



THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes

Vol. 30 No. 7

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JULY 2018

BEAUTY ON THE WATER

*The rich history of the
Lake Geneva Yacht Club*

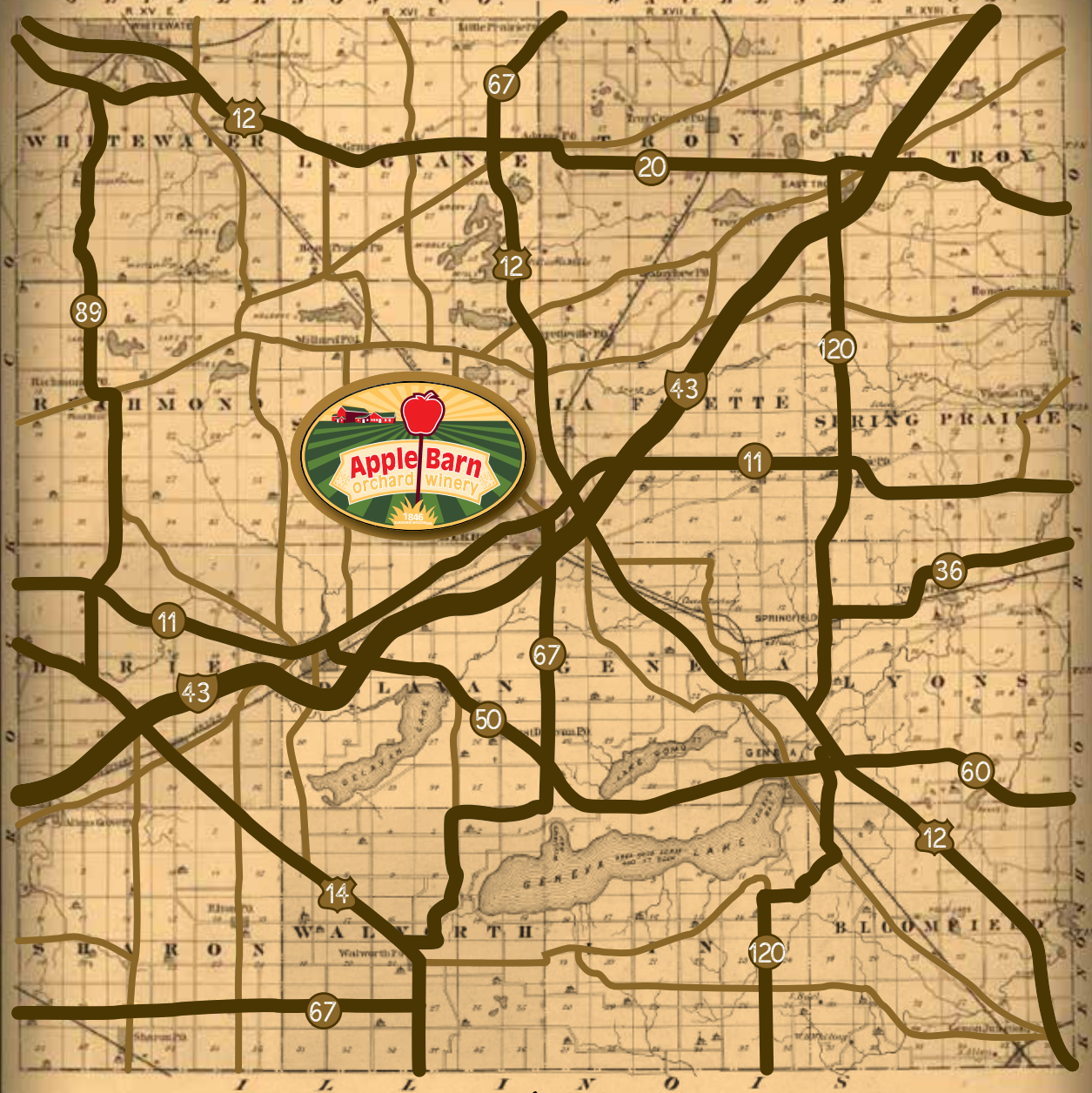
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SPIRIT

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Wind in the rigging

Sailors pilot the popular and sporty Melges 14 sailboat during a race on Geneva Lake. The M14 is the newest racing class on the lake and continues the long history of the Lake Geneva Yacht Club. A feature on the club is one of several in this edition that celebrate the pursuits of summer – from the exhilaration of the boat race to the culinary blast that is Rib Fest to the simple pleasure of finding a new restaurant with great burgers.

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Summer fun at a glance

Looking to fill your calendar with summer fun?
Here's a guide to this summer's major events
provided by VISIT Lake Geneva:

MOONLIGHT MOVIES ON THE BEACH

July 11 and Aug. 8 Grab the family, bring a blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars for free at Riviera Beach. Popcorn, candy and beverages will be available for purchase. Moonlight Movies on the Beach is happy to partner with the Geneva Theater for this new event.

MUSIC BY THE LAKE

Through Aug. 11 – From classic rock to orchestral works, the Music by the Lake series on weekends offers outdoor entertainment overlooking beautiful Geneva Lake. Bring your own picnic or purchase food at the College Inn. All performances occur rain or shine at the Ferro Pavilion overlooking Geneva Lake on the George Williams College Campus.

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

Grand Geneva Resort and Timber Ridge Lodge explodes with fun for all ages on July 3. The day includes carnival games, inflatable fun, face painters, picnic food and the Grand Fireworks display at dusk.

Geneva National Resort and Clubs' red, white and barbecue heats up at 5 p.m. with food, drinks, carnival games, inflatables and

live music. The Resort's fireworks display (on July 3) over Lake Como is a spectacular show. Golfers will want to take advantage of special July 4 weekend rates.

Village of Fontana: Head to Fontana Beach to see the fireworks on July 4. This fireworks show begins at 9 p.m.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

July 5-Aug. 23 – Bring a picnic or purchase some street food while taking in the music at this free concert series. Concerts take place every Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m. throughout July and August at Flat Iron Park, a lakeside location in downtown Lake Geneva.

CARS TIME FORGOT SHOW

July 7 and 8, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Rev your engines for the Cars Time Forgot Show held at Lake Lawn Resort. Overlooking Delavan Lake, this show attracts thousands who will admire custom cars, trucks, motorcycles and vehicles of special interest from across the country.

SHAKE THE LAKE MUSIC FESTIVAL

July 27-29 at Lake Lawn Resort – This three-day festival kicks off Friday with a lineup of retro rock, food, fun, and drink. Along with

amazing tunes, activities include a KISS-inspired costume contest, the third annual Walworth County Bags Championship, carnival games, food trucks, kids' activities and much more.

ART IN THE PARK

Aug. 11-12 – Take in views of Geneva Lake while enjoying Art in the Park, a juried fine art exhibition featuring pottery, glass, wood, jewelry, painting, photography, sculpture and more. This event is held at Flat Iron Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

VENETIAN FESTIVAL

Aug. 15-19 – Highlights of this five-day festival include a carnival, water ski show, live music, craft fair, lighted boat parade and the area's largest fireworks display over Geneva Lake. Enjoy local faire at the brat stand and beer tent.

MAXWELL STREET DAYS

Aug. 24-26 – Hit the streets of downtown Lake Geneva for the largest sidewalk sale of the year. Shoppers won't want to miss the bargains and specials offered by the area's stores. When it's time for a shopping break, the downtown area has plenty of coffee spots, pubs, grills, and ice cream stops.





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IT'S COMIN' UP

JULY EVENTS

1 Local Craft Market – enjoy local crafters from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Bottle Shop, 617 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. Guests may enjoy drinks while they shop. The market is free to attend.

1 Fourth of July Parade – The East Troy Fourth of July parade will be at 1 p.m. The parade will feature East Troy High School Band, Pioneer Drum Bugle Corps, Red Hot Dixieland Jazz Band, Sun Prairie Marching Band and Oregon High School Marching Band.

1 Fireworks – The East Troy Lions Club Fourth of July Fireworks display will start at dark at Rossmiller Sports Complex and Skate Park, 3090 Graydon Ave., East Troy.

1 Fireworks – celebrate the holiday with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, 7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva

4 Fireworks – celebrate the holiday with a display of fireworks over the lake from 9 to 10 p.m. at Fontana Beach, S Lake Shore Drive, Fontana.

6 Paint N Sip – enjoy a glass of wine while participating in a step-by-step painting tutorial from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, 7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva. The cost is \$45 per person. This event is for people ages 16 and older.

6 Movies Under the Stars – enjoy a movie on the 16 feet by nine feet inflatable outdoor movie screen at 8:30 p.m. at Fontana Beach, S Lake Shore Drive, Fontana. Admission is \$1 and concessions are available. Children ages 10 and younger must be accompanied by someone at least 13 years old. www.bigfootrecreation.org.

9 Social Paddle – Join Clear Water Outdoor for morning paddles on Geneva Lake from 7:45 to 10 a.m. at Baker House Pier, Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva. The cost is \$10 for Adventure Club members, \$25 for non-members, \$10 for non-members who bring their own craft and free for members who bring their own craft. Rental reservations are required. www.clearwateroutdoor.com.

12 Mix and Mingle – join area business professionals for evening drinks, food and networking from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Geneva Inn, N2009 S. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva. Info: www.genevainn.com

13 Night on the Vine – enjoy authentic wines, cheeses and live music. The cost

is \$40 per person with a \$5 savings during Lake Geneva Restaurant Week. Advance registration is required, 6 to 8 p.m. at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, 7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva. 262-249-4788.

15 Local Craft Market – enjoy local crafters from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Bottle Shop, 617 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. Guests may enjoy drinks while they shop. The market is free to attend.

