



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.

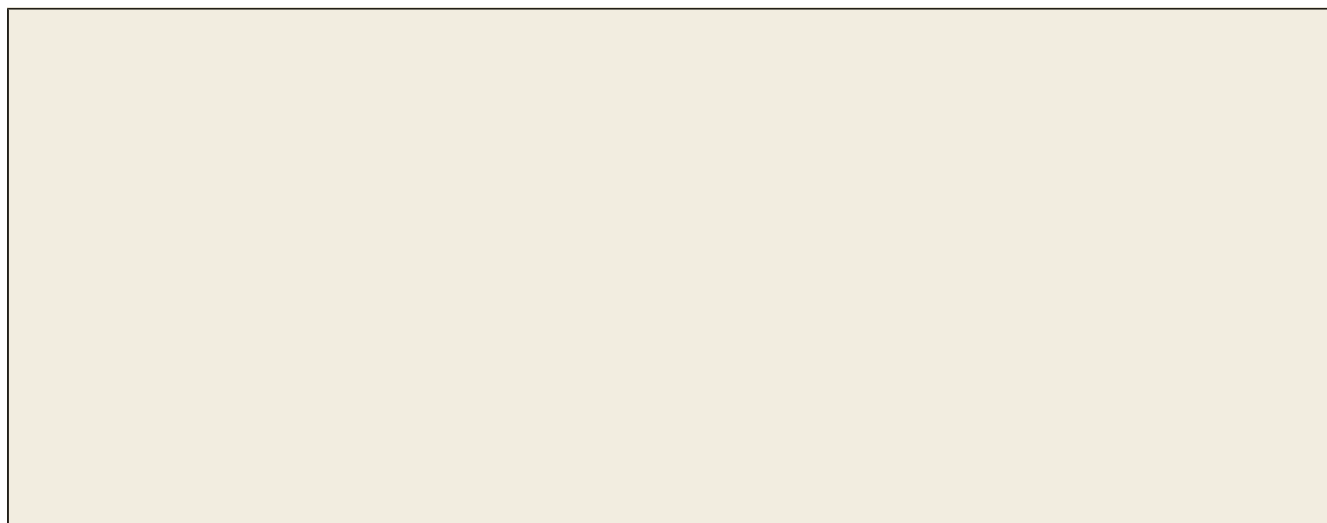
FROM THE ARCHIVE You are reading No. 26, June 30, 2026. Return to this week’s edition →

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Misquah Puts a Parade on the Water; the First Fourth of July Flotilla Sets Out Saturday

Twenty-six boats have registered for the inaugural lap of Big Pelican — a tradition the town invented in a church basement last December and has been arguing about, gently, ever since.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026





BOATS GATHER AND DECORATE OFF THE LOON LAKE LANDING AHEAD OF SATURDAY'S FIRST FOURTH OF JULY FLOTILLA — PILOT-INDEPENDENT PHOTO

The idea for a boat parade was born in the basement of First Lutheran on the second Tuesday of last December, before eleven people, a thermos of coffee, and one question that took the better part of two hours to settle: whether a town that already has a parade needs another.

It decided, narrowly, that it does. At noon on Saturday the first Misquah Fourth of July Boat Parade will push off from the Loon Lake public landing and make a slow,

counterclockwise lap of Big Pelican — twenty-six boats registered as of Monday, from a twenty-eight-foot pontoon down to a single aluminum canoe, in what the celebration committee is calling, without quite defining its terms, “the biggest thing to happen on the Chain that didn’t involve a fire.”

The land parade has gone up Main Street every Fourth since 1946, and nobody proposed replacing it; it will still step off at 9 a.m., north on Main,

the one way the one street goes. The water parade is an addition, and the case for it, as committee chair Sandy Bergstrom put it, was less spectacle than arithmetic. “Half the town’s on

the lake on the Fourth anyway,” she said. “We figured they might as well point the same direction for twenty minutes.”

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NEWS IN THIS EDITION



AROUND TOWN

One Bet, Thirty-Five Years, and a Stain That Won't Come Off Main Street

Al Lundquist, 58, set out Friday night to recreate a run he made in 1991. He made it about forty yards. The sidewalk outside the Northern Tap has the rest of the story.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026



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NORTHWOODS

The Bear Got Into the Walk-In; It Took the Imported Cheese and Left a Latch Behind

A black bear spent a productive forty minutes in the Northern Tap's cooler Saturday night. The DNR has recommended the fix for three years. Misquah installed it Monday morning.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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CITY COUNCIL

Eighteen Houses, One Pasture, and the Most Crowded Room in Misquah Since the Lutefisk Vote

A developer from the Cities wants to build the largest subdivision in town history on the old Hagen pasture. Monday's meeting ran two hours and settled nothing — which several residents called the point.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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BUSINESS

A Brewery for the Creamery: the Building Empty Since 1987 Gets a Second Life in August

