



THE VOICE OF THE CHAIN OF LAKES

The Misquah Pilot-Independent

“Where the coffee’s hot, the lakes are cold, and all the children are above average.” — Serving the Chain since 1897.

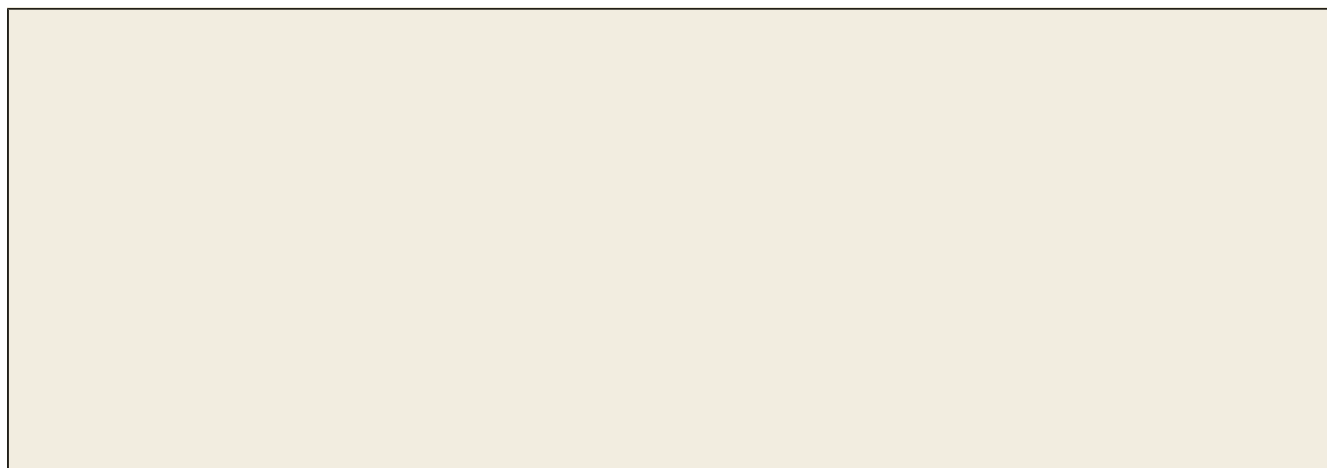
FROM THE ARCHIVE You are reading No. 25, June 23, 2026. Return to this week’s edition →

COMMUNITY

Misquah Holds Its First Pride Parade Behind a Twelve-Foot Rainbow Walleye, and the Whole Town Turns Out

An estimated nine hundred people lined Main Street Saturday for the Rainbow Walleye Parade. The thirty-seven neighbors it honored rode a flatbed behind a plywood fish Walt Sorensen built in his pole barn.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026





MAIN STREET FILLS FOR SATURDAY'S FIRST RAINBOW WALLEYE PARADE, THE TWELVE-FOOT FISH LEADING THE WAY DOWN THE ONLY STREET THE TOWN HAS. — PILOT-INDEPENDENT PHOTO

Main Street closed for ninety minutes Saturday afternoon for the first Rainbow Walleye Parade, a Pride observance that drew an estimated nine hundred people to a town of 3,914 and required, at its center, a twelve-foot plywood walleye painted end to end in the colors of the rainbow and built, over three weekends, in a pole barn.

The day began, as many things in Misquah do, with a committee and a question. Renée Fontaine, who

manages the Loon Ridge resort and grew up two towns over, convened a planning group of eleven last winter around a single proposition: that Misquah's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender residents deserved a Pride celebration, and that it ought to look like Misquah and nowhere else. "We weren't going to borrow somebody else's parade," Fontaine said. "We were going to do Pride the way we do everything around here

— with a fish, a flatbed, and a potluck after.”

The fish came first. Walt Sorensen, who runs the hardware store, offered his pole barn and a discount on sheet goods, and over three weekends a rotating crew cut, screwed, and painted a twelve-foot walleye out of exterior plywood —

“the same way you’d build a parade float or a duck blind,” Sorensen said, “just bigger, and a good deal more colorful.” It rode the length of Main on a hay trailer behind Vern Dahlquist’s Ford, trailing crepe paper and a hand-lettered banner that read ALL WELCOME ON THE CHAIN.

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NEWS IN THIS EDITION



NORTHWOODS



A Bear Swims to Loon Island, Walks Through a Teen Bonfire, and Leaves With the Hot Dogs

A black bear made the four-hundred-yard crossing Saturday night, ate everything edible, and withdrew. The teenagers handled it better than their parents have since.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

Fourth of July Committee Confirms the Route, Which Is the Same Route; Adds a Parade on the Water

Lineup at nine, fire truck last, fireworks over Big Pelican at dusk — and, new this year, a boat parade the committee has been planning since December. The rainbow walleye is invited back if Walt can get it out of the barn.



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CITY COUNCIL

Council Votes to Form a Subcommittee to Staff the Stop-Sign Subcommittee; the Post Turns 69

The body that does not yet exist will now be assembled by a body that also does not yet exist. The bare post at Birch and Second enters its sixty-ninth summer unadorned.

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NORTHWOODS

Bear Defeats the Bungee in Under Four Minutes; the Daybreak Concedes the Dumpster

The café's engineering held for nine days. The bear required four minutes and looked, witnesses said, faintly insulted it had taken that long.

