

Events subject to change. Watch for event updates in the Pelican Rapids Press.

Crowds transform Erhard into the grandest town in Otter Tail County every 4th of July

The 4th of July is Erhard’s biggest and the reddest, the white-est, and the blue-est day of the year.

July 4 is more than just a date on the calendar in Erhard.

Parade time is 11 a.m. on Independence Day. But the event includes a variety of family events after the parade.

Leading the charge to revive Erhard’s “biggest-little-town” Independence Day festivities is president Ted Tollefson, aided by a team of volunteers including Danni Grunewold, Nate Tollefson, Todd Haarstick, Brittany Tollefson, and Gary Stadum, and others.

The band “Uptown” is booked for the Erhard Gazebo.

Bean bag tourney, blow up games for the kids, food vendors, and a beer garden are in the works.



Red, white and blue is the theme, as the community of Erhard annually celebrates the 4th of July.



Farm Market underway Fridays in downtown Pelican

Downtown Pelican Rapids will again feature homegrown vegetables and vendors of distinct Pelican-area products. The gates and the first vendors opened June 17, and will continue Fridays, 3-6 p.m., in the market area next to Big John's Pelican Pizza.

Products will range from bison meat, locally-grown produce, and baked goods to artisan handicrafts.

Timber-framed farm stands are in place for the market, constructed in Aldrich, Minnesota, by an Amish family there that mills the lumber themselves.

‘Dunn Show’ returns to summer concert series in Dunvilla

The return of the “Dunn Show,” a showcase of greater Pelican Rapids area talent, will be a highlight of the Dunvilla Summer Concert Series.

The series launches July 5 with the Dan Brekke Band. The outdoor concerts are presented on the grounds of the Barn at Dunvilla, in conjunction with the Dunvilla Lions Club.

The series runs through July, every Tuesday starting at 7 p.m.

“Dunn Show,” with local performers bringing song and humor to the stage, will be July 12.

“Silverado” is July 19, and the season concludes with “The Front Fenders” on July 26.

Concerts are free, with free-will donations accepted. Spectators are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets.

Food trucks will be on-site, and the Spanky’s Stone Hearth will be set up, with its mobile liquor license, serving wine and beer.

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Classic Chris Craft woodie is Cormorant Pub centerpiece



This classic wood Chris Craft is the centerpiece of the new Cormorant Pub outdoor pavillion.

Right, Kelly Thorson, right, at the entrance to the newly remodeled Cormorant Pub.

Below, Nautical, marine and lake themes are visible both inside and outside at the Cormorant Pub and outdoor boat bar.



Vintage boat pavillion among extensive changes at lakes area establishment

By Louis Hoglund

A new old boat is moored, right on the eastern edge of the village's Cormorant Village.

The boat bar pavillion has risen from the Cormorant Pub parking lot. The centerpiece is a vintage, wooden classic Chris Craft. The fully restored boat has been fashioned into a horseshoe-like bar, which has been a curiosity for visitors from all around the lakes area.

All around the Cormorant Pub boat bar are antique remnants of the lake country past, including classic water skies, outboard motors, and Land of 10,000 Lakes artifacts.

"People love the boat bar, it's a unique concept," said Kelly Thorson, one of the Pub's management team.

The response has been upbeat, said Thorson, not only to the outdoor Chris Craft boat pavillion, but the extensive interior renovations.

Inside, the Pub has undergone improvements ranging from new ceilings and floors to all new furnishings. The east wall was opened up and now includes an overhead door, for easy strolling from the inside restaurant to the outdoor seating.

The bar tops are new, and so is the walk-in beer cooler. Beer taps have been expanded from a half dozen to two dozen, said Thorson.

Changes all around at Cormorant Village

The renovations and expansion at Cormorant Pub is only one of many changes in the village of Cormorant.

To the south, Cormorant Inn's transformation to a parallel 46 continues, inside and out, under owner Sam Stockstad. The Inn's exterior facelift is in progress. Meanwhile, the interior has been extensively renovated, including an all-new kitchen.

In the center of the village, the Cormorant Store is under new owners. The changes are evident upon entering the classic lakes area store. Grocery and convenience inventory has increased. The deli operation features new brand names, including Cooper's chicken line, HotMex and Wingman Pizza.

Full-service hardware, including power tools, has also expanded at the Cormorant Store.



The Cormorant Pub has been a Cormorant-Pelican area standard for decades. So it's not surprising that a few "oldschoolers" take a skeptical view of the transformation, noted Thorson. "There's a few that say 'this isn't the old Cormorant Pub,' but mostly we get great comments," said Thorson.

Pub owners Nate and Gretchen Hunter, along with a number of partners and investors, have made a considerable investment in the Pub. And by all indicators, it is paying off.

The Hunters are experienced in the restaurant business. They also operate Bryggels and Hub 41 in Detroit Lakes; and the Roasted coffee shop in Detroit Lakes. Recently, they acquired the longtime Strom's Resort property on the east end of Pelican Lake. Plans aren't firm, but don't be surprised if a lakeside establishment appears in the future.

