

THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 29 No. 3

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WILMOT GENTLE CHALLENGE

Long Hills
Easy, Short
Runs Tougher

BY GARY CUMMINGS

Wilmot, 40 miles from Chicago, is an "uncommon" ski town, a product of mechanical technology. The hill is partially man-made, and is covered mostly in artificial snow. The lifts include 2 double chairs, one 4-person chair, and a 10-person chair. It's worth all the trouble, though.

On a recent Sunday, with about 1,500 skiers on the popular chairlift, the hill was a scene of organized chaos. The lifts were running smoothly, but the snow was not. The hill is a gentle challenge, but it's worth the effort. The lifts are a mix of old and new, and the snow is a mix of natural and artificial. The hill is a great place to spend a day, and it's worth the effort.

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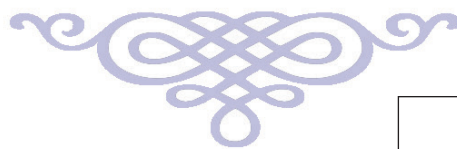
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ADRENALINE RUSH

Ready for some hot action on the cold snow? Then look no further than the AMSOIL Championship Snocross National Series finale March 17 through 19 at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa's Mountaintop Ski Hill. Watch the top racers in the world as they compete for season-ending prizes on a rough-and-tumble course featuring soaring hills, tight turns and plunging descents. See page 7 for additional details.

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IT'S COMIN' UP

MARCH EVENTS

5 Lake Lawn Resort's Spring Bridal Show. Showcasing the area's top wedding experts, a bridal fashion show, along with tours to explore the resort's venues, the show will be a one-stop shop for attendees to discover this year's wedding trends and get inspired for their special day. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with bridal fashion show beginning at 2 p.m. Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St., Delavan.

7 Tuesday@2 series presents, "My Circus Life" Sonette Tippens shares her career as a circus aerialist with attendees in this installment of the series. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. 2 p.m. at Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill Street Lake Geneva; (262) 248-6060; Genevalakemuseum.org

9 The Beat Goes on at Rosewood, 12:30 p.m. Farm-to-table cuisine and a musical cabaret performance in the rustic, casually elegant space of Rosewood, 2484 County Rd O South, Delavan. The show features hits by Glen Miller Band, Chuck Berry, The Andrews Sisters, Elvis, Ray Charles, Carl Perkins, The Monkees, Jerry Lee Lewis, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, The Jackson Five, Johnny Cash and more. (262) 725-7286.

12 Full Moon Hike with Clearwater Outdoor, 8 to 9 p.m. Hike through Big Foot Beach State Park, meet at the pavilion just past the ranger shack. Free to the public, no registration needed. Headlamp or flashlight needed. State park pass required.

14 "Our Town" at Young Auditorium, Whitewater. 7:30 p.m.; Tickets: \$16 to \$26 "Our Town" is a Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play, written by American playwright, Thornton Wilder. It tells the story of the fictional American small town of Grover's Corners between 1901 and 1913 through the everyday lives of its citizens. Presented by the American Shakespeare Center. Tickets may be ordered online, by phone at (262) 472-2222, or purchased in-person on the UW-Whitewater campus.

15 "Two Gentlemen of Verona" at Young Auditorium, Whitewater. 7:30 p.m. show presented by American Shakespeare Center. Tickets are \$16 to \$26. This play is a comedy by William Shakespeare that deals with the themes of friendship and infidelity, the conflict between friendship and love, and the foolish behavior of

people in love. Tickets may be ordered online, by phone at (262) 472-2222, or purchased in-person on the UW-Whitewater campus.

17-19 Nielsen Grand Finale of the AMSOIL Championship Snocross Series The top professional snocross racers on the planet will invade Grand Geneva Resort and Spa for three days of hot snowmobile racing. See page 7 for additional details.

19 Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra presents Chamber Music – 3 p.m. at Holy Communion Episcopal Church, 320 Broad St., Lake Geneva. If you enjoy hearing the LGSO as a full orchestra, you will love hearing its players in the context of a piano trio, string quartet, brass quintet, or woodwind quintet. Now in its fourth season, the Chamber Music Series features a few small ensembles in their own dedicated performances.

26 Pasta Bar Fundraiser at Horticultural Hall, 330 Broad St., Lake Geneva. Event features great prizes including a one-night stay at the Abbey Resort, Champagne Brunch at the Grand Geneva, tickets to Magic Waters Waterpark, tickets to the Shedd Aquarium and more. Seats are limited – pick up tickets (\$25 in advance) at Geneva Lake Manor, Harpoon Willies or Pirates Cove.

26 Florentine Opera Company presents "The Billy Goats Gruff," 3 p.m. Tickets: \$5 adults; \$3 Children 2 to 11; younger than 2 are admitted free. The Florentine Opera has adapted this classic children's story for today's audiences, using the beauty of opera to tell a tale. Seating is right on the auditorium stage. Children will have the opportunity to ask the performers questions after the show and tour the set. Tickets may be ordered online, by phone at (262) 472-2222, or purchased in-person on the UW-Whitewater campus.

29 World Music Showcase at Young Auditorium, Whitewater. 7:30 p.m. show, tickets are free for members and \$10 for all others. Egyptian musicians Tarek Abdallah and Adel Shams El-Din will perform. Tickets may be ordered online, by phone at (262) 472-2222, or purchased in-person on the UW-Whitewater campus.

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.

THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



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THE SPIRIT

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Get your motors running

Top snowmobile racers in the world ready to attack Grand Geneva course

Professional snowmobile racing's premier racing series – AMSOIL Championship

Snocross – will host three days of high-flying racing action in Lake Geneva March 17 through 19, at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa.

The Nielsen Enterprises Grand Finale will feature the best snowmobile racers in the world, including some local talent, competing for year-end championships.

Locally, Wisconsin pro snowmobile racers Ross Martin, of Burlington, and Kody Kamm, of Kenosha, will be in the hunt for the premier Pro Open class championship. Martin was sixth in the season-long points standings and Kamm was second prior to the finale.

Other area racers in the Pro Open class include Brett Nastala of Edgerton (14th place) and Justin Broberg of Mukwonago (15th place).

“AMSOIL Championship Snocross series' grand finale at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa is without a doubt one of snowmobiling's marquee global events of the year,” said Carl

Ross Martin, of Burlington, catches some major air on the snocross course at Grand Geneva Resort. Martin is among the points leaders seeking top spots in the series-ending event at the resort March 17 through 19.



COURTESY OF GRAND GENEVA Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Schubitzke, ISOC president/race director said. "Lake Geneva is where we crown our champions. It doesn't get any bigger than AMSOIL Championship Snocross at Lake Geneva.

"And the conditions are going to be perfect this year for the world's premier professional snowmobile racers."

Grand Geneva is home to the Mountain Top ski area that will supply the snow-making equipment to create the racecourse, which will resemble a lunar-like surface, complete with massive jumps, fast-cornering berms and tricky rhythm sections, according to race organizers.

"Our staff and guests look forward to the AMSOIL Championship Snocross event each year and we're honored to continue to be the host property for such an incredible event," said Tom Mason, general manager of Grand Geneva Resort & Spa. "Snocross is one of The Mountain Top's premier events each winter season."

The Lake Geneva event is the eighth and final stop of the national tour series for the 2016-17 season.

The event will feature three full days of racing in a variety of classes – from juniors to amateurs to professionals.

Practice runs and preliminary rounds will be run on all three days. The finals

in many of the top classes will begin at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at noon on Sunday.

General admission tickets are \$25 per day or \$40 for all three days. Children 5 and younger are admitted free. Parking is \$5.

The International Series of Champions (ISOC) bills itself as the premier snowmobile race sanctioning organization in North America and sanctions national AMSOIL Championship Snocross, in addition to affiliating with nine regional circuits.

Visit www.isocracing.com for more information, fan and racer memberships, schedule details and more.

The Lake Geneva Grand Finale is among 17 one-hour programs of the ACS races that will be broadcast on CBS Sports Network.

Grand Geneva Resort and Spa is an award-winning all-seasons resort set on 1,300 acres in Lake Geneva. The property features 355 guest rooms; WELL Spa + Salon; two championship 18-hole golf courses; The Mountain Top, a three-chair/18-run ski and snowboard facility; 62,000 square feet of meeting and convention space and three restaurants.

For more information, visit www.grandgeneva.com.

If you go...

WHO: 150 of the world's top snowmobile racers

WHAT: The final stop on the 2016-17 AMSOIL Championship Snocross national series

WHEN: March 17-19

WHERE: Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, 7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva

TIMES: Opening ceremonies are at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and noon on Sunday.

TICKETS: General admission tickets are \$25 per day or \$40 for the entire three-day weekend! Children 5 and under are free. Parking is \$5. Tickets are available at the gate and online at www.isocracing.com

MORE INFORMATION: www.isocracing.com or www.grandgeneva.com.



Racers descend a steep hill created for the snocross championships held at the Mountain Top ski area at Grand Geneva Resort.

COURTESY OF GRAND GENEVA Spirit of Geneva Lakes



COURTESY OF GRAND GENEVA *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



Above: Professional snowmobile racers become airborne as they jockey for position along the racecourse. At left: Justin Broberg of Mukwonago is slated to be among the competitors in the Ram Trucks Snocross Grand Finale in Lake Geneva March 17 through 19.

To the RESCUE

The Time Is Now To Help brings renewed faith, sense of purpose

by **Heather Ruenz**
STAFF WRITER

Sal Dimiceli knows he will help many people each year.

However, the founder of non-profit agency The Time Is Now to Help, knows the support of others makes that help possible.

“People often wonder if I see 500 people a year, how do I accomplish that? The answer is with the help of many thanks to the giving hearts of many,” said Dimiceli.

