Disabled vets enjoy a week of fishing

By Kyle Ocker
Daily Iowegian

RATHBUN LAKE — The Rathbun Marina off the Honey Creek Resort shoreline was a busy spot in May. Nearly 60 disabled veterans descended upon the lake, reeling in hundreds of fish.

It’s an opportunity many don’t normally get. And it’s thanks to the work of an Iowa City-based organization, but also a partnership with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Honey Creek Resort.

Kirt Sickles, director of Castaway Disabilities, said the event first began 17 years ago when the organization sponsored a fishing trip to a Minnesota lake. Sickles works full-time with the Iowa City Veterans Administration Health Care System.

Around two years ago, he got together with Iowa DNR and the idea of holding the event at Rathbun Lake came about. It ended up being a perfect fit.

The marina is much more sturdy, and thus more handicap-friendly, for one. But the complex offering at Honey Creek Resort made it a perfect match.

“They offered this place to us,” Sickles said. “Came down looked at the facilities and thought, ‘Wow.’ It’s nice, a very safe environment. It made it a no-brainer for us.”

The fishing at Rathbun Lake has been more than adequate for the event, as well.

“The fishing is just great here,” Karen Fynaardt, executive officer to the director of the Iowa DNR, said. “They’ve had
This year’s event brought 59 veterans, 32 caregivers and 36 staff to the lake. Besides assisting with the venue in general, the DNR has about 10-14 volunteers at a time to assist on site during the week.

The DNR also helps on the docks and in the boats, as well as filleting the fish so the veterans can take them home with them.

Castaway Disabilities is a regional charity that fundraises year-round for the week-long fishing trip. Sickles said they receive support from Disabled American Veterans Chapters 6 and 53, and the Iowa City Eagles Club.

Veterans attending the week-long fishing trip at Iowa’s second largest lake represented South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa.

The veterans traveled to the resort on Sunday and began fishing Monday. Friday was the so-called competition day, where there are competitions for biggest fish, most fish, among others. The group held a closing assembly dinner Friday night to end the week.

"It’s all about having fun," Sickles said. "Opening doors for vets that have been closed for years and years. You see a vet that's wheelchair-bound and you see them in the bottom of a boat fishing ... that's some pretty neat stuff."

There is an application process for the veterans. Details can be found on the organization’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Castaway-Disabilities/.

Those interested in learning more or supporting the organization can contact Sickles at the Iowa City VA by phone at 319-358-5963.

Kyle Ocker can be reached at kocker@dailyiowegian.com or by calling the newsroom at 641-856-6336. Follow him on Twitter @Kyle_Ocker.
Rathbun Marina’s building bonanza continues

By Krystal Fowler
Daily Iowegian

RATHBUN LAKE - Over the past three years the Rathbun Marina has undergone massive changes and renovations and there are no plans to stop building this year, according to general manager Byron Parker.

Parker said the marina will be working to complete a new swimming beach in the next few weeks and are also in the process of adding a shuffleboard area and shaded seating to their already constructed basketball court.

“We’re going to have a great big huge swim platform and some signage to keep boats away …,” said Parker. “We’ve got high hopes for that.”

The marina will also be continuing construction on a new 16-site campground they began constructing last year.

“All the dozer work … is done,” said Parker. “This summer we’re going to be building all the infrastructure for it, the water system and the electrical system.”

Those new amenities will join the other projects the marina has completed, several of which were finished since last fall. According to Parker, new roofs were put on the Lakeside Inn and the Yacht Club. The inn also got new paint in each room and more upgrades outside, including a brand new grilling area and bocci ball court right outside the front doors.

The marina has also opened a new tent-only camping ground this summer with 15 available camp sites. The area was personally designed by Parker, who is a tent camper himself. The marina wanted the area to be tent-only to eliminate competition with RV campers.

“It will be really well-suited for tents,” said Parker. “One of the things we find here around Rathbun Lake is that most...
of the sites are RV sites that people can tent camp on, so the tent campers still have to deal with engines and head-lights…”

Almost 1,000 square feet of deck was newly built for the JA White Riverboat, which docks at the marina. The boat is one of the newer additions to the lake and has a waiting area, known as the Wheelhouse Room on the large deck outside the marina’s store that was completed last summer.

