



Messenger file photo

St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers will perform in Memorial Park on Sunday after the Parade at 2 p.m.

# Kolacky Days are this weekend

The 88th annual celebration of the Bohemian fruit-filled bun in Montgomery is this weekend.

Kolacky Days kicks off on Thursday with the Arts & Heritage Center exhibit on radios and the Lego Challenge Contest, one of the new events this year.

Two other new events have one thing in common - tacos! The Flaming Burrito Contest will be held Friday, July 22 at 7 p.m. The Taco Eating Speed Contest will be held Saturday, July 23 at noon. Both contests are being held by Taco Bien of Lonsdale.

In the Flaming Burrito Contest, contestants will be given ten minutes to eat a pound of "flaming" burrito featuring Carolina Reapers and Ghost Peppers.

In the Speed Contest, contestants will be given seven minutes to eat 20 tacos or as many as possible within the time frame.

First place winners in each contest will win \$100 cash. Second and third place winners in each contest will receive \$50 gift cards to Taco

Bien. According to organizers, space in the contest is very limited. Fill out the forms at Taco Bien's Facebook page to be put in a pool of possible participants.

Some events have a new time (Homemade Kolacky Baking Contest, now at 10 a.m. on Saturday) while another has been revamped. The Bohemian Market is a revamped Craft Fair in Memorial Park.

Returning events include the Queen's Pageant, softball, volleyball, bean bag and horseshoe tournaments, the Tour de Bun Bike Classic, Classic Car Show, Vintage Snowmobile Show, Crafts in Memorial Park, Kiddie and Grand Day Parade, the Bohemian Tractor Pull, Log Cabin Display, Truck, and Tractor Pull, and the Kolacky Days Eating Contest, among others.

Raffle tickets are still available. Proceeds from the raffle support the Grand Day Parade. The expected total cost for paid parade units is expected to be \$14,000.

Kolacky Queen Pageant

tickets are also available online at <https://www.vanco-events.com/MTA>. The pageant will again be held at the Tri-City United Performing Arts Center (PAC) with reserved seating.

To see the schedule and more about Kolacky Days, pick up the Souvenir Section inserted in this week's Messenger!



## Scoops honored by Elysian EDA

The Elysian Economic Development Authority honors Scoops as the Business Spotlight of the Month July 2022. Throughout the year the EDA will honor one business per quarter with a plaque and an article on the Elysian EDA website spotlighting their business. Check out the EDA website ([www.elysianmn.com](http://www.elysianmn.com)) for more information about Scoops. Left to right: Steve Ritchison, Elysian Economic Development Authority; Nancy Dobson, Owner, Scoops; Mack Evans, Elysian Economic Development Authority; and Joe Meixl, Owner, Scoops.

## Rice County Fair set for this week

Jay Schneider  
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The 2022 Rice County Fair will be held from July 20 through July 24 in Faribault.

There are tons of events for all ages. Among the events which will be held daily include Tuey the Juggler, The Strong Man, Electric Fusion, Brodini Family Comedy and Magic Show, and their daily prize drawings.

The grandstand events this year include Midwest All Star Wrestling Thursday, July 21 at 7 p.m., Barnes PRCA Rodeo Friday, July 22 at 7 p.m., NTPA Truck and Tractor Pull Saturday, July 23 at 7 p.m., and Power Wheels and the Demolition Derby, starting at 4 p.m. Sunday, July 24.

Other major events include the Best of Best Awards program at 9 a.m. and the Kids Pedal Tractor Pull at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20.

On Thursday, July 21, at 1 p.m. will be the Senior Volunteer Program, a Euchre Tourney (1:30 p.m.), The White Sidewalls on the Sellner Stage (7 p.m.), and Smokescreen in the beer garden (8 p.m.).

On Friday, July 22, the Charlie Sticha Band is performing from 1-5 p.m. on the Sellner Stage, a Texas Hold-Em Tourney is at 1:30 p.m., Los Juniors Del Barranco will be on the Sellner Stage (8 p.m.), and in the beer garden will be Chad and the MN-Ts (8 p.m.).

Saturday, July 23 Mister Peabody will be in the beer garden and Mitchell Hall and the Tennessee Trio will perform on the Sellner Stage. Both acts start at 8 p.m.

A non-denominational church service will start the day at 10 a.m. Sunday, July 24 on the Sellner Stage. From 12-3 p.m. also on the Sellner Stage will be the gospel band Switched at Birth. The 4-H Fashion Review is set for 3 p.m. on the Seller Stage followed at 4 p.m. by the 4-H Parade of Champions.

## Rocks from 1

Just seeing the kids doing something for others is what makes Novack smile.

"Mental health is so important," she stated. "I think it's great the counties are involving young kids in this. It's never too early to start talking about mental health awareness in simple ways like this... giving the kids a chance to do something good for other people."

The rocks and paint were delivered to the participating daycares last week. All of the painting supplies were purchased using the COVID-19 Recovery Fund 2022, but the rocks were donated by Le Sueur and Waseca County farmers.

"Public Health wanted to incorporate the farming community into this project because mental health is a huge challenge area among farming and rural communities," Ayers explained. "This is especially concerning because rural areas take a big hit from mental challenges as the resources are limited. A ratio of 1,960 people per mental health provider is located in rural or isolated areas as compared to 340 people per provider in metropolitan areas."

Public Health representatives will deliver the painted rocks to Colony Court in Waseca, Central Health Care in Le Center, Horizon Place in Le Center, and Traditions in both Montgomery and Waterville.

"Mental health is a daily occurrence, and a lot of normal activities contribute to our overall mental health," Ayers stated. "For example, what we read, watch, eat, whom we interact with, and observe, all take part in one's mental health. It's usually not the one big single incident that causes one to seek mental health professionals, rath-



Happy rock painters Blakelyn Lange (left) and Macie Williams smile for the camera.

er it's the daily build-up of habits that add up over time."

Le Sueur and Waseca County Public Health Departments plan to run more mental health recovery projects, now through 2023. As part of this effort, green ribbons will

soon be hung in county parks and at government buildings in an effort to promote mental health awareness. Find more information on the Le Sueur and Waseca Public Health Facebook pages.



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