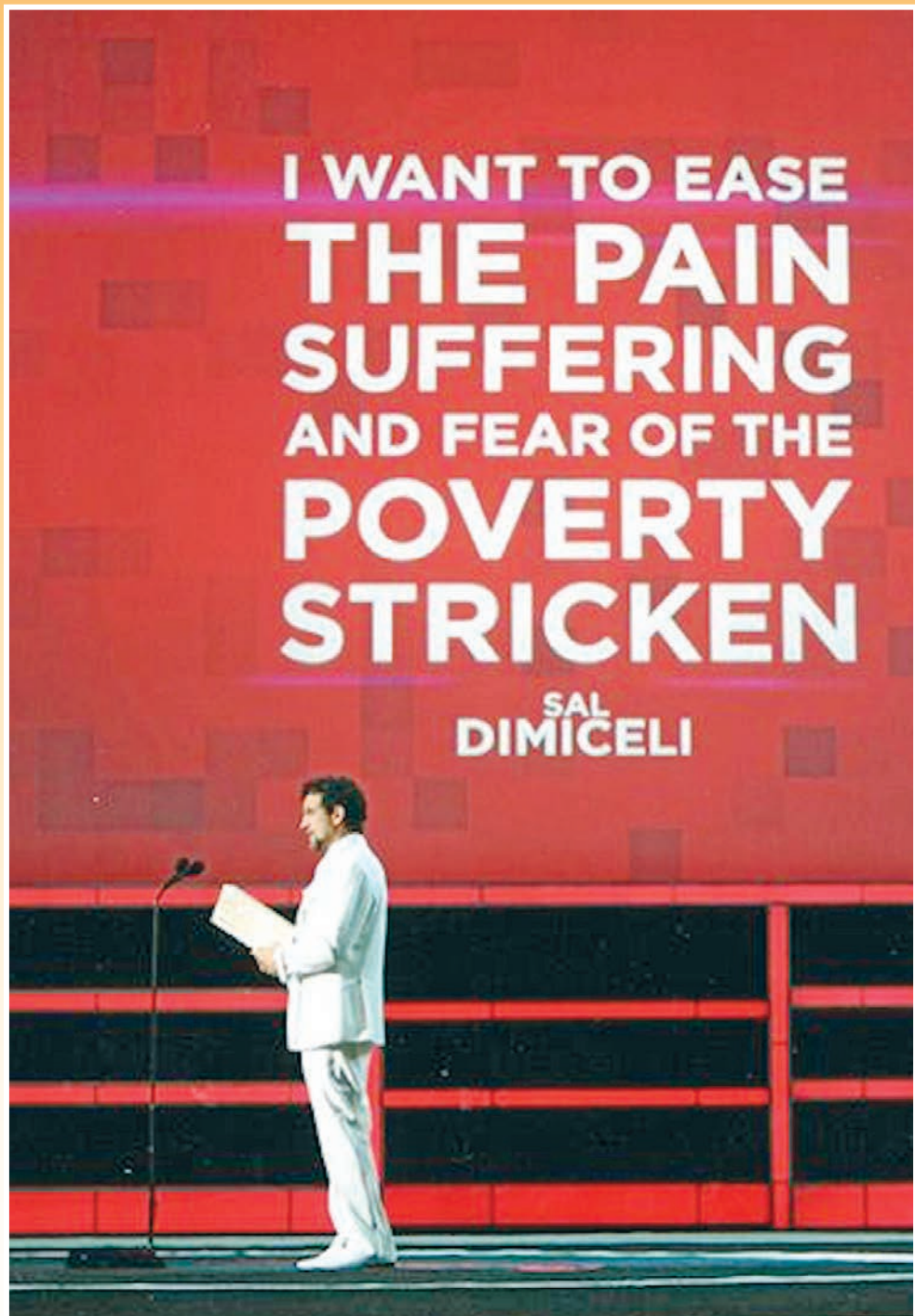
The Time is Now to Help, based in the Lake Geneva area, has assisted thousands of people – many who are struggling with poverty usually brought on by unfortunate circumstances. Dimiceli is the driving force behind the agency and takes a personal role in nearly every contact it makes.

He is, however, a humble man who prefers the success stories – the people who’ve gotten back on their feet with the help of the agency – are told by those who lived it.

In an effort to share the personal stories of two people who have been helped – in their own words – Dimiceli requested their permission to be interviewed. Their names have been changed here to protect their privacy.

Brian’s story

A man, whom we’ll refer to as Brian, was seriously injured on the job a few years ago, had several surgeries and then lost his wife to kidney failure. He found himself disabled and a single father to two



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Sal Dimiceli, Sr. is shown on the stage when he was named a CNN Top 10 Hero for his work through his organization, The Time Is Now To Help.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Sal Dimiceli, Sr., (second from left), his wife, Corinne (from left) and daughters, Shannon and Shaelyn, grab a treat at Refuge Café in Milwaukee where a smoothie is named after Sal.

children, living in a home in need of major repairs.

“My wife was a diabetic and wasn’t even supposed to be able to have children. The pregnancies took a toll on her kidneys. The year after our second child was born, she had kidney and pancreas transplants but her body eventually rejected them so she had to go back on dialysis,” Brian said.

He had one hip replaced, followed by

the other several months later. One month after the second hip replacement, just before Christmas that year, his wife died.

“I was a single dad to two children and because of a bone disease I had, I was now disabled. I pretty much thought my life was over and I was useless. I had been very active all my life but that came to a halt. I didn’t think I could be a good father, or a good man,” Brian said.

Adding to his troubles, the family’s

only vehicle had broken down and there was no money to spare.

“There’s only so much I can do, being disabled, and a lot of it fell on the boys. We have caregivers that come in to help me out and one of them wrote Sal and told him I needed a vehicle,” Brian said.

Dimiceli paid a visit, helped out with some bills and found Brian another vehicle. But that was just the beginning.

“He also saw the condition of the house



Sal Dimiceli, Jr., his wife, Jessica and their daughter, Soraya, take a break outside the W.C. Food Pantry.

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when he was here. We really couldn't afford to go anywhere else and places where we could afford the rent didn't have anything available," Brian said.

Going the extra mile

Dimiceli discovered the landlord couldn't afford to do all of the repairs to the roof. The two agreed to split the cost, so Brian and his kids could live in a home without a roof that was caving in, not to mention other concerns such as mold.

Dimiceli also enlisted the help of Jean Kruzan, a contractor, to replace the roof.

"I call Jean Wonder Woman. She got people to tear the roof off, fix and replace the trusses and then put on a whole new roof," Brian said.

But Kruzan wasn't done, he soon discovered.

"She came inside to fix the ceiling from where the water damage was and it turned into a major remodeling project. She really wanted to make it more accessible for me to get around, and to make it easier on my kids, too," Brian said.

Once distraught but now living in a safe home, Brian said he's thankful every day for the blessings he's received.

"From the caregiver to ask for help for us, to Sal to do everything he did and to get Jean involved, and all of what she's done," Brian said.

Since the home has been repaired and remodeled, Brian said his oldest child, a teenager, now has the entire upstairs, something he's happy about. He also said he now knows everything he's been through happened for a reason.

"I wasn't sure I wanted to have kids because of experiences I went through in my life. But it was God's blessing that led me to my wife. She brought the Lord back into my life and two wonderful children. I've gone through periods of thinking there weren't very many good people out there but there are," Brian said.

Brian said he's thankful every day.

"My life isn't over, it's just changed. I get to wake up every day and see the sun and all the Lord has created, and see my two kids every day and see the young, compassionate, caring people they are – that's what matters," Brian said.

Acceptance is difficult

Knowing his limitations – and accepting where he's at – hasn't come easy for Brian.

"The frustration, the pain, that's normal but you have to let it go and not let it manifest in yourself. We keep moving forward. My kids and I don't have much but what we do have, we appreciate. We also know things can happen in an instant to change your life so surround yourself

with good, loving people who would do anything for you, just as you would for them. That's all there is to it, really," Brian said.

Brian said it's difficult to find the words to express his gratitude, to Dimiceli, Kruzan, his caregivers and many others who have stepped in to help.

"The gratitude that I have for them coming into our lives and what they've done for us is indescribable. I can't even find the words. Having good people come into your life restores your faith and helps

you move forward. And it makes you want to help others because you know what it's like to have people care about you. My kids are two of the most caring, compassionate people I've ever known and I know part of that comes from what we've been through," Brian said.

Brian said he recently had a touching conversation with his oldest child that allowed him to share the lessons he himself has learned the past couple of years.

"We talked about how hard life is and how throwing your hands up in the air and



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Sean Dimiceli shops for Christmas gifts at Target. Of the many things The Time Is Now To Help organization does, purchasing and delivering gifts to needy families at Christmas-time is an annual event.

“

The gratitude that I have for... what they've done for us is indescribable. I can't even find the words. Having good people come into your life restores your faith and helps you move forward. And it makes you want to help others because you know what it's like to have people care about you.”

~ Brian, who received assistance
from the Time is Now
to Help

giving up is the easy way to respond. The harder thing to do is to hold your head high and keep doing your best, knowing you've given it 100 percent. God will make it happen or not, but that's the only way to do it,” Brian said.

No longer alone

A woman we'll call Amy has been dealt a lot of losses in her life, beginning with her mom – following a long struggle with cancer – when she was a teenager.

“Ten years after my mom died, I lost my brother and his girlfriend in a tragic accident. Then I lost my husband to a massive stroke, and not long after that, I lost my daughter to a drunk driver,” Amy said.

“After my husband died things started going downhill and they just got worse. I was trying to keep my head above water with our bills but it eventually caught up with me,” Amy said.

She ended up in foreclosure and lost everything but her clothes and her car.


“That's when Sal came into the picture. I had written him a letter and told him the situation I was in. Sal paid for my living expenses so I could put money in the bank and get to where I am today,” Amy said.

Dimiceli also helped Amy find a job, and his kindness has changed her, she said.

“My whole life growing up was not easy and I grew up tough. He kind of helped turned the lion into the lamb, so to speak,” Amy said.

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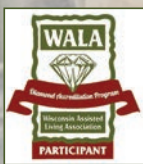


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Sal Dimiceli, Sr. (from left), said his sons, Sal, Jr. and Sean, along with his wife, Corinne, and daughters, Shannon and Shaelyn (not pictured) are all involved in helping people through The Time Is Now.

