

And then there's Maud's

St. Maud's offers community workshop in Pence

By P.J. GLISSON
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PENCE, Wis. — You've got a great idea, but is it worth buying a bunch of tools and making the space to do it?

That question was posed by Karl Zinsmaster in relation to people who can envision a small construction project, but don't have the means to follow through on it.

Now they do, thanks to Saint Maud's, a community workshop that Zinsmaster opened in Pence, Wisconsin, in May of last year.

Clients of the community workshop can use the space, along with its extensive selection of tools, by paying a daily, monthly or annual fee. A "studio space" also can be rented for exclusive use. In addition, clients may hire Zinsmaster to act as a guide for whatever projects they undertake.

Zinsmaster shared his journey and his vision with The Globe last week.

After being born and raised in Pence, he moved in 2005 to earn a degree in furniture design at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He then engaged in an artist's residency at the Parsons School of Design within The New School, a university in New York City.

After his studies, he stayed in the city to work for awhile in design and fabrication before returning to Minneapolis for employment as a designer and creative director.

"The previous 15 or so years spent in bigger cities was growing old, and I was ready to invest in



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

WITHIN A community workshop known as Saint Maud's, Karl Zinsmaster uses a bandsaw to create a "blank" for a wooden spoon. The facility owned by Zinsmaster and his father, Charlie Zinsmaster, is in Pence, Wisconsin. The photo was taken on Feb. 17.

my own community," said Zinsmaster, who added that his own family in this region also drew him back.

"I was just kind of burned out, staring at a computer all day and not working with my hands," he said, adding that the COVID-19 pandemic also inspired a lot of questions about his place in corporate America.

Meanwhile, a previous Catholic church had come up for sale in Pence, so he and his father, Charlie Zinsmaster, decided to buy it.

"It's always been this cool building that's just been sitting here," continued Karl Zinsmaster of the structure that had not oper-

ated as a church for about two decades. "I didn't want to see it reduced to blight or snowmobile storage."

He now is pleased that he can apply all of the knowledge he gained in his career to help people here to discover their own hidden talents.

"My primary directive is to make this type of space or equipment or knowledge accessible to anyone," he said of the shop that still retains the former church's stained-glass windows.

He emphasized that everyone has capabilities, given the chance to explore them. "Everyone can kind of surprise themselves," he assured.

Moreover, he said the process of creating an item builds "a different level of respect" and might even result in it becoming an heirloom.

Regarding his prior corporate work, Zinsmaster said, "You're limited by your clients' imagination," whereas now he can encourage creative or even "weird" explorations.

"We can come up with really fun, strange things," he noted of anyone choosing to use Saint Maud's.

Clint Wood of Gile is a woodworker and owner of Sundial Craft, and he's been operating out of his own dedicated space at Saint Maud's since it opened.

"It's been awesome," said Wood. "It's kind of changed my life, really, having a workshop, being able to work inside in the winter."

Wood, whose business card urges people to "work hard — stay playful," was constructing a bookcase that also will be used as a door.

He added that working at Saint Maud's has opened up connections as well.

"Just the energy of being here is really good for your soul," said Zinsmaster, who added that one of his other studio space renters

ST. MAUD'S — page 2

New Hurley bookstore caters to kids, adults

By P.J. GLISSON
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HURLEY — Hurley has a new bookstore whose name well reflects the region in which it sits: Lake Effect Books opened last summer on June 28 next to Sharon's Coffee Company on the corner of Silver Street and 2nd Avenue North.

Owner Rachel Ofstad said her love of books and desire "to bring something that was needed in Hurley" inspired her to set up shop.

"It's been going good," she told The Globe last week. "People seem happy and excited that I'm here. It worked out great."

Ofstad wears a number of hats at the new store. "I do all the ordering, customer service stuff, accounting," she said. "It's a lot for one person."

Although she had experience working as a library assistant at the Hurley Public Library, she still had "to learn how to run a business."

The neatly arranged store includes a colorful array of books for both children and adults.

"I sell mostly new releases," said Ofstad, "but I also can do special orders."

For instance, she said that she can order older books upon request.

Among kids' offerings are "Sleepy Sheepy" by Lucy Ruth Cummins and "Big Rig Saves the Day (Not Always!)" by Tanner Ryan, with illustrations by Patrick Corrigan.

A convenient pass-through from the store to the neighboring Sharon's Coffee Company allows patrons to buy a book and then browse it while sipping a cup of coffee.

"Sharon is my mother-in-law," said Ofstad, who is married to David Ofstad. She explained that, while the businesses are separate, Sharon Ofstad owns the entire building.

This means that the couple's children — Riley, 10, and Levi, 8 — have the liberty to wander freely between the two businesses when they are both open.

One example of the cooperative arrangement is that Sharon's Coffee Company will host a cof-



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

BROWSING STORIES in Lake Effect Books on Feb. 17 are the children of owner Rachel Ofstad, standing at left. The kids are, from left, Levi, 8, and Riley, 10. The store neighbors Sharon's Coffee Company on the corner of Silver Street and 2nd Avenue.

fee session and book signing in relation to Victoria Houston, author of "Hidden in the Pines," on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. in the coffee shop.

Houston's book, which was just released on Jan. 10, then will be available for sale in the book-

store.

The Hurley Public Library is sponsoring the session, and 50% of book sales will go the library.

Houston is a Rhinelander, Wisconsin, author who wrote the Loon Lake mystery series and the book "The Three Life Mistakes

I've Made That Force Me to Write Fishing Mysteries." Her work has been featured on National Public Radio and in the Wall Street Journal.

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St. Maud's

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is a hobbyist.

As for lumber to create any desired project, Zinsmaster said, "Depending on your project, it's proba-

bly best just to buy your own, bring your own."

But he added that Saint Maud's also can supply such materials at a cut rate or can advise on needed supplies. "For small projects, we almost always have some sort of scrap

around," he said.

Zinsmaster also is starting to create opportunities for area youth.

"I do a monthly 4-H woodworking class with nine kids in the class, and that's been working out really great," he said, adding

that it's fun for the kids.

Zinsmaster also hopes to start teaching sessions for kids by using a Scandinavian method that teaches them "resilience" and "life skills."

As he explained of the approach, "It's teaching kids how to be functional members of society and well-adjusted people through the craft of woodworking. I'm still working on fundraising a little bit."

Zinsmaster said he is the only "technical" employee of the facility. Although his parents are retired, he said that his father "helps out on an as-needed basis" and that his mom, Carol Zinsmaster, teaches a class in wooden spoon crafting.

He added that his father worked extensively with him to renovate the building and to open the business. One huge project was removing old linoleum and carpeting and then refinishing the wood flooring.

"Right now, I've got 2,000 square feet," said Zinsmaster. "There's still another 2,500 square feet that I'll continue to renovate." That includes basement space.

According to the Wisconsin State Historical



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

SHOWN HERE on Feb. 17, Saint Maud's — a community workshop — is the former St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Pence.

Society, the former St. Anthony's Catholic Church was built in 1934.

There's a story behind the inspiration for the name Saint Maud's.

