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■ The historical society put on its inaugural Bootlegger's Ball. Photos on pg. 7A



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Section A

# VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW

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## Muskie anglers to hit local waters this weekend for national tourney

BY MICHELLE DREW  
EDITOR

The 37th annual National Championship Musky Open Tournament makes its return to Eagle River this weekend, promising three days of angling entertainment for an expected 1,000-plus registrants.

The tournament, now in its 37th year, will be headquartered at the Vilas County Fairgrounds on Highway 70 West from Friday through Sunday, Aug. 18-20, just blocks from downtown Eagle River. It's put on by the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, together with Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin, Inc.

In addition to the thrill of heading out on some of the state's most pristine lakes to net the biggest muskie, participants in the event also have the chance to take home a grand prize of a brand new 2023 Model 895 DC Recon Boat with a 115 horsepower Mercury outboard motor and trailer, included with their registration fee.

Any prior participants who take along a new angler for this year's tournament also can have their name entered into a special drawing for a muskie rod.

"The more people you have entered, the more chances you have to win this great muskie rod," said Eagle River Chamber Executive Director Kim Emerson. "You do not have to fish with this person(s), just recommend our great event and have the new angler register to be in the tournament."

In addition to the new angler drawing, those who donate a nonperishable food item or cash to help fight hunger also will be entered into a drawing for the chance to win a rod and reel set.

"For each food item or dollar you donate, you will receive one chance in the Help Fight Hunger drawing," Emerson said.

Nonperishable food items and cash donations can be donated on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at the Help Fight Hunger Tent located at tournament headquarters. Expired food will not be accepted, Emerson noted. All food donations will be donated to the Vilas Food Pantry.

Other prizes have been supplied by Fittante Taxidermy/Replicas, Daiwa, H3O Polarized, H2O Tackle, St. Croix Rods, Muskie Bumper, Sportsman's Repair Shop, Enticer Tackle, Suick Lure Company, General Beer of the Northwoods, Waterworks Spe-

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### Midway rides

Vilas County Fairgrounds were the place to be last Thursday through Sunday as Sheridan Amusements brought smiles to many faces over the four days. More photos on pg. 1B.

—Staff Photos By MICHELLE DREW



## Paul Bunyan Fest taking place this Wednesday

The 42nd annual Paul Bunyan Fest will take place this Wednesday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Eagle River.

The family-fun event will include chainsaw carving demonstrations by Ken Schels, more than 80 arts and crafts booths, and other family-oriented activities.

Live musical entertainment will be provided by the Pinery Boys. This group will provide a journey back in time as historical "edu-tainers" in an interactive, educational, musical theater performance where audiences can hear authentic a cappella logging-era music sung in four-part harmony.

The performance also includes dialogue, skits, and period costumes which help complete this vivid picture of the hard-working lumberjacks. Musical entertainment will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Food and beverages will be available from the Sno-Eagle Snowmobile Club, and throughout the event downtown businesses will have sidewalk sales taking place.

This family event is sponsored in part by Nicolet National Bank and the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center.

For more information, contact the chamber at 715-479-640, or visit eagleriver.org.

## Bourbon and Beer brings in \$41,000 for Dome updates

BY CHRIS OATMAN  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Eagle River Recreation Association's (ERRA) Bourbon and Beer event held Aug. 1 brought in more than \$41,000 to go toward updates needed at the historic Dome located on Highway 70 just outside of Eagle River.

The fundraiser, held at Eagle Waters Resort, featured a bourbon and beer tasting, along with heavy hors d'oeuvres and high-end items in both live and silent auction formats. Also on hand was an array of raffle baskets and other items donated by businesses and individuals.

After expenses, \$41,314.60 was added to the ERRA's coffers and will go toward a new chiller system — a dire necessity to have good ice for the group's programs at the Eagle River Sports Arena, commonly called the Dome.

ERRA Board Member Genevieve Mors-Hicks was again the lead organizer for the event.

"In perspective, it costs over \$10,000 a month to keep the lights on in the rink. Over and above that



Servers Mika Haefner of Sugar Camp and Cameron Pluciennik of Antioch, Ill., serve tap beers to Amanda Steinke of Eagle River. —Photo By Chris Oatman

we need a new ice plant, and several things need to be updated," she said. "We're trying to get some new things, so we'll have equipment that will last the next 25 years or more.

So, every little bit helps and is appreciated."

Mors-Hicks noted that it takes a

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