Amy said Dimiceli seems to check in with her at just the right time.

"I don't have any family left. I can cry at the drop of a hat talking about this, but it's hard when you don't have anyone. Thankfully, I have Sal. His family has made me feel like family," Amy said.

A new purpose

Amy said she's found new purpose in helping Dimiceli help others.

"I have come across people who need help, like a single mother who lives next to me and pays her bills but has no extra money. I told Sal about her and he asked what she needed. I said, 'She just needs a Christmas for her kids, so he sent out gift cards. I told him about a couple that didn't have any furniture and he sent them to Inspiration Ministries to pick some out,'

Amy said.

She said Dimiceli tells her what she's doing is important, and he's easy to believe.

"He put my whole world right back on track and it was hard to know where to go. What do we do – do we give up? No, we're going to fight through this. Once someone gives you that hope, you've got meaning and purpose in your life," Amy said.

"Giving other people hope, there's nothing better than having that in your life," Amy added.

Dimiceli said those two stories are just a sample of situations he's encountered.

"There are so many people we've helped. There was an elderly grandma who signed her check over to her son and was locked out of the home. She was

found in her car, freezing, so we put her up in a hotel. Or the man who could never afford a dentist and was in pain because he had multiple cavities. We paid for him to have extensive dental work done and he is now free of pain," he said.

Dimiceli said he takes comfort in knowing The Time Is Now is stronger than ever.

"My wife, Corinne, and I, who have been together for nearly 40 years, are here and will be doing this for a long time, but my sons, Sal, Jr. and Sean, and daughters, Shannon and Shaelyn, help a lot now, too," he said.

"My definition of The Time Is Now is community. We're all in this together and it's amazing how many lives we touch," Dimiceli said.

For more information, see next page.

Here's how you can help...

The Time Is Now To Help was created to alleviate the suffering of those facing economic hardship, whether is be through job loss, loss of a spouse who was the primary source of income, extreme medical expenses or other crises, according to the website.

Founded by Sal Dimiceli, Sr., the organization works with social service agencies, churches and private referrals – all of which are verified for legitimacy of the need – and helps people in any number of circumstances.

Dimiceli said growing up poor brought pain and shame to the family because his mother was too proud to ask for help. As he grew older, he began giving money to organizations that help people but was discouraged by how little of it reached the people needing help.

Eventually he started his own organization, The Time Is Now To Help. In the past 28 years, an average of 500 people have been helped with assistance, including: restoring utility service, assisting with shelter costs, and supplying a variety of items needed, from blankets and heaters to food, toiletries, diapers, wheelchairs and vehicles or vehicle repairs.

Per The Time Is Now To Help's Articles of Incorporation, no part of any of the monies benefit or are distributed to its officers or directors, there are no director's fees or salaries, and no auto expenses or reimbursements are permitted.

Donations may be submitted through The Time Is Now To Help website at timeisnowtohelp.org or by mailing a check to: The Time Is Now To Help, P.O. Box 1, Lake Geneva, WI 53147.

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It's easy to go Irish!

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by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Patrick's Day is the day everyone – regardless of their ancestry – becomes a little bit Irish. The color of the day is green – from clothing to the green beer that washes down the corned beef and cabbage – with

a soundtrack of Irish music playing in the background. And in some areas with a very large Irish heritage, such as Chicago, even rivers turn green and St. Patrick's Day parades led by the bagpipe bands are enjoyed by many.

Perhaps the most popular of the St. Patrick's Day traditions is the food. And that begins with corned beef and cabbage. More on that later.

Catholics and snakes

First, how did this celebration of St. Patrick come about? It is believed that St. Patrick was born in Kilpatrick, Ireland, around 387 A.D. to parents of Roman citizenship. The Roman Empire ruled the colony of Britain and Patrick's father is believed to have been one of the Roman rulers of the colony.

According to legend, Patrick was kidnapped around the age of 14 by one of Ireland's raiding parties and was forced to live among the Druids and pagans as a slave. He managed to escape around the age of 20 and was reunited with his parents.

Upon reuniting with his family, he began to study for the priesthood with a plan to return to Ireland and convert them to Christianity.

After being ordained as a bishop, Patrick's journey began and with it a number of myths and legends concerning him also grew.

It is often said that St. Patrick drove the snakes from Ireland, but Ireland was not known as a country covered in snakes. St. Patrick as bishop with other clergy did begin the journey to convert the Irish to Catholicism, a job that was most successful. As Ireland became the most Catholic of

countries of the time.

The date of March 17 became the date that is celebrated as St. Patrick's Day because, according to legend, it is the date that he died in Saul Downpatrick, Ireland, around 460 A.D. The celebration of St. Patrick's Day began as a religious feast in Ireland.

With immigration to the United States by many families from Ireland, the practice of celebrating St. Patrick's Day became more of an honoring of Irish heritage than strictly a religious feast.

A parade of green

New York City claims the first St. Patrick's Day Parade when Irish soldiers serving in the English Militia marched through the city on March 17, 1762, in honor of their patron saint. New York has continued to have a St. Patrick's Day parade since that day. New York is honored as the site of the first St. Patrick's Day Parade, as parades in honor of St. Patrick were never held in Ireland prior to that date. Boston, also with a large Irish population, soon followed with parades on March 17.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Bagpipes, the traditional instrument of Ireland, are always seen and heard in a St. Patrick's Day parade. Many larger cities, Milwaukee and Chicago included, host parades to mark the Irish holiday.

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In honor of its Irish heritage, Chicago has been know to dye the Chicago River a shade of green on March 17.

Over the years, it was not just the Irish who celebrated St. Patrick's Day. It seemed that everyone became Irish for a day, dressing in green and eating Irish foods and drinking Irish beer.

Today corned beef and cabbage seems to be the most popular Irish meal. In reality it did not actually come from Ireland. In Ireland most of the families made a meal of boiled potatoes and cabbage. Meat was too expensive for most residents to eat on a daily basis, although if they had a sliver or two of bacon they would add it to the family's dinner.

After arriving in the New York area the Irish discovered corned beef, an inexpensive meat enjoyed by their Jewish neighbors and they adopted it to eat with their cabbage and potatoes.

With St. Patrick's Day this month it is time to make plans to celebrate the Irish. There are many restaurants in the Lake Geneva area that will be serving the traditional food and drink that many seek. Or if an at home party

is being planned there are also places to purchase high quality corned beef to prepare at home and the Irish beers and other beverages needed for the celebration.

Here are Spirit Magazine's preferred places to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. So raise your glass on St. Patrick's Day with a friend and share the traditional Irish cheer "Slainte."

Egg Harbor Cafe

827 W. Main Street
Lake Geneva
(262) 248-1207

Begin St. Patrick's Day with a real taste of the Irish. Each spring the corned beef hash omelet becomes one of the favorites on the spring menu. For skillet lovers, the corned beef hash skillet is sure to become a favorite. Loaded with corned beef hash, and eggs prepared as you like them, it

makes the perfect breakfast, brunch or lunch to celebrate the day.

Chuck's Lakeshore Inn

352 Lake St.
Fontana
(262) 275-3222

St. Patrick's Day is an all-out celebration at Chuck's Lakeshore Inn, which offers a variety of Irish foods. Start your meal with a bowl of the soup of the day, Irish Stew. Then the choice will become more difficult as one has to choose from the variety of favorite Irish meals. The Guinness-battered fish and chips will make a tasty choice. For many, the most important meal on St. Patrick's Day is the traditional corned beef dinner, served with boiled red potatoes, green cabbage, carrots, and rye bread. That option will be available, as will the traditional Reuben sandwich loaded with corned beef, sauerkraut, and



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Even beer goes green for the St. Patrick's Day celebration at many establishments. But purists will still be able to find traditional Irish beers such as Guinness or Smithwick's.



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cheese and thousand island dressing.

Shepherd's Pie, another traditional Irish meal enjoyed throughout Ireland will be available as St. Patrick's Day is celebrated. Chuck's Shepherd's Pie will be made with braised short ribs and root vegetables.

The restaurant will also offer \$5 drink specials. After all, it isn't St. Patrick's Day without a little Irish beer. Guinness and Smithwick's are two of the favorites that will be available. Try one of their "Irish Car Bombs" –Jameson Whiskey and Irish cream added to a glass of Guinness. Or enjoy a shot of Jameson whiskey or a rich after dinner drink of Irish cream. End your meal with a cup of the famous Irish coffee.

Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction

Highway B
Genoa City
(262) 279-5200

The famous Octagon House in Genoa City known for its fish boil will have an additional choice on the menu for St. Patrick's Day. As it has for several years, Fitzgerald's will serve the traditional corned beef and cabbage meal cooked

outdoors in their large cauldrons along with potatoes, green cabbage, and carrots.

Finish off the meal with their apple squares decorated with green icing. Enjoy your meal with a glass of green beer from the keg or one of the other full service cocktails available.

The corned beef meal will be served Friday, March 17, and Saturday, March 18.

Mars Resort

4098 South Shore Drive
Lake Geneva
(262) 245-5689

Mars Resort will be bringing in the Irish spirit with the traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner on March 17. Specials will be offered on Guinness beer in cans and Jameson shots.

Sprechers

111 Center Street
Lake Geneva
(262) 248-7047

Green beer and green cocktails will be available along with Irish style stout on tap. Enjoy a bowl of potato leek soup, a

favorite in Ireland, and follow it with the traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner.

For those who prefer turkey rather than corned beef, enjoy the turkey Reuben sandwich. The real specialty that should not be missed is the dessert. Prepare yourself for a piece of the Bailey's Irish Cream Pie. Made in-house, it will be a delightful end to a St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

Foley's Irish Woods

W3905 Highway 50
Lake Geneva
(262) 245-6966

While Foley's is Irish all year round, for St. Patrick's Day it really turns on the Irish. The restaurant will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a variety of

favorite Irish foods. In the bar and grill area green beer is on the menu paired with corned beef sandwiches

In the main dining room the traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner and the popular Shepherd's pie will be served as a special for the week. On March 17 also add the traditional Friday special of fried fish (haddock) and chips.