16 Social Paddle – Join Clear Water Outdoor for morning paddles on Geneva Lake from 7:45 to 10 a.m. at Baker House Pier, Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva. The cost is \$10 for Adventure Club members, \$25 for non-members, \$10 for non-members who bring their own craft and free for members who bring their own craft. Rental reservations are required. www.clearwateroutdoor.com.

22 Farmer's Market – fresh fruits and vegetables, homemade crafts and baked goods will be for sale from 8 a.m. to noon at Winchester True Value Hardware – parking lot, 1415 W. Main St., Whitewater. www.whitewaterfarmersmarket.com

24 Whitewater City Market – area farmers, artisans, food carts and community members will have items for sale from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Whitewater Train Depot, 301 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater. The market includes free music, kids activities and over 40 vendors. www.downtownwhitewater.com.

27 Friday Fish Fry – enjoy “all-you-can-eat” fried or baked cod from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Stefana's Lakeside Dining, W4190 West End Road, Lake Geneva. Fish is served with homemade potato pancakes or steak fries, coleslaw, applesauce and tartar sauce. www.stefanaslakeside.com.

27 Patio Jams – listen to the music of Kevin Kennedy from 6 to 9 p.m. at Evergreen Country Club, N6246 US Highway 12, Elkhorn. Drink service begins at 4 p.m. www.evergreengold.com.

The calendar of events is compiled from a variety of sources including Visit Lake Geneva and the Walworth County Visitors Bureau and contains events available as of press time.

Although we make every attempt to provide accurate information regarding area events, dates and times may change or events may be cancelled. We suggest you go to visitlakegeneva.com or visitwalworthcounty.com prior to making travel plans.

THE SPIRIT

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by **Sandra
Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

It all began in 1874 in the Town of Geneva in southern Wisconsin. A race was held to honor a visiting Civil War Army officer, Lt. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan.

Sheridan was stationed in Chicago as the commander of the Department of the Missouri, but was also known for his coordination of military relief efforts during the Great Chicago Fire on Oct. 8, 1871.

This yacht race to honor Sheridan was held on Aug. 31, 1874, with a fleet of seven boats of various lengths participating. These boats were known as “sandbaggers” so called because of the bags of sand placed in the boat for ballast.

Organizers raised \$200 for an appropriate trophy, although the actual trophy was not completed for more than a year. The trophy, which was named the Sheridan Prize, was designed and produced by the Chicago Firm of Giles, Brother and Company.

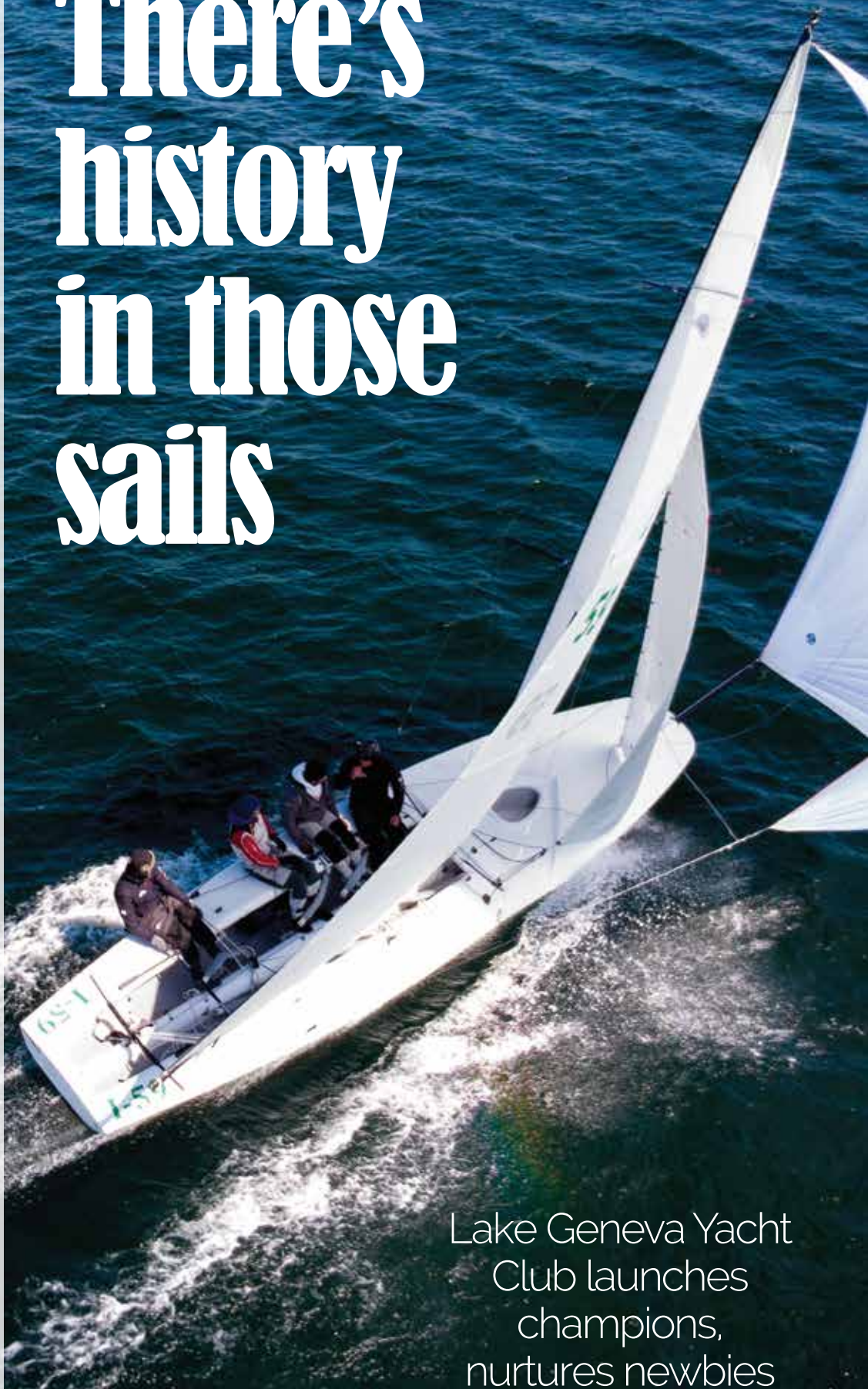
The prize would have a silver replica of the winning boat on the top. This expensive trophy – \$200 was worth a great deal in 1874 – would continue to be awarded each year and continues to be the prize for the Sheridan Race still held each summer.

Whoa, Nettie!

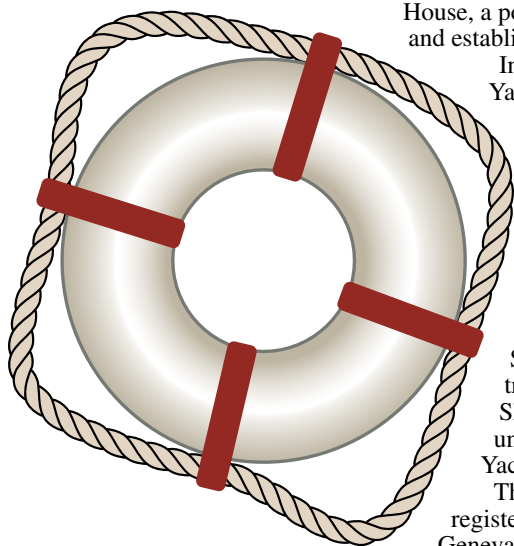
The race, which covered about 16 miles, was observed by Sheridan from the judges’ boat. The 21-foot, topsail sloop “Nettie” sailed by Billy Woods and owned by Julian Sidney Rumsey won the race. Rumsey, a Chicagoan who enjoyed summertime on Geneva Lake, was a successful grain merchant, past mayor of Chicago, and former president of the Chicago Board of Trade.

It was almost two years later, on April 29, 1876, that a group of boat owners gathered at the Whiting

There’s history in those sails



Lake Geneva Yacht
Club launches
champions,
nurtures newbies



House, a popular hotel for vacationing visitors, and established a yacht club.

Initially known as the Geneva Lake Yacht Club, this group of sailing enthusiasts recognized the year 1874 as the date of the first Sheridan Prize Race and also backdated the official date of forming the club to 1874. They chose Chicago industrialist Nathaniel Kellogg Fairbank as their first commodore.

By May of 1876, 56 members had been elected to join including Sheridan, who would present the trophy to the winner of that year's Sheridan Race – the first officially under the auspices of the Geneva Lake Yacht Club.

The yacht club reorganized in 1891, registered under a new name, the Lake Geneva Yacht Club, and in the early 1900s

merged with the West End Yacht Club of Fontana.

Finding a home

It was time to find a home for the club. Their first official club house was at Cedar Point on land leased from the first Commodore's son, Kellogg Fairbank for \$500 a year. Money was raised by the membership subscribing to a building fund, for the construction of the first clubhouse to be built on the leased land.

The clubhouse was finished in 1906. It was described in that year's yearbook as follows: "The new two-story clubhouse, set on the lakefront in wooded surroundings, featured generous verandas, and some sleeping accommodations."

It was to remain the club's home until 1916 when Fairbank did not renew the yacht club's lease on the property. The club then became homeless for the next 10 years but continued to

As dusk falls, sailors leave the water to gather in the Lake Geneva Yacht Club. The building, which is shared with the Lake Geneva Sailing School, was completed in 2015.



COURTESY OF HANAH NOLL - MELGES PERFORMANCE SAILBOATS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

run races from members' piers.