"The name came from my dog, but her name came from the Patron Saint of Misbehaving Children," said Zinsmaster, who explained that his dog died at the age of 12 just before he bought the property.

Hence, he said, "It seemed fitting to name it in her honor."

Saint Maud's hours are listed as noon to 6 p.m.

Tuesday through Saturday, but Zinsmaster urges anyone wishing to use the facility to call first or to book online at the facility's website, which also has details about pricing and an option to attend "Fix-It Fridays."

Zinsmaster also hopes to participate in some of Ironwood's First Friday events.

Saint Maud's is located at 6699 Hebert St., on the corner of Birch Street, in Pence. For more information, visit saintmauds.com or call 715-391-9798.



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WITHIN SAINT Maud's, Proprietor Karl Zinsmaster, at right, discusses the latest project of Clint Wood, at left, who rents a studio space in the facility.

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Books

From page 1

Ofstad's store also includes additional children's items such as games, puzzles, stuffed animals and toys, as well as miscellaneous items such as bookmarks, book holders and pens.

The owner was matter-of-fact about her reason for opening the store. "It isn't about the money," she said. "It's because I love books."

Moreover, she added of the general public, "People still enjoy a book."

Lake Effect Books, which is closed on Mondays, is open from Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The business is located at 109 2nd Ave. N.

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Burton EMS rebrands, expands into Ayer Street facility

By LARRY HOLCOMBE
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IRONWOOD — 2021 was a big year for Burton EMS. The electronics manufacturing company located in the Ironwood Industrial Park purchased and moved into the former Lighthouse Church building at 777 E. Ayer St. to gain needed floor space to provide additional services to our customers.

As part of the acquisition of the property the company rebranded from Burton Industries to Burton EMS to better represent itself in the marketplace, according to a release from vice president and CFO Mark Leman.

The company is an electronics manufacturing services provider, an EMS for short. “Simply put, we become the manufacturing arm for our customers electronics so they can focus on their core expertise,” said the release.

“Most of our customers are requiring additional services beyond just electronic sub-assemblies, which are the circuit board assemblies that form the

core of our manufacturing services,” said the release.

The additional floor space at the Ayer Street building gave the company room to grow several of its departments including High Level Assembly (or HLA) and testing.

High Level Assembly may include placing the electronic sub-assemblies Burton EMS manufacturers into cases or the customer’s final product. It can also include adding hardware, environmental protective coatings, and cable harnesses or wiring.

Burton EMS also provides testing services to ensure the final products are fully functional and ready for market as soon as received the customer’s facility.

“As our customer’s focus on their primary strengths, they look to companies like ours to assist in other areas beyond just being a manufacturer of their products,” said the release.

“Engineering services we provide, beyond just testing and troubleshooting, include programming, reviewing designs for effi-

cient manufacturability and guidance during the design phases to ensure a viable product will be ready for manufacturing once the design is complete,” said the release. “Our customers look to us to provide strategic sourcing services for raw materials and components, assistance in replacing obsolete components, and life cycle analysis.”

The Ayer Street property allowed Burton EMS to expand relatively quickly. Remodeling of the building from a worship center into a manufacturing space took far less time than if the company had built from scratch; and it repurposed and existing building that was sitting unused, said the release.

The additional space at the Ayer Street property also freed up square footage at Burton’s main facility in the Ironwood Industrial Park at 1260 Wall St.

“This allowed us to add an additional, automated manufacturing line to increase our capacity and flexibility. The additional



Larry Holcombe/The Globe

GLENN KOOSMANN performs tests in the Burton EMS new facility on Ayer Street in Ironwood.

work at the Wall Street facility dove-tailed with the remodeling at the Ayer Street building including relaying out our inventory areas, renovating our shipping and receiving docks and creating better workflow on the manufacturing floor,” said the release.

The Ayer Street building includes 8,000 square feet, compared to the 20,000 square-foot facility on Wall Street, according to Carrie Witzel-Crook, director of business development, who gave The Globe a tour recently, along with engineering manager Adam Waite and HLA director Marcus Olson.

They agreed at first the new building seemed bigger than they needed, but they didn’t have any problem filling it with uses.

The former church sanctuary is filled with much of

the HLA operations and testing. The front doors were replaced with a large receiving and shipping bay door. The former church offices are dedicated to specific tasks like spraying on coatings or potting, where a small piece of electronics is either covered or encased in a resin to protect it from the elements. The former church kitchen and half the fellowship hall serve as the facility’s break room, while the other half of the fellowship hall has a few offices for managers.

As part of the acquisition process the Ayer Street property needed to be rezoned to accommodate light manufacturing.

Burton EMS donated a

portion of the property to the city for the neighboring Miners Memorial Heritage Park.

“This allows the existing trails that run through the park to remain in place and provide additional acreage for the park itself. The park is a valuable recreational asset to the community and we were glad to be able to help ensure its viability,” said the release.

In conclusion, the expansion into the Ayer Street property improved and expanded the services that Burton EMS is able to provide its customers, but it also improved the company’s overall workflow and manufacturing capabilities, said the release.



Larry Holcombe/The Globe

BURTON EMS opened this second Ironwood facility on Ayer Street in 2021 to complement its production at the Wall Street facility in the Ironwood Industrial Park. The Ayer Street building is the former Lighthouse Church.

Northwind Natural Foods Co-op sees upgrades

By P.J. GLISSON
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IRONWOOD — The Northwind Natural Foods Co-op is a friendly face in downtown Ironwood, with compelling window displays and — in warmer months — the opportunity to sit at a table in front of the store’s entrance.

As of last year, it also has benefitted from a federal grant of nearly \$200,000 that has facilitated many upgrades within the store.

In a Feb. 16 interview with the Globe, Manager Cathy Flory explained the progress.

“It’s all happening because of a grant I wrote a little over a year ago,” she said, adding that she learned her application was accepted last June.

“I was blown away — one of those things where you just lean on the nearest thing,” she said of receiving the funds.

The grant was courtesy of the “Healthy Food Financing Initiative” within the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Bill.

According to Flory, the store has been a flurry of activity ever since.

The first change is with the façade, where new triple-paned windows now exist and where a small, glass porch has been added

to reduce the movement of cold air into the store.

Inside, said Flory, “The wood floor in the store has been replaced.” She added that tiling also has been replaced, including commercial-grade tile in the kitchen.

“We also put in a new heating and cooling system,” she said, adding that two more freezers also were added.

During October and November of last year, the store even closed down to allow the staff to paint the interior and to reposition shelving.

“We were closed for two months,” said Flory, who explained that she was able to continue paying her employees because they were trading their regular tasks for remodeling work.

“It was really fun for them to be part of starting a clean slate,” she said.

Flory explained that the store’s kitchen project will continue for awhile, in part due to the need for state approval on aspects such as a new stove hood.

A new checkout counter also is in the works, and the store is scheduled to get a new roof in the spring.

Despite the grant funds, Flory said it’s still been a challenge to stretch all of

the money as far as needed. “It’s been a penny-pinching year,” she claimed, adding that the aim all along was to direct the new investments in such a way as to increase store revenue.

