



Travis Grimler / Echo Journal

Guy Nelson opened a bike shop in Pequot Lakes on request from area residents. Here, he's in the shop on Main Street.

Pequot Lakes bike shop open by appointment, seeks employees

By Travis Grimler
Echo Journal

Pequot Pedal and Paddle was born of local recommendations.

"I was up here showing houses and I was pretty impressed with the Americana feel of the town," said owner Guy Nelson. "This building was for sale. It's a little crooked. It's fun and has some quirkiness to it. I thought that was kind of my style. I went around town asking people what they would like rather than me trying to start a business and tell everybody what they should like. I want the community to support it, so I asked what they thought would survive and thrive and everybody said bike shop."

The building, most recently housing the Wobbly Wardrobe and before that Calico Cottage, is on Main Street across from the Pequot Lakes American Legion. The business opened in the spring, though a lack of employees has made it hard to hold regular hours.

"I'd love to find someone to work here," Nelson said. "I pay commission on bike rentals and sales and it's been tough."

Nelson does open the shop when he's around, and with a quick phone call he can schedule to help those who call for his services. His goal, if he finds the employees he needs, is to be open Wednesday

through Monday.

The shop is largely dedicated to renting bikes. He carries classic style Schwinn bikes and other iconic rides.

"I got these vintage style Venice Beach style bikes, because everybody likes classic bikes," Nelson said. "And since this town is kind of a Norman Rockwell town, I thought it'd be cool to do vintage classic bikes too, because the town's kind of classic and vintage."

The shop has mountain style bikes and electric bikes available for rent or for sale. One unique, eye-catching item is a selection of new beach cruisers that are half long board and half bicycle.

Nelson specified that everything in the store can be bought - even the decor, which includes vintage motorcycles and boat motors, as well as wall hangings.

"It's all vintage, classic cabin decor," Nelson said. "I picked all that stuff out. Basically my wall is your mall. Anything in the state on the store walls is for sale, because everybody has a cabin up here and they think, 'Oh, that would look great in my cabin or my boathouse or my fan cave,' or in their basement or bar. So people can just pick stuff off the wall, whether it be old classic snowshoes or old skis or water skis, or vintage motors are popular too.

So all this stuff is for sale and just kind of makes the shop unique and one-of-the-kind."

Nelson is working up to add kayaks or paddle boards to the mix, but for the time he is focusing on bikes and getting employees.

This is not Nelson's first foray into business. He is from the Shoreview, where he runs a sports memorabilia business. Among his other products, he bought the Metrodome roof when it collapsed and uses it to make memorabilia to sell alongside seats and other items.

He also has a sports marketing business setting up promotions with athletes for autographs and meet and greets. And he's a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker. He's dipped his toe in other industries over time as well.

"I have a passion for sports and a passion for creating new businesses," Nelson said. "I always joke around and call myself an entrepreneur. I try a lot of crap and I'm always starting new businesses."

Customers can schedule bike rentals by calling Nelson at 651-895-0916.

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.

WonderTrek Museum to be at Pequot Lakes Library

Kids and parents, take note of this new addition to our children's programming. WonderTrek Museum, based in Brainerd, provides kids with ways to play and learn at the same time. I have yet to see it in action, but it will be a great opportunity for our local kids to do just that.



CLAIRE NAGEL
Pequot Lakes Library

And the first visit to our library will be Thursday, Sept. 9, from 6-8 p.m. From then on, visits will take place on the second Thursday of each month from 6-8 p.m.

Bring your kids in and let's all learn about it together. Mark these dates on your calendars. It's easy to forget when you're not used to doing it. I think we're in for a great time. Families are welcome but the activities are aimed at kids

ages 3-9.

Notes about this and that

▶ We truly appreciate our patrons and volunteers. Thank you all for everything you do.

▶ Our rotating art exhibit features photos by Shirley Gorg. This display reminds us that "where flowers bloom, so does hope." Please come in to feast your eyes on these beautiful works of art.

▶ We would again like to thank Once Upon a Crime Bookstore in Minneapolis for their latest donation of seven boxes of books. The majority of these are 2020 and 2021 releases of new books, heavily concentrated on mysteries. And thanks so much to Cheryl Dawson for delivering the books to us.

▶ The Friends of the Pequot Lakes Library thanks the Lakes Area Literary Society for their generous donation in memory of Marilyn Woolldridge.

Dates to note

▶ **Thursday, Sept. 2, 10:30 a.m.:** First Thursday Book Club meeting at the library. Book to be discussed is "East of Eden," by John Steinbeck. October's book will be "Swede Hollow," by Ola Larsmo.

The book club is open to anyone interested. There's no need to call ahead.

▶ **Thursday, Sept. 9, 6-8 p.m.:** WonderTrek Museum at the library. (See information above).

Library information

▶ **Address:** 31117 Rasmussen Road, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472.

▶ **Phone:** 218-568-6181.

▶ **Website:** www.pequotlakeslibrary.org. Log onto our catalog at the website.

▶ **Hours:** Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; closed Sundays and holidays.

The library has six computers equipped with DSL internet service available without charge to the public. Wireless internet is also available.

Claire Nagel is a Pequot Lakes Community Library volunteer.

Bobber Art Crawl



Nancy Vogt / Echo Journal

Kathi Mann, a Pequot Lakes artist who specializes in animal portraits, paints outside on the porch at Timeless Appeal on Aug. 21, as part of the Pequot Lakes Bobber Art Crawl sponsored by Community Action of Pequot Lakes. Mann sells her works at the downtown store.

Health screenings offered Sept. 2 in Pequot Lakes

Residents living in and around Pequot Lakes can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with screenings by Life Line Screening.

Grace United Methodist Church in Pequot Lakes will host this community event Thursday, Sept. 2.

Screenings can check for:

▶ The level of plaque buildup in arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health.

▶ HDL and LDL cholesterol levels.

▶ Diabetes risk.

▶ Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis.

▶ Kidney and thyroid function, and more.

Special package pricing starts at \$149, but consultants will work to create a package that is right for each individual based on age and risk factors.

Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com for more information. Pre-registration is required.

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From Page 10

that users -especially those in rural areas - aren't stuck with sub-par or second class service.

While the infrastructure bill is historic, we still have work to do to make needed investments that give our

nation the tools to succeed, cut taxes and lower costs for working families.

Shortly after the infrastructure bill passed, the Senate also approved the broad outlines of our "Build Back Better" budget. Under that budget agreement, Congress will work this fall on detailed efforts to

significantly improve our nation's housing, education, child care and clean energy infrastructure, as well as lowering prescription drug costs.

One of my top priorities will be to continue my push to transition our nation toward a clean energy future by enacting a clean electricity

standard that over time achieves net-zero emissions in our electric sector. It will be central to our efforts to fight climate change, put the United States at the forefront of technology innovation, and create millions of good-paying jobs.

With passage of the infrastructure bill, we're

no longer just talking about infrastructure, we're actually delivering results that will make life better for millions of Minnesotans, create a generation of jobs and economic growth, and position our country to succeed in the 21st century.

Tina Smith represents Minnesota in the U.S. Senate.