Annika and Jonas Holt will open the Chain's first taproom in the old Co-op creamery on Second Avenue. The tanks arrive next week, the license comes up July 7, and the flagship beer will be named for a lake — once they survive choosing which one.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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BUSINESS

The Hardest Line in Town Forms by the Landing as the Martinez Family Opens a Taco Truck

Three days in, the carnitas sell out by 6:40 and the salsa has converted Eunice Dahlquist, who reports she asked for the recipe and was, with great warmth, refused.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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AROUND TOWN

Methodists Vote to Repave the Lot; the Job Is \$19,000, a Memorial Gift, and a Long Time Coming

The congregation chose the asphalt over the furnace for one more year. The Lutherans, two blocks away, note that their lot is fine.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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AROUND TOWN

Two Up, None Down: the Sign Reads 3,916, and Earl Repaints a Digit Gladly

A daughter to the Sorensens, a son to the Ouellettes, born two days apart at the county hospital — and a week the obituaries page, for once, had nothing to take back.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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LAKES & OUTDOORS IN THIS EDITION





ON THE CHAIN

A Four-Year-Old, a Fifty-One-Inch Muskie, and a Story Whitefish Lake Will Tell for Years

Wyatt Knutson's fish came two inches shy of the lake record and well past the point of belief. His father concedes he had "one hand on the boy the whole time."

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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TIM'S FISHING REPORT

Tim's Report: Fish Early, Wave Often, and Give the Whole Lake to the Flotilla Saturday

Seventy-two-degree water, walleye sulking deep by midmorning, and the heaviest boat traffic of the year on the way. Plus a four-year-old you've all heard about by now.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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OUTDOORS

The Chicks Are Growing, but They Still Can't Dive; the Loon Survey Issues Its Loudest Plea Yet

Three weeks old and riding lower than the boat traffic about to arrive, the two Big Pelican chicks have Greta Solberg asking the entire Fourth of July to slow down.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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SPORTS IN THIS EDITION





REC SOFTBALL

Three Grand Slams, Three Sisters, One Afternoon: The Vekved Triplets Make the Scorebook Surrender

Maren, Greta, and Liv Vekved cleared the bases in three consecutive innings Wednesday as the Pike improved to 7-0. Their coach has a prediction, and now he has witnesses.

BY CURT "SONNY" HALVORSEN, SPORTS • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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LEGION BASEBALL

Post 162 Beats Brainerd, Then Stands Down for the Holiday; the Third Tower Stands Down Indefinitely

A 5–2 win on a complete game, a weekend off the players will not admit they need, and a lighting estimate the committee has been studying with the focus of men who have read the estimate.

BY CURT “SONNY” HALVORSEN, SPORTS • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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SCHOOLS IN THIS EDITION





LIBRARY

The Library Builds Three New Rungs — Moose, Pike, Elk — Mostly to Stay Ahead of One Fourth-Grader

Ruth Aune has stopped improvising. The reading ladder is laminated now, the tiers run up to Elk, and what lies above Elk she declines, “on the advice of experience,” to say.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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SCHOOLS

Three New Teachers for Fall, and Two of Them Are Coming Home

A science teacher from away, plus a band director and an elementary teacher who graduated from the Pike — which Superintendent Dale Brandt calls “the entire point.”

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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COUNTY FAIR

The Fair Is Six Weeks Out, Which Means the Pumpkins Are Already at War

Entry books are out early this year. The new “lake crafts” category is undefined on purpose, and the giant-pumpkin rivalry remains, by tradition, a two-family cold war conducted entirely in the dark.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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OPINION COLUMNS & EDITORIALS





OUR VIEW

Our View: Leave the Stain

The city council will soon decide what to do about the mark on Main Street. We say: not much, and not yet.

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

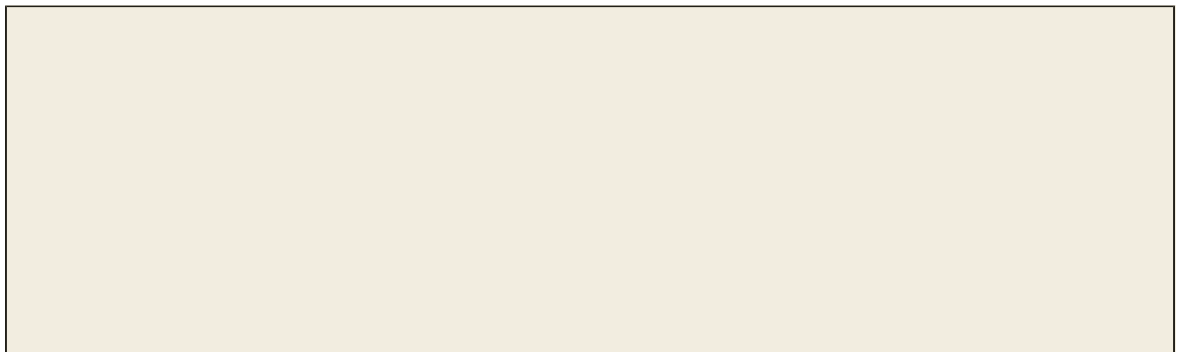
Letter to the Editor: Go Slow on the Houses

A longtime resident writes regarding the proposed development on the Hagen pasture, and growth in general.