When all is complete, she said, “We’re hoping in the not too distant future to offer soup and sandwiches.”

One amenity of the store that has remained is the children’s section, where kids can play while

their parents shop. Flory said that some customers were concerned it might be removed during the remodeling.

“Oh no,” she said. “The kids just beeline to it.”

Flory is not originally from the area, but she has a long history here nevertheless.

“I grew up in Iowa,” she said, explaining that her family represents three

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Elk and Hound under new ownership at country club

By MEGAN HUGHES
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IRONWOOD — The Elk and Hound restaurant is under new ownership as Jedediah and Jami Boydstrom have been working hard to provide quality food as they run their business inside the Gogebic Country Club.

Jed Boydstrom spoke to The Globe recently about how the first few months have gone.

“Jami worked here for a little over two and a half years and saw an opportunity for us to be able to acquire this place,” said Boydstrom, “And when you are given that sort of opportunity, you can’t turn it down.”

The location, once known as the Elks Lodge, was built in 1922, said Boydstrom, “It is amazing that this building exists and we feel so blessed that we have the opportunity to enjoy it.”

He said co-owner Jami Boydstrom was involved in the entire transition process, while he worked another job.

He said the transfer from the former restaurateurs went



Jed Boydstrom

smoothly, with many of the employees carrying over.

“We still have quite a few folks here from before we acquired the location, but we also brought on some new faces,” he

said. “The crew that we have right now is just stellar and are the best crew I’ve ever worked with.”

“We thought that getting a turn key business would be a lot easier than opening up with one from scratch,” said Boydstrom.

He said one of their goals from the start was to bring in their own menu and foods that reflected their interests.

Boydstrom said their head cook, BillieJo “JoJo” Dufor is a unique talent.

“I saw potential, I saw a lot of creativity,” he said about her work in the kitchen.

Boydstrom described their new menu as a Midwestern fusion, bringing concepts from all over the world and incorporating them into Midwestern comfort food.

He said that a lot of the appeal to the menu is the opportunity to try something different than what they might find at other places.

They plan to change the menu seasonally, he said. “We will keep the favorites on, things that sell well, but we plan to bring on a few new items each season to keep it fresh.”

Business has grown in their first few months.

“We are seeing a lot of new customers coming in and return customers coming in multiple times in a week some times,” he said.

The Elk and Hound employs around 12 people now. Boydstrom expects that by the summertime that number will double.

“This is one of those premier locations for events, not only for



Megan Hughes/The Globe

THE ELK and Hound restaurant is located in the Gogebic Country Club on Country Club Road in Ironwood.

things like funeral dinners but also for events like baby showers and weddings,” he said, “One of the most rewarding and unexpected aspects of this venture is being able to share people’s moments in their life.”

He said the atmosphere of the restaurant is meant to appeal to

everyone.

Some of their busiest times of year are the holiday season, especially around Christmas and Thanksgiving, for which they offer special meals.

The Elk and Hound is open seven days a week 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Muskies Bar and Grill opens in Mercer

By MEGAN HUGHES
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MERCER, Wis. — Muskies Bar and Grill in Mercer just celebrated their first year in business, according to business owner Eric Pulchinski. The bar was purchased in 2021, and opened for business following renovations in February 2022.

Pulchinski said he moved to the area in 2016 from Stevens Point, and figured if the building ever went up sale at the right price, he’d put an offer in on it. It happened pretty fast.

“Next thing you know it went up and I placed an offer on the table. They accepted and we’ve been here ever since,” he said.

Pulchinski has a background managing bars, as well as experience in the construction field, and he oversaw all of the renova-

tions, from tearing out the carpet to expose the original hardwood beneath, to updating countertops and installing decorative panels in the walls.

“We made it a lot bigger and more open,” said Pulchinski, “We redid the ceiling and put up the tin, the cedar on the walls was all here to start.”

One of the focal pieces of the bar is the bar itself, which was handmade by Pulchinski and some of his friends. The countertop is made of boards and poured resin.

“It took about two weeks to put together,” he said. “Between framing and everything.”

The location was previously home to the Anchor Inn and operates as both a bar and grill as well as offering a rental unit upstairs for visitors. Pulchinski explained that

when someone rents out the upper level there are four bedrooms available, but they don’t need to rent out all four at once.

He said the rental space is proving to be pretty popular, with some people making reservations for busy weekends a year in advance.

“Sometimes only a couple people rent it out, but sometimes we have eight guys all bunking up there for a weekend of snowmobiling,” he said.

Pulchinski has plans to add another bathroom to the upstairs unit.

When asked about how the season has been, he said with the melt-off lately, he expects the season to be ending sooner than later with regards to snowmobilers coming through.

“Hopefully, we get some more snow. It’s a huge part of the business around

town,” he said.

ATV traffic is another big part of the business. “The ATVers have no problem finding us here,” he said.

The business employs eight people, spread across bar work, the kitchens and general maintenance.

The food on the menu includes a fish fry, which Pulchinski is a big fan of.

One of the meals is a dinner challenge, where participants attempt to eat four of the Muskies’ foot-long hot dogs with all the fixings.

“Worst case scenario you end up not finishing and you split the meal with your buddies,” he said.

Pulchinski lives in the area full time, and has plans for additions to the business in the future, including an outdoor seating section for the warmer months. He also expressed



Megan Hughes/The Globe

ERIC PULCHINSKI, owner of Muskies Bar and Grill in Mercer, stands behind the bar.

interest in constructing a movable stage to bring live music to the outdoor area.

“I’m hoping to get some bands going out there dur-

ing the summer,” he said.

“I like people, I like talking with people. It’s my favorite part of the job,”

said Pulchinski.



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Opie's Time Out Sports Bar offers friendly atmosphere

By LARRY HOLCOMBE
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GILE, Wis. — Julie and April Doucette weren't looking to buy a bar in Gile, but now that they've opened Opie's Time Out Sports Bar, they're thinking maybe it should have been the plan all along.

The local couple married in October 2021 and had their eyes on opening a sports bar and restaurant in Ironwood. They were both otherwise employed, but thought it would be a fun adventure to work on together.

"It didn't work out in Ironwood, but then we heard this place was for sale," said Julie Doucette.

The bar, formerly known as Annie's, had been closed since November 2021.

"We opened in July 2022 and apparently Plan B was meant to be," she said.

"Patrons loved to see it come back to life. Everybody in the neighborhood is happy its open again," she said. "We love the neighborhood. Gile is its own little community."

While the place has a neighborhood bar feel, it also caters to a good amount of visitors.

"There's a lot going on here that brings people through — fishing, four-wheeling, snowmobiling," said Doucette. "People have come through from all over. I've lived here a long time and I'm still meeting people."

Locals and visitors — it's been a good ride. "The support of everyone who's come in has been phenomenal. It's been more rewarding than I could have imagined," she said.

Opie's is open seven days a week at 13 Nimikon Ave. across the post office in what amounts to be downtown Gile.

Julie said she and April have their division of labor in the place, and take their turn behind the bar, but they couldn't do it without their three bar tenders.

