

**From My
 VIEW POINT**



by Louis Hoglund,
 Managing Editor

**‘Viking’ mascot celebrates 80th birthday in 2022
 Pelican students voted on team name in 1942**

“Vick the Viking” will be celebrating his 80th birthday in 2022. March, to be more precise.
 The Pelican Rapids High School sports mascot officially became Vikings, the Pelican Rapids Press reported on March 12, 1942.
 Calling this to our attention, a true-blue, black-orange Viking himself, Harold Holt. Harold is a Pelican graduate, as well as longtime teacher and wrestling coach—retiring last year.
 As the Press reported, back in 1942, “a contest was held at the high school for selecting a name for our athletic team. A box was placed at the school, with about 250 different suggestions made.”
 The student council picked four, which were put up for a vote before the student body.”
 Winning the vote by the students was “The Vikings.”
 In an area dominated by residents of Norwegian American extraction, the Vikings were an appropriate selection. In 1942, many of the Pelican school students may have been third or even second generation descendants of Norwegian immigrants. Remember, this was about 25 years before the pro football team, Minnesota Vikings, selected the legendary Norse seafarers as the inspiration for the team name.
 “From now on, all of our athletic teams will go by this name. Some new yells have already been formed to fit this name,” concluded the Press article.
 From previous scans through archive newspapers, it appears the teams went by simply Pelican Rapids, “the Pelicans” and the “Pels.”
 “With March also being state tournament time for winter sports, I thought that it would be fun to do a birthday party,” said Holt. Harold even brainstormed a few ideas for the Viking birthday.
 • Dress up days, with various incarnations of a “Viking.” Winter sports captains could be included.
 • Elementary could have classrooms make Viking ships
 • Races, Phy Ed classes host after school weight lifting contest by age & weight
 • Art class-drawings.
 • History class presentations, with topics like Pelican’s own Minnesota Woman, the Kensington Runestone, Hjemkomst Center, Clay County History Society or Otter Tail County History Society
 • Creative writing – stories, plays
 • Display of old Viking stuff, jerseys, shirts, etc. Reportedly, Dean of Students has a big collection of Pelican homecoming buttons.
 • Merchants could have window decor featuring Vikings.
 • Display at the Pelican Public Library.
 If any of our Press readers have some old Viking memorabilia, please take a photo and email it our way.

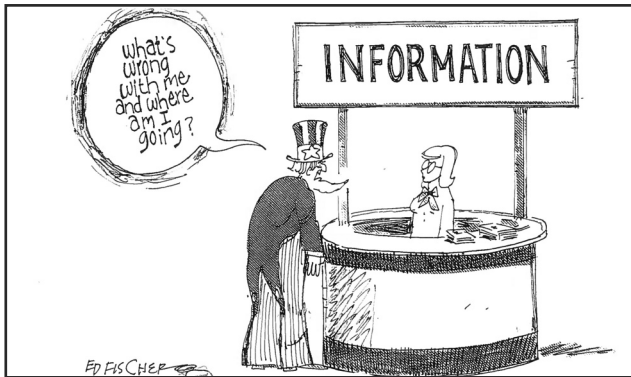
**From the pen of the mayor...
 Resolutions for Pelican city: More economic development in 2022, and beyond**

By Brent Frazier, mayor
 City of Pelican Rapids

What are your New Year’s Resolutions for 2022?
 A resolution is defined as a firm decision to do, or not to do something. When making a resolution we need to be determined, resolute and truthful with ourself that we are going to follow through. Unfortunately for many of us, we have all correct intentions for a new resolution for the incoming year, but we seem to fall short of our goal.
 We probably follow through for a week, a month or 6 months, but then scrap the idea. Please keep in mind that if you don’t succeed at first, try and try again!
 A resolution does not have to be implemented on New Year’s Day, but can be introduced and enforced any day of the year to help improve our personal life.
 A few hilarious resolutions were recently posted on social media that included; to gain weight, to save less money and to have less fun in life. So why were these posted?
 Sometimes our minds work in the reverse psychology method as we set out to do one thing and actually we do the complete opposite of our intentions. Yes, sometimes our minds operate in mysterious ways!
 Let’s all hope that whatever resolutions that we made for 2022, that are intended with positive results for each of us, our family, our friends and for all of society, that we now put our “nose to the grindstone” and follow through in harmonious fashion.
 As a government entity, a city does not make resolutions, but sets short and long range goals.
“Resolutions” for city of Pelican are numerous
 Some goals are included in a cities’ Comprehensive Plan (which is to be reviewed on an annual basis), which is authored in a proactive style. Other goals may surface

