



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.

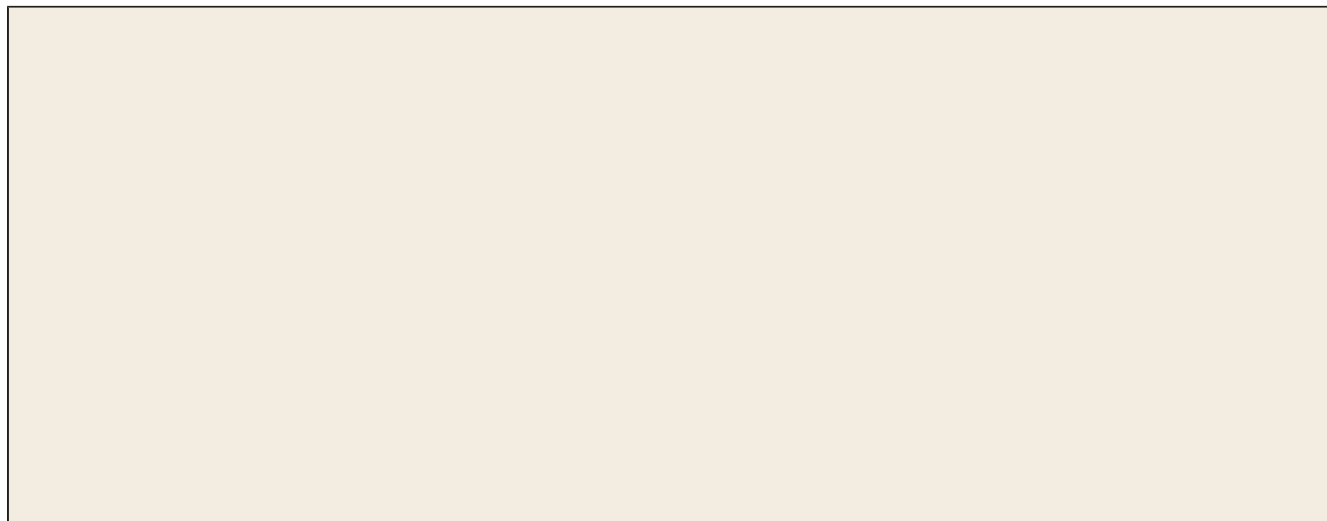
FROM THE ARCHIVE You are reading No. 27, July 7, 2026. Return to this week’s edition →

INDEPENDENCE DAY

First “Official” Boat Parade Replaces the Conga Line; Big Pelican Survives the Formality

For decades the Fourth’s flotilla was a spontaneous thing you joined when you felt like it and left when your cooler ran dry. Saturday it had a route, a start time, and a grand marshal. The lake endured.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026





GRAND MARSHAL LLOYD BUNDE LEADS THE FIRST OFFICIAL BOAT PARADE ONTO BIG PELICAN AT NOON SATURDAY — TWENTY-FOUR BOATS, NO WAKE, NO JUDGING. — PILOT-INDEPENDENT PHOTO

For as long as anyone can document, the Fourth of July on Big Pelican has ended with boats — pontoons, fishing rigs, the occasional defiant canoe — drifting out from the landings at dusk in a loose, leaderless procession that formed when people felt like forming it and dissolved when their coolers ran dry. On Saturday, for the first time, that procession had a name, a route, a start time, and a grand marshal, and

the town is still deciding how it feels about that.

The first official Misquah Fourth of July Boat Parade launched from the Loon Lake public landing at noon, some two dozen craft strong, and made a slow no-wake lap of Big Pelican before the evening's fireworks — a far more orderly affair than the “willy-nilly conga line,” as one longtime participant fondly called its predecessor, that the

town has staged by happy accident every summer for decades.

The formalization was the work of a committee convened last December in the First Lutheran basement, and it arrived with the full apparatus of formality: a lineup time (11:30), a designated lead boat, a no-wake rule

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enforced more by the loons than by anyone official, and — the detail that generated the most basement debate — a grand marshal, a role filled this year by Alderman Lloyd Bunde, the town's recognized authority on the proper way to wave from a boat.