Sorg's Quality Meats

N4290 Highway 14
Darien
(262) 724-5554

Located on Highway 14 near Delavan, this family-owned meat processing and butcher shop offers a variety of fine meats. For St. Patrick's Day their special corned beef makes

its appearance in their butcher shop. Beginning in early March, both the traditional corned beef brisket and a corned beef round, will be available for purchase. The corned beef round, according to Barb Sorgs, is a leaner product. For large orders, she recommends that an order be placed in advance.

Stop in and purchase some of the tasty Irish stew prepared by Luke. This ready-to-eat treat was a fast sellout when introduced last year.

Piggly Wiggly

100 E. Geneva Square
Lake Geneva
(262) 248-8798

It's the perfect place to pick up all that is needed for a St. Patrick's Day



The most traditional St. Patrick's Day feast includes corned beef with cabbage, boiled red potatoes, and carrots. Pair it with some rye bread or Irish soda bread to complete the meal. Inset: Shepherd's Pie is an Irish dinner often made with beef and lamb and root vegetables and topped with creamy mashed potatoes.

celebration. One stop shopping allows the purchase of the corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and rye bread.

Check the bakery area for St. Patrick's Day-decorated desserts.

Bruno's Liquors

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(262) 248-6407

Planning to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a party at home? Make a stop at Bruno's to purchase the needed Irish beers, Jameson Whiskey and Bailey's Irish Cream needed for a true Irish celebration.

Lake Geneva Pie Company

150 E. Geneva Square
Lake Geneva
(262) 248-5100

The Lake Geneva Pie Company makes wonderful pies year-round, but on St. Patrick's Day it is time for a really special dessert treat to cap your special Irish meal. The Pie Company's Bailey's Chocolate Cream Pie is sure to be enjoyed by everyone. It will be available on March 17, 18, and 19. Customers are advised to order pies in advance to be certain one is available.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

These cookies embellished with the shamrock are a reminder of St. Patrick's use of the shamrock to explain the trinity. The shamrock became St. Patrick's symbol.

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Tips to spruce up for less

If you're looking to make a big change around the house, tidying up can make all the difference.

Spruce up your life – from your wardrobe to home décor – with these tips from the discount experts at Dollar General.

Audit your closet

Out with the old and in with the new. As the seasons change, it's necessary to make room for a new wardrobe. First, go through your closet and select the items you haven't worn lately and plan to either donate or give to a friend. Consider consigning high-quality garments. The money you earn can be put toward your wardrobe budget.

Only after you've made space should you go shopping. You can search for new seasonal apparel without cluttering your house. Be sure to purchase items that are interchangeable, allowing you to mix and match outfits for different seasons, while saving space and money.

Home cleaning tips

There's such a rewarding feeling of accomplishment after cleaning a house from top to bottom. Instead of waiting to clean the entire house occasionally all at



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Spring cleaning, including the dreaded task of washing windows, can be made easier by using the proper tools and products.

once, take the initiative of completing easy tasks on a more regular basis. The work will seem manageable and you'll keep your home cleaner overall this way.

Here are a few easy tasks to help you get started:

- Eliminate odors in your kitchen by setting a bowl of coffee grounds inside your

fridge;

- Clean your dishwasher by pouring white vinegar in the detergent dispenser and running a cycle; and

- Absorb leaks and odors at the bottom of your trashcan by placing a handful of newspapers at the bottom.

Home décor and organization

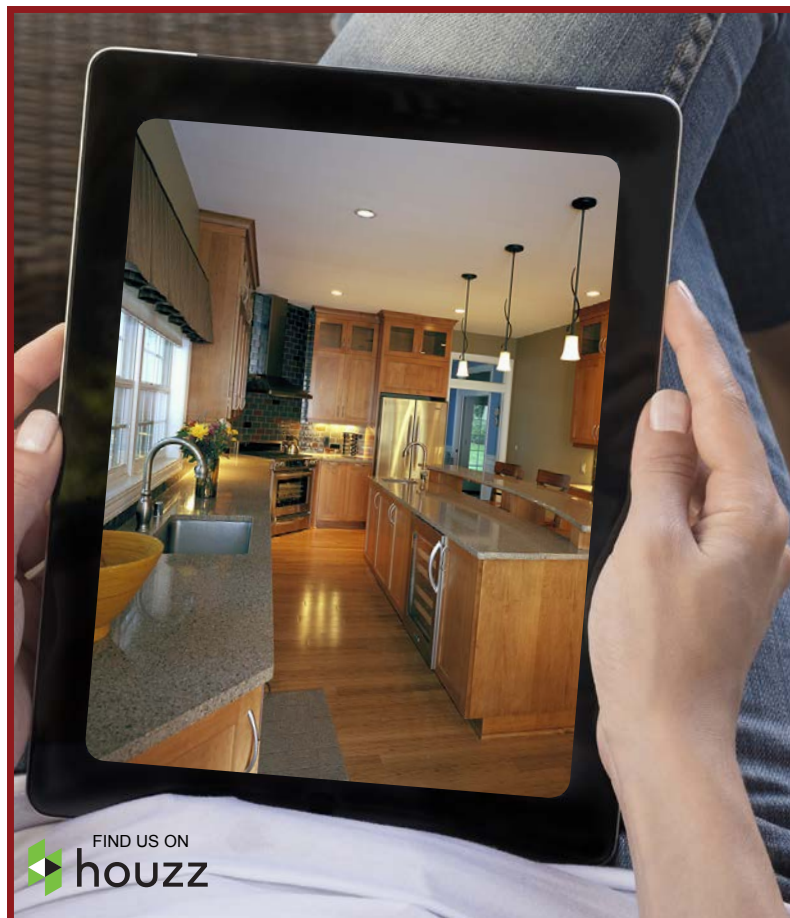
Spruce up your house with a little décor. As you declutter and organize, have fun by selecting new throw pillows, blankets, colorful accessories and new pictures to place around the house. Simply rearranging your furniture can also change the mood of your space. A few small changes can make a big difference.

Digital coupons

Save on your sprucing by utilizing online digital coupons. Routinely check your favorite retail stores for hot deals on supplies for cleaning, decorating and organizing.

One retailer making it easy to save on everyday items is Dollar General. Coupons are available at dg.com/coupons, and are a quick and easy way to save money on great products.

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The summer look makes this dining scene perfect for a luncheon at the lake. The unique dining table combines the white chairs and white table legs with a soft finished table top reminiscent of barn wood.

WHEN THE DÉCOR MATTERS

Paper Dolls provides the design expertise and products to make a house a home

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Springtime is on the way and it is often a time when we feel the need to lighten up and clean out as we move from the dark, dreary days of winter into the sunnier days of spring.

Just as we change our clothes from warm and heavy to lighter fabrics and styles, spring is also a time that we look at our homes and realize that change is needed there.

"Just as we don't wear the same clothes that we did 20 years ago, we need



Paired with a neutral sofa and neutral side chair in a printed fabric, the area rug introduces color to this room setting. Bringing in a touch of spring, the flower pictures and attractive mirror add the finishing touches.

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Today's trends in home décor tend toward the neutrals but not just the traditional white and beige. The new neutrals include gray, spa blue and even navy. The use of neutrals in the walls and the sofa allow for the accessories such as pillows and area rugs to add a splash of color to make the room interesting.”



to give our homes new clothes too,” said Kristi Hugunin, owner of Paper Dolls, a Home Furnishings and Design Center, at 138 E. Geneva Square in Lake Geneva.

For many of us not knowing where to start and what to change to make a more comfortable, beautiful and relaxing home often leaves us frozen and, as years go by, nothing gets changed. Or we make decisions that too late we realize did not give us the look we wanted.

Kristi has been in the home furnishings business for 30 years beginning with a partner, Chris Hack, as wallpaper hangers. Thus the name Paper Dolls came to be.

It did not take them long to realize that they could do much more so they opened a small store to sell wallpaper and then began to move into home décor. Country crafts were popular at the time so they allowed local crafters to sell their products in the store on consignment.

The business grew and styles changed as they expanded to selling items for home décor, offered design consultations and began selling lines of furniture. The space needed to run the business expanded from 2,000 square feet to 16,000 square feet including warehouse space.

Chris retired several years ago and now Kristi is the sole owner. However she doesn't do everything herself. She has a very competent staff of designers and store employees who work with her.

● TOUR THE STORE

A walk through Paper Dolls – with its beautifully arranged room vignettes in various styles and colors – is mind boggling after viewing space after space of beautifully designed room vignettes.

Kristi and Mary Myers, one of the designers, discussed the process of working with their clients to achieve a comfortable and fashionable space that will please the family.

There are several different ways of working with clients depending on a project. How the process evolves depends on the needs of that client. Some clients are starting from the beginning with a new home and new furniture and no old memorabilia to work into the design. Others are looking to replace some furniture items and update the look. Either way, the outcome will be the same – a fine room that will meet the needs of those who live there.

The designer will meet with the client and discuss how the room is used, how

large the family is and what their interests are. If it's a living room or family room, do they have a piano that needs placement or a large television? What objects that are already in the room are going to be kept? Is there a special pillow or rug they need to incorporate into the color scheme or use to anchor the color scheme?

Not sure what to keep? The designer will never force a client to remove something from her room that she absolutely loves, but will help to incorporate all that is really loved into the new design.

The designer will then put together two or three presentations that include everything for the room including fabric

samples for furniture, area rug samples, wall colors or wallpapers, and fabric for window coverings. The designer will consider wall art and accessories for the room, including flower arrangements. The client and the designer will then view each customized look and work together to reach the exact look desired.

