

Fun plentiful at Lakeview and Countryview

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Last season, Pettit's Countryview opened with new renovations. The remodel added overflow seating and parking. The new renovation also creates more dining, banquet and entertainment capabilities. And Pettit's Countryview is making great use of them.

"People have been pretty happy with [the renovations]. We've been doing a lot of parties and things for fundraisers, graduations and benefits," said Jake Pettit, owner and manager of Lakeview Campground and Countryview. The expanded rooms are perfect for hosting banquets and other events, due to Countryview's now 6,000-square-foot facility.

Since renovations, the building now contains a 4,000-square-foot space with a raised stage in the center. That space is now being used as a dining area and banquet hall. Historically, Countryview was known for its banquet space.

Pettit's Countryview finished remodeling in October of 2016.

Live music and events are also scheduled to keep going this season.

One noteworthy event is the car and bike night on Wednesdays, which features live music and drink specials.

Food specials are also continuing. Pettit's Countryview is always a favorite for Friday and Saturday night dinners. Steak and fish fries are mainstays for the location.

More information can be viewed at the restaurant's website, www.countryviewbar.com, or call 608-436-0201.

Saving a cherished vacation spot

Jake Pettit bought the Countryview building after it went up for sale by the bank when it closed in June of 2016.

But the Pettit family goes way back with Lakeview Campground. Pettit grew up in Illinois and the family made treks up to the campsite going back to 1985.

"We liked it because it's on the water, and it was a friendly place," said Pettit.

Then in 2009 that campground was hit by the Recession and fell into bankruptcy. It closed and was sold at auction. To save their favored vacation spot, the Pettit family purchased the campground and renovations began right away.

The campground had



Live the dream on the beach at Lakeview. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)

new sewer and electric by 2010. The 90 RV stalls the campground boasts all have electricity.

"Then in 2012 we built a new bar and restaurant," said Pettit. "There was a small bar here. We built an entirely new structure." That would become Lakeview Bar & Grill that sits right in the campground. The facility went from 800-

square-feet to 2,300-square-feet. Lakeview Bar & Grill is open year-around, even when the campground is closed.

The Lakeview Bar & Grill fills up quickly during the summer months. So with the new parking and seating at Countryview, the goal is to have some of the extra space for the overflow. Both Lakeview and Countryview have live music.

The two restaurants are aimed to complement each other. Lakeview has a beach club feel to it, while Countryview is a larger, more traditional restaurant space that boasts comfort food like mac and cheese bowls that are served with a side of warm cornbread and honey.

"The food is totally different at the two places, nothing is repeated," said Pettit.

The renovated Countryview also boasts large-screen TVs for watching sports throughout an attached 2,000-square-foot bar area that has a sports motif.



A pirate stands guard at The Lakeview Bar & Grill. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)



The Lakeview Bar & Grill at Lakeview Campgrounds. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)



Inside the Lakeview Bar & Grill. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)



Enjoying the summer is what Lakeview Campgrounds is all about. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)



Countryview's sign along Highway 59, nicely summarizing what the establishment is all about. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)



Exterior of Countryview. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)