

JULY/AUGUST 2021

# CONNECTION

## ADVENTUROUS ATTITUDE

High school friends  
founded Rusted  
Hook Hats



### CELEBRATING SMALL TOWNS

Residents reflect on  
Lac qui Parle turning 150

### ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Broadband extends art  
beyond the theatre



By SHIRLEY BLOOMFIELD, CEO  
NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association

## Partnering to fend off cyberattacks

In recent years, we've learned even the biggest of corporations, including Microsoft, Target and Marriott, are vulnerable to cyberattack. Then, last year, the pandemic increased the number of remote workers, moving more technology from the office into homes.

"The pandemic gave cybercriminals the opportunity to discover new malware families, successful new tactics and 'double extortion' strategies," says Roxanna Barboza, our Industry and Cybersecurity Policy analyst. "And since then, they have further honed their skills to exploit fear, gather intelligence and attack."

If this sounds like the trailer for a horror film you have no interest in seeing, I promise you, the possible impacts of a cyber breach are much more frightening. So, NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association is working to support the security efforts of internet service providers such as yours.

NTCA initiated CyberShare: The Small Broadband Provider Information Sharing and Analysis Center as a pilot project five years ago. We now have a robust team focused on the critical topic of cybersecurity, and NTCA members are encouraged to join the effort to recognize, analyze and respond to vulnerabilities, threats and other risks.

Also, CyberShare partnerships link us to the owners and operators of critical infrastructure like electric and water systems. More than 90% of CyberShare participants say the information received through the program enhances their ability to combat cyber threats.

It is through programs like CyberShare that we help organizations like your service provider protect consumers by creating a safe, secure digital experience. 📧



Convenience and a seemingly endless supply of options drives online shopping, which is safe as long as you take a few straightforward precautions. The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency offers a few straightforward tips to ensure that no one uses your personal or financial information for their gain.

### THE THREATS

1. Unlike visiting a physical store, shopping online opens the doors to threats like malicious websites or bogus email messages. Some might appear as charities, particularly after a natural disaster or during the holidays.
2. Vendors who do not properly secure — encrypt — their online systems may allow an attacker to intercept your information.
3. If your digital device and the vendor's systems aren't properly updated and protected, the risk increases.

### PROTECT YOURSELF

- Before providing any personal or financial information, make sure that you are interacting with a reputable, established vendor. In case of trouble, note phone numbers and physical addresses of vendors.
- When shopping, check the address bar of your web browser to be sure the address begins with "https:" instead of "http:" and that it has a padlock icon. These generally indicate a secure site.
- Remember, a legitimate business will not use email to request account information or ask you to confirm a purchase.
- Use a credit card for purchases, which limits your liability for fraudulent charges. Debit cards do not have the same level of protection.
- Keep a record of your purchases and copies of confirmation pages, and compare them to your bank statements. Report discrepancies immediately.
- Before providing personal or financial information, check the website's privacy policy to understand the storage and use of your information. 📧

# Summer reading on the go

**B**efore you jump online to order your top picks to round out summer reading, you might consider tapping into what could become your own personal librarian. And you might even keep more money in your pocket.

Most libraries offer free digital resources. So, all you need is a library card, an internet connection and a digital device. Here are a few other resources that could make the digital literary journey for you or the young reader in your family much easier.

## OVERDRIVE:

Most libraries buy the digital licenses to book titles they think you would enjoy. Then, you can use your library card to reserve those free e-books. OverDrive can work with apps like Libby so you can send your e-book to a Kindle or other reading device.

**overdrive.com**

## LIBRARY EXTENSION:

If you're crunched for time and enjoy browsing for digital books, Library Extension offers a free browser plug-in so you can see your library's digital book offerings while skimming titles on sites such as Amazon.com.

**libraryextension.com**

## PROJECT GUTENBERG:

The oldest digital library features some of the world's most popular classic literary titles. With more than 60,000 e-books to browse, you can read your favorites online or download them to your device.

**gutenberg.org**

## TUMBLEBOOKLIBRARY:

This interactive reading program takes existing picture books and turns them into talking, animated e-books. It also offers read-along chapter books. And another neat feature is that each book is offered in English, Spanish and French. Many school and public libraries offer the service to students or card holders. There's also a new TumbleBooks app.

**tumblebooks.com**

## SORA:

OverDrive's educational reading app offers students access to e-books and audiobooks in multiple languages through participating school and local libraries. The app allows teachers to track the amount of time students spend reading. Sora makes notes as students read and can share those notes with teachers and classmates.

**meet.soraapp.com**

## SCHOLASTIC SUMMER READING:

If your child needs a more structured summer reading experience, then you might want to check out the Scholastic Summer Reading Program. While mostly web based, it also offers some e-books. You'll have to create a Home Base account for your child through Scholastic. Home Base is a free, kid-safe, online digital community that offers fun reading-related activities.