BY HAROLD AAS, MISQUAH • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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LIVING FEATURES





THE KLATCH

The Klatch: A Boat Parade, Two Babies, and a Salsa I Could Not Talk My Way Into

From the corner table: what to bring to the lake Saturday, a salsa worth surrendering to, and a week worth banking against the winter.

BY EUNICE DAHLQUIST, THE KLATCH & LIVING • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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LIVING • IN THE PARK

Movie in the Park Opens Friday With “The Great Outdoors”; Mosquitoes Confirmed

The rec department’s four-Friday series begins at dusk against the side of the warming house. Popcorn is a dollar, the screen is a wall, and the seating is whatever you carry in.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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LIVING

Lions Club's Outdoor Bingo Lasts Three Games Before the Sky Opens

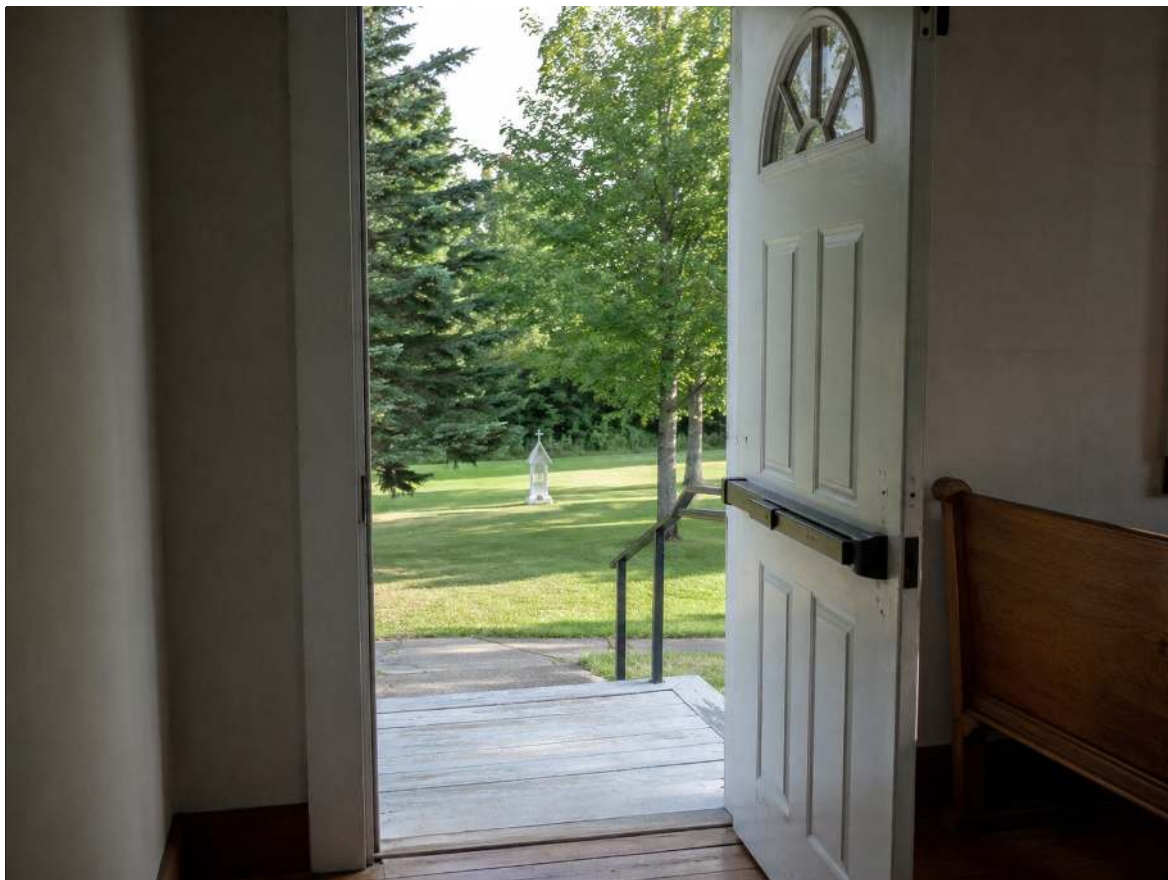
An experiment in fresh-air bingo met a fast-moving thunderstorm. The club will retreat indoors, where, several members noted, bingo has always quietly belonged.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JUNE 30, 2026

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OBITUARIES IN THIS EDITION





OBITUARIES

No Obituaries This Week

For the first time in longer than the staff can readily document, the Pilot-Independent has no deaths to report.

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