

Events like Pelican hoops tourney reflect the business side of a local, summer hospitality-recreation economy

Tourism-recreation is economic development. It's easy to forget that our lakes and our lifestyle in the greater Pelican Rapids area are economic drivers. This is very evident during the three-day "Shada" basketball tournament, held over the June 10-12 weekend. It is impossible to estimate, but when more than 200 teams compete, combined with family, friends, and entourage, there are probably upwards of 2,000 people flooding into the community. And that's not only Pelican Rapids. Businesses from Cormorant to Erhard to Dent and beyond, no doubt, enjoyed a ripple effect. "Smile" is the key ingredient in building and maintaining a strong hospitality-recreation industry. Gas prices being at record highs, people will be recreating and vacationing closer to home. And our seasonal residents may be spending a few more weekends at the lake. So remember, as we move into the heat of the summer,

a cordial smile and Minnesota-nice hospitality are a simple key to our success.

Pelican Pete gained some charming recognition
Pelican Rapids received a clever bit of publicity, thanks to an 11-year-old "Pelican Pete" fan. In a special feature page in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine, youth edition, kids sounded off on places where "Minnesota Memories" are made. There are references to the Duluth Harbor: "I didn't know they made ships so big..." wrote one six-year-old. There were also references to Minnesota amusement parks and trails. But it was the comment from 11-year-old Gigi (no last name given) that drew Mayor Brent Frazier's attention. "Pelican Pete is a giant statue with small pelican friends around town that we try to find! It's so much fun." Gigi was referencing the "World's Largest Pelican" in Pelican Rapids.

From My VIEW POINT



by Louis Hoglund,
Managing Editor

Rotary collects 20 bags of litter

How much litter do we generate—which ends up along the roadsides? Based on the recent litter pick-up by about ten Pelican Rapids Area Rotary Club members—about 20 bags of trash, per mile. The Rotary Club "adopts" a mile of Highway 59, from Erhard south. Among the unusual litter uncovered—about ten face-masks, a pregnancy test unit, and a storebought, unopened kite. There were plenty of beer cans—mostly Hamms, Key-stone, Busch, and Coors. Rotarian David Gottenborg noted that fewer craft or specialty label beer cans were discarded from car windows.

From the pen of the mayor...

Make new friends, in a culturally diverse setting, at June 18 Pelican International Fest

By Brent Frazier, mayor
City of Pelican Rapids

Friends, what are they good for? A friend is defined as a person who has a strong liking and trust in another person. A friend can be younger than you, older than you, one who has the same interests and hobbies as you, one with different interests than you (of which you are trying to learn) and one whom you do not share the same political world views, but you are willing to listen and learn. Good friends are not judgmental and are able to keep private information confidential. A good friend is more precious than gold! There are seven qualities of successful friendships. They laugh at each other's jokes, there is no competition, they value honesty, they stick up for each other, they are invested in one another, they normalize each other's experiences, and they accept each other. Throughout the journey of life, our association with friends may continually change. With our present-day mobility, we may move to another city for new employment, change in career choice, educational opportunities, or retirement, and thus there could be a change in close friendships.

International Friendship Festival... This is a celebration of different cultures as witnessed by music, song, dance and food... A time to share your culture with others and, in turn, learn about other cultures.

don't see and communicate as much as in the past with each other. Do you remember your very first friend? Do you remember your very first true friend that you would walk across a 'parking lot of broken glass' to help in their time of need? We all had that type of friend, but they may be somewhat removed, or completely removed from our life at his time. A true friendship usually starts out with a smile, a handshake, and a short conversation. The conversation advances from 'water cooler' talk to then much deeper talk. As the friendship grows, our talk advances to the point of 'pouring out soul' to that friend. That true friend is a person with whom we definitely feel comfortable in almost any situation. This person may soon seem closer than a family member, and soon they are included in many of our immediate family events and festivities. Friendships have truly changed recently due to social media. Many years ago, your friend lived in the same neighborhood as you, went to the same school as you, visited with you each day, you called them on your parents' landline, and you shared the same clothes, baseball gloves, and curling iron. **Social media has created global friendship network** Today a friend may live on another continent or region of the world. Via Facebook and many other social media options, we can type our conversation in word form or see each other on our cellphone and/or computer screen.