**scholastic.com/site/summer/home.html**

## NOOK:

The Nook app is another option for finding free e-books for children. Just download it in the app store and look for the "Explore Kids" section. You can scroll through a range of topics to find free digital copies for download. 📖





# Uniquely rural

## Robust internet service helps us keep pace

I'd like to ask a favor of you. The next time you're driving through our community, take a few moments to reflect on this place we call home. If you're like me, you appreciate the breathing room we have, the natural beauty that surrounds us, our unique small towns and the possibility you might be able to really get to know your neighbors.



**KEVIN BEYER**  
Chief Executive Officer

Much of this nation isn't so fortunate. In fact, our lifestyle is increasingly rare. About 83% of our nation's residents live in urban areas. That's up from roughly 64% in 1950, according to a 2020 report by the University of Michigan's Center for Sustainable Systems. If the projections prove correct, by 2050, nearly 90% of the nation will live in communities considered urban.

What does that mean for places like ours? In many ways, not much. Our way of life is tried, true and much loved. We know who we are and why we live here, and most of us wouldn't have it any other way.

There is positive news, too. A couple of years ago, the National Conference of State Legislatures noted an uptick in rural population. There was an increase of 33,000 residents for the entire nation. It was a positive sign but not overly inspiring. While the pandemic has some wondering if more people would consider leaving densely populated cities for places like ours, that is a story that will require the next several years to play out.

Meanwhile, we can't ignore the trends that seem to indicate our way of living is increasingly rare. After all, the money usually goes where the people are. Federal and state governments gauge the population to determine where to invest in infrastructure. Private businesses look at demographics to decide where to locate stores, restaurants and more. Where there are jobs, there is growth.

So, we need every tool possible to balance the scales, and it's here where we are not only making up ground but where we also have the potential to excel. The foundation of that success is built on the people you see around you as you travel the local roads, enjoy a picnic, pick up groceries ... those day-in and day-out moments of life.

How do I know this? Well, we're already well down the road. This community makes a company like ours possible. Our one mission is to provide communications services to connect you not only to your neighbors but also to the world. We don't serve a corporate board of directors hundreds, or thousands, of miles away. Instead, we answer to you.

That's why we've focused on offering internet services, which form a bridge between you and a world of opportunities that rural areas simply never enjoyed until now.

It's a system you may well not notice as you drive along our roads. But it's there. And its presence is reflected in the success and happiness of those you know because we're doing what we've always done, which is working together to build a better home.

As you enjoy these long summer days, please do take a few minutes to reflect on all we have. Everyone is not so lucky. 📶

## CONNECTION

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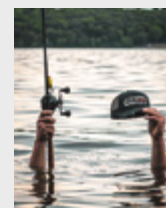
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**WORDSOUTH**

A CONTENT MARKETING COMPANY

On the Cover:



Alec Gausman, Jase Wilts and Isaac Wenthe grew up together and founded Rusted Hook Hats to share their outdoor philosophy. See story Page 9.



## HELPING HOUSEHOLDS CONNECT DURING THE PANDEMIC

### *What is it?*

**A temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic. The benefit provides:**

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband service

### *Who is eligible?*

**A household is eligible if one member of the household:**

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain government assistance programs
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since Feb. 29, 2020
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program

For more information, visit [getemergencybroadband.org](https://getemergencybroadband.org).

**We wish everyone a safe and happy July Fourth holiday. Our offices will be closed July 5, for the holiday weekend.**



## SUMMER HOURS

Start week after Memorial Day through Friday before Labor Day.

Don't forget that all Farmers Mutual and Federated Telephone offices will follow summertime lobby hours from June 7 to Sept. 3.

**Monday - Thursday**  
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Friday**  
8 a.m. to noon

## TV changes for Federated subscribers

For many years Federated Telephone has negotiated on behalf of our customers to secure the lowest rates possible for TV service. Unfortunately, the big media execs continue to squeeze the content providers for more money, all while the number of cable TV subscribers decline nationally.

As a result, the following changes will go into effect for Federated's cable TV subscribers:

On July 31, Federated's Cable TV will remove ESPN and Disney, a change that also includes affiliates ESPN2, Freeform, FX Movie Channel and Nat Geo. Doing so will allow us to decrease the price of the Expanded Basic package.

On Dec 31, 2021, we will discontinue the Federated Cable TV service.

The fracturing of traditional cable TV models continues to move toward smaller subscription-based streaming options. Streaming video services will continue to replace traditional TV at an increasing rate. Federated Telephone has invested in a fiber-optic network across our service area that makes these streaming services operate smoothly.

Even as traditional television service fades, we hope you know that everyone at Federated Telephone is committed to providing you with the broadband you need to fulfill your entertainment needs. To find out if you have the internet speed you need, call 320-585-4875.

## Digital Dilemma



Do you wonder which streaming platform carries your favorite channels?

