

From My VIEW POINT

by Louis Hoglund,
Managing Editor



Don't forget the Census in these turbulent times

Accurate data of our Pelican lakes area is crucial

With all the distractions in the world today—like this little thing involving the Coronavirus—it's easy to understand how the extremely important 2020 Census is placed on the back burner.

Thankfully, a pair of Pelican Rapids area community activists have been doing what they can to promote Census responses in the area. This is especially important here, with our ethnic diversity, note Census advocates Dave and Joan Ellison.

The Ellison's have been keeping the Press up to date, and she reported the latest census response rate data (as of April 3) for the country, state, county and city:

- US- 43.9%
- MN - 53%
- Otter Tail - 39.7%
- Pelican Rapids - 40%

"I know people get frustrated by the Census reminders, but the census is so important for our future," wrote Joan in an email to the Press.

Folks should realize that, when filling out the form—there are assurances that your personal data will be private for 72 years, noted Ellison. Census data is critical information for redistricting of political jurisdictions. Accurate accounts are extremely important when it comes to government services, funding, economic development and, in general, providing an accurate snapshot of the community, the area and the demographics of the region.

The Ellisons note that if people in the greater Pelican area need help, they can get it in five languages.

- Somali: 218-251-8424
- Bosnian: 218-731-8973
- Spanish: 844-468-2020
- Vietnamese: 844-461-2020
- English: 844-330-2020

The forms only take about 10 minutes. If you send it in on your own, no one will have to come to your house to help you fill it out.



Pelican Pete joins the ranks; showing good sanitation practices

Pelican Pete, the World's Largest Pelican, is making a larger-than-life statement with his very own surgical mask.

The mask was created by Sandy Grothe.

The Pelican Rapids city crew helped install the safety device Monday, April 6.

Pelican Pete's mask is big show of teamwork as we struggle with the COVID-19 outbreak.

From the pen of the mayor... Pelican city emergency management team meeting on regular basis

By Brent Frazier, mayor
City of Pelican Rapids

Friends, we do trust that you and your families are having a good day.

A few procedures have changed for the City of Pelican Rapids in dealing with the COVID-19 since this last column of April 04, 2020.

The City of Pelican Rapids Emergency Management Team continues to meet on a weekly, if not more frequent basis to assess our current situation in dealing with the COVID-19.

Please keep in mind that these changes were put into place as a means to safeguard you and your family's health during this pandemic. We would like to assure you that these decisions are carefully thought out before they become our city operating procedures.

We do not want to take the stance as being alarmists during these trying times, but the stance to be proactive to do what we can do to help to protect our resident's health.

• A "City of Pelican Rapids Continuity of Operations Plan for Pandemic" was adopted by the city council at the Tuesday, March, 31, 2020 city council meeting.

• City Hall, Police Department and the Public Works Facilities are now closed to the public. All city hall staff will continue to monitor all telephone calls at 218.863.7076 during business hours, and they will continue to conduct their jobs from home.

• No public meetings will be allowed to be conducted at the City Hall Facility.

• Pelican Rapids City Council meetings are still slated to take place at City Hall on the second and last Tuesdays of each month at 5 p.m. A total (including city staff and council members) of only 10 people are allowed to be present in the council chambers at one time. One member of the public is allowed to sit in on the city council meetings and guests will be rotated in and out of the council chambers whereas they will still have the opportunity to make a presentation or speak to an agenda item of their concern.

• The public will be able to watch the city council meetings live by the technology of Zoom. An explanation of this process is available on the City of Pelican Rapids webpage.

• The city parks remain open for the physical activity of walking, but all playground equipment is now off limits. Plastic construction tape has been placed around the parks playground equipment and explanation signs have been placed near the playground equipment.

• All payments for utilities and other city services are still expected to be paid when due. Until further notice City Hall will not be accepting coins as a method of cash payments. We are advising our residents to pay in one of four available methods:

- Put payment in the City Hall drop box (NO COINS).

– If you place cash (NO COINS) in the drop box, make sure the amount covers the entire amount owed. Any overage will then be applied to your account. Place the TOP portion of your bill along with payment (cash or check) into the drop box in a sealed envelope.

– Pay with a credit or debit card number by calling City Hall.

– Pay by setting up a direct pay for utility payments.

– Pay by mail.

We are truly living in a time when schedules, methods and the processes of doing business continue to change. We are all in this together and together we will win this war against COVID-19.

As adults we understand the current world situation and why we are doing what we have never done before, all in the concept for the protection of our health and the health of others.

Children on the other hand may be somewhat confused and somewhat fearful of these enormous changes to our everyday life styles. If you are the parent of a child, please educate them in the reasoning of why we are conducting our lives in this current manner. Assure them that you are there for them to answer their questions and they shouldn't be afraid. This will truly help them to overcome their anxieties.

