

Local & State

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New store offers eats, mini golf

By EMILY CUTTS
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POULTNEY — On a warm Saturday afternoon, the tables and porch at Cones Point General Store & Otto's Green Mountain Adventure were filled.

A family with young children played a round of miniature golf while couples of all ages ate their lunches and scarfed down ice cream.

The brand-new, recently opened log cabin style general store was the vision of

Rosie Beckmann and her husband, Christopher. The couple, who own a house on the lake and hail from Long Island, bought the store in the fall of 2015 and intend to operate it year-round.

"We want to be the place where people come sit down and enjoy their families," she said. "We want to go back to family traditions — coming to the lake and enjoying lunch."

Located on Route 30 South, about four miles

from Main Street in Poultnery, the store has a warm atmosphere intended to attract both lake visitors and locals.

"We wanted it to feel like home," Beckmann said.

The store's general manager, Nancy Liberatore, said the goal was to not only be good neighbors, but also be of good service to the community.

Liberatore said since opening on June 4 business



ROBERT LAYMAN / STAFF PHOTO

Karie Hawthorne sets up the patio outside the Cones Point General Store Saturday morning.

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has been "really good" and the community reception has been "wonderful."

Neither Beckmann nor her husband have a background in the restaurant or general store business; she works in the legal field for an attorney support company and he is a technical writer. The couple came to the area after finding a real estate magazine in a diner, Beckmann said. They kept looking at it and finally came up one day, found a house and "fell in love," she said.

"That day, we put a deposit

on it," Beckmann said.

That quick decision-making continued. After complaining to a golf pro at the local club that there wasn't anything to do at night, they learned of the Cones Point store. They went to visit it, saw it was for sale and, as Beckmann put, "didn't wait."

"That same day put an offer," she said.

With a design on a napkin, Don Smith, of Don Smith Custom Builder, stepped in to make the their vision a reality.

Visitors can look into the full-sized kitchen, something Beckmann did intentionally, and watch their food being made fresh. The store offers a

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full menu with daily starts, speciality sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs, salads, hand-cut french fries and a small kids menu.

"Our vision was a lot of fresh products, partnering with local growers," Liberatore said.

Beckmann; working with Liberatore and Chef Paula Wax, helped to create the menu. Building on the work the women did with the menu is Chef Brian Rodenbeck.

Rodenbeck said that while the menu is set, it will evolve as he has begun looking into stuffed burgers, daily specials and smoking meats. Both Liberatore and Rodenbeck said the store was also looking into developing specialized picnic baskets and take-away sides for barbecues and cookouts.

In addition to the full kitchen, the store features many local products including hand-painted birdhouses,

Vermont raw honey and maple syrup products.

A renovation of the miniature golf course is planned for next year. Visitors to the course this year will play 16 holes instead of 18 as Otto, the taxidermy moose that hangs prominently in the store, accidentally dug up two holes, according to Liberatore.

The store will host a grand opening weekend July 1-4 featuring music and specials. The store is open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. More information as well as the full menu can be found on their website at www.ottosconespoint.com.

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