

Shorelines



AUGUST 2019

Member Website: www.balsamlake.com

Published By The Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association A volunteer, nonprofit organization serving the lake community since 1974.

BALSAM LAKE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WHAT A SHOW!

Thank you to all boat parade participants. This year the boat parade awards go to ...



2nd Place: The Keogh Family -Pikachu

3rd Place: The Klos Family -Game of Thrones

4th Place: The Rupert Family -House of Cards

HAVE YOU SEEN ELLIE?

Since humans have inhabited North America, they have been documenting stories of enormous creatures swimming in the water. People living near the Great Lakes have recorded amazing sightings and written stories that may seem bizarre, or are they?

People who grew up hunting and fishing along the United States and Canadian border tell of several such "sea monsters" that may remain in our waters.

Word has it that a deep lake in Alberta, Canada, which stays cold year-round, is home to a mammoth fish called the "Kinosoo." One day a young warrior who set out to cross the lake to be with his betrothed was

attacked. The entire canoe was broken in two and pieces were found floating around the lake for days. The warrior was never seen again.

Another creature was spotted in the Great Lakes by two teenagers who said they were chased by a five-foot humanoid reptilian with a large head covered by barbed spikes. One of the boys suffered a gash on his hand as a result of being attacked by the monster.

A frequent sighting in Lake Superior is the ugly merman. Since the 1700s, there have been reports of a half-man half-fish "mer-being" living in the largest of the Great Lakes.

In 1782 a voyageur with an Ojibwe guide watched a strange finned creature swimming about 75 yards offshore that he described as having the upper body of a human being with a human face, brilliant eyes, and a dark complexion.



Lakes, have reported seeing a huge snake-like animal with brownish eyes and silver scales the size of half dollars. The serpent-like creature is said to be over 80 feet long with multiple humps emerging from the water.

In the last 50 years, boaters and fishermen have seen and reported many appearances, including one eyewitness report by police and divers.

Balsam Lake, which is connected to the Great Lakes region, has reason to fear. Have ancient sea monsters survived in the lakes and waterways of North America? Could they be credible animals such as sturgeons, seals, or even large eels? Or maybe, there is an undiscovered species living among us?

Watch for Ellie (she has a white belly). She's been known to steal your catch - right off the fishing line!



shorelines

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2019 August article contributors: Michael Jekot, Kathy Knott, Carrie Leisch, Mary Skarat, Janine Terhaar & Dave Turbenson. A special thanks to Chuck and Pat Petersen for the historic photos.

Layout: Gayle Olson. Editor: Jean Egerman.

SAVE THE DATE!

(and watch for updates in the email blasts)

Balsam Lake Farmers Market

Starting Friday, May 24, 3 to 5 p.m. and on every Friday until Friday, October 11

Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association Annual Meeting

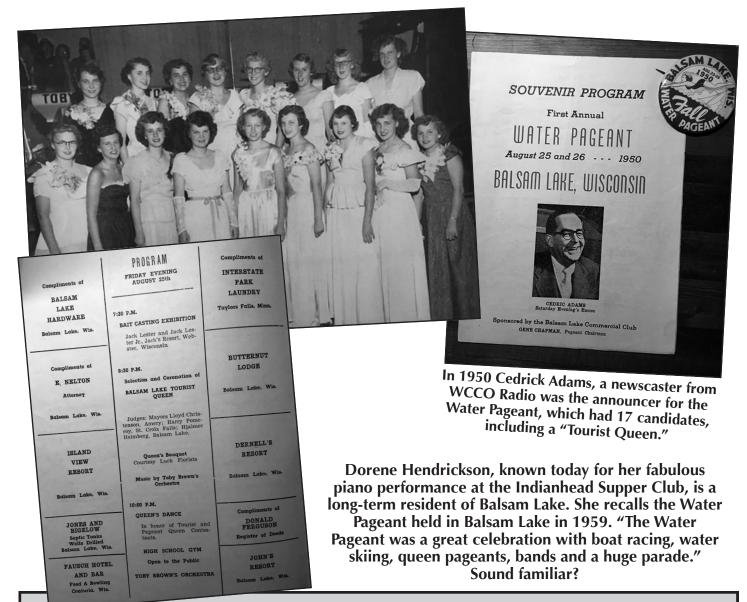
Saturday, August 10, 8:30 a.m., Paradise Landing

Balsam Lake Invitational Ski Show

Saturday, August 31, 6 p.m. - Bring a chair or blanket to sit in front of Sunnyside Marina.