Then due to the distance factor, our daily mingling with that friend is lessened, and another person at our new location may take 'center stage' in our friendship circle. Not that we have abandoned the previous friend, but we just

This person may be a person with whom we have business ties, the same organizational membership affiliation, or a past foreign exchange student who lived in our home. We now realize that a friend doesn't have to look like us, doesn't have to have the same color skin as us, doesn't have to belong to the same political party as us, or doesn't need to be of the same religious denomination as us. We realize that we share the same commonalities, and we can listen and learn from our differences in life. It is not that we have to change our belief system to be friends, but we can learn from our differences. **Friendship Fest celebrates multi-cultural heritage** This Saturday, June 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the International Friendship Festival returns to Sherin Park in Pelican Rapids, MN. This is truly a celebration of different cultures as witnessed by music, song, dance, and food. This is a time to share your culture with others and, in turn, learn about other cultures. It is a time to mingle, chat, sing, dance, and eat while enjoying the company of many other people. It is a great opportunity to talk with someone you have never talked to before and build a new friendship. Sherin Park will host sights and sounds of people from different cultures joining together to celebrate one another. Smiles, handshakes, hugs, laughter, and conversation will be abundant throughout the day. Yes, please join us on Saturday, June 18, to celebrate each other's cultures and meet a new friend. That person may just become a true friend for life!

Drownings were the headlines, 1947 at Crystal Lake; 1972 on Pelican Lake

100 years ago, June 15, 1922

• **Erhard Creamery Burns**
Monday evening at about eight o'clock, the local fire department received a call from Erhard stating that the creamery there was on fire. They responded immediately, going down with the chemical truck, but the fire had gained so much headway that the building could not be saved. There were two houses near, which would have burned, no doubt, had not the fire been kept under control. It is understood the creamery was well insured, but at any rate, it was a big loss to the community.

75 years ago, June 12, 1947

• **Henry Olson's Body Recovered From Crystal Lake**
On May 17, it will be recalled, Henry Olson and two companions of Moorhead were thrown into Crystal Lake when their boat capsized. While two were rescued, Mr. Olson was drowned, and all efforts to find the body at that time were unsuccessful. Last Sunday afternoon, Walter Olson, a brother of the drowned man, discovered the body about two miles from where it had gone down. The strong winds and waves had drifted it that distance. • **Seven Injured When Cars Crash North of Town**
Early Sunday morning, some young people were returning home from Detroit Lakes, where they had spent Saturday evening. One car, driven by Gerald Bakken, who was accompanied by Helen and Rebecca Pearson, attempted to pass another car just north of town on Highway 59, north of the junction with old No. 30. He lost control of the car, but while it did not leave the highway, it rolled over several times, going about 180 feet. When stopped, Rebecca Pearson was pinned beneath the wreckage, the other two being thrown clear. Raymond Teigen and Arthur Erickson, who were in the car that Bakken attempted to pass, stopped to assist the unfortunate members when another car, driven by Stanford Thompson of Barnesville, came along and hit the Bakken car and released Rebecca from the car, but also hit Teigen and Erickson, hurling them into the ditch and rendered them unconscious but not seriously injured. Doctors and an ambulance from town were summoned to give first aid and take the injured to the Pelican Valley hospital. The cars were almost completely wrecked.

50 years ago, June 15, 1972

• **Moorhead Teen Drowns After Boat Collision**
A Moorhead youth drowned in Pelican Lake Monday night after the boat in which he was a passenger collided with another boat. The body of John Buslee, age 18, was recovered at about 10 p.m. Tuesday by members of the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Water safety patrol. It was found in about six feet of

water, fifty feet from the shore of Broadwater Beach on the south shore of the lake. Buslee was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Loren C. Buslee of 1009 South 11th, Moorhead. Search operations began at about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday and divers were summoned to aid in the search later in the morning. Buslee was a passenger in a boat operated by another Moorhead youth, David Stene, 18. Stene was taken to the Pelican Valley Health Center and then transferred to St. Luke's hospital in Fargo. The sheriff's office reported that he suffered a broken arm and bruises in the mishap.