The marina has also installed several “No Wake Zone” buoys around the docks to help control the speed of boaters passing by.

One of the more noticeable changes will be two large flag poles that will be flying large American flags. Parker said the flags will be flown 24/7 as soon as the marina gets permanent lighting into place, which should be completed soon.

Parker said the marina is also going through changes to become certified as a “Clean Marina.” As part of the process they will be building two new recycling stations inside the marina, one near the exit and one closer to the marina store. Parker said construction will begin on the new system by the end of May.

Krystal Fowler can be reached at kfowler@dailyiowegian.com or by calling the newsroom at 641-856-6336. Follow her on Twitter @KFowler_Daily.
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Near-record walleye noted at Rathbun

RATHBUN LAKE — She might be offended if you called her a monster, or heavy for that matter. But a walleye located at Rathbun Lake in April wasn’t far from a state record.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources in April posted a photo from Rathbun Lake on their Facebook page. During broodstock collection, the DNR located a near-record walleye as part of their stock.

The fish weighed 12.74 pounds. That’s just shy of the 14.5-pound walleye caught in Polk County out of the Des Moines River in 1986.

The fish was measured at 28.8 inches.

The Facebook post from the DNR was shared over 1,600 times within a couple days. It’s the second time the DNR has caught and tagged this particular fish.

After eggs are collected, the DNR released the fish back into the waters of Rathbun Lake.

With little natural reproduction by walleye in Iowa, walleye populations rely heavily upon stockings. Walleyes are stocked throughout Iowa into natural lakes, interior rivers, flood control reservoirs and selected larger man-made lakes.

Iowa is one of the top producers of walleye fry (newly hatched fish) in the United States, second only to Minnesota. The DNR will release more than 151.5 million walleye fry this spring. While the majority of walleyes are stocked as fry, some are cultured in hatcheries and stocked at different sizes. More than 1.1 million two-inch walleyes are expected to be stocked into lakes, rivers, and streams across the state this summer. An additional 340,000, 6-to 9-inch fingerlings will be stocked in lakes later this fall.
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June 2018 Calendar of Events

Friday, June 1
Friday Festivus, from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. on the Molengraacht Canal in Pella. Drinks, munchies, cornhole and live music. Must be 21 and older to join the event.

Saturday, June 2
Blazing the Trails 5K Adventure Run & 5K Run/Walk, beginning at 8 a.m. Lake View Camp is located at 1797 on Highway T17 in Tracy. This is the sixth annual Blazing the Trails 5K, which fundraises to help send kids to summer camp. Registration and more information is available at www.lakeviewconference.com

Pella's Farmer's Market, from 9 a.m. to noon at the First Reformed Church parking lot, located at 603 Broadway St. in Pella.

Main Street Madness Sales, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. between the 100 and 300 blocks of Main Street in Ottumwa. Come downtown for all the madness and fun of the Canteen Eating Contest, music, food trucks and a Kid's Zone.

Friday, June 8
Southern Iowa Junk Jaunt, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. The junk jaunt will take you through Albia, Centerville and Corydon. For a list of the various stores included on the junk jaunt, go to http://thejunkparlor.com/southern-iowa-junk-jaunt-map.

Main Street Market on the Centerville Square from 3-7 p.m. Produce, art and concessions available.

Forest Scavenger Hunt, at 7 p.m. at Lake Red Rock's Howell Station Campground, located at 1081 198th Pl. in Pella.

Farmer's Market, at 9 a.m. at Lake Rathbun's Wheelhouse Deck.

Wednesday, June 6
Centerville's Farmer's Market, from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. on the Levee Hwy 5 South of Centerville Produce.

Pella's Farmer's Market, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the First Reformed Church parking lot, located at 603 Broadway St. in Pella.

Thursdays in Pella, from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. in Pella's Central Park. The theme is The Family Circus. Come for a circus tent, cotton candy, a bike rodeo, dunk tank, parachute, ring toss, crafts and a juggler.

Thursday, June 7
Pella's Farmer's Market, from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. at the First Reformed Church parking lot, located at 603 Broadway St. in Pella.

Pella's Farmer's Market, from 9 a.m. to noon at the First Reformed Church parking lot, located at 603 Broadway St. in Pella.

