tasting, 6 to 8 p.m., at Ivan's Backstage, 2087 Division St., East Troy. Enjoy beers paired with delicious appetizers. Tickets available at Ivan's on the Square for \$25. Purchase early, tickets will not be sold at the door. For more information, call (262) 642-7107.

3 Lake Geneva's Historical Chicago Connections with author and docent Jim Davis, 7 p.m. at Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill St., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-6060. Museum members free; guests \$5. Encore presentation is Feb. 7 at 2 p.m.

4 Candlelight Hike at Big Foot Beach State Park, 6 to 8 p.m. There will be a naturalist program at 6 p.m. under the shelter. Hot cocoa and S'mores are waiting for you at the end of this .8-mile hike lit entirely by candles. Daily or 2017 annual State Park stickers are required to enter the park.

4 Laura Ingalls Wilder Birthday Bash at Old World Wisconsin, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at W372 S9727 Highway 67 Eagle. Celebrate Laura Ingalls Wilder's 150th birthday in this one-day-only Fan event. Suitable for ages 6 and older. Ticket price includes live music, performance, all craft supplies and food and beverage. Event is being held in the Clausung Barn. Site is closed for the season. For more information, visit www.oldworldwisconsin.org.

4 Pastured Pork and Grassfed Beef Workshop, 9 a.m. to noon, at Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, W2493 Highway ES. Instructor Steve

Deibele and his wife Marie, have operated a small certified organic farm, Golden Bear Farm, since 2002 that produces grass-fed beef and pastured Berkshire hogs. He was formally trained as an electrical engineer, and brings an analytical perspective. For more information or to register, call (262) 642-3303 ext. 100.

4, 5 All-Star LEGO Show, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana. A resort filled with LEGO bricks and a weekend filled with LEGO workshops. Admission, \$2. For more information, call (262) 275-6811 or visit www.theabbeyresort.com.

4, 5 Night Hike and Cookout, 5 to 8 p.m., Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy, 251 Elkhorn Road, Williams Bay. One-hour hike followed by free cookout and bonfire. For more information, visit friendsofknc.org.

17-19 Fourth Annual Sky Circus on Ice at Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan. The weekend spectacle will feature airborne performances by professional kite teams from across North America, plus snow sculpting and ice carving by top regional artists. Kite making workshops and a mix of indoor and outdoor activities and games for all ages. See page 7 for more.

17-19, 24-26 "Plaza Suite" by the Lakeland Players. Friday and Saturday shows at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday shows at 3 p.m., Walworth County Performing Arts Center, 15 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. For more information, call (262) 728-5578 or visit www.lakeland-players.org.

19 Elkhorn Bridal Fair, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Evergreen Country Club, Highway 12, Elkhorn. Admission, \$10. For more information, call (262) 723-5722 or visit www.evergreengolf.com.

Although we attempt to provide accurate information regarding area events, dates and times may change or events may be cancelled. We suggest you verify details before you finalize your travel plans.

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Flying
High...

at the Sky Circus on Ice

A long, colorful kite swoops down over Delavan Lake during the 2016 Sky Circus on Ice event.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Winter fun rises on the wings of kites

POPULAR SKY CIRCUS ON ICE RETURNS TO DELAVAN AREA

The Delavan-Delavan Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's fourth annual Sky Circus on Ice returns to Lake Lawn Resort Friday, Feb. 17, through Sunday, Feb. 19.

Sky Circus on Ice features synchronized performances over frozen Delavan Lake by professional kite-flying teams from across the United States and Canada as well as ice carvings and snow sculptures by international artists, kite-making workshops and more.

The outdoor festival celebrates the winter season with events and activities for all ages, according to organizers

Opening ceremonies begin at 11:30 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday and feature kites over 150 feet long on display, aerial candy drops sponsored by Andes Candies throughout the day, and hands-on training by professionals for attendees to master the art of kite flying.

This year's theme is Super Heroes! Attendees will have the opportunity to get a look at artists from around the globe transforming solid blocks of ice and snow into intricate carvings, beginning Friday at 10:30 a.m. The sculptures will be on display throughout the weekend at Lake Lawn Resort and downtown Delavan.

Awards will be given to the best sculpture in each class, and will remain on display for as long as weather permits. Snow-carving classes will be available for attendees on Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Lake Lawn Resort.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Snow sculpting and ice carving are among the activities at the Sky Circus on Ice.

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Above: Kites of many different colors, shapes and sizes will soar over Delavan Lake Feb. 17 through 19 during the Sky Circus on Ice. At right: Professional kite flying teams from the U.S. and Canada are set to attend the event.

New this year is a Tribute to Flight event held Saturday night at 8 p.m. in the historic Great Room with performers from around the globe showcasing their talents while flying kites indoors.

Special guest Connor Doran, a top-12 finalist on the fifth season of NBC's "America's Got Talent" is scheduled to perform his signature indoor kite-flying routine set to music at Lake Lawn Resort, Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Visitors will also have an opportunity to try Lake Lawn Resort's huge Blizzard Run Snow Slide, rent cross-country skis, snowshoes or ice skates at the resort's activity center, and attend indoor kite-making workshops at Lake Lawn Resort on Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

A complimentary trolley service will run from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday to transport attendees between the downtown Delavan area, Delavan Super 8, Delavan Comfort Suites and Lake Lawn Resort.

Complimentary parking will be available throughout the weekend for events at Lake Lawn Resort.

Overnight stay packages are available for those who wish to spend the weekend at the resort. Call





Lake Lawn Resort will host a kite-making workshop during the Sky Circus on Ice event Feb. 17 through 19.

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Updates on the Sky Circus on Ice weekend lineup can be found at www.lakelawnresort.com.

Sky Circus on Ice, which began in 2014, is intended to celebrate the winter season and showcase all the area has to offer local residents and out-of-town guests. The event is a collaboration among the Delavan-Delavan Lake Area Chamber of Commerce; Lake Lawn Resort; Kunes Country Auto Group; Gift of Wings kite store of Milwaukee; and WinterFun Inc., the organizer of the U.S. Nationals Snow Sculpting Competition.



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ART FOR ALL

DONATED SCULPTURES CREATE FAMILY LEGACY IN LAKE GENEVA

Anne Brunk Peterson, daughter of Brunk Industries founders and lovers-of-the-arts Ulla and Bertil Brunk, acknowledges that not all works of art appeal to everyone.

by **Vicky Wedig**
STAFF WRITER

“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” she said.

But the Lake Geneva native turned Kansas City news anchor became enamored with works of art she discovered in Missouri that she believes everyone will appreciate.

“I felt that these wind sculptures were so universally beautiful,” she said. “I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be wonderful to bring these wind sculptures to Lake Geneva?’”

So Brunk Peterson did just that. She donated two wind sculptures – shapes crafted from metal that spin silently in the wind – to the city, which now flank the Brunk Pavilion in Flat

Iron Park. The sculptures – with a value of more than \$5,000 – stand 13 feet, 5 inches tall and are 3 feet, 10 inches wide.

They fall into the “sub-huge” category of artist Lyman Whitaker’s creations that Brunk Peterson discovered at the Leopold Gallery in Kansas City, Mo.

Brunk Peterson was acquainted with gallery owner Paul Dorrell through her work as a news anchor at the CBS affiliate KCTV5, and was impressed with Whitaker’s work.

“He’s an amazing artist,” she said.

She said each of his sculptures is “a work of art that I think is just magnificent – elegant, peaceful, tranquil and beautiful.”

Whitaker’s first sculpture was placed in Moab, Utah, and they’re now in places like Naples, Fla., and Sedona, Ariz., but in few locations in the Midwest, she said.

“

I felt that these wind sculptures were so universally beautiful. I thought, 'Wouldn't it be wonderful to bring these wind sculptures to Lake Geneva?'"

— ANNE BRUNK PETERSON

VISION OF ART

Brunk Peterson envisioned an array of the sculptures in Lake Geneva after seeing the metal spinners lining the neighborhood of Brookside, Kansas. She brought her idea to the City of Lake Geneva's Board of Park Commissioners, which received the notion well and recommended it to the City Council.

Though aldermen accepted the wind sculptures aesthetically, some had concerns about their proposed location and potential

vandalism of the structures. Mayor Alan Kupsik broke a tie vote to accept Brunk Peterson's donation of the sculptures.

"It wasn't that people were opposed to the idea," said Second District Alderman Doug Skates. "They were more opposed to the vandalism component and the visibility."

Skates voted to accept the donation but shared some of the dissenting aldermen's concerns.

"I'd seen them and thought they were really cool, but I had some reservations," he said.

Concerns were whether the



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sculptures – placed on either side of the Brunk Pavilion, which opened June 20, 2015, to host performances in the park – would block the view of concert-goers, and whether kids would be tempted to jump up and hang on the sculptures, Skates said.

He said Brunk Peterson was sympathetic to aldermen's worries.

"Anne is so awesome," he said. "She was very understanding of that."

To address the concerns, the sculptures might be raised an additional three feet – out of the line of sight of people attending concerts and out of reach of would-be miscreants. They were also made to be movable – they're placed in a permanent concrete base, but the posts can be removed from the bollards, Skates said. That way, if the sculptures didn't fit with the surroundings in Flat Iron Park or were wanted elsewhere such as at entrances to the city, they could be moved, he said. So far, Skates said, the structures have been well received since being erected Thanksgiving weekend.

