

Flyers hurdle over obstacles

City okays proposed gym expansion plans

By Michael Achterling
Detroit Lakes Tribune

DETROIT LAKES — With an estimate for parking lot construction costs near \$900,000 and a depleted city food and beverage fund, Detroit Lakes City Council members debated on how to move forward with the proposed Minnesota Flyers Gymnastics and Fitness facility expansion during their meeting on Tuesday.

More than 30 minutes of the two-hour city council meeting on July 12 focused on the expansion plan. The council's main discussion points included: a low balance in the food and beverage fund; possibly handcuffing the consulting group, RDG, of Omaha, Neb., before they begin an in-depth overview of the West Lake Drive area from Washington Avenue to Legion Road; and, even

though the Flyers are raising their own funding for the expanded building, whether they would be willing to contribute to the construction costs of the city-owned parking lot.

Madalyn Sukke, alderman-at-large and chair of the city's public works committee, said the main question raised during their committee meeting was: Do we make them wait? Or do we let them move forward?

"Do we make them wait while the RDG group does their community meetings and attempt to come back to us with some overall plan for the area that we requested, from The Pavilion all the way down West Lake Drive to this spot?" said Sukke. "Or can we allow (the Flyers) to go ahead ... with the understanding

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Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune
Leesa Lindgaard, director of Minnesota Flyers Gymnastics and Fitness in Detroit Lakes, speaks to council members about the proposed expansion of the Flyers facility and the surrounding parking lot during a regular meeting of the Detroit Lakes City Council on July 12, 2022.

Retirement bash for Kathy Larson

By Vicki Gerdes
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Kathy Larson, who taught vocal music at Detroit Lakes Public Schools for 34 years, has announced that she will not be returning this fall.

Larson, who also directed 28 musical theater productions for the district, left quite an impression on her former vocal and theater students — so

much so, in fact, that they are planning a two-day retirement bash for her, on Aug. 13-14.

"We invited students from her first musical, 'Damn Yankees,' all the way to her last one, 'Newsies,' to come perform in a cabaret show at the Holmes Theatre on Saturday night (Aug. 13)," said Carol Nustad, a longtime friend and colleague who worked with her on dozens of fall musicals. "We have 49 or 50 (former students) coming back to perform."

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Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Hairball performs at Bash on the Beach in Detroit Lakes as part of the 86th Northwest Water Carnival on July 15.

ROCKIN' THE BEACH

Hairball plays to throngs of sandy-footed fans

By Michael Achterling
and Vicki Gerdes

With pyrotechnics, myriad costume changes and classic songs played to precision, Hairball delivered an action-packed performance at Friday night's Bash on the Beach in Detroit Lakes, as part of the 86th Northwest Water Carnival festivities on July 15.

An event organizer for the Detroit Lakes Jaycees said they had sold all of the tickets they had pre-printed for the lakeside party and had to print more the night of the show to accommodate the large audience of sandy-footed concertgoers.



Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Country singer Eddie Montgomery greets the crowd with a big smile at the start of his Bash on the Beach concert in Detroit Lakes on Saturday, July 16.

"I don't know if we've ever sold-out a beach before, but if my guitar works, I'm happy," said Happy, guitarist for

Hairball, before taking the stage for the group's show. "Whether it's five smiling faces, or 5,000, we try to win them all."

The legendary tribute band covered medleys of songs with iconic frontmen, including: KISS, Van Halen, Alice Cooper, Journey, Queen, Guns N' Roses, AC/DC, Black Sabbath and Ozzy Osbourne. During the medleys, at least one of the Hairball band members would change into the appropriate costume and, if needed, make-up for each of the singers to give the audience a more accurate depiction of the famed frontmen.

Happy also said one of the most important things for him is to keep doing what he loves, which is playing music for others.

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Three howls for pet parade, dog show

By Michael Achterling
Detroit Lakes Tribune

Dogs and kids alike dressed up in costume to participate in the Pet and Doll parade, part of the Northwest Water Carnival, on July 16.

The four-legged friends and parade participants marched down Washington Avenue in Detroit Lakes as they made their way into City Park for the annual pet show, which immediately followed the parade.

Pet owners flung handfuls of candy to curbside parade watchers along the route who braved the hot and sticky weather on Saturday. By the time the pets reached the city band shell, each dog seemed to have their tongue hanging out the

side of their mouth.

One-by-one, the 16 pet competitors then showed-off their skills to the 2022 Junior Northwest Water Carnival prince and princess who then awarded each of the dogs a special certificate and bag of treats for competing.