In 1926 the club identified property in Linn Township for its next home and formed a holding company to raise capital to purchase and improve the 1878 residence on the land. Many changes in the club's structure were made, including the formation of the Geneva Lake Boat Repair and Storage Company, which would make its home on the west side of the property.

Sailing school founded

One way to assure the next generation is as interested and competent in sailing as the current one, is to teach them proper sailing techniques and safety. In 1938 The Lake Geneva Yacht Club opened the Lake Geneva Yacht Club Sailing School. In just one year, 40 students were registered in the sailing school, requiring the purchase of additional boats for the program. Boats were also received as gifts from club members.

After a variety of changes in ownership over the ensuing years – including the separation of the sailing school – the two entities finally came together in one space. The Lake Geneva Yacht Club and the Geneva Lake Sailing School built what would become a shared facility.

Officially dedicated in July 2015, the new, two-story building with 12,000 square feet of space allowed the sailing school to operate on the first floor of the building and the yacht club on the second floor.

The entire property consists of approximately 8 acres. The property is designated as the Buddy Melges Sailing Center.

Beasts of ballast

In the early days of sailing on Geneva Lake, the boats were mostly broad beamed open, shallow-draft sloops that had evolved from workboats. Most of these boats carried the 50-pound sandbags for ballast that the crew, usually of 10 or more, shifted as needed. Rules for the moveable ballast and the crew as stated in an early Lake Geneva Yacht Club yearbook were:

“After the starting signal is given no throwing out, taking in, or booming out of ballast will be allowed and each yacht must bring back the same persons with which it started.”

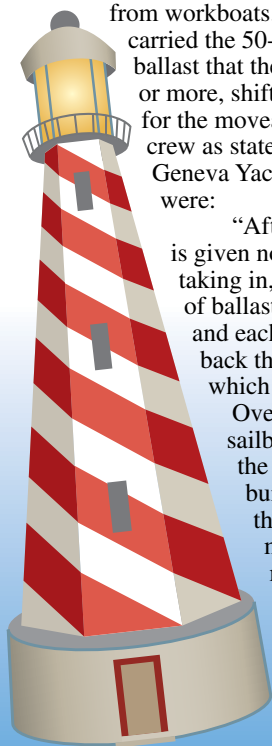
Over the years the sailboats changed. Today the boats are usually built of fiberglass and the mast of aluminum making the boat much faster. The sails are also lighter. No longer made of heavy cotton, today's sails are



Out on the race course the crew guides a sailboat toward the finish line on Geneva Lake.

These young sailors gather around wide-eyed to inspect a medal obtained for successful sailing.

COURTESY
OF HANAH
NOLL - MELGES
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Spirit of Geneva Lakes



“After the starting signal is given no throwing out, taking in, or booming out of ballast will be allowed and each yacht must bring back the same persons with which it started.”

often made of Dacron.

Wisconsin boat builder, and yacht club member, the late Harry C. Melges Sr., built his first C-scow in 1945 and since that time his family, which remains prominent in sailing circles, has continued to manufacture boats in Zenda.

The yacht club holds a variety of races for different classes of the sailboats. They include the 38-foot A class, the 28-foot E Class and the 20-foot C class sailboats. Newer styled sailboats, including the Melges 24, 17 and 14, also have races and regattas specific to them.

The full summer racing season will include not only local races, but also a variety of national championships and invitational regattas in various classes. This variety of races will attract sailors from other areas as well as those who are local sailors. On the last Saturday of August the Sheridan race will be held. The race now is

limited to boats in the A class.

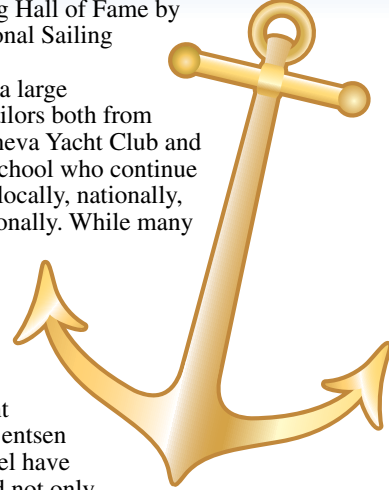
The rise of Buddy

Anyone involved in the world of sailing is familiar with the name Harry C. Buddy” Melges Jr. Melges who began his sailing career as a student in the Sailing School, won a variety of major sailing championships, including three U.S. Men’s Sailing Championships, and was named U.S. Yachtsman of the Year in 1961, 1972, and 1978 and won a variety of other awards.

Melges was also known for his International awards. With fellow Lake Geneva Yacht Club member Bill Bentsen, he won a bronze medal at the 1964 Olympic Games. Melges returned to win a gold medal in the 1972 Olympics. His many international awards, including an America’s Cup victory in 1992, led to him being inducted into both the America’s Cup

Hall of Fame and the National Sailing Hall of Fame. In 2015 he was inducted into the World Sailing Hall of Fame by the International Sailing Federation.

There are a large number of sailors both from the Lake Geneva Yacht Club and the Sailing School who continue to win races locally, nationally, and internationally. While many of the sailors make their name known on the water, others such as the Lake Geneva Yacht Club’s Bill Bentsen and Bob Pegel have been honored not only for their sailing but also



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The Lake Geneva Yacht Club hosts a variety of sailing races and regattas on a yearly basis.

for their contributions as racing judges. Bentsen was inducted into the National Sailing Hall of Fame in 2017 for his contributions in the development of the racing rules.

Notable women

While many think of sailing as a man's sport, there are many women who excel at sailing. One such woman was Lake Geneva Yacht Club member Jane Wiswell Pegel, who, like Melges, began her racing career in youth races in the 1940s.

Her boat was named "Calamity Jane." She continued to be successful at both the local and national level, being awarded a variety of titles including U.S. Yachtswoman of the Year on three separate occasions – 1964, 1971, and 1972.

Over the years, the yacht club has continued to grow in membership and on most evenings throughout the summer races are held on the lake. The sailing school also has continued to grow and

this year more than 350 children along with a number of adults learn the art of sailing from some of the best and most experienced sailors in the area.

What became of Nettie?

Do you wonder whatever happened to the Nettie, the sloop that won the original Sheridan race? In 1892 Julian M. Rumsey, son of the original owner, realizing that the Nettie was no longer competitive, loaded her with rocks and towed her out to deep water. There he bored holes in her hull and allowed her to sink.

On the 65th anniversary of the original Sheridan Race, in the year 1939, following the completion of the competition, the judges' boat and its trailing gallery headed to the spot of Nettie's grave and paused at the site while the winning skipper cast a wreath upon the water in the Nettie's memory.

With the Nettie resting at the bottom of Geneva Lake, the boats of the Lake

Geneva Yacht Club – with their white sails flying – can be seen racing across the glistening water as new generations of sailors carry on the sailing tradition.





COURTESY OF HANAH NOLL - MELGES PERFORMANCE SAILBOATS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The E Scows are the most popular racing boats on Geneva Lake. The billowing sails make a picturesque site for those with a chance to watch the event.



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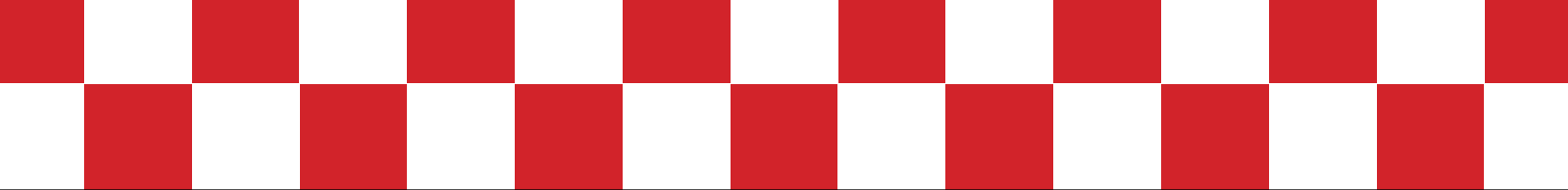
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Emmett LeDuc shows how messy eating ribs can get at last year's event. In addition to an extra day on the schedule, this year's event will include the Ribfest Rib Run, a free, open bike show July 12 featuring food discounts for all riders, and trophies and prizes being awarded.

FILE PHOTO: Spirit of Geneva Lakes

A third
helping of

RIBS



Ribfest beefs up the music for its July 12-15 run

By **Heather Ruenz**

STAFF WRITER

Though it began as something organizers hoped would grow into an annual event, Elkhorn Ribfest, a national rib competition now entering its third year, has expanded into a smokin' sweet festival that attracts thousands of people.

This year Ribfest will span four days, kicking off on Thursday, July 12 and going through Sunday, July 15.

The reason for that growth is simple, according to one of the organizers.

"Everyone loves barbecue," said Larry Gaffey, who also manages the Walworth County Fairgrounds, where Ribfest is held.

The friendliness of the rib-cooking pros is also a draw for many people.

"One of the great things about Ribfest is that you can ask the pitmasters face-to-face. Most won't divulge their most secret of secrets... but you'll be surprised at how open and approachable the cooks are," a blog on the

event website states. "Most home grillers are tempted to try a different rub, sauce and wood combo for cooking each meat. The pros don't. They find one flavor profile that works with all the meats they cook."

**Maria
Kebbekus
smiles while
trying to keep
her face clean**

Options abound

By bringing in numerous pitmasters, there are plenty of options for attendees to try, including ribs, chicken, brisket and pulled pork, along with a variety of side dishes. There is also a beer tent, which will be larger this year than in past years.

Ribfest will again feature a competition among top rib-cookers from all throughout the country, including a few locals, and visitors have the chance to taste-test all the delicious smoked items.

In addition to the professional pitmasters, there is a



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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community division on Sunday, July 15 with the cooking starting at 11 a.m., with judging from 5 to 6 p.m. and the award presentation to follow.