● A TOUCH OF COLOR

Today's trends in home décor tend toward the neutrals but not just the traditional white and beige. The new neutrals include gray, spa blue and even navy. The use of neutrals in the walls and the sofa allow for the accessories such as

This shelving system holds a variety of accent pieces that will add the finishing touches to any room. Pick and choose from the variety on display at Paper Dolls to find the perfect piece for your room.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



An expansive bar, which will fit in even a small space, offers places for glassware and a wine rack. It is both attractive and functional.

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pillows and area rugs to add a splash of color to make the room interesting.

Sofa styles and colors will set the tone for the room. The sectional sofa is most popular because of its versatility.

"Sectional sofas remain popular in neutral colors," Myers said. "Color is added to the room through the use of accessories and area rugs."

Area rugs create options when it comes to selecting colors to accent the room.

Wallpapers are making a comeback.

"But it is not your grandmother's wallpaper," Kristi said. "The new wallpapers are textured and have clean lines. They use tone on tone or geometric designs. Grass cloths give a very textured look to the wall. Everything has clean lines and wallpaper is not used in every room. There may be only an accent wall that is covered with the wallpaper not necessarily the entire room."

Window coverings also have a clean,

neutral look. More hard coverings are used, such as wood blinds and shutters. Many open and shut by use of power controls. Mounted textured blinds in neutral colors are the most popular but they are also available in colors for those who prefer that.

● IDEAS ARE GOLD

While many people are unsure of the look they want to achieve, they will get many ideas just by wandering through Paper Dolls. Each season Kristi and the staff redesign the showroom. New spreads and linens on the beds, different throw pillows representing the season, and accent pieces to pull the room together. Clocks, mirrors, hanging lights, and artwork on the walls make a new statement for the season.

Paper Dolls carries a large number of framed and matted artwork both in neutral tones or colorful to fit the vignette, as well

as metal art objects to add a look of fun to the room. A variety of mirrors from traditional styles to modern designs are displayed in many of the rooms, often over the sofa or bed.

Adding the warmth of a fireplace – even if there isn't one built in – can be accomplished. It is easy to install one of the many different designs of electric fireplaces that fill a room with warmth. Some of the fireplaces can be mounted on a wall for a different effect.

Lamps can make or break the look of the room. Designers will work with customers to find the perfect lighting needs for the space, whether it is hanging lamps, table lamps or standing lamps.

Paper Dolls has a large selection of styles from the whimsical to the classical.

There was a time when chandeliers



The nautical look is perfect for a house at the lake. This dining scene blends grays and blues and uses nautical accents – a fish and a sailboat – to bring a lake feeling into the room.

were used only in dining rooms and entry spaces of large homes. Today there is a resurgence of chandeliers used everywhere. Whether a person prefers the traditional dining room chandelier or would like one in their bedroom, bathroom or kitchen, they are available in a variety of styles from traditional crystal to modern designs and sizes to fit the space.

● DON'T FORGET THE PATIO

Paper Dolls carries a complete line of outdoor furniture. Today outdoor furniture is an extension of the living space. The outdoor furniture is chosen to fit with the style of the home and to provide a comfortable and attractive living space.

No longer are hard plastic or wooden chairs the seats of choice but rather soft cushions that are drainable and as such do not need to be taken into the house each night or whenever there is a fear of rain.



Today's outdoor furniture is an attractive and comfortable extension of a home's living space. With waterproof cushions, they do not need to be removed at night or during inclement weather.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ, Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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Outdoor furniture includes sofas, lounge chairs and the traditional dining space. Many patios and barbecue pits are elegant, making the outdoor space another room to entertain in the same luxurious style as the home.

When doing indoor decorating it is easy to make mistakes. Using a designer will help achieve the look that is desired the first time.

"We recommend that everyone meet with a designer before making major changes to avoid making mistakes," Kristi said. "Better to pay for a designer even for one hour to pick out carpet or paint colors than to make major mistakes."

Paper Dolls offers a wide variety of products and services to make your home the peaceful and restful place that you will enjoy and where you will be proud to entertain others. Paper Dolls offers a complete design center and designers will come to your home if needed. Delivery service is available to Kenosha and Northern Illinois as well as the Lake Geneva area.

People often think that a home design store is above the budget of most people, but Kristi said they have price ranges for every budget. She encourages shopping in the local independent businesses.

"We can usually match prices and sometimes even beat the big box stores on the same merchandise. And our selection is much larger. I receive merchandise from over 2,000 sources so be assured that you will find the pieces needed to obtain the finished look."

Visit Paper Dolls, 138 E. Geneva Square, Lake Geneva. Or visit their website www.3paperdollsinteriors.com or their Facebook page. The store can be reached by telephone at (262) 248-6268.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Regular service by a qualified technician is one of the best ways to make sure your heating and cooling systems are running at peak efficiency, according to Nick Malmin of Komfort Heating and Cooling of Elkhorn.

How to save money and energy

Modern
equipment,
service key
to heating
and cooling
savings

by **Nick Malmin**

CONTRIBUTOR

Energy consumption, efficiency and carbon footprint are all terms that have been more and more prevalent as we get further in the information age. What does this tell us about our heating and cooling needs and usage in 2017?

For one thing people are more conscious on how much it costs or how much energy we really need to use. In the heating and cooling world there are a lot of cost-saving measures that we as home and business owners can do.

SMART THERMOSTATS

Thermostats have come a long way since the mercury dial we all had on the walls of

our homes when we are younger. Manual temperature up and down was as far as it went. Now the thermostats are smarter and more efficient. They have evolved to not only a programmable thermostat but to advanced models that know when you are on your way home and what comfort levels you prefer.

If your furnace is only a few years old and is an efficient model a thermostat upgrade can save you money and energy usage.

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heat only 2 cents goes out the exhaust.

Most older furnaces out there are 80 to 92 percent efficient, losing anywhere from 8 to 21 cents per dollar put into the heating cost of your home.

Also there are air conditioning units out there pushing 20 SEER (seasonal energy efficiency rating). Older units rate 10 SEER or even lower depending on the performance level of the unit. Purchasing a new furnace and air conditioning combo can save you money and energy usage

MAINTENANCE

Did you know that a properly maintained furnace saves you money in the present and in the future? Having maintenance done on your furnace will keep your system running efficiently and will help your system last longer. When your furnace or air conditioning gets dirty it makes your equipment work harder.

This uses more energy and costs more money. Set aside some time on your schedule for a qualified technician to come out in the spring and fall to clean and inspect your units.

Most of all do your homework. Your HVAC company should have answers and advice on keeping your equipment in peak performance. Also look at reports that the EPA, Energy Star, and other government or nonprofit provide that help consumers make educated decisions with their heating and cooling needs.

Nick Malmin represents Komfort Heating and Cooling, 5384 Highway 11, Elkhorn. The firm is a provider of Carrier, Lennox and Daikin heating and cooling products and services all brands. Komfort Heating and Cooling has been serving the community for 41 years. For information call (262) 723-2662 or visit komforth heating.com

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How to bring beauty to your yard while helping the habitat

Whether planting a garden, enjoying the beauty of your landscape or sitting down to a delicious meal, you have bees, butterflies and other pollinators to thank. These essential members of our ecosystem are responsible for much of the food and beauty we enjoy each day.

Unfortunately pesticides and habitat loss are threatening their existence. There is something you can do to help. Turn your garden, backyard or balcony into a pollinator's habitat.

Plant a variety of flowering plants that provide nectar and pollen throughout the season. Planting masses of natives, herbs and other pollinator favorites like sedum, zinnias, alyssum, cosmos, and columbine will attract these beauties to your landscape.

Include a variety of day and night blooming flowers in a variety of colors and shapes to support the widest range of pollinators. But don't let a lack of space dissuade you; even a window box of flowers can help.

Keep your plants healthy and blooming with proper care. Match the plants to the growing conditions, provide needed water and fertilize with an organic nitrogen fertilizer like Milorganite (milorganite.com) when needed.

You'll promote slow, steady plant growth that is less susceptible to drought and pests. Plus the slow release low nitrogen won't interfere with flowering, which is essential to the health and well being of our pollinators.

Supplement pollinators' diets with a bit of rotten fruit. And be sure to provide trees, shrubs, parsley, dill and other plants that caterpillars, grubs and the immature stage of other pollinators prefer to feed upon.

Put away the pesticides and



by
**Melinda
Myers**
COLUMNIST



The benefits of a pollinator garden



tolerate a few holes in the leaves of their favorite plants. With a diversity of plants you can easily overlook the temporary leaf damage. Plus, this is a small price to pay for all the benefits they bring to the garden.

Provide pollinators with shelter from predators and the weather. Include a variety of trees, shrubs and perennials. Leave patches of open soil for ground nesting bees and some leaf litter to shelter some butterflies, bumblebees and other pollinating insects. Supplement natural shelter with commercial or homemade nesting boxes. You'll find do-it-yourself plans on the internet from various educational sources.

Puddles, fountains, birdbaths and even a damp sponge can provide needed water. Include water features with sloping sides or add a few stones to create easier access. Or sink a shallow container of sand in the ground. Keep it damp and add a pinch of sea salt for the butterflies and bees.

Maximize your efforts by teaming up with your neighbors. Together you can create a larger more diverse habitat that provides pollinators with the resources they need to thrive.

Your efforts will be rewarded with greater harvests, beautiful flowers and colorful birds and butterflies visiting your garden.

Gardening expert, Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including "Small Space Gardening" and the "Midwest Gardener's Handbook." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything: Food Gardening For Everyone" DVD set and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds and Blooms magazine. Myers' web site is www.melindamyers.com.



Bees are essential pollinators who are endangered due to the loss of habitat and pesticide use, according to gardening expert Melinda Myers.

FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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Programs to look back at impact of Great War

Lectures to provide retrospective on 100th anniversary of U.S. involvement in WWI

A April 5 will mark the 100th anniversary of the United States involvement in the Great War – WWI. To commemorate this historic occasion, Black Point Estate and Gardens will present two programs in March that will provide an overview of the conflict, the events that prompted U.S. involvement and the anti-German hysteria and tension on the home front that followed.