Music has been an added feature at the Pub this summer, on several key holiday weekends. The traffic has been exceptional, noted Thorson.

Pelican-Cormorant connections evident with familiar faces on staff at Pub

The Cormorant Pub is almost like a neighborhood tavern for Pelican Rapids area folks, except it's up the road a bit.

Familiar Pelican area faces are everywhere, behind the bar, at the tables, in the kitchen.

Kelly Thorson is perhaps the most visible, and diners will remember her friendly face from 30 years in the restaurant business.

Part of the management team at the Pub, Thorson was working at the Cornfield when she graduated from Pelican High in 1989. From there: Rapids Cafe, a Pelican pizza shop, the Pelican Supper Club, Pelican VFW, and the Cormorant Pub for six years.

There has been a pipeline from Pelican Rapids High School to Cormorant, with about nine seasonal staff connected to the schools.

Recent grads who have seen duty at the Pub include Greta Tollefson, Kaylie Isaman; Tim Guler, Rachel Guler, Maddie Guler, and their dad Eric Guler are on board. Current Pelican student Ethan Sjostrom has been clearing tables and serving. And, Pelican educator/coach Eli Beachy has been part-time behind the bar.

The Cormorant Pub will try to retain a staff of about 30 in the peak summer season, said Thorson.

"We're always in a hiring pattern...We just hired another half-dozen in the past few weeks," she noted.

In the off-season, the Pub will have a payroll of about 15-20.

Classic car show is a Pelican riverside favorite for auto enthusiasts

The Pelican Rapids-based Lake Country Cruisers are gearing up to "start their engines" for the 2022 riverside park show, July 9, 2022.

Pelican will be a hub of activity, as the car show will be on the same date as the community's Pelican Fest.

Pictured here, Cruisers Jerry Wilm, left, and Alan Johnson, right, presenting a trophy to one of the many car show winners.

The 23rd year will feature plaques and prizes. The show is at Sherin Park on the south side of the famous Pelican suspension bridge. There will be plenty of parking in collaboration with Trinity Lutheran Church and its large lot.

The show has consistently attracted about 200 classic cars. For information on the 21st-anniversary show, call 218-770-3996.



Pelican Pete Stampede Fun run features new July 2 date, new rural route

The Pelican Pete Stampede 5K run will be on a new date for summer 2022, and also a new route.

The popular fun run will be on July 2, with a more "rural" route.

Amanda Guler reported on the run at the May 31 Pelican Rapids City Council meeting.

The new route will be mostly east of town, avoiding in large part the residential streets and highway, said Guler, a founder of the annual fun run.

This year, track and cross country coach Laura Januszewski will be the chairperson of the Pelican run. Januszewski was recently named high school principal in Pelican.

The new route this year will start and finish at Lake Region Electric Cooperative, to avoid the parking lot construction at Chauncey Martin field. "It will be a scenic route for all ages," noted Januszewski.

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2022 Pelican Fest

Parade, classic cars, vintage tractors topped by a street dance

Pelican Fest will celebrate summer July 7-10, and local organizers are planning a full slate of events.

The parade, Rotary Turkey BBQ, and street dance are planned for Saturday, July 9.

This year, Pelican Fest will incorporate the Lake Country Cruisers Car Club's annual summer "Cars in the Park" show, which is hosted in Sherin Park, next door to the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot. Meanwhile, the tractor and farm show will be nearby, in the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot.

Also new this year is a community-wide church service on Sunday, July 10. Details on the ecumenical worship service are taking shape.

July 7 will mark the beginning of the festival, with the Pelican Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce "Golf Scramble" at Birchwood.

On July 8, Pelican Valley Senior Living hosts a Community Ap-



preciation lunch.

The parade is Saturday morning, July 9! Kiddie Parade at 10 a.m., and Grand Parade at 11 a.m.

The Pelican Area Rotary Club will begin serving the traditional spit-cooked turkey BBQ at 11 a.m. Advanced ticket sales are being encouraged by the Rotary Club.

With the turkey feed on the north side of the famous Pelican

Rapids "Suspension Bridge," it will be just a short walk across the river to Sherin Park, on the south side of the river where the car show and the vintage tractor-farm show will be held.

The Viking Gala will host the Bean Bag Tournament on Saturday at 2 p.m., behind the lower level of the Pelican VFW.

The street dance, featuring "Retrolution," will start at 8:30 p.m. Saturday night.



Sone Green, of Sone's Asian and American Cuisine, will be brewing up her special, secret recipe beans for the annual Pelican Rapids Rotary Club turkey barbeque.

Twenty-five gallons of her "Cowboy Baked Beans" will go a long way. But when they're gone, they're gone. So, the inside tip is to buy advanced tickets from Rotary members. Sone's ticket holders will advance quickly to a special line at E.L. Peterson Park on July 9, during Pelican Fest activities.