The community division features up to 25 teams of amateurs, each consisting of a chief cook and up to three assistants. They must prepare and cook all of the food in their designated area and must cook at least one rack of ribs. A team of four judges will score in the areas of appearance, taste, and tenderness and texture.

Prizes for the community division are \$150 and a trophy for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$35 for third place. For complete rules visit the website, wisconsinribfest.com, click on "vendors" followed by "community division."

The event is suitable for the whole family with a carnival and other activities, including helicopter rides.

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Music lineup expanded

One of the main attractions at Ribfest is the live music, which was expanded over all three days of last year's event, a trend that will continue this year. Twenty bands are set to perform over the span of all four days, offering as much variety as the food that will be available for purchase.

On July 12, featured bands will include Bella Cain, Back in Black, Chasin' Mason, Acoustic and Jason Kent's Blues Trip. Friday will feature Cherry Pie, Saving Savannah, Hobie & The Leftovers, The Amazing Farm Boys, Wise Jennings and The Throwbacks.

On Saturday, July 14, Arch Allies, Hillbilly Rockstarz, Kashmir, the Eddie Butts Band, The House of Music and There Goes The Neighborhood will provide entertainment.

The final day of Ribfest, Sunday, July 15, will feature Walworth County Idol, the Triple D Band and Rockstar Rodeo.

For the motorcycle enthusiasts out there, a new addition will be the Ribfest



Rib Run, a special invite for bikers to the Thursday night festivities in which they'll receive food discounts and special parking, and prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories.

And if food, the carnival, kids activities and live music aren't enough to satisfy your taste buds, the event will also boast a juried fine arts and crafts exhibition called Artisan Vendor Alley that will feature handmade items.

Popularity grows

Social media, one of the keys to the event's success according to Gaffey, is again seeing a positive response.

As of mid-June, nearly a month prior to the July 12 kickoff, the event post for this year's Ribfest on Facebook shows 47,000-plus people are interested in attending.

Gaffey said the event has evolved because it caters to what people enjoy, from

good food to a family-friendly atmosphere, to live entertainment.

"As Wisconsinites, we all love festivals," Gaffey said.

There is no admission fee or charge to park at Ribfest. Because of limited seating however, people are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs.

Ribfest returns to the Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court Street, Elkhorn, from July 12 to 15. The hours are 3 to 10 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday.

The event benefits the fairgrounds, the Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, and the Elkhorn Rotary Club. Major sponsors are Coors Light, Frank's Piggly Wiggly, Kunes Country Auto Group and Miller Brewing.

For more information visit wisconsinribfest.com or call the fair office at 262-723-3228.

James Lee smokes ribs during the 2017 event. Elkhorn Ribfest 2018, slated July 12-15 at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, will feature rib-smokers from throughout the country competing for votes, other food options, a carnival and a variety of live music.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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SOARING HIGH

Balloonfest takes to the skies July 19 to 22



by **Tracy Ouellette**

STAFF WRITER

Waterford's eighth annual Balloonfest lifts off July 19 and flies until July 22 on the Evergreen Elementary School grounds at 817 W. Main St.

The Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce festival is presented by Triple Crown Products, Waterford, and features live music, kids activities and entertainment, arts and crafts market, beer garden, helicopter rides, tethered balloon rides, laser light show, sky diving demonstrations, pancake breakfast on Saturday, outdoor movie night, night balloon glows and food vendors.

Admission to Balloonfest is free.

On stage at Balloonfest this year will be the Lunch Money Bullies at 7 p.m. on Friday and Chasin' Mason at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Both bands will perform on the

If you go...

WHAT: Waterford Balloonfest

WHERE: Evergreen Elementary School grounds at 817 W. Main St.

WHEN: July 19 to 22

COST: Free admission

INFO: www.waterford-wi.org

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TERRY ALBY *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The eighth annual Waterford Balloonfest will run from July 19 to 22 on the Evergreen Elementary School grounds at 817 W. Main St. The free festival, presented by Triple Crown Products in Waterford, features hot air balloon activities (including competitions, launches

and night glows), food, craft and business vendors, a beer garden, live entertainment stages for kids and adults, helicopter rides, tethered balloon rides, an outdoor movie, kids activities and more.

Barnes Road Beer Garden Entertainment Stage.

The festival has added a few new events to the lineup.

"We have Milwaukee Rotocross Racing coming to race drones," Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Angie Sterling said. "It's an up-and-coming sport and we'll have 24 pilots coming in for that."

Also new this year, the festival will feature a national balloon competition.

Balloon championship joins festival

In February, the chamber WindDancer Balloon Promotions and the Balloon Federation of America announced the 2018 U.S. Women's National Balloon Championships will be held in conjunction with Balloonfest.

According to the chamber, the Balloon Federation of America's Hot Air Balloon Competition Division voted unanimously to award the championship to Waterford.

"Waterford was lucky enough to win the bid to host the women's national pilots' competition and we have 14 female pilots coming in to compete Thursday and Friday," Sterling said. "Waterford is the only place it's happening in the United States. It's a big race."

Sterling said a total of 29 hot air balloons will be at the festival this year.

"That's double what we usually have because of the race," she said.

The effort to obtain the championship was led by Ken Walter, owner of Wind Dancer Balloon Promotions, who serves the organization as the overall Balloonfest event director. Walter said factors such as organizational strength, flying area,

community support, proximity to major population areas, time of year and volunteer base are all considered in awarding the event.

The U.S. Women's National Championship will run July 18 to 22. Balloonfest will add additional hot air balloons to the mix beginning on Friday, July 20, and running through the weekend.

The annual festival attracts about 20,000 visitors each year, but Sterling said with the national competition, organizers were hoping to see 25,000 to 30,000 attendees.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed for beautiful weather and great competition," Sterling said.

Schedule of events

THURSDAY, JULY 19

- 6 a.m. — Hot Air Balloon Competitive Flight
- 4 to 10 p.m. — Festival open
- 6:30 p.m. — Hot Air Balloon Competitive Flight
- Midnight — Beer garden closes

FRIDAY, JULY 20

- 6 a.m. — Hot Air Balloon Competitive Flight
- 4 to 10 p.m. — Festival open
- 6:15 p.m. — Opening ceremonies with skydiver demo and hot air balloon competitive/fun flight
- 7 p.m. — Lunch Money Bullies on stage at the Barnes Road Beer Garden
- 8:30 p.m. — Hot Air Balloon Night Glow
- Midnight — Beer garden closes

SATURDAY, JULY 21

- 6 a.m. — Hot Air Balloon Competitive Flight
- 6 to 11 a.m. — Pancake breakfast
- 11 a.m. — Festival open
- to 10 p.m. — Festival open

- 1 to 3 p.m. — Hot Air Balloon Pilot Meet and Greet
- 6 p.m. — Opening ceremonies with skydiver demo and mass hot air balloon ascension launch
- 7 p.m. — Chasin' Mason on stage at the Barnes Road Beer Garden
- 8:30 p.m. — Hot Air Balloon Night Glow
- 10 p.m. — Outdoor Family Movie
- Midnight — Beer garden closes

SUNDAY, JULY 22

- 6 a.m. — Hot air balloon launch window and tethered balloon rides
- Times for hot air balloon launches and glows are approximate. All events are weather permitting.








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Hundreds of area residents converge onto the Racine County Fairgrounds each year to enjoy the midway rides, food and farm displays.

JASON ARNDT *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Find 'Something to Crow About!'

Racine County Fair runs July 25 to 29

The 95th annual Racine County Fair promises to be "Something to Crow About" with big-name entertainment acts and all the fun that comes with the festival.

The fair runs July 25 to 29 on the county fairgrounds at 19805 Durand Ave., Union Grove. Hours are 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. July 25 to 28 and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 29.

With a focus on local agriculture and farming, the fair puts the spotlight on animals raised by area youth and other farming attractions from local kids and adults.

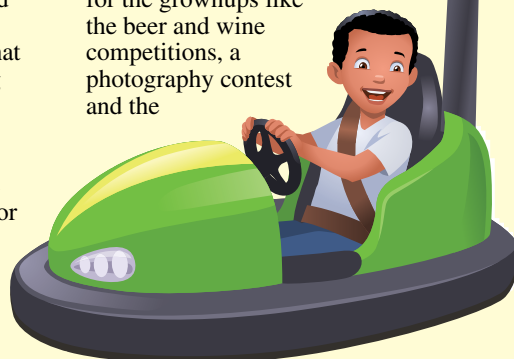
Add to that all the traditional fun that goes along with the festival, including a carnival, games, petting zoo, daily entertainment, kids activities and live music.

The fair's focus on the youth of the county extends to multiple activities for the kids. The Children's Area features kids' shows, presentations, a petting zoo and more.

Kids will have a blast with all the contests this year, including the Hard

Vegetable Decorating Contest and Cake Decorating Contest.