"I've gotten good feedback," he said. "People think they look natural and fit in. Where they sit right now, I think looks great."

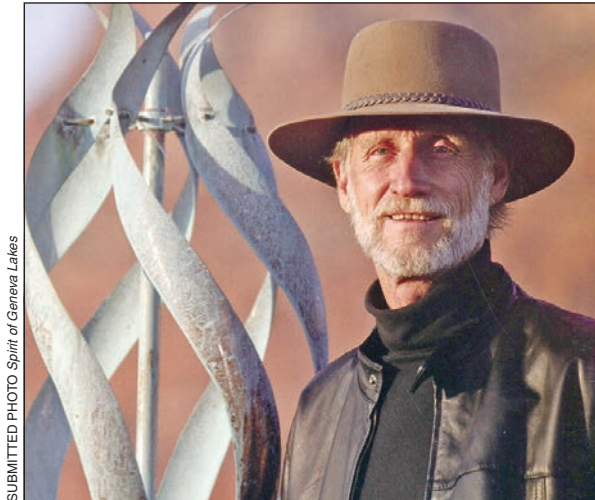
BLOWING IN THE FUTURE

Brunk Peterson hopes the sculptures in Flat Iron Park are the first two of more to come. She would like to see more wind sculptures crop up in Lake Geneva and around Walworth County. She envisions a program whereby a portion of proceeds from every wind sculpture purchased would benefit children in the county.

Skates said the city plans to explore the possibilities of siting sculptures at other locations in Lake Geneva and other people purchasing the spinners.

The sculptures range in cost from \$500 to \$7,200 per unit and in size from small – 5 feet tall by 20 inches wide – to "extra huge" – 21 feet, 4 inches tall by 6 feet, 7 inches wide. The shapes of Lake Geneva's "sub-huge" sculptures – two sizes down from the largest ones – are the Double Helix Sail and the Double Dancer. Brunk Peterson said she felt the selections were appropriate to acknowledge the area's sailing roots and honor her parents, who loved to sing and were like Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire on the dance floor.

The process of bringing the sculptures to Lake Geneva began before Bertil Brunk, a Swedish immigrant who started Brunk Industries in the family's garage in



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Artist Lyman Whitaker is shown with his wind sculpture, *Desert Flame*. Whitaker's sculptures are sold at the Leopold Gallery in Kansas City, Mo., and have been erected in Moab, Utah, Sedona, Ariz., and Maples, Fla.

One of the donated wind sculptures stands out against the front of Brunk Pavilion in Lake Geneva.



HEATHER RUENZ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Ulla Brunk and her daughter, Anne Brunk Peterson, stand in front of the Brunk Pavilion, for which Ulla and the late Bertel Brunk provided the seed money. Brunk Peterson donated the wind sculptures that were placed on each side of the pavilion in November.



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Lake Geneva 55 years ago, passed away the day after Thanksgiving 2015. Ulla Brunk, at 86 years old, still reports daily to the company for which she has served as chief financial officer since its inception. The Brunks' son, Lars Brunk, is now the president of the company that has grown to employ more than 200 people.

Brunk Peterson said her parents worked tirelessly in their tool and die business, and their love of music and the arts was their outlet outside of work.

"It's all about my parents, honoring them, and sharing with Lake Geneva something very beautiful that I think that all of Lake Geneva and visitors will appreciate," she said.

She hopes beginning a program that will benefit children – such as grants to the Holiday Home Camp – from the sale of future wind sculptures will honor her parents' principle of bettering the lives of others.

"My mom and dad went beyond the tool bench to make a difference in the community," she said.

"They always believed in paying it forward even when they didn't have anything to pay it forward with."

FINAL TOUCHES

The Lake Geneva Beautification Committee, whose Chairman Grace Eckland initially approached the Brunks about funding the pavilion, will incorporate the wind sculptures in its lighting plan for the Driehaus Family Plaza and Flat Iron Park.

Eckland drove to Sedona with Brunk Peterson while wintering in Arizona to see the wind sculptures there.

"They're works of art," she said. "They're gorgeous."

Eckland said the Beautification Committee's lighting design is complete and is ready to be put out for bid.

She said the plan will include uplighting of plants and trees in Flat Iron Park, lighting of the Riviera and additional lighting of the fountain, donated by the Richard Driehaus family, in front of the Riviera. Installation of the lighting will likely be done in spring, and, depending on the cost, might be completed in stages, Eckland said.

The Beautification Committee, a non-profit organization separate from city government, meets the second Wednesday of every month and operates solely on donations and the sale of signature bricks in the Driehaus Plaza.



The wind sculptures donated by Anne Brunk Peterson are erected in Flat Iron Park not far from the Riviera docks in downtown Lake Geneva.

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Professors offer public lectures

"The Wisconsin Idea: Whitewater, Wisconsin, and Beyond" is the theme of the spring community lecture series hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's Office of Continuing Education and Fairhaven Senior Services.

Lectures in the spring series will explore how UW-Whitewater faculty and students share their expertise and resources in areas as diverse as technology, health, business and the environment.

All lectures are free and open to the public and are held on Mondays at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Fairhaven Retirement Community, 435 West Starin Road, Whitewater. Street parking is adjacent to the building.

The titles and presenters of the lectures for the spring series are:

Monday, Feb. 6

"Embracing Open Arms Free Clinics: Client Conversations"

Presented by Kate Ksobiech, assistant professor, communication, and Nick Surita, undergraduate student

Monday, Feb. 13

"Sensors in Our Lives and Why They Matter"

Presented by Ozgur Yavuzcetin, assistant professor, physics

Monday, Feb. 20

"The Third Space of Teacher Education for Future Elementary Teachers"

Presented by Matt Vick, associate professor and chairman, curriculum and instruction

Monday, Feb. 27

"Testing the Waters: Real-Time Mapping of Water Quality on the Rock River"

Presented by Eric Compas, associate professor, geography, geology, and environmental science

Monday, March 6

"Beyond Boundaries: 3-D Printable Tactile Objects to Aid in Science Understanding"

Presented by Steven Sahyun, associate professor, physics

Monday, March 13

"Where is the Fort in Fort Atkinson? Engaging the Community Through Archaeology"

Presented by Pete Killoran, lecturer, sociology, criminology, and anthropology, and Paul Reckner, archaeologist, Wisconsin Historical Society

Monday, March 27

"Tourism in Wisconsin: An Economic Engine of Growth"

Presented by Russ Kashian, professor, economics, and director, Fiscal and Economic Research Center

Monday, April 3

"Socially Responsible Business: Making a Difference in Women Artisans' Lives"

Presented by Paul Ambrose, associate dean, College of Business and Economics

Monday, April 10

"Food, Farming and Cultural Diversity: Capturing Stories through the Wisconsin Farms Oral History Project"

Presented by James Levy, assistant professor, history

Contact Kari Borne at (262) 472-1003 or bornek@uww.edu for further information.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Brandy or whiskey old-fashioneds and Manhattans are standard fare at the bars of Wisconsin supper clubs. The drinks and restaurant specialties are the topic of the Veranda Views Lecture Series on Feb. 4 at Horticultural Hall in Lake Geneva.

To drink and dine Wisconsin style

SUPPER
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LECTURE
SERIES

Black Point Estate and Horticultural Hall will continue their winter lecture series with “Old Fashioned: The Story of the Wisconsin Supper Club” with author Mary Bergin and filmmaker Holly De Ruyter.

The presentation will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 4 at Horticultural Hall, 330 Broad St., Lake Geneva. Cost is \$20 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Black Point Estate at (262) 248-1888.

The program is part author talk, part food-tasting and part film presentation. Bergin will talk about some of her favorite supper clubs from her Wisconsin Supper Club Cookbook.

Following her talk, guests will get to sample a number of items prepared by Simple Café in Lake Geneva.

After the intermission, De Ruyter, a Chicago-based filmmaker, will show her film “Old Fashioned: The Story of the Wisconsin Supper Club.”

“We are very pleased to be bringing both Mary and Holly to the Lake Geneva area to talk about Wisconsin Supper Clubs as our contribution to this year’s Lake Geneva Winter Fest” said Dave Desimone, director at Black Point Estate and Gardens. “We’ve partnered with Horticultural Hall and Simple Café, Lake

Geneva to develop a really fun program full of nostalgia, excellent storytelling and even some great supper club food samples from Mary Bergin's Supper Club Cookbook."

Midwest travel, regional foods, German heritage and environmental sustainability are Bergin's writing specialties. The lifelong professional journalist boasts decades of newspaper work as an editor and reporter. Her weekly, syndicated and award winning "Roads Traveled" columns began in 2002.

"The Chicago Tribune" publishes Bergin's work in its travel section. Wisconsin Public Radio counts her among its travel experts. Her freelance work is a featured case study in the college textbook "Travel Journalism: On the Road with Serious Intent" by Professor John Greenman at the University of Georgia.

De Ruyter is originally from Oneida just outside of Green Bay. She grew up eating cheese curds, watching documentaries on PBS, earning Girl Scout Badges, drinking kiddie cocktails at supper clubs and catching large-mouth bass to mount on her bedroom wall.

De Ruyter's love for documentaries brought her to Chicago where she earned a degree from Columbia College in film and video concentrating in documentary production. While living there she realized how much she missed Wisconsin culture and lifestyle. In 2009, she decided to make a documentary exploring one of her favorite aspects of that culture – Wisconsin supper clubs. It has been a long and challenging six years to make this documentary, but De Ruyter is happy to be bringing the story of the Wisconsin supper club to the screen.