FOR OVER 100 YEARS - FROM WATER PAGEANTS TO ADMIRAL DAYS TO FREEDOM FEST - PEOPLE ON BALSAM LAKE KNOW HOW TO CELEBRATE!



DID YOU KNOW?

Dixie Lodge was a resort near the Big Narrows on Balsam Lake (approx. early 1920's). It had a nine-hole golf course laid out with the help of Gus Munch from Chicago and built by Mike Mosay and his crew - later he was chief of local the St. Croix Band of Ojibwe people.







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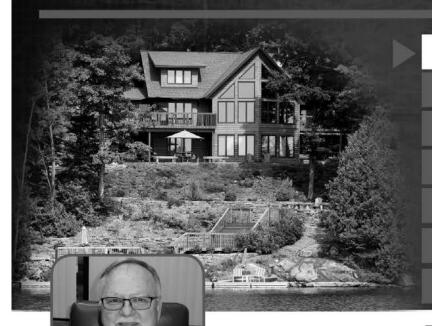


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REMEMBER WHEN?

Balsam Lake Water Pageant: Aug. 17-19, 1951 (taken from the Polk County Ledger newspaper) - submitted by Barb Anderson, contributor to BLHA Shorelines

Three days of fun and entertainment that featured prominent "queens" of the area, outstanding water shows, a Water Pageant Ball, professional and amateur outboard motorboat races, Mr. Cedric Adams, and a mile-long lighted water float parade were among the highlights.

Also recalled by my mother-in-law, the late Mrs. Harold Anderson, as "Admiral Days," it was one of the major celebrations in this part of the state promoting the recreational advantages of Balsam Lake. There was a fishing contest with prizes for the largest of five varieties of fish caught on Balsam Lake between 8 am and noon.

In the afternoon, the program featured speed boat and seaplane rides, log-rolling performers, a high-diving clown act, the Admirals Parade, and the contests in swimming, diving and water sports.

"Ski Antics of 1951" presented a 12-act water circus with a troupe of ten (five performances throughout the three-day event). The amateur boat races, featuring 12-14' motorized fishing boats, will be run on the tight and fast course in Balsam Bay. Junior and senior bait casting contests were open to the public. The highlight of the Balsam Lake Water Pageant was the crowning of the new "Water Queen." Mayor Holmberg of Balsam Lake, Mayor Christensen of Amery, and Mayor Pomeroy of St. Croix

Falls escorted the out-going Queen 1951, Miss Iris Cox, on the Royal Admiral

Float that was part of the lighted water parade.

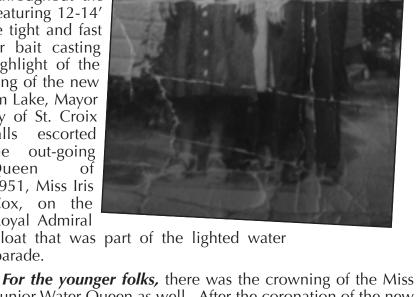


FOR FLOOD RELIEF Persons who wish to contri-

bute to the Special Red Cross Fund for flood relief in the

Pageant Makes

CBS Network



Junior Water Queen as well. After the coronation of the new queen for 1952, a Ball was held at the school gym with Dana Yelle and his orchestra playing.

To quote the Polk County Ledger, "Reigning over the Water Pageant is Queen Iris Cox whose successor will be picked Saturday evening at the Agua Bowl Ball. program will be emceed by Cedric Adams from WCCO and his 10 pm CBS news broadcast will come from Balsam Bav."

Admission to the three-day event was by buttons, which sold for 50 cents.

Personally, I'm wondering if something like this shouldn't be re-instated as a Fall event in Balsam Lake! It sounds like it was a whole lot of fun. Just think of the memories and nostalgia it would bring to us all.