25 years ago, June 18, 1997

• **Sport Shop's Impending Closure May Mark End of "Socia-bulls"**
Lee Brenna says he'll soon be for another site for "socia-bulls," a social gathering of men that's been a tradition at the sport shop in Pelican Rapids for two generations. Brenna is closing the door of Brenna's Sport Shop later this summer. Good Samaritan Center, his neighbor to the north, has purchased his real estate and has plans for a new parking lot. But Brenna isn't anticipating early retirement or even taking a couple of days off each week. His month-long recuperation period at home after breaking his leg last winter convinced him of that. "When I was laid up for about a month... I decided I didn't need any more time off," related Brenna. "Next time I break a leg is soon enough." Instead, he's planning to be unemployed "the time it takes to cross the street." Brenna has been hired to work at the new bait shop added to Park Region Co-op's self-service station and convenience store at the corner of Highway 59 and Hwy. 108 West, 100 North Broadway. "I'm excited about my new job," he said last week. "I've never had a real job." Actually, he'll be returning to Park Region, where he worked part-time three winters in the mid-70s when he was a high school student. Park Region is purchasing his inventory and much of his equipment; when the new shop is ready to open, he'll close. "I can be here until the 18th of August," he said. Although he's been considering selling his business for some time, Brenna says, "I really didn't want to go at this time." He's enjoying his seven-day-a-week job after his forced lay-off earlier this year, and there's the question of where to hold the "socia-bulls."

Favorite hangout for outdoors folks, Brenna's bait shop closed in 1997

Looking BACK

by Paul Gubrud,
Columnist



The socia-bulls in the back room of his shop often center around a crockpot bubbling with some sort of wild game. He dates them back to when Cy Lynnes owned the shop a generation ago in the 1960s. Lee purchased the business on January 1, 1977. Lee's father, Mike, was among Cy's friends who started the socia-bull sessions, a combination social gathering/bull session. Now it's Lee's generation meeting regularly behind the shop with many of the sons of Cy's friends included. "The game feeds in the backroom have been great," said Brenna, who has become noted for his wild game culinary skills. "You wouldn't believe some of the things we've eaten." Venison and bear are standard backroom fares. He's also served up mud turtle stew, muskrat soup, smoked raccoon, and of course, fish. There was the one time on a fishing trip when Brenna cooked up a huge batch of spicy salsa in a large pot with a no-stick lining. Once the men ate their way to the bottom of the pot, they discovered the lining had disappeared. The salsa had eaten the lining right out of the pot. The pot never made it home, but the men reportedly suffered no ill effects. • **Park Region Sport Shop Open Soon**
Work is well underway on the addition to the Park Region Cooperative town mart convenience store at 100 North Broadway in Pelican Rapids. The 20 x 31-foot addition is for a new sport shop that will sell fishing bait and tackle, hunting ammunition and supplies, and sporting goods. "The board thought maybe there should be a sports shop in town," said Dave Huseby, manager of Park Region Co-operative. He explained that people were concerned about being able to buy bait in town once Brenna's Sport Shop closed. "Depending on how it goes, we're hoping to open the first of July," he said. The new shop will be connected to the convenience store, but will also have its own outside entrance, says Huseby. During the "off-season" months, the outside door will likely be locked. The business will be called Park Region Cooperative Convenience Store and Sport Shop "unless we come up with something better," said Huseby. Once the new shop is ready for business, Lee Brenna will walk across the street from his sport shop and run the new shop for Park Region.

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 to 5:00;
Wednesday & Friday, 9:00 to 1:00
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e-mail: press@pelicanrapidspress.com
Advertising Deadline: Friday
Online Version: www.pelicanrapidspress.com

ADVERTISING RATES:
Available upon request.



(USPS 424-960)
The Press, published weekly by The Press,
29 West Mill, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572. Periodicals
postage paid at Pelican Rapids, MN 56572-9998.

POSTMASTER:
Please send address changes to
The Press, P.O. Box 632,
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
All subscriptions are payable in advance:
\$50 per year, in Pelican Rapids area,
post office addresses in Otter Tail County, and to Rothsay, Barnesville,
Hawley, Lake Park, Audubon and Detroit Lakes.
All other Minnesota addresses, \$52 per year.
All other U.S. addresses, \$54 per year.
NON-REFUNDABLE

SEND SUBSCRIPTIONS TO
The Press, P.O. Box 632,
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572.
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