The first program, “A Crowded Hour: Milwaukee During the Great War” will be presented by Kevin Abing, Ph.D., archivist at the Milwaukee County Historical Society on March 4 from 1- to 3 p.m. at Horticultural Hall in Lake Geneva.

Abing will examine the Milwaukee home front during World War I and will discuss how city residents responded to the military, social and economic demands of the conflict.

The second program, “The Great War, 1914-1918: Anti-German Hysteria and Conflict at Home,” will be presented by Dave Desimone and Emily Larson of Black Point Estate on March 29 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Lake Geneva Library.

Desimone will provide a general overview of the conflict and Larson will discuss the resident family of Black Point Estate and their response to the war. Through the use of personal letters, historic images and newspaper accounts Desimone and Larson will explore the complex issues of a nation moving from reluctant global participant to world power.

On the evening prior to visiting Congress to request a declaration of the war against Germany, President Woodrow Wilson had a quiet conversation with one of his favorite journalists, Frank Cobb of the New York World. Wilson is reported to have told Cobb, “Once led into war, our people will forget that there ever was such a thing as tolerance ... ruthless, brutality will enter into the very fiber of our national life, infecting Congress, the courts, the policeman, the man in the street.”

A former professor of history, Wilson realized that a national crisis often resulted in the silencing of unpopular opinions.

True to President Wilson’s prediction, American society became less tolerant



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Ominous-looking posters such as this were used to persuade Americans to buy war bonds during World War I. The impact that the war had on life here will be the topic of two programs presented by Black Point Estate and Gardens in March.

of citizens who disagreed with their government's actions, including dissenters such as labor radicals, religious pacifists, and socialists. Also at risk were several million Americans of German ancestry. German Americans comprised the largest ethnic group in Wisconsin in the 1910s, accounting for more than 45 percent of the state's foreign-born population.

Fed by war propaganda, many Americans became nervous about the existence of German spies and traitors in their neighborhoods and seemed intent on removing all things German from their communities.

Some of the actions, in hindsight, seem humorous. Sauerkraut was renamed liberty cabbage; wieners became hot dogs; and German measles became liberty measles.

On a more serious level, zealous patriots in Wisconsin banned the German language in elementary schools, burned German books, and tarred and feathered German Americans suspected of opposing the war efforts.

The only way German Americans could avoid persecution was to deny their German heritage. Therefore, many German-American families, businesses, and communities decided to Anglicize names and pronunciations.

In Milwaukee the Germania Building became the Brumder building, and the elected leaders in the Washington County



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

This propaganda photo depicts American Democracy and the Liberty Bond effort as dealing a knock-out blow to the Germans in World War I.

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If you go...

WHAT: "A Crowded Hour: Milwaukee During the Great War"