Julie said much of the place is original — including the tin ceiling and bar. Many of the patrons have implored them to keep things the same. "It's that familiarity that they come back for."

"There's a lot of history in that

bar top, scratches made by miners years ago coming off three shifts a day," she said.

They have made some changes, including new bar stools, televisions and security cameras. They plan to redo the bathrooms.

She said the place was originally known as Paul's and later Denny's. There were a few other names since, as the place changed hands.

The place is big on sports, said Doucette.

They have a team in a local pool league.

"We'd love to sponsor other sports teams," she said. "We're big on football with the Packers games always on."

They've held two fishing tournaments on the nearby Gile Flowage — a musky tournament in the fall and an ice fishing tournament more recently.

"We had 107 entrants in the fishing tournament from Green Bay, Wausau, all over. The after party and awards ceremony was so big, we held it at the Iron County Memorial Building," she



Larry Holcombe/The Globe

JULIE DOUCETTE stands behind the bar at Opie's Time Out Sports Bar in Gile.

said.

Doucette said they're working on a music festival, hoping to host it at the ball field down the street, that would include a corn roast.

Why Opie's?

Doucette said she picked up the name nearly 30 years ago. As a young adult, she had a job in a Wausau-area factory and her supervisor said she didn't look like a Julie. He looked at her red hair and declared her to be

"Opie." She said the full story has a few choice four-letter words in it, but the name stuck; adding when she goes back to Wausau to visit, everybody there knows her as Opie.

Doucette's day job is owning and managing North Star Beverage in Hurley, distributor of Pepsi products. It's a family business her grandmother bought in 1966

OPIE'S — page 8

Franklin Sales and Service, Touch of Grace hair salon open in Wakefield

By LARRY HOLCOMBE
lholcombe@yourdailyglobe.com

WAKEFIELD — Facing retirement and the prospect of becoming empty nesters, Michael and Christy Franklin plunged head first into the next chapter of their life together.

On Oct. 1 of last year they opened Franklin Sales and Service and A Touch of Grace hair salon in the same building along U.S. 2 in Wakefield, southwest of Sunday Lake.

Franklin Sales and Service offers new hydraulic hose assemblies made to order by Michael, as well as sales and service of Ariens snowblowers and lawn mowers, and Stihl chainsaws.

Touch of Grace is a full service salon with Christy cutting hair.

The couple took over longtime Wakefield business Wanink's Sales and Service, moved it to U.S. 2 and gave it a new name. "Otherwise it's basically just a different building. The same products, just in a different building," said Michael. "Wanink's sold these products, the loggers like them, the industry likes them, so we just kept the same lines that they had."

Michael grew up in Wakefield and his connection to Wanink's started when he was 13, sweeping the floors for some spending money.

"I'd peddled my bike up there after school and swept the floors, and I liked working on things. So by the time I left there, I could fix just about anything they sold, and they showed me the way," said Michael.

2022 was a big year for the couple as Michael retired from the U.S. Coast Guard.

"I retired in April and worked up at Wanink's from June until we opened here Oct. 1, relearning the business again, meeting all the customers again and letting them know we were going to move down here," he said. "They'd been up there for 64 years. Everybody knew where they were. It's good for us to be on the highway. We were lucky that this building became available. It worked out well."

The couple met at Wakefield High School. He grew up in Wakefield, she, the former Christy Berglund, in Berglund.

After high school they got married and he went into the Coast Guard and served for 27 years, rising to the rank of commander.

Michael said they moved 20 times in 27 years. He served in Sault



Larry Holcombe/The Globe

MICHAEL AND CHRISTY FRANKLIN are owners and operators of Franklin Sales and Service, and A Touch of Grace hair salon on U.S. 2 in Wakefield

Ste. Marie, Cheboygan and Detroit, as well as Wisconsin, Louisiana, Alaska, then back to Detroit where he retired out of.

Along the way they had two kids of their own, and when they were in Louisiana, they adopted five more.

"We had to stay in Louisiana a little longer, our tour was only three years, but we stayed for five to complete the adoption; then we took them to Alaska," he said. In Alaska for 13 years, they spent time in Kenai, Juneau and Anchorage.

"The kids are all doing fantastic. Our youngest just moved out of the house this summer, so we're empty nesters now," said Christy.

During the last stop in Detroit, Christy decided to go back to school and graduated from Paul Mitchell School in Detroit. "As the kids were leaving the house, we had one left the house, I decided to go back to school and do something for myself," she said. "I had four girls, so I've been doing hair my whole life."

They said they loved Detroit, finding it artsy, adding they'll miss the Red Wings games and the various concerts they attended. "But we're glad to be back," said Christy. "There's such a different quality of life here and longevity of life."

They live in Berglund near Christy's family.

Michael's mom lives in Wakefield. His dad passed away in 2016.

"Mom comes down every morning and checks on us, makes sure we're working. 80 years old and walks the lake every day," said Michael. "When we decided to do these business we wanted to do them here, keep them in Wakefield. It's important for small towns to have something."

They leased the building from the city, which

owns two large buildings nearby that it uses as the city garages. "It's a great spot," said Michael.

"It's really been a blessing. The people have welcomed us. Business has been good. It's fun, we get to come to work together," said Michael.

Business has been good, for both of them.

"I make hydraulic hose assemblies. Logging now is mechanized. All that heavy equipment runs on hydraulics. When a hydraulic hose breaks, they're usually in a hurry because their machines are expensive and when they're down they're not making money; so I do them while they wait."

He said he also makes hoses for people working on semi trucks, standard plows pickups and small tractors.

Besides the hoses and the small engine machines, they sell "everything a logger would need from safety pants to gloves, oil, the chains, the files, bars, wedges, we have it here," he said.

"We service what we sell, and we sell good stuff," said Michael. "We

sell Interstate batteries because I think they're the best. The stuff that we sell is high quality because loggers won't put up with stuff that doesn't work."

As for the salon, "We're an exclusive Paul Mitchell salon and sells Paul Mitchell products," Christy, adding she loves the people and being creative. "I love to sit and visit with the people," she said.

The businesses do meld a bit.

"For us it's nice to see people being helped, taken care and getting the stuff that they need," said Christy.

"We laugh because we'll have logger that come in and while I'm making them a hydraulic hose, that may take 15 to 20 minutes, they step over here to ask Christy if she's got time for a hair cut," said Michael.

Both businesses are open Monday through Friday, 8-5. "Weekends off. Quality of life," said Michael.

For more information on Franklin Sales and Service or A Touch of Grace hair salon on U.S. 2 in Wakefield, call 906-259-2577.

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Holm's Hobbies looks to build community

By **LARRY HOLCOMBE**
lholcombe@yourdailyglobe.com

IRONWOOD — Ryckie Holm opened Holm's Hobbies in downtown Ironwood on June 1, 2017. It's part game store and part community center.

Things started slowly, according to Holm. "I started with just two shelves worth of materials and I've been putting the money back into the place, just trying to grow a community center here in Ironwood. I've always want to give something back to the area and it's been very rewarding. It really has grown into a community. I have regulars that come in several times a week to play games."