And will that service fit your family's entertainment budget?

Visit the [suppose.tv](https://suppose.tv) website and click on your faves to see which platform is the best fit.



The Boundary Waters have more than 1,200 miles of canoe trails through stunning scenery.

# Going with the flow

Majestic moments in Minnesota's aquatic adventureland

Story by ANNE BRALY

Canoeing the Boundary Waters opens up the area's true majesty, an adventure through nature's silence. It's a soulful journey only experienced by traveling the watery trails through this wilderness, a natural boundary between the United States and Canada.

"Paddling in the Boundary Waters is like being transported back in time," says Pete Marshall, communications director for Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. For the past 40 years, the non-profit organization has worked to protect and preserve the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness and the boreal and temperate forests of the Quetico-Superior region.

"After 20 or 30 minutes on the water, it can be hard to think that you were just in a car," Marshall says. "What strikes most people is the silence. Something about being surrounded by so much water and surrounded by such deep beautiful forests creates a peace that's hard to describe."

Moose and their babies come to feed along the banks. Maybe you'll see a bear or timber wolf lumbering along or catch a glimpse of a whitetailed deer making its way through the brush. Maybe you'll see otters, too, as their heads bob at water level before diving down for food.

The Boundary Waters are a geographical wonder with more than 1,200 miles of trails navigable by canoe. There are a thousand lakes, rivers and streams linked by trails along which paddlers can portage — carry — their canoes from one to another.

The lakes are rocky, lined with granite shoals and cliffs. White and red pines, along with birches, compose the forests. "This is a water-rich environment, and it contains some of the cleanest water in the United States," Marshall says.

The big lakes of the Boundary Waters can prove challenging, even hazardous, when the wind whips up, and there are waters with rapids and waterfalls. Many of

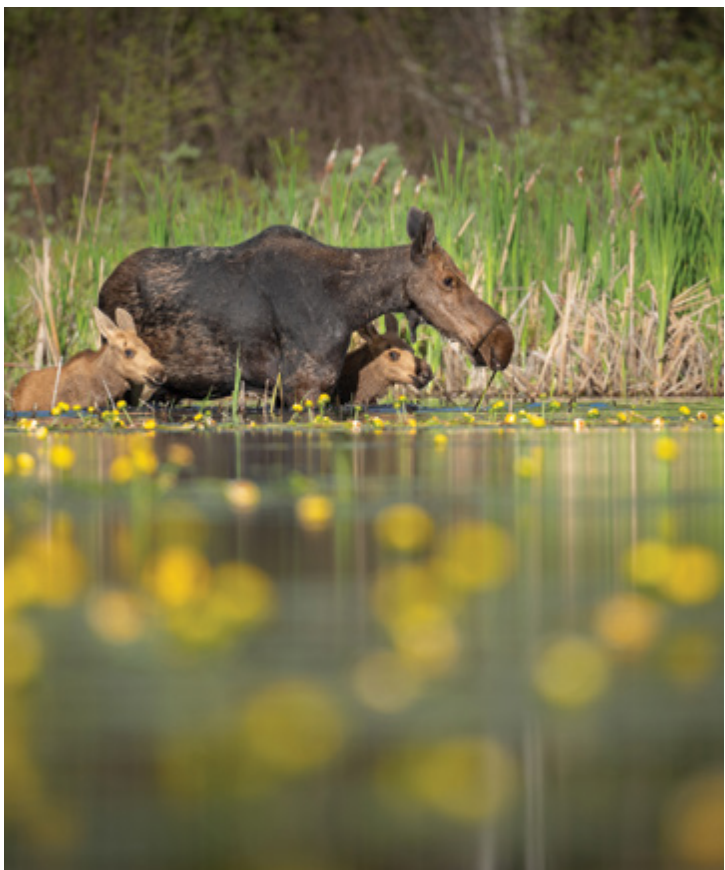
these risks can be avoided by staying close to shore and wearing a life vest. Also, gear and canoes could be portaged around the more-dangerous segments.

There are no designated routes through the watery wilderness. Paddlers are free to chart their own course, and plenty of beginner-friendly routes exist, Marshall says.

Each year, thousands of people visit the Boundary Waters for the first time. There are many outfitters around the wilderness who can help equip people, decide on a route and experience this wonderful place.

"It's always an invigorating adventure," Marshall says. "It never gets boring. Even if you return somewhere you've been before, there's always something new to see and experience. Plus, you can have a nice, relaxing trip where you go easy and enjoy the surrounding, or you can push yourself, paddling and portaging for hours on end, then sleep like a baby at the end of the day." 📱





## 5 FUN FACTS

1. The Boundary Waters were traditionally the home of the Anishinaabe, also known as the Ojibwe or Chippewa people.
2. The highest point in Minnesota is Eagle Mountain, which rises 2,301 feet above the Boundary Waters.
3. French fur traders first came to the area as early as 1688.
4. Pictographs, some hundreds of years old, can be found on cliffs that border the waterways.
5. Of the more than 1,100 lakes in the Boundary Waters Wilderness, only 19 allow motors, mostly 25 horsepower or less.