De Ruyter lives in Chicago with her husband, Brian, and her mounted largemouth bass from her youth.

For more information about the programs, visit Black Point Estate at blackpointestate.org. To purchase tickets, call (262) 248-1888.

Oneida native Molly De Ruyter created a documentary about supper clubs – part of Wisconsin's culture and tradition.



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Few wardrobe decisions are scrutinized as much as a bride-to-be's choice of wedding gown. Finding the perfect gown that flatters the future bride's figure while stunning her guests and soon-to-be husband is a labor of love for many brides.

The Bridal Association of America estimates a bride-to-be will spend between \$1,500 and \$2,000 total on her gown, veil and accessories.

Here is a look of some of the common types of gown silhouettes and why choosing this shape might be right for you.

BALLGOWN

A ballgown dress is truly a classic style, evoking images of fairy tale princesses. With a fitted bodice and full skirt that flairs at the waist, this silhouette is usually good for all body types. The ballgown style may not be ideal for petite women, as the skirt may overwhelm their figures.

A-LINE

Another silhouette very forgiving or appropriate for many body types is the A-line gown. A-line cut dresses should be the go-to style for anyone looking to minimize

perceived flaws. The cut of the dress will fit to the waist and gradually fan out from the hips to form the outline of an uppercase "A."

When in doubt, A-line gowns are classic and sensible and a favorite among brides.

TRUMPET

Women who prefer something a little more form-fitting may select a trumpet silhouette. This dress is fitted through the body and then the gown flares out at mid-thigh level.

MERMAID

A bit more fitted than the trumpet, this silhouette is close to the body from the chest down to the knee. The skirt then flares out slightly by the knee. Tall, thin women generally look best in this type of gown.

MODIFIED A-LINE

A balance between a traditional A-line and a more fitted gown, the modified A-line does not flare out as much. But it does flare out enough from the waist to hide areas around the hips and thighs.



This is another good choice for a wide array of figures.

SHEATH

Lean brides who want simplicity in their gowns can opt for a sheath silhouette. The narrow shape of the gown from the neckline to the hem will definitely accentuate the body shape.

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Bride-to-be Melissa enlists the help of friends and family to choose her wedding gown.
By trying on a variety of styles, she was able to find the dress of her dreams.

CASSIE SPIEGELHOFF/C MAE DESIGNS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

THE DRESS OF A

Lifetime

by **Sandra
Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Bon Bon Belle
offers selection,
expertise to fulfill
a bride's dreams

The search for the perfect dress often begins long before the bride to be steps into the bridal boutique to choose that one dress she will remember for her lifetime.

But it is when entering that bridal boutique that the reality sets in and she is immersed in a world of tulle, satin, lace, pearls, sequined jewels and styles unlike any other dress she has ever owned.

Searching for that perfect dress is often a difficult job, one that requires time, patience, and the ability to be open to unique styles. It is not a job that should be undertaken alone, but one that should be shared with someone whose opinion and taste is respected. Brides often come with their mother, close friends and sometimes the entire "girl side" of the bridal party.

Wendy Lynch, owner of Bon Bon Belle Bridal currently located at 439 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington, has helped many brides choose the right gown.

"While we welcome whatever number of friends the bride is comfortable having with her, it is often confusing when there are too many different opinions on a dress," she said.

Sometimes members of the bridal party will reject a dress based on their own style preference rather than the look of the dress on the bride and her

“

Today, many brides are going back to the vintage look. Gowns with lace inserts, long trains also embellished with lace and Swarovski crystals are among the favorites.”



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style preferences. For the most positive experience, Wendy recommends bringing three to four helpers at most for the most constructive help in choosing the wedding dress.

An array of styles

Bridal dress styles and even colors have changed over the years. Victorian styles decorated with lace long sleeves, and high necks, faded to the flapper look of the 1920s, then to the long satin dresses of the 1940s, and into the hoop skirts of the 1950s and '60s. The ball gowns, the strapless gowns, and finally the mermaid and trumpet gowns of today followed.

Today's bride has no right or wrong according to Lynch. Any style of gown can be chosen.

"Today, many brides are going back to the vintage look," she said. "Gowns with lace inserts, long trains also embellished with lace and Swarovski crystals are among the favorites."

Colors, too, are changing. While it is often thought that the bride will have a pure white dress, today's brides are choosing a much softer look preferring an off white dress or one that is blush

or champagne colored. Some brides are even choosing colored gowns. Times have changed and there is no longer any one correct look for a bride.

New trends

Bridal parties have also changed. The monochromatic look that for so long was the norm is no longer accepted as the only look. Today the bridesmaids may wear different shades of one color or completely different colors or even different styled dresses.

"Print dresses are a recent option for bridal parties – often soft florals. The vintage bohemian look is popular," Lynch said.

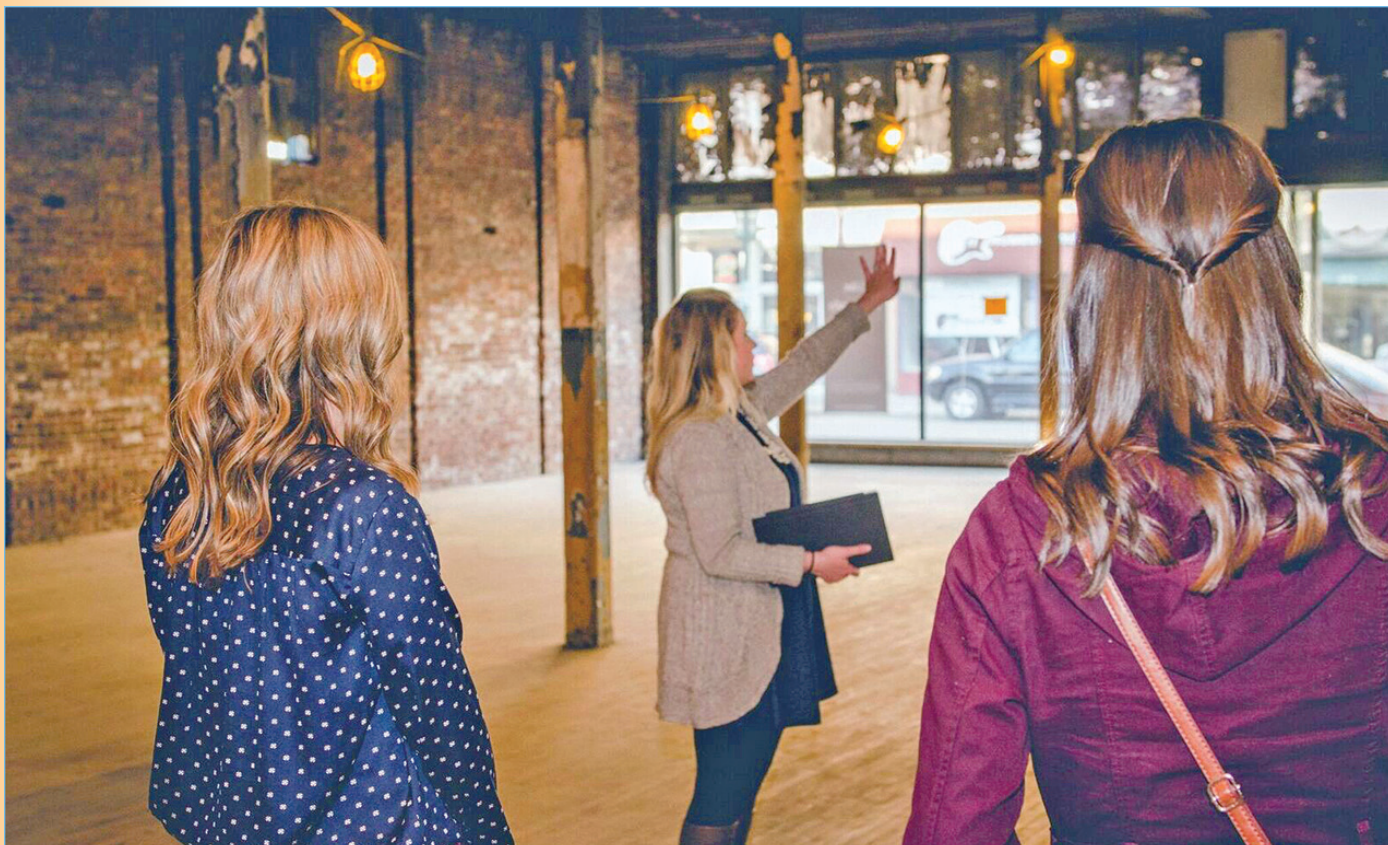
At the other end of the spectrum are bridesmaids in full sequined gowns or gowns with a metallic look. Lengths vary as to bride's preference. Hats or headpieces for the bridesmaids are usually not worn.

Lynch recommends making an appointment before arriving at the bridal shop. It is important that there are fitting rooms and consultants available to work with brides.



Bon Bon Belle owner Wendy Lynch displays a selection of flower girl dresses for the youngest members of the wedding party. The dresses may be ordered in various colors to match the color scheme of the wedding. They are also available in white for weddings or First Communion ceremonies.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



CASSIE SPIEGELHOFF/C MAE DESIGNS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

General manager Stephanie Heft gives a tour of the new Mercantile Hall venue to bride-to-be Melissa and her friends. The new venue in downtown Burlington features a rustic brick wall and original hardwood floors.