The word "community" keeps coming up when Holm talks about the business.

Holm was born in Ramsay, moved to Wakefield as a child for a few years and later his parents bought a farm in Saxon, so he graduated from high school in Hurley.

He went the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and after graduation took a job as a high school math teacher in Hurley in 1995. He got involved with a lot of things at school. He was leading a chess club and was involved directing Silver Express for a couple years.

He said the kids in the chess club wanted to play some of the other games that were popular.

"The time limit for after school just wasn't the best. If I had to leave school at 4:30, they couldn't stay and play, they would get kicked out," he said. "I started thinking at that point it

would be nice to get it out of the school and into a place where it would be open to the public."

In 2015, everything took a sharp turn when Holm had a heart attack. He decided he had to give up some stuff, including Silver Express.

"At first it felt really good having a lot of free time, then I started getting bored. While I was walking as therapy because of my heart attack, I'd walk around town, trying to think of things, a nice place for Ironwood to have for a business," he said.

He started thinking about a board game store. "As we traveled out of town, I went to different board game shops to see what other people were doing," he said.

He became friends with the owner of such a store in Ashland. "I started hanging out there and got to be friends with the community and Joe, the owner," he said.

"In the mean time, the kids in the chess club were progressing to where they wanted to get out," he said. "So, finally one day I said, 'Joe, I think something like this could work in Ironwood. I don't want to step on your toes. I've tried to be a good friend. I don't want to sweep away your business. Would you mind if I gave something like this a try?'"

Holm said his friend was very supportive, saying, "The more people who are playing games, the more the community is going to grow."

Holm's friend was helpful with getting him started. "He had some invaluable pointers. So I



Larry Holcombe/The Globe

RYCKIE HOLM stands in his game store, Holm's Hobbies, in downtown Ironwood.

decided, what the heck, I'm going to do it."

What do you offer?
"The biggest thing I offer is a safe place for people to come and meet other people of similar interests. So whether it's playing games or an interest in collecting related items.

The people who come generally invest in the product here, and therefore I don't have to charge. Most people do their fair share to see that the rent gets paid, the product gets on the shelf and stuff like that.

First and foremost, it's a community for people to meet. All ages, more adults than kids, actually. Unfortunately for kids there's a stigma, it's the nerd's store. Kids are sensitive toward image, but as they get away from

that they start trickling in.

What are they doing here?

"Socialize, play games," said Holm. "There are some organized things, like Friday night is Commander Magic, so people know that. Magic to Gathering is the card game, and they play the Commander variant. So they know to meet Friday night. It's meant to be a multi-player, it plays best with three or four. But they'll play with as big as they want. Those big games will last a couple hours. If there's a big crowd, they'll split into two groups and have a couple games going."

"One of the big games now is 'A Song of Ice and Fire.' It's George R.R. Martin's Game of Thrones Universe. It's a table top, kind of an army simulator. You

have the miniatures. There's no board, you just go around the table top. It's very strategic, tactical. I get a lot of people who are in for that on Wednesday nights and Friday nights," he said.

"Wednesdays and Saturdays I have role playing groups. I have a Power Rangers and a Dungeons and Dragons, so a lot of kids know to come in for those, they're part of that ongoing campaign. Thursday night is kind of my free night, different things will be going on all the time and people will pop in and see what's happening," he said.

Mostly it's a board game store, he said. "I've got things for younger kids, 5, 6 years old, all the way up to what ever. They range from party games, to strategy games to abstract games like chess and things like that, a lot of card games, so like Magic the Gathering or Pokemon are some of the popular card games, and those are collectibles."

Collectibles is another part of the business.

"Board games aren't like they used to be with Monopoly, you used to just buy the Monopoly game and you were good; now the board game comes out and then in six months they'll put out an addition to it, and that adds a twist to the game. The game doesn't become as boring as fast. There's always a new twist that's being introduced, so that keeps the games fresh. That way, collecting the board games becomes kind of a hobby, too," he said.



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Kwik Trips alive and well in Ironwood, Bessemer

By MEGAN HUGHES
news@yourdailyglobe.com

IRONWOOD — Kwik Trip landed in the region in 2022, opening in Ironwood in September and in Bessemer in October, and according to company spokesman David Niemi, the two stores quickly became the company's top food sellers.

"They are doing great according to the district leader," said Niemi, "They are the best food sellers

that we have in that market — Tomahawk, Eagle River, Park Falls, Minocqua, across the northern band of the state. They have leaped out as the best food sellers we have."

He explained that this statistic is important to the company, as the in-building kitchens are a major investment.

Kwik Trip, based in La Crosse, Wisconsin, operates two bakeries in the state that provide all of the

baked goods for their locations, one that specializes in breads and rolls, many of which are used for the hot food items served at their locations, and another that specializes in the pastries and sweet goods.

"We are the biggest bakery in the state of Wisconsin," said Niemi. The sweet goods location is around 250,000 square feet and produces around 250 million items per year. The one specializing in bread is around 200,000 square feet, and produces around 175 million items.

"I don't know of any other bakery that is anywhere near those sizes," said Niemi.

The bakeries produce all the baked goods sold across the company's 848 stores.

"They get daily deliveries from La Crosse," said Niemi, adding that company policy dictates that all drivers get to go home after their shift, so they will have a driver pick up a load at one location, and drop it off to another driver a few hours away.



Megan Hughes/The Globe

THE KWIK TRIP in Ironwood is located on U.S. 2 at the corner of Greenbush Street. It opened in September 2021. It was the first store opened by the La Crosse, Wis.-based company in Michigan.

Rather than having the loads swap from one vehicle to another, they have the drivers trade vehicles. "We have them swap rigs," said Niemi, "It allows us to stretch our market further."

Niemi said both the Ironwood and Bessemer stores employ around 50 people, split between part-time and full-time. "Both stores are operating with about 50% full-time employees," he said.

Both locations operate 24 hours a day. The stores are similar, but Niemi said Ironwood is more easily accessible to truckers, with a larger lot and access to pumps designated for the larger vehicles.

"It's about 200,000 square feet of land," said Niemi. That additional space allows for truck parking as well.

Ironwood and Bessemer were the company's first stores in Michigan and

Kwik Trip has plans for more in the U.P. Niemi said they hope to open stores in Iron Mountain in September of this year, followed by another in Kingsford in October.

"We really like the presence in the U.P.," said Niemi, adding they hear from customers who live in the U.P. and drive through Wisconsin and Minnesota, "Why don't you come up here?" It is great to know that we are wanted."



Megan Hughes/The Globe

THE KWIK TRIP in Bessemer is located on U.S. 2 between Moore and Sophie streets and opened in October 2021.

Dollar General Store now open in Bergland

By P.J. GLISSON
news@yourdailyglobe.com

BERGLAND — A Dollar General Store opened in Bergland on July 27 of last year, and it has been a welcome addition for local residents.

On Feb. 17, Dawn Lesinski of Ewen was walking out of the store as a customer, pushing a cart, after having entered earlier as an employee.

"We get a lot of people who are glad we're here," she said, noting that they no longer have to drive out of town to find similar merchandise.