The fair also has contests for the grownups like the beer and wine competitions, a photography contest and the



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Sat., July 21, 7:30 p.m.
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THURSDAY, JULY 27
7:00 P.M.
Grandstand



Jerrold Niemann
SATURDAY
JULY 28
9:30 P.M.
Grandstand

Racine County Fair Schedule

July 25 - 29

Wednesday, July 25
Noon - Official Opening
Grandstand - Tractor Pull and Combine Demo Derby

Thursday, July 26
Children's Day
Grandstand - ICE ATV Races

Friday, July 27
4-H/FFA Youth Day
Grandstand - Truck and Tractor Pull

Saturday, July 28
Case IH Day
Grandstand - Jerrold Niemann

Sunday, July 29
Dollar Day All rides \$1.00
Grandstand - Demo Derby

RACINE COUNTY FAIR 2018 SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

Wednesday, July 25 OPENING DAY
9:00am Judging - Jr. Horse English Discipline
9:30am Judging - Jr. Dairy
Noon Official Opening of the Racine County Fair
Runzheimer International Stage
Noon Children's Show - Runzheimer International Stage
12:30pm Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull sign-up - Children's Area
1:00pm Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull - Children's Area
1:30pm Outdoor Painting Challenge
4:00pm Meet Fair Royalty - Youth building
4:30pm Dog Demonstration - Showcase Stage
5:00pm WI Apples Culinary Competition
6:30pm Fair Night Photo Shoot
7:00pm ICE-ATV Races - Grand Stand

Thursday, July 26
CHILDREN'S & SENIOR CITIZEN DAY
Noon - 5pm Ride wristband for \$15

Friday, July 27 4H/FFA/YOUTH DAY
8:00am Judging - Jr. Poultry
9:00am Judging - Jr. Beef, Sheep, Goats
10:00am Horse Educational / Demo Day
11:00am Junior Sheep Judging

Noon Open class ADGA Goat Show
2:00pm Judging - Open Class Flower Arrangements
2:00pm Steve Meisner Polka Band - Activity building
Sponsored by Community State Bank
4:00pm Strongest Man Contest - Case IH display
4:00pm Meet Fair Royalty - Youth building
4:30pm Dog Demonstration - Showcase Stage
5:00pm And a Cherry on the Top Culinary Competition
5:30pm Antique Tractor Parade - Grandstand
6:30pm Tractor Pull - Grandstand
7:00pm Fair Idol Final - Runzheimer International Stage
7:30pm Stetsin & Lace - Activity Building

Saturday, July 28 CASE IH DAY
9:00am Lawnmower Racing - Grandstand
9:00am Horse Show - Gymkana - Horse Arena
9:30am Livestock Auction - Sale Arena
Lambos, Goats, Beef, Swine
10am-4pm Plant Health Advisors - Master Gardeners Horticulture Building
10:30am Dog Demonstration - Showcase Stage
1:00pm Log Sawing & Threshing Demonstrations - Antique Tractor Area
3:00pm Milk in the Bottle competition - Goat Barn
4:00pm Meet Fair Royalty - Youth building
4:30pm Dog Demonstration - Showcase Stage
5:00pm WI Dairy Culinary Competition
7:00pm JANA KRAMER - Grandstand
7:30pm Koltrane - Activity Building
8:00pm THOMPSON SQUARE - Grandstand

9:30pm JERROD NIEMANN - Grandstand
\$10.00 Grandstand Seating \$20.00 Track Seating, \$40.00 Reserve Seating
(Chairs Provided). Bring your own chairs for track seating. Order your tickets for Saturday's grandstand on line!

Sunday, July 29
Dollar Day - all rides \$1.00 off
8:00am Garden Tractor & ATV Pull - Grandstand
10:00am Horse Fun show - Costume Class
11:00am Cake Decorating for 4 and 5 yr olds-Park Pavilion
Noon Fur & Feather Sale - Small Animal Building
Noon Chocolate Dessert contest - Park Pavilion
1:00pm Hay Bale Throwing Contest - Dairy/Beef Building
1:00pm Log Sawing & Threshing Demonstrations Antique Tractor Area
1:30pm Fun & Fashionable Sheep - Sale Arena
1:45pm Favorite Pie contest - Park Pavilion
2:00pm Demo Derby - Grandstand
2:30pm Pie Auction - Park Pavilion
3:00pm Chainsaw Carving Auction
4:00pm Meet Fair Royalty - Youth building
4:30pm Dog Demonstration - Showcase Stage
5:00pm Potted Container Silent Auction Ends
5:00pm Tim Kash - Activity Building
6:00pm Demo Derby - Grandstand

Stop by the 4H Youth building to place a silent auction bid on your favorite potted container! The containers are planted by Racine County 4-H families as a community service project to beautify the fairgrounds. Proceeds go back into the project. Bidding closes Sunday at 5 p.m.

Appearing Daily

South end of Grounds:
Swiftly Swine Racing Pigs
1:00, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30pm daily

Brunyon Blazark Royal Bengal Tiger Show
Wed. - Sat. 3:30, 5:30, 7:30pm;
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Children's Area:
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Grandpa Cratchet - 2, 4, 6pm
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JASON ARNDT *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



Chocolate Dessert Contest.

The Expo Building is open daily with fun and educational activities for kids and adults.

The opening ceremony for the fair is set for noon on Wednesday, July 25, on the Entertainment Stage.

Royal appointments follow the opening ceremony with the Little King and Queen crowning at 2:30 p.m. and the Fairest of the Fair crowning will follow at 4:30 p.m.

The Fair Idol semi-finals wrap up the night at 7 p.m. on the Entertainment Stages. The final completion for Fair Idol is 7 p.m. on Friday, July 27.

As in years past, the United Methodist

churches in the area will have a Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. on July 29.

The Truck and Tractor Pull returns to the fairgrounds at 6:30 p.m. on July 25 and 27. The annual Demo Derby will be at 2 and 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 29.

On stage

Thompson Square and Jerrod Niemann will headline July 28 at 8 p.m. on the grandstand. Other entertainment acts will perform throughout the fair's run and be announced within the coming weeks. Visit the fair's website at www.racinecountyfair.com for updates.

Grandstand concert admission is \$10 for grandstand seating, \$20 for track seating

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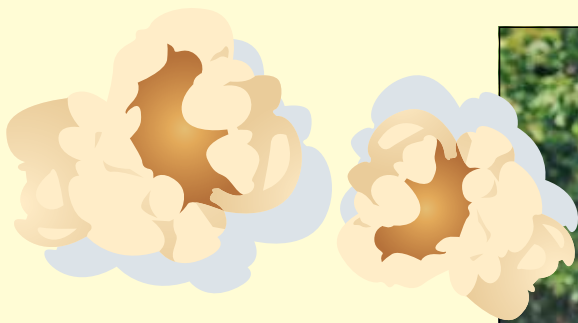
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Mt. Pleasant's Kaylin Heusdens, 16, rides her quarterhorse, Spanky, during the 2017 Racine County Fair.

JASON ARNDT *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



and \$40 for reserved VIP track seating (chair included).

Live music is also featured in the Activity Building. Bardog Sitter will perform at 7:30 p.m. on July 25, Rebel Grace at 7:30 p.m. on July 26, Steve Meisner Polka Band at 2 p.m. on July 27, Stetsin & Lace at 7:30 p.m. on July 27, and Brecken Miles Band at 7:30 p.m. on July 28 and Genesee Depot at 5 p.m. on July 29.

Admission

General admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for kids age 8 to 13. Kids 7 and younger are admitted free of charge. A five-day season pass is \$40.

Fairgoers who bring three non-perishable food items from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, will receive half off one adult admission.

Amusement ride passes are sold only in the carnival area.

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit www.racinecountyfair.com.



JASON ARNDT *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Jessica Webb, 33, of Union Grove supports her 4-year-old daughter, Kaylee, as the youngster experiences the bungee jump at the Racine County Fair.



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Rubber Duckie Dash 1pm, Echo Park • 50/50 Raffle
Chalk Walk Contest 8am-noon, Wehmhoff Square
Chocolate City Clue Quest Scavenger Hunt 10am (See our Facebook Page for Details)
Come Explore New Cars & Specialty Trucks for the Young and Old at Heart 9am-5pm
Community Wide Yard Sales & More
Find all of these special events on Facebook

For more information go to: www.burlingtonchamber.org
Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce, 113 Chestnut Street, Burlington, WI 53105
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318576



Racine County Fair

July 25 to 29
on the county fairgrounds
19805 Durand Ave.,
Union Grove
www.racinecountyfair.com

PHOTOS BY JASON ARNDT *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Dylan Kastenson, 18, of Raymond showers a cow in preparation for last year's fair.



Raymond's Haley Hall, 19, cuddles with one of her 22 rabbits inside a barn at the Racine County Fair.

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by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Known today as the French Country Inn, the boutique hotel along the shores of Lake Como has a long and interesting history, including a connection to the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, a celebration of the 400-year anniversary of the voyage of Christopher Columbus to the Americas.

Owner Tony Navilio said the property

began as an ice-storage house. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, ice was harvested throughout the winter from the clear lakes of southern Wisconsin and transported by rail to Chicago to be used during the summer to keep food refrigerated. The ice from southern Wisconsin was especially sought because of its purity and could be used in beverages as ice cubes.

The property did not remain an icehouse for long. Early owners, including C.N.

Smith, turned it first into a private club for hunters and later a more open hunting and fishing resort under the name Como Fishing, Hunting and Family Resort. With its prime location on the shores of Como Lake, where both fish and wild life were plentiful, it was an outdoorsman's paradise.

The presence of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway adjacent to the property made transportation to the Como Fishing, Hunting and Family Resort



Tony Navilio, owner of the French Country Inn stands in the reception area along the oak stairway from the Danish pavilion of the 1893 World Exhibition. The inlaid wood floor from that same exhibition remains the floor for the reception center.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



convenient. The train stopped in Williams Bay and Como Station. According to an early postcard, Lake Como was said to be 76 miles from Chicago by train.

Another early owner of the property was the Notter family. Photographs of the resort, renamed the Lake Como Hotel, taken around 1920 list D.J. Notter as the manager. The Notters did not hold onto the property for long. In 1921 the property transferred ownership when it was purchased by Christian Hermansen. It is here that the interesting history of the property begins.