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Sometimes brides think, “I am just looking so I don’t need an appointment.” These delicate gowns have to be tried on carefully and often require help to do so without damage to the gown. So even if you are just beginning your search, be sure to schedule an appointment.

Bridal gowns usually need to be ordered at least six months in advance as they are made when ordered then shipped to the bridal boutique. Having the gown at the bridal shop ahead of time takes away the worry that it won’t arrive on time. Also alterations take time and this is one gown that must have a perfect fit.

Brides will come into the salon with no idea of the style of dress that they would like to wear. After all this is new territory. Others will be very sure of what they want. They will bring photos of dresses or clips from bridal magazines or have captured items from the web.

If their mother is along, one can be sure that mom has definite ideas about the gown her daughter should choose. Unfortunately they are often at odds. Surprisingly, when the perfect dress is tried on, both will be pleased regardless of style. And it is often completely different from the style they each thought would be the dream dress.

Exclusive access

Trying on gowns can be a frustrating experience at some bridal salons that may only carry dresses in one or two sizes. At Bon Bon Belle Bridal that is never a problem. Dresses are carried in sizes from 4 to 32 and may be ordered in sizes 0 to 34.

“We carry a variety of designers’ gowns including Essense of Australia, Stella York, Maggie Sottera, Mori Lee, Blu, and Casablanca to name a few,” Lynch said. “The unique thing is that we have exclusive rights to sell these gowns in a specific territory so you won’t find them at other bridal salons in about a 25 mile radius.”

“We can also order a dress in your size to try on if we don’t have that one in the store in an appropriate size.” Gowns range in price from \$600 to \$2,500, giving a large range for most budgets.

Flower girl and junior bridesmaid dresses also come in a variety of styles, colors, and sizes from 6 months to a junior 14. Many of these dresses can also be ordered in white for First Communions. The flower girl can either match the bridesmaid dresses or choose a coordinating color that meets with the bride’s approval.

Veils and headpieces for the bride are often determined by the style of wedding gown. Bohemian-inspired flower crowns will give a soft and romantic look. Mantillas will give a vintage, European look. Veils may be long or short depending on style of dress and preference of the bride.

Bon Bon Belle Bridal is not just for the

bride and bridesmaids. They also carry mother of the bride and mother of the groom dresses. Tradition says the mother of the bride selects her color first. A variety of dresses, long or short, are available. A variety of styles and colors can be selected based on bride’s choice and the time of year. Jewel tones, grays and metallics are among the most popular choices for mothers.

A growing business

Lynch purchased Bon Bon Belle Bridal in 2013 and has seen the business triple in that time. She credits the fine service given by her staff as part of the reason for their success.

“They truly enjoy their work,” she said.

“We try to help and not tell the bride what she should wear. We offer suggestions but do not push our choices on her. We offer a large selection for brides to try and can order most dresses in our lines that we may not have in the store.”

Bon Bon Belle Bridal has been recognized by Weddingwire couples choice awards as being in the top 5 percent of bridal salons nationwide for service and selection.

There was a time when the majority of weddings were held in June and usually on a Saturday night. According to Wendy, October is the new June for weddings followed by June, May and September. Weddings are not only held on Saturdays, but Sundays and Fridays are also popular.



High-necked and covered with lace, this form-fitting gown with a flare is sometimes known as the mermaid style. The navy blue dress is elegant and simple for the bridesmaid or the mother of the bride or groom.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



COURTESY OF BON BON BELLE BRIDAL *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

This is an architectural drawing of the newly rebuilt and renamed Mercantile Building. It will be the new home of Bon Bon Belle Bridal, C Mae Design Photography, and a venue for weddings and other gatherings. The building formerly housed Schuette-Daniels furniture store.



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Now even some Thursday nights are being considered for weddings. Celebrating the wedding on a night other than the traditional Saturday night may also help the couple's budget.

Big changes planned

Wendy is looking forward to exciting changes in store for Bon Bon Belle Bridal. In April the store will be moving from its current location to a new and larger location allowing for many new changes in the business.

In 2014, the 20,000-square-foot building built in 1895 – which housed the Schuette Daniels furniture store – caught fire causing considerable damage to the building. As a result, the furniture store owners decided not to reopen. The building is at 425 N. Pine St. in the heart of Burlington's historic downtown.

The building has undergone massive renovation but still kept the original maple floors that were found unharmed under several layers of flooring and the rustic brick walls inside the venue.

The venue was deemed the perfect place for weddings, corporate meetings and local

events.

Lynch and employee Stephanie Heft began to see the future of this building that has been an important part of Burlington. On the first floor they envision a large venue, which could accommodate up to 280 persons for weddings, corporate events and could also be used for bridal shows, and community events such as programs for the teenagers of the area.

Their visions have become a reality, with Heft now the manager of the venue, which will encompass the entire first floor of the building. The building has found new life with a new name, Mercantile Hall.

"It actually was the first indoor market in the area in the late 1800s and early 1900s where stalls were available for merchants to sell their goods to the community," said Lynch.

Bon Bon Belle Bridal shop will be on the second floor where they will have additional bridal rooms for dress selections and a larger space for gowns. Also on that floor will be the offices of photography services, C Mae Design.

The wedding venue has been equipped with a modern sound system installed in

the walls making the venue equipped for a live band, or a DJ. Live music events are also in the planning stages.

Arrangements have been made with 10 preferred caterers who can be engaged to provide high quality refreshments for any event. A variety of foods including kosher, Indian and traditional foods would be available. Drink Inc. has the contract to supply liquor for the weddings and corporate events.

"We look forward to providing a one stop shopping event for our customers. Bridal shows where vendors will display their services will take the hassle out of preparing for a wedding," Lynch said.

She is now accepting reservations for the venue through 2018.

Bon Bon Belle Bridal is at 489 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington, through March, then at their new location, 425 Pine, Burlington, in the Mercantile Building. Their website is at www.bonbonbridal.com or visit them on Facebook. The telephone number is (262) 767-8500 to make an appointment.



COURTESY OF BON BON BELLE BRIDAL Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Bon Bon Belle Bridal has a large variety of gowns from which to choose. Melissa looks through racks of gowns to determine those she is interested in trying on.

Honeymoon planning made easy

Weddings are one-of-a-kind occasions. Weddings also tend to be stressful, even for the most laid-back people. But a honeymoon gives the couple a chance to enjoy uninterrupted moments together and serves as a way to recuperate from the months and sometimes

years of wedding planning. Honeymoons are a beloved wedding tradition, and some couples even combine their weddings and honeymoons by opting for a destination wedding.

Because the honeymoon should be a way to unwind on a dream vacation, booking the honeymoon and setting an itinerary should not add to the pressure of planning, and the following tips should make planning a honeymoon a snap.

Research your destination

Learn all you can about a destination before booking your honeymoon. Study the weather for the time of year you will be on your honeymoon, and learn about currency exchange, local rules and regulations and other pertinent factors to determine the best places to visit. You do not want to be met with surprises that might compromise your trip upon arriving to your honeymoon destination.



Book well in advance

The sooner you choose your destination, the faster you can begin the process of applying for passports, visas or other necessary documents. Booking early also guarantees you better seats on the flight and the ability to negotiate pricing.

Take your time

Give yourself a full day between the wedding and embarking on your trip. Scenes of couples being whisked away to the airport right after the reception dwindles down are commonplace. But that doesn't mean you need to leave right after the final dance. Allow some breathing room to pack, deposit wedding gifts, return tuxedos, and tackle any other post-wedding tasks.

Save the romantic "first night" as a couple for the honeymoon and enjoy a well-deserved night's sleep.

Purchase travel insurance

One way to alleviate the stress of planning a wedding is to ensure your honeymoon investment is protected in the event of bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Travel insurance is a safety net that can come in handy. Speak with a travel agent or insurance agent about how to secure travel insurance for the honeymoon.

Pack light

Don't burden yourself down with a lot of belongings. Chances are you'll pick up new things and mementos on the trip, and packing light makes traversing airports that much easier.

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Mia Faccia helps brides achieve that special look for their wedding day

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

As the days count down and the wedding day comes closer, many brides find the to-do list seems to get longer and more complicated, rather than almost finished.

Among the final items to be decided are ways to make the bride and the wedding party look as beautiful as possible. After the bridal dress has been ordered, the veil and headpiece have been selected and the bridesmaids' dresses ordered, the next item is to focus on the perfect hairdo, and ways to make the bride look vibrant and rested rather than overextended and stressed.

Mia Faccia, 235 Broad St., Lake Geneva, is the place to take the worry out of hair, skin and nail preparation for



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The staff at Mia Faccia begins working on three members of a bridal party to achieve their perfect hairstyle for the wedding.

COURTESY OF MIA FACCIA Spirit of Geneva Lakes

any bridal party. Mia Faccia is a full-service salon and spa that specializes in providing brides and their attendants with services in a fun and friendly environment.

The spa itself is a beautiful environment. Decorated in calming blues, with fireplaces in the manicure room and the lounge, there is a sense of stepping away from the hectic outside world into a relaxing and peaceful retreat. The friendly staff makes even the first-time visitor feel at ease.

Tracey Wieder, owner of Mia Faccia, wants to make the experience for brides-to-be as stress free and enjoyable as possible.

