

Who said nothing in life is FREE!?



Search GoErie.com Search Local Businesses

Search...

Search



73°
More Weather



Home News Sports Entertainment Lifestyle Opinion Business Multimedia Marketplace Blogs

Classifieds Cars Homes Jobs Dating



Join our social networks!

News » Local News

PUBLISHED: MAY 28, 2011 1:31 AM EST
UPDATED: MAY 28, 2011 2:17 AM EST

Wet spring put Erie boaters on hold

BY ROBB FREDERICK, Erie Times-News
robb.frederick@timesnews.com

Share 0

Email Print Font Size

ADVERTISEMENT

HAVE A GREAT
GARAGE SALE
WITH THE
Erie Times-News
AND GOERIE.COM

Single Family Sale....From \$20
Multi-Family Sale....From \$30

4 Lines for 3 Days in Print and Online

Cutting it kind of close, no?

For boaters, this is opening day: a bikini-topped, cooler-stocked, three-day summer jump-start.

The marinas, beset by wet spring weather, aren't ready. Most still have boats on blocks.

"We're a good two or three weeks behind where we should be," said Jim Manges, who owns Anchor Marine, at the foot of State Street. "The weather was against us."

His crew has worked seven days straight. They had 75 boats to put in the water.

The work usually begins in mid-April.

"We were ready," Manges said. "But nobody wanted their boats in the water because the weather was so sour."

Today they do.

"On rainy days, no one calls," said Tim Omniewski, the manager at Perry's Landing Marina, on Lawrence Pier. "On nice days, they line up here. The phone rings off the hook."

It takes some work to get a boat in the water. Hulls need to be painted. Splines need to be greased. Rails have to be sanded.

The marina hoist sets yachts in the water.

It's as busy as a town doctor, with time slots booked days in advance.

Omniewski had hoped to put 250 boats in the water by Thursday.

He had about 70 percent of them in.

"People understand," he said. "Last year, we were spoiled. We were painting in March, and we had all of April and May to get things done. This year, because of the rain, we're behind on a lot of it."

It isn't just him.

Ron Paule was in the parking lot Thursday, his boat, a 45-foot Excalibur, on jack stands. He was fixing a broken light. He had not yet been in the cabin.

"Not since last fall," he said. "I have no idea what it looks like in there."

His one-eyed dog, a black lab named Buddy, circled the ladder, dripping water. He had just swum in the harbor.

Paule, of Butler, was due on the boat hoist Friday morning. But he wasn't rushing.

"There's no sense getting cranked up about it," he said. "I'm 70. I'm in no hurry. If you're dead, you don't see any of it."

ROBB FREDERICK can be reached at 870-1733 or by e-mail.

Like

Be the first of your friends to like this.



Boats are put into Presque Isle Bay in Erie on May 26.
GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

Video



Mike Sekurak, equipment operator for Presque Isle State Park uses a marine travel lift to hoist large boats into Marina Lake at Presque Isle State Park on May 20. Sekurak said they are late getting boats in the water this season due to the rainy weather in April. He hopes to get all the boats in the water by Memorial Day weekend.

Headlines

- » Boat explodes at Erie Yacht Club; 1 dead
- » Hassam painting comparable to Erie's fails to sell at auction
- » Former Pa. Sen. Santorum to announce run for president
- » Former Erie resident's whereabouts still a mystery a year later
- » Erie native's roles as soldier, father merge in wartime
- » Millcreek considers challenge to census count
- » Ranks of Erie County neighborhood watches growing

ADVERTISEMENT