Treasures from the White City

The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, in Chicago, was known as the White City for its many white buildings constructed for the event. Most of these

were not meant to be permanent buildings but would be taken down after the exposition ended.

Many of the pavilions at the expo were sent from other countries and were often of fine quality, showing off their country's quality work and craftsmanship. Denmark was one such country, with a beautifully constructed pavilion of hardwood featuring an intricately carved wooden stairway and hardwood floor.

The pavilion was built in Denmark, then dismantled and shipped by boat to the United States, ending in Chicago most likely through the Great Lakes. Once in Chicago it was reconstructed at the fair site.

Christian Hermansen, who would become the owner of the Lake Como Hotel, worked at the exhibition using his carpentry

skills to rebuild the structures coming in from around the world. It is said that he likely worked on the Danish pavilion.

Hermansen later purchased the Danish pavilion, dismantled it and transported it to the Lake Como Hotel by railroad. Several other items from the 1893 World's Exposition also made their way to the Lake Geneva area.

The Singhalese Temple was brought to the shores of Geneva Lake, rebuilt and was the center of the Chandler Estate, later becoming the Maytag Estate. The Norwegian Stave Church was also brought to Lake Geneva and was used as a playhouse until it was sent to Little Norway as a tourist attraction.

Finally the largest object from the exhibition, the largest refractor telescope

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At left: The French Country Inn as it looks today. It still has an elegant country look with manicured lawns. Below: The main building of the Lake Como Hotel as it looked in the 1920s.

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ever built, was purchased by the University of Chicago and housed in the specially built Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay.

The Senghalese building was destroyed in a controlled burn in 1958, the Norway Stave Church was returned to Norway in 2015, and the Yerkes Observatory is scheduled to shut down this fall. This will leave the Danish pavilion, still intact as the reception building of the French Country Inn as the only reminder of the 1893 World's Columbian exhibition.

Hermansen had three sons, Hobart, Inar and Harry who worked with him at the hotel. Hobart ran the hotel for many years. According to the book, "Murder at the French Country Inn," the Hermansens continued to run their resorts for 50 years through three generations.

In the 1930s Hermansen purchased a hotel in downtown Lake Geneva, the Lake Geneva Hotel. It was best known for its architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Unfortunately the beautiful architectural structure has since been destroyed.

The Lake Como Hotel was tucked away at the shores of Lake Como. To reach it, a narrow road made its way down to the shore with heavy vegetation and trees on either side. The hotel, tucked away at the end of a road that was difficult to find and often missed by visitors, was the perfect spot for a romantic getaway or to hide from the law.

Living the gangster life

While many hotels in northern Illinois and in Wisconsin speak of having Chicago

gangsters hiding out in the area, this was a frequent hideout or getaway for some of the most notorious of the Chicago gangsters.

Secluded and private, gangster George "Bugs" Moran and his wife, Lucille, enjoyed the beauty of the southern Wisconsin area and often visited.

The Morans found the Lake Como Hotel and met Hobart Hermansen, owner, who became a good friend and welcomed them to enjoy time at the hotel. It soon became a favorite place for the Moran family, Bugs, Lucille and her son from a previous marriage, John, to visit.

Bugs Moran was the leader of Chicago's North Side gang while Al Capone was leader of the South Side gang. After years of trying to murder each other's gang members, Capone attempted to murder

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DADDY MAXWELL'S • 150 Elkhorn Rd., Williams Bay. **262-245-5757**. www.daddysmaxwells.com. B, L, D, FF, SR, GF \$ ¥ ☺

GINO'S EAST OF CHICAGO • 300 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva. **262-248-2525**. www.ginoseastlakegeneva.com. Chicago's original deep dish pizza, Italian sandwiches, salads and entrees. L, D, FF \$ \$-\$\$\$ ¥

RIGA-TONY'S DELICATEZZI ITALIANO • 5576 C State Rd. 50, Delavan (in the Dairy Queen Plaza). **262-740-2540**. Open Wed.-Sun., closed Mon & Tues. L, D \$

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

Bugs Moran. The St. Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago occurred when Capone killed seven members of the Moran gang but missed Moran, who was late for the meeting with his gang.

After that, life became difficult for Bugs Moran, who had to remain in hiding, moving from place to place, until he was no longer a concern to the gangs. With his power and money gone, Bugs Moran became involved in counterfeiting, rum running, union racketeering and bank robbery, which eventually ended in his incarceration.

Bugs Moran died of lung cancer on Feb. 25, 1957, in Leavenworth Prison in Kansas. He had only served a few months of his 10-year sentence.

Lucille Moran and her son, John, took refuge at the Lake Como Hotel, her favorite place and divorced Bugs Moran in 1930. She helped Hobart run the

hotel. Not surprising, Lucille married Hobart in 1932, but surprisingly Hobart, Bugs and Lucille remained friends.

Here come the Feds

During the "gangster" years, Navilio said there were slot machines, high stakes poker games and free flowing liquor on site at the hotel. On one occasion Hermansen, after he heard federal agents were coming to raid the hotel, dumped all the slot machines off of his 100-foot pier into the lake.

Other gangsters used The Lake Como Hotel as their hiding place. Among these were "Baby Face" Nelson, Tommy Carroll, and John Paul Chase. Nelson was listed as Public Enemy No. 1 by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover after the death of John Dillinger. Nelson along with his friend, smuggler and bootlegger John Paul Chase,



COURTESY OF FRENCH COUNTRY INN *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

George "Bugs" Moran, leader of the Chicago's North Side, gang was the nemesis of South Side gang leader Al Capone. Moran and his wife Lucile spent time at the Lake Como Hotel. They became close friends with owner Hobart Hermansen who later married Lucille after her divorce from Bugs.



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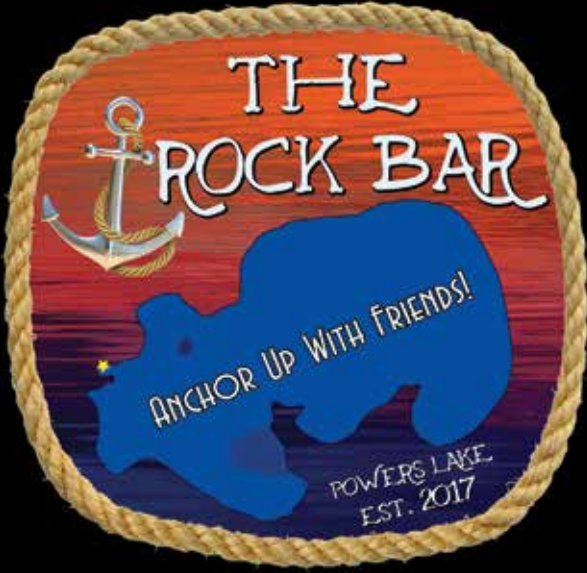
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used the Lake Como Hotel as a place to get away and hide from authorities.

Planning to spend a winter at the Lake Como Hotel with his wife, Helen Gillis, and John Paul Chase, Nelson's plans were disrupted when Chase's girlfriend, Sally Bachman, described the hideout to the federal authorities, saying it was along the lakefront. However she did not share the name of the resort claiming not to know it.

Unfortunately for the group, the federal agent recognized the location of the resort and sent Special Agent Charles Winstead, along with two other agents, to the hotel to await their arrival. However at the time of Nelson's arrival only two of the agents were at the resort because one had taken their automobile to pick up food.

Nelson recognized the trap as he drove up and left the resort with the sound of gunfire from the agents. The agents were unable to follow because they were without their automobile. While Winstead missed his opportunity to apprehend Nelson, Nelson did not get off free. He was shot in Barrington, Ill., by other agents and later died of those wounds in Chicago. Baby Face Nelson was 25 years old.

These are but a few of the stories of Chicago gangsters who enjoyed the Lake Como Hotel in the early years of the 20th century; there are many more – too many to be included here.

Under new ownership

The hotel continued to be run by the Hermansens until 1971 when it was sold to Fay and Gene Leichtey who changed the name to the Red Chimney Inn. After several years they sold the property to Sam Argento who reverted back to the name The Lake Como Hotel. After several years the business closed.

The Navilio family purchased the property in 1986 and rebranded it as The French Country Inn. Much work went into remodeling and repairing the hotel. A restaurant, Kirschs, was opened in the building with a view of the lake. The restaurant was a popular spot until it closed a few years ago.

The Copper Lounge bar remains open and takes visitors back into the days when gangsters mixed with weekend visitors to the area. The alcove with leather furniture across from the bar is a place to look back in time when Bugs Moran, Baby Face Nelson and members of the John Dillinger gang could be found on the grounds. Guests can relive their exploits from the newspaper accounts hanging on the wall.

While the hotel rooms were remodeled to make it a more elegant boutique inn, one thing that was not touched was the oak staircase and the exotic wood inlay floor, the highlight of the hotel lobby, and



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Visitors are invited to sit on the deck and relax while enjoying the peaceful view of Lake Como. It is especially vibrant in the evening as the sun sets over the water.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Rooms at the French Country Inn feature rich oak woodwork and other amenities that entice guests to stay and relax.

a reminder of the distant past when these were a part of the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Clyde Deighton has written two novels using the French Country Inn as the setting.

Readers looking for a mystery in this historical setting should check out "Murder

at the French Country Inn" or the newest volume in the series, "Man Inn Trouble."

The French Country Inn is at W4190 West End Road, Lake Geneva. For more information, call 262-374-5999, go to www.frenchcountryinn.com or visit them on Facebook.



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by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

The journey to becoming a farm-to-table, scratch kitchen restaurant was a long one, but in mid-April the doors to Flat Iron Tap in Lake Geneva opened and a dream for owners Dana Trilla and Dave Wingate was realized.