Memories of Cordova, at 1 p.m. at Lake Red Rock's Visitor Center, located at 1105 Highway T15 in Knoxville.

Friday, June 8
Southern Iowa Junk Jaunt, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. The junk jaunt will take you through Albia, Centerville and Corydon. For a list of the various stores included on the junk jaunt, go to http://thejunkparlor.com/southern-iowa-junk-jaunt-map.

Main Street Market on the Centerville Square from 3-7 p.m. Produce, art and concessions available.

Forest Scavenger Hunt, at 7 p.m. at Lake Red Rock's North Overlook Picnic Area, located at 1007 Highway T15 in Pella.

Saturday, June 9
Southern Iowa Junk Jaunt, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. The junk jaunt will take you through Albia, Centerville and Corydon. For a list of the various stores included on the junk jaunt, go to http://thejunkparlor.com/southern-iowa-junk-jaunt-map.

Wine & Fine Arts Festival, from 3 p.m.-8 p.m. on the Historic Courthouse Square in Centerville. Entertainment will be provided by local artists and bands. Other events include grape stomping, canvas painting and cooking demonstrations.

Sunday, June 10
Southern Iowa Junk Jaunt, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The junk jaunt will take you through Albia, Centerville and Corydon. For a list of the various stores included on the junk jaunt, go to http://thejunkparlor.com/southern-iowa-junk-jaunt-map.

Wednesday, June 13
Centerville's Farmer's Market, from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. on the Levee Hwy 5 South of Centerville Produce.

Thursday, June 14
Pella's Farmer's Market, from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. at the First Reformed Church parking lot, located at 603 Broadway St. in Pella.

Thursday's in Pella, from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. in Pella's Central Park. The theme is Game Night. Come for golf, balloons, giant inflatables, face painting, caricatures and bingo.
Red Rock worker captures wildlife photos around lake

By Ethan Goetz
Journal Express/Pella Chronicle

LAKE RED ROCK - Ken Howard had an interest in photography at a young age, but dropped it when life took him in a different direction. A job at the Red Rock Hydroelectric Project rekindled his love of the hobby.

Howard is an environmental safety consultant for the project. When he took the job, he didn’t know that he was going to see an abundance of wildlife around the lake.

“I have discovered that you guys have a really nice, diversified wildlife that I don’t get to see in Arizona,” Howard said.

Howard lives in the Phoenix metro area. When he saw the wildlife around the lake, he began taking photos with his iPhone. He quickly realized it wasn’t cutting it. He bought a Canon D70 camera and began photographing wildlife while conducting safety walks and while biking on trails around the lake on weekends.

“I can spend hours out there and not see anything,” Howard said. “Then there are times that I go out and there’s all kinds of activity.”

One day, while conducting a safety walk, he noticed movement in a patch of tall grass. He looked down and to his surprise, a family of foxes scurried down a hole.

Howard hunkered down in the grass with his camera pointed toward the hole and waited.

Photo by Ken Howard
Within minutes, a fox came out from the hollow looking around. Followed by another, then another.

“I just started popping pictures off,” Howard said.

He was able to capture a photo of the three foxes standing outside the burrow with the mother fox looking toward him.

This picture, among others, was getting noticed around the workplace. He was told that he should enter his photos into a contest.

In the summer of 2016, he broke down and submitted the fox photo and others to the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in Knoxville for the Marion County photo contest.

Howard called the ISU Extension and Outreach after the contest was over and was told that he won and could pick up his ribbon.

“I went up there and I found out not only did I win one (ribbon), I won first, second and third place in the wildlife division,” Howard said.

His first place photo featured two eagles. The scene was not easy to capture, he said.

Howard sat still for about two hours in 20-degree weather to get the photo. He was about ready to give up when one of the eagles took off and the other one quickly followed.

One eagle swooped down to catch a fish while the other swooped in to steal it. He was able to capture the eagles fighting for the fish.

The photo of the foxes took second place. The third place photo was a close-up of a pelican.

In 2017, he submitted more photos and won a couple more awards. He took first place for a photo that captured a Great Blue Heron with a fish in its mouth and second place for a close-up photo of a fox.

He also had a “Best of Show” picture that featured a section of bike trail around Lake Red Rock. That photo was also exhibited at the 2017 Iowa State Fair.