Pelicans' famous Rotary turkey BBQ will feature Sone's secret recipe beans

The Pelican Rapids Area Rotary Club Turkey BBQ will feature a new Pelican Rapids-made specialty for 2022.

A special, Arkansas-style baked bean recipe, adapted and enhanced by Sone Green, will be served along with the famous Rotary BBQ turkey.

Sone operates the Asian and American Cuisine restaurant at the Pelican VFW, and signed on with the Rotary Club for 25 gallons of her special "Cowboy Baked Beans."

Sone "hijacked" the basic recipe when she lived and worked down south, but she has since added and adapted it to the extent that it is a Pelican original.

"Not your normal baked beans!" laughed Sone, who is keeping some of the ingredients a "trade secret." She confessed only that pulled pork will be added to the mix.

"They have a sweet, savory twist" definitely made my own way," said Sone, who has operated the VFW restaurant for nearly a year.

The Rotary feed will be a special challenge, because of the sheer quantity. She's accustomed to cooking up a couple of gallons at a time. But to serve the hundreds at the Rotary turkey feed, she and a crew will be working into the night Friday, July 8, to deliver the 25 gallons of beans to the park shelter Saturday morning.

The spit-cooked turkey, a Pelican Rapids tradition, will be cooked to perfection and served with Sone's special "Cowboy Baked Beans."

The Rotary Club is urging advanced ticket sales in 2022, which will aid in planning quantities and streamlining serving.

Advanced ticket holders will also be able to move to a separate line, which will speed up serving. Sone's beans are available while supply lasts, so advanced ticket-holders will have an advantage.

For advanced tickets, call the Pelican Rapids Press at 218-863-1421, or check with local Rotary members.



Pictured, image of the scenic Pelican River by the McCutcheon family on a group kayak trip. It was quite a flotilla, said Matt McCutcheon.

Continued from page 1

with all the vessels and gear they needed.

"The river was just as beautiful as we had dreamed of...it was the best trip in the world," said Matt. "Many of us hadn't been together for more than 10 years."

Though most of the clan were well-accustomed to the water, there was some concern about the high water and rapid current of the Pelican River, in some spots.

"Everybody felt comfortable and safe. The river was flowing fast enough, we hardly needed to paddle," said Matt. "So we were able to pull alongside one another and chit chat. We mostly just floated down the river."

The route was from Lake Lizzie to Pelican Rapids.

The entire group met at the Pelican Rapids Peterson Park shelter, with lunch from Pelican Pizza.

"It is such a beautiful park, and we were able to eat right at the pavillion there," said Matt. One of the family members also stayed across the river, at the convenient city RV and campground at Sherin Park.

The beauty of the river was the main feature, but there were just enough rapids to make it exciting.

"For 60-year-olds, it was exciting for a few moments, but safe!"

Most of the family's roots are in Bettendorf, Iowa, said Matt, but they now live across the nation.

But in the summer, the McCutcheons are now true Minnesotans, after trekking down the Pelican River.



Right, family photo shows (from top left to right and then bottom left to right) the McCutcheon brothers and sister. In order: John, Amy, Luke, Conway, Matt, and Mark.

The family has been visiting Lake Lida and the Pelican area for about 20 years, and brother John has retired to a home in the former Linden Shores Resort area.

Above, a photo of the extended family during their recent visit to the Pelican Rapids-Lida area.

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Everly Brothers revisited

Zmed Brothers to return to Pelican after near-capacity Fine Arts Auditorium concert in 2019

By Louis Hoglund

Folks from towns, the lakes, and the farms of the greater Pelican Rapids, longing to revisit the good old days...All they have to do is dream...

And plan on attending the Everly Brothers Experience concert July 23.

A return engagement is being promoted, bringing the Zmed Brothers back to town.

The timeless music of the Everlys was, and probably remains, the biggest show hosted at the new, modern Pelican Rapids Fine Arts Auditorium venue. The Zmed-Everly 2019 concert, which raised funds for auditorium enhancements, was nearly sold out to capacity.

The 1958 song "Dream" was a hit and sung by the Everly Brothers, Don and Phil, reaching number one on the charts on May 19, 1958. It remains one of the most familiar pop tunes of all time.

The Zmeds and the Everly Experience, backed by a professional touring band, perform Everly material and also offer history and trivia.

Richard Nelson, a Pelican area seasonal resident with an arts, theater, and promotion-marketing background, has booked the show.

There is a non-profit tie to the July 23 concert, as Nelson and several Pelican area music and arts enthusiasts are working on forming the "Falling Creek Players." Nelson envisions the organization as advocating performing arts in Pelican, particularly in the summer. The new Fine Arts Auditorium rivals almost any venue in the area, and a non-profit would advocate and promote events including the prospect of a community summer theater.

"Getting our organization up and running as soon as possible allows us to apply for grants from Lake Region Arts Council. They want an up and running organization before they will give us grant money," noted Nelson, who has an extensive background with Grand Forks area arts, music, and theater organizations.