from time to time through the ideas of elected officials, committees, civic organizations and individual citizens.
 When goals do surface and are not possible to accomplish at that time, mainly due to finances, they may be included in the next year’s city budget.
 The 2022 budget for the City of Pelican Rapids was recently seen to include an increase of approximately 16% over the previous budget for 2021.
 This budget was reviewed by a budget committee and then presented at the August 31, 2021 Pelican Rapids City Council Meeting. It was then accepted by the city council at the September 14, 2021 City Council Meeting in preliminary manner and then fully approved at the December 14, 2021 City Council Meeting.
 This budget was then sent to the Otter Tail County Auditor’s Office, whereas this office can implement these financial differences in our property tax statements.
Economic Development director planned in 2022
 The main factor to the increase of the 2022 budget was the proposal of an Economic Development Director for the City of Pelican Rapids.
 An Economic Development Director works within a city and community to maintain an inventory of available properties (retail, commercial, industrial and open spaces). This person will strive to attract future businesses to the city and community and also try to match a proposed business to an open space which is for rent or sale.
 By this action the director also works to retain and grow jobs and investments within a city and community.
 The concept of Economic Development is not new to society as previously it was referred to as;

Modernization, Westernization, and Industrialization.
 Economic Development is really the creation of wealth from which community benefits are realized by the residents. With additional business growth also comes added tax revenue to the city and thus the living standards can escalate to higher levels.
 It not only becomes an investment in the city or community economy, but the enhancement of the prosperity and quality of life for all residents.
Director will help business prospects in Pelican
 In the past, several business opportunities may have “slipped through the cracks” as no one individual’s sole responsibility was to grow the business district and the economy of Pelican Rapids. With the many projects which are planned for the near future, more man hours have been needed to see these projects planned before coming to fruition, than to seek other business opportunities for Pelican Rapids.
 By creating the Economic Development Director position, whoever is hired can fully concentrate on retaining, growing and increasing business in Pelican Rapids.
 The next steps are to create a job description, set the benefits and wages, advertise this proposed employment opportunity before someone is approved and hired by the City of Pelican Rapids.
 So just as we as individuals propose resolutions to our personal lives, the City of Pelican Rapids is in the process of making plans for our city and community to better the lives of our current and future residents.
 We as a city hope to become successful in our planning as we hope that all of you are successful in your New Year’s Resolutions!



100 years ago, Press already saw high potential for the poultry business

100 years ago, January 5, 1922

• A Good Game
 Wednesday evening, Dec. 21, the Pelican Rapids Independents and High School basketball teams clashed in their annual game at the local gymnasium, the Independents winning by a score of 7-18. The defeat of the High School team came as a surprise to many of the fans as they did not think the Independents had practiced enough to cope with the fast-playing High School team.
 The three-man defense used by the Independents and played well out toward the middle of the floor was too good for the High School boys, and they failed to get any good chances to ring a basket. The usually strong defense of the High School team was easily broken by the heavier and huskier Independents, who failed, however, to connect with the basket as often as they should have. The game was clean and fast throughout except for the latter part of the first half when neither team displayed any speed or pep. Coach Mason refereed satisfactorily to both teams.
• “The Cow, The Hog, and The Hen”
 The above should be the slogan for Otter Tail County farmers for this year and continue to be until conditions make a radical change from the present, which may be many years hence.
 Of the three industries above mentioned, dairying is the most important in this community, and if anything will put the country on its feet, it is the dairy cow. The hog industry is a valuable adjunct to dairying and is very important in that it fits in as a part of the dairy industry. The hen, or more broadly speaking, the poultry industry, is of considerable more importance than most people think. Thousands of dollars worth of eggs and poultry have been marketed here the past year, and as of yet, it is only a sideline. If it were made a part of the farming business, it is possible to make it an industry second only to dairying.