So please keep safe, healthy and practice your social distancing...

Pelican Valley made headlines for nursing home upgrades in 1970, 1995

Looking BACK

by Brenda Brand,
Columnist



100 years ago
April 8, 1920

• Village Council Notice

It is requested and desired by the Village Council that bicycle riding and running of express wagons on the sidewalks be stopped. Also playing of baseball on main street has to be stopped.

If these are not obeyed the council will be compelled to enact ordinances and enforce them.

• The lost art of walking

In these days of motor cars and flying machines, walking has become pretty much of a lost art, but the other day **A.L. Melby**, a well-known farmer living over toward Pelican Rapids, made the trip from his place to Barnesville on foot, a distance of sixteen miles.

He reached Barnesville toward evening and went by train from there the next morning on a business trip to Fargo.

Mr. Melby is a member of the committee that is soliciting stock subscriptions in the new creamery buildings to be put up at Pelican Rapids, and during the first few miles of his walk he called on a number of the farmers to interest them in the new creamery.

75 years ago
April 12, 1945

• Johnson Restaurant sold last week

The Johnson Restaurant, which has been operated by the Olie Johnson family for some thirty years, was sold last week to Mr. and Mrs. Chester Kohlar of Fergus Falls, who plan to take possession before the first of

May.

The Kohlars have two children and, as they bought the building also, they will reside on the second floor.

Pelican Rapids will heartily welcome the new family and hope they will have success, as well as feel at home in our thriving town.

• Lyle Hanson accidentally shot

Lyle Hanson, with other men, were out on the golf grounds Sunday forenoon and he had with him a .22 revolver, which some of the men were looking at. It was handed back to Lyle and while handling it the weapon was discharged. The bullet entered his left leg below the knee following the bone down a few inches.

Mr. Hanson was taken to a local hospital for attention and was later taken to a Fergus Falls hospital where the bullet was removed, and he has already returned home, but will be laid up for some time.

• World News Update

Millions of dollars worth of **gold bullion and currency** of Germany and other nations were discovered in a salt mine in Germany the first of the week. It is said there were 100 tons of gold.

There were also priceless paintings and other valuable possessions.

The mine in which the treasure was found is **2,100 feet underground** and its location was found because German women had made some remarks which caused the investigation.

50 years ago
April 9, 1970

• Rotarians tour new Nursing Home

Rotarians were guests of **Robert Suerth** at the Pelican Valley Nursing Home Tuesday. The Auxiliary served the noon meal at the new tables in the dining area.

Following the meal, **Suerth, Dr. Korda, Chauncey Martin and Russell Knutson** took groups of members on a tour of the new facilities which are to be open to residents as soon as state inspections and approval is granted.

In addition to rooms for 20 new residents, there is a physical therapy addition, a spacious occupational therapy room, new and improved kitchen facilities, including a planned delivery area for food and other supplies. A new standby power plant of greater capacity was also seen on the tour.

With spring weather cooperating, outdoor adjacent areas can be cleaned up and beautified, Suerth pointed out.

• Band carnival termed success

The annual band carnival was again a big success with about \$500 being taken in.

The spook hall, tele-note, cartoon show, fortune telling booth, basketball toss, weight guessing, dart board, bingo, and makeup booth were well attended. A new feature this year was the psychedelic hall which proved very popular with the younger set.

The fish pond ran dry early in the evening and about 70 cakes were won at the cake walk.

The lunch room with the theme, "**Old McDonald Had A Farm**" was a busy place as the ice cream servers, waitresses and helpers can testify.

Music parents wish to thank the public for

their continued support of this endeavor.

25 years ago
April 12, 1995

• Health Center planning upgrades at nursing home

Safety features and energy efficiency are the goals of a plan to upgrade the Pelican Valley Health Center's nursing home.

Still in the planning stage, the project will be the subject of public forums scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday at the nursing home and again at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 20. One thing that will be emphasized is that **much of the work is necessary to maintain licensure.**

Among major items in the plan to improve or add safety features are a sprinkler system, door alarms, and a revamping of the corridor which runs the length of the home.

Energy efficiency will be improved with the replacement of windows along the south side of the dining room, repair of resident room windows, and the addition of a vestibule at the east end of the building.

Architects are estimating that the work will cost \$271,000, but **Administrator Ed Terry** feels the figures being used are high.

• Gymnast Award Winners

Selected for post-season honors were PRHS gymnasts **Krissy Smith, Laura Knoll, and Shonda Nettetstad.**

Smith won "most valuable" and "hardest worker" honors, while Knoll was awarded the "team spirit" award and Nettetstad was named "most improved".

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