



Travis Grimler / Echo Journal

Left: People of all ages get involved in the weekly Nisswa Turtle Races, including this pair of adults. **Right:** A splash of water is sometimes all it takes to coax a turtle toward the finish line. Spectators at the July 20 Nisswa Turtle Races tried that tactic.

Turtles continue to saunter to the finish line

By Travis Grimler
Echo Journal

NISSWA — Wednesday, July 20, was no special holiday, but that didn't stop throngs of people from crowding the turtle racing track. The nearly 60-year tradition of racing turtles in Nisswa is alive and well and attracting spectators from California or farther. Participants choose a bucket with a small amount of water and a turtle, place the turtles on a yellow line on the circular race track and watch them race at turtle speed to the finish line. The event, which begins with registration at 1 p.m. and races at 2 p.m. every Wednesday, featured more than 300 racers on July 20 alone.

Travis Grimler is a staff writer for the Pineandlakes Echo Journal weekly newspaper in Pequot Lakes/Pine River. He may be reached at 218-855-5853 or travis.grimler@pineandlakes.com.

Central Lakes Rotary event seeks to help combat trafficking

By Travis Grimler
Echo Journal

PINE RIVER — The Rotary Ends Human Trafficking Concert in Pine River is just around the corner. In recent years, Rotary International, the largest service club in the world, has undertaken a new challenge: ending human trafficking. To that end, the Central Lakes Rotary Club chose the rural Pine River Lakes Music and Events Park to host a concert to help end human trafficking. The event is slated Friday-Sunday, Aug. 12-14. The goal of the concert is to raise \$15,000-\$20,000 that will go toward agencies that combat human trafficking, including local agencies. The event and its funds will also help to raise awareness of human trafficking globally and locally. If all goes as plans, this will be the first of ongoing REHT festivals. The 2022 inaugural REHT festival has a lineup of nine musicians: 32 Below, Adelaide, Ayiesha Woods, Corey Meding & Brothers, Kent Dudley and Bended Knee, Plumb, Remedy Drive, The Rush Tribute Project and Tim Engebraaten. In addition to bands, there will be guest speakers: Dawn Heath-Fiedler, president of Join the Movement Events Inc.; Pequot Lakes Police Chief Eric Klang; Shantel Dudley and Stacy Schaffer, founder and executive director of the 31:8 Project. The Lakes Music and Events Park has room for over 110 powered campsites and 100 primitive campsites. The concert area is 95,000 square feet. There is a permanent food court, permanent stage and picnic tables. Ticket prices range from an \$80 three-day pass to a \$20 teen price (before Aug. 1). Camping ranges from \$20 a night for a primitive site to \$120 for an electric site for three days. Volunteers are encouraged to reach out. More information is available at rehtmusicfestival.com.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Reducing plastic use webinar set in Pine River

PINE RIVER — Happy Dancing Turtle in Pine River will offer a free webinar, "Reducing Your Plastic Use," from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 27. Nora, from Happy Dancing Turtle, will describe how plastic use hurts people, animals and the environment and teach what steps people can take as individuals, households and communities to reduce reliance on plastics and to recycle. Event registration is available at https://bit.ly/plastic_webinar_web. More information is available at happydancingturtle.org. With headquarters in Pine River and a hub in the Driftless Region, Happy Dancing Turtle is a nonprofit dedicated to growing good stewards of the planet by providing education, programs and experiences for youth and adults that inspire wonder and empower change.

Criminal activity is subject of history presentation July 27 in Crosslake

CROSSLAKE — Ron Manger, Fifty Lakes, will present a program on criminal activity in the early days of the Brainerd lakes area as part of the Crosslake Historical Society Back Porch program. "Murder, Kidnapping, Robbery and Mayhem in the North Country" will start at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, at the Crosslake Historic Log Village. Manger's stories include a 1937 kidnapping by a young Crosby/Ironton man seeking fame through crime, a murder in Crosslake by a local man and the infamous Brainerd bank robbery. Manger, a historian, has evidence of other misdeeds that took place in the north country and will explain the process of how he tracked down the information. A suggested donation of \$5 will be accepted.

