

A different kind of rock show

As temperatures heated up in Moose Lake this weekend, so did the number of people there for the Agate Days celebration, especially on Saturday afternoon. A half-hour before the 3 p.m. agate stampede, the streets were already lined with eager spectators, eventually

standing four- and five deep in the heart of the southern Carlton County city.

What is an agate stampede, you ask? It starts with two dump trucks driving up Elm Avenue in Moose Lake, dropping all kinds of rocks and gravel, plus 400 pounds of agates, and \$250 in change. Once the

dump trucks have passed, the crowds hustle into the street to comb through the rocky mess for hidden treasures. Some of them bring spray bottles filled with water to better find buried treasure, others just bring buckets, plastic bags or big pockets.

People of all ages packed the roadway after the dump

trucks went past, with just as many adults digging for agates as kids.

The entire weekend of music, gems and minerals, arts and crafts and more was hot, hot, hot, but fun, fun, fun.

Photos by Amy Arntson / Pine Knot News



Wrong Days has it all: music, sport and politics

It's impossible to take in every pleasure and message at a community festival. Wrong Days in Wright last weekend was as joyful as ever. Arriving early, I watched some energetic softball as I walked the grounds. And later, a vigorous match of volleyball. I enjoyed the parade and my tacos from the food truck.

Highlights of the day for me included learning more about the Talon Metals Corporation's proposed plans to build an underground mine in Tamarack that would operate for nine years and primarily extract nickel, but also some copper, cobalt, platinum group metals and iron.

I had read with interest Walker Orenstein's January 2022 MinnPost article on the company's plans and his reporting

that environmental and Native American groups are skeptical and, in some cases, outright opposed to the mine. I was delighted to find a booth set up by the Tamarack Water Alliance (tamarackwateralliance.org) with good information on the still-speculative project including — if developed — what the consequences will be for our water and surrounding communities.

The parade is always a highlight, even if you don't enjoy being peppered with tiny candies

ON THE MARK



Ann Markusen



The River Hill Rangers perform during this year's Wrong Days in Wright festivities. Ann Markusen / Pine Knot News

hurling out of vehicles. I was glad to see our candidates for political office engaged: I enjoyed waving to Kelly Lake later in the morn-

ing and cheered for John Peura, Democratic candidate for the Minnesota State Senate, on foot and shaking hands energetically.

My favorite Wrong Days performance every year is listening to the River Hill Rangers deliver beautiful — and sometimes sad — music. This year, the musicians numbered eight and included a woman drummer, Digger DeRusha on the keyboard, several guitars, a fiddle and lots of great song lyrics. People drew up their lawn chairs on all sides of the open-air pavilion to take in the energetic music, song and humor.

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