Some of the categories awarded by the junior royalty were:

- ▶ longest dog
- ▶ prettiest
- ▶ most fluffy
- ▶ prettiest eyes
- ▶ most black dog
- ▶ curliest
- ▶ biggest
- ▶ longest toe nails
- ▶ shortest legs
- ▶ most energy

Madeline Lavinger, 7, the junior Northwest Water Carnival princess



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

A happy trailer-load of superheroes rode in the Pet and Doll Parade on Washington Avenue in Detroit Lakes, as part of the 86th Northwest Water Carnival on July 16, 2022.

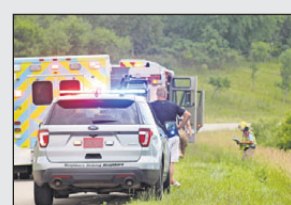
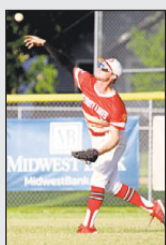
for 2022, said she really enjoyed the dogs in costume. Her favorite was a dog dressed up as Thing 1 from the Cat and the Hat.

"The dog parade was fun and you got to see cute dogs," said Lavinger.

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Post 15 kicks off home tournament with wins
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Car crashes into Becker County's Fog Lake on Monday
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Huge crowds show up for parade

And for grand finale by Bald Eagle Water Ski Show on Sunday

By Vicki Gerdes
Detroit Lakes Tribune

The 86th Northwest Water Carnival wrapped up its 10-day run in Detroit Lakes on Sunday, July 17, with sunny skies bringing out huge crowds to watch the Parade of the Northwest, allowing it to live up to its reputation as one of the largest parades in Minnesota.

"We had right around 130 entries," said Kasey Fetzer, co-admiral of

this year's water carnival. "This was probably one of our biggest turnouts (of spectators) for the parade. A lot of people commented, even the mayor (Matt Brenk) commented that it was more people than he remembered in the last few years."

"We had a couple of (parade entry) cancellations at the last minute, probably because of the heat," added Fetzer's co-admiral, Andrew Lessin. "But I thought overall, things went pretty smoothly."

In fact, he added, "smooth" was the term

he would use to describe the festival's entire 10-day run.

"There are always a few hiccups," Lessin said, adding that the spotty rains on Family Day (July 10) definitely "put a damper" on what he calls his favorite day of the water carnival, but they made the best out of it with an impromptu dance party and moving some of the events around on the schedule.

"But other than that (the rains), nothing really major happened that wasn't able to be easily fixed," Lessin said.

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Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Huge crowds lined both sides of Detroit Lakes' Washington Avenue as the Parade of the Northwest got underway on Sunday, July 17. With a total of 130 units, the parade lived up to its reputation as one of the largest in Minnesota, closing out the 86th Northwest Water Carnival on a high note.

CROWDS

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Rain almost played a part in Saturday night's country-themed Bash on the Beach concert, featuring Eddie Montgomery and Troubadour, but "as soon as it hit 3 o'clock, (the rains) went away and the weather was perfect," Lessin said.

He also noted that attendance was very good for most of the water carnival events this year — particularly Hairball's Bash on the Beach concert Friday night, which was sold out. "We sold all of our tickets, and we were still letting people in," Fetzter said, adding that the estimated attendance was about 4,500. "We eventually had to turn some people away."

Attendance at Saturday

night's country-themed Bash on the Beach concert was not nearly as well attended, but Fetzter noted that the rains which threatened the event earlier in the afternoon undoubtedly contributed to the overall drop in attendance, estimating it at between 800-1,000.

The performance by Bald Eagle Water Ski Shows that closed out the 2022 water carnival also drew a large crowd, Fetzter added. The show, which is based in Centerville, Minn., has been in operation since 1950, and their skiers have been coming to the Northwest Carnival for more than 30 years now, according to the show's emcee.

The show, which lasted about an hour and a half, included lots of barefoot skiers, ramp jumps, water ski ballet, and other entertaining stunts and tricks.

ROCKIN

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"Lucky for me, a lot of other people like the same stuff," he said.

The lead guitar player is also currently battling cancer, he said, which has given him a new appreciation for life and his music.

"Every day that I wake up and everything works, I value it all," said Happy.

Hairball's opening act, The Fabulous Armadillos, also delivered hits from the 1960s and 1970s, which, when combined with Hairball's catalog, covered music from more than four decades.

Fabulous Armadillos saxophone player, Mike Kreitzer, and his band mate, Pat Thorn, are also professional musicians who gig with their own group: The Affordable Horns, of St. Cloud.

Kreitzer said, through playing with The Fabulous Armadillos, this wasn't his first beach-side concert.

"We took a couple trips to Mexico and took a bunch of fans, a couple hundred fans, and we played on a couple beaches in Mexico, so that was pretty cool," said Krietzter.

He also begrudgingly

admitted, with a chuckle, that while playing the Detroit Lakes beach was alright, "it's not like being in Mexico."