“We offer a bridal contract where dates and specific services are agreed upon. We work with the bride and tailor the services to her choices and budget. The bride should call as soon as possible as often the services of the entire salon need to be devoted to the wedding party, especially if it is a

large party as is often the case.”

According to Wieder, the salon and spa time often has a party-like atmosphere.

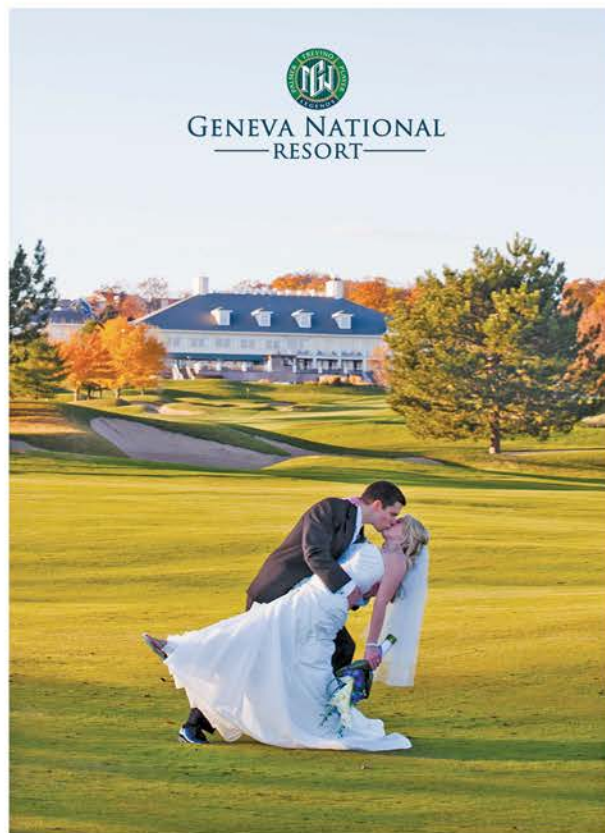
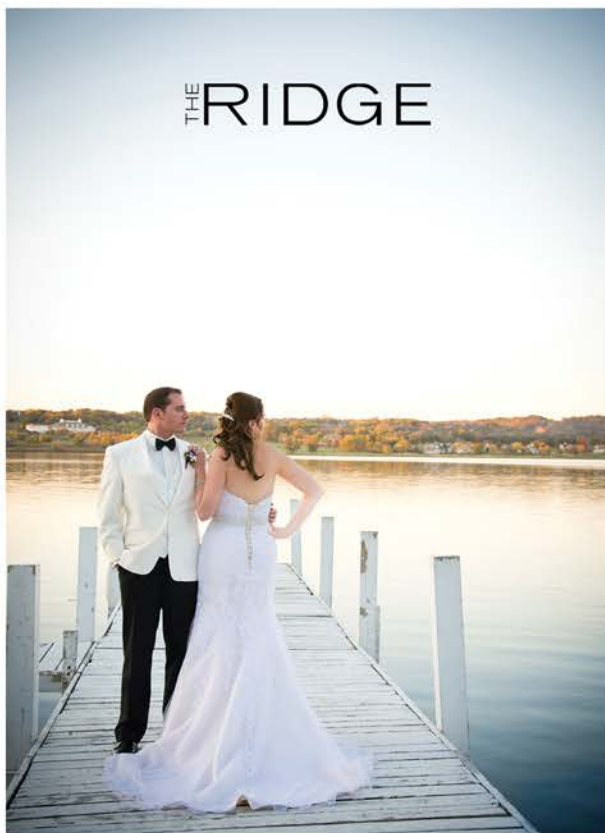
“They are allowed to bring in food and beverages to snack on between services,” she said.

Make it a date

They often recommend that the group arrives for manicures and pedicures the day before the big event to take some of the pressure off that final day.

It is the bride, of course, who garners most of the attention. Picking out the hairstyle that will complement her headpiece and gown is most important. The staff at Mia Faccia recommends that she come in about six weeks prior to the big event for a trial updo.

Keri Doering is a bridal specialist who is up to date on



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“

The current look is the updo. But it is not the updo of old where every piece of hair is locked securely in place. The look is softer and looser.”

current bridal styles.

“The current look is the updo,” she said. “But it is not the updo of old where every piece of hair is locked securely in place. The look is softer and looser.”

Braids are also a popular look woven into the hairstyle.

Brides usually come with three to four pictures of styles they think they would like. Some of the pictures come from magazines or from friends’ weddings or they can be taken from Mia Faccia’s website.

Usually, according to Doering, they don’t end up with exactly the look on one of the photos but rather a combined look taking some elements from each photo and making the look truly theirs.

“It is important that they bring the headpiece and veil that they will be wearing to get the final look,” she said.

No matter how beautiful the hairstyle, if it doesn’t work with the headpiece and veil, it just won’t work for the wedding.

Getting to know you

Often the stylist that will be doing the bride’s hair is not someone they have worked with before since many brides who come to the salon and spa are being married in the Lake Geneva

COURTESY OF MIA FACCIA Spirit of Geneva Lakes



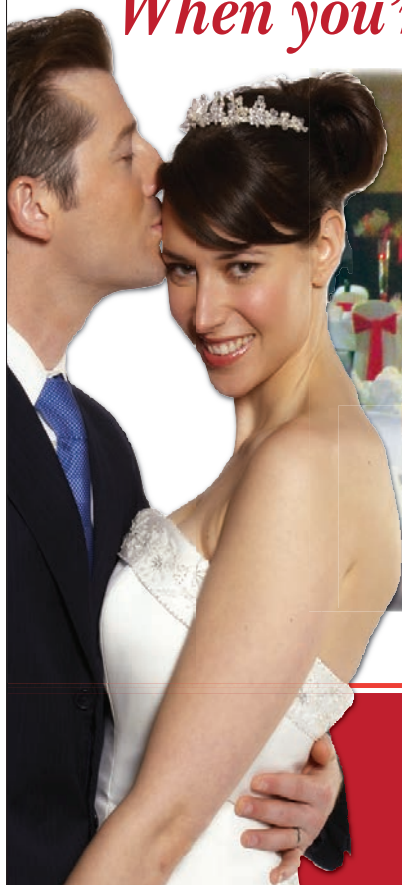
While many brides prefer an upswept hairstyle, some prefer the look of loose falling curls. This style with its loose curls is punctuated with the sparkle of “diamonds” in the hair.

Even the youngest member of the wedding party must have the same attention to detail with her hair. This young flower girl is ready for the big day.



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area, but they are from out of town.

Thirty to forty percent of the bridal parties that come to Mia Faccia for services are from Chicago or the suburban Chicago area, so it is important that trust between the bride to be and the stylist is achieved. Mia Faccia stylists will usually spend some time with the bride discussing trends and styles and getting to know her preferences.

Among the services generally included in the bridal contract are manicures and pedicures.

"Some brides are reluctant to come before the big day because they are afraid

of chipping. That is no longer a problem," Wieder said.

The no-chip shellac nail polish, which is available in a variety of popular colors, will be just as fresh and chip free on the wedding day as it is when applied a day or two before the wedding.

Facials will leave the skin glowing and healthy – a look that is so desired on that special day. But Wieder said that "facials should be done at least seven to 10 days before the big day, especially if the bride is receiving a therapeutic facial such as the ones for acne."

Before deciding on any of the more

invasive treatments, such as peels or microdermabrasion, brides should follow the timing advice offered by the spa so their face is beautiful for the day of the wedding.

How about a massage?

What better time is there to enjoy a relaxing massage than during the busy and stressful days before the wedding? Taking the time to relax and unwind will make the remaining jobs on that to-do list seem less overwhelming.

Whether you opt for a simple relaxation massage, or a hot stone massage, or one of the other specialty massages offered, it will be a relaxing experience. Before having any of the specialty massages, check with the staff to be certain they are appropriate at this time. The week before the wedding, the bride and groom may want to consider a couples massage. After all, it isn't just the bride who is under stress before a wedding.

The final service offered in the bridal contract is the makeup application. Properly applied makeup is essential to ensure the bride looks as beautiful as possible and that beauty shows through in the hundreds of photographs that will be snapped throughout the day. When the bride comes into the salon for her trial hairdo, she will also have a trial makeup application. At that time her custom makeup will be ordered.

Mia Faccia uses the glominerals makeup system that covers and helps correct and protect the skin. The makeup photographs well, which is especially important on the wedding day.

For those who have always wanted thick, dark and long eyelashes, there are several options available to achieve the look desired. False eyelashes can be applied or eyelash extensions can be applied to the natural eyelashes. Eyelashes may be tinted.

When planning a wedding, brides are advised to call Mia Faccia to speak with Erin Peterson and set up the bridal contract for the pre-wedding services. The fine quality services will be performed in a relaxing environment on a schedule agreed upon by both the salon and the bride. Having a contract with a schedule will take the worry off the to-do list.

Occasionally, Wieder is asked if the staff can come to a hotel to provide day-of-the-wedding services. Moving all the supplies needed and trying to do a first-rate job in a hotel room crammed with the bridal party is not conducive to good results, she said.

It is better and more relaxing to come to the salon where all supplies are available and the services can be performed in a relaxing and more professional way, according to Wieder.

"Also it is against Wisconsin law to do so," she added.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Betsey and Keri are two of the bridal specialists who are known for creating beautiful and elegant hair styles for that perfect wedding day.

