



Concert in Park
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100 Years In The Family
LeMasurier / Jacobson
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NORDLAND TRACTOR RUN

Parade Includes Nearly 100 Tractors...



Photo by Michael Jacobson

On Saturday, June 12, Nordland Lutheran Church held its annual tractor run, which starting at the rural church and returning for lunch. With the beautiful weather, 97 tractors and other entries participated this year. Ethan Kaufman let his dog sit in the driver's seat (while actually steering his John Deere tractor himself) as they left the church. Turn to Page 3 for more pictures.

QUEEN OF THE LAKES

Hailey Ruhoff competing at Aquatennial

2025 PHS graduate will be first Miss Paynesville since 2017 to go

By Sara Meyer

Hailey Ruhoff, the 2024-2025 Miss Paynesville will compete in Minneapolis Aquatennial Queen of the Lakes pageant, running from July 22-26.

The program will end with the crowning of the Queen of Lakes and her two Aquatennial princesses. This year there are 44 girls competing, including Paynesville's Hailey Ruhoff. "I know quite a few of this year's candidates!" exclaimed Ruhoff, the daughter of Jason and Pam Ruhoff of Paynesville and 2025 PHS graduate. "Mostly from our neighboring communities' ambassadors due to all of the parades together."

Ruhoff is especially excited for the meet-the-candidates event since "everyone's town-themed costumes are so creative and the Minneapolis community gets to see us all together!"

When Ruhoff decided to attend Aquatennial, she had to start from scratch. "I had absolutely no idea what Aquatennial entailed because it's been so long since a Paynesville girl has gone," she explained. "After asking lots of questions and leaning on my fellow candidates and friends, I've learned so much along the way. We call it the 'Best Days of Summer.'" During the competition, "Most of my time will be spent connecting with other candidates and judges, and I'll specifically be sharing what makes Paynesville special," shared Ruhoff.

To prepare herself for this event, her preparations have been a lot like what she did for Miss Paynesville, just on a larger scale. "I've been orga-



Photo Courtesy of the Minneapolis Aquatennial

Hailey Ruhoff, the 2024-25 Miss Paynesville and a 2025 PHS graduate, will compete to become Queen of the Lakes at the 2025 Minneapolis Aquatennial ambassador program next week.

nizing all my outfits, details, and schedules to make sure everything is set. I've also been practicing for interviews and focusing on other details to feel fully confident going on," she said.

Ruhoff noted the best parts of her reign as Miss Paynes-

ville "have been representing our community at so many events and meeting wonderful people along the way. I've especially loved becoming so close with (princesses) Grace (Roberg), Graysin (Miller), and Kylie (Pauls), along with the royalty from neighboring

communities."

She decided to run for Queen of the Lakes to "represent Paynesville at the Aquatennial because it's a chance to share the kindness and small-town spirit that

HAILEY RUHOFF – Page 5

News Briefs

Thursday, July 17

Summer Concert Series continues

The Summer Concert Series at Veterans Park by Lake Koronis will continue on Thursday, July 17, with Family By Choice playing from 6-8 p.m. Other bands and dates this year are: Wheelhouse Trio on Thursday, July 24; Meire Grove Band on Thursday, July 31; Gig Noonan on Thursday, Aug. 7; and Cimmarron on Thursday, Aug. 14. Concessions will be available on concert nights from 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, July 19

Sportsmen to hold youth outdoor day

The Paynesville Sportsman's Club will host their annual Youth in the Outdoors Day on Saturday, July 19, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at the Paynesville Sportsman's Club on Co. Rd. 33, Paynesville. Come and join for a free family fun day! Activities will include: BB gun, black-powder rifle, .22 caliber rifle, trap shooting, archery, fisheries, and more! All firearms and ammunition will be provided! Children 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult or guardian. Lunch will be provided for all. Each child that attends will receive a t-shirt. Questions? Call Barbie at 320-905-0543.

Friends of Library hosting book sale

The Friends of the Paynesville Public Library will hold their summer book sale and family fun day on Saturday, July 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Paynesville Historical Museum. Browse thousands of books, DVDs, puzzles, and kids' books. This year the Friends of the Library will have a special donation of American Girl dolls and accessories for sale! They also will have a large collection of farm tractor books and other collectible books to peak interest. Bring the family and enjoy the fun day activities, including viewing the history museum buildings, playground, and yard games. Coffee, donut holes, and rootbeer floats will be available under the new museum pavilion. All proceeds will benefit services at the Paynesville Public Library.

Coming Events

Crystal Hills to hold free concert

Crystal Hills Assembly of God will host a free outdoor concert on Friday, July 25, starting at 7 p.m. in their amphitheater on the old ski hill (26754 Highway 55, Paynesville). National Christian bands – opener Boiling Point and headliner Remedy Drive – will perform. Seating will be on the grass, so spectators should bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Circus coming to Paynesville

The Paynesville Area Chamber of Commerce is bringing the Culpepper and Merriweather circus back to Paynesville on Tuesday, July 29, with two shows on the grounds of the Paynesville ambulance garage (605 Lake Avenue) at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are \$13.75 for adults and \$8.75 for seniors (ages 65+) and kids (ages 2-12); pre-sale tickets are available through a QR code on at the Chamber's website at (www.paynesville-chamber.org). At-the-door tickets are \$16 for adults and \$9 for seniors and kids.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Some Minnesota will win, others lose, from the Big Beautiful Bill

President Trump signed bill into law on July 4, 2025

By Ana Radelat, MinnPost

Washington, D.C. – President Donald Trump, who has tried with limited success to

make huge changes in federal policy through executive power, scored a huge victory when Congress approved a massive budget bill that will speed his domestic agenda.

(President Donald Trump signed the bill into law on Friday, July 4.)

The legislation will roll back policies implemented by former President Joe Biden

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