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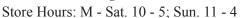


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DESTINATION BALSAM LAKE

In 1840, Balsam Lake was part of the Wisconsin Territory. The original plat records indicate that the Ojibwe Indians called it "Innenehinduc," which is translated as "Place of the Evergreen." With 65 miles of shoreline, over 2000 surface acres of water, and a maximum depth of 37 feet, Balsam Lake was ... and continues to be ... a fabulous location for fishing and frolicking.

Its claim to being a resort town started fifty years later, in 1890, when eleven "Twin City gentlemen" and Warren Tuttle formed a club and purchased one of the seven islands on Balsam Lake – Paradise Island. The group named themselves the Mississippi Rod and Gun Club.

Together with a robust logging industry, Balsam Lake's recreational resources drew people from around the country. In 1892, Mr. Tuttle purchased and began operating Hotel Tuttle, which was well patronized by fisherman and sportsmen.



Telephone service became available in 1900, and sidewalks and street lanterns came to Main Street between 1906-1910. Electricity arrived in 1916.

As the town grew, the Dombrook brickyard, which was the only clay field in the area, supplied bricks that were molded in a foot press, dried in hacks on the yard and burned in kilns. These bricks form the foundation of the buildings in Balsam Lake and the surrounding area.

Clay fields became buildings, forests became fertile fields, and railroad lines became trails. Evergreens still provide an essential wildlife habitat, fish are plentiful, and people continue to enjoy the vast recreational opportunities available "at the lake."

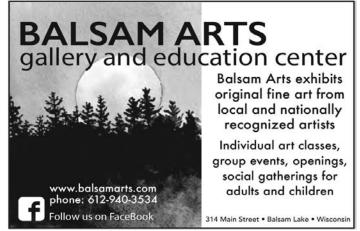
A special thanks to Chuck and Pat Petersen for the historic pictures in this issue.

DID YOU KNOW?

314 Main Street is well-known for Anderson's store, which was a main gathering place in the community for nearly 40 years. People say that Jim and Barney were pranksters. They would hand you an ice cream cone then quickly move it so you would grab the ice cream instead of the cone.

Pat Hermstad a local builder and mail carrier, arranged the construction of several buildings on Main Street. The Chronicler, Polk County Historical Society, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Clay and Clay Industries of Wisconsin.





60 YEARS ON BALSAM LAKE - LOUIS & DOROTHY LEISCH

Submitted by Carrie Leisch

In 1959, after three years of marriage, Mom and Dad took a drive in search of lake property - a spot to pitch a tent as Dad says. They decided to drop in on a friend's cabin on Balsam Lake. This led to a boat ride touring the lake, a "For Sale" sign on a small cabin in Boston Bay, and an overnight stay in order to meet with the Register of

Deeds at his home the next morning. At the time, Mom was working as an industrial nurse at Toro and Dad was working in "The Garage" of an up-and-coming medical company called Medtronic. They did not own a house, drove a junker car, and needed my grandparents to co-sign the loan. They did, however, purchase the property from Mrs. Olson and her daughter Carolyn from St. Paul that would enable our family to enjoy 60 years on Balsam Lake.

The cabin, affectionately called the "Little Cabin," is located in Boston Bay. It had three rooms, an outhouse, shutters, old fashioned water pump, gas lights, and sat over a boathouse. With its close proximity to the water, it always seemed to be part of the storms that came racing up and down the bay. Sometimes I wonder how it can still be standing! It was built in 1939 and has undergone some updates these past few years. The paint color is burnt chrysanthemum (orange) and can be easily spotted by a row of yellow and orange marigolds that Mom traditionally plants.



Mom & Dad Leisch



"Little Cabin"

Dad spent quite a bit of time fishing. He once caught two 29-inch walleyes in one morning

outing. His prize fish, which still hangs in his living room, is a beautiful 10-pound walleye. This was in the era when walleye were at their peak. We loved to visit Earnie's Bait Shop on Highway 46 for fatheads and worms. Our fishing experiences consisted of long cane poles off the dock for sunfish and digging for worms in our own secret worm bed behind the cabin.

In 1979, my parents were able to purchase the log cabin behind the Little Cabin. It was owned by the Davidson family from River Falls. It is an old fashioned, hand-hewed log cabin built in the late 20's or early 30's. It gave us a yard, deck, more sleeping space, and a bathroom! In retirement, it allowed my parents to spend many months at the lake before having to go through the rituals of closing it up for the winter. Our family had moved to Lindstrom, Minnesota, so it was always an easy commute.