Bridal shows

Mia Faccia participates in the bridal shows held at Hawk's View Golf Club. Having many local bridal services in one venue makes planning easier. Some offer specials for those attending the bridal show. Brides should check with Hawk's View for the next bridal show.

Wieder, who is an aesthetician, opened Mia Faccia (Italian for "my face") five years ago to promote excellent skin care, and has seen it grow from a small two-person business to its current location and 19 employees offering a full range of services.

Mia Faccia is not only for bridal services, and offers salon and spa services for all times and seasons. "You're beautiful" are two words that one never tires of hearing and Mia Faccia loves to help clients earn that praise.

Wieder said she believes in giving back and helping others and is a chairwoman of fundraising for the Open Arms Free Clinic, which provides medical, mental health, dental and optical care to those in need.

Mia Faccia is in downtown Lake Geneva at 235 Broad Street. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call (262) 248-3303 or visit their website at www.miafaccia.com for a complete list of services. Business hours are Tuesday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are also open on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. from May through September.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Mia Faccia's owner Tracey Wieder (left) and bridal coordinator Erin Peterson greet customers with a smile as they arrive for their services at the salon and spa in Lake Geneva.

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STUDIO B PHOTOGRAPHY Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Five tips for perfect wedding photos

Your wedding is a once-in-a-lifetime occasion – something to be celebrated and cherished. Planning it, on the other hand, can feel as if you're preparing for war – between ensuring that Uncle Sal isn't sitting next to his brother, who owes him money, to budgeting for everything you want and need. The one thing you don't want to skimp on is the memories.

Which is why choosing your photographer is one of the biggest decisions you will make. To help ensure that you get the most romantic photos of your fairytale day, Professional Photographers of America, a 29,000-plus-member association, offers these suggestions:

Express yourself

What kind of photos do you like? Do they tend toward the journalistic or is your style more whimsical, classical, or romantic? Whatever your style, be clear

with your photographer so that he or she can capture your personality.

Say yes to the dress

It starts and ends with this iconic garment. What will make you feel like the bride you've always dreamed of being? Is it a flowing sundress, a formal gown complete with train and veil? Or maybe your idea is more modern and it's a strapless dress, in a color other than white. Whatever it is, dare to wear your dream dress.

Buy the shoes? Or not

Carrie Bradshaw knows shoes. And you should too. Will you walk down the aisle in stilettos or kitten heels? Maybe cowboy boots are more your style? Can't decide? Then leave the shoes at home, and feel free to walk barefoot.

Rejoice in style

Your wedding day isn't just a ceremony, it's a celebration that brings all your family and friends together (for better or worse), and pictures of this memorable party are a great way to inject your own sense of style. Be it a backyard BBQ, a tail gate at your favorite stadium, or a formal dinner, pictures of this event are a must-have.

Decide on your ride

Some people prefer to be whisked away by horse and carriage as if they were Cinderella herself. Others prefer luxury limos and cars as their modern equivalent. For the unique free spirits of the world, maybe a motorcycle is more your thing. Either way, a great photo op awaits as you leave your wedding.

For more information, visit FindAPhotographer.com/weddings.

(NEWSUSA)

BUDGET WORKSHEET

WHAT WILL YOUR

Wedding cost?

Total Wedding Budget: \$ _____

CEREMONY

Location fee \$ _____
 Officiant fee \$ _____
 Marriage license \$ _____
 Rings \$ _____
 Pillow \$ _____
 TOTAL CEREMONY: \$ _____

RECEPTION

Reception site \$ _____
 Food \$ _____
 Drinks \$ _____
 Rentals \$ _____
 Cake \$ _____
 Favors \$ _____
 TOTAL RECEPTION: \$ _____

MUSIC

Musicians \$ _____
 Band/DJ \$ _____
 Extra musicians \$ _____
 TOTAL MUSIC: \$ _____

TRANSPORTATION

Limousines \$ _____
 Buses/transport for guests \$ _____
 TOTAL TRANSPORTATION: \$ _____

FLOWERS

Ceremony \$ _____
 Bride's bouquet \$ _____
 Bridesmaids' bouquets \$ _____
 Corsages and boutonnieres \$ _____
 Reception centerpieces \$ _____
 Flower girl basket \$ _____
 TOTAL FLOWERS: \$ _____

ATTIRE

Gown \$ _____
 Headpiece/veil \$ _____
 Undergarments/hosiery \$ _____
 Shoes \$ _____
 Accessories \$ _____
 Jewelry \$ _____
 Makeup \$ _____
 Hair \$ _____
 Tuxedo \$ _____
 Shoes \$ _____
 Cuff links \$ _____
 Men's grooming \$ _____
 TOTAL ATTIRE: \$ _____

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographer's fee \$ _____
 Videographer's fee \$ _____
 TOTAL PHOTOGRAPHY: \$ _____

STATIONERY

Invitations \$ _____
 Postage \$ _____
 Thank-you cards \$ _____
 TOTAL STATIONERY: \$ _____

GIFTS

Wedding party \$ _____
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LAKE GENEVA'S WINTERFEST BRINGS BEAUTY TO THE SEASON

For more than two decades, Lake Geneva's Winterfest has been the site of the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition.

And that's the case again this month as weather-hardy sculptors descend upon the areas around the Riviera and Flat Iron Park to create works of art from massive blocks of snow.

Because it is an open event, visitors may watch sculpting teams from around the U.S. create their



PENNY GRUETZMACHER Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Precise measurements make for a symmetrical sculpture for one of the teams competing in the U.S. Snow Sculpting Championships in Lake Geneva in 2016.

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wintery masterpieces. The competition begins on Wednesday, Feb. 1 and continues through Saturday, Feb. 4.

The sculptors will officially end their work at 11 a.m., Feb. 4 but the sculptures will remain in place for public viewing throughout the week.

Each team will receive a cylinder shaped block of snow 8 feet in diameter and 9 feet high on the grounds of The Riviera. Each team's snow block will be chosen via a lottery. If snow is not available and snowmaking is not possible, an ice-carving competition will be held.

Teams consist of three members 18 years and older from the same state. Both professionals and amateurs are eligible. Additional sculpting assistance is not permitted except that given by competition organizers and the grounds crew. The final sculpture must fit within a 12-foot circle. Height is determined by the teams.

No media other than water, ice or snow may be used. Competitors are to use snow available on-site only. Colorants are prohibited. Armatures or molded shapes are not allowed.

Sculptors may provide their own tools at their own risk and liability, but no power tools are allowed. Snow removal equipment, axes, machetes, buckets, long-handled ice scrapers, ladders and shovels will be available on site.

Individual artists are judged. The sculptures and winners will be determined based on creativity and originality of expression (50 percent);

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PENNY GRUETZMACHER Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Carvers work in front of the Riviera building during the 2016 U.S. Snow Sculpting Championships. A team from Vermont is in the foreground. Above-freezing temperatures proved to be an obstacle for most of the teams.

technique including utilization of materials, excellence in execution and presentation (30 percent); and message, particularly the visual force of the message (20 percent).

The first-place winning team receives the U.S. National Competition Champions Award and trophy and an invitation to compete in Association International de Sculpture sur Neige et Glace sanctioned International Snow Sculpting competition.

The second-place winners receive the State of Wisconsin Award and trophy. The third-place winners receive the City of Lake Geneva Award and trophy.

The Gene Kempfer People's Choice Award is determined by public vote held on the site of the competition between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4. The award ceremony is at 3 p.m. at the Riviera.

The Klaus Ebeling OMM Award is

given to a team or person that promoted the spirit of the event. The award is named after Klaus Ebeling of Watertown, NY. Previous winners of the award decide the winning team for the award.

More than snow sculpting

While Winterfest is best known for its snow sculpting, the two-week-long celebration features several ancillary events and activities ranging from human dog sled races, helicopter rides, shopping and dining promotions, music and more.

"I think the communities and businesses – we couldn't do this without their support and we're so pleased they are so involved," said Nan Elder, director of Winterfest.

This year's event, which runs through Feb. 12, includes the Abominable Snow Race, which features three to five miles of snowy course with more than 20 obstacles to challenge the most hearty of

competitors.

The Abominable Snow Race is at the Grand Geneva Resort on Jan. 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To register, visit abominablesnowrace.com.

Human dog sled races

The human dog sled races will be held on Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. Teams of six compete against one another in a double-elimination tournament at Lake Geneva Canopy Tours' 100-acre wooded property minutes from downtown Lake Geneva.

Each team will consist of six people: four sled pullers, a sled rider and a sled pusher.

The sled racecourse is approximately 135 feet long. Team members are encouraged to dress in wacky costumes. A prize is in store for the most creative attire.

Visit lakegenevaevents.com for entry information.

A snow sculptor gets up close and personal with his work during Lake Geneva's Winterfest in 2016. The 2017 event runs through Feb. 12.



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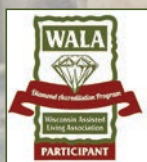
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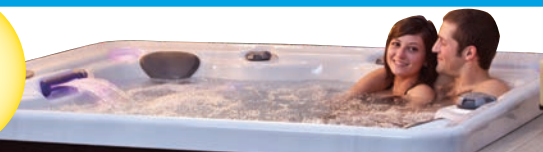
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GOLF



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

One of the Hawk's View Golf Club's newest amenities is a golf simulator that allows people of all skill levels to hone their game in the off-season months.

...in winter!