NEWS IN THIS EDITION



OUTDOORS



Bull Moose Turns Up on Little Pelican, Halting Traffic and Settling a Question

A young bull, rare this far south, spent two days on the quieter of the Pelicans. Even the moose, the Mud Lake faction noted with satisfaction, skipped the fancy lake.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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AROUND TOWN

Aune Flown to Abbott During the Fourth; the Library Carries On Under Tollefson

The longtime children's librarian was taken ill over the holiday weekend and is recovering in the Cities. Summer reading continues, in newer and slightly overwhelmed hands.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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BUSINESS

New Bank President Arrives From Edina, Wanting to Know Your Name

Yvette Boone left commercial lending in the Cities to run First State Bank of Misquah, succeeding Howard Lindgren after thirty-one years. She came, she says, on purpose.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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CITY COUNCIL

Council Faces a Crowded Tuesday: Brewery License, Eighteen Houses, and the Stain

The July 7 meeting takes up the most consequential agenda in months — and, among lighter business, what to do about the mark Al Lundquist left on Main Street.

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HERITAGE

The Peterson Barn, 125 Years Standing, Gets a New Roof

One of the oldest structures on the Chain — a landmark older than the state's memory of it — will see another generation, thanks to a crew, a family, and a sum nobody quite wants to print.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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BUSINESS

Brewery Nears Opening in the Old Creamery — Where the Pilot's Press Almost Stood

Annika and Jonas Holt will pour the Chain's first pints in the building that once made the town's butter. The Pilot once eyed the same back hall for its press, and never quite moved in.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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LOOKING AHEAD

County Fair Entries Close August 1; the Pumpkin Rivalry Stirs Again

Entry books are out, the second-week-of-August dates are set, and the Bjornstads and Aakres are once more “coming along nicely,” which longtime fairgoers know to translate as: war.

BY MARVELLA TOLLEFSON, EDITOR & CHIEF TYPESETTER • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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LAKES & OUTDOORS IN THIS EDITION





OUTDOORS

Loon Chicks Ride Out Their First Fourth; the No-Wake Rule Held

The two Big Pelican chicks came through the holiday's boat traffic intact — helped, for once, by a parade that was made to slow down on purpose.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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FISHING REPORT

Midsummer Bite Settles In; Walleye Deep, Panfish Shallow, Everyone Content

The post-Fourth lull is honest fishing weather. Tim's report: go early, go deep, and for one month, let the kids have the dock.

BY TIM BREVIK, FISHING & WEATHER • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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SPORTS IN THIS EDITION





LEGION BASEBALL

Post 162 at Midseason: Better Than They Were, and Still a Light Short

The Legion nine has climbed to .500 as the bats come around — playing, as ever, beneath the one tower that still works.

BY CURT “SONNY” HALVORSEN, SPORTS • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

Kids' Races Run on Schedule; Every Child Placed, Officially

The Fourth's footraces at the school went off without a hitch, producing the usual handful of genuine winners and the usual diplomatic finishes for everyone else.

BY CURT "SONNY" HALVORSEN, SPORTS • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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OPINION COLUMNS & EDITORIALS





OUR VIEW • EDITORIAL

Our View: On Making the Spontaneous Official

The town gave its accidental boat parade a route, a start time, and a grand marshal. We are of two minds about it, which on a question like this is the only honest number.

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor: In Defense of Judging

A reader takes issue with the boat parade's no-judging policy — on principle, she maintains, and not for any reason involving produce.

BY C. BJORNSTAD, RURAL MISQUAH • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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LIVING FEATURES





THE KLATCH • FROM EUNICE

The Fourth of July Picnic, and the Potato Salad That Sat Too Long

Eunice on the one meal of the year the whole town eats together; the perils of mayonnaise in the July sun, and the quiet diplomacy of the shared table.

BY EUNICE DAHLQUIST, THE KLATCH & LIVING • MISQUAH • JULY 7, 2026

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