They used their vision to transform the longtime pizza house into what now features clean lines and an artistic look.

"We worked on the building for over a year before being ready to open," Wingate said, explaining that they created the unique décor.

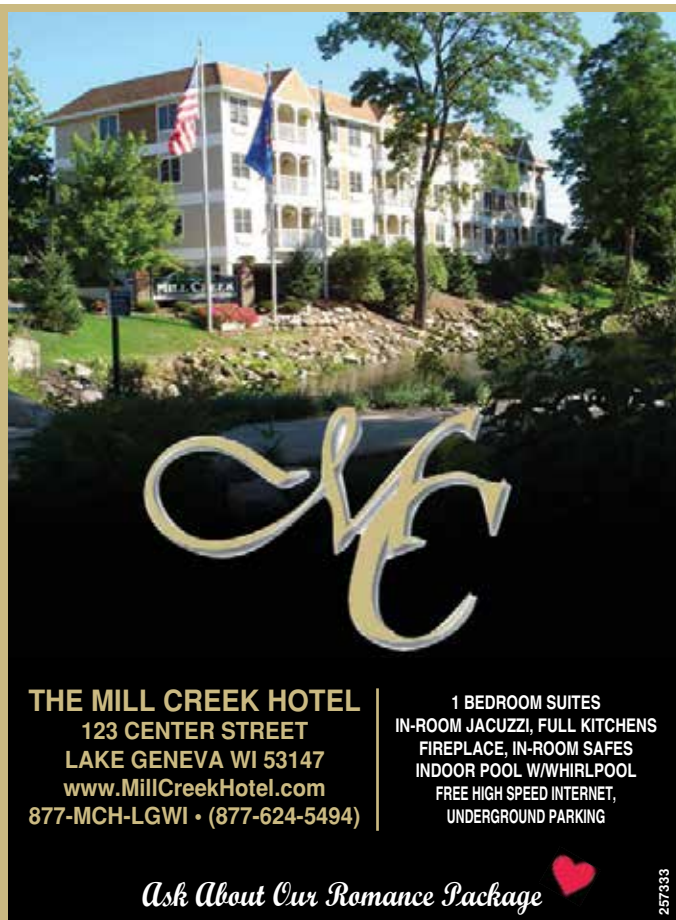
It could be described as an ideal combination – Wingate's carpentry and building skills and Trilla's restaurant experience – resulting in just what they set out to do.

"I had worked in the restaurant business in a variety of jobs for the past 25 years, the last five working with my father at Barrique Wine

Do you know where your food comes from?

The Flat Iron Tap proudly displays the names of the area farms that produce the food served there. Everything is farm-to-table fresh.

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and Brew Bar on the Geneva Lake waterfront and was ready to open a new restaurant and bar with a very different concept,” Trilla said.

Wingate had also worked in the restaurant business, particularly in the construction and design end of it.

They also shared the same vision – that of owning a place known for serving high quality, fresh food and locally brewed beer.

After gutting the space, the first task was to install a new bar Wingate made from hardwood. He then moved on to the tables, each a different work of art. In addition to tables of traditional height, he built some high-top tables that have become increasingly popular.

The tabletops are also unique and different from each other. They were designed using whatever types of wood, steel, copper, chains or other metals struck his fancy upon entering the workshop each day during the table-building phase, Wingate said.

One of the original items in the restaurant, the tin ceiling, has been restored and is now featured throughout.

“I was able to find some of the original tin tiles tucked behind the ceiling tiles when I was removing them for cleaning,” Wingate said, adding he used them in an area that didn’t have tiles in place.

BEER TAPPERS APLENTY

The highlight in Flat Iron Tap, not surprisingly, is the 24 taps offering a variety of beer predominately from local breweries. In addition, there are numerous bottled and canned varieties available.

“We have over 100 different beers available and 50 percent of them are from Wisconsin breweries. We like to support the local businesses,” Trilla said.

The beer tapper itself is a work of art.

“It was created out of an old tractor front end and the tractor’s manifold,” Wingate explained.

For those not sure which beer they would like or are the type of person who likes to try a variety, the beer flights available are a fitting choice. For \$12, four smaller servings of beer are provided.

In addition to beer, there are also fine wines available from a variety of vintners. The wines include some California varieties as well as wines imported from Chile, Portugal and France. Trilla is the wine expert and said offering high quality wine is a priority.



The Flat Iron Tap is best known for its specialty burgers. Diners may choose from grass-fed beef, ground bison or lamb. Black bean burgers are available for vegetarians.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



Owners Dana Trilla and Dave Wingate designed and built the Flat Iron Tap, turning an old pizza restaurant into a modern farm-to-table restaurant.

FRESH, LOCAL FOOD

While having 24 beers on tap is certainly a draw to the beer drinkers it’s the food quality that will not only bring customers in but keep them returning on a regular basis.

“We spent a lot of time coming up with the concept for the restaurant and bar,” Trilla said.

They were looking to present a menu that reflects their values of fresh food. Nothing is frozen or premade as everything is made in-house from scratch using only fresh ingredients that, whenever possible, are locally produced. They chose top quality meat, egg, cheese and vegetable producers in the area and are so proud of the quality of their foods that the farms they purchase from are



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listed on the wall.

"By using quality boutique farms we are able to get fresh foods regularly. They will come and deliver when needed even several times a week. So you can be sure that everything is fresh," Wingate said. "We do not ever use anything frozen in preparing our foods. You can be certain that every dish is made from scratch when you order."

"Our French fries are hand cut. The battered onion rings are thickly cut in our prep area and hand battered to order," Trilla added.

While the kitchen is visible from in the restaurant it is very small and might make guests wonder where the fresh food is stored, and how everything is done in such a small space. The answer is simple.

"On the lower level there is a large prep kitchen and two walk-in coolers to keep everything fresh," Trilla explained.

GOURMET BURGERS

Because there are many places in the area to get a burger, they wanted to offer something different and not be "just

another hamburger joint."

Their gourmet burgers are the highlight of the menu, but they also offer numerous presentation combinations.

Along the lines of more traditional but of the highest quality, is the grass-fed beef burger. It can be customized with heirloom tomatoes, broccoli slaw, avocado, Portobello mushrooms, bacon, or even a fried egg to top it off.

Of the gourmet variety, the first listed on the menu is the Roosevelt Burger, perhaps so named because of Roosevelt's founding of the National Parks where many Bison roam. It's made from fresh ground bison and topped with thick-cut Flat Iron bacon, cheddar cheese, onion strings, and house Carolina BBQ sauce served on a pretzel bun with fresh cut fries.

And there's the Old Mutton, made from Pinn Oak Farms ground lamb, dressed with pickled onion, organic arugula and fresh mint aioli on a toasted pretzel bun.

For those not in the mood for a burger, even of the gourmet variety, Flat Iron offers a variety of sandwiches and salads. The Flat Iron Steak Sandwich

is just one example. It features grilled, marinated skirt steak with caramelized onions and homemade romesco on a toasted ciabatta bun.

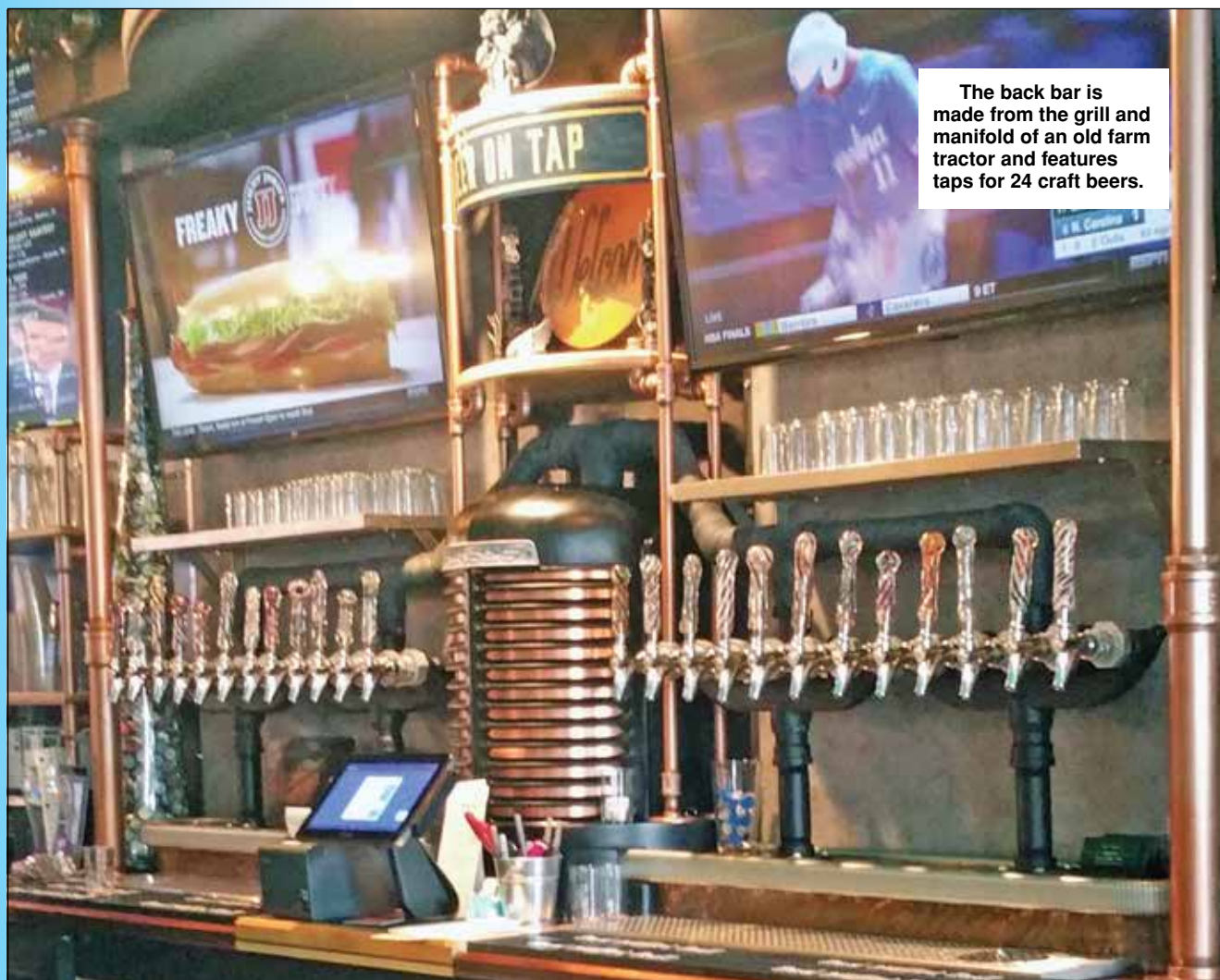
Looking to stop in for a beer and appetizer? There are several on the menu, the most popular being the smoked chicken wings that are prepared by braising then smoking in-house and finally, flash-fried.