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MAIN STREET

Tim's New Minnow Tank Springs a Leak; the Minnows Are “Honestly Thriving”

The celebrated new tank developed a slow, determined leak by Monday, headed for the beer cooler. Two buckets have been deployed, and a third is on standby.

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CITY HALL

Hydrant Flushing's Long Tail: the Clerk Fields the Eleventh Brown-Water Call

Two weeks after the flushing ended, the calls continue — eight past the clerk's prediction, every one from a house she'd already explained it to, in writing.

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AROUND TOWN

Population Sign Holds at 3,914; Earl Repaints the 4 Twice, on Principle

No births and, this week, two deaths in the count window — so the pressman touched up the sign anyway, then touched it up again, against the day it has to change.

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LAKEs & OUTDOORS IN THIS EDITION



TIM'S FISHING REPORT



Tim's Report: Honest at Dusk, Dishonest at Noon; the Solstice Gives Light, Not Cooperation

Surface temps crossed seventy, the longest day delivered the least help, and the crappies have moved to the cribs the Sportsmen's Club still won't map.

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OUTDOORS

Both Chicks Have Hatched and Are Riding Low; the Loon Survey Resumes Its Pleading, Louder

The Big Pelican pair is a family of four. Greta Solberg, 12, whose project the library again certifies as “actually science,” has a rule about your wake.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026



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ON THE CHAIN

Vern's Walleye Reaches Wall-Hanger Status by Tuesday; Eunice Has the Receipts

The fish grew six inches between Saturday's landing and Tuesday's retelling. The cooler ticket, produced in evidence, disagrees.

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OUTDOORS



Mud Lake Association Reports Conditions “Underrated as Ever” to an Audience of Two

The annual report finds the weedy lake exactly as good as it has always quietly been. The renaming question was raised, tabled, and secretly enjoyed.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026

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LOON RIDGE

Loon Ridge Holds the Solstice Scramble; the Geese Take the Ninth, As Is Their Custom

The resort’s longest-day tournament went off under perfect skies and stiffening goose resistance. A resident flock held the green most of the afternoon.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026



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SPORTS IN THIS EDITION



LEGION BASEBALL

Post 162 Splits a Doubleheader Under the Most Light Memorial Field Has Seen Since the Obama Administration

Two working towers, a quiet opener, and a 7–3 nightcap behind a complete game from Cody Lindholm, who credited the wind for dying.

BY CURT “SONNY” HALVORSEN, SPORTS • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026

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REC SOFTBALL

Pike Summer Softball Stays Unbeaten at 4–0; the Orange-Slice Budget Is Formally Increased

A dominant start, and a between-innings supply crisis the parents' committee has now moved, by vote, to resolve.

BY CURT "SONNY" HALVORSEN, SPORTS • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026

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REC SOFTBALL

Pike Improve to 5–0; First Orange-Slice Surplus on Record

The summer team stayed perfect — and, for the first time in living memory, finished a game with oranges to spare.

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LEGION BASEBALL



Legion's Third Light Tower Flickers for Eleven Seconds, Then Reconsiders

During Friday's warm-ups, Memorial Field briefly had three working towers. Hopes were raised, and then, as is customary, lowered.

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SCHOOLS IN THIS EDITION



LIBRARY



Summer Reading Hits Full Stride; Solberg Clears “Eagles” in Three Weeks, Aune Invents a Tier

With the program’s top animal rank reached before the Fourth, the librarian is improvising upward, name pending, for the second summer running.

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SUMMER REC

Summer Rec Sign-Ups Open at the Fire Hall; “General Supervised Outdoors” Returns

Tee-ball, morning swim lessons at the public landing, and an afternoon block named with the honesty of a program that knows its town.

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LIBRARY

Library’s New “Loons” Tier Lasts Four Days; Solberg Eyes the Ceiling Again

Ruth Aune’s hastily invented top rank fell by Saturday. The librarian is now improvising a tier she refuses to name in advance.

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SUMMER REC

Rec Swim Lessons Shift to Mornings After Bear Day; Attendance Climbs

The program moved its lake sessions earlier to dodge the heat and the occasional bear. Turnout improved on both counts.



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OPINION COLUMNS & EDITORIALS



OUR VIEW

Our View: Thirty-Seven Neighbors, and a Parade Worth Having

They are not strangers. They are the kids we taught and the neighbors we wave to, and on Saturday the town showed up.

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter: On the Proper Wave, and on Showing Up

The alderman writes regarding boat etiquette and, briefly and against his stated intentions, regarding Saturday.

BY LLOYD BUNDE, LAKESIDE • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter: Slow Down for the Chicks

A reader writes on wakes, loons, and the things that cannot dive away.

BY DOROTHY KNUTSON, MUD LAKE ASSOCIATION • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026

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THE KLATCH

The Klatch: The Longest Day, a Parade Finally Had, and Still More Rhubarb

From the corner table: the potluck that ran out of bars at 6:40, the solstice light worth saving for February, and the patch behind the house that will not quit.

BY EUNICE DAHLQUIST, THE KLATCH & LIVING • MISQUAH • JUNE 23, 2026

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OBITUARIES IN THIS EDITION





OBITUARY

Gordon “Gordy” Lindstrom, 86

Mechanic, Legionnaire, and the man who kept half the Chain’s outboards running for thirty-five years.

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OBITUARY

Lorraine Vekved, 90

First Lutheran’s organist for fifty-one years, and the reason the congregation never once sang a hymn too fast.

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