Mom and Dad enrolled my brother and me in boat safety taught by Mr. Faberini so that we could learn the navigational do's and don'ts of the lake. This class introduced us to a set of new friends that bonded us and our parents for years to come. We communicated by telephone, and I remember the ability to dial only four numbers to get our friend a few cabins away! We spent hours on the lake skiing on calm shorelines during the day and hours playing flashlight tag after the sun went down. Trips to the ice cream shop up town were frequent.

In our opinion, cabins aren't complete without dogs. We have had nine during our tenure on Balsam. Labs that fished for rocks in the lake, retrievers constantly chasing tennis balls, and a German Shepherd that literally swam all day. They all loved to ride in boats, shake on unsuspecting bystanders, and roll in dead fish.

There have been many social events at the lake. Mom and Dad hosted relatives every Sunday during the early years on the lake. They would ski behind the Shell Lake boat powered by a V-4 50-horse Johnson, float on old rubber inner tubes and blow up air mattresses, and eat BBQ chicken around a birch leg table. Eventually, they would upgrade to a blue Sea Ray and then to our beloved Correct Craft Martinique. The 4th of July brought a family tradition of pancake breakfasts, lake activities, horseshoe games, and fireworks. In 2002, I was married on the deck. I highly recommend Balsam as a fabulous wedding destination!



Leisch 60-Year Banner

I am sure many of you have similar experiences and memories of lake life. Dad is now 90 and going strong. But unfortunately for us, Mom died on November 30, 2018, and won't be with us as we celebrate our 60th year. This place is a tribute to them and their devotion to family, friends, and nature. It's a place to reflect, listen to the loons, watch eagles soar, enjoy a noon beer after the BL whistle, work, play, boat, nap in the hammock, and feed hummingbirds. We are so grateful for the gift of Balsam Lake.

HAVING FUN ON BALSAM LAKE!



The 4th Generation on East Balsam: Ethan Sippl (on paddleboard) and brother Oliver Sippl with a big fish. The boys are great grandchildren of Henry and Elsie Pollreis and grandchildren of Debbie Sippl.

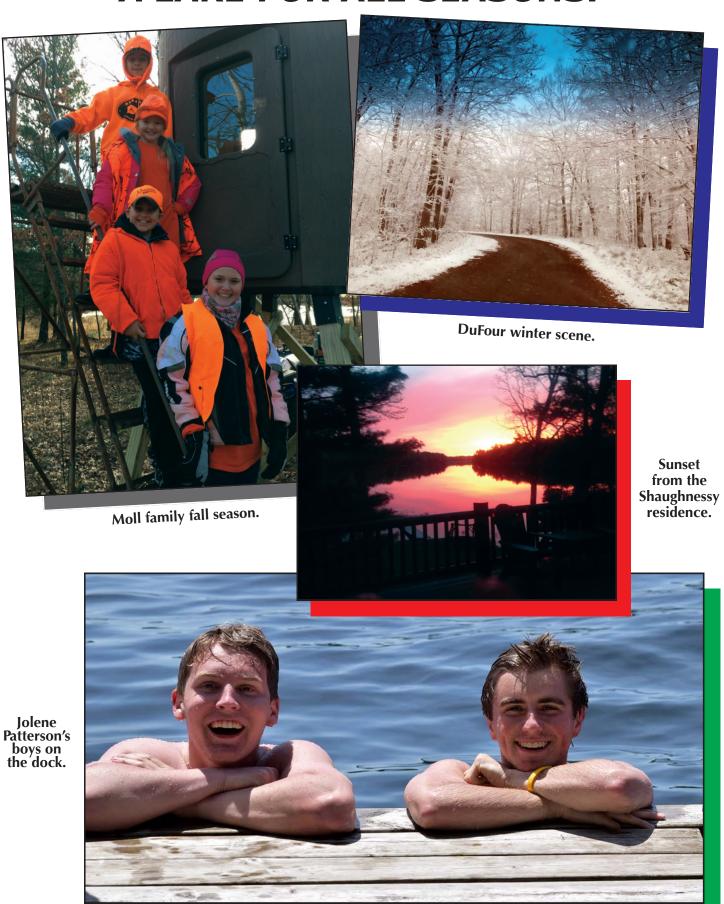


Ben Patterson catch of the day.



