

# BUSINESS

9 TO 5

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community who are starting a business or changing an old one.  
Call the Journal at 285-7411

## New restaurant, new look

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

A lifetime desire to own a restaurant led a Littlefork man to pounce on the opportunity to buy one in downtown Littlefork.

Jake Juen has taken over the restaurant at 314 Main Street in Littlefork, formerly known as J C's Restaurant, and re-branded it as the Jackpine Savage Grill.

Owning a restaurant was something he's always wanted to do, Juen said, but it wasn't a part of his plan to do it right now. Maybe five to 10 years down the road he said, but when he saw the "For Sale" sign in the window of J C's Restaurant, he decided the time was now.

"The opportunity came up in my hometown so I decided to go for it," Juen said.

Before taking over the restaurant, Juen worked for Minnesota Department of Transportation highway department, he said, and had a little restaurant experience back in high school. Needless to say, it was "a big career change," he said.

Since taking over ownership of the restaurant April 1, Juen said he's made a few changes to the restaurant to

make it his own. With J C's Restaurant representing the initials of the former owner, he said he renamed it the Jackpine Savage Grill, after the town's mascot.

He's also made a few menu changes, he said, and plans on doing more once the charbroiler he ordered comes in. The back room of the restaurant will be converted to a sports bar-themed area with TVs, and the restaurant also accepts credit cards now, which it didn't before.

He kept the staff who were working at the restaurant before he bought it, he said, and brought in a few more to handle the extra hours the restaurant would be open. Starting Saturday, the Jackpine Savage Grill will be open 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Learning the ropes the past month has gone well, Juen said. It's been overwhelming learning everything, but business has been good, he said, and he's gotten great support from the community and help from his family.

The previous owner, Cleo Anderson, had been helping him with things like inventory, ordering, and payroll, he

said. She was initially going to help Juen for two months, he said, but he's running things all on his own now. Another previous owner, Dan Joyce, will also be cooking part-time for the Jackpine Savage Grill, he said.

As he gets the new equipment he needs, like the charbroiler, Juen said he'll implement more of his own ideas. He wants to be able to have the full menu he wants in place, he said, and at that point he'll plan a re-opening event.

When it comes to the menu, Juen said he'll separate himself by focusing on homemade, from-scratch recipes and dishes. He's kept the same pizza recipe that's been at the restaurant for a long time, he said, with homemade dough and sauce. Once he gets his charbroiler in, he'll have charbroiled steaks and other items available.

While his dream of owning a restaurant became a reality, Juen said the biggest thing he's noticed is the amount of time it takes to run a restaurant well.

"There is definitely more time involved with things like prep work," Juen said. "I'm here a lot more than just when the doors are open."

## State employment hits all-time high

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Thanks to Minnesota employers adding 2,600 jobs in March, the Minnesota labor force passed three million for the first time in state history.

According to a report from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, the March gains combined with revised losses of 1,100 jobs in February, brought job growth over the past year to 41,582. State job growth is 1.5 percent since March 2013, compared to U.S. job growth of 1.6 during the same period.

The state labor force passed the three million mark for the first time in state history in March, and the labor force participation rate climbed 0.1 percent to 70.6 percent. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.8 percent, well below the U.S. rate of 6.7 percent.

"Minnesota is adding jobs at a steady pace and now has added 33,000

more jobs than its previous all-time employment peak that occurred right before therecession," D E E D Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben said in a release. "After extreme winter weather and a slow start to the year, March gains indicate renewed strength in the economy and continued growth in the months to come."

In Koochiching County in March, there were 679 unemployed persons from a labor force of 6,550, for an unemployment rate of 10.4 percent. This compares to March 2013, when there was a labor force of 6,433 with 615 unemployed persons, for an unemployment rate of 9.6 percent.

Professional and business services led all sectors in job gains in March with 3,500 jobs. Construction gained 2,700 jobs,

financial activities added 1,200 jobs, government added 1,000 jobs, information gained 400 jobs, manufacturing added 200 jobs, and logging and mining added 100 jobs.

Leisure and hospitality led all sectors in job losses in March with 2,700 jobs. Transportation and utilities lost 2,300 jobs, education and health services lost 1,000 jobs, and other services lost 500 jobs.

Over the past year, education and health services led all sectors in job gains with 11,515 jobs. Construction added 9,163 jobs, manufacturing added 6,192 jobs, professional and business services gained 5,521 jobs, trade, transportation and utilities added 5,363 jobs, other services gained 2,417 jobs, leisure and hospitality added 1,303 jobs, information added 415 jobs, government gained 220 jobs, and logging and mining added 110 jobs.

With 637 jobs lost in the past year, financial activities was the only sector to lose jobs.



Katie Clark Sieben





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**BENEFIT DINNER:** Saturday, May 10th 3:00pm at The Junction

**BENEFIT DANCE:** 9:00pm - 1:00am with the Klemetsen Band! **50/50 DRAW!**

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All money raised will help with medical costs, travel expenses and personal expenses.  
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## Rainy Lake Rural Health Clinic OPEN HOUSE



Dr. Jay Knaak



Nancy Burmeister, FNP-BC




Brad Reiners, PA-C

Please join us in celebrating the opening of the Rainy Lake Rural Health Clinic, located at the RLHC hospital campus.

**Monday, May 5th**  
**4:30 pm - 6:00 pm**

- Tour our remodeled clinic rooms
- Meet the providers and nursing staff
- Learn more about services offered at RLHC hospital and clinic
- Staff will be available to answer questions regarding medical records, referrals, and payment options
- Refreshments will be served



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