"We smoke both the chicken wings and our tasty pulled pork in house," Trilla said.

Flat Iron Tap is also family-friendly and the children's menu features grass fed beef burgers, all natural hot dogs, chicken fingers, grilled cheese, grilled chicken breast and house salads. The kids' meals are served with French fries and a beverage.

LATE-NIGHT SNACKS

For people seeking a late-night snack, Flat Iron Tap has a special menu on Friday and Saturday nights with choices available between 9 and 11 p.m. It includes some of the popular appetizer menu including the smoked wings,



The back bar is made from the grill and manifold of an old farm tractor and features taps for 24 craft beers.

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The ginger blood orange ceviche, made with fresh scallops, avocado, blood oranges, grapes, cilantro, red onion and fresh lime juice served with house tortilla chips is a tasty and different late night treat.

There are also several of the restaurant's popular sandwiches on the late night menu, including meatball, Italian beef, and pulled pork.

Trilla and Wingate said they are fortunate to have T.J. Borup on board as head chef.

"He is very experienced having worked in a variety of restaurants both here and in Minnesota and is very creative," Trilla said.

They're also glad to be part of the community.

"It is exciting to be part of the Lake Geneva business community and we look forward to helping the community in any way we can," Trilla said.

Flat Iron Tap is at 150 Center St., Lake Geneva. It's open at 11 a.m., Tuesday through Sunday, serving lunch and dinner. On Friday and Saturday from 9 to 11 p.m., the late-night menu is available.

For more information, call 262-812-4064, send an email to flatirontapLG@gmail.com, follow them on Facebook or visit flatirontap.com.



On a nice day diners may grab one of the three outdoor tables and take in the sunshine while enjoying lunch or dinner.

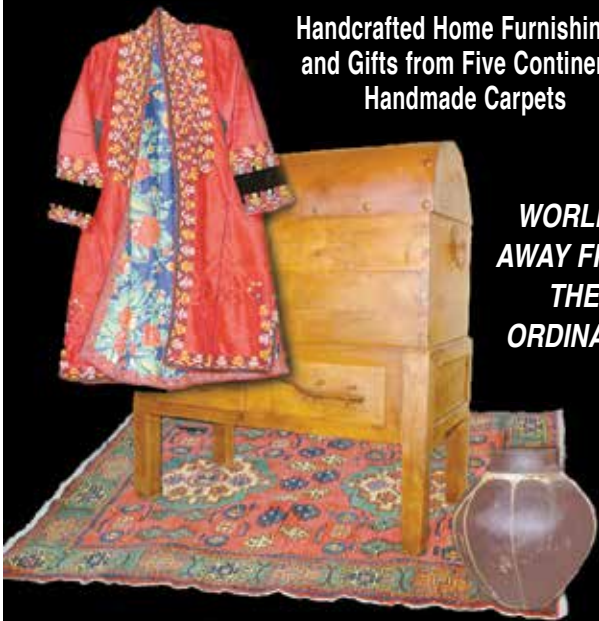
Composed of a variety of metals this tabletop, made by owner Dave Wingate, looks like an abstract painting.

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SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Co-owner Dave Wingate found a unique place to store his old motorcycles, placed high on a ledge along the wall across from the bar and just underneath the tin ceiling.



YOUNG AUDITORIUM ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON

With world-renowned musical acts, standout theatre productions, and a pair of Broadway's biggest hit musicals, there is something for everyone in the Young Auditorium 2018-2019 season.

The season kicks off at the venue on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with annual World Music Festival and is highlighted by appearances from classic rock icon Jim Messina, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees The Coasters, a brand new title from The Church Basement Ladies, and national touring Broadway productions of *Jersey Boys* and "RENT."

Country music fans will love *Country Royalty: A Tribute to Hank Williams and Patsy Cline*, and classical music lovers will not want to miss *Bach's Christmas Oratorio* or *Beethoven's Ninth*.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.youngauditorium.com.



2018 Schedule of Events **Free Admission!**

817 W. Main St. - Evergreen/Fox River Schools, Waterford, WI

FUN FOR ALL AGES

THURSDAY, JULY 19 • 4:00 TO MIDNIGHT

Daily Activities - 4:00 to 10:00pm

Kids Zone · Inflatables · Arts & Crafts Market · Helicopter Rides · Concessions

Hot Air Balloon Activities – 6am & 6pm

(All times are approximate, weather permitting)

6:00am - 7:30am US Women's Competitive Flight Window

6:30pm - 8:00pm US Women's Competitive Flight Window

Barnes Road Beer Garden & Entertainment Stage - 4:00 to 10:00pm

(Enclosed beer garden, ages 21+)

6:00 - 10:00pm The Big Idea

FRIDAY, JULY 20 • 6:00am TO MIDNIGHT

Daily Activities - 11:00am to 10:00pm

Kids Zone · Inflatables · Arts & Crafts Market · Helicopter Rides · Concessions

Tether Rides Sponsored by Edstrom Industries

Business Vendor Village (thru 5pm)

Milwaukee Rotocross LED Drone

Racing 7:00pm

Hot Air Balloon Activities – 6am & 6pm

(All times are approximate, weather permitting)

6:00 - 7:30am US Women's Competitive Flight Window

6:15pm - Opening Ceremony with American Legion, National Anthem sung by Savanna Schraeder

6:30-7:30pm Competitive Flight/Balloon

Launch Window

8:30 - 9:15pm Balloon Night Glow

Launch Stage - 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Sponsored by Witte Supply

4:00 - 8:00pm DJ, Magnum Entertainment

Barnes Road Beer Garden & Entertainment Stage - 4:00pm to Midnight

(Enclosed beer garden, ages 21+)

4:00 - 5:30pm Critter Hill

7:00 - 11:00pm Lunch Money Bullies

SATURDAY, JULY 21 • 6:00am TO MIDNIGHT

Daily Activities - 11:00am to 10:00pm

Kids Zone · Inflatables · Arts & Crafts Market · Helicopter Rides · Concessions

Tether Rides Sponsored by Edstrom Industries

Business Vendor Village (thru 4:30pm)

Hot Air Balloon Activities - 6:00 & 6pm

(All times are approximate, weather permitting)

6:00 - 7:30am Balloon Competition Launch Window

6:00am - Tethered Balloon Rides (thru

10:00am, opens again at 5:00pm)

6:30pm - Mass Ascension Launch Window

8:30 - 9:15pm Balloon Night Glow

Featured Events - 6:00am to 10:00pm

6:00 - 11:00am Pancake Breakfast

10:00am Milwaukee Rotocross Drone Races

Noon-3:00pm Mad Science, Kid's Zone

1:00 - 3:00pm Balloon Pilot Meet & Greet

1:00 - 4:00pm Fairytale Princess Meet & Greet Sponsored by Equitable Bank

7:00pm - Milwaukee Rotocross LED Drone

Racing

8:30pm - Disney-Pixar's Moana - Outdoor

Movie presented by TDS Telecom (1hr 53min)

Launch Stage - 12:00pm to 8:00pm

Sponsored by Witte Supply

2:00pm - Rock Shop Youth Band Showcase

3:00pm - Accent on Dance

4:00pm - Sonic Dreams

5:00pm - The Taxmen

7:00pm - Dog House Charlie, Sponsored by Savaglia Investments

Barnes Road Beer Garden & Entertainment Stage - 11:00am to Midnight

(Enclosed beer garden, ages 21+)

3:00pm - June's Got Cash

7:00 - 11:00pm Chasin' Mason

SUNDAY, JULY 22 • 6:00 TO 10:00am

Hot Air Balloon Activities - 6:00 to 7:30am

(All times are approximate, weather permitting)

(All balloon activity times are approximate and weather permitting)

6:00am - Balloon Competition Launch

Window (thru 7:30am)

Helicopter Rides - \$40 per person

Tethered Balloon Rides - \$20 adults / \$10 ages 12 & under

Event hosted by:



Please visit waterford-wi.org for more information

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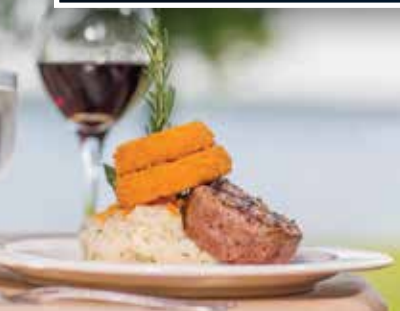


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