On the same day, the store's corporate public relations office also reported being "pleased with the response so far" and added that staff "look forward to continue serving the community."

Ontonagon County already has two other Dollar General stores in Ontonagon and Bruce Crossing.

According to the corporate office, "Dollar General currently has more than 19,000 stores in 47 states across the country."

Dollar General has been building upon two new concepts in recent times. One is called a Dollar General Market, which allows fresh produce to be sold within the store, and the other is a "Popshelf," which includes more expensive items and can be offered as a "store within a store."

The company's first Market opened in 2003, and there were 2,700 such facilities by last fall. The company hopes to switch about 10,000 more of its existing stores into Markets over the next few years. During the same period, it also hopes to establish 1,000 "Popshelf" stores.

As of last week, the corporate office reported to The Globe, "At this time, (we) do not have any current projects in Ontonagon, Gogebic or Iron counties, but we



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

WALKING OUT of the Dollar General Store in Bergland on Feb. 17 is Dawn Lesinski of Ewen. The store has been open since July 27 of last year.

continue to evaluate opportunities to add new locations and extend our mission of serving others."

But the office added, "The Dollar General Literacy Foundation will be accepting applications for its Youth Literacy Grants beginning March 9. We encourage all schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations who help students that are

below grade level or having trouble reading to apply."

To learn more about the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, visit dgliteracy.com.

The Bergland Dollar General is located at 205 Maple St. on the corner of M-28 and near the Bergland Community School. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

Hobbies

From page 6

"I have a very good Wednesday night board game group that comes in, any where from four to eight players. They bring in different board games. Anyone who wants to play, can play," he said.

Miniature play pieces can be part of the game for just for collecting, and some assembly may be required.

"I've got the miniature games, which are nice because they have a modeling component, where you have to build the game first. The most popular title there would be War Hammer," he said. "When you open up the box, it looks like a model car, you have all the things to put together. You glue up your army together and then you paint it, and then delve into the rule book and then you play with the pieces that you made."

"Painting the miniatures part of the hobby is a very big part of what we do. I have a lot of miniature paint brushes and accessories. It's been really fun watching that part of it grow. There are a lot of talented painters in the area," he said.

The miniatures come in different sizes, but a common scale is 32 millimeters equalling 6 feet.

"People make dioramas. I have stuff to make terrain pieces, walls, buildings, trees," he said. "Some people, instead of just playing the game, will build a placement for their models, make a display that they put on a shelf; and to them, that's the hobby. They're not really interested in playing the game, they just want to have that expression."

About once a month, Holm will offer a painting day, usually on a Saturday. He sets aside a table and sells paint kits for beginners that come with a

model and paints and brushes. "We'll sit around and paint and we'll put on tutorials on a TV, Youtube is good for a lot of those. Everybody shares tips around the table. It's a great way to learn."

Holm now has a few dozen shelves full of games and accessories. He has a half dozen large game tables set around a large room banked by window on three sides

"Comfortably I can fit about 25 people doing various activities — maybe one group of Dungeons and Dragons and one group playing Magic," he said.

He hopes to see the business grow. "I like for this to be my retirement job. I'm not looking to get rich, just make a little fun money, while I am retired. Maybe take a trip once a year," he said.

"I'd like to make it a staple in the community, and every year push it a little farther," he said. "It's been fun to watch it grow from

that first summer there would be nights when I had one or two people, to having a full house."

"We get new people every year that say, 'I never knew this was here,'" he said.

Holm said he doesn't mind getting a chance to play now and then.

"It's a nice recreation. I'm here to work first and foremost but if somebody's looking to play and doesn't have a partner then they need to be having fun here and need to feel welcome, so I'll go out and play some games with those people," he said.

"Some games are cooperative, like Journeys of Middle Earth, it's five people going through in the Lord of the Rings setting, a very fun board game. I'll take some guilty pleasure time and jump in and play with those guys," he said.

The place is open Wednesday and Thursday, 4 to 8:30 p.m., so after school; Friday, 4 to 11 p.m., staying open later;

and Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. "The rest of the time on the weekend is for me and my wife. That's our family time. We try to keep a good balance with, the fulltime job, the hobby

shop and the family," he said.

Holm's Hobbies is located at 235 E. Ayer St. in downtown Ironwood. For more information, call 906-285-7159.

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Sharon's Coffee Company expands offerings

By P.J. GLISSON
news@yourdailyglobe.com

HURLEY — Sharon's Coffee Company in Hurley has been undergoing a renaissance.

After all, the message in the window does claim that it's "more than just a coffee shop."

"We've kind of developed into this little building with something for everyone," said Jenna Laurin, who manages the facility that is owned by her mother, Sharon Ofstad.

"We've added more grab-and-go items," said Laurin, citing fresh salads and fruits, sandwiches, yogurt and bakery. She added that such items are great for the many people stopping by even after lunch.

Laurin said they also now have retail merchandise such as jams, syrups, home décor products, and locally crafted items such as jewelry.

The separate wing to the east of the coffee shop includes a full bar with additional seating, and Laurin said that it's available for rent for special events such as bridal showers.

She added of her moth-

er, "She does catering events for different groups in house or off-property."

According to Laurin, they get their coffee from Backroads Coffee in Hayward. "We feature them as our roaster," she said and added of their caffeine options, "We have a wide variety of menu items."

Moreover, she said of coffee drinks, "I've had people come in and ask for things I've never heard of, and I've made them."

Beyond that, the facility also features pretty bakery that includes treats such as frosted cinnamon rolls, cakes and muffins.

The shop also offers breakfast options, including the "Up North Logger" breakfast with a name to suit the region's history in the logging industry.

Lunch choices include a variety of options, including — but not limited to — a fire-braised pork quesadilla, cranberry chicken salad, a reuben burger melt, a prime rib Panini, an oriental chicken wrap and apple walnut salad.

Laurin said that her mother bought the coffee shop, the former Hurley Coffee Company. "We opened in January 2009,"



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

WORKING AS a team on Feb. 17 at Sharon's Coffee Company in Hurley are, from left, front, manager Jenna Laurin and owner Sharon Ofstad, and in back, baristas Rayna Walker and Olivia Vandenburg.

she said.

She said that challenges have included "trying to keep ahead of the trends" in general.

In addition, she said of the COVID-19 pandemic, "COVID was hard for everyone."

But she suggested that it also had a silver lining. "We were kind of overwhelmed by the love we got from people," she said regarding that period.

She added that now they feel they can do anything.

Sharon's Coffee Company sometimes is the site of local events relating to books, music and arts and crafts.

For instance, it will host a coffee session and book signing in relation to Victoria Houston, author of "Hidden in the Pines," on Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

The book will be avail-

able for sale at Lake Effect Books, which has walk-through access from the coffee shop. That business is run by Sharon's daughter-in-law, Rachel Ofstad.

"We're both here six days a week," said Laurin of herself and her mom. "It's fun to work together with her."

Sharon Ofstad also emphasized that she enjoys being there. "It's not work when you love what you're

doing," she concluded with an easy smile.