## Travel tips

Summer and fall are perfect seasons for a trip to the Boundary Waters. Particularly with the latter, the colors are stunning, but cold becomes a factor. The weather is so variable that on one trip, it might be raining, and the same time the next year, it might be snowing. So, pack wisely.

According to Moose Track Adventure, a resort and outfitter in Ely, Minnesota, it all starts at the feet. Choose footwear that has good ankle support for portaging, and make sure they're waterproof, because your feet will get wet. Rubber boots are a smart choice, particularly in spring and fall when the water is colder. Pack an extra, lightweight pair of shoes to wear around your campsite. Other items of clothing include:

- Comfortable socks and long underwear.
- A pullover or other warm jacket, plus rain gear.
- Two long-sleeved, quick-dry shirts, two pairs of shorts and fleece pants.
- Rain gear.
- A hat and warm gloves good for paddling.



Whether you are an expert or a beginner, the Boundary Waters along the border of the United States and Canada offer adventure.



HI! I'M JADE GEHRKE!

In this column, you'll learn about technology and read simple tips to get the most out of your electronics. For more tips or help with your devices, be sure to read this column in future publications. I'm always happy to help!

#### DEVICE OF THE MONTH



### Synology DiskStation DS220j

If you're interested in going the NAS — network attached storage — route for your backups, you can't go wrong with the Synology DiskStation DS220j. The device allows users to set up their own personal cloud storage to save and share files. You need to add your own storage drives, but it is simple to set up. The cost is \$169.99 from most online retailers.

# Back it up

## Keep your valuable data safe

With so much of our lives going digital — photos, videos and even financial records — it is critical we keep backups of our most important files. Accidents, loss, theft, natural disasters or equipment failures can quickly destroy valuable records. Yet, according to the folks at World Backup Day, almost a third of us have never backed up our data. Not once.

While you can always manually back up your files, it's very easy to forget to do so, leaving you with incomplete information or outdated versions. Ideally, you want an automatic system you can set and mostly forget.

Safeguarding your information does take some effort, and you will need a separate hard drive, USB drive or high-speed internet access. But if you follow some of these strategies, you'll earn peace of mind.

### CLOUD STORAGE

Keeping a copy of your files in the cloud — remote storage accessible through the internet — is the easiest way to back up your data. Popular services such as Google Drive or Dropbox, which many people use to share files across devices or with others, can also be configured to automatically sync folders on your computer to the cloud.

### USE YOUR OPERATING SYSTEM

If you have a Windows-based PC, you can go to Settings > Update & Security > Backup and select a separate drive to serve as a backup for your files. This option is easy to use, and you can customize which folders to save and how often. Apple users can use Time Machine, the built-in backup feature for Macs, accessible through System Preferences. For cloud storage options, Windows comes with Microsoft OneDrive, while Apple offers iCloud. Both provide a few gigabytes of free storage, expandable through monthly or yearly fees.

### NETWORK ATTACHED STORAGE

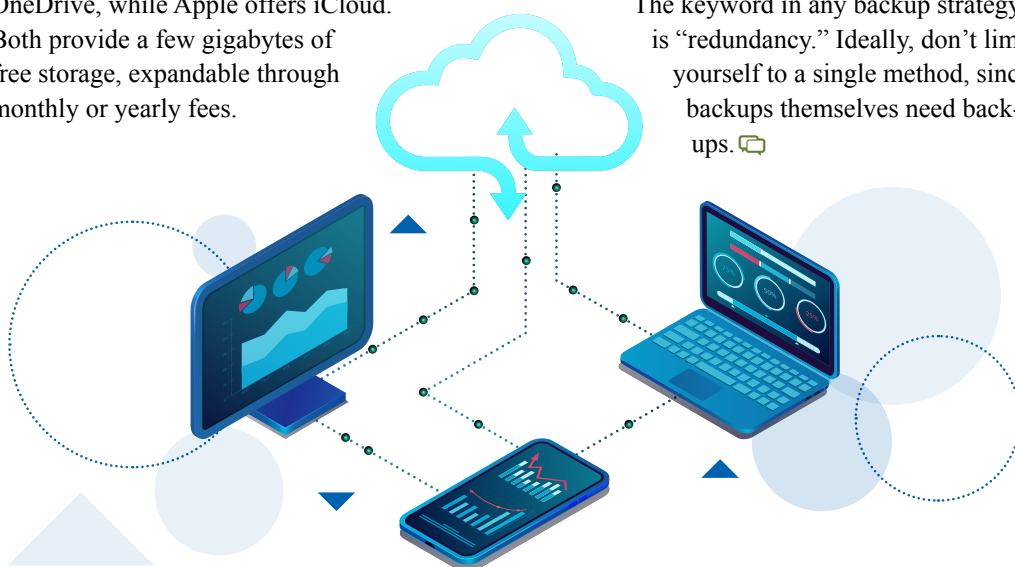
Also known as NAS or a home server, this device is connected to your network so all users can take advantage. The best options come with software that allows you to automatically back up files from most of your devices, and you can configure them to provide as much storage as you need and to allow remote access through the internet when you're away from home.