For the July 23 date, Nelson has secured several business sponsorships to help underwrite the performance.

Nelson Auto, Ripley's Inc., and Bell Bank are major sponsors. Supporting sponsors include Park Region Cooperative, Pelican Rapids Farmers Elevator, Evenson-Southtown, Minnesota National Bank, Lakeland General Store, Pelican Drug, Superior Lakeside, Heart O' Lakes Meats, and Larry's Super Market.

"Our ticket sales for the Everly Brothers Experience will dictate how we can proceed on future productions for Falling Creek Players," noted Nelson. "This is truly a fundraiser for our new organization."

Details are yet to be worked out as the July 23 date approaches. But tickets will be available at EverlyBrothersExperience.eventbrite.com. The online access will streamline the ticket process, rather than multiple sales locations. But Nelson said there would be tickets available at the door as well.

For further information, contact Richard Nelson at 701-215-2170.



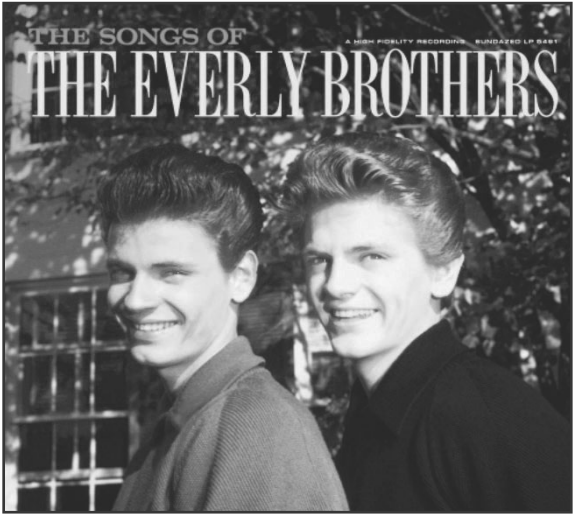
The Zmed Brothers will bring their musical tribute to the Everly Brothers to the Pelican Fine Arts Auditorium July 23.

The Zmed Brothers have been touring nationally with their "Everly Brothers Experience" show.

The Everly Brothers' place in recorded pop music history is well established. In fact, the music has spanned the decades, and young listeners in the late 1950s and early 1960s still fondly recall the songs some now from their homes in senior living centers.

This vintage poster tells an interesting story, at a time when the Everly Brothers first became known around the world.

Note that the Everlys took top billing on the poster, with the "Rolling Stones" third billing. The Everly Brothers were well known as a musical influence on the Beatles, the Stones, Beach Boys, and even Bob Dylan.



Pelican's Art in the Park July 24



Pelican Rapids Art in the Park has been one of the most popular and well-run events of its kind.

Artistic talents are on display, across two parks on the scenic Pelican River through town. The 2022 art fair is July 23.

The all-day event has been a favorite for both art vendors and shoppers, because it spans Pelican's well-shaded city parks connected by the unique suspension bridge over the Pelican River.

The event has attracted as many as 200 vendors for past Art in the Park events.

Five churches team up to offer Jam session with Jesus for summer Bible school in August



Vacation Bible School is a five-church endeavor in the Pelican Rapids area.

The more, the merrier, as churches combine their resources and offer to a large number of youngsters.

The five Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America in the area include: Trinity Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church, Central Lutheran Church, Zion Lutheran Church, and Grove Lake Lutheran Church.

This year Vacation Bible School will be a three-day event, August 9-11, from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at Grove Lake Lutheran Church for kids ages PreK-6th grade.

Transportation will be provided every day from Trinity's parking lot.

The theme this year is "Jamming with Jesus."

The week will be full of bible stories, singing, crafts, service projects, and games. The cost is free, and anyone is welcome to participate. If you have any questions or need a registration form, please reach out to any of the church offices.

Keep the kids reading in the summer, with this advice from U of M

From University of Minnesota

Summer learning loss is a concern for many parents and educators as students finish the school year and spend time away from the classroom.

Lack of access to reading materials and continued education are two factors that often contribute to this loss of learning, but families can take steps on their own to support reading development.

Lisa Von Drasek, curator of the Kerlan Collection of Children's Literature at the University of Minnesota, answers questions about how to keep kids reading this summer.

Q: Why is it so important to make sure kids continue reading over the summer?

Teachers and librarians are concerned about what they call the "summer slide." This would be defined as losing reading and comprehension skills by not reading during the summer months. To slow this loss of learning, think outside the box and remember that reading is reading is reading. All reading improves comprehension, competency, and fluency. Cookbooks count. Guinness Book of World Records count. Comics count!

Q: What steps can families take to keep kids engaged with reading?

The most important piece of advice I would give to parents and caregivers is to facilitate self-selection no matter the age of the child. Take time to explore different book options together at the library. Allow kids to select three books to take home and give them permission to change their minds if they lose interest.