A great day at the lake with Laurel DuBois.

A LAKE FOR ALL SEASONS!



THE KUNY FAMILY LEGACY LIVES ON ... PARADISE ISLAND TO CEDAR ISLAND

Submitted by Janine Terhaar

It began in the summer of 1949 when Dorothy and Lloyd Kuny purchased Paradise Island, and 57 feet of mainland property, after years of renting cabins (for 10 years) at Gustafson's, Breck & Berrys and Holins.



The original west end of Paradise Island structure, 1949.

cabins (for 10 years) at Gustafson's, Breck & Berrys and Holins. Paradise Island was previously a Gentleman's Club or house of ill repute as we were told. The Kuny family tore three of the four original structures down and rebuilt them over the years. One original cabin is still on the island and is occupied by the Stanze family, Jerry's sister. The Jerry Kuny family (west end of Paradise Island) and their four children spent weekends and summers at "the lake." Then, in 1986, the Kuny family purchased Cedar Island from the Wallin family who owned a mainland home and the island.

The original Cedar Island cabin was red and white with an outdoor pump, outhouse, screen windows without glass and a lot of carpenter ants! The four Kuny children and their spouses used the cabin as an overflow on weekends when there wasn't enough room on Paradise. In 1998-99 the old cabin was torn

down and rebuilt as a cabin large enough to hold the next generations. The new cabin has some of the handmade furnishings from the original Cedar Island cabin including the kitchen table made with wood pegs and benches made with split logs.

Cedar Island is our family's perfect hide-a-way, an escape from the hot Arizona summers. We spend as much time as possible at the cabin with many visitors coming and going, children and their spouses and now grandkids. Our favorite part of the summer is the July 4th celebration, we call it our family's Christmas. Most years we have the entire extended family joining us for Mom's birthday (July 3rd), family kickball, BBQ, and of course the fireworks. Grateful is an understatement for the forward thinking our parents had purchasing another island on Balsam Lake. We are very fortunate to call Cedar Island our summer home.



The original Cedar Island cabin, 1998, demolition was beginning.

BLHA ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 8:30 A.M., PARADISE LANDING

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Did you know that Tammi's Wildlife Rescue is a wonderful neighborhood resource? When a baby green heron ran into the front window, Tammi helped us identify the young bird and assist with its recuperation. Tammi is located at 562 335th Avenue in Frederic, Wisconsin. Rescue services are available 7 days a week; it's recommended that you call to arrange rescue activities (715-491-2352).





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BALSAM LAKE SHORT STORY

- submitted by Kathy Knott

The lake is lovely, but for two boys, 8 and 10, the spring-fed pond behind the cabin was a natural playground. The canoe ready, the fish net stored, life jackets secured, and away they went out to check on the turtles. Uncle Gordon arrived and showed great interest in a canoe ride out to check on the turtle population. They paddled off and found a haven for turtles on a water-soaked log. Uncle Gordon, excited, leaned over with the fish net, but just a tad too far. Youngest son yelled out "That's a NO-NO" ... Too late, the canoe, Uncle Gordon and youngest son got a good water-soaked dunking. Smiles and laughter were shared. What else could you do? So it goes ... Memories are the best.



Congratulations to Caroline and Steve Redinski of Basically Balsam. After 24 years of welcoming customers to their store on Main Street, Caroline and Steve are ready to enjoy Balsam Lake as retirees. Stop by to wish them well. And remember, Basically Balsam has the finest assortment of Balsam Lake embroidered clothing, hats and memorabilia.