As far as his band mates, Kreitzer said, "We're always amazed, as horn players, we never get tired of hearing these guys play, especially the guitar player. He has this thing for not only getting the right notes off the record, but the tone, and a lot of guitar players don't do that, but he's just excellent."

Kreitzer also said he and his wife will always have very fond and special memories of Detroit Lakes because they were married in the city on July 5, 1980 and are currently celebrating 42 years together.

He added that Friday night's concert was literally the hottest gig they have played all summer and was grateful the group didn't have a need for horns on every song, so he could get into the shade.

"The other guys up there are dying," Kreitzer said, figuratively speaking. "But it's still really fun to do the outdoor (concerts), especially after COVID."

Check out all of the video and photos from the first night of



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

An event attendee, dressed as Slash, lead guitarist for Guns N' Roses, laughs among the crowd during Bash on the Beach in Detroit Lakes, part of the 10-day, 86th Northwest Water Carnival on July 15.

Bash on the Beach at DL-Online.

Saturday was down-home country

Rain almost played a role in Saturday night's country-themed Bash on the Beach concert, featuring Eddie Montgomery and Troubadour, but "as soon as it hit 3 o'clock, (the rains) went away and the weather was perfect," said Water Carnival Co-Admiral Andrew Lessin.

Attendance at

Saturday night's country-themed Bash on the Beach concert was not nearly as well attended, but Co-Admiral Kasey Fetzter noted that the rains which threatened the event earlier in the afternoon undoubtedly contributed to the overall drop in attendance, estimating it at between 800-1,000.

Opener Troubadour put on an entertaining set, as their lead singer, Rick Schroeder, proudly proclaimed "We love

90's country!" and the band proceeded to roll out some hits from that era including David Lee Murphy's "Dust on the Bottle," Keith Urban's "Somebody Like You," Georgia Satellites' "Keep Your Hands to Yourself" and Sawyer Brown's "Some Girls Do."

The band also played George Strait's "Troubadour," though Schroeder noted that they'd resisted doing so for a long time, for obvious reasons. Eddie Montgomery took the stage right around 9:30, starting out strong with some of

Montgomery Gentry's biggest hits, "Where I Come From," "Lonely and Gone," and "Lucky Man."

He also made reference to the loss of his former Montgomery Gentry bandmate, Troy Gentry, stating, "There's not a day goes by that I don't miss T-Roy."

As he started another big hit, "Something to be Proud Of," he shouted, "We the people don't give it up for our great American heroes enough!" drawing a huge ovation from the crowd.

Send your story tips to Michael at: machterling@dlnewspapers.com

PETS

From Page A1

She added the reason she likes dogs so much is because they are "fluffy" and "furry."

Brink Baker, 5, the junior Northwest Water Carnival prince for 2022, said he liked watching all the puppies play. He also said his favorite dog was Milo, but he might have a biased opinion because Milo is his family's dog.

When asked what he likes about dogs, Baker said, "They cuddle."

He added that when he gets older he wants to have two puppies to play with.

Send your story tips to Michael at: machterling@dlnewspapers.com



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

A costumed dog and its owner marches down the street with candy during the Pet and Doll Parade on Washington Avenue in Detroit Lakes, as part of the 86th Northwest Water Carnival on July 16, 2022.

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The Stars and Strips were waving in the breeze as the Lake Region Veterans Color Guard marched at the front of the Parade of the Northwest in Detroit Lakes on Sunday. A total of 130 units were included in this year's parade, which lasted a little over two hours.



Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune

The three-tiered pyramid formed by members of Bald Eagle Water Ski Shows at the close of their Sunday afternoon show on Little Detroit Lake drew gasps from the crowd on shore. The water ski show was the final event of the 2022 Northwest Water Carnival, which wrapped up its 86th annual run on Sunday.



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

A dog rolls over during the Pet Show in City Park in Detroit Lakes, part of the 86th Northwest Water Carnival on Saturday.



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

Hairball performs at Bash on the Beach in Detroit Lakes, as part of the 86th Northwest Water Carnival on Friday.



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

An event attendee, dressed as Slash, lead guitarist for Guns N' Roses, laughs among the crowd during Bash on the Beach in Detroit Lakes, part of the 10-day 86th Northwest Water Carnival, on Friday.



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

A dog receives positive scratches from its owner after receiving an award during the Pet Show in City Park in Detroit Lakes, part of the 86th Northwest Water Carnival, on Saturday.



Contributed / Heidi Ratajesak

Hairball performs as KISS — complete with pyrotechnics — at Bash on the Beach in Detroit Lakes, as part of the 86th Northwest Water Carnival on Friday.



Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune

A girl waves to the crowd during the Pet and Doll Parade on Washington Avenue in Detroit Lakes, as part of the 86th Northwest Water Carnival on Saturday.

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