

R Lake Geneva REGIONAL NEWS

147th year, No. 19

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Thursday, May 9, 2019

lakegenevanews.net

\$1.50

Yerkes star-gazers eyeing move to Riviera

Lake Geneva tax dollars to help promote events formerly held at Williams Bay observatory

By Chris Schultz
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From the 1930s to the '50s, visitors headed to Lake Geneva's Riviera ballroom to see such stars as Frank Sinatra, Eartha Kitt and Nat King Cole.

This summer, guests can come to Lake Geneva to see the real stars fixed in the heavens above the Riviera.

Former staffers from Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay have announced plans for making the Riviera the site of star-gazing events of the same kind that took place for many years at

Inside

Changes within consulting firm overseeing Riviera renovation. See story on page 2A.

the observatory.

Yerkes closed last year, and Lake Geneva officials said they are glad to become hosts of the popular astronomical watch parties that once brought crowds of star-gazers to Williams Bay.

Mayor Tom Hartz said he would welcome scientific exploration as a new tour-

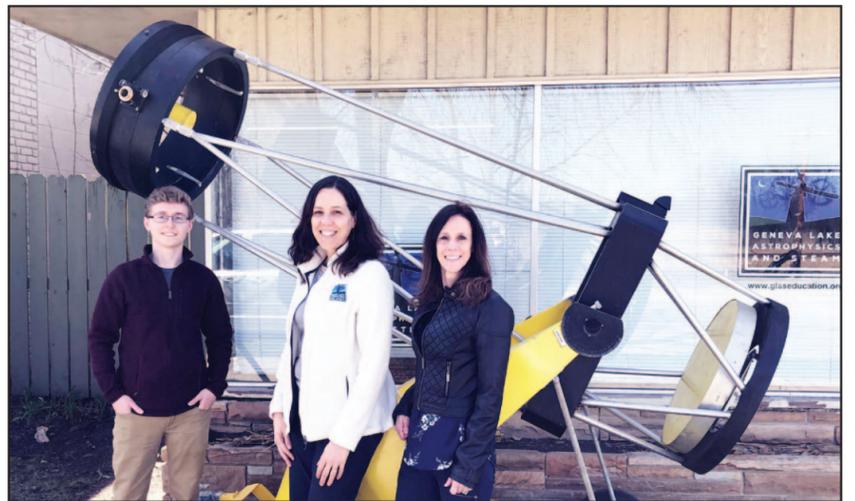
ism attraction in the city's downtown.

"I think it would be spectacular," Hartz said.

Situated on the Lake Geneva lakefront, the Riviera is a landmark center for tourism and special events that has overlooked Geneva Lake for more than 80 years.

The group bringing star-gazing events there has booked the Riviera's second-floor ballroom for May 30, June 27, July 25 and Aug. 29. The events will take place from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and will be open the public.

PLEASE SEE YERKES ON 5A



With a telescope that is heading to Lake Geneva's Riviera this summer are, from left, Adam McCullough, Kate Meredith and Deb Kaelbli of the Geneva Lake Astrophysics and STEAM organization working to revive programs from the shuttered Yerkes Observatory. (Contributed photo/Regional News)

Food truck rally



Robyn Smith, above, of Gypsy Soul Traveling Kitchen LLC of Lake Geneva calls out a customer's order, while Angelina Maholias, at right, of Little Havana Express of West Allis serves customers from inside her mobile eatery May 4 during the Elkhorn Food Truck Festival in downtown Elkhorn. (Photos by Scott Williams/Regional News)



Holiday Inn enters area hotel market in Elkhorn project

By Scott Williams
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ELKHORN — A new Holiday Inn hotel is on track to open its doors this summer as part of a development expected to bring new business to a high-profile spot along Interstate 43.

The four-story hotel being built near the intersection of I-43 and state Highway 67 will be accompanied by a nearby Loves Travel

Center and later perhaps a restaurant.

The arrival of Holiday Inn in Walworth County coincides with construction of a similarly-sized Fairfield Inn & Suites in Lake Geneva, also scheduled to open this summer.

Located about 10 miles apart, both hotels have contracted the same management company, First Hospitality Group, to operate

Nonprofit dental clinic aims to boost service

By Scott Williams
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ELKHORN — Open Arms Free Clinic has announced plans to open a dentist clinic that would allow the nonprofit health care provider to extend dental care to thousands of more people in Walworth County.

Expected to open by early next year, the new clinic in Elkhorn will provide free dental care to qualified adults and children who either have no insurance or are under-insured.

Open Arms has struck a



Dentist Bob Dillman, right, works on patient Jackie Spielman at Open Arms Free Clinic in Elkhorn. (Photo by Scott Williams/Regional News)



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