On a beautiful summer day, bring the books outside. Explore the outdoors and read aloud science picture books like "Plant a Pocket of Prairie" by Phyllis Root, a book about the prairie ecosystem and how kids can help restore the land-

scape. Or be a citizen scientist and read "The Girl Who Drew Butterflies" by Joyce Sidman, a biography about one of the first female entomologists.

If the weather turns cold and rainy, take advantage of the opportunity to stay inside and read together as a family. Read aloud "They Call Me Geronimo" by David Bowles, a novel about a boy who navigates life growing up on the border through poetry. Another great option is Kate DiCamillo's new book, "The Beatryce Prophecy," a fantasy story in a magical medieval setting.

Families can find more lists and suggestions from the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, Bank Street College of Education's Best Books of the Year, and the Cooperative Children's Book Center.

Q: What resources are available to help kids access reading materials?

Do you know about Ebooks Minnesota? It's a free online ebook collection for all Minnesotans. The collection covers a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction subjects for readers of all ages. The titles are searchable by authors, series, or topics. The collection development librarians have focused on providing high-interest topics and formats from dinosaurs and science to comics.

Another great resource that can be downloaded for free is Writing Boxes: The Reading/Writing Connection in Libraries, which is full of literacy activities and includes writing prompts to inspire poems, maps, and recipes. All you need to do is have paper and pencil, markers, and cardstock ready to engage with the prompts.

Try to find a StoryWalk near you, a movement where counties or libraries deconstruct a storybook and place each page of the story on a poster along an outdoor walking path in an effort to en-

courage both reading and movement. If there aren't any near you, consider making your own!

And, of course, get to know the children's librarian at your local public library and sign up for their summer reading programs.

Good reads for kids

Grades K-1

Series of informational comic format science books from Kevin McCloskey: "We Dig Worms!," "The Real Poop on Pigeons!," "Something's Fishy," "Snails Are Just My Speed!" and "Ants Don't Wear Pants!"

Got a kid who is young and a fluent reader with a great sense of humor? Andy Griffith's, "The 13-story Treehouse" is just the right series to start. The book is about two kids who live in a giant treehouse filled with magical creatures and amazing rooms. It's such a good story that it will also interest kids who are struggling to read and kids who typically dislike reading.

Grades 2-3

"Astrid and Apollo" by Minnesotan V.T. Bidania is a series about eight-year-old twins of Hmong heritage trying different activities and learning about their cultural traditions.

Grades 4-6

"Lowriders in Space" by Cathy Camper, illustrated by Raul the Third, is a graphic format story about a team that loves working on cars together and enters a competition to win a cash prize that would allow them to open their own shop.

Grade 5-7

"Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword" by Barry Deutsch is a graphic format story about a brave 11-year-old girl searching for a dragon slaying sword.

High school

"Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer is a series of essays on Indigenous wisdom, nature and the teachings of plants.

County Fair time ... Fairgrounds will hop in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Perham, Barnesville

County fairs are happening at all corners around the greater Pelican Rapids area.

Clay County Fair: Barnesville will be a flurry of activity July 14-17. The 2022 fair will be its 108th anniversary. There is no admission.

East Otter Tail County Fair: Perham is the location, and the July 21-24 event features a full slate of activities. Special Days include:

Veteran and Daycare Day July 21

Senior Citizen Day July 22

Kids Day July 23

Family Day, July 24

West Otter Tail County Fair: July 20-23 are the dates at the fairgrounds in Fergus Falls. Highlights include Rodeo night, Auto Jam/Auto Derby, and concerts on the fairgrounds stage.

Becker County Fair: July 27-30 are the dates, with a full schedule of grandstand events including tractor pull July 28, and Demolition Derby July 30. The April Stenger Volleyball tournament is July 27

Cormorant Art Show

Mid-summer creative interlude in "The Village"

The popular Cormorant Area Art Club will hold its annual art show July 9-10, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Cormorant Community Center at 10929 County Highway 5, Pelican Rapids.

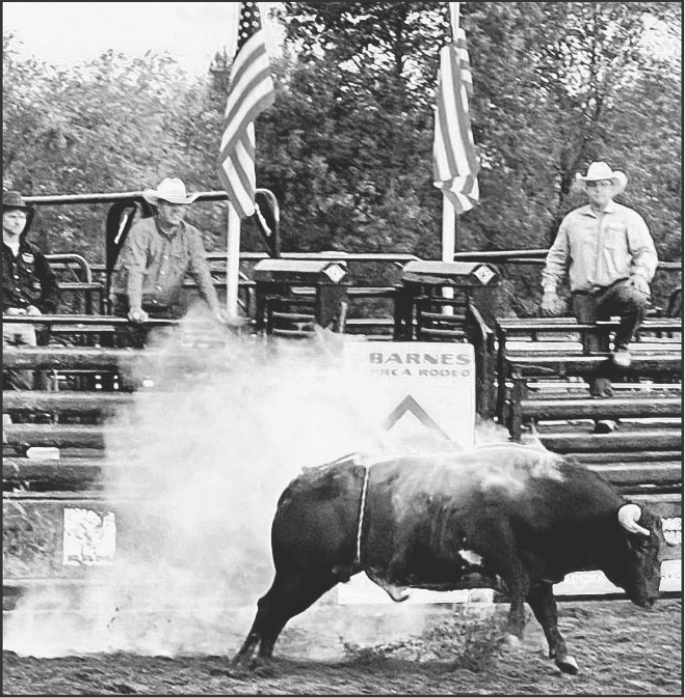
Featuring original art of all kinds by regional artists and offering refreshments, door prizes, and free admission.