Virtual reality
meets with
demand at
Hawk's View
Golf Club

by **Dave Fidlín**

CORRESPONDENT

In a climate such as Wisconsin's, thoughts of improving one's golf swing – or even taking part in the sport – probably seem like a foreign concept during the hibernation-filled winter months.

Thanks to technology, staffers at Hawk's View Golf Club in Lake Geneva have made the sport a year-round activity in recent years, regardless of what the temperature or accompanying conditions outside dictate.

Four years ago, Hawk's View introduced a so-called golf simulator indoors. Over time, it has been a crowd-pleaser – particularly when snow blankets the frozen ground and

temperatures flirt with the 0-degree mark.

"It's very realistic and accurate," said Matthew Boesch, who serves as the PGA head professional at Hawk's View. "It makes you feel like you are actually out there, and it's a great way to sharpen your game in the winter months."

First introduced in the 1970s, golf simulators have grown in popularity in recent years as computer graphics have improved and prices have been driven down. But Boesch said simulators are still enough of a novelty to bring in golfers during the otherwise sleepy off-season months.

The simulators are so close to the real deal that golfers typically use the same exact clubs

“It’s very realistic and accurate. It makes you feel like you are actually out there, and it’s a great way to sharpen your game in the winter months.”

– Matthew Boesch,
PGA pro at Hawk’s View

and balls they would use out on the actual course. Hawk’s View’s simulator offers state-of-the-art 4K technology.

Boesch said some of the people are using the simulator as a vehicle to take golf lessons, which is another revolutionary concept within this climate during the winter months.

Golfing the best courses

In the case of Hawk’s View’s simulator, Boesch said, it mirrors the terrain and features found within 16 disparate courses all across globe. Each specific simulation provides users with a unique challenge.

Some of the simulator courses include the Doral Blue Monster in Miami, Hazeltine National in Minneapolis, Oakmont Country Club in Pittsburgh and Torrey Pines in San Diego.

Prior to the introduction of the golf simulator, Boesch points out many of the

club’s members and customers conceded they would take a hiatus from the sport during the state’s four coldest months.

The only viable option for die-hard golfers, in a pre-simulator era, was to travel in a southerly direction, Boesch said.

Since its introduction in 2013, Boesch said the simulator has struck a notable chord, as evidenced by the uptick in people visiting the club in the off-season months. The numbers are below regular season attendance, Boesch said, but the increase is still notable.

“We had been thinking of what we could do to keep bringing people in here,” Boesch said. “This was at the top of our mind.”

Golf simulation activities on an 18-hole golf course take about one hour per person, Boesch said, and foursomes take between four and five hours.



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The hilly terrain that once was home to a ski hill is designed to provide golfers a challenging regimen at Hawk's View.

Hawk's View gives visitors an opportunity to book the simulator in half-hour or full-hour blocks. The simulator is \$20 per half-hour or \$35 per hour, regardless of the number of people participating.

When the course is alive

Mirroring the scenario at most golf clubs across the region, Hawk's View takes on a much different persona during the regular season.

Hawk's View has two different courses – Barn Hollow and Como Crossings – across its 314 acres of scenic land. Each course has earned recognition for its unique, challenging features.

Taken as a whole, Boesch said, Hawk's View has frequently been rated one of the premier courses across the Midwest. National experts, including the experts at Golf Magazine and Golf Digest, have singled out Hawk's View in the past for its robust offerings.

Staffers do not rest on the laurels, Boesch said, and strive annually to upgrade and enhance the amenities offered.

Barn Hollow, ranked as one of America's

top 10 Par-3 courses, is an 18-hole, 2,708-yard course. The layout features yardages ranging anywhere from 67 to 222.

Boesch said Hawk's View touts Barn Hollow as an ideal family-friendly course because it is tailored toward persons of all skill levels, including leagues, juniors, seniors and beginner golfers.

"It's great for people who might be tight on time," Boesch said of the Barn Hollow course. "It also makes an ideal family outing because it's affordable."

Like its sibling course, Como Crossings also offers 18 holes. But that characteristic is where the similarities end. It holds the distinction of being Lake Geneva's only five-star rated golf course.

Como Crossings features a Par-72, 7,074-yard layout and takes full advantage of the natural elevation to give advanced players a challenging game. The course features two par-three holes with 100 feet of elevation drop from tee to green.

"This is a great course for avid players," Boesch said. "We're on the site of a former ski hill (Mt. Fuji), and the elevation changes quite a bit. It really provides for some

beautiful views."

Throughout the regular season, Boesch said, Hawk's View's "fantastic maintenance crew" meticulously maintains the grounds with the intent of offering golfers a satisfying experience from beginning to end.

While golf is at the heart of Hawk's View, as the business' name suggests, it is just one part of a far greater equation.

A reception venue

Because it is situated on such a vast, scenic landscape, Boesch said Hawk's View also serves as an ideal spot for wedding ceremonies and receptions. On average, the facility and grounds hosts upwards of 60 weddings per year.

"It's a one stop shop for the bride and groom," Boesch said. "And we run a banquet business as well, so that's available, on site."

One of Hawk's View's newer amenities is a 15-passenger shuttle bus that is available to transport guests for weddings and other functions.

Throughout the year, Hawk's View has hosted other events as well, including such

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Hawk's View hosts numerous events beyond golf. Sixty wedding ceremonies and/or receptions were held on the grounds in 2016.

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disparate functions as baby showers and business meetings. The guest threshold can run as high as 300 persons.

"We have a really flexible banquet hall facility, so there's a lot we're able to do to meet people's needs," Boesch said.

Regardless of the season, Boesch said, one of Hawk's View's crowd pleasers is the Friday night fish fry. True to Wisconsin tradition, the club's banquet facility opens to the public at the tail end of the week and offers a variety of menu items.

During the rest of the week, an on-site eatery, Tail Feathers Bar and Grille, offers up a sports bar-like atmosphere, complete with a double-sided fireplace and 40-inch TVs.

Land has rich history

This year, Hawk's View is entering its 17th golf season. But the land sitting beneath the pair of courses has far deeper roots. Much of the club's land was once used as farmstead, which is represented in references and names sprinkled throughout the property.

According to historical documents, a woman named Helen McDonald ran a farm on the site. She dually ran two storage facilities that housed ice cut from Geneva Lake.

In 1949, Ed Metzger and his brothers

purchased the property from McDonald and continued running most of the property as a traditional farm for the next decade.

The sprawling property, which has always been noted for its scenic vistas of the surrounding the Lake Geneva area, began transitioning to public use in 1960. The Mt. Fuji Ski Hill was built that year, and it featured 12 runs, towropes and T-bars.

In the warmer months, Metzger used the land for concerts. In its heyday, musical acts of the era – including The Buckinghams, Jerry Lee Lewis and Paul Revere and the Raiders – performed on the grounds. At its peak, as many as 20,000 people took in the marquee events.

After three decades of ownership, Metzger sold the land to an outfit known as the Kennedy Group. For nearly a half-decade, the Long Horn Ranch was housed at the site before folding up in the mid-1990s.

Although it was still four years away, the early stages of Hawk's View began in spring 1997 when property owners Dan and Sue Daniels purchased Long Horn's original footprint. In quick succession, the Daniels subsequently made six additional land purchases, cobbling together today's 314-acre footprint.

Developing the course

With the vast landscape set in place, the Daniels brought in Craig Schreiner, a

renown golf course architect from Kansas City, Mo., who began developing today's 36-hole course.

Landscapes Unlimited served as the general contractor and began the meticulous process of designing the course over a 15-month span, culminating the project in fall 2000.

Another important firm in the golf course's origins is a local one. Will Henry of Elkhorn-based Kehoe-Henry & Associates Architects designed the buildings and played an important role in promoting the lodge atmosphere that has become a hallmark of the course.

"We're very excited for 2017 and beyond," Boesch said. "The golf course just keeps getting better and better."

Hawk's View Golf Club is located at 7377 Krueger Road, Lake Geneva.

The grounds and facilities are open at various times throughout the week: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.

For more details, visit Hawk's View's website at www.hawksviewgolfclub.com or call (262) 348-9900.



Hawk's View is situated on 314 scenic acres in Lake Geneva.

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A song and dance

Young Auditorium offers full slate for February

The Young Auditorium on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater offers a full slate of performances in February, ranging from the family-friendly Pete the Cat to the toe-tapping Broadway fun of “42nd Street.”

For more information on the shows, or to purchase tickets, visit www.youngauditorium.com, stop in to the Greenhill Center of the Arts Box Office on the UW-Whitewater campus, or call (262) 472-2222. Tickets ordered online can be printed at home (fees apply for this service).

Here’s a look at the upcoming shows:

Pete the cat comes to Young Auditorium in Whitewater on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 3 p.m.

Pete the Cat is a story about Pete, a blue cat who loves to play rock and roll! When Pete gets caught rocking out after bedtime, the cat-catcher sends him to live with the Biddle family to learn his manners – and boy are they square!

Pete the Cat is performed by Theatreworks USA.

Tickets range from \$9.50 to \$16.

“42nd Street” is the tap dance extravaganza that is essentially Broadway’s “reality show” filled with backstage drama centered around the American dream of becoming a star. It includes some of the most notable show tunes, including “We’re In The Money,” “Lullaby of Broadway,” “Shuffle Off To Buffalo,” “Dames,” “I Only Have Eyes For You” and “42nd Street.”