Sharon's Coffee Company is at 122 Silver St., on the corner of 2nd Avenue North, which is also regarded as the crossroads of U.S. 51 and Wisconsin 77. It is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day except Sunday, with breakfast ending at 11 a.m. and lunch ending at 2 p.m. For more information, call 715-329-1113.

Wakefield's Club 28 under new ownership in 2022

By P.J. GLISSON
news@yourdailyglobe.com

WAKEFIELD — Club 28 in Wakefield has been under new ownership since last spring, and with

it has come an expansion in hours and menu.

George and Kelly Delich, who also manage the restaurant and bar, opened on May 13, 2022.

Located on the corner of M-28 and Sunday Lake Street, the place used to open at 4 p.m., but now it's open every day at 11 a.m.

"We're open seven days a week. Business has been great," said George Delich. "Our first-year expectations have been blown out of the water."

Delich told The Globe last week that he and his wife have added Monday through Thursday specials, as well as some new menu items, including mac and cheese with a variety of optional toppings such as pepperoni, shredded brisket or chicken — either crispy or grilled.

They also offer homemade soups and chili daily, as well as salads and appetizers.

"Club 28 pizza has been around for about 60 years," said Delich, who noted that it's "great to keep the tradition going."

The long list of pizza options includes tradition-



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

CLUB 28 is shown here on Feb. 17 in Wakefield. Since last spring, the restaurant/bar — which now opens at 11 a.m. seven days a week — has been under the ownership of George and Kelly Delich.

al expectations, as well as more innovative choices such as Greek, taco, Hawaiian or bacon cheeseburger.

The restaurant — which continues to provide Friday fish fries — also has burgers and sandwich choices such as Italian beef and chicken parmesan.

Delich said he'd never worked in the food business before, but he does have a background in management.

He had left the region in 1996 after graduating from high school in Wakefield and returned to take on his current job.

Beyond a general learning curve, he described one inherent challenge as staffing. He's happy with his current full roster of 18 employees but said, "It's been a struggle to find a full-time cook."

Nevertheless, he said that even the struggles are enjoyable. "This isn't stressful for me," he said.

"It's pretty fun."

He added that he and his wife love being part of the community. "We couldn't be more excited to be here," he said.

Last summer, he said their clientele included ATV riders, berry pickers, hikers and sightseers, whereas winter has brought in snowmobilers and skiers.

"But we have a strong following with the locals, which is fantastic," he noted while describing the overall situation as "awesome."

In the long term, Delich said, "We'd like to open up a winery in town, also."

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Ironwood marijuana retail stores 'extremely busy'

By P.J. GLISSON
news@yourdailyglobe.com

IRONWOOD — In the past year, two public cannabis retail stores have opened on U.S. 2 in Ironwood, and both are reporting phenomenal success.

In 2022, Higher Love opened on Feb. 21, and RIZE opened on Sept. 23. They both sell cannabis for recreational use, not by prescription. Sales are targeted to people age 21 and older.

Higher Love just celebrated its first anniversary here on Tuesday.

"I've been here since the beginning," said Assistant Manager Amanda Coombs while showing The Globe the Higher Love store last week. "It's been a very exciting process."

"We're happy to be here," said Michelle Willes, corporate training manager for RIZE. "It's been extremely busy since it opened. People have been good to us. Fridays and Saturdays are insane. We expected it to be this busy. It's a good spot for us."

Coombs speaks of the product in broad terms.

"We do sell cannabis products, but we sell more than that," she said. "We sell health and wellness, comfort, release, acceptance."

Merchandise sold by the busi-

nesses includes flowers, pre-rolls, edibles, vaporizers, concentrates, topicals, tinctures, CBD, accessories and apparel. Remote orders are encouraged, but only online, not by phone.

"Our menu is live, so everything you see online is what we have, and everything you don't see is what we don't have," said Willes.

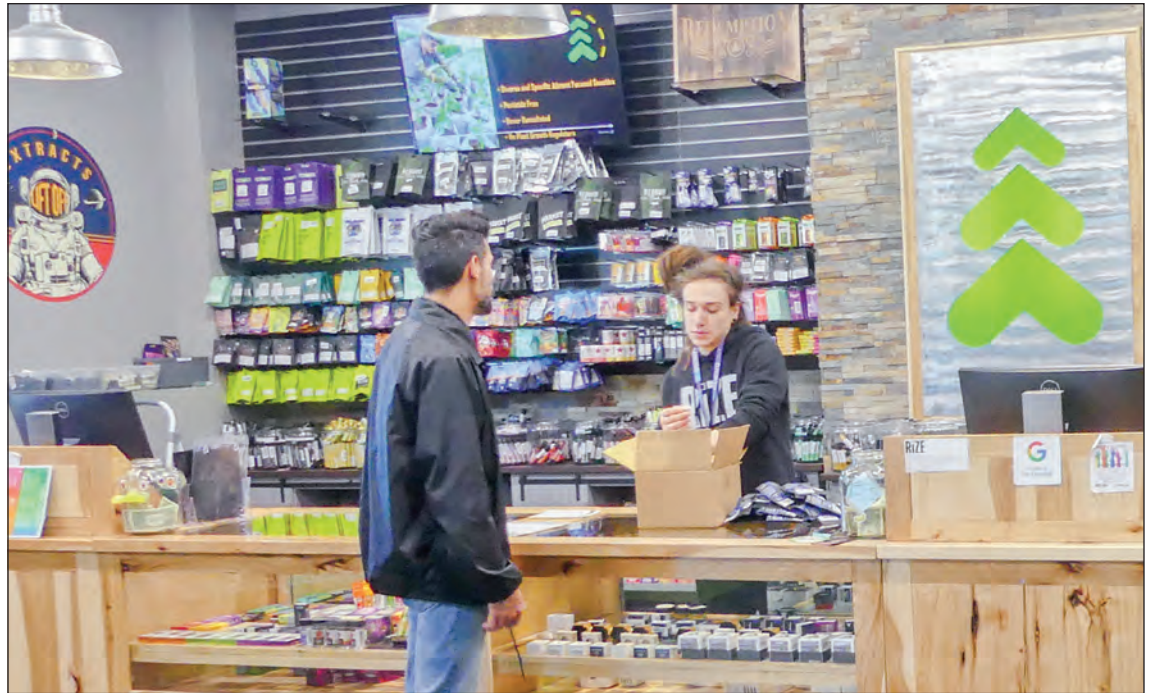
"We have a drive-in option," she added. "You drive right into the building, and we serve you in the garage."

She added that customers also can pick up orders in the lobby. Or, she said, "People can shop inside with a cannabis consultant."

Higher Love has the same options except that it provides curbside pick-up instead of drive-through service. Both companies tout organic products.

During an onsite tour of the RIZE facility, Tommy Miner — who was visiting from Iron Mountain during a manager exchange — pointed out that the facility also sells pet chews and treats that can be used to relieve pain or to help a pet relax. Consultation with a veterinarian is advised.