The event has become a mid summer tradition in the lakes area.

The community center/town hall is located about a block west of the Cormorant Store and village business district.

Yee-haw! Rodeo back in Rothsay this summer

Pre-sale tickets on sale now for the July 15, 16 event

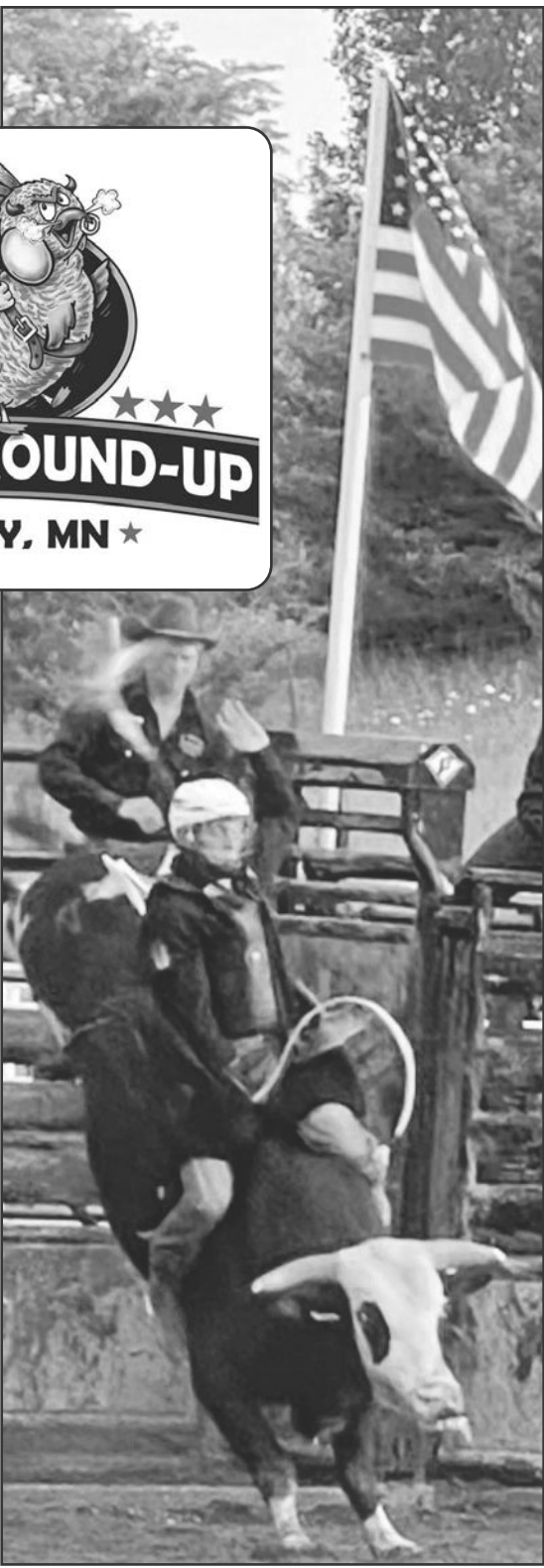
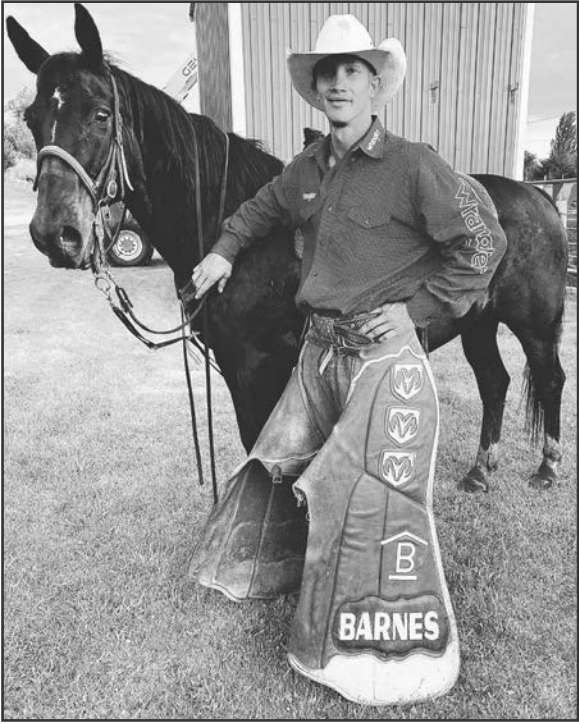


The 2nd Annual Rothsay Round-Up Rodeo returns on July 15 and 16. This will be a full 2-day gathering packed with all of the events you would expect at a rodeo. This year showcases Wojols Rodeo, and pre-sale tickets are now on sale through July 10 and can be found online at rodeoticket.com/rothsay-round-up/rodeo-information.