CALENDAR

WEEKLY

- ▶ **Tuesdays:** Hackensack Children's Fishing Contest, Birch Lake, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Tuesdays:** Big Fun Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., Crosslake Town Square
- ▶ **Wednesdays:** Turtle races, 2 p.m., downtown Nisswa
- ▶ **Fridays:** Pine River Depot open, craft sale, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Fridays:** Pine River Duck Races, 1:30 p.m., Pine River dam
- ▶ **Fridays:** Pine River Market Square, 2:30-5:30 p.m., Pine River Depot

JULY

- ▶ **27-28:** Brainerd Community Theatre: "Sister Act," 7 p.m., Chalberg Theatre, Central Lakes College, Brainerd
- ▶ **27:** Happy Dancing Turtle: "Reducing Your Plastic Use" webinar, noon-1 p.m.
- ▶ **27:** Crosslake Area Historical Society Back Porch program: "Murder, Kidnapping, Robbery and Mayhem in the North Country," 7 p.m., Crosslake Historic Log Village
- ▶ **29-Aug. 21:** Lakes Area Music Festival season
- ▶ **29:** Outdoor movie, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers campground, Crosslake
- ▶ **29:** Lakes Area Music Festival annual gala: "West Side Story" music, dinner at 6 p.m., program

- and live auction at 8 p.m., Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, Brainerd
- ▶ **29:** Central Lakes Community Performing Arts: Poppa Bear Norton, 7 p.m., Central Lakes College outdoors stage, Brainerd
- ▶ **30:** Up River Race, Kiwanis Park, Brainerd: 9 a.m. kayaks start, 9:15 a.m. canoes start, 9:30 a.m. standup paddle boards start
- ▶ **30:** Lakes Area Music Festival: Concert for kids, 10 a.m., Brainerd Library
- ▶ **30:** Music in the Park: Fathom Lane, 6 p.m., Crosslake Town Square gazebo
- ▶ **30:** Bands in the Park: Norman's Bait & Tackle Choir Band, 7-9 p.m., Trailside Park, Pequot Lakes
- ▶ **30-31:** Lakes Area Music Festival: Tribute to the Earth, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, Brainerd

AUGUST

- ▶ **1-21:** Lakes Area Music Festival season
- ▶ **2:** National Night Out: Pequot Lakes and Crosslake
- ▶ **2-4:** Brainerd Community Theatre: "Sister Act," 7 p.m., Chalberg Theatre, Central Lakes College, Brainerd
- ▶ **3:** Lakes Area Music Festival: Three Statues, 7:30 p.m., Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts, Brainerd

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PURE ENERGY TAKES GOLD BRACKET CHAMPIONSHIP!

Top Left to Right: Scott Gallaway Coach, Kessa Eggert, Georgia James, Taryn Tjaden, Alex Schmidtke, Nikki Crocker, Coach Larry Geschwill • **Bottom Left to Right:** Emma Loretz, Nadia Montano, Macy Jackson, Brea Eckes, Kaitlyn Geschwill • **Not Pictured:** Kelsi Martini, Grace Jordan, Rian Zutter, Abi Martin, Quinn Trottier, Avery Bergstrom

The 2022 Pure Energy 16u / 18u Fastpitch Team from Pequot Lakes captured 1st place in the St. Cloud league year end tournament on Saturday July 16th at Whitney Park in St. Cloud. They beat Mora 12-3, Alexandria 11-1, Little Falls 4-1 and finally Rocori 5-0 in the Championship game! Kaitlyn Geschwill pitched 18 innings in the 4 games, striking out 34 batters including 14 in the Championship game. All players played well on offense and defense completing 4 games in 6 hours!

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