The show is slated for Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.

Based on the novel by Bradford Ropes and Busby Berkeley’s 1933 movie, “42nd Street” tells the story of Peggy Sawyer, a starry-eyed young dancer who leaves her quiet Allentown home for New York City to audition for the new Broadway musical, “Pretty Lady.” When the legendary leading lady breaks her ankle, underdog Peggy takes over and, against all odds, becomes a star.

Ragamala Dance presents “They Rose at Dawn”

at Young Auditorium on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7:30



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Grammy-winning artist Kathy Mattea will perform at the Young Auditorium Feb. 25.

p.m. Tickets range from \$19.75 - \$33.00.

“They Rose at Dawn” is a solo dance piece in which women are depicted as carriers of ritual who navigate inner and outer worlds as they invoke a sense of reverence, unfolding mystery, and imagination. A stellar Carnatic musical ensemble accompanies Aparna Ramaswamy as she explores the spontaneous interplay between music and movements, and the dynamic contours created by the artists on stage.

Under the direction of Raneer Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy, the Ragamala Dance Company’s work explores the dynamic tension between ancestral and contemporary dance.

Grammy Award winning artist Kathy Mattea

takes the Young Auditorium stage for an acoustic performance Saturday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. Mattea and her longtime collaborator, guitarist Bill Cooley share songs and stories near and dear to their hearts. You’re sure to hear Mattea’s classics “18 Wheels and a Dozen Roses,” “Where’ve You Been?,” and many other hits, but don’t be surprised to hear more eclectic and often requested tunes from her extensive catalogue.

Mattea’s 18 albums are woven through with bluegrass, gospel, and Celtic influences, and have garnered multiple CMA, ACM, and Grammy Awards.

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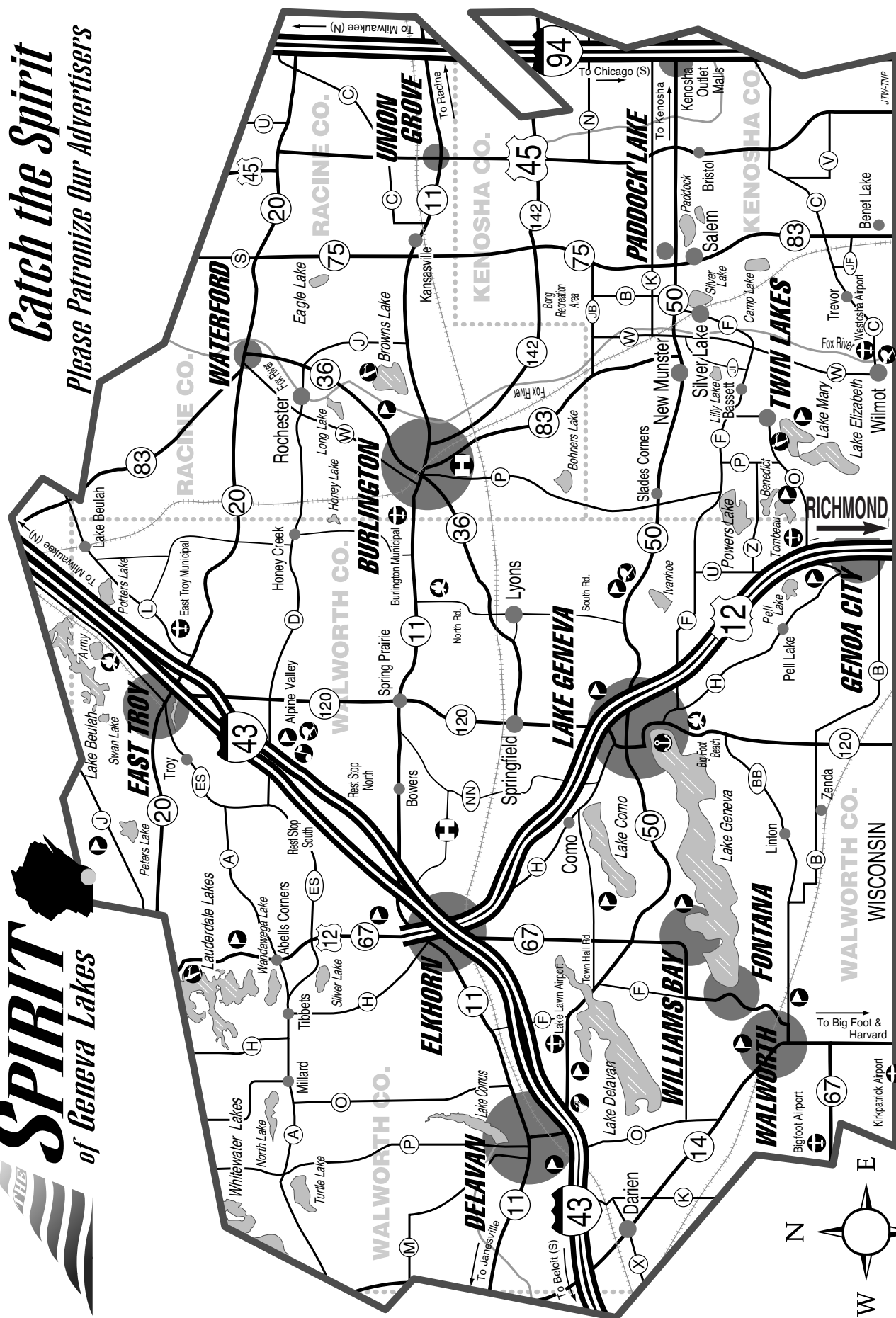
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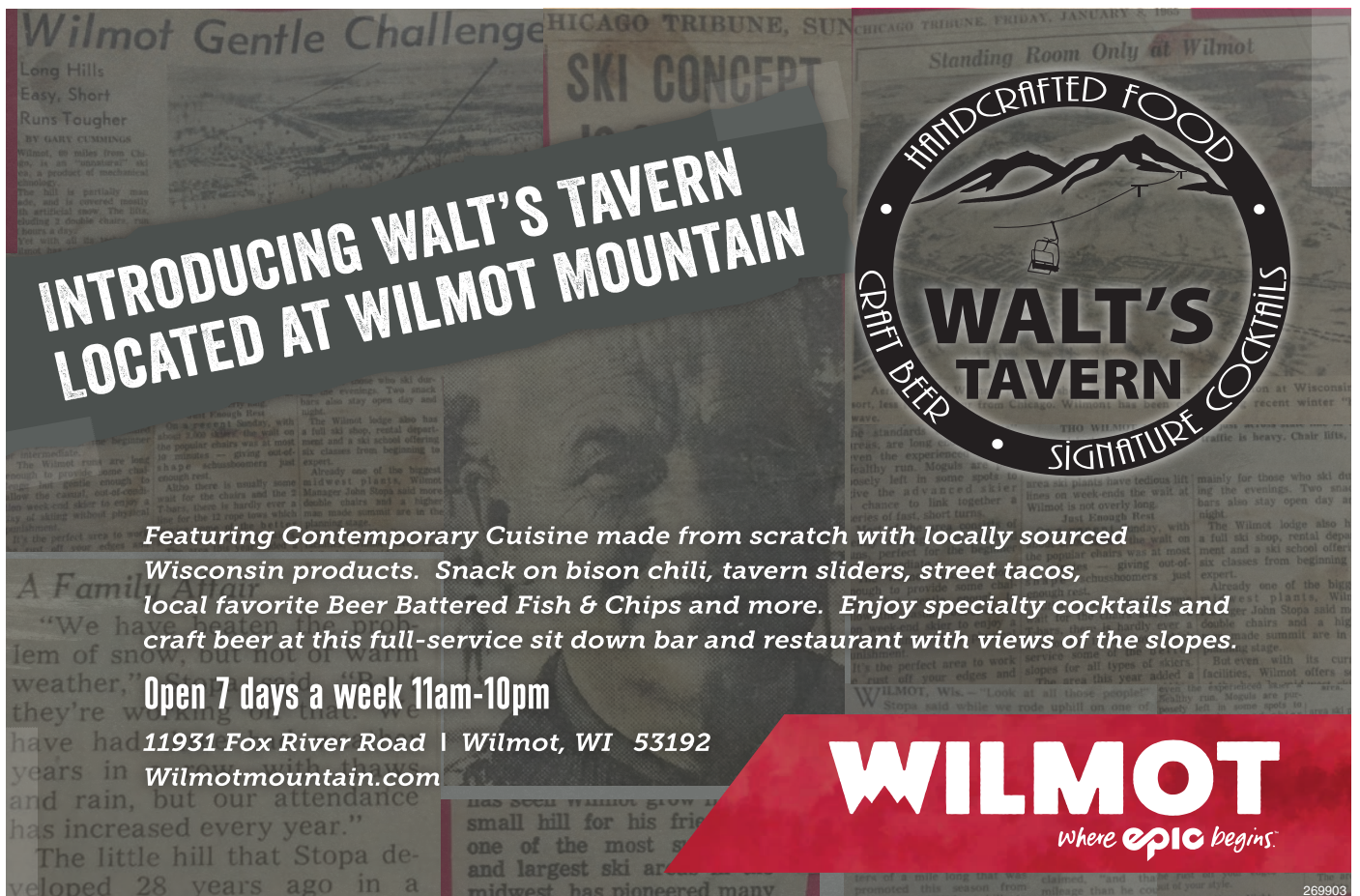


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