75 years ago, January 2, 1947

• Fire Department Called Out Sunday Night
 Sunday night at about 11 o’clock, a fire was discovered in the residence formerly owned by Peter Peterson in the

southeast part of town.
 The fire evidently started from a stovepipe which went through a partition, as the blaze was in the floor above and had gotten quite a start but was soon subdued.
 The household goods were mostly moved out, but the water did considerable damage.

50 years ago, January 6, 1972
• 48-Year-Old Horses Ready For Another Season
 It’s been a long, tedious job, but Earl Rogers can point with pride to the twenty freshly painted horses that will attract thousands of youngsters to the Rogers Bros. Shows merry-go-round during the 1972 season.
 For Rogers, it was the first time that he had attempted the intricate work of repainting the multi-colored horses. During his 33 years partnership with his brother Donald (Bud) Rogers, it was always Bud’s job to create the fancy designs and bright colors. Last July, however, Bud died.
 “I didn’t know I could do it,” Earl said of his painting, “but when given no alternative, I had to.” The horses hadn’t been repainted for seven years and were in need of repair.
 It wasn’t the first time for repairs, though. The horses date back to 1924, when the merry-go-round was built. The Flink Brothers, who operated a carnival out of Pelican Rapids years ago, bought the merry-go-round in 1925. Charlie Rogers, Earl’s father, ran the unit for Flinks. The Rogers Bros. bought it in 1939.
 Earl estimates that the hand-carved horses cost about \$225 each back in 1924 and would cost many times that amount if they could be purchased today. Modern merry-go-rounds use cast aluminum or fiberglass horses.
 Although built in 1924, the merry-go-round is a well engineered piece of equipment. The unit can be set up in about two hours by three men, and all pieces slip together without bolts. As it is assembled, the piece being attached locks in the previously attached part. During its 48-year history, the merry-go-round has been assembled and dismantled several thousand times.
 One year, the truck carrying the merry-go-round overturned, and the horses were badly damaged.

Looking BACK

by Paul Gubrud,
 Columnist



“Out of 80 legs, 76 were broken,” Earl recalls, “We had to hand carve pieces to fill in spots as we put them back together.” Besides the legs, heads, and tails on many of the horses had to be glued back together and re-shaped.
 In the repainting job nearing completion, Rogers applied eleven colors on each of the horses. He used photographs as guides in retracing the intricate designs on each horse, starting with a base coat of white paint and finishing with blacks & buckskins, with multi-colored saddles, saddle blankets, harness, etc. On average, each horse took slightly more than a day to complete.
 “When we’re finished, it will still be as attractive as the new merry-go-rounds despite its 48 years age,” Rogers said.
 The proof will come in mid-June when once again, youngsters will be pulling at their parents for a ride on the horses, while parents, and even grandparents, will stand by recalling when they, too, begged for a ride on the very same merry-go-round.

25 years ago, January 8, 1997
• After the Storm, the Clean-up Process Begins
 The clean-up began in earnest Monday following a week-end storm that dumped at least a foot of heavy snow, accompanied by high winds and blizzard conditions.
 Several buildings collapsed under the weight of the snow, plowing crews had to abandon their efforts, and the entire area came to a standstill during the height of the storm.
 The official assessment of snowfall was an even twelve inches, but wind Sunday piled it into drifts several feet deep, some of it on buildings which collapsed under the weight.
 The foot of new snow brought the total for this winter to 48 inches, about twice as much as had been received during the same period last winter.

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