

Products and services aplenty this boating season

This season, a number of products and services are available for boaters at every level of experience.

Heading up the Boat Show and Sale is Grand Bay Marine, which promises a display of over 40 boats. Everything from Regal yachts to sportboats will be available, as well as 18 foot watercraft for the entry-level boater. Crest and Bentley pontoon boats will be on hand, too.

Grand Bay Marine owner Liz Carney said some boats can offer many features at once, such as Crownline's 220 and 240 EX models, featuring open seating, space for dining and bathroom facilities.

"We call them SUV-boats," Carney said. "They have all the features you would want in one boat."

European design features, such as seats that open out to form sunpads and lounge areas. While previously available, Carney said these craft have been increasingly fine-tuned to offer more options.

While the cost of boats can ward off even the most adventurous, Carney says they can be affordable with financing options and good interest rates. Unlike car loans, which often come to maturity quickly, Carney said it's not unusual for boat loans to extend up to 15 years.

"You can truly get into a boat for under \$300 a month," she said.

Outside of boat purchases, Carney finds that many are eager for the extras.

"The next thing they want to start working on is all the toys and accessories they can get," she said.

Standard inflatable toys, like inner tubes, have been revamped and stylized with design and color. Super Tubes and "Big Bertha" varieties can accommodate up to four adults. Others inflatable, towed by boats, can be ridden by several people at once. The ever-popular "Banana" model

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