RIZE staff on that day were playing a variety of roles. For



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

STANDING AT the dispensary counter at RIZE in Ironwood is cannabis consultant Canyon Cadotte as he talks on Feb. 17 with Tommy Miner (back turned), a visiting manager from the Iron Mountain RIZE.

example, Canyon Cadotte was a cannabis consultant, Chris Alguire was an inventory assistant, and inventory agent Sean Stefanski was monitoring a camera system in the drive-through area.

At Higher Love, budtenders Jasmyn Giannunzio, Nathan Laessig, Aubrie Geesey, Keith

Mullikin and Xavier Ramos were hustling to prepare for another busy day. Giannunzio explained their versatility by explaining that she also works as a receptionist and curbside assistant.

Willes said that RIZE has 20 full-time employees in Ironwood, whereas Coombs said the local Higher Love site has 60 workers, with more expected to come as the company moves toward summer construction of a 6,000-foot new structure with "a lot more parking."

"We're building right here," she said, indicating space directly north of the existing building.

"We're also building a grow facility over in the industrial park," she said, adding that the timing for that development is not yet set.

RIZE also has indicated potential for expansion, but managers did not yet share any related details.

Willes did, however, indicate that she's in her job for the long haul.

"I actually bought a house here," she said, explaining that she not only trains local staff but also provides virtual instruction for workers at other locations.

Willes said that RIZE is a family-owned business associated with Julie Wentworth of

Petoskey.

Joni Moore is the president of Higher Love and Ottawa Innovations, a Menominee operation that supplies the marijuana product. She said she is a long-term U.P. resident who now has grandchildren in the region.

Both stores are part of chains with facilities in other locations.

Higher Love also has sites in Crystal Falls, Munising, Houghton and Marquette. In addition, said Coombs, "We are opening in Norway soon."

RIZE has other sites in Gaylord, Marquette and Iron Mountain, and the latter site also has a cultivation facility that supplies the other sites.

Higher Love is located at 824 E. Cloverland Drive in Ironwood. It is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 906-932-7288 or email info@findhigherlove.com.

RIZE is located at 411 E. Cloverland Drive and is open Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 906-675-5420 or email info@rize-stores.com.

Each company's website or Facebook page also has more information, as well as full product lists.



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

SOME OF the Higher Love staff pose in the public dispensary room before the company opens for the day on Feb. 17. From left are Assistant General Manager Amanda Coombs and budtenders Jasmyn Giannunzio, Nathan Laessig, Aubrie Geesey, Keith Mullikin and Xavier Ramos.

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T's Fish Fry now offered on Fridays at Bessemer VFW

By P.J. GLISSON
news@yourdailyglobe.com

BESSEMER — The Friday evening fish fry at Bessemer's VFW Post 3673 is a time-honored tradition that never fails to draw a happy crowd of customers who appear to enjoy catching up with friends as much as what they've described as "tasty" and "yummy" meals.

That tradition continues, but as of last fall, the name has changed from Larry's Fish Fry to T's Fish Fry.

"I took over in September," said new owner Theresa Baldwin. "I always kind of thought that I would take over when Larry retired. I just didn't think it would happen this soon."

She said she'd worked with previous owners Larry and Veronica Miskovich for nine years as a waitress.

Despite the transition occurring earlier than Baldwin had expected, she said, "It's just been fun."

Baldwin spoke with The Globe on Feb. 17, before and after

being swept up with orders that she swiftly delivered to her kitchen and dining crew, which at the time included Susan Jurakovich, Jamie Tamble, Annette Lillie and Jonny Clemens.

According to Baldwin, the same menu is still in force, including various options in fish dinners, as well as burgers and a chicken dinner, with lighter options such as chicken wings or strips and onion rings or cheese curds. A children's menu also offers items such as corn dogs, grilled cheese, etc.

Regarding the menu at large, Baldwin said, "We added a clam chowder," which is made from scratch by her.

"I have an awesome crew," she added of her 7-member team. "I wouldn't be able to do this without my crew."

Baldwin said the fish fry, which used to run from 3-7 p.m. on Fridays, has been extended by one-half hour. "We changed the time a couple weeks ago to 7:30 p.m.," she said.



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

PLACING A new order up in the kitchen of VFW Post 3673 in Bessemer is Theresa Baldwin, right, who took over the Friday fish fry operation in September of last year. Running the kitchen are, from left, Susan Jurakovich and Jamie Tamble and, in the background, Jonny Clemens. The photo was taken on Feb. 17.

She said the overall transition has not posed any serious challenges. "It's been working out pretty well," she noted.

The former owners closed out their history last year with the following July 7 Facebook message, complete with a fish emoji and several hearts: "And it's a wrap!

Thank you to our wonderful customers. Without you we would not have made it for so many years. The ladies and gentlemen who worked alongside of us, who became dear friends and even family, you have our gratitude. Thank you to the VFW for letting us do our magic. Thank you for

the cards, messages, hugs and well wishes. We will miss you. — Larry & Veronica"

Dozens of customers offered appreciation and wishes for a happy retirement.

The Bessemer VFW Post 3673 is located at 605 W. Lead St. on U.S. 2.

Co-op

From page 3

generations of cabin-dwelling at Black River Harbor, where they often visited in all seasons.

Even in winter, she said, "We would come here and dig our way to the cabins."

As a result, said Flory, "I fell in love with the area."

After a college education in English and art, she lived in Colorado for a decade and on the beach in California. Then, in November 2017, she purchased the family cabins here from her father.

"I started working here right away when I moved here," said Flory, explaining that she started as a buyer for the co-op before taking full charge in 2019.

"I'd never owned a grocery store before, but I've managed some pretty large companies," she said in relation to her history of employment in the fields of hospitality and fine dining.

"It all goes hand in hand," she added. "A large part of it still is hospitality relationships."

As she conceded, they can't compete with larger grocery stores.

But she implied that the co-op can create relationships that larger operations cannot. For instance, she said that working with local farms is important and noted that it is not unusual for a local farmer to drop off produce and then invest some of the money he earns by shopping in the store.

Regarding added challenges of her job, Flory said, "Right before COVID started is when I started to manage alone."

Because none of the paid employees at that time remained on staff, she said of herself and the volunteers, "We tried to be realistic about what we could still do." They settled for delivering curbside orders on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Gradually, as the pandemic lessened, they opened the store on those days, and now they are open seven days a week.

"It's exciting," she said of the expanded hours. "When I started here, we were never open on Sundays."

Flory said she had six paid employees until two of them recently left for other adventures.

In addition, she said the co-op also a group of active members and seven board members, who all serve as volunteers.

"We really would not be here without our volunteers," she emphasized.

Flory, who is a member of the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority and a frequent participant in the city's First Friday events, wants to increase the co-op's presence in the community.

She'd like to work more with local artists and hopes to establish a community herb garden in one of the front windows and a seating area in the other.

Northwind Foods Co-op is located at 116 S. Suffolk

St. It is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit

northwindcoop.org or call 906-932-3547.



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

ASSESSING THE produce section of the Northwind Natural Foods Co-op on Feb. 17 are, from left, Store Manager Cathy Flory and Cashier Carly Rusch. The co-op has been undergoing extensive remodeling since last summer.

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