### HARD COPIES, SAFE PLACES

You can always print important files or photos. Also, if you have digital files that don't need to be updated, you can copy them to a DVD, CD, USB drive or external hard drive and put that in a safe place. Just remember to periodically check that whatever media you keep your files on is in working order.

### ONE LAST THING

The keyword in any backup strategy is “redundancy.” Ideally, don't limit yourself to a single method, since backups themselves need backups. ☞





# Shaping their own style

## Friends look to hook adventure apparel

Story by ANNE BRALY

Alec Gausman, Jase Wilts and Isaac Wente grew up together. They graduated from Morris Area High School — class of 2015 — and went hunting and fishing as often as they could. Now, the three friends work together in a new business that's taking the hat world by storm, and while they're keeping heads covered, they're displaying their love of the outdoors.

"We all love getting outside and being one with nature in our own way," Gausman says.

Rusted Hook Hat Co. began with a Zoom meeting between the three last April during the height of the pandemic. It might not have been the best time to start a company, but it was an idea that took root and is now, though less than a year old, a success. "Starting a business during a pandemic definitely made things interesting," Gausman notes. "But the startup went much smoother and quicker than all of us anticipated."

The idea of a hat company grew from the men's inability to find hats to fit their lifestyles. They wanted hats that would go beyond just being apparel for their heads and express their passions.

So, after their first Zoom meeting, they set goals, developed a business plan and established a deadline for putting their plan into action. Things moved quickly, and within seven weeks, they had converted Gausman's garage into a hat shop, complete with an embroidery machine to emblazon wares with their Rusted Hook logo.

All the hats have similar structure and feature clever designs. Some lean toward fishing and others toward hunting. "Since we do our own embroidery, we just needed to find a supplier for the blank caps, and we were all set to begin production," Gausman says.

By the end of June, the men were selling their first products, but Rusted Hook Hat Co. has no storefront. A large portion of sales are online through the company website, [www.rustedhookhatcompany.com](http://www.rustedhookhatcompany.com). The local Town & Country True Value also stocks Rusted Hook hats, and the three business partners are hoping to expand into more stores locally, and possibly nationally, in the future.

"We have realized that if we are able to build a brand that people want to be a part of and create a quality product that looks sweet and people want to wear, then our customer base will continue to help us grow by rocking our hats when they're out and about," Gausman says.

"Beyond that, we also utilize social media as a tool to help us gain a following," he says. "We use our accounts to post some customer photos along with some content that we create ourselves. Our favorite method is to get out for a day or a weekend to do some filming and make a short video for our audience. We usually have a lot of fun with those." 📺

Co-owners, from left, Isaac Wente, Alec Gausman and Jase Wilts are ambitious about their business and the great outdoors.



Photography contributed by Rusted Hook Hat Company



Jase Wilts fishes for smallmouth bass in west central Minnesota.

A trucker hat with Rusted Hook logo signifies another adventure is just around the corner.





# ON WITH THE SHOW

Virtual platforms keep performances going on and off the stage

Story by DREW WOOLLEY

Less than a week before the Northeast Alabama Community College Theatre Department's virtual spring production of "Dear Edwina," the show hit a major snag. With just one dress rehearsal left before the musical's live debut, one of the lead actors had to drop out of the show, leaving assistant director Halle Huber to step in.

It was just one more twist in an already unusual season that saw NACC's Theatre Department in Rainsville, Alabama, put on two virtual productions. Much of the early preparation for "Dear Edwina" occurred over Zoom, an inconvenience that suddenly came in handy when Huber needed to brush up on her part fast.

"Because the video and choreography was already online, I was able to look at those and make sure I understood the correct movements," Huber says. "We even did the vocal rehearsals online, so we had some of those tracks to help me understand what part I needed to sing, as well."

Putting those remote practice sessions together was a challenge for performers used to playing off each other. For Director of Theatre Kayleigh Smith, it often required drawing the movements each

performer needed to make on the back of script pages and holding them up to the screen.

"It's crazy to block a show and do choreography without being on the stage," Smith says. "Once we did get on stage we realized one girl had learned everything backwards. So she had to flip everything around in her head on the fly."

## VIRTUAL ESCAPE

The cast's final performance didn't take place in front of an audience but in front of cameras. The entire show was filmed live and made available to stream on demand via the ShowTix4U platform. Additional learning materials for local middle and elementary school students and teachers were also available.

