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"Preserving Our Past While Working On Our Future"

Rothsay Regional Report

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Local Festivals Are Back On Track . . .

Summer Event Schedule Returning To Normal

"LET MY PEOPLE GO! . . . That was the plea from Moses to King Ramses II as he led the Israelites out of Egypt. For the past year a similar plea has been echoed by Minnesotans as they have tried to escape from the restraints placed on them by Governor Tim Walz.

Gov. Tim proved on Thursday, May 13 that he is a benevolent dictator. He has agreed to let his people go. Not right away and not all at once . . . but someday soon.

The good news in his proclamation to his people was that local festivals, all of which were cancelled in 2020, are now back on track. Organizers for events that would typically be held over the summer have been in limbo. Organizers were unable to make plans until the many restrictions were lifted or at least reduced and refined.

That appears to have now happened. Most of the fun summer festivals are again back in the works. That's a good news, bad news type of situation. The bad news is that a year's worth of work on festivals will now have to be planned and prepped by volunteers in a matter of weeks. The really good news is that the festivals are going to happen at all this year.

The closest event on the summer schedule is the very popular Breakfast on the Farm. That event is slated for Saturday, June 5 and

traditionally draws over a thousand people to enjoy an old fashioned farmer's breakfast out in a rural farm setting.

The breakfast event is followed a week later by the Hawley Rodeo. That event has been a landmark on

the summer scene for over a half century. It's back again this year after a one-year COVID-19 lapse. The rodeo will be hosted Friday and Saturday, June 11-12 at the Rodeo Grounds on the south side of Highway 10 in Hawley. A few

thousand fans will again watch as queens are crowned and cowboys from all over the midwest try to stay on a bucking bronc or bull.

Until the summer of 2020 and the coronavirus, the Clay County Fair in Barnesville had a record of

112 years in a row. That record was interrupted last year but the 113th edition of the popular fair is slated to run in Barnesville Thursday through Sunday, July 15-18 this summer.

The Clay County Fair will have exhibitors from all over Clay County

showing their products, wares and 4-H and FFA projects over the four-day run of the fair. Entertainment in front of the grandstand includes the demolition derby on Saturday evening, July 17. That event always packs the grandstand. Other grandstand events include a modified tractor pull and a ranch rodeo.

The Mighty Thomas Carnival will again play the midway at the fair. There will also be many open class, 4-H and FFA exhibits, free stage entertainment at the band stand every day, youth activities, exhibits in the open class building and the conservation building plus a lot more.

There is no gate admission charged to come to the fair. If you want to park on the grounds it will cost you a couple of bucks.

Rounding out July of this summer will be a new event. The Rothsay Round-Up is replacing Rothsay Prairie Days this summer. Dates for this new event are Friday and Saturday, July 30-31 in Rothsay.

There are a host of events slated for those two days that will blow the socks off this little town. WOJO's Rodeo will be making their premier appearance in Rothsay. Everything from saddle bronc to bull riding will be tried right on down to mutton busting and goat roping for the kids. There will be live music and dancing



A Rothsay parade is back on the schedule for 2021.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Memorial Day Services Set For 10:00 a.m. May 31



The American Legion Post 376 along with the Post Auxiliary are sponsoring Memorial Day services on Monday, May 31 at 10:00 a.m. at New Life Lutheran Church in Rothsay.

Retired Col. Debra Hanneman will be the guest speaker.

Caution! There Is A Lot Of Roadwork Ahead

As we all know, Minnesota has three seasons. There is, of course, winter. Then there are the four to five days of summer. And then there is road construction season.

That road construction season is now shifting into high gear. The most obvious sign of that is a trip to Moorhead.

Highway 52 no longer goes all the way to Moorhead. Somewhere just north of Menards, Old Highway 52 has ended for four years now as construction continues in downtown to ease the waits for trains passing through the city. You have at least this summer of Moorhead detours to look forward to if everything stays on track. The project, already in its fourth year, could easily drag out to five years, through the 2022 construction season.

Less intrusive and much more illuminating are 14 intersection sites scattered over the western part of Minnesota. These intersections are being illuminated with overhead

lighting to improve safety in those areas. Two of those sites will have an effect on local traffic and drivers.

As an after-effect of the railroad project in Moorhead, the intersection at Interstate 94 and 20th Street will have new lighting installed this summer.

A project closer to home has already seen lighting placed at the intersection of Highway 34, Highway 32 and Highway 35, about nine miles east of Barnesville. This improvement has had lighting installed that will make visibility better at that busy intersection.

Highway 34 runs east and west. Highway 32 intersects Highway 34 from the north. On the south side of 34, it's still a paved road running to North Immanuel Church, Olaf Lake and Highway 108 but the name changes to Highway 35. This 34/32/35 crossroads is a particularly busy lake traffic intersection in the summer, especially during the four-day Rollag Steam Thresher's

Reunion over Labor Day weekend. The east end of Highway 34, where it intersects with Highway 59, was illuminated several years ago.

Other illumination projects scheduled for this summer include Highway 10 at East Shore Drive in Detroit Lakes;

Highway 10 at County Road 10 near Frazee;

Highway 12 at Highway 119/County 5 north of Appleton;

Highway 27 at Highway 114, west of Alexandria;

Highway 27 at Highway 55 near Hoffman;

Highway 29 at Highway 210 east of Henning and south of Deer Creek; Highway 34 at County Roads 26 and 47 near Osage;

Highway 55 at Highway 114 near Lowry;

Highway 75 at Highway 28 near Graceville;

Highway 75 at Highway 7 near Ortonville;

Highway 78 at Highway 108 in

Ottertail;

Highway 78 at Highway 108 south of Perham.

Most of the illumination work will take place on the shoulders of the road and will not impede traffic. But motorists should be aware of the construction work and react accordingly while in any of these work zones. There is the potential for some very short-term lane closures at any of the work sites.

The intersection lighting project is being funded by the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

Good lighting at intersections has been shown to significantly reduce the proportion of nighttime crashes. The intersections that were selected

for this year's work were identified in MnDOT's District 4 Safety Plan. That plan indicated a need based upon crash history and severity.

Strata Corporation, of Grand Forks, ND was awarded the 2021 lighting contract with a bid of \$339,000 for the 14 sites. The entire project is expected to be done by the end of June.

The summer of 2021 is basically looking at only minor inconvenience with the continuing work on the railroad tracks in Moorhead and now these small illumination projects at nearby locations. But that is going to change drastically in the very near

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Spring Fling Royalty Crowned



It was a long time coming. Dates had been changed. The name had been changed. But after a few months Rothsay School was finally able to hold their Spring Fling Coronation. Members of the royal court are left to right - Benny Dupree, Kinsey Heier, Sam Danielson, Emily Anderson, Kirbee Fuhs, Queen Lilly Wheelright, King Colby Larson, Eli Schleeter, Jazmyn Peterson, Tresten Petersen, Emma Anderson-Buckingham and Jeremy Rasmusson.



The two poles are already up and the light shines brightly at the intersections of Highway 34, Highway 32 and Highway 35 nine miles east of Barnesville. Over the coming weeks, 13 other strategic locations will see poles set in place and the lights turned on.