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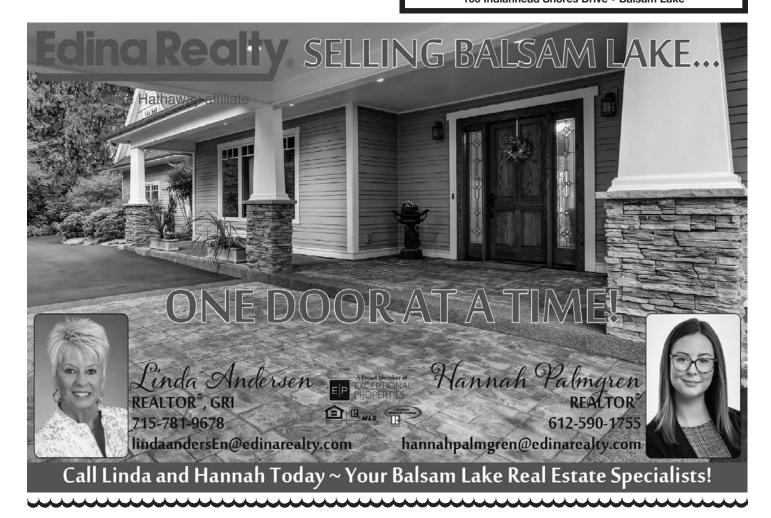
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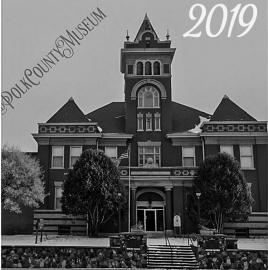
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ART FOR THE AGES

"There are happy and sad colors" - Asher Wheeler, age 8

When Asher Wheeler talked with artists at the opening reception of the "Harvest Moon" exhibit at Balsam Arts, he said he could feel what the artists were thinking.

That's a challenge when viewing abstract art, like that of Spencer Silver.

"Paint is Chemistry," explains Silver. "My pictures arise from my career in chemistry and my love of the physical science underpinning everything."

As the 3M chemist behind Post-It Notes™, Silver knows about persistence. Before retiring in 1996, Silver filed over thirty patents, including the chemical formula that resulted in a high-quality but "low-tack" adhesive made of tiny, indestructible acrylic spheres that were reusable and would stick only where they were placed.

For several years, Silver tried to interest his colleagues at 3M; however, a marketable form of the product didn't come to light until Arthur Fry attended one of Silver's seminars.

Fry was a member of his church choir and was frustrated with the bookmarks in his hymnal because they fell out too easily. In a moment of insight, Fry realized that Silver's reusable adhesive would provide a perfect solution.

Fry presented the idea for a "reusable bookmark" to management at 3M, who were skeptical of the invention. Meanwhile, free samples were in high demand by coworkers. Soon, the popularity of the product resulted in 3M′s full support, and the company spent five years perfecting and designing machines to manufacture the product. On April 6, 1980, Post-it Notes™ were introduced nationwide in the US.

When Asher met Spencer Silver at the artist reception, they discussed the connection between academics and art. Curiosity, persistence, imagination and patience are essential ingredients for a good inventor, according to Spencer Silver. These same characteristics apply to artists as well.

"Artwork shows personality. It reflects the artist and the person viewing the art," Asher explained. In that respect, he believes art is good for all ages. "There are no words; you hear the words in your mind."

Article prepared by Jean Egerman, Balsam Arts, 314 Main Street, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin. For current exhibits and artist receptions, visit balsamarts.com or visit Balsam Arts on Facebook.



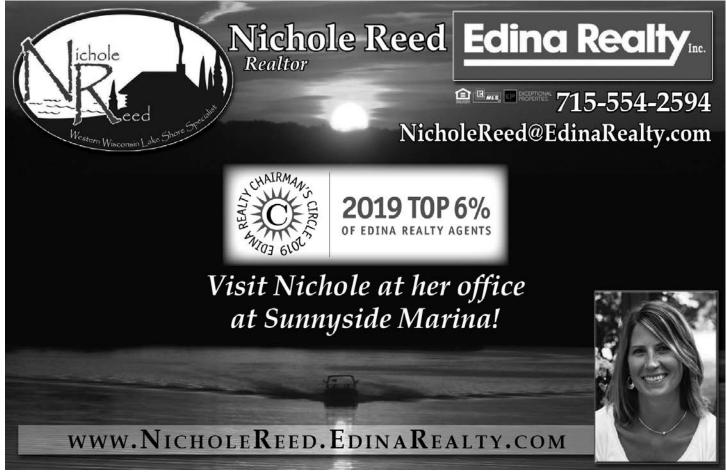














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