WHEN: 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 4

WHERE: Horticultural Hall, Lake Geneva, 330 Broad Street, Lake Geneva

COST: \$5 per person. Call Black Point Estate at (262) 248-1888 to purchase tickets

~~~~~

**WHAT:** "The Great War, 1914-1918: Anti-German Hysteria and Conflict at Home"

**WHEN:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 29th, 2017

**WHERE:** Lake Geneva Library, 918 W. Main Street, Lake Geneva

**COST:** free

community of Schlesingerville changed the name of their town to Slinger. An irrational fear of anything German overtook the nation and lasted throughout the war.

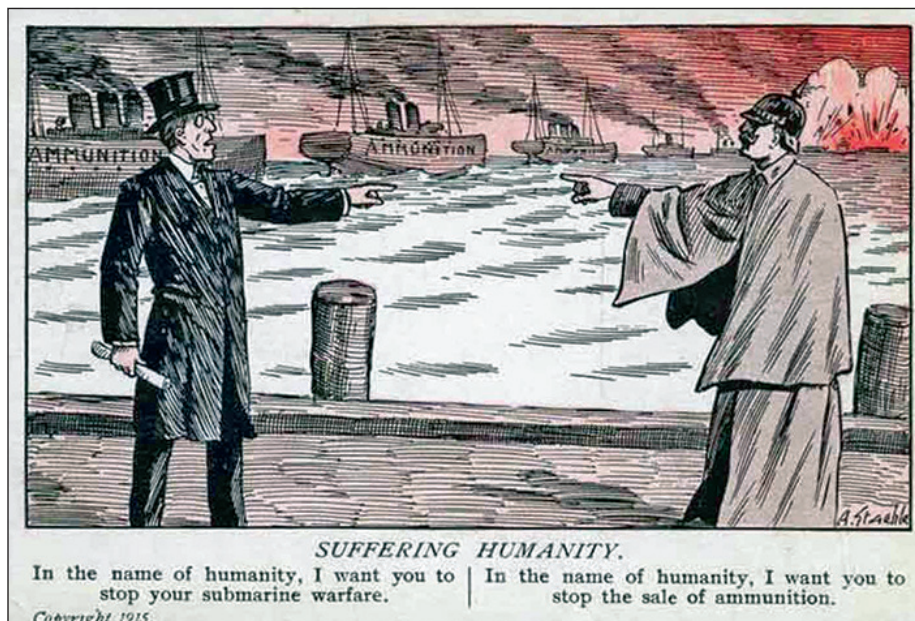
To help allay fears and provide laws to deal with treasonous behavior, Congress passed and President Wilson signed the Espionage Act in June 1917 and the Sedition Act in May 1918. The Espionage Act imposed fines of up to \$10,000 and jail sentences up to 20 years on persons convicted of recruiting, or aiding the enemy.

The act also authorized the postmaster general to ban from the mails any material that he considered treasonable. The Sedition Act made it a crime to speak against the purchase of war bonds or to "utter, print, write, or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language" about the government, the Constitution, or the uniform of the army or navy.

Patriots flooded the Wisconsin court system with charges that their fellow citizens had violated the Espionage and Sedition Acts. Usually the accused had criticized America's war policy, praised Germany, or argued that the war was a class struggle. An atmosphere of repression and tension spread throughout Wisconsin as people felt they could not express their opinions.

Like many German-American families, the Seipp/Schmidt family, owners of Black Point Estate in Lake Geneva were directly impacted by the Great War and the anti-German hysteria that followed.

Alma Schmidt was in Germany when the war broke out and her letters back home to her parents in Chicago provide a snapshot of



A political cartoon from 1915 shows the war of words between U.S. President Woodrow Wilson and German Kaiser Wilhelm.



A pile of ashes litters the street where German textbooks were burned in protest of that country's aggression in World War I.

that moment in time and the difficulty many German-Americans had with the conflict.

In addition, the war had a significant impact on the largely German dominated brewing industry in America, an industry in which the Seipps were heavily engaged. Finally, following the war, Otto Schmidt led a national effort to help provide war relief to Germany, while still balancing his position as president of the Illinois Historical Society and patriotic American.

In just two short years, from 1916 to 1918, the United States went from

isolationist nation to emerging world power. It would take U.S. involvement in another world war, this time from 1941 to 1945, to cement its status as the most dominant power of the 20th century.

While Wisconsin still retains much of its German cultural heritage into the 21st century, there is no denying the impact of the Great War on the people of this state.

For more information on these and other programs, visit [www.blackpointestate.org](http://www.blackpointestate.org).

To purchase tickets, call (262) 248-1888.



# The Cove launches lobby renovation

The 222-suite Cove of Lake Geneva hotel has launched a project to renovate its lower-level lobby and front desk area.

"When you walk in to a hotel, that's your first impression and it sets the tone for your experience at the property," said Laurel Brown, owner of Brownhouse, the Madison-based firm that designed the project.

Brown said plans include reconstructing the front desk with multi-dimensional, oxidized metal-covered panels and installing distressed wood tiles behind the desk. In addition, guest seating will be added to the first level and decorative lighting will be introduced while fluorescent bulbs are minimized.

The renovations, which began in February, are expected to take up to three months. Guests will temporarily check-in at the upper

lobby's current Colectivo coffee bar and enter the hotel just a few feet east of The Cove's main entrance.

While upgrades are in progress, Cove guests will receive daily complimentary continental breakfast and those who book direct online will receive a logo hard hat filled with goodies, from water bottles and tea to chocolates and beef jerky.

Remodeling will conclude before Memorial Day. The Cove will embark another improvement project in the fall: resurfacing the indoor pool deck to restore its original and Italian tile surface.

"We are continually reevaluating and reinvesting in the property to retain our current guests and attract and introduce new vacationers and business travelers to The Cove and Lake Geneva," Cove General Manager Dick Schwalbenberg said.





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# Real results at Medical Weight Loss

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**F**or many people, losing weight is at the top of their bucket list. For others, it is the only way to feel healthy again.

Many of us try yo-yo diets, or buy the expensive celebrity-promoted trends, that pop up in social media and TV and radio commercial hype. The failed weight loss remains, and people continue to be discouraged.

However, Medical Weight Loss, LLC at (262) 248-SLIM has been proving since 2007, that weight loss, whether 10 pounds or 120 pounds, can be done safely, affordably and successfully!

Many different diseases, such as diabetes, autoimmune and thyroid problems and heart disease, are linked to being overweight. We know about these things. Weight loss is not just a matter of looking good, but is a medical program of improving your health and reducing your risks. Feeling better is also a great by-product of slimming down.

Medical Weight Loss, LLC, opened in 2007 and is headed by Dr. Gail Jachimek. The main Wisconsin clinic is at 314 Sage Street, Lake Geneva. Their other weight loss clinics are in Waukesha, Tampa, Fla., and Wesley Chapel, Fla.

Their prices have not increased since they began the medical weight loss practice 10 years ago. Jachimek and her husband, Richard, are both chiropractic physicians, and have those clinics in Florida also. They have a house in Lake Geneva since 1998, and have been part-time residents and visitors in the area since 1969.

Richard was also an Army helicopter pilot and tech inspector for seven years during the Vietnam era.



Their medical weight loss program combines pharmaceutical appetite suppressant medication, fat burning injections and pills, and a clinically proven diet with medical doctor and nursing support, and counseling to help their patients reach their target weight goals.

This physician-supervised program helps those who have before tried and failed to lose unwanted pounds. "We opened the clinic because I was entering menopause and gaining weight," Gail Jachimek said. "When I asked my primary physician, as well as my doctor friends, for help, I got extremely rude responses. I was told to 'push away from the table.'"

Jachimek does not want her patients to go through the same degrading experience.

At the time, Jachimek was living on chicken and salad, and practicing Level 3 kickboxing.

"I had been thin as a young woman, so I also assumed that anyone over weight deserved to be overweight because

“ We have medical doctors, as well as nurse practitioners, that have been treating our patients successfully for years, so that the root cause of these problems can be addressed.”

– Dr. Gail Jachimek

they were 'eating chips in front of the television,' etc.," she said.

When the unexplained weight gain happened to her, she was then convinced that other factors were involved. She wanted an answer.

Determined to learn more, Jachimek joined the American Society of Bariatric Physicians and went to their symposiums for further education and tools. She discovered that there are many contributing factors to weight gain – not just your diet.

Some of the major contributing factors included hormonal imbalances, thyroid issues, environmental toxins, autoimmune disease, type 2 diabetes, etc. It was then that they opened the main clinic in Tampa to help people dealing with the same frustrating weight gain she had faced. They have since opened three more clinics in Florida and Wisconsin.

"At Medical Weight Loss, LLC, we have medical doctors, as well as nurse practitioners, that have been treating our



patients successfully for years, so that the root cause of these problems can be addressed," Jachimek said. "Our nurses and supporting staff are there for you to help you every step of the way."

Medical weight loss plans are not new, and many are similar, but those programs usually involve significant upcharges and hidden fees. Jachimek's 248-SLIM program is different. Her program is focused on the long-term results, meaning, not only will the process safely take off your weight during the active phase of the program, but also prevent the pounds from returning during the maintenance phase (which is free).

This is no diet trend – it is a medical program that starts by looking at your medical history, evaluating your EKG, blood work and lifestyle. Then, their doctors propose a plan for you, and prescribe appropriate pharmaceutical appetite suppressant medication, fat burning injections, vitamin therapy and fat burning supplements.

"The program is simple, inexpensive and easy to follow. We give you a large list of foods to buy/choose from," Jachimek said.

"The program is easy, because it is food bought in the grocery store, (no special foods to order) just regular meats, fruits and vegetables on our list. This factor also makes it more affordable, because you don't have to buy special foods, or cook separate dinners if you have a family."

Medical Weight Loss LLC's Lake Geneva clinic is at 314 Sage St.

Under the supervision of their medical doctors, patients can drop 20 to 30 pounds in the first month. Jachimek said that it is common to see 5 to 10 pounds dropped in the first week.

"We have had patients that have lost 17 pounds in their first week, as well as patients that have lost over 100 pounds on our program," Jachimek said.

Accountability is also a major part of the program.

Keeping the patients safe and on track, their nurses evaluate, and treat patients weekly to provide support and give suggestions on how to reach and maintain



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

**Medical Weight Loss LLC's Lake Geneva clinic is at 314 Sage St.**

their target weight.

Jachimek stresses that there are no price surprises at Medical Weight Loss.

The initial visit is \$195 and weekly visits are just \$55.

It is an inexpensive, easy and successful way to lose the unwanted pounds that have made you miserable for years.

As their slogans say, "With 248-SLIM there are no hidden fees, just pounds gone"...or "Weigh less for WAY less"...or "When you're done fooling around, call us!"

For more information or to make an appointment, call (262) 248-7546 or visit [medicalweightlossllc.com](http://medicalweightlossllc.com).

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Here's a glimpse inside The Funky Cowgirl, which opened a new store in Twin Lakes that is described as a fashion boutique with a cowgirl edge.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

# Funky flare

Iowa-based women's boutique opens new store in Twin Lakes

by **Dave Fidlin**  
CORRESPONDENT

**I**t started with a small boutique in a quaint Iowa community. And, as the saying goes, the rest is history. In the 14 years since the inception of her business, entrepreneur Darla Farrell's women's apparel shop, The Funky Cowgirl, has gained a following in different corners of the world and has opened a second shop in Twin Lakes.

But Farrell quickly points out her shop's mission of providing high quality, trendy merchandise – with a signature cowgirl flare – has not wavered since the doors first

opened in Fort Madison, an Iowa community with deep roots.

"We're a fashion boutique, but we have that cowgirl edge," Farrell said. "It's a fun shop with a real funky vibe to it."

Last year, Farrell decided to replicate her Iowa shop, bringing it to one of Twin Lakes' main thoroughfares. After an extensive interior overhaul of a former office space, the doors to the local shop opened in late December – just in time for Christmas.

"We've gotten a lot of positive feedback; it's been a good response so far," Farrell said of the Twin Lakes shop. "We've had a lot of

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes



“We’re a fashion boutique, but we have that cowgirl edge. It’s a fun shop with a real funky vibe to it.”

interest, which is so invigorating.”

Farrell said she decided to bring The Funky Cowgirl to Twin Lakes after visiting the community and imagining the possibilities in a town that shares some similarities with Fort Madison.