Howard said taking award-winning wildlife photos is not easy.

“Animals are not on our time schedule. They have their own time schedule,” Howard said. “It takes a lot of patience and persistence.”
Crane added at Red Rock hydroelectric dam

By Ethan Goetz
Journal Express/Pella Chronicle

The massive Red Rock Hydroelectric Project now includes a huge crane to help finish the five-year effort and provide future fixes.

Rails are built into the structure’s interior walls and columns to support the 140-ton bridge crane, said project supervisor Vern Cochran.

“That crane will stay there for the life of the plant,” Cochran said. “That’s going to be used to assemble the generators and the turbines for the initial assembly, and then for any maintenance items down the road.”

The project will be completed between July and September of 2019, Cochran said. A lot has been accomplished this year, and much more work lies ahead, he said.

The roof of the dam is nearly installed except for the area where the crane is being assembled, Cochran said.

The penstocks are nearly completed downstream. Penstocks are large tubes that bring water from the upstream level to the turbine in the powerhouse, he said. Walls and floors on all levels of the powerhouse are now complete, he said.

Summer goals include making the powerhouse roof watertight and installing its windows. Then workers will begin building and installing turbines inside, he said.

On the upstream side, work continues on the intake structure. It sits above the water level and is about 750 feet above sea level, Cochran said.

Workers will start installing equipment such as gates and tracks soon, he said.

Cochran wants drivers to be safe and alert when crossing the dam. Many trucks will enter and exit the worksite this summer, he said.

“It’s for public safety and our workers’ safety,” Cochran said.
Top 10 things to do around the lakes

1. Get Ice cream
   Try Kone Korner, 405 W Pleasant St. in Knoxville, De Scoop at 600 Main St. in Pella, or at Raymond’s Dairy Creme at 315 W. Maple St. in Centerville.

2. Catch a movie
   Check out the Grand Theater at 212 E. Robinson St. in Knoxville, the Pella Cinema at 708 Main St. in Pella, or at Cinema 4 at the Lake Center Mall on 18th Street in Centerville.

3. Take a dip
   Hop in to the Knoxville Recreation Center at 800 S. Park Lane, the Pella Aquatic Center at 602 E. 8th St. or at the Morgan E. Cline City Park pool at 712 W. Lane St. in Centerville.

4. Go go-karting
   Slide into Slideways Karting Center at 1230 Highway 14 N south of Knoxville.

5. Take a sip
   …at Nearwood Winery at 210 E. Robinson St. in Knoxville or the Wijn House at 615 Franklin St. in Pella.

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Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

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<th>OCEAN</th>
<th>SURF</th>
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<tr>
<td>CRABS</td>
<td>SAND</td>
<td>SWIMMING</td>
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<td>EXPLORE</td>
<td>SEA</td>
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<td>FISH</td>
<td>SHELLS</td>
<td>WAVES</td>
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</table>

T L F S L L E H S G E L
I W U W C G N A A X E A
D H I I L F N A P E E R
E U P M O D I L E H S O
F E P M C G O S Z C R C
W I W I X R Q R H G O X
J Q Z N E S F R U S A L
O H H G B G J F L H B D
C G R A R G P K R F C A
P K R Z J B U W P Q I P
V C C S N B N K U H Z Z
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### Get Scrambled
Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

A E D I S E S U F N

**Answer:** Scramble fun

### New Word
**EBB**
movement of the tide out to sea

### How they Say that in...

**ENGLISH:** Ocean

**SPANISH:** Océano

**ITALIAN:** Oceano

**FRENCH:** Océan

**GERMAN:** Meer

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### Get the Picture?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

**Answer:** Tuna fish
Grilled S’Mores Banana Boats
Recipe from Erica’s Sweet Tooth (www.ericasweettooth.com)

INGREDIENTS
4 medium bananas
1 cup chocolate chips
1 cup mini marshmallows
2 graham crackers, chopped
Vanilla ice cream, if desired