While the remote preparations were a challenge, they forced performers to take an even greater degree of responsibility for their parts. "One of the cast members told me they've never been in a show before where they were this ready and this prepared for the performance," Smith says. "I'm really hoping they carry that with them forever."

With one more virtual show on the schedule this summer, NACC



Photos courtesy of Trey Gilliland and Lauren Cantrell

A production of "Dear Edwina" by the Northeast Alabama Community College Theatre Department went online to reach its audience.



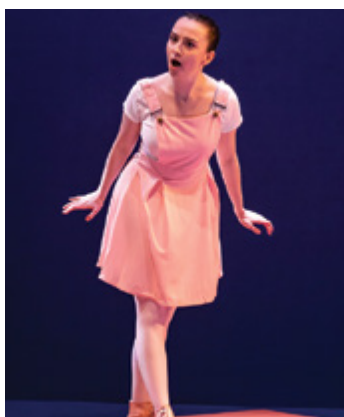
Theatre is on course for its first entirely virtual season. That wasn't the department's ideal plan for the last year but NACC President Dr. David Campbell is impressed with how creatively everyone involved has adapted.

"They have done some outstanding virtual productions that have given our students experience and a way to display their talents, while at the same time, keeping everyone safe through all the COVID-19 prevention techniques," he says.

In addition, the digital format opened the doors to greater accessibility to shows and new opportunities for students interested in film. Smith also hopes that it has provided a respite during the pandemic for people who haven't had the same access to the live experiences they enjoy.

"We were able to provide a little bit of art, and hopefully a virtual escape, safely," she says. "Theater has been healing for us doing it, but also for audiences. I do think it's an escape from what everyone's going through right now and it can be a healing thing." 🗨️

The NACC production of "Dear Edwina" is available to stream on demand through April 19, 2022. Visit [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com) and search "NACC" for more information.



Photos courtesy of Trey Gilliland and Lauren Cantrell.

## NEW HORIZONS

For Texas Ballet Theater, digital performances provided an opportunity to expand the horizons of ballet beyond the traditional stage. In its two-part "The Poetry of Expression" series, company dancers choreographed their own pieces specifically for the digital medium, using the entire Dallas-Fort Worth area as their backdrop.

Dancers and choreographers collaborated with local businesses and nonprofits to bring community landmarks and locations with personal significance into the performances. The result was an innovative showcase filmed at familiar locations like downtown Fort Worth, Firestone & Robertson Distilling, the Benbrook Dam and the Kimbell Art Museum. The prerecorded performances were available for streaming in March and April in lieu of the nonprofit dance company's traditional spring lineup.

For more information, visit [texasballettheater.org](http://texasballettheater.org).

"We hope audiences enjoy a new kind of performance experience through these productions," executive director Vanessa Logan says. "They show us all how the beauty and art of ballet can be found anywhere, even in unexpected places."



Digital performances gave the Texas Ballet Theater a new outlet for expression.



## SOMETHING NEW

For more information, visit [mnopera.org](http://mnopera.org).

More than a year after it put live performances on hold, Minnesota Opera continued to find new ways to connect with its community with the premiere of "Apart Together" in April. The free virtual program featured original performances from members of the opera's Resident Artist Program and the orchestra, ranging from spoken word to piano pieces.

The goal of the project was to give artists a chance to step outside their traditional creative roles within the opera. Resident artists who typically perform pieces composed by others were given the opportunity to pursue their own visions, while audiences could see orchestra musicians perform in a more intimate capacity.

"I really think the future is on the internet, video and how you connect with people through this form we're not used to," says Joey Leppek, resident tenor. "I think getting these kinds of skills in how to create something that's effective on screen is helpful for us, and I hope all artists out there feel permission to get out there and try something new."



# HERITAGE CELEBRATED

Lac qui Parle County towns  
revisit their history

Story by ANNE BRALY

The Boyd Depot served the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway, which ran through Boyd, Dawson, Madison and Marietta. Passengers rode it from 1884 until the 1940s.



The Boyd Goodtime Days festival began in 1906 and is one of the longest running town celebrations in America.



Photos courtesy of the Lac qui Parle Historical Society.

Lac qui Parle County observes its heritage every year with small festivals, such as the Little Minnesota State Fair, which takes place each September in Madison. But this year, the county will pull out all the stops as it celebrates its 150th birthday.

Plans for events around the county underwent changes, rearranging and rescheduling earlier in the year because of COVID-19. An in-person celebration to kick off the sesquicentennial gatherings with speakers and entertainment in early March became a virtual event, featuring politicians making their remarks and schoolchildren singing, along with readings of resolutions and congratulatory letters.

