

THE LAKE COUNTY STAR

CARSON CITY-CRYSTAL
OVERTAKE BALDWIN

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Reeling in support



RELAXING ON THE WATER:

A Reel Recovery participant and volunteer fish while another participant sits on the bank of the river. Reel Recovery is a national organization that helps men through the cancer recovery process by introducing them to fly fishing.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KYLE LEPPEK • LAKE COUNTY STAR

WALHALLA – For those who love the outdoors, spending time in the northern region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula likely offers a tranquil feeling. That tranquility, however, proved to have a deeper significance for a group of men visiting the area earlier this month.

From Sept. 4 to 6, a group of men traveled to Walhalla and vacationed at Barothy Lodge to relax and fly fish the Pere Marquette River. During their stay, the men – many of whom had never been fly fishing – donned fishing vests and wadders and stepped into the river outside of their picturesque log cabin at the lodge.

Although the relaxation and introduction to a new hobby was beneficial for the group, the real benefits of the trip were taking place inside the cabin.

The group of men were part of a retreat with Reel Recovery, a national nonprofit organization that takes men who are recover-

ing from cancer on free fly-fishing retreats.

While the organization holds retreats throughout the country, retreats in Michigan are relatively new and haven't happened consistently every year. The organizers of the recent retreat hope to change that.

'Be Well! Fish On!'

The men's support group was founded in 2003 by a group of fly-fishermen who were inspired by their friend, Stewart "Stu" Brown's, battle with brain cancer,

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Economic development input sought

County to hold four hearings for ideas

By KYLE LEPPEK
LAKE COUNTY STAR

LAKE CO. – Lake County's unimpressive economic statistics – including its unemployment rate – are an unlikely surprise to any county resident.

While recent data reports show a bleak economic trend in Lake County, county commissioners hope their near year-long work will turn that around; and they want residents' input.

At the beginning of the year, members of the Lake County Board of Commissioners requested board Chair Karl Walls to form an economic development ad-hoc committee. The request was approved, and Commissioner Dan Sloan – who chairs the committee – and commissioners Barbara Stenger and Colleen Carrington-Atkins formed the committee.

Throughout 2013, the committee has eyed data and heard testimony from specialists as to how the county could attract new businesses and strength the existing ones.

"I think this is pretty common knowledge, but when you start looking at the statistics, Lake County is in a difficult position economically," Sloan said.

According to 2011 statistics

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