DIRECTIONS
Preheat the grill to medium high heat, or start your campfire. Slice each banana length-wise to make a deep slit in each one, without cutting all the way through the banana. Use your fingers to gently pry open the banana and stuff a layer of chocolate chips toward the bottom. Add another layer of mini marshmallows, followed by a few more chocolate chips. Repeat with the remaining bananas.
Use tinfoil to create a little stand for each banana so they sit flat on the grill. Gently place each banana onto the grill, place the cover down and allow them to cook for about five minutes. You want the peel to turn black, the chocolate chips to be melty and the marshmallows slightly golden brown.
Transfer the cooked bananas from their tinfoil stands to separate plates with tongs and top with chopped graham crackers and a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Sheepherder’s Breakfast
Recipe from Taste of Home (www.tasteofhome.com)

INGREDIENTS
¾ pound bacon strips, finely chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 package (30 oz.) frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed
8 large eggs
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS
In a large skillet, cook bacon and onion over medium heat until the bacon is crisp. Drain, reserving ¼ cup of drippings in the pan.
Stir in the hash browns. Cook, uncovered, over medium heat for 10 minutes or until the bottom is golden brown; turn potatoes. With the back of the spoon, make eight evenly spaced wells in the potato mixture. Break one egg into each well. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cook, covered, on low for 10 minutes or until eggs are set and potatoes are tender. Sprinkle with cheese; let stand until cheese is melted.

Pineapple Ginger Sparkler
Recipe from Tablespoon (www.tablespoon.com)

INGREDIENTS
4 cups of ginger ale, chilled
4 cups of pineapple juice, chilled
1 piece (2 inches) fresh ginger, sliced thin
1 orange, thinly sliced
½ cup fresh basil leaves, destemmed

DIRECTIONS
In a 64 ounce pitcher, combine the ginger ale and pineapple juice. Top with oranges, ginger and basil.
June 2018 Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 16
Pella's Farmer's Market, from 9 a.m. to noon at the First Reformed Church parking lot, located at 603 Broadway St. in Pella.

Farmer's Market, at 9 a.m. at Lake Rathbun's Wheelhouse Deck.

Family Fun Fest, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Chariton Swimming Pool, located at 900 N 14th St. in Chariton. Fun, food and games.

Pedal with Peace Tree, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Meet at Peace Tree Brewery, located at 107 W. Main St. in Knoxville, and kick off the day with craft beers. Depart for Pella and stop at The Cellar Peanut Pub. Pedal your way back to Knoxville. This is an approximately 30-mile round trip. You will purchase your own beverages and are encouraged to ride responsibly.

Let's Go Paddling, from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. at Lake Red Rock's Roberts Creek.

Monday, June 18
Main Street Market, from 3 p.m.-7 p.m at Centerville's Historic Courthouse Square. The market will sell local produce and art. Concessions provided.

Wednesday, June 20
Centerville's Farmer's Market, from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. on the Levee Hwy 5 South of Centerville Produce.

Thursday, June 21
Outdoor Adventurers (for kids 11-12 years old), from 9 a.m.-3p.m. at Lake Red Rock. Pre-registration is required. Call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for details at 641-628-8690.

Pella's Farmer's Market, from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. at the First Reformed Church parking lot, located at 603 Broadway St. in Pella.

Thursday's in Pella, from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. at the First Reformed Church parking lot, located at 603 Broadway St. in Pella.

Friday, June 22
Friday Night Thunder, from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. at Centerville's Historic Downtown Square. This is an event for motorcycle enthusiasts and folks who just want to enjoy the sights and sounds of live music, food, beer and motorcycles.

Late Nite Catechism, from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Pella Opera House, located at 611 Franklin St. in Pella. Loretta Young meets Carol Burnett. The program is part catechism class and part stand-up live routine. It's an interactive comedy and one of the longest running shows in Chicago and U.S. theater history.

Saturday, June 23
Pella's Farmer's Market, from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. at the First Reformed Church parking lot, located at 603 Broadway St. in Pella.

Pella's Farmer's Market, from 9 a.m. to noon at Lake Rathbun's Wheelhouse Deck.

Thursday's in Pella, from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. in Pella. The theme is Ag in the City. Come and see sheep sheering, machinery, floral competitions, games and balloons.

Saturday, June 30
Red Rock: The Town Beneath The Lake, at 1 p.m. at the Red Rock Visitor Center, located at 1105 Highway T15 in Knoxville.

Farmer's Market, at 9 a.m. at Lake Rathbun's Wheelhouse Deck.

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