The celebrations continued as planned in other communities with the encouragement of local officials and supporters. “We would like past and present residents to celebrate the rich and unique history of Lac qui Parle County,” says Barb Redepenning, curator of the Lac qui Parle County Museum. “It’s important that present and future generations understand what life was like for their ancestors to better appreciate what they endured to make this county grow and thrive.”

## SO THE CELEBRATIONS CONTINUED

In early May, Lac qui Parle Village, the first settlement in Lac qui Parle County and once its county seat, held a special presentation of the Stealing of the Courthouse, an event that began when a dispute ensued between the citizens of Madison and Dawson over which town would be the location of the county seat. In 1886, a team of 150 men and 40 wagon teams moved the courthouse from its location in Lac qui Parle Village to its new home in Madison, 15 miles away.

Later in May, Louisburg, one of the smallest towns in Lac qui Parle County, held its first and last all-school reunion at the Lac qui Parle County Museum in Madison. The Louisburg School was a small-town school that went to the eighth grade and later went only to the sixth grade. It closed about 1970 and is now a history landmark.



The town of Boyd also recognized Lac qui Parle's 150th birthday with its annual Goodtime Days.

In late June, Dawson celebrated with a special event at the new Dawson Bank Museum. Festivities included an identify-the-gnome contest. Dawson is known as Gnometown because of a colony of gnome figures in the park, as well a collection of gnomes in the local library and still more random gnomes around the city on lawns and in other places. The Riverfest celebration took place in Dawson the same weekend and had softball and baseball games, a golf tournament and a parade.

## YOUR 150TH CELEBRATION INVITATION

The festivities continue through mid-September with a host of activities in towns all around Lac qui Parle County. So get ready to celebrate.

- ♦ **July 4** — St. Joseph's Church in Rosen will celebrate its 125th anniversary, and the town of Rosen will be having its annual baseball tournament.
- ♦ **July 16-17** — Madison will have its Dragonfest celebration with a parade on Saturday and fireworks that evening. The town will also have Stinker Days — Madison's version of Crazy Day, which became Stinker Days back in the 1950s as the result of the smell from the process of blacktopping the city streets. The Kiwanis Club's Grill-Out will fill your stomach, and you can run it off at the Lutfisk Fun Run. There will also be an all-school reunion.
- ♦ **July 18** — Marietta's Home Town Daze will include a noon meal, along with kids' games, a coin dig, bingo and other fun events like an antique tractor pull.
- ♦ **July 24** — Bellingham honors its firefighters with Firefighter Appreciation Day, featuring its annual noonday meal and another meal that evening. There will be games and inflatables for kids throughout the day, along with a raffle for cash and competitive fire department water fights for men, women and kids. Beer gardens will be open all day. The party continues into the night with music and dancing outside at the Bellingham Legion Hall.
- ♦ **Aug. 15** — Lac qui Parle County Park came to be in the late 1960s and has been a popular place for outdoor fun ever since. In celebration of the 150th anniversary, it will be the site of a historical demonstration, a car and tractor show, historical displays and other fun activities.
- ♦ **Sept. 3-5 and 7** — A play about the county's history, "The Lac qui Parle Radio Hour," will take place at the Prairie Arts Center in Madison. Laugh and learn about the last 150 years of Lac qui Parle County history.
- ♦ **Sept. 7** — Lac qui Parle County Fairgrounds Event Center will be the site of dinner and will feature foods from Lac qui Parle County. Tickets will be limited to 200 people.
- ♦ **Sept. 18** — The final event, an all-school reunion for Marietta/Nassau schools, will take place in Nassau.

"We want everyone to attend as many events as possible so they can share their stories and photos so we can add them to our collection," Redepenning says. "In doing this, we hope that residents and future generations will feel connected to this county and as a result take an interest in what happens in the future." 📷

## FUN FACTS

It was the early French voyagers and traders who applied the name Lac qui Parle to the county's namesake lake in the St. Peters River (Minnesota River) Valley.

A Minnesota Legislative Act from 1862 notes plans for a Lac qui Parle County north of the Minnesota River. This establishment never occurred, and a Legislative Act in 1871 formed Lac qui Parle County south of the Minnesota River where it exists today.

Early residents and settlers in the county believed they would be living in a county named McPhail. As such, their entry papers and land patents list the county as McPhail, which subsequently was never a county name.

During the Cretaceous period, some 100 million years ago, a midcontinent shallow sea moved into what was to become Lac qui Parle County from the west and left behind fossilized remains of creatures living in that sea.



Sesquicentennial committee members, from left, are Tom Nelson, Russ Olson, Jeanene Munsterman and Barb Redepenning.



A 1930s photo of Main Street in Madison shows John Tollefson and an unknown man in front of the Lac qui Parle County Bank.



# A fresh angle on walleye

## Catch the secret to a wonderful meal

**W**hether you pluck it from nearby waters or bring some home from your favorite fish market, walleye is a staple. But unless you're an angler and have gone fishing and have it ready to devour or have frozen fillets in your freezer, how do you know if it's as fresh as can be?

