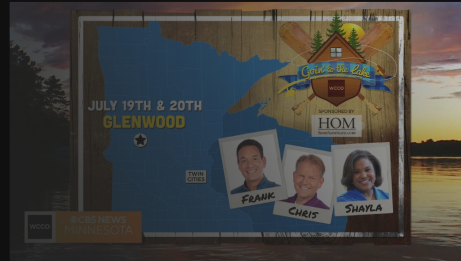
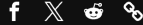


Goin' to the Lake: Glenwood



By Frank Vascellaro, Chris Shaffer, Shayla Reaves
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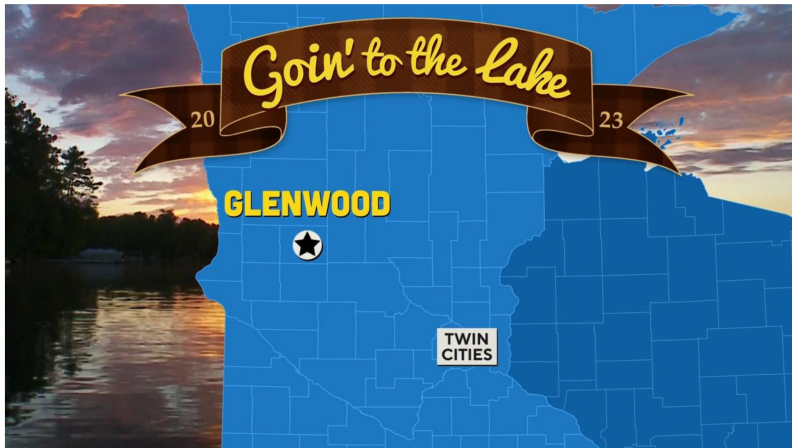
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Frank Vascellaro, Chris Shaffer and Shayla Reaves are Goin' to the Lake in Glenwood.

Follow their adventures below.



Business is booming at Rolling Forks Vineyards



If you've spent any time in the area you know there are a lot of rolling hills surrounding Lake Minnewaska. That landscape is the inspiration behind the name of a fairly new vineyard in Glenwood.

Rolling Forks Vineyards is just outside of town and, while the wine might get you in the door, it's the views that will keep you coming back for more.

"When we decided to get married, I wanted to move back to Glenwood and be a farmer it's always been a goal of mine," Joe Cihlar said. "We wanted to do something different so we found the property here to grow the grapes."

Joe and Melanie Cihlar broke ground in 2019, not long before COVID.

"We had to figure out how to make this work," Joe Cihlar said.

Now, four years later, business is booming ... and so are the grapes, despite the summer drought. The best thing for the grapes, it turns out, is sunlight, low humidity, and a small amount of water.

"What's really special about our winery specifically is we grow 95% of all the fruit that goes into our bottles," Melanie Cihlar said.

It's a labor of love for the Cihlar, who work hard to find that balance between home life and work life with three boys, ages 6, 9 and 11 that keep them on their toes.

"We've really tried pretty hard to keep a schedule so we can be at home at night with our boys, but we're fortunate to have great staff to go to baseball games, take a vacation, do those things together as well," Melanie Cihlar said.

A family ready to greet yours with a flight of wine and a bite to eat on the patio or an award-winning bottle in the tasting room. Their Marquette and La Crescent won double golds from the San Francisco Chronicle.

You can find their wines in more than 120 liquor stores across Minnesota. They also sell wine slushies at the vineyard along with local beers, a flavored hard seltzer that they make, and of course water and soda too. And they have a full menu of handmade sandwiches, appetizers, and pizzas.

BY WCCO STAFF