Along with the Round-Up, the Powerhouse sponsored by Rothsay TC Club will be hosting their annual street dance both nights at the rodeo. The dance is for ages 21+ and will require ID proof of age upon entrance.

Friday night features the band "Brassholes," while Saturday dancers will hear "Jacked Up."

If you are looking to become a contestant, please reach out to Dana Wojciechowski at 218-689-1799 for the forms needed to compete in the Round-Up.



Lakes country is also "rodeo country" at least a couple times per year. Rothsay will host rodeo action in July. Meanwhile, Hawley continued its longstanding tradition of a June rodeo. Pictured here, images from the Hawley event.

Photos courtesy Julie Martin.



POTATO DAYS

Barnesville hosts annual 'spud-tacular' event Aug 26-27

Potato Days, dating all the way back to the 1930s, has had varied attractions over the years, but one thing remains the same: loads of potatoes.

Rated as one of the best festivals in the country by US News and World Reports, this two-day event full of potato-related food, contests, and fun happens on August 26 and 27 in downtown Barnesville. Potato Days draws approximately 14,000 people each year.

Many activities for small fries and tots

Potato Days is truly a family-friendly festival with no shortage of activities for all ages. Friday festivities kick off with a Kiddie Parade where kids may dress up as their favorite characters to march around the lot by the Old Depot.

There will be inflatables, bushels of kids' games like potato sack races and potato bean bag toss, and this year there will even be video games hosted by Replay Games.

Tube-ular music and entertainment

Performances on the main stage start Friday at noon and continue all day long. While the line-up is yet to be finalized, some confirmed acts include Suz Dance, Pepper Ashmore, Stoneridge Road, and Just for Kix.

The street dance on Saturday night features an opportunity to do the "mashed potato" to the tunes of Fargo band Post Traumatic Funk Syndrome from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. in downtown Barnesville on Front Street.

"A-peeling" foods

Of course, you can't have a festival dedicated to potatoes without various potato-based foods. Baked potatoes with toppings, potato sausage, fresh-cut french fries, lefse, rommegrot, and dumplings are just a few items you can expect to find at the food court.

Friday night features the much anticipated French Fry Feed that gives out over 1000 servings and 600 lbs of french fries to festival-goers before they run out.

If you haven't gotten your fill of potatoes on Friday, come back Saturday morning for the KC's Potato Pancake feed, where they offer all-you-can-eat potato pancakes with a side of eggs and sausage.

Plenty of opportunities for "ompe-taters" to win

There will be over a dozen competitive events at Potato Days this year. Friday includes the Na-

tional Lefse Cookoff, Mashed Potato Wrestling, a Miss Tater Tot pageant for 5-6-year-olds, and Potato Car Races.

On Saturday, a 5K Fun Run will be held to honor and celebrate the memory of Jaynie (Herbranson) Halvorson. Other Saturday events include a Potato Picking Contest followed by the Kids Potato Scramble, a Potato Peeling Contest, a Sewing/Stacking Contest, and a Mashed Potato Eating Contest. The Golden Potato Scavenger Hunt will also be held on Saturday, where contestants compete to solve clues and find the gold bedazzled potato hidden somewhere in town.

There will even be a Strong Man competition where contestants can show their strength by lifting ~ you guessed it ~ sacks of potatoes!

Both days also feature card game tournaments for whist and pinochle and at least one bingo tournament.

No shortage of fun for "spec-taters"

Opportunities for shopping and browsing are aplenty, with both festival days featuring a Street Fair, an Antique Equipment Display, a Quilt Show, and a Car Show.

On Saturday at 5:15 p.m., the Classic Car Cruise is followed by the Potato Days Parade downtown on Front Street.

New this year is a Dog Fashion Show. In fact, it's so new, they haven't decided when or where it's happening.

For updates and information about Potato Days events, go to PotatoDays.com, their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Barnesville-PotatoDays, or view their Instagram at www.instagram.com/PotatoDaysMN.



Above, a previous competitor in the Potato Days Strong Man competition.



Minnow race season underway, with action every Tuesday in downtown Pelican

The minnow race season is on for the 2022 season, in downtown Pelican Rapids. Sponsored by the Pelican Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Minnow Races are weekly, with registration 9:30 and race at 10 a.m.

Winners take home a fancy Pelican Rapids Minnow race t-shirt.

The races are directly east of the Pelican Drug store. Pelican Drug Owner Don Perrin assists with staff and storage of minnow race equipment, along with many volunteers from the community and Pelican businesses.

Pictured here, action from the June 21 races.

Also pictured, a special group of visitors enjoyed the races. The crew from Productive Alternatives, Fergus Falls, traveled to Pelican for an outing to the Minnow Races.