“I was in Twin Lakes and thought it would be a great location,” she said. “As I looked around, and saw the storefront, I thought, ‘I want to give it a try.’”

The Funky Cowgirl is a labor of love for Farrell and other family members. Daughter Mallory manages the boutique in Fort Madison.

The shop’s ingredients are encapsulated on the “about us” tab of its website: “We love a dash of cowgirl, a spring of rock and roll

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or some extreme glitz and glam. We love everything that is bold and makes a statement.”

Since opening the doors to the Fort Madison shop nearly a decade-and-a-half ago, the Funky Cowgirl has featured a variety of women’s apparel and accessories, and the product line has evolved over time. Offerings range from casual to formal.

An exclusive, in-house T-shirt line, made at the flagship Fort Madison shop, features a variety of designs and sayings that are aimed at drawing as much attention as the boutique’s name. The shirts are available at the Twin Lakes shop and through the store’s website.

One of the brands featured within the boutique is Rock and Roll Cowgirl, which includes jackets, jeans, all-night outfits, leggings and shorts. Some of the tops and pants give off a Nashville or Texas vibe, while others tap into a rodeo spirit.

The goal, Farrell said, is to constantly change the store’s product line, meaning customers will likely have different experiences from one visit to the next.

“We have new arrivals coming in every week,” Farrell said. “We do this so it doesn’t get stale.”

The store’s website, [www.thefunkycowgirl.com](http://www.thefunkycowgirl.com), is also updated frequently. Farrell said the site recently underwent a major redesign with a sleeker look that is designed to easily navigate.

Online visitors are encouraged to sign up for the shop’s mailing list so they are kept in the loop of the latest offers and updates within the two shops.

Behind the scenes, Farrell and other store staffers are ordering their merchandise four to five months in advance with all eyes on the latest trends and fashions and, of course, taking into account seasonal apparel.

In addition to clothing, The Funky Cowgirl offers an extensive array of jewelry, including headbands, necklaces and, as store staffers unabashedly proclaim, “bling.” Some of the products also have a patriotic theme. Case in point: One of the shop’s accessories is a “Proud American” headband.

As The Funky Cowgirl continues its evolution and settles into its new Twin Lakes digs, Farrell said the shop is offering a unique line of antique accent pieces to the store, which is a first for the operation.

Some of the other accessories



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

**Mallory Farrell, daughter of owner Darla Farrell and manager of The Funky Cowgirl's store in Iowa, poses with one of the boutique's custom T-shirts.**





Here are some of the specialty items available at The Funky Cowgirl.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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available within The Funky Cowgirl include a variety of belts in varying styles, as well as hats and purses.

In keeping with the shop's theme, it should come as little surprise The Funky Cowgirl also features a variety of boots from such lines as Old Gringo.

It is a tall order, but from the get-go Farrell said she has set out to make The Funky Cowgirl a shop for every woman seeking that hip, trendy and country look.

Farrell's vision for the shop is to have a

product line that has something for a high-school girl, on up to senior citizens.

"We do have some high-end things, but we try to shy away from the real high-end," she said. "We try to have something for everybody. We try not to weed anybody out."

Demographics aside, Farrell said she has one overarching goal for each customer who steps foot into her store: "I want them to enjoy the experience. This is a fun store, and it's inviting."

In addition to being all-inclusive, Farrell said her constant vision for The Funky Cowgirl is to offer a standout line of products. That bold vision is, perhaps, best demonstrated by the name of her business.

Years ago, as her Iowa boutique was expanding, Farrell said she felt compelled to trademark the name of her business because it was gaining so much attention online. That fact is evidenced by the reality The Funky Cowgirl ships its wares to people across the globe.



The Funky Cowgirl's second location in Twin Lakes opened in December.







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The Funky Cowgirl features a variety of apparel designed to meet all tastes, including tribal wares.

SUBMITTED PHOTO: Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Even as she marvels at the success and positive reception for The Funky Cowgirl, Farrell said she is awestruck how the pieces all came together.

Farrell's entrepreneurial spirit has shined through in other ways in Fort Madison. She owns a salon, Studio 61 Hair Design, in the heart of the Iowa community, not far from the flagship Funky Cowgirl store.

Studio 61 has been in business 28 years – double the time the first Funky Cowgirl store rode onto the scene. Farrell said the two businesses are a perfect conglomeration of her interests.

"All my life, I've enjoyed clothing – anything that has a different vibe to it," she said.

In terms of the thought behind The Funky Cowgirl, Farrell said, "I figured I might as well do my own thing, and it's been possible because there are some great clothing companies out there."

For the time being, Farrell said she and store staffers are going to focus the bulk of their time and energy on growing The Funky Cowgirl's presence in Twin Lakes. She said she is open to expanding the brand in the future, though no plans have been solidified at the moment.

"I don't have an end goal because I don't want this to end," Farrell said. "I'm the kind of person who jumps in with both feet, and I give it my all."

While the future is still a blank canvas, Farrell said she cannot help but feel grateful as she relishes the response from store customers.

"I'm blessed I've got what I've got," she said. "I'm grateful for the fact I can do this."

The Funky Cowgirl is at 215 S. Lake Ave., Twin Lakes. The shop is open Wednesday through Saturday. For more details, visit the boutique's website at [thefunkycowgirl.com](http://thefunkycowgirl.com), call (262) 877-3763 or visit their Facebook page at [facebook.com/Funkycowgirltwinlakes](https://facebook.com/Funkycowgirltwinlakes).





# A FRESH IDEA

## Locally grown, locally made pasta sauce raises funds for local organizations

by **Tracy Ouellette**  
STAFF WRITER

**W**hen Maria Elena Bisabarros attended a presentation about raising money for a trip abroad to be taken by some local high school students and the idea of selling sweets was raised, she said she reached a breaking point.

"I wasn't going to do it," she said. "I'm not going to sell any more unhealthy, sweet products as a fundraiser."

But, as a mom, she still wanted to support the students and the trip, so she was presented with a problem – if she wasn't going to sell what they were suggesting, how could they raise the needed funds.

"You know, I thought, what could I do? And then it came to me," she recalled. "I'm going to create our own local fundraiser using our community resources."

Bisabarros is a co-owner of Hometown Sausage Kitchen in East Troy and she realized everything she needed to start this new type of fundraiser was right in her own backyard.

"The next day I visited a few farmers and Contract Comestibles to see what we could produce and the East Troy Pasta Sauce was conceived," she said.

Bisabarros said the final idea for the pasta sauce came from Andy Gehl at Contract Comestibles because the company already had an USDA-approved recipe they could use.



TRACY OUELLETTE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*  
**Maria Elena Bisabarros, co-owner of East Troy's Hometown Sausage Kitchen, came up with the idea of producing a pasta sauce made from locally grown ingredients to serve as a fundraiser for area organizations.**





East Troy Pasta Sauce features all locally sourced ingredients.

TRACY OUELLETTE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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**Key**

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner NC: No credit cards accepted \$: Mostly under \$10 \$\$: Mostly under \$20 \$\$\$: Mostly under \$30 FF: Fish Fry ☎: Reservations requested ☹: Alcohol served ☺: Kids menu

*Information is subject to change. Please contact individual restaurant for more information.*

269150





I thought, what could I do? And then it came to me. I'm going to create our own local fundraiser using our community resources."

— MARIA ELENA BISABARROS

Contract Comestibles is a small-batch canning and food packaging company in East Troy that processes custom orders for clients.

The next step in the process was nailing down the logistics. "I talked to a few high school teachers and everybody was excited about the idea," Bisabarros said.

The agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at East Troy High School, Ryan Holle, helped assemble a group of 25 students to pick the tomatoes. The teens took a trip out to Bower's Farm on Highway 20 in East Troy and picked half of the 2,500 pounds of tomatoes needed to produce the 3,000 jars of sauce. Bower's Farm staff picked the rest of the tomatoes.

Michael Fields Agriculture Institute in East Troy provided the oregano and thyme, and Hometown Sausage Kitchen provided 1,000 pounds of its Sweet Italian Sausage.

The sauce was produced on Oct. 17 at Contract Comestibles.

Bisabarros said the intent behind the 3,000-jar run was to provide several community organizations a different type of product to raise funds with, and that's it's been a very successful endeavor. Each jar costs \$10 retail and \$5 of that goes to the non-profit selling the sauce.

"So far, 2,000 jars have been sold," Bisabarros said back in December.

The organizations benefiting from the fundraiser to date include the trip to Belize, Lake Beulah 4-H Club, Science Olympiad, East Troy Food Pantry, East Troy Youth Orchestra, East Troy Friends of the Library, Natures Classroom, and East Troy High School Art Club, FFA, wrestling team and forensics program.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

**East Troy High School students pick Roma tomatoes at Bower's Farm in East Troy for the base of the pasta sauce. The students picked about half of the needed tomatoes and Bower's staff picked the rest.**





SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Roma tomatoes such as these on display at Bower's Farm in East Troy form the base of the pasta sauce.

Bisabarros said the success of the sauce has spurred her on to create similar fundraisers. In the works is a holiday package with sausage, cranberry sauce and other items. She's working with Gehl on developing soup recipes for next year and has been in contact with other area businesses about providing components for the new products.

She also plans on producing the pasta sauce again next fall.

Bisabarros said she's excited about expanding on her original idea and was very grateful for all the people and businesses that have contributed to the cause. She said the more a community works together, the better off everyone will be.

She added that it was a bit discouraging at times when she was out trying to give various organizations the opportunity to sell the sauce and she often heard, "Well, we've always sold X, Y or Z," from

people who weren't willing to consider a new idea. She hopes the success of this fundraiser will change opinions.

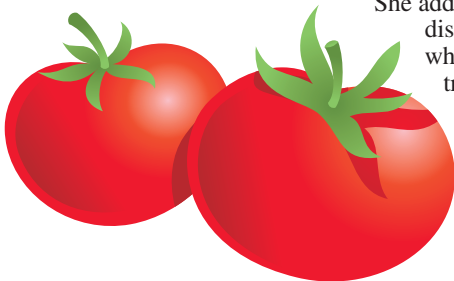
"I would like to challenge the ones who did not open their mind and understand that it is very powerful to produce and keep the whole amount of \$30,000 in the community," she said. "My hope is that more communities all over the country will start doing the same, using their local resources to make money and keeping it at home, not sending it back to a big company that gives you 12 to 18 percent back."

*Hometown Sausage Kitchen is at W1184 Highway L, East Troy. For more information, call (262) 642-3264 or visit [www.hometownsausagekitchen.com](http://www.hometownsausagekitchen.com).*

*Contract Comestibles is at 2004 Beulah Ave., East Troy. For more information, call (262) 642-9400 for visit [contractcomestibles.com](http://contractcomestibles.com).*

*Michael Fields Agriculture Institute is at W2493 Highway ES, East Troy. For more information, call (262) 642-3303 or visit [michaelfields.org](http://michaelfields.org).*

*Bower's Produce is at W490 Highway 20, East Troy. For more information, call (262) 642-5244.*







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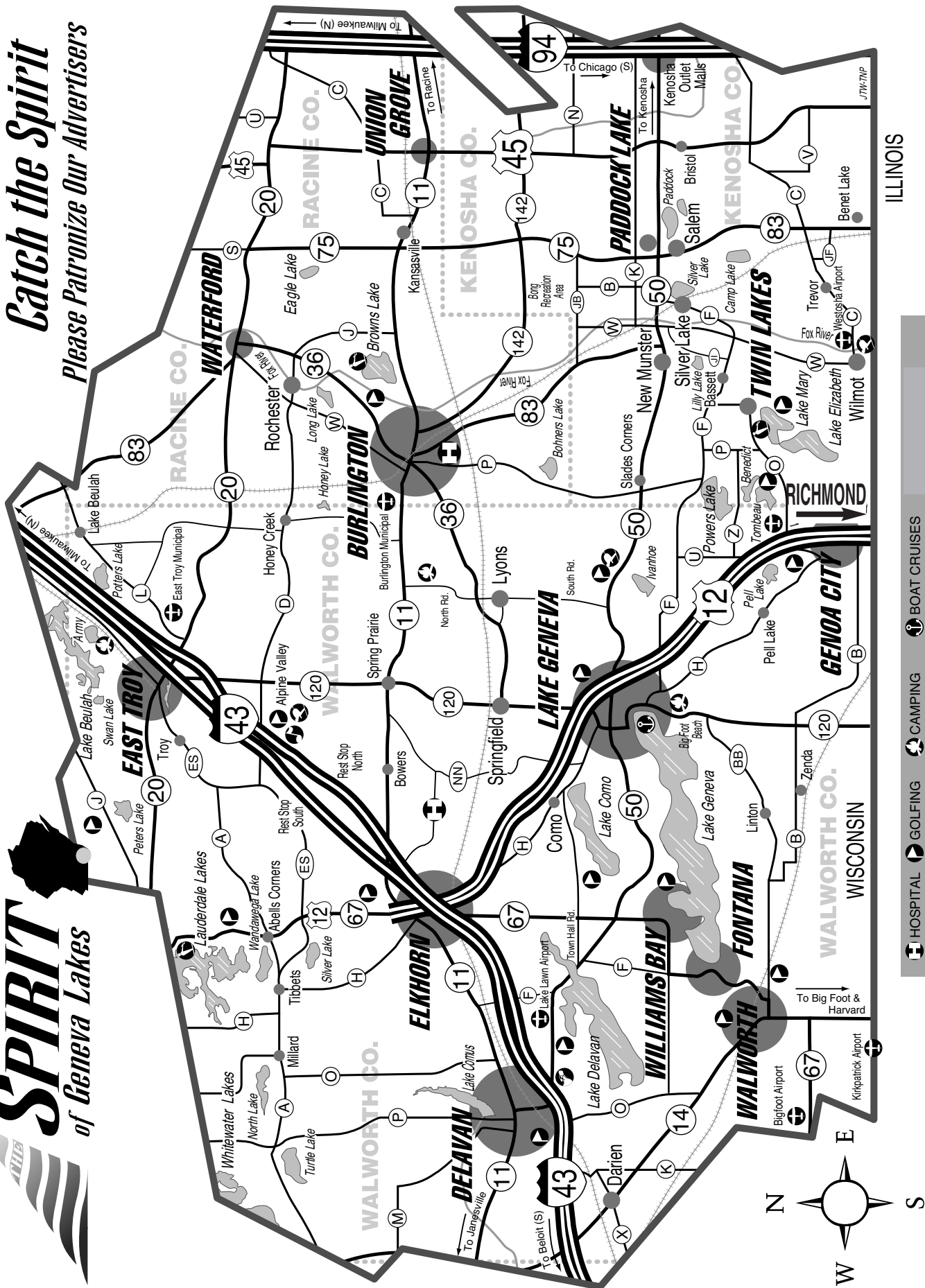
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