For starters, give it a sniff. Smell something fishy? Go on to the next one until you find fish that smells clean and eyes that are bulging. If you don't plan on eating it right away, freeze it immediately. Get as much air out of the freezer bag as possible before placing it in the freezer.

Walleye is an exceptionally versatile fish with a flaky texture perfect for baking, frying, grilling or using to make a mouthwatering chowder. The delicate flavor enables it to marry with a myriad of sauces, such as lemon, dill, wine and garlic.

No wonder walleye is such a highly regarded fish in restaurants and homes.



FOOD EDITOR  
**ANNE P. BRALY**  
IS A NATIVE OF  
CHATTANOOGA,  
TENNESSEE.



## WALLEYE TACOS

- 1 1/4 cups panko bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon chipotle chili powder
- 3/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound walleye fillets, sliced into 1-by 3-inch pieces
- 3 egg whites
- 3 cups thinly sliced white cabbage
- 4 medium-size red radishes, julienned
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Salt
- 8 (6-inch) soft flour tortillas
- Mango salsa (store-bought or homemade)

Preheat oven to 375 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment and set aside.

In a small bowl, combine the panko, chipotle chili powder, smoked paprika and salt.

Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large nonstick pan. When hot, add the bread crumb mixture and stir to coat it with the oil. Toast the breadcrumbs, stirring regularly, for 2-3 minutes, taking care not to burn them. Remove from the heat and set aside.

In a shallow bowl, beat the egg whites until frothy. Set up an assembly line for breading the fish: Dip each piece of fish in the egg whites. Shake off any excess, then coat it in the seasoned breadcrumbs, pressing gently to help them adhere. Place each piece of breaded fish on the baking sheet, about an inch apart.

Bake the fish for 10 minutes; it should be opaque throughout.

While the fish is cooking, combine the cabbage, radishes, lime juice, oil and salt.

Warm the tortillas in a hot pan or microwave them.

To each tortilla, add a couple pieces of fish and top with the cabbage mixture and mango salsa. Serve immediately.



## FRIED WALLEYE

- 4 (6-ounce) walleye fillets
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 pinch salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups crushed saltine crackers
- Vegetable oil for frying
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges

### Tartar sauce:

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise (store-bought or homemade)
- 1 small dill pickle, chopped very small (3 tablespoons)
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, plus more to taste
- 1 tablespoon capers, chopped, optional
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill or 1 teaspoon dried dill
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard

Make sure all bones and skin are removed from the fish, then cut it into manageable pieces for frying.

Place the beaten eggs in a bowl; set aside. Combine the flour, garlic powder, salt and pepper in another bowl. Pour cracker crumbs in a third bowl.

Heat oil in a deep fryer or deep pan on the stovetop to medium-high (375 F).

Dip the fillets in the flour mixture, then in eggs and finally in cracker crumbs. Set the fillets on a plate. Check the oil; it's hot enough when a cracker crumb crackles and pops in it. Carefully lower the fillets in small batches into the hot oil and fry until browned, about 3 minutes per side. Transfer the fish to a plate lined with paper towels and continue frying the remaining fillets. Serve with lemon wedges and tartar sauce.

To make tartar sauce: Combine the mayonnaise, chopped pickles, lemon juice, capers, dill, Worcestershire sauce and mustard in a small bowl and stir until well blended and creamy. Season with salt and pepper. Taste, then adjust with additional lemon juice, salt and pepper, as needed.



## WALLEYE CHOWDER

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 large yellow or white onion, chopped
- 1 1/2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 quart fish or clam stock
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 teaspoon marjoram
- Salt and black pepper
- 1 1/2 pounds skinless walleye, cut into chunks
- 6-8 ounces kielbasa, sliced
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill or parsley
- 1 cup sour cream

Melt the butter in a Dutch oven over medium heat.

Add the chopped onion and cook gently until soft and translucent. Do not let it brown.

Add the potatoes and coat them well with the butter/onion mixture. Cook for 1 to 2 minutes to let the butter absorb a bit. Sprinkle with salt. Add fish stock, water and marjoram; add salt and pepper, to taste. Simmer gently for about 20 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender.

Once the potatoes are tender, add the walleye and kielbasa and simmer another 10 minutes. Turn off the heat and add the dill. Ladle the chowder into bowls and let everyone add sour cream at the table.

## LEMON PEPPER WALLEYE

- 2 (4- to 6-ounce) walleye fillets, skin removed if desired
- 1 teaspoon lemon pepper seasoning
- 2 tablespoons butter

Season walleye with lemon pepper. Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat and add the seasoned fish. Cover so steam is created inside the pan. Saute for 10 minutes, then flip the fish over and cook for another 2 minutes or until golden brown on both sides. Serve with tartar sauce, if desired.





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