Dent Daze highlight is July 16 parade

The City of Dent will hold their annual Dent Daze festival on July 16.

The annual community festival hosts citizens and visitors in downtown Dent with a Grand Parade at 11 a.m., a street fair of vendors, games and snacks, kids' pedal tractor races, a 1K bubble run, and a Fireman's Pancake Feed, to name a few.

Katie Baker will also be providing some musical entertainment during the event.

More event info can be found on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/dentcommunityclub>



Cormorant Daze slated Aug. 20

The community of Cormorant Village has come together to organize Cormorant Daze which will be held on August 20, 2022.

It's the 11th year for the festival held in Cormorant which will include a variety of activities and events for all ages.

Events at Cormorant Daze

- Vendor & Craft Show
- Car Show
- Lions Pancake Feed
- Games Galore kid bouncy house/slides



- M.A.W. Wrestling
- 5k Run/Walk
- Little Miss Sunshine Pageant
- St. Peter's Lutheran Church Pie & Ice Cream social
- Trowbridge Creek Petting Zoo
- Kids pedal tractor pull
- Barrel train rides
- Clowns
- Bike helmet giveaway
- Kids Crafts

For more information about Cormorant Daze events, check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cormorantdaze

Looney Days Aug. 11-14

The Village of Vergas is hosting their annual Looney Days festival again August 11-14.

The Vergas Community Club organizes the festival which features four days of fun including a wide variety of entertainment, food, shopping, and activities.

Events at Looney Days:

- Area-wide Rummage Sale
- Pickleball Demonstrations
- Voices of the Past Cemetery Tour
- Racing the Wieners
- Water Ski Show
- 5k Run/Walk
- Street Fair
- Petting Zoo
- Beer Garden
- Road Rally
- Little Miss Vergas Pageant
- Loon Calling Contest
- Puppy Plunge
- Bean Bag Tourney
- Classic Car Show
- Grande Parade

For more information about Cormorant Daze events, check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/vergascommunityclub



New face welcoming visitors at downtown business district info center

This season, a familiar, local face is greeting visitors from near and far at the Otter Tail Lakes Country-Pelican Rapids information center.

Estefany Martinez will be welcoming folks to Pelican Rapids, while also serving as marketing assistant with the Otter Tail Lakes Country regional tourism-recreation promotion organization.

A 2016 graduate of Pelican Rapids High School, Martinez has worked in a variety of customer service capacities including several hair care and salon locations in Fargo.

Her experience with the seasonal travel-tourism sector even extends to a season with Lakes Inn at Duvilla with housekeeping.

Hours at the information center, located in the heart of the downtown Pelican business district in Historic City Hall, will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The information office will be open to Halloween.








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 July 5 Dan Brekke Band	 July 19 Silverado	<div style="border: 2px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <p>Food Truck Rally</p> <p>Fabulous Food & Treats</p> <p>Spanky's Stone Hearth Bar</p> <p>4:30-8:30</p> </div>
 July 12 The Dunn Show	 July 26 The Front Fenders	

Concerts are FREE! Freewill donation each night.
 On the lawn - Bring your own chairs and blankets! (chairs available if you need them)
 If it rains, concerts will be indoors.

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Golfing where the sheep roam—this photo from the recent Lions tournament near New York Mills, shows the pastoral backdrop at the Balhepburn Golf Course.

Pelican squad wins Lions tourney at sheep pasture course near New York Mills, which is best kept secret in Otter Tail lakes area

A Dunvilla-Pelican Rapids area team took the trophy in one of the most unusual golf tourneys on a one of a kind golf course.

Golfers at the Balhepburn course in rural New York Mills share the greens and fairways with grazing sheep. The course is also a sheep pasture, designed and owned by retired veterinarian Dr. Howard Legried.

The sheep are the head groundskeepers at Legried's Balhepburn golf course. Golfing is free, and Legried's only real course policy is the close the gates so the sheep don't escape.

Led by Pelican's Mike Carlson, the team competed at the nine hole, par 32 Balhepburn course.

The Carlson quartet were the winners of the Lions Club International Foundation fundraising tourney at Balhepburn. Golfing the sheep

pasture was a first for Carlson, a Pelican Rapids real estate broker, who is a member of the Dunvilla Lions and also Pelican Rotary and Pelican Chamber of Commerce. His team included fellow Rotarian Andrew Sorum plus Chris Lage and Brandon Grimes.

There were nine teams representing Lions Clubs from around the region. The Vergas Lions also entered a squad.

The event raised more than \$3,000 for Lions International, reported regional Lions officer Bert Nelson, who is also a New York Life agent based in Pelican Rapids.

Balhepburn Golf Course is located at 39501-40519 530th Ave, New York Mills, MN 56567.



A Pelican Rapids area team won the annual Lions International golf tourney, on the Balhepburn sheep pasture course in New York Mills. From left, Mike Carlson, Brandon Grimes, Andrew Sorum, and Chris Lage.



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